

THIRD ANNOUNCEMENT OF CALL FOR PAPERS AND PARTICIPATION

World Association for Vedic Studies (WAVES), Inc.
(A Multidisciplinary Academic Society - Tax Exempt in USA)
Eighth International Conference on
"Vedic knowledge for Civilizational Harmony"
August 4-7, 2010
In Collaboration of Saraswati Mandiram, Trinidad, and Center for Indic
Studies, UMass Dartmouth
at
University of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago
Web site: <http://www.umassd.edu/indic/waves2010.cfm>

Deadlines

Abstracts for **late proposals**: March 15, 2010;
(Acceptance will be notified through e-mail by March 31, 2010)
For **all** full length papers: May 15, 2010

Registration (<http://www.umassd.edu/indic/waves2010/registration.cfm>)

Early registration (\$250): May 31, 2010
Late registration (\$300): July 31, 2010
At the door registration (\$350): August 4-7, 2010

SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

Please send the abstract (about 200 words) of your paper to be presented to Dr. Bal Ram Singh at <<mailto:waves2010@umassd.edu>> waves2010@umassd.edu on or before the deadline. If you have any questions, you may contact any member of the Organizing committee near your area. You are requested to contact them through e-mail only and call only in an emergency.

WAVES 2010: Program Description

WAVES 2010 (World Association for Vedic Studies) conference is being held this coming summer (Aug 4-7, 2010) in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The WAVES conference attracts the leading academic scholars on Vedas and Hinduism, and is the largest

conference of its kind in the Americas. The program will include academic scholars, practicing pundits, engaged Hindus, and especially youth leaders.

Three Parallel Conference Tracks

The conference will consist of three tracks:

Track A: Academic Symposium: Vedic knowledge for Civilizational Harmony

Track B: Living Hinduism: Understanding Vedic Practices

Track C: Youth Summit: Owing the Discourse

Track Overview

In **Track A: Academic Symposium**, scholars would present their academic papers on a wide variety of topics generally under the rubric of Vedic Studies with a focus on the theme of 'Civilizational Harmony'. Over 50 scholars are expected to share their insights relating to the symposium theme with their insights from Vedic literature such as Vedas, Darshanas, Upanishads, Puranas, and Bhagavadgita. A wide range of Vedic scholars, linguists, philosophers, scientists, and mathematicians are planning to present their research on the subject.

In **Track B: Living Hinduism**, invited scholars would participate in a series of activities including lectures, panel discussions, and demonstrations with a focus on elucidating the Hindu Practices. The goal of this track is to establish a new framework for the appreciation of Puja, Yajna and other forms of Vedic worship by highlighting the science and the aesthetics behind these practices. This conference track aims to explore the: I) scientific underpinnings and the cosmological insights; II) the important surviving formal disciplines of Hindu worship; and finally III) the ways of transmitting these beautiful forms of worship and practice to the coming generations.

In **Track C: Youth Summit**, youth leaders and invited scholars would engage in a series of conversations to gain a better foothold on issues related to their Hindu identity, relationships, family, social activism, community, and most importantly

building a favorable academic discourse. Successful models in building and supporting youth groups will be shared by community leaders. Youth from many different parts of the world are expected to participate in forging together a new discourse for a powerful future.

We strongly feel that '**Civilizational Harmony**' is possible by developing deep insights into the Vedic literature and practices – this conference aims to be a step in that direction of formulating a discourse that empowers one and all, and does not compromise on truth. This conference can be a platform for you to share your views, experience, and initiatives with leading academicians, scholars, and leaders. Networking with these leading personalities is expected to be an important benefit from attending this conference. We look forward to your participation and engagement in this endeavor to chart a pleasant and powerful future for ourselves and the world at large.

Track Descriptions

Track A: Academic Symposium ~ Vedic Knowledge for Civilizational Harmony

In this academic research symposium, scholars would present their academic papers on a wide variety of topics generally under the rubric of Vedic Studies with a focus on the theme of '**Civilizational Harmony**'. Over 50 scholars are expected to share their insights relating to the symposium theme with their insights from Vedic literature such as Vedas, Darshanas, Upanishads, Puranas, and Bhagavadgita. A wide range of Vedic scholars, linguists, philosophers, scientists, and mathematicians are planning to present their research on the subject.

This track is a multidisciplinary academic symposium on a wide range of topics related to Vedic and Indian studies. The word 'Vedic' is used in a wide sense to include, not only Vedas, but associated literature, civilization, peoples, places, personalities, and practice. In addition, pedagogy of teaching, technologies to enable Vedic research, publications and performances are potential topics to be discussed and explored. This year this symposium takes an expansive view of Vedic knowledge, and focuses on the civilizational elements of society with the goal of identifies and deliberating features and requirements for harmonious living of all beings everywhere.

