



உலகத் தமிழர் பண்பாட்டு இயக்கம்,
புலம் பெயர்ந்த தமிழர் சங்கம், முருகன் அறக்கட்டளை,
பன்னாட்டுத் திருக்குறள் போரவை, மொரிசியசு தமிழ் கோவில்களின் கூட்டமைப்பு
மற்றும் தமிழ் லீக் மொரிசியசு

**International Movement for Tamil Culture in collaboration
with the International Tamil Diaspora Association,
Murugan Foundation, International Thirukkural Foundation,
Mauritius, Tamil Temple Federation and
Tamil League, Mauritius,**

அறிக்கை A REPORT

16ஆவது உதுகி பன்னாட்டு மாநாடு

புலம்பெயர் தமிழர்

வாய்ப்புகளும் சவால்களும்

தமிழ் லீக் மற்றும் மொரிசியசு பல்கலைக்கழகம்
(24 – 26 செப்டம்பர் 2023)

**16th IMTC International Conference on
Tamil Diaspora-Opportunities
and Challenges**

Tamil league, and
University of Mauritius
(24th- 26th September 2023)

भारतीय उच्चायुक्त,
मॉरीशस



High Commissioner of India
Mauritius

Message of High Commissioner of India



MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Tamil community for organizing the 16th IMTC International Conference on Tamil Culture in Mauritius, from 24 to 26 September 2023. I commend the International Movement for Tamil Culture (IMTC), the International Association of Tamil Diaspora (INTAD), Murugan Foundation, and the International Thirukkural Foundation, in particular, for this initiative.

2. Since 1974, IMTC has been spreading awareness of the rich Tamil history, language and culture, especially among younger generations, in India, Sri Lanka and elsewhere. I have been told that the second conference of the IMTC was held in Mauritius and the 16th one is once again being organized here in its Golden Jubilee year. This seems relevant in the context of the celebration of the 295th anniversary of the arrival of Tamil artisans and workers from India to Mauritius and the 189th anniversary of the arrival of Indian Indentured workers in Mauritius. During this period of almost three centuries, the Tamil community has played a significant role in bringing about a massive transformation in the social, cultural, political and economic fabric of Mauritius, thus contributing to the inspiring multicultural Rainbow Nation that Mauritius is today.

3. Tamil is one of the world's oldest languages and has an impressive legacy of arts, culture and literature. *Thirukkural*, the collection of couplets on ethics, morality and virtue, by Thiruvalluvar, bringing out the importance of a virtuous life, truth, justice and compassion, has been a profound influence and inspiration across the world. I am delighted to see how well the Tamil community in Mauritius has successfully conserved substantial elements of Tamil culture and traditions. The recent book co-authored by Dr. Armoogum Parsuramen (GOSK) and Mr. Satyendra Peerthum (AOYP), titled: "*In Search of our Ancestors*", provides a fascinating insight into the role and impact of migrant Tamil communities and their descendants in Mauritius and other countries.

4. I thank the organizers of this timely three-day International Conference on the theme: '*International Diaspora - Opportunities and Challenges in Mauritius*' in which 150 delegates are participating from 15 countries. I have no doubt that it will shed valuable light and provide useful insights on safeguarding and promoting the unique identity of the Tamil community, all across the globe.


(K. Nandini Singla)

வாழ்த்துச் செய்தி

புலம்பெயர்ந்த தமிழர்கள் சிறப்புடன் வாழும் மொரிசியஸ் நாட்டில் 16வது உலகத் தமிழ்ப்பண்பாட்டு மாநாடு நடைபெறுவது மகிழ்ச்சியைத் தருகின்றது. சிறப்புக்குரிய இம்மாட்டில் மலேசியத் தமிழர்கள் 44 பேர் பேராளர்களாக கலந்து கொள்கிறார்கள். இவர்களில் 26 பேர் நான் சார்ந்துள்ள மலேசிய கெமிலாங் கூட்டுறவுச் சங்கத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் என்பதை மகிழ்ச்சியோடு பதிவு செய்கிறேன்.

