



APSPA Newsletter



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9th APSPA International Conference on Safe and Friendly Schools in the Asia Pacific Region held at Kristu Jayanti University, Bengaluru, India 26–28 February 2026



The 9th International Conference of the Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA), themed "**Safe and Friendly Schools in the Asia Pacific Region**," was held with great academic distinction at the picturesque campus of **Kristu Jayanti University, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India**, from **26th to 28th February 2026**. The three-day conference brought together an eminent assembly of psychologists, educators, researchers, policymakers, school counsellors, and mental health professionals from across the Asia Pacific region and beyond, reaffirming APSPA's enduring commitment to promoting the psychological well-being, safety, and holistic development of school children in the region.



Background and Significance

The Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA) was founded during the First MaSPA International Conference on School Psychology held at Hotel Grand Seasons, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, by Prof. Panch. Ramalingam of Pondicherry University, India, on 11th January 2019. Since its inception, APSPA has grown into a dynamic and influential international body, steadily

advancing the cause of school psychology and mental health services across the Asia Pacific region. The association's core mandate is to promote school psychology services, particularly in the area of mental health and well-being, catering to the needs of children and adolescents across member countries.



The choice of Bengaluru — India's innovation capital — as the host city for the 9th edition of this prestigious conference was both symbolic and strategic, reflecting the city's vibrant academic landscape and its growing prominence in education research, technology, and child development studies. Kristu Jayanti University, a dynamic and progressive institution known for its commitment to holistic education, values-based learning, and academic excellence, proved to be an ideal and gracious host for this landmark event.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY – 26th FEBRUARY 2026

The 9th APSPA International Conference, christened "**INSIGHT 2026**," commenced on the morning of 26th February 2026 with a solemn and inspiring inaugural ceremony at Kristu Jayanti University, Bengaluru. The proceedings were meticulously organised by the Department of Psychology under the able leadership of its convening team.

Welcome Address was delivered by **Dr. Deepthi Vijayan**, Convener of Insight 2026 and Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Kristu Jayanti University, who warmly received the distinguished gathering of scholars, delegates, and dignitaries from across India and the Asia Pacific region. Her address set a tone of warmth, academic



purpose, and cross-cultural solidarity for the days ahead.

The ceremony was preceded by the traditional **Lighting of the Lamp**, symbolising the dispelling of ignorance and the ushering in of knowledge — a timeless ritual that lent the occasion a sense of solemnity and cultural richness.





Prelude to the Conference was presented by **Dr. Sruthi Sivaraman**, Chief Convener of Insight 2026 and Head of the Department of Psychology, Kristu Jayanti University. Dr. Sivaraman provided a comprehensive overview of the conference's vision, objectives, and programme structure, articulating the significance of the theme — *Safe and Friendly Schools in the Asia Pacific Region* — in the contemporary global educational landscape.

The **Presidential Address** was delivered by **Fr. Dr. Augustine George**, Vice-Chancellor, Kristu Jayanti University. In his address, Fr. Dr. George warmly welcomed all delegates and affirmed the university's deep-rooted commitment to psychology, mental health, and holistic human development. He also formally **released the Conference Book of Abstracts**, marking a significant milestone in the academic proceedings of Insight 2026. Guest speakers representing member nations of APSPA — including delegates from Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, and India — shared greetings and messages of solidarity, underscoring the collective resolve of the Asia Pacific academic community to build safer schools for children.

The **Inaugural Address** was delivered by **Prof. Panch. Ramalingam**, International President of the Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA) and Director (Retd), UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Pondicherry University. In a wide-ranging and illuminating address, Prof. Ramalingam articulated the urgent imperative of building psychologically safe, inclusive, and child-friendly schools across the Asia Pacific. He highlighted APSPA's decade-long journey in advancing school psychology education, research, and professional practice across

member nations, and called upon educators, psychologists, and policymakers to redouble their collective efforts in placing student mental health at the centre of educational policy.

Prof. Gurmeet Singh, Former Vice-Chancellor of Pondicherry University, graced the occasion as **Guest of Honour**. A distinguished academic of national repute, Prof. Singh delivered an insightful address on the evolving frontiers of school psychology and also formally **released the book on *Advancements in School Psychology***, a significant scholarly contribution to the field.

The inaugural ceremony also witnessed the **Release of the Department Annual Magazine *Pravaha*** by **Dr. Gopakumar A V**, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kristu Jayanti University — a publication that reflects the intellectual vibrancy and academic creativity of the Department of Psychology.

In a moment of particular international significance, **Mrs. Coosje Griffiths**, Former Secretary of the International School Psychology Association, Western Australia, **released the book on *AI and the Future of Education and School Psychology*** — a timely and forward-looking volume that explores the transformative impact of artificial intelligence on educational systems and psychological practice in schools.

Another landmark publication was unveiled at the ceremony — the **Arabic translation of the book *School Psychology in the Indian Context*** — formally released by **Prof. Kiran Devendra** of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi. This release marked a significant milestone in the internationalisation of Indian scholarship in school psychology, extending its reach to the Arabic-speaking world.

