

# School of Humanities & Behavioural Sciences

invites you to:

## SHBS-SAAL Talk – English As Sarawak’s Official Language - From The Perspective Of World Englishes



Prof TONY T.N. HUNG

Professor TONY T.N. HUNG was Professor and Head of the Language Centre at the Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) from 1997-2011, and a Senior Lecturer in the English Department of the National University of Singapore from 1981-1997. He retired in 2011 and is now an Honorary Professor of HKBU and an Adjunct Professor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Swinburne University Sarawak.

Professor Hung holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of California (San Diego), M.A. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Lancaster, B.A. in English from McMaster University, and B.Ed. from Queen’s University. His publications include 8 books, 50 articles/book chapters and over 40 conference presentations, in the fields of World Englishes, Phonology, English Grammar, and Language Teaching.

Date: 1 Sep, Saturday  
Venue: SIM HQ, SR C.4.14  
Time: 10 am – 11 am

*Admission is Free. All are welcome.*

The present talk is inspired by Sarawak’s bold adoption of English as an official language in 2015 -- the first Malaysian state to do so since independence (1963), provoking heated opposition and accusations from West Malaysia, as well as an outpouring of support from within Sarawak. It analyses this development from the perspective of World Englishes -- where, far from being the imperialistic colonial language it once was, English now serves as the world’s lingua franca, fostering unity and progress not only at the international level, but also within multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-cultural nations like Malaysia, in a world where monolingualism is increasingly obsolete and bilingualism the new norm.