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A newsletter to the members of the Pondicherry Psychology Association (Regd.)

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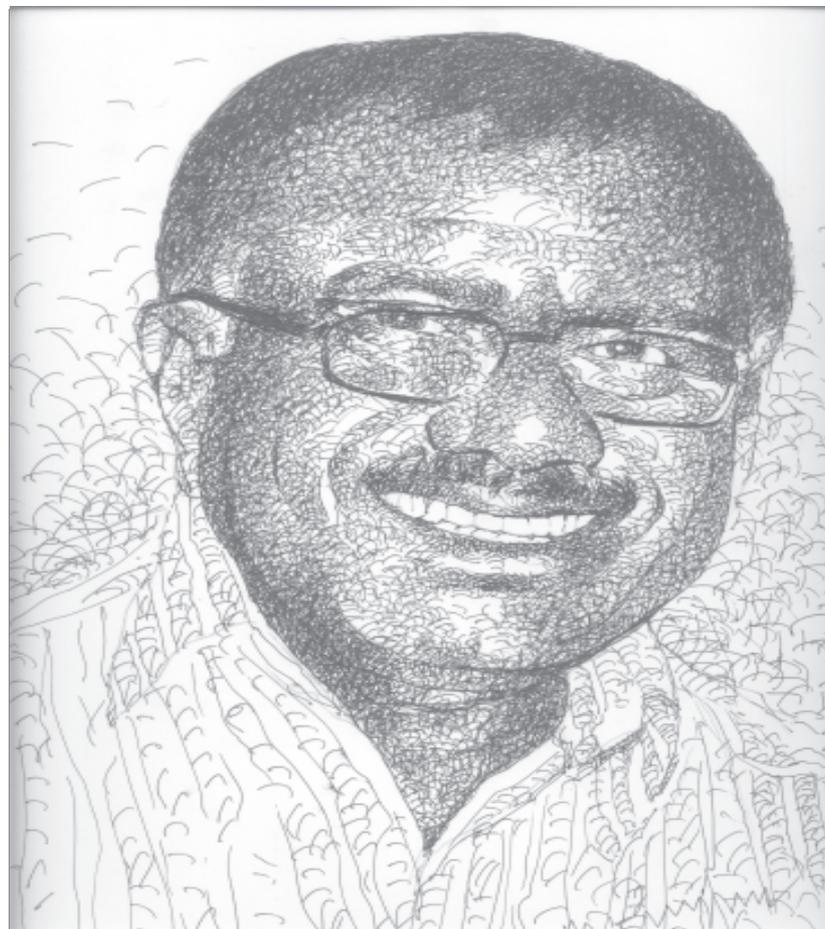
January - December, 2008

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Our sincere gratitude to
Prof. J.A.K. Tareen
Vice-Chancellor of
Pondicherry University
for starting a new
Department of Applied
Psychology



Man of Excellence Prof. J.A.K. Tareen

Dr. Jalees Ahmed Khan Tareen is presently the Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University, Puducherry & Member of University Grants Commission, New Delhi. Prof. Tareen is a native of the Palace City of Mysore in Karnataka, holds MSc in Geology, PhD in Experimental Mineralogy and Doctor of Science in Solid State Chemistry. A well known experimental mineralogist, a

designer of high pressure equipment for his research, he obtained his PhD from the University of Mysore and Doctor of Science from France.

As a researcher, he has published several research papers and books besides bagging national level awards. He possesses rich experience of having worked in the Universities in France, Japan, Scotland and in the African countries.

He served the University of Mysore for 33 years in various capacities and later was appointed Vice-

Chancellor of Kashmir University where he had had the challenging task of restoring the academic environment of the militancy-stricken university which was on the verge of collapse, and bringing it back on the national map.

During the fifteen years of turmoil in Kashmir valley, militancy had crept into every facet of life and institutions of Kashmir. The University of Kashmir, the only general university for six million Kashmiris was also one of the badly affected victims for a few years. But the deterioration which started with the militancy in the academics and administration continued even when the campus was freed of this.

The university had literally closed its doors to the outside world and a psychological barrier with false threat perceptions was erected in the minds of the government and the rest of the country, presumably for convenience. Dr. Farooq Abdullah wanted to save this sinking ship and thought of experimenting with a Vice Chancellor brought from far south of India-Mysore.

