

ANDERSON, FRED E, Professor, Kansai University, JAPAN, (co-author **VOLKER, CRAIG ALAN**)

Issues in Minority Language Education in the Asia-Pacific Region

Panel: Language and Education

This presentation discusses findings from the presenters' recently completed edited volume (forthcoming) on indigenous and immigrant language education in the Asia-Pacific region. The volume presents representative case studies from communities in Northeast Asia (Japan, Taiwan, China), Southeast Asia (Thailand, Malaysia, Timor-Leste, Singapore), and the Pacific (Australia, Norfolk Island, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea). Minority language communities are examined from the dual perspective of education and power (i.e., considering power relations between community languages and languages of wider communication); hence the volume title, *Education in Languages of Lesser Power*. Although the studies show a diversity of approaches to community language education, they do suggest common themes, which will be the focus of the presentation: the problem of standardization, including script development; questions of motivation to maintain local languages, as related to identity; and the need to balance learning of the local language/culture with participation in a wider regional or international society.