



# உலகத் தமிழ்ப் பண்பாட்டு இயக்கம் INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR TAMIL CULTURE

Non-Profit, Non-Political, Non-Religious, Charitable, Worldwide Registered, Tamil Cultural Organization - Est. in 1974

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www.imtcweb.com

## International Movement for Tamil Culture (IMTC) CONSTITUTION

Approved by the General Body meeting of the International Movement for Tamil Culture  
held on 06.08.2017 at Hotel Telco, Jaffna, Sri Lanka

### Article I: Name

The name of the Association shall be the **INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR TAMIL CULTURE (IMTC)**.

### Article II: Head office

The Head office of the Association is stated in the Bylaws.

### Article III: Duration

The Association shall exist in perpetuity.

### Article IV: Vision and Mission

**Assurance of easy accessibility of Tamil cultural resources, development of Tamil culture and well-being among Tamil people, children and youth for thriving in life.**

#### 4.1. Mission

The International Movement for Tamil Culture (IMTC) is a professional organization that supports and advocates for Tamil Culture to provide professional training to have a positive impact on Tamil culture to improve academic skills, social-emotional functioning, and mental-behavioural health of all Tamil People.

#### 4.2. Core Values

**4.2.1. Integrity:** IMTC is committed to high standards, ethical principles, social justice, honesty, fairness, and treating others with dignity and respect.

**4.2.2. Diversity:** IMTC honours individual, cultural, and other contextual differences in our own interactions as they shape development of Tamil culture.

**4.2.3. Collaboration:** IMTC collaborates with other organizations, agencies, and others to develop common concern.

**4.2.4. Excellence:** IMTC promotes high standards of service delivery and resource deployment.

### **4.3. Purposes**

- i. To serve the Tamil community all over the world
- ii. To provide opportunities for the professional growth of Tamil culture
- iii. To provide professional training in Tamil culture to meet the specific demands of the particular country as well as the global needs in general.
- iv. To popularize the services and practices of Tamil culture in the schools among the public
- v. To advance the standards of the profession of Tamil cultural researches
- vi. To cooperate with other agencies, offices, and organizations on subjects of common concern
- vii. To promote International Tamil cultural services through seminars/ conferences and media.

#### **Article V: Membership**

Membership provisions are stated in the Bylaws.

#### **Article VI: Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall consist of nine members of the Association. Any decision of five members of the Executive Committee shall form quorum. In addition, each country President shall represent the meeting of the Executive Committee. Procedures for electing or appointing members of the Executive Committee are stated in the Bylaws.

#### **Article VII: Office Bearers**

The officers of the Association shall be the Honorary President, the President-Elect, the President, the Secretary, Two Vice-Presidents, Two Joint Secretaries and one Treasurer. The procedure for their election and terms of office are stated in the Bylaws.

#### **Article VIII: Enforcement Committee**

The enforcement committee consists of three senior members of the IMTC will function as monitoring the smooth functioning of the IMTC from time to time.

#### **Article IX: Amendments to the Constitution**

Articles of the Constitution shall be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Association members who return correctly marked ballots.

The Bylaws specify the process for amending the Constitution.

#### **Article X: Amendments to the Bylaws**

Bylaws of the Association shall be amended by majority vote of Association members who return correctly marked ballots. The Bylaws specify the procedure for amending the Bylaws.

## **Article XI: Dissolution of the Association and dedication of funds**

- 11.1. All assets of the Association shall be permanently dedicated to the purposes set forth in Article IV of the Constitution. No part of these funds shall be distributed to members of the Association.
- 11.2 In the event of dissolution of the Association, any funds remaining after payment of all debts shall be distributed to one or more international non-profit organization that hold goals similar to those of IMTC. Such organizations will be selected by the Executive Committee.

## **International Movement for Tamil Culture (IMTC) Byelaws**

### **Article I: Membership**

#### **1. Membership Categories**

There shall be three categories of membership: Honorary Life Members, Life Members, and Associate Members.

- 1.1. **Honorary Life Members:** Those who have enrolled in the association as member from 1974 enjoy the same privileges as Members, but do not have to pay membership fees. The executive committee describes the criteria and procedure for awarding Honorary Life Membership from time to time.
- 1.2. **Life Members** are persons of Tamil origin of any country fully in their own countries at institutions recognized by their national or state authority. Life Members have voting rights and may stand for office bearer in the Association.
- 1.3. **Associate Members** are persons not necessarily persons of Tamil origin, but committed to the cause of Tamil culture in the institutions. Associate members are not eligible to vote or hold office.

