

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910465093703321
Titolo	The politics of English [[electronic resource]] : South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Asia Pacific // edited by Lionel Wee, Robbie B.H. Goh, Lisa Lim
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam ; ; Philadelphia, : John Benjamins Pub. Co., 2013
ISBN	1-299-28378-0 90-272-7213-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (332 p.)
Collana	Studies in world language problems, , 1572-1183 ; ; v. 4
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Disciplina	306.44095
Soggetti	English language - Political aspects - Asia English language - Variation - Asia English language - Asia - Usage English language - Foreign countries Language and culture - Asia Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	pt. I. South Asia -- pt. II. Southeast Asia -- pt. III. Asia Pacific.
Sommario/riassunto	English is deeply embedded within recent neoliberal projects of social reformation in South Korea, becoming a central topic of contention in the controversial educational reforms of the Lee Myung-bak regime (2008-2012). It figured prominently in various changes to the Korean education system pursued by the Lee administration under the name of greater competitiveness, such as increasing English immersion instruction in public schools and opening greater number of special purpose high schools where English language skills are highlighted. Lee's policies on the one hand aimed to cater to middle-c