



International Thirukkural Conference on Thirukkural and Ethics, Governance and Government

3-4 September 2026 | Sydney, Australia



International Thirukkural Conference on Thirukkural and Ethics, Governance and Government

organised by

The International Thirukkural Foundation, Mauritius

in collaboration with

**Sydney Tamil Valarchi Manram, World Tamil Cultural
Organisation, Malaysia, and the International Tamil Cultural
Centre, Jaffna, Sri Lanka**

(3–4 September 2026 | Sydney, Australia)

International Thirukkural Foundation (ITF), Mauritius

It was established in 2018 by Professor Dr. Armoogum Parsuramen (GOSK), a distinguished statesman who served as Mauritius's Minister of Education between 1983 and 1995, and later as Director and Representative of UNESCO between 1998 and 2011. The Foundation was officially registered in Mauritius on 23 May 2018.

The ITF is dedicated to celebrating and spreading the profound wisdom of Thirukkural, the timeless classical Tamil text by Thiruvalluvar, exploring its universal values of ethics, governance, love, and peace for global harmony. The Foundation actively promotes academic research, fosters international scholarly collaboration, and examines the relevance of Thirukkural in modern contexts.

Dr. Armoogum Parsuramen serves as President and Chairman of the Foundation's international conferences, bringing together scholars from

countries including India, Mauritius, Australia, and the UK. The ITF regularly collaborates with partner organizations such as Tamil Valarchi Manram (Australia) and Voice of Valluvar Family (India) to conduct international Thirukkural conferences, making it a truly global platform for promoting this ancient Tamil literary treasure.

Sydney Tamil Valarchi Manram

It is a Tamil cultural and educational organization based in Sydney, Australia. It was founded by Dr. Chandrika Subramaniyan, a well-known solicitor and community leader, with a focus on serving the Tamil community through language and culture. The organization works towards Tamil development through research, publications, workshops, and honouring Tamil scholars. It has hosted significant events such as the International Conference on Peace and Harmony through Literature at the University of Sydney, celebrating Thirukkural as Universal Literature. It has also partnered with local councils to celebrate events like International

Mother Language Day, promoting Tamil language and literature in Australia.

The World Tamil Cultural Organisation (WTCO), Malaysia is a prominent non-governmental organisation dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and propagation of Tamil language, literature, culture, and heritage among the Tamil diaspora in Malaysia and across the global Tamil community. Malaysia is home to one of the third-largest Tamil communities outside Tamil Nadu, with a deeply rooted cultural presence that includes Tamil schools functioning since 1905, an active Tamil press since 1920, and the unique celebration of Tamar Day observed since 1952.

Against this rich backdrop, WTCO Malaysia serves as a vital cultural bridge, uniting Tamils of diverse backgrounds through academic conferences, cultural programmes, literary events, and community initiatives. The organisation actively collaborates with universities, cultural bodies, and Tamil associations worldwide to foster greater awareness and appreciation of the ancient Tamil civilisation and its enduring contributions to world heritage.

Malaysia has historically held a special place in the global Tamil movement, having hosted the very first World Tamil Conference in Kuala Lumpur in 1966, laying the foundation for generations of organised Tamil cultural activity. WTCO Malaysia proudly carries forward this legacy, championing Tamil identity, classical arts, and intergenerational cultural transmission as a beacon of Tamil pride in Southeast Asia.

International Tamil Cultural Centre, Jaffna

The International Tamil Cultural Centre was established by Mr. Mavai So. Thangarajah in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, with a vision to preserve, promote, and propagate Tamil language, literature, and culture both within Sri Lanka and across the world. Founded with deep commitment to Tamil heritage, the Centre serves as a vital platform for cultural enrichment and linguistic development in the post-war Tamil community of Jaffna. Through active collaboration with numerous regional, national, and international organizations, it organizes a wide range of events including seminars, conferences, cultural festivals, and literary gatherings. The Centre plays a significant role in uniting the global Tamil diaspora and fostering a renewed pride in Tamil identity and civilization.