The inaugural session concluded with the **Vote of Thanks** delivered by **Dr. Dignata Baishya**, Co-Convener of Insight 2026 and Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Kristu Jayanti University. Dr. Baishya expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the dignitaries, resource persons, delegates, student volunteers, and the university administration whose collective efforts made

the inaugural ceremony a truly memorable and momentous occasion.

The Inaugural Ceremony of Insight 2026 thus set a high intellectual and cultural tone for the three days of rigorous academic engagement that followed, reaffirming the shared commitment of the global school psychology community to the well-being, safety, and flourishing of every child in the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

Keynote Addresses and Plenary Sessions

The three days of the conference featured a rich and intellectually stimulating programme of keynote addresses, plenary sessions, paper presentations, panel discussions, and workshops. Eminent keynote speakers from India and abroad delivered thought-provoking addresses on a wide range of themes central to school safety and child psychology.

Key themes explored across the plenary sessions included: the psychological dimensions of bullying and cyberbullying in school settings; trauma-informed practices for school psychologists; inclusive education and disability-friendly schools; the role of school counsellors in early mental health intervention; child rights and legal frameworks for school safety; teacher well-being and its impact on student outcomes; the influence of social media on adolescent mental health; and culturally sensitive approaches to school psychology in diverse Asia Pacific contexts.

Speakers emphasised that building truly safe and friendly schools requires a systems approach — one that integrates school leadership, curriculum design, community engagement, parental involvement, and professional psychological support. Delegates from several countries presented comparative case studies and evidence-based models of school safety programmes that have demonstrated measurable impact in their respective national contexts.

Paper Presentations and Research Sessions

The research paper presentation sessions, held parallel across multiple halls, witnessed

enthusiastic participation from scholars, doctoral researchers, school psychologists, and educators. Over 80 research papers were presented across sessions covering topics such as school climate and culture, peer relationships and social skills development, learning disabilities and special education needs, mindfulness-based interventions in schools, crisis intervention protocols, and the role of positive psychology in fostering student resilience.

The quality and diversity of research presentations reflected the growing maturity of school psychology as a discipline in the Asia Pacific region. Several papers highlighted innovative, grassroots-level interventions that are making a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable school children. Young researchers and Ph.D. scholars were particularly encouraged through dedicated sessions that provided mentorship and constructive feedback from senior academics.

Workshops and Interactive Sessions

The conference also featured hands-on workshops designed to build practical competencies among school psychologists and educators. Sessions on conducting psychological first aid in schools, implementing anti-bullying programmes, supporting children with special needs, and using technology-assisted counselling tools were widely appreciated. These interactive sessions enabled participants to take home concrete skills and strategies applicable to their daily professional practice.

General Assembly and Resolutions

The General Assembly was conducted on 28th February 2026 with an award ceremony that captured the spirit of collective academic endeavour and international solidarity. A set of conference resolutions was adopted, calling upon governments, educational institutions, and civil society organisations across the Asia Pacific to invest in school mental health infrastructure, train school psychologists, implement comprehensive anti-bullying policies, and ensure that every child in the region has access to a safe, friendly, and psychologically nurturing school environment.

Prof. Panch. Ramalingam, in his address, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Kristu Jayanti University, the organising committee, sponsors, delegates, and all participants who made the conference a resounding success. He announced the continuation of APSPA's mission through future conferences and academic initiatives, reaffirming the association's commitment to making psychological well-being a cornerstone of educational policy across the Asia Pacific.

The 9th APSPA International Conference at Kristu Jayanti University, Bengaluru, stands as a landmark event in the annals of school psychology in the Asia Pacific region. It served not only as a platform for scholarly exchange but also as a powerful rallying call for collective action in building schools where every child feels safe, valued, respected, and empowered to learn and grow. The conference has undoubtedly sown seeds of positive change that will bear fruit in classrooms, counselling rooms, and policy chambers across the region for years to come.

Reflections on APSPA Insight 2026 — Mrs. Coosje Griffiths, Former Secretary, International School Psychology Association, Western Australia

What continues to stand out in global education is that opportunities to connect across countries can truly inspire and create lasting impact. The Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA) Conference — **Insight 2026** — held in Bengaluru, India, brought this into sharp and vivid focus.

Hosted on the beautiful campus of **Kristu Jayanti University**, and made possible through the generous invitation of **APSPA International President Prof. Panch. Ramalingam** and **Dr. Sruthi Sivaraman**, Head of the Department of Psychology, I had the distinct privilege of contributing to this landmark international conference on *Safe and Friendly Schools* as a **keynote speaker** — marking my fourth occasion presenting in India, a country whose academic warmth and intellectual energy never cease to inspire.

Beyond the keynote, I also had the enriching experience of working directly with secondary school students on the practical application of **positive psychology to the science of**

learning — an interaction that reminded me powerfully of why this work matters.

What struck me most profoundly was the remarkable combination of **academic rigour**, the **ambition of emerging psychology and counselling students**, the **curiosity and drive of the next generation** still at school, and the sheer **scale of the programme** — featuring over **180 presentations** spanning contemporary and emerging topics related to schools and child well-being. The breadth and quality of scholarly engagement on display were truly impressive and deeply encouraging for the future of school psychology in the Asia Pacific region.

