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This book comprises selected papers from the 8th English in Southeast Asia Conference held in Malaysia from 8-10 December 2003. This conference series is the result of collaboration among seven countries (Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines, Australia, Hong Kong and Indonesia) and aims to provide a platform for the discussion of issues concerning varieties of English and implications for the teaching of English in the Asia-Pacific region.

The theme of the conference 'Adapting to New Realities: Prospects, Perspectives and Possibilities' is relevant and timely and is reflective of the spirit of innovation and creativity needed in dealing with new developments related to language and their effects on language learning. There is a need to reflect on old paradigms, past practices and outdated tools. Globalisation, migration, urbanisation and multiculturalism have created new learning situations. Increasingly more and more people participate in networks that go beyond the local with border crossing business and professional activities. 'Communication' can be considered one of the keywords in this global age. In the last few decades the profile of English in Asia has substantially changed. It is certainly one of the regions in which bilingualism in English is continuously on the increase.

One of the major consequences of globalisation is the emergence of several varieties of English which are often used for similar functions. This situation provides an opportunity to carry out research not only in the different varieties of English but also for comparative and collaborative work. This book contains research on the different varieties of English in the region and will hopefully generate interest in the varieties and a comparison of varieties that we have.

The growing influence of the internet has brought about certain conventions that have emerged and are spreading to all users of English. Such new developments have led to the current interest in computer mediated communication. The first paper in this volume deals with one of the tools of