The International *Thirukkural* Conference

The International Thirukkural Conference on Thirukkural and ethics, governance and government, to be held on 3–4 September 2026 in Sydney, Australia, is a landmark academic and cultural gathering that brings together scholars, educators, philosophers, social scientists, policymakers, and practitioners from across the world. The conference seeks to engage participants in a deep and meaningful dialogue on how the timeless wisdom of the *Thirukkural* can contribute to global peace, human dignity, ethical governance, and harmonious coexistence in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

Anchored in the universal ethical vision of Thiruvalluvar, the *Thirukkural* transcends boundaries of language, culture, religion, and geography. Its 1,330 couplets offer profound insights into virtue, justice, compassion, governance, education, and social responsibility. In today's fractured world—marked by conflict, polarization, inequality, and ecological संकट—the *Thirukkural* emerges as a beacon of moral clarity and humanistic wisdom. Its teachings resonate strongly with contemporary global discourses on human rights, non-violence, sustainable development, and the ideal of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*—the world as one family. One of the most powerful ethical messages of the *Thirukkural* is its emphasis on non-harm and compassion:

“யாதனின் யாதனின் நீங்கியான்
நொநொப்பின் ஆதலின் ஆதல் இலன்.”
(One who avoids hurting others shall
himself remain free from pain.)

This principle aligns seamlessly with modern ideas of peaceful coexistence, non-aggression, and human dignity. It affirms that peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice, empathy, and ethical responsibility in individual and collective life.

Over the years, the *Thirukkural* has found recognition in international forums, including discussions at the United Nations, global ethics summits, and intercultural dialogues. Efforts are underway in several countries to introduce Kural-based teachings into school and university curricula, particularly within value education and citizenship education frameworks.

These developments reflect a growing recognition that ancient ethical texts can offer vital guidance for contemporary global challenges.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in Global Policy: The Role of Thirukkural

The idea of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*—the whole world as one family—has increasingly influenced India's foreign policy, cultural diplomacy, and humanitarian initiatives. It emphasizes collaboration over conflict, coexistence over competition, and service over selfishness. In this context, the *Thirukkural* provides a strong philosophical and ethical foundation for policy decisions that demand moral clarity and human-centered leadership. Thiruvalluvar's vision of good governance (Porul) is especially relevant in this regard. One of the couplets states:

“அருள்சேர்ந்த நெஞ்சினான் ஆக்கம்
மருள்சேர்ந்த மாசறி வாழும் எழில்.”
(The prosperity of a ruler guided by
compassion is pure and leads to
blemishless growth.)

In a global environment facing climate change, widening inequality, forced migration, and armed conflicts, leadership inspired by such values can help shape a more inclusive, just, and humane world order. The conference will explore how these ethical principles can inform contemporary governance, international relations, peace-building, and sustainable development.

Digital and Diaspora Movements

The digital era has sparked a renewed global interest in the

Thirukkural, particularly among Tamil diaspora communities across the world. Online platforms, mobile applications, podcasts, YouTube channels, and international webinars have made the Kural accessible to younger generations in innovative and engaging ways. Diaspora organizations in Malaysia, Singapore, Canada, the United States, Europe, and Australia regularly organize Kural recitation competitions, essay contests, translation projects, and research symposia.

Several UNESCO-recognized cultural associations have even proposed the inclusion of the *Thirukkural* in the “World Documentary Heritage” register. These initiatives are not merely acts of cultural preservation; they represent the globalization of ethical thought—an essential pillar of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*. The conference will examine how digital media and diaspora movements are reshaping the global reception and interpretation of the *Thirukkural*.

Thirukkural for Contemporary Challenges

What makes the *Thirukkural* uniquely relevant today is its remarkable applicability to modern ethical dilemmas—ranging from artificial intelligence and media ethics to climate justice, corporate governance, and social responsibility. The text consistently emphasizes dharma over dogma and urges every individual to act as a guardian of truth, equity, and compassion. A striking example of its ethical subtlety is found in the couplet:

“அஞ்சித் துறவா அறம்
பெறினஅவ்வுயிர் வஞ்சிக்கும் வாயில்

இனிது.” (It is good to abandon even righteousness if it causes fear or harm to another.)

