*Assalamua'Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu*

Dear all,

Hope you are busy in end of year routines and plans for next year, insha’Allah. Bernadette Brouwers, from ACER, contacted me to find out the market for tests of Arabic for second language learners which they are considering offering to Australian schools.

The test would be part of a suite of second language tests which currently include Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese and Spanish. The tests are offered at three certificate levels, depending on the number of hours of prior learning for students. At this stage, they are considering offering a reading test for Arabic, but have not confirmed the level/s.

The format of the tests consists of a stimulus text in the target language together with multiple-choice questions in English (although there are some TL questions at the higher levels). Schools register for the tests in March/April and the testing dates are in early August. Answer sheets are returned to ACER where they are processed and the data analysed. Schools then receive individual student achievement certificates and a School Report (optional). The tests provide motivation for students in their language learning as well as detailed information to help inform school programs.

ACER would like to have any suggestions we might have regarding the nature of the test (levels/reading/listening). They would appreciate if you are able to suggest a sample of Arabic teachers who might be prepared to answer a few questions about the purpose and specifications of a test of Arabic (e.g. the levels/whether it is a listening or reading test)?

Her contact details are as below:

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Regards,

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