Several significant publications were launched at the conference, including ***AI and the Future of Education and School Psychology*** — co-authored by **Prof. Panch. Ramalingam** and **Prof. Janet Fernandes** — comprising selected papers from the previous APSPA Conference held in Goa. These publications reflect the association's commitment to advancing knowledge and translating research into practice.

I was deeply humbled to be acknowledged both in the **President's inaugural address** and in his most recent book on school psychology in the Indian context — a gesture of collegiality and recognition that I hold in the highest regard.

Above all, it is the **building of collegial relationships and new friendships** that remains one of the most profoundly rewarding aspects of these international conferences. The connections forged across cultures, disciplines, and generations are what give this work its enduring meaning and momentum.

I am sincerely grateful to have been included in the reflections of this memorable event, including those graciously shared by **Nandana Suresh**, one of my wonderful and welcoming student hosts, whose warmth and hospitality made my visit to Bengaluru truly unforgettable.



Children Assembly at KJU, Bengaluru

The Children's Assembly conducted as part of **INSIGHT 2026**, the 9th APSPA International Conference on *Safe and Friendly Schools in the Asia Pacific Region*, commenced on a warm and welcoming note. The event was organized by the Department of Psychology,

School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University), in collaboration with the Asia Pacific School Psychology Association and the Indian School Psychology Association. The assembly brought together distinguished dignitaries, experts, faculty members, and enthusiastic student participants, creating an engaging and meaningful academic atmosphere.

The program began with the Welcome Address delivered by Dr. Maxim Pereira, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology. He warmly greeted the gathering and highlighted the significance of such initiatives in promoting safe, inclusive, and supportive school environments. His address set a positive tone for the day's proceedings.

This was followed by the "Scope of the Event" session presented by Prof. Panch Ramalingam, International President of the Asia Pacific School Psychology Association. He elaborated on the broader vision and objectives of the assembly, emphasizing the importance of school

psychology in fostering students' mental well-being, inclusivity, and holistic development. His insightful address underscored the need for collaborative efforts in shaping healthier educational spaces.



After a short tea break, the session resumed with the Chairperson's Address by Ms. Coosje (Koosha) Griffiths, a distinguished School Psychologist from the University of Western Australia. She shared valuable international perspectives on supporting children's emotional well-being and academic functioning. Her talk highlighted strategies to build resilience and create positive learning environments for students.

The first technical session was conducted by Prof. T. Santhanam, Director of SDS Academy of Behavioural Sciences, Chennai. Drawing from his vast experience, he emphasized that academic excellence requires not only hard work but also the right mindset, strategy, and consistency. His session provided practical insights into student empowerment, inclusive education, and evidence-based psychological practices.

The second technical session was led by Prof. V. S. R. Vijayakumar, Consultant Psychologist and Data Scientist. He focused on the integration of memory and creativity in enhancing academic performance. His interdisciplinary approach, combining psychology and data science, offered innovative strategies for improving learning outcomes and cognitive abilities among students.

The final technical session was delivered by Dr. Parvathy Varma from Assumption University, Bangkok. She highlighted the role of attitude, resilience, and positivity in academic success. Her session emphasized the importance of positive psychology in strengthening emotional resilience, learning skills, and overall personality development among students.

The event then progressed to the Valedictory and Certificate Distribution ceremony. Prof. Panch Ramalingam presented certificates to student representatives from participating schools, recognizing their active involvement. The ceremony reflected the spirit of appreciation and encouragement for young learners.

The assembly concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Ms. Nikathseema, Assistant Professor. She expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, speakers, organizers, and participants for their valuable contributions in making the event successful. The Children's Assembly of INSIGHT 2026 thus emerged as a meaningful platform for learning, reflection, and promoting safe and supportive educational environments. Ms. Amirthavarshini, A MSc Clinical Psychology coordinated the event successfully.

Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA)

Regd. under Societies Registration Act of 1860

Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting

The General Assembly Meeting of the Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA) was held on 26 February 2026 at 11:30 AM at Kristu Jayanti University, Bengaluru, India.

Chair: Prof. Gurmeet Singh, Advisor, APSA

Members Present: 133

At the outset, Prof. Panch. Ramalingam, President, APSPA requested Prof. Gurmeet Singh, Former Vice Chancellor, Pondicherry university, Advisor, APSPA to chair the General Assembly

The following agenda items were considered and resolved:

2026/1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting: To confirm the minutes of the General Body Meeting held on 20 September 2025 at the University of Graduate Studies and Social Welfare, Tokyo, Japan. (Annexure 1)

Resolution: The minutes were noted and confirmed by the General Assembly.

2026/2 Appraisal of the Present Situation of APSPA

Prof. Panch. Ramalingam, President of APSPA, briefed the members on the recent developments and activities of the Association. He proposed shifting the headquarters of APSPA from Malaysia to Puducherry, India.

He also informed the members that he has been authorized to register APSPA under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 with the Registrar of Companies, Puducherry.