Such moral nuance reflects a deep ethical pluralism that values human well-being over rigid moral absolutism—an essential principle in a diverse and interconnected global society. The conference will explore how these insights can guide ethical decision-making in contemporary public life, education, technology, and governance.

Future Directions: Institutionalizing Thirukkural Studies

To strengthen the global vision of *International Thirukkural Advancements for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, the conference proposes several forward-looking initiatives, including:

Establishing *Thirukkural* Chairs at universities worldwide focusing on moral philosophy, ethics, peace studies, and intercultural dialogue.

Collaborating with UNESCO and international NGOs on value-based education and peace education initiatives.

Publishing annotated, multilingual editions of the *Thirukkural* with contemporary interpretations and case studies.

Creating *Thirukkural* Peace Fellowships for scholars working in ethics, conflict resolution, education, and psychology.

These initiatives aim to ensure that the *Thirukkural* continues to serve not

only as a literary classic, but also as a living ethical resource for humanity.

A Moral Anthem for the Global Family

In essence, the *Thirukkural* is not merely a Tamil masterpiece; it is a moral anthem for the global family. Its renewed relevance in international discourse reflects the enduring truth of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*—a world where wisdom replaces war, compassion replaces competition, and ethics replace ego.

As we seek to build bridges through education, philosophy, and cultural diplomacy, Thiruvalluvar's couplets guide us toward a future that is not only technologically advanced but also morally grounded. Let the Kural echo across parliaments, classrooms, boardrooms, and hearts—reminding humanity that the world is indeed one family, and that truth, kindness, and justice are the bonds that unite us.

Conference Theme:

Thirukkural and Ethics, Governance and Government

Sub-Tracks:

- ★ AI and the Propagation of Thirukkural
- ★ Festivals and Rituals in Thirukkural
- ★ World Comparative Literature and Thirukkural
- ★ The Impact of Globalization on Thirukkural
- ★ Traditional Education Systems and Thirukkural

- ★ Thirukkural Translations
- ★ Poster Presentations on Thirukkural

Conference Date & Venue:

- ★ 3 – 4 September 2026 in a University in Sydney

Important Dates:

- ★ Early Bird Submission of Final Paper: **30 June 2026**
- ★ Deadline for Registration: **15 July 2026**
- ★ Notification of Acceptance: **30 July 2026**

Registration Charges:

- ★ Local Presenters (without accommodation & local transport): **AUD100**
- ★ Asian Presenters (with accommodation & local transport): **USD600**
- ★ International Presenters (with accommodation & local transport): **USD750**

(Includes registration, refreshments and lunch for three days, conference kit, proceedings, and stationery.)

Payment Procedure:

All registration fees should be paid to the designated account. A scanned copy of the bank deposit slip or proof of online payment (image or PDF) must be uploaded along with the registration form using the following Google Form: <https://forms.gle/J73iuXJDvfipEnJc6>

Conference Paper Submission Guidelines

Abstract Submission to: Google Form

Format of the Abstract:

Font Type: Tamil – Bamini / English – Times New Roman/ Hindi

Font Size: Title 12 Bold / Sub Title 12 Bold / Body Text 12 Normal, title of figures and tables 10 normal

Line Spacing: 1.5

Margins: 2.5 cm (left)

Alignment: -justify

Paragraph Indentation: Indent the first line of each paragraph by 0.5 inches.

Length: Abstracts should be one to two pages, but not more than three pages in length including the references. Word limit is 1000 words.

Paper Size: A4

Referencing Style: APA 7th Edition manual.

Structure of the Abstract:

An abstract should contain references, comparisons to related work, key theories, and other details found in an extended paper. Thus, an extended abstract is more than a long abstract. It should clearly specify theoretical and empirical gaps that the researcher is addressing, a concise review of seminal work, a brief description of the methodology used, results obtained, the expected contributions(s) to theory and practice, and the conclusion resulting from the study.

The elements of your abstract can be organized in the following order listed:

- ★ Title
- ★ Author's Name, Affiliation and Email
- ★ Introduction
- ★ Main body Text (including a concise review of extent literature methodology)
- ★ Conclusion (findings, discussion and summary sections)
- ★ References

Title: Clear and concise; centered in uppercase.