Prof. Tareen, a visionary and dynamic Vice-Chancellor entered Kashmir as a stranger from the point of his looks, culture, language, background and lifestyle. His was an arduous task; besides getting himself accepted, he had to win the co-operation of the whole academia including students, got funds for development, face threats from both inside and outside. It was really a stupendous task for him to bring back the Kashmir University back on rails.

He accomplished this challenge in a very short span of time and the University emerged as an 'A' grade University under his dynamic leadership. With his unprecedented success at the troubled University of Kashmir as Vice Chancellor he has emerged as an exceptionally courageous and a talented administrator, who could not only work in the difficult and challenging situations but also bring the desired results.

It is a story of the skills of a scientist-turned administrator who not only became a darling of students and faculty within a short time but was called the Vice-Chancellor of the masses. It narrates the strategies he used to awaken the Kashmir University from a deep slumber, to extract the best of the existing human resources and rekindle into them the aspirations of high goals and confidence to achieve them.

He successfully reopened the gates of the Kashmir University to the world of academics across the country and the world; he feels it has contributed to the opening of Kashmir to common Indian tourists. He faced all opposing forces with valour, upholding the dignity of the Vice-Chancellor's chair, and opted to leave when he was at the peak of his popularity.

He has also served as CEO of South Asia Foundation where he actively involved himself in various welfare measures for the society. He has been instrumental in popularizing pre-primary education in rural areas. An outstanding researcher and an able administrator, he has won various awards including National Mineral Award of Govt. of India in 1996.

With the extraordinary experience in Kashmir, he assumed office as Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University in April, 2007. From day one, he has been showing a keen interest and involvement in the all-round development of the University and the Union Territory of Puducherry. In a short span of three months he started seven new departments: Applied Psychology, Education, Electronic Media and Mass Communication, Food Science, Library & Information Science, Social Work, and South Asian Studies. He started a new campus in Karaikal with three departments: Commerce, Computer Science and Management Studies.

He is a target-oriented leader of the academic community, applying diversified nature of approaches to develop the University so as to give quality education to the student community. Always he touches the hearts of the people by his unstinted, unimaginable affection. He talks less and does enormous to the people. He considers students as his children and staff as brothers and sisters.

This is a golden period in the history of Pondicherry University. The Pondicherry Psychology Association joins hands with the people of Puducherry for satisfying the long felt needs of the public to have a Post graduate department in Psychology. The first Vice-Chancellor Dr. K. Venkatasubramanian dreamt and the third Vice-Chancellor Prof. V.T. Patil announced it in our inaugural function on 1st January 2000 to start a Psychology department in the University.

We proudly pronounce that the present Vice-Chancellor Prof. J.A.K. Tareen has started the Department of Applied Psychology to cater to the needs of the student community. The Governing Council of the PPA place a record of appreciation and thanks for his venture to help the society by starting a new department of Applied Psychology in the Pondicherry University.



10th National Conference on Applied Psychology and Web World - A Report

Applied Psychology and Web World are intertwined so as to reach the people for effective utilization. The recent advancements in the field applied psychology need to be synchronized and exposit with the web world. The present contents and practices of applied psychology should be suitably modified by web tools so as to meet the challenges and opportunities. Researchers in the field of applied psychology and educationists are contributing their new way of teaching by applying web resources. Therefore, the conventional method of teaching and learning process should be revamped with innovative approaches by applying recent advancements of web world in propagating applied psychology.

The Pondicherry Psychology Association and Psychometric Educational services, Arcot were jointly organised the 10th National Conference on Applied Psychology and Web World on 5th and 6th January, 2008 at Puducherry. We hope that the out come of the conference will become a turning point in the development of a new approach to teacher education, which will carry in it the very best of what modern teacher education and psychological approaches have to offer. The major objectives were: ■ Exposition of various recent web resources in Applied Psychology, ■ Exposition of existing practice of Applied Psychology and web world, ■ Exploring the possibilities of designing new curriculum in applied Psychology, ■ Developing e-content resources in applied psychology, ■ Developing e-contents for applied psychological experiments and testing, ■ Developing research methodologies innovative models for teacher educators in recent research areas.

To achieve the objectives described above, there were four plenary sessions and four concurrent technical sessions. Each of these sessions were devoted to one of the main objectives.

Chief Minister of Puducherry N. Rangasamy has inaugurated the conference. In his inaugural address he said that training in psychology was necessary for school teachers as it would help them to understand children and teach them better. Speaking at the 10th National Conference on Applied Psychology and Web World organised by the Pondicherry Psychology Association in collaboration with the Psychometric



Educational Services, Arcot, he said psychology was being used in hospitals, educational institutions, companies, and, advertising and marketing.