#### **2. Membership Dues and Contributions**

- 1.1. Life Membership dues shall be determined by the General Assembly upon recommendation from the Executive Committee. Presently the Life membership fee shall be USD100 for developed Countries and SLR1000 for Sri Lanka, RM100 for Malaysia and INR1000 for India
- 1.2. Life time/Annual dues for the calendar year are payable before January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 1.3. New members' dues received after October 1<sup>st</sup> shall be considered as dues for the following calendar year.

## **Article II: Newsletter**

IMTC's newsletter shall be called as Vulaga Thamizhar Kural. It shall be published four or more times a year, as circumstances and funds permit. Each person on the membership list will be sent a soft copy of the newsletter by email.

## **Article III: Officers**

3.1. All office bearers shall be members of the Association. In the event an officer's position becomes vacant during the term of office, the remaining Executive Committee shall appoint an acting officer to fill that vacancy until the election of a new officer at the first following formal election.

3.2. The Honorary President shall serve a three-year term of office, shall be responsible for supervision of the business of the Association in coordination with the President and Secretary and the Executive Committee. He/she shall chair the Executive Committee and officially announce all meetings of the Association in the absence of regular functioning of the Association for more than one year after assuming as office bearers of the association.

3.3. The President shall serve a three-year term of office, shall be responsible for and conduct the business of the Association in coordination with the Secretary and the Executive Committee, shall represent the Association at all formal functions or designate someone to represent the Association, and shall chair the Executive Committee and officially announce all meetings of the Association.

3.4. The President-Elect shall serve a three-year term of office and shall serve as the President of the Association, should the President be unable or unwilling to function, and shall assume the office of the President at the end of the President's term.

3.5. The Vice-Presidents shall serve a three-year term of office and shall serve, as the Vice-Presidents of the Association, should assist the function of the President. In case of vacancy of the President, senior Vice-president shall assume office of the President until the end of the President's term.

3.6. The Secretary shall serve a three-year term of office, record and distribute the minutes of the Executive Committee and General Assembly meetings.

3.7. The Joint Secretaries shall serve a three-year term of office and shall serve, as the Joint Secretaries of the Association, should assist the function of the Secretary. They will perform their duties as prescribed by the Executive Committee of the IMTC.

3.8. The Treasurer shall serve a three-year term of office, be responsible for the receipt and disbursement of funds as authorized by the Executive Committee, prepare a proposal for the annual budget, and provide for an audit of funds.

3.9. The each affiliating organisation shall send one representative to the Executive committee

3.10. Elections of office bearers shall be held among all eligible members as defined in the minutes of the executive committee by appointing a senior member as election officer. The election officer shall call for nomination of officers, it shall be intimated through the newsletter three months prior to the election. Elections shall be held by postal ballot/direct election.

3.11. The President and Secretary, under the supervision of the Nominations and Elections officer, shall be responsible for preparing the ballot, sending it to members, and counting the ballots. The Nominations and Elections officer shall notify members of the results through newsletter after first informing the candidates personally of the results.

#### **Article IV: Affiliate Organizations**

4.1. Organizations with purposes, missions and goals similar to those of IMTC may become affiliates. The Affiliate Organization shall be national, international and regional organizations that have at least 20 members, are eligible for Affiliate Organizations. The fee for affiliation shall be USD 200/- one time or set by the Executive Committee from time to time. Affiliate Organizations shall have one vote in the affairs of IMTC. A nominee of the affiliate organisations as approved by the Executive Committee shall attend the Executive Committee and General Assembly for entire period of the term of office.

4.2. The executive committee of an Affiliate Organization shall inform the IMTC President/Secretary of the name of the member having the authority to represent the Organization at the Executive Committee and General Assembly of the IMTC. This shall be done in writing and remain in effect until a written amendment is made.

#### **Article V: The Executive Committee**

The members of the Executive Committee constitute the nine officers of the Association and Nominees of the affiliated organisations. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operation of the Association. The Executive Committee can meet during the annual conference or twice a year or through online from time to time necessary.

#### **Article VI: Enforcement Committee**

The three-member enforcement committee is responsible for overseeing the smooth functioning of the association. It shall monitor the smooth functions of the IMTC and offer recommendations to the Executive Committee for proper functioning of the IMTC as and when required.

#### **Article VII: The General Assembly**

7.1. The General Assembly consist of all eligible members listed every year by the Executive Committee on January 1<sup>st</sup> is responsible for approving the policies and budget of the Association. It is made up of the Executive Committee, Life Members, Members, Honorary

Members, and representatives from Affiliate Organizations. The General Assembly will convene during the conference/once in a year.

7.2. The President will preside at the meeting. Motions before the General Assembly are decided by a majority vote of those present.

7.3. Such a situation arise that may have serious consequences for the Association at times when the General Assembly or Executive Committee cannot be convened, the President or Secretary or Treasurer, with the concurrence of at least two other members of the Executive Committee, shall declare an emergency meeting at a convenient venue. Such meeting shall pass the resolutions based on the recommendations of the Enforcement Committee which are essential for smooth functioning of the Association.

