

## Editorial for December

Our future belongs to the youth

*P*athirikai welcomes you this month with a beautiful picture of the Flamboyant, depicting the beginning of festivities for most of us on the eve of 2012. It is again with great pleasure that we are publishing this third edition of Pathirikai with lots of information and news about recent events, and about forthcoming events in late December and January. We witnessed the very first Tamil Family Day hosted by the Union Tamoule de Maurice and an Education Convention hosted by the MTF. Although many people did not turn up, the Family day of L'Union Tamoule De Maurice turned out to be a successful try. Despite the organizing committee canvassing through-out the island, the response was not to their expectation. The lesson learned is that for a next edition, if ever it is being planned, canvassing should start well before, giving all associations and kovils enough time to organize themselves, both in terms of capacity and logistics. The Education Orientation was the other big event, hosted by the MTF, at the Auditorium of the University of Mauritius targeting the youngsters of our community. The response was very positive indeed, and those who came shown their satisfactions. However there were some regions which were under represented or not represented at all, because apparently their Sanghams did not responded promptly to the invitations.

Nevertheless, the above two events deserve our appreciations and we hope they will become recurrent events. We hope that their planning are improved, such that we are able to include much more people, especially those who were not able to attend because of transports or were simply not aware of. This problem can partly be addressed by Pathirikai, and ONEX FM, but it remains on the shoulders of the organising committees to identify the problems and address them in time.

It is important for us to focus on these past two events, because we feel that this generation of youth is very motivated and is eager to participate in social events. We are pleased to notice that more than ever live events such as Tamil Nite is being organized through-out the year and on special occasions. If one glances at the Facebook accounts of our Tamil youngsters one will notice that there is a sign of belonging to the Tamil diaspora; they use Tamil names, Tamil characters and so on. It is a sign that NOW is the time to capture their interest and to get them together so that we can start looking in the same direction. It is time to show others that Tamils are united and that we are all working toward one and unique goal, which is the advancement of Tamil in the Mauritian society. Let's not forget that we almost lost our language (the Tamil mozhi – one of the richest language in the world) carried through the ages by our ancestors but left aside by our grand-parents and parents most probably because of economic, social and other reasons. We are however grateful to the initiatives of a few patriots such as Dr C.M. Pillay, Mr Kadriavel Sornum and Dr Jeeven Chemen of The Tamil Speaking Union at a much larger scale, who have put in place mechanisms for lifting up our language.

Let's join our effort to help this young generation to preserve our language, culture, religion and our rich heritage. Let's build a better place for them; we'll be proud of our actions.

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