

PRESS RELEASE



Ministry of Education

9 February 2007

New Programmes to Enthuse Students to Learn and Speak Tamil

1. The Tamil Language Learning and Promotion Committee (TLLPC), in partnership with various Tamil community groups, will be initiating a host of new activities in 2007 to promote the use of Tamil and support the teaching and learning of the language.

2. In 2006, TLLPC successfully organized a series of programmes and activities to promote the use of Tamil amongst students in schools and the Tamil community at large. These events, namely drama workshops, seminar for pre-school teachers, language and cultural camp, scriptwriting workshops and reading programmes at 14 centres received enthusiastic support from schools and Tamil organizations. In total, these programmes reached out to 460 students and 100 teachers in 78 schools and 20 organisations.

Activities Planned for 2007

3. The programmes planned for 2007 are listed in Annex A. They aim to promote the use of Spoken Tamil and inculcate interest in, and appreciation of Tamil Language, literature and culture among the young by;

- a) Creating innovative and fun-filled opportunities for students to use the language, including Tamil literary activities, competitions and immersion programmes such as overseas study trips, work experience and camps;
- b) Sourcing and developing resource materials to promote listening, speaking, and reading in Tamil among students;
- c) Conducting seminars and workshops, and publishing reference resources, for parents to promote the use of Tamil at home, and
- d) Organising seminars and workshops for Tamil teachers to facilitate the learning and sharing of pedagogic methods.

4. TLLPC will partner the Ministry of Education, Tamil community organizations, schools and teachers in organising these programmes. Notably, the Tamil

Language Council (TLC), with the support of TLLPC, will organise a Tamil Language Festival between 31 March 07 and 15 April 07. TLC will partner the People's Association Narpani Pearavai, Tamil Language & Cultural Society, Tamils Representative Council, Ravindran Drama Group, Singapore Tamil Teachers' Union, Singai Tamizh Sangam, Federation of Indian Muslims, Association of Singapore Tamil Writers, National Library Board and several other groups to organise literary and cultural activities such as a Drama Competition, Sorsilambam (debate series), Thirukkural Vizha (festival commemorating the calibrating of Tamil manuscripts), Family Day and workshops by community leaders.

5. More information on TLLPC is available at its website at www.TLLPC.sg.

Background

6. The TLLPC, chaired by Mr S Iswaran, Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry, was set up in February 2006. It aims to promote the speaking and learning of Tamil amongst students and to develop in them an abiding interest in the Tamil Language, literature and culture. The committee comprises representatives from the education sector, major community organizations, arts groups and the media. The composition of the TLLPC is at Annex B.

7. As announced by Minister for Education, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam in July 2006, MOE will fund the Committee's programmes and activities to promote community engagement in the learning of the Tamil Language. MOE will provide a grant of \$70,000 per year, over 5 years, to help fund the TLLPC's programmes. MOE will also provide 1:1 matching for funds raised by the community, up to a cap of \$350,000. In the event that the community raises the maximum amount of funds to qualify for matching grant, MOE will provide a total of \$700,000 to the Tamil community over 5 years. TLLPC has set up a committee, chaired by Dr Chandroo, Chief Executive Officer, Modern Montessori International Pte Ltd, to spearhead the fund-raising efforts.

National Archives of Singapore

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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Tamil Language Learning and Promotion Committee
Planned Activities for 2007

1) Pre- School Education

- Training for Pre-School Tamil Language (TL) teachers
- Publish Big Books produced by Pre-School TL Teachers
- Drama Workshop for Pre-School TL Teachers
- Publish articles on Early Childhood in Tamil Murasu (monthly)
- Produce 'Parents as 1st Teachers' booklet, which will be circulated to all Pre-schools with TL

2) Promotion of Spoken Tamil

- Expansion of Drama Programme for primary students
- Art of Speech programme for secondary students to promote oratorical skills
- Compilation of Resource Persons (comprising professionals from various walks of life) to promote Spoken Tamil in schools
- Forum for parents on Spoken Tamil

3) Reading Programmes and Resources

- Tamil Reading Centre Parenting Seminar
- Setting up of Tamil Reading Clubs in schools
- Expansion of Tamil Reading Centres
- Video Casting & Pod Casting

4) Promotion of Literary and Cultural Activities

- Tamil Language Festival in collaboration with TLC

5) Overseas Study Trips and Immersion Programmes

- Overseas Study trip to India for students
- Local Immersion Programme at Umar Pulavar Tamil Language Centre (UPTLC)
- Students' Festival/Language and Cultural Immersion Camp
- Students' work attachment programme with Oli FM 96.8

COMPOSITION OF THE TAMIL LANGUAGE LEARNING AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE

No	NAME & ORGANISATION
CHAIRMAN	
1.	Mr S Iswaran Minister of State (Trade & Industry) & MP for West Coast GRC
MEMBERS	
Pre–School Education	
2.	Dr T Chandroo (Vice-Chairman) CEO of Modern Montessori International Pte Ltd
3.	Mr Satianathan s/o K Nadarajah Principal, Pioneer Secondary School
4.	Mr Vadivalagan PVSS Advisor, Ravindran Drama Group
5.	Ms Nirmala M Editor, Tamil Murasu
Promotion of Spoken Tamil	
6.	Dr Chitra Sankaran (Co-ordinator) Assistant Professor, Department of English Language & Literature, NUS
7.	Mr Venugobal M Thangaraju TL Curriculum Specialist, MOE
8.	Mr M Harikrishnan President, Tamil Language and Cultural Society
9.	Mr T T Dhavamani Director, Blueriver Pictures, Pte Ltd
10.	Mrs Meenatchi Sabapathy Senior Producer Presenter, Oli 96.8 MediaCorp Radio
Reading Programmes & Resources	
11.	Mr S Vivakanandan (Co-ordinator) Chief Executive Officer, SINDA
12.	Mr R Ramachandran Chief Executive Officer, National Book Development Council
13.	Mr Naa. Aandeappan Chairman, Association of Singapore Tamil Writers
14.	Ms Pushpalatha Naidu Senior Executive, Heritage & Asia, National Library Board
15.	Mr S Samikannu President, Singapore Tamil Teachers Union (STTU)

No	NAME & ORGANISATION
Promotion of Literary & Cultural Activities	
16.	Mr P Thirunalkarasu (Co-ordinator) Chairman, PA Indian Executive Committees Coordinating Council
17.	Mr V Pandiyan Gen. Secretary, Tamils Representative Council
18.	Mr A Sivam Reddy Principal, Siling Primary School
19.	Mr Abdul Shariff Senior Programming Director, Vasantham Central
Overseas Study Trips & Immersion Programme	
20.	Mr R Rajaram (Co-ordinator) Gen. Secretary, Tamil Language Council of Singapore
21.	Mr Yue Lip Sin Deputy Director, Curriculum Planning & Development Division, MOE
22.	Mr Jeyarajadas Pandian Supervisor, Umar Pulavar Tamil Language Centre
23.	Mr Naseer Ghani Vice-President, Federation of Indian Muslims (FIM)

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