The local members in India met on 21 February 2026 and initiated the process of registration by preparing the Memorandum of Association (Part I) and Rules and Regulations (Part II), authorizing Prof. Panch. Ramalingam to complete the registration formalities. *(Annexure 2)*

Resolution: The General Assembly noted and approved the proposal.

2026/3 Approval of International Coordinators and Country Secretaries

The General Assembly considered the proposal to strengthen APSPA activities across the Asia Pacific region.

Resolution: The list of Advisors, International Coordinators, and Country Secretaries as given in **Annexure 3** was unanimously approved.

2026/4 Approval of Proceedings of the 9th APSPA International Conference

The Assembly reviewed the proceedings of the 9th APSPA International Conference held in Bengaluru (Annexure 4). The members unanimously appreciated the efforts of the Rev. Dr. Augustine George CMI, Vice-Chancellor, Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, for the successful organisation of the conference.

Resolution: The proceedings were approved.

2026/5 Proposal for the 10th APSPA International Conference

The Assembly considered the proposal to organize the 10th APSPA International Conference in Sydney, Australia, on 5–6 September 2026. *(Annexure 5)*

Resolution: The proposal was approved.

2026/6 – Recognition of Evexia Analytics Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Chennai

The Assembly considered the proposal to honour M/s Evexia Analytics Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Chennai with the award titled “Empowering Minds and Connecting Communities” during the 9th APSPA International Conference.

Resolution: The proposal was approved.

2026/7 Conference Resolutions

The Assembly unanimously approved the following Conference Resolutions:

- i. To strengthen safe and friendly school systems in the Asia Pacific region by encouraging schools through the School Excellence Award scheme. Prof. V.S.R. Vijayakumar will serve as Chairman of the Assessment and Accreditation Committee.
- ii. To encourage schools to undertake psychological assessment of children and teachers to improve educational outcomes.
- iii. To request the educational authorities of different countries to appoint qualified school psychologists in schools to enhance the quality of child development and align with international standards.
- iv. To identify and support organizations working with school systems, encouraging them through appropriate institutional collaboration and assistance.
- v. To create awareness among institutions in the Asia Pacific region to initiate School Psychology programmes at various levels such as Certificate, Diploma, Undergraduate, and Postgraduate programmes.

2026/8 Any Other Item with the Permission of the Chair

No additional items were brought forward for discussion.

The meeting concluded with thanks to the Chair.

Prof. Panch. Ramalingam

President

Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA)

Advisors

Prof. William “Bill” Pfohl,

ISPA, USA

Coosje Griffiths,

ISPA, Western Australia

Tan Sri Prof. T. Marimuthu

Chairman, YSS, Malaysia

Prof. Gurmeet Singh

Former Vice-Chancellor, Pondicherry University

Prof. B. Mukhopadhyay

InSPA, Chennai

President

Prof. Panch. Ramalingam, Pondicherry University, India

Vice-Presidents

Dr. Parvathy Varma, Assumption University of Thailand, Bangkok

Prof. T. Santhanam, SDS Academy, Chennai

Secretary

Dr. N. Sudha, Sai Ram Vidyalaya, Puducherry

Joint Secretaries

Dr. A. Malathi, Pondicherry University Community College

Dr. Jean C. Claude, Pope John Paul II College of Education, Puducherry

Treasurer

S. Kumaran, School Psychologist, Puducherry

Chairperson, Assessment and Accreditation

Prof. V.S.R. Vijayakumar, Consultant Psychologist, Chennai

International Coordinators

Prof. Md. Kamal Uddin, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr. D. Rajendran, Joint Director of School Education (Retd), Chennai

Dr. Zahir Ahmed, Northwest Normal University, China

Prof. Michiko Ishikawa, Tokyo University of Graduate Studies and Social Welfare, Japan

T. Ganesan, Malaysia

Maran Nandan, Australia

Country Secretaries

Shyamala Dhamarla, Australia

Prof. Janet Fernandes, St. Xavier's College, Goa, India

Dr. Santhosh Mohanan, Assumption University of Thailand, Bangkok

MAM Sameem,

South Eastern University, Sri Lanka

Dr. Narendra Singh Thagunna, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Dr. Balan Radhakrishnan, University of Malaysia, Sabha

Dr. Philip L. Fuentes, University of Santo Tomas, Philippines

Editor, International Journal of Asia Pacific School Psychology

Dr. Lertsiri Bonvornkitti, Srinakharinwirot University, Bangkok

Editor, APSPA Newsletter



Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA)

(Regd)

In collaboration with Civic Park Medical Centre, Pendle Hills, Australia and
Mathnasium, Carlingford, Sydney

10th APSPA International Conference in Sydney

Diversity in School Psychology

(2 – 6 September 2026)

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/AuumSqK4vojNhTU57>





The **Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA)** is a professional, non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the field of school psychology throughout the Asia Pacific region. Founded in 2019 by Prof. Panch. Ramalingam of Pondicherry University, APSPA aims to support and advocate for school psychologists by providing professional training and guidance to strengthen academic skills, social-emotional development, and mental-behavioural health among students.

