On Friday, March 27, 2015, the Centre for Language Excellence (CLE) presented the workshop entitled “Speaking Activities in an Online Course”. The workshop had 25 attendees including three CLE staff and language instructors from thirteen different departments, servicing eighteen different languages (Yoruba, Kiswahili, Mongolian, Akan, French, Korean, Spanish, German, Estonian, English, Urdu, Hindi, Bambara, Indonesian, Uzbek, Zulu, Dutch, and Russian). The presentation was led by Esther Ham, Director of Online Language Education for the Centre for Language Excellence.

This workshop was the tenth of a series of workshops offered by CLE.

Esther Ham, CLE Director of Online Language Education, along with Kate Ellis and Kyle Leach, consultants from the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) presented a workshop about speaking activities in an online language course.

In the first part of the workshop, after discussing what media assignments are (& when/how to use them) and a step-by-step demonstration, participants created an assignment submission as a student in Canvas. After that, assignments were reviewed and discussed, including some trouble shooting tips.

In the second part of the workshop, participants practiced in an Adobe Connect room. First, in general, how to set up an Adobe Connect room and what one should keep in mind setting up one for an online course. Second, more specifically how to create breakout rooms in Adobe Connect, so online students can work together in pairs or small groups, like in a general face-to-face classroom. Participant received hands-on experience by taking turns in being students in breakout rooms and/or instructor.

The post-workshop survey evaluation showed that overall the participants said the workshop was practical and useful.

Below are what some of the participants had to say about the workshop:

“Excellent workshop, good pace and timing.”
“Practical and useful!”
“Revising the use of the tool they are instructing. Repeat the instruction slowly. Allow more time to practice.”
“All the hands-on practice! Loved the general overview approach.”