

உத்தமம் INFITT



உலகத் தமிழ்த் தகவல் தொழில்நுட்ப மன்றம்
International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil

www.infitt.org

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For Immediate Release: 23rd October 2009

Brief on INFITT Tamil Internet Conference 2009 University of COLOGNE, COLOGNE , Germany

Cologne, Germany 23/Oct/09: The Eighth Tamil Internet Conference TIC 2009 and the first in Europe was inaugurated with the august presence of Prof.Dr.Bongartz (Dean of Philosophical Faculty of Univ. of COLOGNE) & Prof.M.Anandakrishnan (Chair, Tamilnadu Govt. Delegation & Former VC, Anna University). The 3 day conference hosted by the Institute of Indology and Tamil Studies of the University of Cologne in Germany is being held from October 23-25, 2009.

Tamil Internet Conferences of INFITT are major events for computer professionals and Tamil Diaspora working or interested in Tamil Computing- Information Technology and Tamil Internet Development in various areas. This year's conference is being attended by over 100+ attendees from major Tamil speaking countries including India, Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, UK, Germany, France, USA & Canada.

The conference got underway with the address of the co-chairs of the event Dr.Kalyanasundram (INFITT) and Prof.Ulrike Niklas (Institute of Indology and Tamil Studies-IITS). Prof.Ulrike highlighted that IITS hosts the **largest Tamil collections of over 60,000 which is the largest outside Tamilnadu**. Dr.Kalyanasundram recalled the founding of INFITT in 2000, the objectives and the past 7 conferences held around the world (Singapore, Chennai, Malaysia, USA) and the outcomes.

Prof.Dr.Bongartz in her address welcomed the international gathering to Cologne City and she spoke about the city's India initiative program which is encouraging several Indian IT companies for setting up their European Hub in Cologne. Companies including Wipro and Mindtree have done so already.

Prof.M.Anandakrishnan who is leading the Tamilnadu government official delegation conveyed the greeting from Tamilnadu government and invited **INFITT to organize TIC 2010 alongside World Classical Tamil Conference 2010** in Coimbatore, India. Tamilnadu government will extend full support to INFITT for the facilities. Prof.Anandakrishnan in his welcome address urged the assembled scholars to do path-breaking trend-setting innovations in Tamil IT and not be content with catching up with others. He called to attention that more than 100,000 engineering projects are done each year in Tamilnadu, but less than 100 alone are related to Tamil language technologies.

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Dr.Vasu Ranganathan (University of Pennsylvania and Chair of Conference Program Committee) highlighted the difficult task of the committee in selecting from the numerous papers of esteemed technical standards in diverse contemporary issues facing Tamil IT researchers. Dr.Vasu reported that majority of the papers for the conference were from Tamilnadu and thanked all the participants for their travel to Germany.

In the plenary session talks, Mr.Muthu Nedumaran (Malaysia, Former Chair INFITT) to the excitement of the audience demonstrated **Tamil enabling 3G Mobile devices** such as iPhone, Android, Nokia for News applications. Prof. A.G.Ramakrishnan (Indian Institute of Science, Benguluru) demonstrated a major technical breakthrough of live changing implications for the blind and illiterate through IT. The audience were spell bound when Prof.Ramakrihnan's computer read out a text from a Tamil book (Text to Speech) and then recognized his handwriting on the screen. Prof.Thomas Malten (IITS) showed the various online Sanskrit, Tamil Dictionaries made available by IITS, the University of Cologne has made available the tools used to prepare these texts.

About INFITT

INFITT (International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil) is a global, non-governmental, non-profit organization registered in California, USA. In Tamil known as "உத்தமம்" (உலகத் தகவல் தொழில்நுட்ப மன்றம்). Its main objective is to promote Tamil computing worldwide by bringing together professionals working in the area of Tamil IT, Tamil IT enthusiasts, Tamil Research Scholars and ordinary Tamils so that Tamils can enjoy the benefits of all IT developments natively in the Tamil environment. To meet this objective, INFITT maintains several working groups on key technical areas of Tamil IT and organizes annually Tamil Internet Conferences in different parts of the world. More details at www.infitt.org and follow us at www.twitter.com/infitt. For details contact Executive Director Va.Mu.Se.Kaviarasan at ed@infitt.org

About of IITS

The Institute of Indology and Tamil Studies (IITS) of the University of Cologne, Germany is a pioneering institute on Indology and Tamil studies outside India. More details at <http://www.uni-COLOGNE.de/phil-fak/indologie2/>

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