30 க்கும் மேற்பட்ட நாடுகளில் இருந்து இம்மாட்டில் கலந்து கொள்ளவிருக்கும் தமிழர்களைச் சந்திப்பதற்கும் நட்பு பாராட்டு வதற்கும் உலகத் தமிழர்களின் பண்பாட்டுச் சிறப்புகளை அறிந்து கொள்வதற்கும் இம்மாநாடு வழிவகுக்கும் என்று பெரிதும் எதிர்பார்க்கிறோம்.

உலகத் தமிழ்ப்பண்பாட்டு இயக்கும் தலைமைத்துவப் பண்பாட்டு கூறுகளைக் கொண்ட ஆற்றல் நிறைந்த தலைமைப் பொறுப்பாளர்களைக் கொண்டிருக்கிறது என்பதை அதன் துடிப்பான நடவடிக்கைகள் வழி அறியமுடிகிறது.

எனவே, தமிழர் மற்றும் தமிழ்ப்பண்பாடு தொடர்பான இவ்வியக்கத்தின் நடவடிக்கைகளுக்கும் எதிர்காலத் திட்டங் களுக்கும் என்றும் எங்களின் ஆதரவையும் ஒத்துழைப்பையும் வழங்குவோம் என்பதை மகிழ்ச்சியோடு பதிவு செய்யவிரும்புகிறேன்.

16வது உலகத் தமிழ்ப்பண்பாட்டு மாநாடு வெற்றிகரமாக நடைபெற வேண்டும் என்று வாழ்த்துகிறேன்.

நன்றி.

எஸ்.கஜேந்திரன் பி சிதம்பரம்பிள்ளை
தலைமைச் செயல் முறை அதிகாரி மற்றும் செயலாளர்
மலேசிய கெமிலாங் கூட்டுறவுச் சங்கம்



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சமூக இயல் அறிஞர்களின் (Social Scientists) கருத்தின்படி, பண்பாடு என்பது, வாழ்க்கை முறை (way of life) என்பதாகும். ஒவ்வொரு மனித சமுதாயத்திற்கும் ஒரு பண்பாடு உண்டு. ஒரு சமுதாயத்தில் வாழுகின்ற பெரும்பான்மை மக்களின் ஒருமித்த நடத்தைகளையும் எண்ணங்களையும் அது வெளிப்படுத்தும்.

ஒரு சமுதாயத்தில் அமைந்துள்ள கலை, நம்பிக்கை, பழக்கவழக்கங்கள், மொழி, இலக்கியம், விழுமியங்கள் (Values) முதலியன அந்தச் சமுதாயத்தின் பண்பாட்டுக் கூறுகள் எனப்படும். பண்பாடு ஒரினத்தின் வாழ்க்கை நெறி, அது தொன்று தொட்டு பயன்படுத்தப்பட்டு வரும் ஒரு செயல்பாடு. பண்பாடு என்பது காலத்திற்கு ஏற்ப மாறுந்தன்மை கொண்டு விளங்கும்.

புலம் பெயர்ந்த தமிழ் மக்கள் வாழும் நாடுகளில் உலகத் தமிழ்ப் பண்பாட்டு இயக்கம் ஆய்வு மாநாடுகளை நடத்தி வருவது போற்றத்தக்கது. அதுவும் இம்முறை மொரிஷியஸ் நாட்டில் நடைபெறுவது பாராட்டத்தக்கது. அங்கு வாழும் மக்களும் தமிழ்ப் பண்பாட்டைப் போற்றிப் பாதுகாக்க வேண்டும் என்ற நோக்கில் நடைபெறும் இம்மாநாடு காலத்திற்கேற்ற ஒன்று.

இவ்வேளையில் தமிழர் வாழும் இடங்களிலெல்லாம் தமிழ்ப் பண்பாடு நிலையாக நீடித்து இருப்பதற்கு ஆவன செய்து வரும் உலகத் தமிழ்ப்பண்பாட்டு இயக்கத்திற்கு என்னுடைய வாழ்த்துகளைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன். இம்மாநாட்டில் பங்கேற்கும் ஆய்வறிஞர்களுக்கு என்னுடைய பாராட்டுக்களைப் பதிவு செய்கிறேன். மாநாட்டில் பங்கேற்கும் பேராளர்களின் தேவையைப் பூர்த்தி செய்யும் அளவிற்கு அவர்களின் படைப்புக்கள் அமையும் என்று எதிர்பார்க்கிறேன். இம்மாநாட்டில் கலந்து கொள்ளும் பேராளர்களுக்கு நன்றி கூறக் கடமைப்பட்டுள்ளேன். உங்கள் பங்கேற்பு இம்மாநாட்டின் வெற்றிக்கு வித்திட்டது என்றால் அது மிகையாகாது.