Author(s): Full name(s), centered, with affiliations and emails below. (Affiliations: Include department, institution, city, state, country.)

Introduction:

The introduction of your extended abstract should state the nature of research gaps you are addressing and why you are studying it. It should provide background information about the work and its significance, while highlighting other relevant literature and specifying how it relates or differs from your work. You should also discuss the scope and limitations of your study in the introduction.

Body:

The body of your extended abstract should follow the introduction and include methodology, results, discussion, and the directions for

future research. The methodology section should be descriptive enough that the reader can identify what was done. References to methodology are appropriate. The findings and discussion sections may be combined. Within the body of your extended abstract, you can apply as many first-, second-, and third-level headings as you need.

Conclusion:

Conclusion should describe the findings and discussion. Summarize the key points of the study without introducing new information. Discuss the contributions of the study to the field of research.

References:

References should be cited within your extended abstract using APA 7th Edition (American Psychological Association) style. List all sources cited in the paper and arrange references alphabetically by the author's last name.

Example of In-Text Citation and Reference Lists

In-Text Citations: (Author(s) Last Name, Year)

Single author: (Smith, 2020)

Two authors: (Johnson & Williams, 2021)

Three or more authors: (Brown et al., 2019)

List of References

Book

Author(s). (Year). Title of the book. Publisher.

Kruger, F., & Mitchell, B. (2019). Research methodology. Oxford University Press.

Book Chapter:

Author(s). (Year). Title of chapter. In Editor(s), Title of book (pp. Page range of chapter). Publisher.

Kilkenny, K. (2020). What is teacher training? In C. Carden (Ed.), Primary teaching (pp. 23-46). SAGE Publishing.

Journal Article

Author(s). (Year). Title of the article. Title of the Journal, volume number (issue number), page range. DOI or URL where available

Williams, M. (2011). Cultural identity, language identity, gender identity. *English Academy Review*, 28(1), 1–4. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10131752.2011.573998>

Conference Paper

Author(s). (Year). Title of the paper. In Editor(s) of the Conference (Eds.), Title of the Conference Proceedings (pp. page range). Publisher. DOI or URL

Smith, J., & Doe, J. (2022). Advancements in Artificial Intelligence. In M. Johnson (Ed.),

Innovations in Technology: Proceedings of the Conference on Technology and Innovation (pp. 45-52). Tech Publishing. doi:10.1234/conference paper

Newspaper Article

Author(s). (Year, Month Day). Title of article. Newspaper Name, Page number. URL (if available)

Johnson, S. (2023, September 3). New Discoveries in Space Exploration. *The Daily Gazette*, A1, A3. <https://www.dailygazette.com/new-discoveries-space>

Website

Author(s) or Organization. (Year, Month Day). Title of the page. Website Name. Retrieved Date from URL

World Wildlife Fund. (2023, June 15). The Impact of Climate Change on Biodiversity. World Wildlife Fund. Retrieved March 23, 2023, from <https://www.worldwildlife.org/climate-change-impact>.

Venue of the Conference

Sydney, one of the world's most multicultural cities, provides an ideal setting for this international gathering. As a city that embodies cultural plurality and intercultural dialogue, Sydney symbolizes the spirit of openness, coexistence, and mutual respect that this conference seeks to promote. The event is envisioned not only as an academic forum but also as a cultural and intellectual bridge between traditions, disciplines, and communities.

The conference will feature keynote addresses, plenary sessions, invited lectures, panel discussions, and paper presentation sessions by distinguished scholars and experts from India, Australia, and other parts of the world. These sessions will explore a wide range of themes, including ethical foundations of human dignity, social justice and equity, intercultural understanding, inclusive education, gender and social inclusion, peace and non-violence,

leadership and governance, and the role of literature and philosophy in shaping humane societies. Special attention will be given to the ways in which the teachings of the *Thirukkural* can inform contemporary policy, education, and social practice.

