



SIETARINDIA

Society for Intercultural Education
Training and Research

Sietar India 2008 conference

From the melting pot to the salad bowl:
the development of intercultural thinking and its
relevance to the world we live in

18-20 January 2008: GRT Grand, Chennai, India



Welcome to SIETAR India's 2008 Conference!

The Society for Intercultural Education Training and Research (SIETAR)-India is a non-profit association of educators, researchers and trainers from a wide range of practical and academic disciplines who share a common concern for intercultural relations. SIETAR-India provides an opportunity to learn from and share with colleagues in the intercultural arena and advance the body of knowledge and practice in the field.

SIETAR-India is part of the global network of SIETAR organizations, including SIETAR USA, SIETAR Europa and SIETAR Japan. Established in 1974, SIETAR has over 3500 members worldwide with affiliates in many countries. SIETAR holds Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) status with the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

For more on SIETAR India visit our website:
<http://www.sietarindia.org/index.html>

SIETAR Global:
<http://www.sietar.org/>

SIETAR Europa:
<http://www.sietar-europa.org/>

SIETAR USA:
<http://www.sietarusa.org/>

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SIETAR Japan:
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Young SIETAR:
<http://www.youngsietar.org/>

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SIETAR India Executive Director's Letter

Dear conference participants and presenters,

Welcome to SIETAR India's 2008 conference. This conference is very special as it demonstrates the continued growth of SIETAR India. It also positions us and brings us to a level of momentum that is critical for sustaining the growth of SIETAR India.

Since our inaugural SIETAR conference in August 2006 in Bangalore, we have held several learning events in Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai. We have also launched our website, www.sietarindia.org, and are committed to fulfilling the mission of SIETAR India.

SIETAR India also continues to interact and collaborate with other SIETAR organisations around the world, including being part of the first SIETAR Global Congress in Granada, Spain, October 22-26, 2008.

This year's SIETAR India conference provides you an opportunity to learn from some incredible sessions and also interact with colleagues and peers from across the country and the world. I encourage all of you to use the conference to the best advantage as well as continue to participate in local chapter learning events.

I wish you all the best for the conference!

Vinay Kumar
SIETAR India Executive Director

SIETAR India President's Letter

Dear members and conference participants,

It is my privilege to welcome you to our second annual conference. We have indeed come a long way since the inaugural event in August 2006.

In the 16 months of its existence SIETAR India has been involved in organising learning events of high calibre across its chapters, opened a new chapter in Hyderabad, and made its presence felt at various learning fora. In addition, this year SIETAR India will be crossing borders to co-operate with SIETAR Global so as to enhance the benefits of SIETAR membership and to enlarge the impact of SIETAR in the world. The Global SIETAR Congress in Granada will be held in October this year and will offer all SIETAR India members an opportunity to interact and share knowledge with colleagues from the various SIETAR's across the globe.

Against this backdrop, our January 2008 international conference in Chennai will strive to reiterate SIETAR India's commitment to building bridges of understanding in order to create an inclusive society in a world full of alternate visions and worldviews. It is our endeavour to contribute, through this conference, to the development of standards for interculturalism and the practice of intercultural education, training and research. We are privileged to have 18 expert presenters from different parts of the world presenting on various topics of relevance. The collaborative spirit of SIETAR will be evident through the conference, where attendees will forge new bonds and share their expertise, experiences and cutting-edge research on intercultural topics.

In this intense phase of India's globalization, let us pledge to dedicate our work to the cause of promoting not only business synergy but also peaceful dialogue between people.

Sreemathi Ramnath
SIETAR India President

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world we live in

The intercultural field is a young and very rapidly developing field. Our conference theme hopes to remind us that the metaphors and models we worked with not too long ago, may no longer apply across the board. Currents of change, expansion and redefinition are taking place daily and SIETAR India's 2008 conference is designed to showcase both well-founded methodologies and models as well as to invite you to consider new research, findings and ideas.

The Programme

We kick off SIETAR India's 2008 conference with a full day of play and profundity with a star in the intercultural heavens: a pre-conference workshop facilitated by Dr. Sivasailam "Thiagi" Thiagarajan on "Designing training games and simulations for intercultural participants".

SIETAR India's 2008 conference features 18 concurrent sessions by leading practitioners, theorists and scholars from across the globe addressing a broad spectrum of intercultural issues. Conference presenters represent over a dozen nations and address issues pertaining to training, business, education and the arts.

The conference is graced by two keynote speakers of remarkable stature. For our inaugural keynote, Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan, whose firm, Cognizant, has a deep commitment to intercultural training, will take the dais. To close the conference we will be privileged to hear the remarks of Dr. Ashok Jhunjhunwala, IIT professor and Padma Shri recipient.

As interculturalists we recognise that we learn from, with and about each other through many different ways. Thus, the conference programme features varied opportunities to meet with your colleagues and friends, new and old.

The first of these, the Welcome Reception, Friday evening, features a networking activity that will get you connected even before the formal conference starts! And you will be doing so in one of Chennai's loveliest locations - the Madras Boat Club.

The Gala Saturday evening at the conference venue, the GRT Grand Hotel, features the Indian classical dance troupe, Avigna, directed by Narendran. Their performance moves us across the diversity of India. We wrap up the festivities with a gala buffet.

The conference aims to appeal to the intercultural body and all of its senses. A demonstration by Mickaël Besse, the Executive Pastry Chef at Ecstasy, Chennai's newest cafe and patisserie, will take our conference theme of the salad bowl from metaphor to tasty treat. For your viewing pleasure we offer collages on the theme of diversity by the noted visual artist, V. V. Ramani, and your hearts are sure to be warmed with dance by a very special group of children from RASA, directed by Ambika Kameswaran.