இம்மாநாட்டை சிறப்பாக ஏற்பாடு செய்த ஏற்பாட்டுக் குழுவினருக்கு நன்றி. தமிழர்கள் வாழும் நாடுகளில் எல்லாம் இது போன்ற மாநாடுகளை தொடர்ந்து ஏற்பாடு செய்ய வேண்டும் என்று வேண்டுகிறேன். உங்கள் அனைவருக்கும் சிறப்பான எதிர்காலம் அமைய எனது ஆசிகளைக் கூற விரும்புகிறேன்; இறைவனின் திருவருளை வேண்டிக் கொள்கிறேன்.

தமிழரின் பண்பாட்டுக் கூறுகளை அடுத்த தலைமுறையினருக்கு இட்டுச் செல்லும் பணியினை அனைவரும் தொடர்ந்து முன்னெடுப்போம். இம்மாநாட்டின் வெற்றிக்கு உழைத்த அனைவருக்கும் நன்றி மலர்களைச் சமர்ப்பிக்கிறேன்.

பதினாறாம் பெற்று பெருவாழ்வு வாழ்க என்று பெரியோர்கள் ஆசிர்வதிப்பதும் நம் பண்பாட்டுக் கூறுகளில் ஒன்று. பதினாறாவது முறையாக நடைபெறும் இம்மாநாடு அனைத்து வகைகளிலும் வெற்றி பெற வாழ்த்துகிறேன்.

தமிழின் எழுச்சி தலைமுறை வளர்ச்சி. நன்றி வணக்கம்.

ஓம்ஸ். பா. தியாகராஜன்

ஓம்ஸ் அறவாரிம்

**16th IMTC International Conference on
Tamil Diaspora: Opportunities and Challenges
(24 - 26 September, 2023)**

Mauritius

Brief Proceedings by
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The Republic of Mauritius Today

The Republic of Mauritius is an island state with dependencies of about 1.25 million people (2021) located off the southeast coast of Africa, neighbouring the French island of La Reunion. The country's economy has made great strides since independence in 1968 and is now classified as an upper-middle-income economy. Its key challenges include managing the transition to a knowledge-based economy and adapting to the impact of climate change.

Political Context

Mauritius is a multi-party, parliamentary democracy. Shifting coalitions are a feature of politics in the country. The President is the head of state, while

the Prime Minister has full executive powers and leads the government. General elections were held in November 2019. It is based on the Westminster system of democratic rule.

Economic Developments

Mauritius became a high-income country in July 2020. However, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic meant it slipped back into upper-middle-income status in 2021. Despite its successful handling of the public health emergency, the economic impact was severe, and GDP contracted by 14.9% in 2020.

Driven mainly by recovery in the tourism sector and a successful COVID-19 vaccination campaign, Mauritius's real GDP growth is expected to accelerate to 5.8% in 2022. During the second half of 2021, a sharp rise in prices drove its inflation rate up to 4%. The situation continues in 2022, with sharp increases in the prices of food and fuel pushing inflation to 9.5% from January to April. Inflation is forecast to average 10.5% in 2022.

The Territory of Mauritius

Mauritius is an independent island Republic which is located in the south west Indian Ocean at latitude 20.18 degrees South and longitude 57.36 degrees East. It is a pear-shaped island which is volcanic in origin and is almost surrounded by magnificent coral reefs, beautiful golden beaches, and pristine greenish blue lagoons. Sugar cane fields cover almost half of Mauritius and there are more than two dozen beautiful volcanic mountains which dot the landscape of this tropical island paradise in the heart of the south west Indian Ocean. The northern, eastern, western, and south-western parts of Mauritius consist of large coastal plains which rise to a central plateau, varying in elevation from 270 to 700 meters above sea level. This central plateau is bordered by three major mountain ranges which may have formed the caldera of an ancient volcano.