A key objective of the conference is to foster interdisciplinary dialogue. Contributions are expected from fields such as philosophy, literature, education, psychology, sociology, political science, cultural studies, religious studies, and human rights. By bringing together diverse disciplinary perspectives, the conference seeks to generate richer, more holistic understandings of human diversity and the ethical responsibilities that accompany it. This interdisciplinary approach reflects the spirit of the *Thirukkural* itself, which addresses the individual, society, and the state in an integrated and balanced manner.

The conference also aims to serve as a platform for young scholars, researchers, and students to engage with senior academics and practitioners, share their work, and participate in critical discussions. In doing so, it hopes to inspire a new generation of thinkers to engage with classical texts not merely as historical artifacts, but as living sources of ethical guidance and social insight. The dialogue between tradition and modernity, and between local and global perspectives, is a central feature of this initiative.

Beyond academic exchange, the conference emphasizes the broader social and cultural significance of its theme. In a world facing challenges such as social polarization, discrimination,

displacement, and conflict, there is a pressing need to reaffirm values of empathy, respect, and shared humanity. The *Thirukkural*, with its profound emphasis on virtue, compassion, justice, and moral responsibility, offers a powerful moral vocabulary for addressing these challenges. By situating discussions of human diversity within this ethical framework, the conference seeks to contribute not only to scholarship but also to public discourse and social awareness.

The proceedings of the conference are expected to result in a published volume, thereby extending the impact of the deliberations to a wider global audience. This publication will serve as a valuable resource for researchers, educators, policymakers, and anyone interested in the ethical and philosophical dimensions of human diversity. It will also stand as a testament to the continuing relevance of the *Thirukkural* in addressing some of the most pressing issues of our time.

Participants can also look forward to cultural programmes and networking opportunities that celebrate the rich heritage associated with the *Thirukkural* and the diverse traditions represented at the conference. These events will provide informal spaces for dialogue, collaboration, and the building of lasting academic and cultural partnerships.

All scholars, educators, researchers, practitioners, and students who are interested in the themes of ethics, human dignity, social harmony, and cultural diversity are warmly invited

to participate in this significant international event in Sydney on 5–6 September 2026 and to contribute to a meaningful and forward-looking global dialogue inspired by the timeless wisdom of the *Thirukkural*.

Keynote Speakers



Hon. Dr. Andrew Charlton MP is a distinguished Australian economist, entrepreneur, and politician serving as Cabinet Secretary and Assistant Minister for Science, Technology and the Digital Economy in the Australian Federal Government. A Rhodes Scholar, he holds a PhD in Economics from Oxford University and has worked at the London School of Economics, Oxford University, and the United Nations. He served as Senior Economic Advisor to former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd during the global financial crisis and was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum. He co-authored *Fair Trade for All* with Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz and is the Federal Member of Parliament for Parramatta, New South Wales. He is widely regarded as a leading voice on digital innovation, artificial intelligence, and Australia's technology future.



Senior Attorney T.M. Ponambalam is a distinguished legal professional and Tamil cultural ambassador based in Mauritius. As the Executive President of the International Thirukkural Foundation, Mauritius, he plays a pivotal role in promoting the universal values and literary heritage of the Thirukkural – the timeless classical Tamil work of the poet-saint Thiruvalluvar – on the global stage. With a distinguished career at the Mauritius Bar as a Senior Attorney, he combines his legal acumen with a deep passion for Tamil language, literature, and culture. Through the Foundation, he actively fosters international academic collaboration, cultural diplomacy, and the propagation of Thirukkural’s ethical wisdom across nations.



Guest of Honour

Dr. Hugh McDermott MP is a distinguished Australian lawyer, academic, and politician serving as NSW Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney General and State Member for Prospect since 2015. Prior to entering Parliament, he built a distinguished career as an international lawyer and university academic. As a Barrister-at-Law admitted to the Supreme Court of New South Wales, the High Court of Australia, and the courts of England, Wales, and the Cayman Islands, he has advised major financial institutions, multinational corporations, and national governments. In his current role, he assists the Attorney General in delivering policies and law reform to strengthen Australia’s law and justice framework. He holds a PhD in Laws and is a proud advocate for Western Sydney.

INTERNATIONAL THIRUKKURAL FOUNDATION

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