

Wednesday 8 July 2015 at 2.00pm

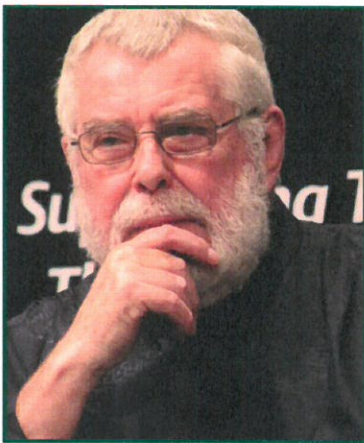
Alan Maley

## Creativity and the Power of Constraints

It is common to think of creativity as freeing the imagination to run wild, as 'letting it all hang out', allowing the freedom for total self-expression. I will suggest that the opposite is the case, and that for creativity to thrive, we need constraints. Creative artists are well aware of this, teachers perhaps less so.

In the workshop we will try out a number of activities which function by consciously imposing various kinds of constraints – of time, pace, space, length, rules and language and discuss how they work to produce creative outcomes.

I will also make a distinction between positive constraints, which we willingly choose to impose, and negative, mainly institutional constraints, which often work to smother creativity. I will suggest that there may be some fairly small and simple things we can do to counteract the negative constraints and allow us to exercise a degree of positive constraints.



**Alan Maley** has been involved with language teaching for some 50 years. He worked for the British Council from 1962 till 1988 in Yugoslavia, Ghana, Italy, France, China, and India. After resigning from the Council in 1988 he was Director General of the Bell Educational Trust in Cambridge until 1993. From 1993-98 he was Senior Fellow in the National University of Singapore. He went on to found the MA programme in ELT at Assumption University in Bangkok, which he ran from 1999-2004. Since then he has held a number of short-term posts in universities in Vietnam, Malaysia and the UK, including a visiting professorship at Leeds Metropolitan University. He is now a freelance writer and lecturer. He has published over 40 books and numerous articles. Until 2009 he was the series editor for the *Oxford Resource Books for Teachers*. His main professional interests are in the area of creative methodology, extensive reading and creative writing. He is a co-founder of the C Group – Creativity for Change in Language Education, [www.thecreativitygroup.weebly.com](http://www.thecreativitygroup.weebly.com)