The highest point in the island is the Piton de la Petite Riviere Noire which stands at 826 meters above sea level and the biggest river is the Grand River South East which is 40 kilometers long. The Mauritian territory consists of the island of Mauritius and the much smaller islands of Rodrigues, the Agalega islands, St. Brandon, Carajos archipelago, and the Chagos archipelago. The island of Mauritius is still known today as "The Star and Key of the Indian Ocean" and is located around 800 kilometers east of Madagascar and 3,540 kilometers to the south west of Sri Lanka.

It has a total surface area of 1,865 square kilometers out of a total of 2,040 square kilometers with the other smaller islands making up the rest of the 175 square kilometers of the Mauritian territory. In 2020, the main island of the

Republic of Mauritius had a population of more than 1,250,000 while Rodrigues, the second largest island with an area of 104 square kilometers contains a small population of more than 41,000.

The People of Mauritius

The people of Mauritius are the descendants of European settlers, African slaves, Chinese traders, and Indian labourers and traders. Almost 70 per cent of the population is of Indian descent and the rest or 30 per cent are Creoles, Chinese, and Franco-Mauritians. The Creoles, also referred to as the General Population are Mauritians of mixed European, Indian, and African ancestry. More than 52 per cent of the people are Hindus, 30 per cent are Christians mostly Creoles and Chinese and Franco-Mauritians, and around 18 per cent are Muslims. There are large numbers of Hindu temples, Christian churches, Muslim mosques, and Buddhist pagodas which dot the Mauritian landscape. This is truly an indicator of the cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity of Mauritius. More than 10 per cent of Mauritians can trace their ancestry to the state of Tamil Nadu and between the 1980s and present, thousands have been able to trace their ancestry.

About 60 per cent of the Mauritian people live in villages and other rural areas and only 42% live in the island's capital city, Port-Louis, and the other major towns like Curepipe, Vacoas-Phoenix, and Quatre-Bornes, Rose-Hill, Beau-Bassin, Triolet, Goodlands, Centre Flacq, and Mahebourg. English is the official language, but French is also widely spoken by the local population. Most Mauritian speak Creole, a dialect of French which is the island's lingua franca. Bhojpuri and Hindi are spoken by many Hindus, especially in the island's rural areas. In all, several other important Indian languages such as Marathi, Telegu, Tamil, Urdu, etc. are also spoken. Mostly the Chinese in Mauritius speak French, Creole, and Mandarin, while the Franco-Mauritians mostly speak French, English and Creole.

The Tamil Diaspora in Mauritian History

It was first discovered in 1507 by the Portuguese, who gave it the name of Ilha do Cirne or Island of the Swan, and which they visited only a few times during the 1500s. In 1598, the Dutch laid claim to it and named it 'Mauritius' after Prince Maurits van Nassau, the Stadholder of Holland. They settled on the island in 1638 and then finally abandoned it in 1710. In 1715, the French took possession of it and gave it the name of Ile de France.

Between 1735 and 1746, it was under their administration that the country began to develop. The French Governor Mahe de Labourdonnais, the father of colonial and French Mauritius introduced from India sugar cane, which is now the main crop. He also brought from Puducherry a number of free and enslaved

Tamil artisans and craftsmen who along with the Lascar Muslims from South India, the Malagasy and Mozambican slaves, and poor French workers built the town and port of the city of Port Louis during the 1730s and 1740s and after. Some of the rare and fine pieces of furniture made by those Indian Tamil craftsmen are on display at the National History Museum in Mahebourg and in other heritage sites such as at State House in Reduit and Eureka House in Moka. It was with his experience at Puducherry and in India and with the help of the Tamil artisans and other workers that, Governor Labourdonnais transformed Mauritius, La Reunion, and their dependencies into a viable and important colony for the French East India Company.

In 1810 the English conquered the island after the fierce battle of Long Mountain to the north of Port Louis. In this battle, more than 3,000 Tamil soldiers fought against the French. Ever since then, Mauritius and its dependencies were under the British rule. During the French Period, more than 10,000 Tamil slaves, indentured and free 2000 artisans and craftsmen, and another 3000 free Tamil passengers played an important part in the economic life of the country as merchants, traders, shopkeepers, and négociants. This is evident from the fact that one or two French newspapers of the time published Tamil, accounts of important events and advertisements, especially auction sales that between the 1840s and early 1900s they played a key role in developing the island's trade and commerce.