7.4. The majority vote of those who present or returning postal ballots shall be binding. A postal ballot will be used to vote on policies and budgetary issues upon the approval of at least five members of the Executive Committee or two thirds of the voting members present at the General Assembly. Quorum for the General Assembly is fifteen members present at the General Assembly.

7.5. Wherein any written allegations raised against the members of the Executive Committee by any other member of the Executive Committee shall be immediately referred to the Enforcement Committee for its suitable action.

#### **Article VIII: The Annual Conference**

7.1. The conference or annual meeting of the Association will be called an IMTC Conference. It shall be held either every year or every alternate year, depending upon a vote of the Executive Committee. The theme of each Conference shall be of general interest for practising Tamil Cultural Researches throughout the world.

7.2. LOC: The Executive Committee shall appoint the conference chairperson and organising secretary. The conference chairperson and organising secretary shall form the Local Organising Committee for effective conduct of the conference. The LOC is responsible for conduct of the conference with reasonable budget.

7.3. The conferences shall be organised in an academic institution with the support of teachers and students.

#### **Article IX: Committee Structure**

Wherein standing committees such as task forces, and interest groups shall assist the Executive Committee in conducting the effective functioning of the Association to propagate the purpose of the Association. The operation guidelines define the roles and functions of the standing committees, task forces, and interest groups.

## **Article X: Constitutional and Bylaw Changes**

The Constitution and Bylaws shall be amended only by postal ballot as and when required proposed by more than five members of the Executive Committee. A proposed amendment shall be discussed at a General Assembly and no later than 90 days thereafter a postal ballot shall be held among all eligible members. The Secretary, under the supervision of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, shall be responsible for preparing the ballot, sending it to the members, and counting the votes. The Secretary shall notify the Constitution and Bylaws Committee of the results in a timely manner, and the Committee shall notify the members of the results through IMTC Newsletter and website. The date upon which the changes become effective will be indicated.

## **Article XI: Financial Support**

IMTC accepts voluntary contributions from members, individuals, organizations, corporations, and other entities.

- 11.2. Receipts by the President/Secretary will acknowledge all contributions. Individuals, businesses, firms, industries, and other organizations that contribute funds above a threshold amount established by the Executive Committee shall be identified as Patrons.
- 11.3. The Treasurer shall report their names to the General Assembly. The treasurer with any one of the Executive Committee members shall open a savings account to operate on behalf of the Association.

## **Article XII: Head Office**

12.1. The street and e-mail address of the Association together with its telephone numbers shall appear on the Association's letterhead and other official documents and publications. The Executive Committee is authorized the President and Secretary to determine the location of the Association from time to time for effective functioning of the IMTC.

Keeping in view of the existing provisions in the law in force, the completely revised Constitution and Bylaws of the INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR TAMIL CULTURE (IMTC) prepared by the sub-committee constituted under the leadership of Dr. Panch. Ramalingam, Pondicherry University in 2016. It has been approved by the Executive Committee of the IMTC held at Mangoo's Hotel, Nallur, Jaffna, Sri Lanka on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017; and approved by the General Assembly meeting of the International Movement for Tamil Culture held on 06.08.2017 at Hotel Telco, Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

It shall enforce with effect from 06.08.2017.

Based on the approved constitution and Byelaws of the INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR TAMIL CULTURE (IMTC) the following office bearers have been unanimously approved for one year:

The following members present unanimously approved the constitution of the INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR TAMIL CULTURE (IMTC).

Chief Patron  
Justice David Annoussamy

Advisor  
Dr. Va Mu Sethuraman, Chennai

Legal Advisor  
Prof. C. Ramamourthy, Bangaluru

Hon' President  
Dr. Panch. Ramalingam, India

President  
V.S. Thurairaja, Canada

Vice Presidents  
Siva Ganapathy Pillai, Canada  
Su. Thiyagalingam, Norway

Secretary  
Thurai. Ganesalingam, Germany

Joint Secretaries  
E. Rajasooriyar, Germany  
Dr. Ila Sundaram, India

Treasurer  
Mavai. S. Thangarajah  
Germany

Affiliate Presidents  
Na.E. Vickramasingam,  
Australia

Adaikalamuthu Ilanchelian  
London, UK

Dr. T. Ramanayagam  
Malaysia

M. Ravichandran  
Canada

Enforcement Committee  
Dr. Panch. Ramalingam





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Rama Sivalingam

Mavai. So. Thangarajah

The above office bearers shall ensure the effective functioning of the Association and release the list of members on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 to conduct the elections in January 2020.

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Ramanyagam Theraviam	member	Nesanelar
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