Former Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University A. Gnanam presided and in his presidential address he said there was a need to propagate knowledge of basic psychology among the public.

In his keynote address, B. Mukhopadhyay, Head, Department of Educational Management and Applied Psychology, NITTTR, Chennai, said applied psychology would be of great help to industries. Professionals could develop aptitude tests for recruitment and for the existing staff, they could develop achievement motivation tests, interest inventories and attitudinal tests.

Panch Ramalingam, president of the Pondicherry Psychology Association, delivered scope and objectives of the conference. As many as 150 teachers and research scholars – were participating in the conference. It aimed at educating professionals on the need for using teaching and learning resources available on the internet. Psychologist K.N. Viswanath from Chennai, who chaired a session on linking applied psychology with virtual classroom, explained how teachers using cyber space could use animations, video clippings and multi media content to help students understand things better.

Mr. N. Rangasamy also presented PPA Best Psychologist Award to Prof.G. Rajamohan, Best Educationist Award to Sirpi M. Jayaraman, Prof. A. Gnanam Best Teacher Award to N. Gururajan, Mamota Das Best Teacher Award to Madhu Mathur from Meerut, Best book award to Sibnath Deb from Kolkata (author of *Children in Agony*),

In the valedictory session, Prof. VSR Vijayakumar, Chennai presided and Former Minister for Education Shri. K. Lakshminarayanan delivered valedictory address.

Psychometric Educational Services Awards

The Psychometric Educational Services, Arcot, Vellore, Tamil Nadu has created Psychometric Educational Services Awards to the best Psychologists. Shri. N. Rangasamy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Puducherry distributed the Psychometric Educational Services Awards to the psychologists from 1996 to 2007 at the inaugural session of the 10th National Conference on Applied Psychology and Web World held on 5th January 2008 at Puducherry:

Recipient of Awards 1996 - 2007

Award 1996

Dr. V. Natarajan

Department of Psychology, Presidency College, Chennai

Nallasiriyar A.L. Thirugnanam

Head Master, Municipal North School, Arcot, Tamil Nadu

Award 1997

Dr. K. Rajendran

Prof and Head, Department of Psychology, Annamalai University,

Ms. J. Prabhavathy

Correspondent Sevamandir Teacher Training Institute, Parangipettai,

Award 1998

Dr. V. Suresh

Professor of Psychology, DDE, Annamalai University,

Mr. M. Kumar, Arcot

Award 1999

Dr. V. Natarajan

Pondicherry University, Puducherry

Award 2000

Ln MJF Prof. Ratna Natarajan

Trainer and Consultant, Thiruppathur, Vellore District

Dr. B. Viswanatham

Former Professor of Psychology, Annamalai University,

Award 2001

Prof. B. Mukhopadhyay,

Prof and Head, Department of Educational Management and Applied Psychology, NITTTR, Chennai

Dr. T. Santhanam

Psychologist, Vocational Rehabilitation Centre, Guindy, Chennai

Award 2003

Dr. Gyanachandra

Chairman, Sri Aravind Chetana Samaj, Delhi

Dr. S. Sabesan

Head, Human Resources, ITM Business School, Chennai

Dr. V. Chalopathy

Lecturer in Psychology, DDE, Annamalai University

Dr. P.J. Charumathi

Prof and Head, Department of Psychology, SIET College, Chennai

Award 2004

Dr. R. Rajendran

Asst. Prof., Department of Education, NITTTR, Chennai

Dr. T. Savadamuthu

Principal, Perunthalaivar Kamaraj College of Education, Karaikal

Award 2006

Dr. S. Renuka Devi

Head, Department of Education, NITTTR, Chennai

Prof. P. Venkattammal

Prof and Head, Department of Psychology, Annamalai University

Dr. P. Subramanian

Principal, Harur Muthu Arts and Science College, Harur

Award 2007

Dr. Sarah Manickaraj

Faculty Member, Dept of Psychology, Presidency College, Chennai

Shri P. Thomas

Loyola Education and Animation Trust, Puducherry

Shri S. Suresh

Lecturer, Dept of Psychology, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar

Mr. T. Arun, GH, Puducherry

Mrs. K. Jayanthirani

Head, Department of Psychology, Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai

PES Award 2007

Prof. Mamota Das

Professor of Education, Pondicherry University, Puducherry

Dr. R. Karpaga kumaravel

Prof and Head, Department of Educational Technology Bharathidasan University, Trichy

Prof. A. Balasubramanian

Director, Educational Multi Media Centre, Mysore University,

Prof. N. Balasubramanian

Dean, Faculty of Education, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore

Prof. Periyardhasan

Professor of Philosophy, Pachayappa's College, Chennai

Dr. Panch. Ramalingam

Pondicherry Psychology Association

PES Religious Harmony Award 2007

Rev. Fr. A.S. Antonisamy

Chairman, Centre for Universal Ethics, Puducherry

Puravalar Vel. Sokkanathan

Treasurer, Kamban Kazhakam, Puducherry

Shri. Abdul Majeed

Secretary, Puducherry Freedom Fighters Association.

A Special Interactive Session

The Pondicherry Psychology Association has organised a special interactive session on Psychology and Language on 21st March, 2008 at Tamil Sangam hall, Puducherry. This Special Interactive Session brought together scholars and teachers from various colleges and universities like Pondicherry University, Madras University, Saveetha University, Chennai and Annamalai University. There were 78 scholars who participated in the discussion.

Dr. Panch. Ramalingam, President, Pondicherry Psychology Association presented the scope of the discussion. He highlighted the main objectives of the interactive session such as Discussion of Eastern and western models of psychology with special reference to education, Discussion of various indigenous schools of thought in Integral psychology, Exploring important areas like language development and issues that can bring Eastern Integral Studies to the forefront in order for it to become a living force for the future and Developing practical applications of psychological approaches for language development.

Shri. K. Lakshminarayanan, MLA, Former Minister for Education, Puducherry presented mementoes to the foreign scholars and emphasized the need of the developing ways and means to integrate the psychology with language. He said psychology is having deep rooted spiritual and religious conceptualisation in India. The spiritual development and the consciousness are intertwined in our system. The psychological tradition in India is traced from Vedic period, such an ancient subject helps us to develop in a methodical ways of languages. I appreciate these scholars for venturing a new dimension to integrate language and psychology under one roof.

Dr. V. Muthu, Chairman, Paventhar Teacher Training Institute, Puducherry presided. Prof. Dr. Peter Sedlmeier, Professor of Psychology, Chemnitz University of Technology,



Germany delivered a special address. He said that this is my sixth visit to India and found that Puducherry is the right place to undertake research in the field of psychology. Our quest for self knowledge in the West, begins with personality, cognition and behaviour and for the dominant schools in psychology, it stops there. The beginning of the development of these first two forces in psychology, which identify and explore in-depth cognition and behavior there have been parallel movements which have fought to maintain a more holistic approach. He also said that the forces of different spiritual approaches to psychology are developing various fields like language and other related disciplines. Researchers can identify the real need of the society and move towards achieving the goal. I personally feel that the Pondicherry University department of Philosophy may contribute the integrative nature of philosophy and psychology. Thereby we can aim at several related studies to be undertaken.

Prof. A.Ra. Sivakumaran, Assistant Professor and Assistant Head of Asian Languages and Culture Group, National Institute of Education, Singapore highlighted the significance of psychology and language development. He said that Singapore is having Tamil as the national language. Teaching and learning process is intertwined with culture and traditions. In my experience of teaching for the students in Singapore is purely based on applying psychology in the classroom.

Prof. K. Srinivas Professor of Philosophy, Pondicherry University highlighted the availability of potential resources of philosophical and psychological sources in India. We have to look at spiritual approaches to psychology East and West so as to link the Eastern and Western traditions. The East with its spiritual tradition rich with ancient yogic knowledge provides an excellent framework for a spiritual psychology, especially philosophical treasures. In this way, there are psychological elements found in the sacred scriptures as well as in the teachings of many yogis and saints throughout the ages.

Shri. S. Suresh, Lecturer in Psychology, Annamalai University, Treasurer of PPA proposed a vote of thanks.



11th National Conference on School Psychology

The term *school psychology* is used in a general form to refer to professionals prepared in psychology and education and who are recognized as specialists in the provision of psychological services to children and youth within the contexts of schools, families, and other settings that impact their growth and development. As such, the term also refers to and is meant to include educational psychologists and others who display qualities this document associates with school psychology (ISPA).