This is a special occasion to celebrate the 295th anniversary of the arrival of the Tamil artisans and slaves from India to Mauritian shores and the 189th anniversary of the arrival of the Indian indentured workers in Mauritius. Between 1826 and 1910, around 110,000 Tamil indentured workers landed at the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Site and from 1830 to 1930, around 25,000 Tamil free passengers disembarked in Port Louis Harbour.

Overall, it is estimated that between 1728 and 1930, more than 150,000 Tamil Indian artisans, free passengers including merchants and traders, convicts, slaves, vagrants, and indentured men, women, and children reached the shores of our small Indian ocean island paradise. For almost 300 years, they and their descendants, the Indo-Mauritian Tamils, have played a very important role in shaping the history, demography, society, economy, politics, and infrastructure of Mauritius and some of its dependencies.

This encyclopaedic magnum opus is essentially the long, complex, and epic social history of their migration, settlement, and their descendants in the making of the Mauritian state and nation from the 1720s to the present day. The recent publication of a book by Professor Dr. Armoogum Parsuramen (GOSK) and Mr. Satyendra Peerthum (AOYP), Historian at the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund, Mauritius entitled "In Search of our Ancestors": A Historical and Pictorial

Presentation and Tribute to the Tamil Indian Migration and Settlement in Mauritius and their Descendants (1728 To Present Times) and in other Parts of the World' is indeed an epic narrative and insights into the social history of the migration, settlement, and the Tamils and their descendants.

This original contribution to modern Mauritian historiography as looks at their role in the making of Mauritius and also Tamils in other parts of the former plantation world between the 1800s and the early 2000s. Finally, as mentioned, it also explores the history of overseas Tamil communities and their descendants in Reunion Island, Fiji, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Guadeloupe, and Republic of Guyana between the mid-19th century until present times (*Source: Satyendra Peerthum, 2023, 16th IMTC International Conference Brochure*).

Milestones in the IMTC

The International Movement for Tamil Culture, is a non-profit, non-political, democratic, charity, Tamil Cultural Organization, run by volunteers, formed on 8th January 1974 and has been functioning for the last 50 years worldwide and established supporting branches in various countries and membership in other non-member states and territories. At present, it is effectively functioning in around 25 countries.

The IMTC's mission is to propagate, develop, and maintain Tamil Language, Tamil Culture, and Education, and to pass on to our younger generations, among the worldwide population, who are living in various countries, including India and Sri Lanka. So far it has conducted 15 International Conferences, once in three to four years. The second conference was held in Mauritius in 1980, where the Mauritius Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam was the Chief Guest of the Conference. The 15th International Conference was held in Tamil Nadu in 2022.

In continuation of this journey, The International Movement of Tamil Culture, United Kingdom is the present Headquarters in association with International Association for Tamil Diaspora (INTAD), Murugan Foundation, Mauritius, International Thirukkural Foundation, All Tamil Temples Federation, Mauritius, and Tamil League, Mauritius organised a two-day International Conference on 'Tamil Diaspora - Challenges and Opportunities' in Mauritius on September 24 and 26, 2023. As many as 300 delegates from 15 countries participated in the deliberations at the conference.

Inaugural Ceremony

The inaugural ceremony of the 16th IMTC International Conference on the Tamil Diaspora: Opportunities and Challenges held on 24th September 2023 at Tamil League, Reduit, Mauritius. The procession of delegates led by





Dr. Armoogum Parsuramen, Chairman of the Conference, Attorney Teyvarajen Ponnambalum, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, and Prof. Panch. Ramalingam, Secretary of the Conference from the entrance of the Tamil League.

The main features of the inaugural session were: 1) launching of several action plans of the IMTC such as releasing the Conference Souvenir, Conference Book of Research Papers, 15 books by different authors, *Tamil Karka* through English and French by the Murugan Foundation, International Tamil Mamani Awards to 25 delegates those who have contributed to Tamil culture and language at the global level, 21 delegates those who have contributed to Tamil culture and language at the national level, and 15 Tamil organizations in Mauritius those who have contributed to Tamil culture and language developments within

the country. The cultural team from Puducherry, India will perform traditional cultural programme. 2) on the second day Thirukkural Judgment in seven languages Tamil, English, French, Germany, Hindi, Bengali, and Kannada will be released. 3) There were passing of 18 resolutions, and 4) presentations of the scientific 60 research papers.