In this symposium, research papers will include topics on Archaeology & Anthropology; History & Social Sciences; Language, Literature & Linguistics; Science & Technology; Vedas; Upanishads; Smritis; Puranas; Epics - Ramayana & Mahabharata, Bhagavadgita; Contemporary Works and Issues; Dharma - Shastras, Ethics & Rituals; Agriculture, Plant Science & Ecology; Inter-Religious Dialogue; Health, Yoga & Martial arts; Business, Economics & Administration, etc. The proceedings of this symposium will be published before the conference.

Track B: Living Hinduism ~ Understanding Vedic Practices

The practice of Hindus consists of Vedic **Sadhana and Samskara-s** in one form or the other. Over the past couple of centuries, as traditional educational institutions have collapsed or decayed into obsolescence due to a lack of resources and patronage, most of this practice has been relegated to a limited basis of transmission from generation to generation within families. The result has been a lack of understanding of the essence, the philosophy and the scientific underpinnings of these Samskara-s and other Vedic practices. The lack of understanding of the core Hindu practices has been further exploited by inimical forces to brand all these Samskara-s and Hindu practices as superstition; such misplaced characterization is increasingly being internalized by younger Hindus. On the other hand, scholars and scientists are rediscovering the scientific basis of the Vedic Samskara-s and the Agama Shastra-s, which are the formal disciplines developed for encoding and transmission of these core aspects of Hinduism that keep it alive. Yet new methods must be evolved to highlight the science, logic, and aesthetics behind these Hindu practices, to extricate it out of the dustbin of superstition.

This conference track aims to explore the: I) scientific underpinnings and the cosmological insights; II) the important surviving formal disciplines of Hindu worship; and finally III) the ways of transmitting these beautiful forms of worship and practice to the coming generations.

The goal of this track is to establish a new framework for the appreciation of Puja, Yajna and other forms of Vedic worship by highlighting the science and the aesthetics behind these practices. A deeper understanding has the potential to unleash a new level of joy for all human beings when participating in a Yajna, Abhishekam, or a Vedic wedding. Just as Yoga has been internalized and practiced

by millions all over the world, a logical, deeper and simplified understanding of Puja and Yajna has the potential to transform the lives of millions.

This topic is all about practice in real life – beyond conjecture and speculation – an enjoyable path to super-consciousness by transmuting the materials and resources readily available all around. Especially, in an environment where the planet's future is considered to be in danger, the Agama Shastra present ways of appreciating the intricate connections between all forms of materials and existence, be it manifest or invisible – further underlining the delicate balance in the universe and then honoring and celebrating the mutual interdependence between all participants in the cosmic drama. Everyone is engaged in this cosmic drama, but those who wake up to the deep inter-relationships, become immortal by merely recognizing this eternal rhythm (Sanatana Dharma); then on, every moment and every place is sacred and this world - a Sacred Theatre.

Track C: Youth Summit ~ Owing the Discourse

In comprehending the present and charting out a future, Hindu youth are often faced with issues surrounding their identity; especially the Diaspora always has to negotiate their identity with heightened awareness in the workplace and in public life. Identity is not a one time issue; it begins in the school, neighborhood, college campus, classroom debates, and in the political arena. We all require tools, wit and charm to sail through a series of alien contexts, but a deeper understanding of the civilizational discourse and a well-crafted vocabulary can turn identity and culture into an asset and a major source of advantage for the youth.

For those aspiring to be leaders, it is more urgent to grab the underpinnings of one's Vedic heritage and stand on a rational and universal platform created from millennia of debates and intellectual deliberation. Professional, intellectual and social success often belongs to those who take charge of the discourse and are not victimized by it. Many student groups and youth organizations have successfully built resources for mutual support and advancement of the cultural aspects of their lives. Eventually, all institutions, be it schools, colleges, and temples pass on to the coming generations, we look to explore the path for successful succession. Besides, Vedic Civilization is much about aesthetics, love, romance, and joy; those who are able to touch and access these Vedic sources of 'Ananda' are immediately connected to the eternal flow of knowledge and bliss.

Most importantly, we look for ways for the youth to study, understand and internalize these jewels of the Vedic heritage so that it becomes theirs to keep and

propagate to their worthy successors. Successful experiments in the transmission of Vedic knowledge are being conducted all over the world and must be shared and replicated where possible. This conference track spans these issues in the forms of a series of conversations between youth leaders and invited scholars to gain a better foothold on issues related to Hindu identity, relationships, family, social activism, community, and most importantly building a favorable academic discourse. Successful models in building and supporting youth groups will be shared by community leaders. Youth from many different parts of the world are expected to participate in forging together a new discourse for a powerful future.

Contacts for Information

The Conference will include three formatted tracks for the program, in addition to scholarly paper reading sessions. Many of the submissions may even fit in one of the three tracks outlined below. Authors will be contacted for their consent to schedule them in an appropriate track if the Program Committee decides to include them in one of the programs below.

Academic Symposium Program

Dr. Douglas Allen, University of Maine
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Community and Outreach Program

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Youth Program

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Sashi Kejriwal, Dallas, TX

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Conference Organizing Committee

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PARTICIPATION