The Pondicherry Psychology Association, Puducherry, in collaboration with Indian Academy of Applied Psychology, Madras Psychology Society, Chennai and Paaventhar Teacher Training Institute, Puducherry are jointly organising 11th National Conference on School Psychology on 10th and 11th January, 2009 at Puducherry. We hope that this conference will become a turning point in the development of a new approach to the school education, which will carry in it the very best of what modern teacher education and psychological approaches have to offer. We try to explore innovative ideas and exchange the possibilities of introducing school psychology in the present scenario.

Objectives

- Developing new initiative to introduce school psychology in India
- Exposition of various aspects of school psychology
- Exposition of existing practice of school psychology in India
- Exploring the possibilities of designing new curriculum for school psychology.
- Developing e-content for school psychology.
- Developing e-contents for applied psychological experiments and testing.

To achieve the objectives described above, there will be two plenary sessions and six concurrent technical sessions. Each of these sessions will be devoted to one of the main objectives. The plenary sessions will have invited speakers only.

Submission of papers:

Delegates are requested to submit their papers following APA style (refer website: www.jiaap.org for writing a research paper) on any of the listed topics. To ensure a consistent high quality of all the presentations, participants will be requested to submit the full text well in advance and not later than **31st December, 2008**. Abstract and paper should be sent by email (panchramalingam@gmail.com) or hard copy with CD in MS-Word format only. Further details if any kindly feel free to contact: **Dr.Panch.Ramalingam**, 17, 14th Street, Krishna Nagar, Puducherry – 605 008, India. Mob: 94433 52476

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BEST PAPER AWARDS 2008

The following papers have been selected for the best paper awards during the 10th National Conference:

1. Dr. Sibnath Deb, Department of Applied Psychology, Calcutta University, Kolkata
2. Dr. J. Solomon, Mumbai
3. Dr. Santhosh. A. M. and Dr. Rajitha Menon.A., Psychologists, Calicut

BEST BOOK AWARD

Certificate and Cash award of Rs. 1000

Please send two copies of the books published on psychology and related areas for consideration of best book award. **2008 and 2009** editions are considered for award. Last date for submission: **30 September, 2009**. For further details contact PPA.

Pondicherry Psychology Association Membership

Life Member	=	Rs. 1000/-
Annual Member	=	Rs. 100/-
Foreign Member	=	\$ 150

Send DD in favour of the Pondicherry Psychology Association payable at Pondicherry. All members will receive quarterly newsletter at free of cost.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY IN A CHANGING SOCIETY

30th Annual Colloquium of the International School Psychological Association (ISPA) in Utrecht,
The Netherlands, July, 8-13, 2008

Under the title above Dutch School Psychologists invited contributions. The international frame highlighted by well-known and well-esteemed key-note speakers opened a broad perspective of sub-themes. Due to the high quality and broad spectrum of contributions, school psychologists proved themselves as experts in social change, qualified and experienced to research, initiate, moderate and guide change processes and deal with the subtle balance between innovation, continuity and sustainability in the educational field.

Nearly 400 colleagues from 41 countries participated and most of them as well presenters were contributing to a high level of motivation, inspiring discussions and the effective linkage of scientific research, practice and training. By organising visits in schools and to special programs for drop-outs, for autistic, dyslexic, gifted children, migrant families ... our Dutch colleagues allowed us a closer look to their working field and their daily routines.

The resonance of the audience proved the high relevance of the four key-lectures:

*Mark T. Greenberg (USA) "Providing social and emotional development. Building Resilience in Children".
- A review and profoundly research-based analysis of school-based programs and policies to promote resilience and thereby prevent youth and learning problems. Concepts of "mindfulness and compassion" are suggested in a roadmap for the implementation of effective programs.

* Karine Verschueren (Belgium) "Young children's relational experiences in the classroom: their antecedents and consequences for development". - An impressive, manifold review and research on the role and developmental effects of the child's different relational experiences, as there are "child-teacher, child-parent, child-child judged by adults and most relevant by the child him/herself".

- Fons J.R. van de Vijver (The Netherlands/South Africa) "Acculturation and Multiculturalism in the Classroom". - Multiculturalism is for most nowadays Western countries a typical situation and a largely neglected field of problems. The presented research threw light on the interrelatedness between duration of intercultural contact, adjustment to main-stream society, maintenance of original culture, ethnic-hierarchy and school achievement.

Elena L. Grigorenko ((USA/USSR) "Learning in a changing society: academic and behavioural difficulties among school-age children".