The Conference commenced with traditional Bharath Natyam by the students of Mauritius. The National Anthem of Republic of Mauritius was played, followed by Tamil Thai Vazthu. Attorney Teyvarajen Ponnambalum welcomed the dignitaries and delegates gathered at the inaugural session. Prof. Panch. Ramalingam, Secretary of the Conference

presented the scope of the conference and Dr. Armoogum Parsuramen, Chairman of the Conference delivered presidential address. Shri. Barlen Vyaboory, Former Vice-President of Mauritius, delivered inaugural address. In his address he stressed the importance of the Tamil language and culture in Mauritius. He has appreciated the efforts of IMTC for organising its 16th Conference in Mauritius. He said this is an historical event as par as Mauritius is concerned. He has released the book titled, *Tamil Karka* (through English and French) authored by Prof. Panch. Ramalingam and Shri. Pon. Srijeevaghan. This book project has been funded by Murugan Foundation, Mauritius.





Panpattu Seva Ratna Gold Medal

Prof. Gurmeet Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Pondicherry University, Puducherry, India delivered the Key-note address and distributed the IMTC Awards 2023. The list of awardees are:

1. Shri. Barlen Vyaboori, Mauritius
2. Attorney Tyvarjen Poonamlum, Mauritius
3. Dr. T. Ramanayagam, Malaysia

Shri. Barlen Vyaboori distributed the prestigious IMTC awards to the dignitaries and the IMTC awards to various organisations contributing to Tamil language and culture in Mauritius. The following associations were involved:









1. Union Tamoule De Maurice
2. Murugan Foundation
3. Tamil League
4. Tiruvalluvar Circle
5. Northern Tamil Federation
6. Moka Tamil Federation
7. Rose Hill Tamil Federation
8. Quatre Bornes Tamil Federation
9. Flacq Tamil Federation

10. Mauritius Tamil Temples Federation
11. Hindu Maha Jana Sangham
12. Indo Mauritian Catholic Association
13. Mauritius Tamil Council
14. Rose Belle Tamil Federation
15. Souillac Tamil Federation
16. International Tamil Diaspora Association
17. Vacoas-Phoenix Tamil Federation



Vulaga Tamil Mamani Awards 2023

- 1 Mr KANAKSABEE Devarajen (Indiren)
- 2 Mrs VELLIEN Sandanaluchmee
- 3 Mrs POINEN-RAMEN Sandravadhane (Vanida)
- 4 Dr. Arunachalam Pushparatham
- 5 NAGAPEN Egambrum Paramasiven
- 6 MURDEN Nagalingum (Mayeven)
- 7 MUNEEESAMY Kistnasamy (Indiren)
- 8 VYTHILINGUM Chelvambal (Jayamanee)
- 9 Dr MURDAY Ajitha Kumari
- 10 Mr MURDAY Peroomarl (Rajesh)
- 11 Mr TIROUMALECHETTY Ponsamy OSK
- 12 VALAYDON Parama Viswanathen C.S.K
- 13 VEERASAMY Saradah
- 14 MOONOSAWMY Coomaraswamy
- 15 TIRVENGADUM-VYAS Brinda
- 16 Dr. Allaghery Uma
- 17 Dr TIROUMALECHETTY Saraspedee (Veni)

- 18 SEENEEVASSEN Sarojinee
19 MOONOSAWMY Kamala Lutchmee

List of Awardees from various countries:

1. Prof. Vallipuram Kanagasingam, Vice-Chancellor, Eastern University, Sri Lanka
2. Shri N. Nallusamy, Former Minister for Tamil Nadu, Trichy
3. Shri. M. Mohamed Abdullah, Member of Parliament, Chennai
4. Shri. Karthikeya Siva Senapathy, Chennai
5. Dr. S. Sathasivam, Madras Christian College, Tambaram, Chennai
6. Shri. T. Ganesan, Jt Secretary, IMTC, Malaysia
7. Smt. Ponni Veerappan, Malaysia
8. Dr. Amuthanila Kasiyanandan, Australia
9. Mr. Satyendra Peerthum, Mauritius
10. Mr. Thomas
11. Ms. Taeko Kurokawa, University of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo, Japan
12. Dr. M.S. Srilakshmi, Singapore
13. Mr. Athiyaman Karthik, Nigeria
14. Smt. Thamarai Srinivasa Rao, Cambodia
15. Dr. M. Elangovan, Puducherry
16. Dr. Chidambarakumar Devendram Pillai, Australia
17. Mr. Sinathurai Kopalakrishnan France
18. Mr. Silence Ferdinand, France
19. Dr. Ravi Govindaraj, Qatar
20. Mr. D. Ramesh, Thailand