Under the international presidency of Prof. Ramalingam, APSPA held its inaugural international conference at the National Institute of Education, Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 2020. This was followed by the 2nd conference at AIMST University, Malaysia (2021), the 3rd at Assumption University, Bangkok, Thailand, the 4th at the Central University of Haryana, India, the 5th in Mauritius, the 6th again at Assumption University of Thailand in 2024, the 7th at St. Xavier’s College, Goa, India, the 8th at Tokyo University and Graduate Studies of Social Welfare, Tokyo, Japan in 2025, and the 9th APSPA International Conference was held at Kristu Jayanti University Bengaluru on 26-28 February 2026. With a growing network of **100 professional members from 17 countries**, APSPA focuses on advancing school counselling services that support not only students but also parents, educators, and school administrators. Its members are actively engaged in creating safe, inclusive, and student-centered learning environments.

The APSPA addresses the region’s increasing demand for structured psychological services within school systems. Through international collaboration, research, training, and advocacy, the Association works to standardize best practices in school psychology tailored to the cultural and educational contexts of Asia Pacific nations. To lead its mission effectively, the APSPA core committee has formed a diverse team of office bearers, comprising expert school psychologists from various countries in the region. These professionals are dedicated to enhancing school-based mental health support and building the capacity of school counselling systems. By fostering a collaborative platform, APSPA continues to empower educational institutions in achieving a holistic approach to student development—academically, emotionally, and socially.

Theme: Diversity in School Psychology

The 10th APSPA (Asia Pacific School Psychology Association) International Conference on “*Diversity in School Psychology in the Asia Pacific Region*” marked an important milestone in the continuing efforts of APSPA to promote inclusive, equitable, and culturally responsive practices in education and mental health across the Asia-Pacific region. The conference brought together scholars, educators, school psychologists, counsellors, policymakers, and students from different countries, creating a vibrant platform for dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange on one of the most critical themes in contemporary education and psychological practice.

In an increasingly interconnected yet diverse world, schools are serving learners from varied cultural, linguistic, socio-economic, and ability backgrounds. The central focus of the conference was to examine how school psychology can respond effectively to this diversity and contribute to the creation of inclusive, supportive, and learner-centered educational environments. The theme highlighted the need to move beyond one-size-fits-all approaches and to adopt practices that recognize and respect individual differences while promoting equity, well-being, and academic success for all students.

The academic programme featured keynote addresses, invited talks, symposia, workshops, and paper presentation sessions delivered by distinguished experts and practitioners from the region and beyond. The keynote and invited speakers offered insightful perspectives on culturally responsive assessment, inclusive intervention strategies, diversity-sensitive counselling practices, and policy frameworks that support equity in education. Their addresses emphasized that diversity is not a challenge to be managed, but a strength to be embraced in shaping more humane and effective educational systems.

A major strength of the conference was the breadth of topics addressed through the scientific paper presentations and symposia. Participants explored issues related to multicultural education, inclusive schooling for children with special needs, gender and identity, socio-emotional learning, mental health promotion, migrant and refugee student support, and the role of families and communities in fostering inclusive school environments. Several presentations also examined the implications of globalization, digital technologies, and changing social contexts for diversity in schools and for the evolving role of school psychologists.

The workshops provided hands-on opportunities for participants to engage with practical tools and strategies for working in diverse school settings. These sessions focused on areas such as culturally fair assessment, inclusive classroom practices, trauma-informed approaches, collaboration with teachers and parents, and the development of school-wide systems of support that are sensitive to student diversity. The interactive nature of the workshops was highly appreciated by participants, as it allowed for skill development, reflection, and the sharing of best practices across contexts.

In addition to the academic and professional sessions, the conference fostered rich informal interactions and networking among delegates. These exchanges strengthened international and regional collaboration and reinforced APSPA's commitment to building a strong and connected community of school psychology professionals. The conference also reaffirmed the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation among educators, psychologists, social workers, and policymakers in addressing the complex needs of diverse student populations.

The 10th APSPA International Conference on "*Diversity in School Psychology*" concluded on a highly positive and forward-looking note. Participants widely acknowledged the relevance and timeliness of the theme, as well as the high quality of the academic deliberations and organizational arrangements. The conference underscored APSPA's ongoing commitment to promoting research, practice, and policy initiatives that advance inclusion, equity, and student well-being. It is hoped that the insights and recommendations emerging from this conference will continue to inform educational practice and contribute to the development of more inclusive and responsive school systems across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

Conference Team

International President



Prof. Panch. Ramalingam is an eminent academician and psychologist currently serving as Emeritus Resource Faculty at the prestigious Rashtriya Raksha University, Ahmedabad. Formerly Professor cum Director of the UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre at Pondicherry University, Puducherry, he has made enduring contributions to teacher education, school psychology, and human resource development. He serves as International President of the Asia Pacific School Psychology Association (APSPA) and President of the Indian School Psychology Association (InSPA), championing the advancement of

school psychology across India and the Asia-Pacific region. His distinguished career spans research, training, and policy advocacy, earning him national and international recognition as a transformative leader in psychology and education.

