

**International Conference on New Literatures and their Relevance to 21<sup>st</sup> Century** was held on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 by the Department of English.

The idea of convening a UGC sponsored International Conference on New Literatures (ICNL 2014) & Their Relevance to the 21st Century mooted by Dr TMJ Indra Mohan, Chair, Liberal Arts, encouraged by Rev Fr A M Jayapathy Francis SJ, Rector, supported by Rev Dr M Albert William SJ, Secretary, guided by Rev Dr G Joseph Antony Samy SJ, Principal, monitored by Dr D L Joseph Chandra, HOD, English, was envisioned and meticulously executed by Dr A Devaraj, Prof., Graduate Program, English & Convener of ICNL.

The idea became a reality when Dr Beena Giridharan, Dean, Teaching & Learning, Curtin University, Sarawak, Malaysia, positively responded to the email invite of the Convener, ICNL, requesting her to deliver the Inaugural Address. Dr Armstrong, HOD, English, University of Madras rendered support in inviting Dr Om P Juneja, Prof. Emeritus, Ottawa, Canada, in giving the Valedictory Address. Dr Chandra, Dr Devaraj, Dr M Lazer Selvaraj & Dr I Felicita Mary Prabha, Coordinators, and Mr K D Francis & Ms Christina Sagaya Mary, Organizing Secretaries, ICNL swung into action in planning, organizing and executing their plan. Core committees were formed involving the Staff & Student volunteers of the English Department.

Brochure of the ICNL was printed, having 25 themes, including Search for Identity, Alienation, Exile, Decolonization, Diasporic Consciousness, Tribal, Subaltern and Ethnic Voices. The flyer was sent to the Universities & Colleges in and around India. 47 Abstracts were received & compiled in a CD format.



The 2 Day ICNL 2014 started at 9.30 a.m. on 17 Dec. 2014 with a prayer, in an aesthetically decorated LS Hall thanks to Mr I A J Jeyadoss & the student volunteers. Dr Devaraj in his welcome address underlined the importance of the international conference in understanding the marginalised, neglected and the suppressed voices of the voiceless, as Loyola admits 40% of the students from the economically & socially disadvantaged sections of the society. He paid rich encomiums to Dr Beena Giridharan, Dean, Curtin University, Sarawak, Malaysia, the Chief Guest, for her promptness and sincerity. Rev Fr Jayapathy Francis congratulated the organizers for the most relevant and socially meaningful conference. He exhorted the gathering to read the socially relevant novels to understand the societal problems. Rev Dr G Joseph Antony Samy spoke on the significance of the other voices and the importance of understanding the sentiments of the subalterns with rich and relevant examples. While introducing the Chief Guest, Dr Joseph Chandra outlined the role of literature reflecting life and more emphatically the New Literatures.

Dr Beena Giridharan, the Chief Guest, & Rev Dr G J Antony Samy, Principal released the CD containing the Abstracts of the Research papers. In her Inaugural address she outlined the themes and concerns, and the post modern features of the New Literatures. She outlined the origin, growth and the evolution of Malaysian Literature with a carefully structured PPT. The questions posed by the professors, scholars and guests were gracefully answered by her.

Dr Felicita proposed the vote of thanks. Ms Annam Ragamalika, Coordinator, English Shift II cheerfully played her role of M.C. The Inaugural came to an end with the National Anthem. The professors, scholars, guests and participants expressed their happiness on the conduct of the inaugural session.

After the Coffee Break, the first Plenary Session started with Ms Christina Sagaya Mary introducing the Guest Speaker, Dr Armstrong, HOD, English, University of Madras. He spoke on the uniqueness of Canadian Literature. It was followed by the cultural program rendered by the students of Loyola College.

After the Lunch Break, the Paper Reading Sessions were held at 2 p.m. in 3 places simultaneously: LS Auditorium, MRF Hall & LIFE Hall. Dr Mekala Rajan, MCC, Dr Sujitha, SMC, and Dr Franklin, MCC were the moderators. 23 research papers were presented. The conference got adjourned for the next day after the Tea Break at 4 p.m.

18 Dec.2014, Day II, started with a prayer song at 9.30 a.m., followed by students' cultural performances, songs, dance and poem readings. At 10 a.m. the second plenary sitting started with Dr Felicita Mary introducing the Guest Speaker, Dr A S Dasan, Prof. Emeritus, University of Mysore. He spoke on the Intertextuality as a Metaphor for Dialogicity: Hermeneutical Consequences and Emerging Canons for Reading New Literatures. After the Coffee Break, at 11. 30 a.m., the third plenary session started with Ms Supriya Sam introducing the Guest Speaker, Dr Marx, Assoc. Prof., English, Pondicherry University. He spoke on the comparable harrowing experiences of the marginalized around the world as evidenced in New Literatures. It was followed by performance-oriented poem reading session by the students of Loyola College.

After a sumptuous lunch, the Paper Reading Session started at 2 p.m. Mr Asai Thambi, HOD, English, Nandanam Arts College, Chennai & Dr Charles Joseph, HOD, English, Teresian College, Mysore, Karnataka moderated the session. 15 research papers were presented. The session came to an end at 3 p.m. After snacks and tea, the Valedictory Session started at 3.30 p.m. with a worship song. Dr DLJ Chandra introduced the Chief Guest, Dr Om P Juneja, the President of International Council for Canadian Studies, Ottawa, Canada. Profusely quoting from Wole Soyinka's seminal treatise, *Myth, Literature and the African World*, Dr Juneja spoke on the World View of New Literatures. Dr M Lazer Selvaraj proposed the Vote of Thanks. The participants collected their certificates and the conference came to an end at 6. 30 p.m. on 18 Dec. 2014.