Thiruvalluvar Ratna Award

1. Prof. Rajendra Singh, Azmarah
2. Dr. Reena Singh, Bhopal

3. Dr. P. Mani, Mysuru
4. Dr. Sohini Banerjee, Kolkata

Vaira Thamizhar Award 2023

1. Dato Dr. L. Krishnan, Malaysia
2. Mr. J. Sathish Kumar, Japan
3. Mr. Kajenthirain Sidambaram, Malaysia
4. Mr. G. Sivashanmugam Pillai, Seychelles
5. Ms. Menaka Narayanasamy, Malaysia
6. Dr. S. Srinivasan, Puducherry
7. Dr. K. Thilagavathy, Thanjavur
8. Mrs. V. Vijaya Jenardhanan, Malaysia

Prof. T. Mangaleswaran, Vice-Chancellor, University of Vavuniya, Sri Lanka delivered the special address and released the Conference Research Volume I and II.

Mr. Mavai So. Senathirajah, Former M.P., Sri Lanka released the books authored by Dr. K.R. Kamala Murugan, Dr. Aranga R. Murugaiyan, Dr. Marie Evangeline, as well as delivered the Keynote address.

Former Minister of Tamil Nadu Mr. N. Nallusamy, Dr. A. Baheerathan, London, Mr. Mavai. So. Thangarajah, Germany, Dr. S. Poologanathan, London, Mr. SMV. Thangarajah, London, Yogachariya Dr. Nilamegame, Reunion, and Mr. Coomarah graced the occasion.

Dr. Sornam from Mauritius felicitated the occasion.

Mr. Mavai So. Thangarajah chaired the cultural session. Mr. D. Kumaran and his team from Puducherry presented a variety of cultural events.

The first day was concluded with a grand dinner with the delegates.

Second day

The day began with IMTC Anthem. Dr. A. Baheerathan, Vice-President, IMTC welcomed the dignitaries. Thirukkural Judgement by Justice R. Mahadevan, that has been translated into Tamil, French, Germany, Hindi, Bengali, Kannada and English was released by Prof. Gurmeet Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Pondicherry

University and Mr. Mavai So. Senathirajah, followed by the IMTC awards distribution.

A short stories book authored by Dr. T. Ramanayagam, Malaysia was released at the occasion.

Conference Resolutions

The delegates from various countries presented their draft resolutions. Attorney Teyvarajan M. Ponambalum, the Vice-Chairman of the Conference chaired the session and passed the conference resolutions which are as follows:

Resolutions:

1. The International Movement for Tamil Culture (IMTC) will always support the self-determination rights of Tamils spread across the world.
2. The International Movement for Tamil Culture (IMTC) will carry out action plans in collaboration with the International Tamil Diaspora Association, Mauritius and Murugan Foundation, Mauritius to inculcate spoken Tamil in the Tamil families in Mauritius.
3. The resolution was passed by thanking Professor Arumugam Parasuraman and Attorney Thevaraj Ponambalum and the conference committee for their support in organizing the 16th IMTC International Conference on Tamil Diaspora – Opportunities and Challenges on 24-26 September 2023 at the University of Mauritius.
4. The Conference requests the concerned stakeholders that the importance given to Tamil education in educational institutions should also be given to cultural education.
5. Although Tamils live in many countries of the world, the movement to promote harmony among Tamils for the last 30 years should try to create cultural centres in every country.
6. It was decided to take measures to encourage Tamil education service providers in the countries where Tamils have settled.
7. It was decided to organize the IMTC International Conference to be held in different countries every year.
8. It was decided to organize a special event related to Tamil culture in the United Nations Assembly to attract the attention of the world.