Conference Logistics

Maran Nandan Sithambaram, Sydney, Australia . He is a distinguished academic and senior lawyer in Sydney, served in many academic institutions and law firms. He holds LL.M in law and BA (Hons) in literature and a diploma in Teaching . A member of the Law Society of NSW , Australia, he has served in academic projects internationally. A talented speaker , Maran gives lectures and talks at conferences around the globe.



Conference Secretary



Dr. Sithambarakumar Thevendrampillai is a dedicated General Practitioner and the Director of Civic Park Medical Centre, a family healthcare practice located at 2–12 Civic Avenue, Pendle Hill, NSW 2145, Australia. As the key principal of Civic Park Medical Centre Pty Ltd, he leads a committed team of healthcare professionals serving the Pendle Hill community. The centre offers a comprehensive range of medical services including family medicine, diabetes care, mental health, geriatrics, community medicine, child and maternal health, palliative care, and occupational health. Dr. Thevendrampillai is widely respected for his compassionate patient-

centred approach, making quality healthcare accessible to the diverse multicultural community of Western Sydney.

Conference Coordinator



Mrs. Amudharasi Ramalingam is Director, Mathnasium, Carlingford, Sydney, Australia. She is Director of Mathnasium of Carlingford, located at Shop 2, 322–324 Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford, NSW, Sydney, Australia. An alumna of the National University of Singapore, she brings strong academic credentials and a passionate commitment to mathematics education. Under her leadership, the centre focuses on identifying learning gaps, engaging students in meaningful mathematical conversations, and inspiring genuine confidence in maths. Parents and students have

praised her as sweet, engaging, and highly supportive, always keeping families updated on their child's progress. Her centre has earned a strong reputation for delivering personalised,

results-driven mathematics learning to students across Carlingford and the wider Sydney community.

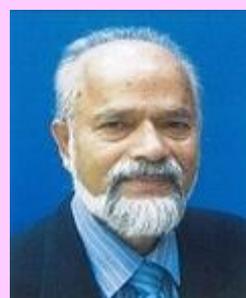
Conference Keynote Speakers

Mrs. Coosje Griffiths



She is a distinguished school psychology professional and former Secretary of the International School Psychology Association (ISPA). She has also served as Director in Western Australia, where she has played a significant leadership role in advancing school psychology services and educational support systems. With extensive experience in policy development, professional training, and international collaboration, she has contributed to strengthening psychological services in schools and promoting student well-being across diverse educational contexts. Her work has been marked by a strong commitment to inclusive education, mental health promotion, and evidence-based practice, and she continues to be widely respected for her leadership and contributions to the field of school psychology at both national and international levels.

Tan Sri Professor Dr. T. Marimuthu is now an Adjunct Professor at the School of Education and Cognitive Sciences, Asia e-University, Kuala Lumpur. He was formerly the Chairman of Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology University in Kedah, Malaysia. Professor Marimuthu obtained his BA (Hons) in Economics from the University of Malaya and his MEd and PhD from the University of Manchester, England. He taught Sociology of Education at the Faculty of Education, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur from 1970 till 1990. During this period Tan Sri has served as the Deputy Dean of the Faculty, Head of the Department of Social Foundations, member of the University Senate and Professor of Social Psychology of Education. Tan Sri Marimuthu was a Fulbright Scholar at Stanford University, California and the University of Chicago, USA and has been a consultant to various international organisations such as UNESCO, UNICEF and the World Bank on educational and parliamentary matters.



Dr. VSR Vijayakumar is a Senior Professor of Organizational Behaviour and Management from the Institute of Management Technology-Nagpur. He has a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Madras and an MA in Psychology from Presidency College, Madras. His research interests are in Managerial Psychology, Organizational Culture, and Management styles. He also presented and published many research papers and articles in various international conferences and journals. He is the chief mentor of Skills grow. He has served in several institutions such as Madras Christian College, PSG College of Arts and Science, Department of the Psychology University of Madras, Kirloskar Institute of Advanced Management Studies, ICFAI Business School as a faculty member, Jaipuria Institute of Management, Indore, and as Senior Professor of Organizational Behaviour and Management from Institute of Management Technology-Nagpur.

Prof. Michiko Ishikawa, is Professor of Psychology, Tokyo University of Social Welfare, Japan. She has a Master's in Education from Aichi University of Education, Japan, and a Doctorate Degree in Psychology from Nagoya University, Japan. Presently she is Professor (Specially Appointed Professor) at the Department of Contemporary Business, Nagoya Sangyo University. She has held positions as Professor, Graduate School, Tokoha University (Apr 2016 - Mar 2021), Professor, Graduate School, Kyoto University of Education (Apr 2014 - Mar 2016), and Professor, Faculty of Education, Bukkyo University. She started her career as a High school teacher, Aichi Prefectural Board of Education (2 years in Junior High School and High School as a Branch School) (April 1978 - March 2014). She is an Editorial Consultant of the International Journal of Asia Pacific School Psychology. She is a member of Gifu Prefecture - Bullying Prevention Study Council in Japan. She regularly publishes research papers in reputed journals.



