



**Asia Pacific School
Psychology Association
(APSPA)
(Regd)**



**In collaboration with Sydney Tamil Valarchi Manram,
Civic Park Medical Centre, Pendle Hills, Australia and
Mathnasium, Carlingford, Sydney**

10th APSPA International Conference in Sydney

Diversity in School Psychology

(1 – 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. Panch. 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, and the 8th at Tokyo University and Graduate Studies of Social Welfare, Tokyo, Japan in 2025.

With a growing network of **about 100 professional members from Asia Pacific 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 in the Asia Pacific Region

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.

Collaborating Organisations

Sydney Tamil Valarchi Manram 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.

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.

Mathnasium of Carlingford, located at 322–324 Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford, Sydney, is a well-regarded mathematics learning centre that provides personalized tutoring for school students. It follows a structured, individualized learning approach designed to strengthen conceptual understanding and build confidence in mathematics. The centre caters to students across primary and secondary levels, including support for exams such as NAPLAN and selective school tests. With small-group sessions and focused guidance, it aims to improve both academic performance and problem-solving skills in a supportive environment.

Special Features

- **The Conference**, scheduled from 1st to 6th September 2026, encompasses travel, social events, sightseeing, and technical sessions.
- **Limited Delegates:** Participation is limited to selected delegates from the Asia Pacific Region who possess valid travel documents and visa.

- **Conference and Study Tour:** The program includes two days of academic conference sessions followed by Two day of social events and sightseeing in Sydney and the Blue Mountains, providing opportunities for cultural exchange and networking.
- **Abstract-Based Selection:** Delegates will be selected based on the quality and relevance of their submitted abstracts.
- **Transportation Support:** Transportation will be arranged for registered delegates on 4th and 5th September 2026 from the designated point to the conference venue.
- **Acceptance Notification:** Official acceptance letters will be issued by the LOC on or before 31st May 2026.
- **Accommodation and Local travel Assistance:** Delegates who require accommodation arrangements or local travel assistance may submit a request to the APSPA, for necessary guidance.
- **School Psychology Leadership Excellence Award:** The School Psychology Leadership Excellence Award will be presented during the conference. Nominations are open until 31st May 2026.

Chief Guest and Inaugural Speaker



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.

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.

Conference Organising 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 Chairperson

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.



Programme Executive

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.

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 LLM 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.

Event Coordinator

Mrs. Amudharasi Ramalingam

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

Behavior 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 Behavior 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 Jayawardenepura, 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.

Prof. Dr. V. Chockalingam is a distinguished cardiologist with an illustrious academic and clinical career spanning over six decades. Professor Emeritus of Cardiology, Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai, Former Director, Institute of Cardiology, Madras Medical College, Former Chief Cardiologist, Government General Hospital, Chennai, India



He secured Gold Medals in Medicine during both MBBS and MD, achieving first rank at the state level, and also earned a Gold Medal in DM (Cardiology) with first rank at the national level. Notably, he was the first DM (Cardiology) graduate from Madras Medical College, Chennai. He is also a recipient of the prestigious “International Award of Excellence in Cardiology” conferred by the World Congress of Cardiology. He has been actively involved in teaching and mentoring undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral students, as well as serving as an examiner in cardiology for many years. Prof. Chockalingam has published and presented over 100 scientific papers in national and international conferences and journals. An accomplished author, he has written several books including *Idhayam Kakka* and *Humor & Health* (in Tamil), and internationally published works such as *Mind Your Heart*, *Journey to a Hearty Health*, and *Cardiac X-rays* (Elsevier, USA).

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. 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

Registration fee AUD 100 can be paid to:

Name: Asia Pacific School Psychology Association

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

Current 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 **31.5.2025 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

The conference will be held in Sydney

Social Events

Will be notified soon

Conference Schedule of Events (subject to revision)

Leadership workshop (APSPA members) 3rd September 2026
Inaugural Ceremony 4th September 2026 and Conference Sessions
Valedictory session 4th September 2026 and School visit
Social Events 5th September 2026
The detailed schedule of events will be notified in the first week of July 2026
Website: www.apspa.in
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



9th APSPA International Conference LoC with Team of volunteers 2026