9. It was decided to identify and document the problems faced by Tamils in the countries where they live.
10. It was decided to involve higher education students in events for promoting International Tamil culture.
11. It was decided to publish a book on the history of world Tamil culture, and also to complete this work within a year having Prof. Panch. Ramalingam as the editor.
12. “Thirukkural Ratna Award” will be given to the Thirukkural translators of different languages.
13. To improve the lives of Tamils and Tamil culture, A Tamil Culture Fund will be established under the leadership of Dr.S. Poologanathan
14. In the countries where Tamils live, the liturgy should be used in Tamil. It was decided that Yogacharya Neelamegame should provide the necessary guidance for this.
15. In countries where Tamils live, Tamil organizations should unite and act with a minimal action plan. A committee headed by Prof. Aroomugam Parsuramen is being formed to develop formal action plans and provide the necessary guidance, similar to what Mr. Athiyaman Karthik is implementing in Nigeria.
16. It has been decided to assist migrant Tamils moved to various countries and searching for their origin of ancestors. In addition, the IMTC will coordinate with such countries to help the Tamils to comfortably live without guilt feeling of isolation.
17. Education, religion, art, culture, traditional customs etc. of those who migrated due to various reasons should be tried to give back to today’s society without slipping. Every country should take appropriate measures to fully protect such an attempter. Those who live with other religions should be helped with their will without any objection. It was decided that the current relationship should be appreciated along with creating a sense of Tamilness.
18. It was decided to promote Tamil education in Mauritius, Seychelles and other countries in a simplified form as Dr. Pachavathy, Australia is practicing.

The above resolutions were passed Attorney Teyvarajen Ponnambalum at the General Assembly of the **16th IMTC International Conference on Tamil**

Diaspora – Opportunities and Challenges held on 25th September 2023 at the University of Mauritius, Mauritius. Prof. Panch. Ramalingam proposed and Mr. N. Nallusamy seconded the resolutions.

The technical sessional was held on 25th September 2023 at the auditorium, University of Mauritius, Reduit. All the delegates have been given the IMTC mementos with participation certificates.

The virtual conference would be held on 26th September 2023 on the Zoom platform. Mr. Pon. Srijeevaghan, Secretary, IMTC and Mullai Mohan, Germany monitored the virtual sessions.

Mr. Krish. Ponnusamy, Former Senior Executive, Government of Mauritius delivered valedictory address. Mr. Mavai. So. Senathirajah presided in the presence of Mr. N. Nallusamy.

The Conference was organised by the Mauritius branch of IMTC under the chairmanship of Dr. Armoogum Parsuramen, Former Minister for Education, Mauritius in collaboration with International Tamil Diaspora Association of Mauritius, Murugan Foundation, International Thirukkural Foundation, Tamil Temples Federation of Mauritius, and Tamil League, Mauritius. Attorney Teyvarajan M. Ponambalum is the Vice-Chairman of the Conference.

Dato Dr. L. Krishnan, Shri. S. Kajaintharan, from Malaysia and other 132 delegates from 13 countries participated in the Conference.

5th APSPA International Conference

On 26th September 2023, the special event on the Efforts of G20 with School Psychologists Connect was held at the University of Mauritius. Prof. Gurmeet Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Pondicherry University delivered the inaugural address, Prof. Michiko Ishikawa, Tokyo University, Japan presented the keynote address.

On 27th September 2023 in commemoration of 80th Memorial Day of Anjalay Coopen was held at Belle Vue Harel Murugan Udaiya Kovil, Route Plaine Des Papayes, Bois Mangue. During the celebration, unveiled the statue of Anjalay Coopen and the official launching of the book Anjalay Coopen's Matyrdom – The Mother of all Mauritian Workers was held.

The team of office bearers from IMTC, Hon' President and Conference Secretary Prof. Panch. Ramalingam, Pondicherry University, India, Advocate Amuthu Chezhan, London, Murugesu Thangaraja, London, Dr. S. Poologanathan, London, Dr. Amirthalingam Baheerathan, London, Shri. Mavai So. Thangarajah, Germany, Dr. Chithamparam Pillai, Australia, Yogachariya Dr. Nilamegame, Reunion with the Local Organizing Committee were actively organized the events for a grand success.

Cultural Events

Mr. Mavai So. Thangarajah chaired the Cultural events session. Dr. Aranga R. Murugaian monitored the events. Mr. D. Kumaran the team leader from Puducherry performed several events,



