Prof. Muhammad Kamal Uddin, PhD (Japan) is Professor and Chairman, Department of Psychology, University of Dhaka, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh. He received Postdoctoral Award (but did not enjoy) of the European Commission in 2013 positioned at Padova University, Venice, Italy. He earned Ph.D. degree in Psychology from Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan in 2006 receiving prestigious Monbuso Scholarship of the Japan Government. Kamal obtained M.Sc. (Thesis) degree with specialization in Clinical Psychology from the University of Dhaka in 1991. He received B.Sc. (Honors) degree in Psychology from the same university in 1990. He has visited 21 countries and attended conferences, seminars and symposiums held in Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Greece, Italy, Turkey, Spain, Switzerland, India, China, and Japan. Dr. Kamal is the General Secretary of the Bangladesh Foundation for Human Resource Development.

International Invited Speakers

Prof. Parvathy Varma. S, Ph.D is Program Director, Graduate programs in Psychology, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Assumption University, Bangkok, Thailand. She is basically a psychologist, working in the field of Management. Her area of interest include cross-cultural research, suicide prevention, and socio emotional intelligence.



Prof. Vallipuram Kanagasingam is a distinguished academic and administrator serving as the Vice-Chancellor of Eastern University, Sri Lanka. He holds a PhD in Management from the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM), an M.Sc. in Management (Human Resource Management) from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and a BBA (Hons) from Eastern University, Sri Lanka. An alumnus of Eastern University himself, graduating in 1995, he has worked tirelessly for the enhancement of the university's standards. Prior to his appointment as Vice-Chancellor, he served as Rector of Trincomalee Campus, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and

Management, and Head of the Department of Management. He has numerous research papers published in national and international journals and has authored several books and monographs. His areas of expertise include Human Resource Management and Higher Education Management.

Dr. T. Santhanam is the Director of SDS Academy, Chennai, and one of India's most respected psychologists with over four decades of distinguished service. An esteemed alumnus of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, he has built an extraordinary career spanning clinical practice, research, and education. A proud recipient of the National Award, Dr. Santhanam has authored several influential books, guided numerous Ph.D. scholars, and impacted the lives of over one lakh clients. His unwavering commitment to psychology education, disability empowerment, and mental health advocacy has earned him recognition both in India and on the global stage.



Prof. Suresh M. Makvana is a distinguished academician serving as Professor and Head of the Department of Psychology at Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Anand, Gujarat. A prolific research mentor, he has guided 14 Ph.D. scholars to successful completion and one scholar to a post-doctoral degree, with four more currently pursuing their doctorates under his supervision. Notably, one of his research scholars serves as an ICCR-sponsored Overseas Fellow in Mongolia. His academic influence extends nationally, having evaluated over 100 Ph.D. theses and conducted viva-voce examinations across universities throughout India. His scholars have earned prestigious national and state-level fellowships, reflecting his outstanding contribution to psychology research and education.

Dr. Chandrika Subramaniyan is a prominent lawyer, community leader, and prolific author based in Sydney, Australia. Admitted to practise as a solicitor and barrister in the Supreme Court of New South Wales, she is the founder of her own law firm, SUCCESS Lawyers & Barristers. Inspired by the plight of refugee and migrant women, she dedicates time each week to providing free legal advice to vulnerable communities. She has authored fifty books in English and Tamil on media, women, leadership, law, and ethics, and has been honoured with the Premier's Harmony Medal 2019, Citizen of the Year 2019, and the Outstanding Overseas Tamil Scholar Award from the Government of Tamil Nadu.



Dr. Sunita Singh, a Professor at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, holds a Ph.D. in Education from Lucknow and postgraduate degrees in Chemistry, Education, and Psychology. Teaching since 2000, she has authored over 100 research papers, completed four projects, and specializes in learner psychology, guidance, counselling, and science education. She has delivered 70+ resource talks, holds life memberships with multiple associations, and has received awards, including the best research paper at a national conference, the InSPA Leadership Award 2024, and the Virangana Holkar Narishakti Samman 2024. In 2019, she engaged with USA students through Maya Gold Foundation and developed six psychological tools.

Instruction to Presenters

Proposals are invited for symposia, workshops, individual paper, and poster presentations. Today, school communities are challenged with many psycho-socio issues of children from different ethnicities, races, languages, religions, abilities, and disabilities. The School Psychology services should be promoted in India and South Asian region to cater to the needs of the parents, teachers, school administrators and policy makers.

Workshop on School Psychology (60 minutes): The purpose of this workshop is to enable a practitioner, researcher, or other educational professional/teachers to present specific innovative techniques, methods and tools for psychologists from a practical point of view in relation to the conference theme. This is a one-hour workshop on School Psychology Competencies.

Symposium (60 minutes). Presentations submitted together on a specific topic. This is a talk presentation style. Each integrated symposium generally includes a maximum of four (4) presentations on a common topic based on the conference theme and subthemes. Multi-disciplinary panels are welcome. Kindly note that the convener of the symposium must be a psychologist.

Papers (15 minutes including questions from participants): The purpose of a paper presentation is to present research findings and innovative practices. Papers should be related to the theme and sub-theme of the conference, and report on recent developments. Abstract should be around 150-200 words and should include aim, method and results.

