



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Embargo for release on 30 March, 12 noon

### **Tamil Language Festival 2011 Encourages Tamil-speaking Singaporeans to “Love Tamil, Speak Tamil”**

The Tamil Language Festival (TLF) has exciting programmes lined up to attract youths and participants to love and speak Tamil by discovering the beauty of the language and its culture. Mr S Iswaran, Senior Minister of State for Trade & Industry and Education, will officially launch the Festival live on Vasantham on 1 April at 9.00pm.

#### **Two New Partners in 2011**

This year, 2 new partners have joined the Tamil Language Festival, bringing new activities to the public.

*Tamil Pattimandra Kalai Kazhagam* started as a group of members passionate about debate to promote Tamil debate in the community. Today, they are officially registered as a society and have conducted 54 events to date – an achievement that no other similar organization has reached.

*Ivann Productions*, founded by two aspiring individuals from the local theatre and media industry, is committed to producing artistic yet entertaining works that strike a chord with the masses. They also aim to provide a platform for budding artists to show off their talents in all areas of the arts, thus contributing to the next generation of Tamil artists.

Other partners include the People’s Association Narpani Peravai, Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce, Tamil Language and Cultural Society, Little India Shopkeepers and Heritage Association, Tamil Representative Council, Singapore Tamil Teachers Union, Association of Singapore Tamil Writers, National Library Board, among others.

### **Programme Highlights**

1) Arangam – 5<sup>th</sup> National Tamil Drama Competition

This inter-tertiary competition can boast of past participants who have embarked on careers in the arts and made it big in the media industry.

2) Minmini 2011

Minmini 2011 is a series of workshops and competitions that encourage a positive attitude towards learning the Tamil language in its primary school participants. Organised by Raffles Junior College students, Minmini 2011 will teach its young participants creative and effective writing skills, Thirukural appreciation and pit their skills against each other in a Tamil Literary Trivia Quiz.

3) Kalakkal Drama Festival

Kalakkal Drama Festival is a celebration of theatre, live performances, and engaging discussions. Created by new partner Ivann Productions, this drama festival gives budding artists the chance to attend workshops that cover the many different aspects of theatre, as well as an opportunity for them to take part in an actual performance.

Chairperson for Tamil Language Council, Mr. V P Jothi feels this year's new partners expand the reach of the Festival. He said, "From the traditional debate sessions to the drama festival for primary school children, this year's lineup of events provides something for everyone. These events encourage Tamil-speaking Singaporeans to use the language all the time, in everyday situations – to love Tamil, speak Tamil"

The full listing of calendar events can be found on the Tamil Language Council website at [www.singai-tamil.org](http://www.singai-tamil.org).

- end -



### **About Tamil Language Festival 2011**

The Tamil Language Festival is spearheaded by the Tamil Language Council which was formed in 2000 under the auspices of MICA. It comprises representatives from the education sector, major community organisations, arts groups and the media. The Council has organised the Festival since 2007 with partner organisations marking it as a major event in their organisational calendar. There has also been a growing interest in being part of the festival.

The key partner for the Tamil Language festival is MOE's Tamil Language and Learning Promotion Committee (TLLPC). Set up in 2006. TLLPC's strategic focus is to promote the speaking and learning of Tamil among students and to cultivate in them the interest of the Tamil Language, Literature and Culture.