

AALA Regional Representative Reporting Template

Region: UAE

Date: April 2025

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Section 1: Establishing links with local assessment networks

I rotated out of the Presidency of the English Language Testing Society in April 2025. In this capacity, I created two awards for the association: The Lifetime Achievement Award and the Promotion of Language Assessment Literacy Award. I am also a founding Board Member of a new association called GALTA, or the Gulf Association of Language Testing and Assessment.

Section 2: Feedback to AALA on issues of national or regional concern

The single most important issue in my region is a return to paper-and-pencil tests to prevent cheating and a move to decreasing the amount of writing we ask students to do due to the rampant use of ChatGPT.

Section 3: Professional development and support

I am co-editing a book on Testing, Assessment and Evaluation in the Global South with Springer. Other than that assessment, in particular, online or AI-based assessment is a hot topic.

Section 4: Future goals

One goal is to have a testing/assessment event in the region, so sponsorship is my greatest need.