Posters: The purpose is to offer a visual display of presentation, in an attractive way on a given poster space. Presenters should also offer additional information (leaflets, handouts, or brochures) to take away. The normal size of the poster is 30 x 20 inches size. Best Posters will be selected and cash prizes will be awarded.

Best Paper Awards: Each scientific session will carry a best paper award. The awardees will be honoured during the valedictory session. The PG students and Research Scholars are in one category, and the faculty members and others are in another category.

General Format for submitting the abstract

All in running letters. Don't use capital letters in the headings or names or anywhere in the abstract.

Title: Should be in the centre alignment with less than 15 words. It has to highlight the variables and there is no need of sample location.

Authors: Should be in the centre alignment with Name, designation, institution, place, and Email ID (if required, the same format to be used for co-authors)

The abstract should be very brief, with points focused without giving subheadings. The introduction, objectives, hypotheses, method, sample, tools, results and implications. There is no need for any quotes in the abstract. There is no need for author citation with a year in the abstract. There is no need for sub-headings like introduction, objectives, etc. (Refer to our website: www.ijasp.in or www.apspa.in for writing the abstract model in the published journal articles)

Caution: Once submitted, the abstract will remain the same

Publication of Papers

Full paper should be around 5000 words including tables and references. APA 7th edition format for referencing should be followed. The peer reviewed selected papers will be published in the INSPA Journal of Applied and School Psychology (April 2027 Volume 8, Number 2) or International Journal of Asia Pacific School Psychology (January 2027 Volume 9 Number 1).

If the paper is suitable for publication, a separate letter will be sent for acceptance of papers. The full paper (optional) can be submitted to apspa2019@gmail.com

Last date for Abstract Submission: 31.5.2025 at 5.00 pm

Early bird Registration for 10th APSPA International Conference is 30.4.2026

Category	Fees	Details
APSPA Members	USD600	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Five nights 2-6 September 2026 with breakfast and lunch• Three days social events• Visit to Mathematic Learning Centre• Conference Kit consist of Book of Abstracts• Group Pick up at Sydney Airport on 2nd September Morning and drop at evening of 6th September
Non-members	USD750	
Local delegates from Australia	USD100	No accommodation arrangements
Virtual Participation	USD 20	The schedule and link will be shared by email

Registration fee can be paid to:

Name: Asia Pacific School Psychology Association

Bank: State Bank of India, Lawspet Branch, Puducherry – 605 008, India

Account Number: 45034995377

IFSC Code: SBIN0010507

Kindly share the screenshot of the transaction in the Google form for verification.

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/AuumSqK4vojNhTU57>

The last date for submitting the Registration is **30.4.2025 at 5.00 pm**

Registration fee once paid will not be refunded

Conference Registration Fee Policy 2026

The Registration fee included a conference bag, notepad, pen, conference food, and book of abstracts. This Conference is self-financing from the participating delegates. All conference participants must pay the conference registration fee. For each paper/poster, at least one author must attend and pay the registration fee. The participants can choose from any of the options given above to participate in the Conference.

Cancellation Policy: In case of any cancellation or non-attendance, the registration fees are unfortunately not refundable or adjusted. You have to ensure before registering about your travel documents such as Passport, Visa and travel/medical insurance.

Conference venue

Accommodation is arranged in Paramatta, and conference will be held in Sydney

Conference Schedule of Events (subject to revision)

Leadership workshop (APSPA members) 3rd September 2026

Inaugural Ceremony 4th September 2026 and Conference Sessions

Valedictory session 5th September 2026 and School visit

Social Events 6th September 2026

The detailed schedule of events will be notified in the first week of July 2026

Conference WhatsApp Group link: Website: www.apspa.in

alternative email: apspa2019@gmail.com

6th APSPA International Conference at the Assumption University of Thailand in 2024

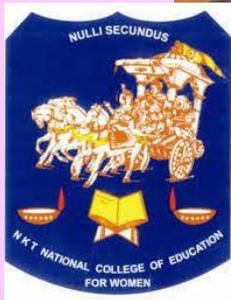


7th APSPA International Conference held in Goa, India in 2025



8th APSPA International at Tokyo University of Graduate Studies and Social Welfare, Tokyo, Japan in 2025





16th InSPA International Conference on Empowering Neuro Diversity at

N.K.T. National College of Education for Women, Chennai



(5th – 7th August, 2026)

The Conference Theme: Empowering neuro diversity

Neurodiversity is the idea that variation in human cognition — including ADHD, autism, dyslexia, dyscalculia, Tourette syndrome, and many other profiles — is a natural part of human diversity, not a deficit to be fixed.

Empowering neuro diversity individuals means shifting the frame from "what's wrong" to "what's possible." Each condition shown in the diagram carries genuine cognitive strengths: autistic thinkers often excel at deep pattern recognition and systematic reasoning; people with dyslexia frequently show outstanding spatial and narrative thinking; ADHD brings hyperfocus, creativity, and high energy when channelled well.

Welcome to Chennai

N.K.T. National College of Education for Women, Chennai

A private circulation Newsletter among members of APSPA