- Her research analysed the effects of the rapid changes in Russia during the 90th.

Summarising several hundreds of sessions - papers, posters, workshops, symposia - must be selective, but a high percentage was clustering around the following key-words:

- "Mental health" - this broad WHO-based concept marks the turn and high interest in prevention, contributions cover curricula and programs, the role of factors like resilience, self-esteem, positive self-concept and coping strategies. Evidence is delivered on effective implementation strategies by using basics from organisation development like whole school programming and advance agreement, a continuum of care, a supportive culture related to the curriculum, support of principal and a team with special responsibility for the well-being of children, family and teachers, a mechanism for conflict management.

- "School climate" can be seen as sub-theme to mental health, except that these contributions focus more clearly on social relationships, targeting peer-friendship and peer-mediation, school-home-partnership, developing democratic citizenship, students', value and peace education, students' engagement, parents' and community involvement.

- "Social and emotional learning"- constructs, cultural aspects, influencing factors like social intelligence, closeness to important others are differentiated, programs on social skills and social influences developed and evaluated.

- "Bullying" is a priority problem, there is research on antecedents and on best practices, but discussions are clearly on improving positive school culture and creating a safe school environment.

- "Crisis management" due to serious events especially in Western countries, has become a field of high interest and a bulk of sensitive knowledge, for which special trainings have been developed.

- "Special disorders" show up as the classical tasks of our profession: dyslexia, autism, anxiety, anger, aggressiveness, attention deficit, students at risk, disadvantaged children, sexually abused youngsters, dropouts children with special needs.

- "Test and measurement" is another more traditional field of our profession. Research interest has to do with adaptation of instruments to other cultures or subgroups, refinement of categories, process approaches.

- "Teachers and future teachers" attract mainly two types of studies: either more descriptive dealing with person variables like motivation, self-image, self-efficacy, life-satisfaction, optimism, stress, burn-out or they are more result- and task-oriented with intervention perspective, like empowering, strengthening competences, dealing with interaction processes.

- "Role of the school psychologist." - Its discussion show, that it's undergoing changes, which are connected with new perspectives and trends in our profession. These are mainly, a stronger priority on prevention, on social-emotional functioning, a higher sensitivity for social and cultural diversity, instead of norm-oriented measurement and connected to all this, whole-school and even community projects, demanding leadership and handling of organisational and management processes.

"Symposia and workshops, committee meetings, arranged and moderated by ISPA-leadership give evidence of the association taking responsibility for professional development and standards. They are one instrument for cross-national projects and surveys in which colleagues from different countries co-operate, either with a comparative perspective or to pinpoint recent challenges or to substantiate and form cooperation with other associations and institutions like UNESCO, Child Rights Committee, EU psychologists and EU-training-centre. - Themes and activities of this summer were: development

of professional standards and training programs, a European certificate, promotion of quality assurance in countries with newly coming-up services, a Child Rights based curriculum, training of crisis intervention teams. Focus on relevant and forthcoming themes: early childhood education, social-emotional learning, strength-based assessment, implication of the WHO-health model for schools.

One specific of ISPA-Colloquia are interaction-groups. They facilitate intensive professional and personal exchange across nationalities, nurture a climate of trust and friendship and readiness for engagement, encourage colleagues to come to colloquia year after year and stay in touch in between.

Thanks to our hosting Dutch colleagues for this colloquium - smooth, friendly, warm, like its symbol, an orange tulip. This warmth made us forget the daily rain and enjoy not only the high quality of professional offerings, but also the rich cultural program with music and dance in a beautiful town with its buildings witnessing passed centuries.

In 2009 the ISPA-Colloquium will take place in Malta, one of the smallest EU countries, situated in the Mediterranean Sea, June 7-11. Its title "School Psychology for Diversity" reflects its mixture of cultures since prehistoric times due to its geographical position and as well its nowadays major role as tourist-centre. Further information: www.ispaweb.org and www.muppmalta.org/ISPA2009

Report by Erika Voigt, Göttingen, Germany

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From the Editor's Desk...

We deem it a great privilege to bring out this newsletter 'Indian Psychologist' on behalf of the Pondicherry Psychology Association. The prime aim is to propagate the activities of the association such as conferences, training programmes, publication of books, etc.

I welcome you as a friendly advisor to give suggestions if any to improve the newsletter so as to reach across the nation.

Ever Yours
Dr. Panch. Ramalingam, Editor.

A Private Circulation

newsletter to the members of the
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