Foreword

While we have seen a distinct trend towards greater professionalism and a growing interest in scholarship and research in foreign language teaching in Asia, much of this growth has been in the area of ESL and EFL. The teaching of Asian languages has received comparatively less attention in this regard despite the rising appeal which Asian languages and cultures, perhaps in part driven by the bright economic outlook of the Asian continent, hold for learners around the world. Being a journal based in Asia – in the multicultural city state of Singapore – e-FLT is well-placed to encourage greater research and development in Asian languages teaching and learning. The current supplementary issue bears testimony to e-FLT’s commitment to this cause. We at e-FLT are particularly pleased to have found an important and like-minded partner, the Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA), in the realization of this annual supplement, first conceived in late 2004. By mutual agreement, Dr Jane Orton of the University of Melbourne has been appointed guest editor of the supplement. Dr Orton, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude, has played a more than significant part in bringing this common project to fruition and in ensuring the academic quality of this issue. I would like to thank Dr Orton and my colleagues on the Editorial Board for their sterling efforts, and invite you to immerse yourself in Dr Orton’s guest editorial as well as the articles and review in this supplement.

Wai Meng Chan
Editor