

INDIA

Indian Montessori Foundation

Events and Activities

'Orientation for Erdkinder'

The Indian Montessori Foundation's efforts towards organising events to help the growth of Montessori community began with a talk delivered by Ms Hitomi Oshima for the teachers' community in Chennai.

Thursday Talks

In Chennai the monthly Thursday Talks were greatly affected by the floods this year. As a result, only two out of the usual six talks were possible: one in August and the other at the end of January. The first talk, by Ms Ruby Lau, focussed on bringing up children in a multicultural society, and the second was by Ms Rekha Sudarshan, who emphasised the importance in helping and steering children towards more balanced meals.

The Third National Montessori Conference

Pragati: Holistic Development; Harmonious Society

This took place on 5 & 6 February 2016. There was an overwhelming response and registration had to close early due to the capacity of the venue.

The speakers that presented during the two-day conference included Ms Ann Dunne, an AMI Elementary Trainer, who spoke on "Supporting the Child through all Stages of Development". The Director of Podar Jumbo Kids, Ms Swati Popat Vats, delivered a talk on "Supporting the Child's Development in Modern India", and Mr Hadrien Roche, an AMI Elementary Trainer in Training spoke on "The Development of the Montessori Teacher". The final day consisted of further key note speeches, some of which were from Ms Irene Fafalios, an AMI Primary Trainer, who covered the topic of "The Development of an Administrator", and Mr Sraddhalu Ranade, a scientist, educator and scholar at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram who talked about the "Integral Education for Rebuilding India". Another AMI Trainer in Training, Ms Suneeta Madnani, gave a glorious talk on "Harmony: Balance within and without".

Panels sat on both days in the sessions after lunch. On the first day the panellists discussed the topic of the Development of a Montessori Parent. The last discussion covered the theme of the Development of a Montessori School. The school heads presented their own views before participating in a Q&A with the audience.

Publications & Media

New Distributor in India

Coral Groups has been appointed distributor of IMF publications (current Montessori books, CD's and The Silver Spoon Series). The Silver Spoon Series – two box sets totalling 50 booklets for young readers has been published and is now on sale as a complete set for INR. 1200.

Reprints of *The Absorbent Mind* and *The Formation of Man* are planned for next year. *Montessori Matters* (IMF annual Journal) – the delayed issues from 2013, 2014 and 2015 will be released very soon.

The Touchboard (IMF newsletter) started off with a new look this year. Six issues were published covering a wide range of topics, which would be of interest to the parents, teachers and those interested in the Montessori philosophy. Many international and national events were covered. Two new features were started this year. One focussed on how to help children function independently by preparing the right environment for them. Information was collected from parents of children 2-6 years of age who shared their experiences with the editorial team. The other focussed on a local festival, game and tree of a particular country. This was an interesting platform for people to learn about the culture of different countries and have conversations with children, as well as play the games or do activities related to a particular country.

The IMF website was upgraded and now includes:

- Job postings
- AMI alumni listings
- Montessori school listings.

Rukmini Ramachandran
Managing Trustee