

# ELTAI 's Annual Report for 2017 - 2018

## **Let me start off with the regulars:**

The last year's conference on the theme of English Language Acquisition: Western Theories and Eastern Practices was held on 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July at St. Teresa's college, Cochin, which was attended by about 700 delegates from different parts of the country. The theme of the conference has created ripples among scholars to explore new avenues in this domain and we fervently hope that we will be able to crystallize eastern theories and eastern practices in the days to come, to reverse the trend of following the western theories and western practices to perpetuate the failed system of language education in our country and subsequently, emerge as a pioneer for a new model of English teaching-learning processes.

The other torch bearer of our association is *The Journal of English Language Teaching*, a 53- year-old bi-monthly. We continue to bring it out interruptedly and thereby creating opportunities for publications for Indian scholars and practitioners. Besides this print and e-journal, the three online journals, *The Journal for Teaching and Research in English Literature*, *The Technology and ELT* and *The English Practitioners* continue to enjoy the patronage of our members.

## **Now, moving on from the sameness to newness:**

Our website has taken a new avatar, which a viewer pointed out, "not many sites of associations can excel ELTAIs." And, *The Journal of Teaching and Research in English Literature* has a dedicated site of its own now, which is indicative of what our other journals to follow, to be indexed again in UGC list of approved journals and indexed in Scopus, MLA and other world renowned bodies.

Cambridge University Press has signed an MOU with ELTAI to be its author from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grades for their New English textbooks which has raised the eyebrows of other publishers. For the first time, a leading publisher globally, has decided to sign up with an association, as against the usual practice of individual authors, which many consider it as a significant recognition for the progressive association like ours.

We have for the first time signed an MOU with the Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association (BELTA) for an exchanging of our journals, resources, experiments and expertise between the two associations and hope to extend it to a few other neighbouring associations with a fond hope that we hold the conference next year with a strong international presence, so English Language Teachers' Association of India will rechristen itself to be English Language Teachers' Associations International, the letter 'I' no longer representing India but International.

Next, nine more new chapters have come into existence this year namely, Madurai, Trichy and Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu, Raichur in Karnataka, Guntur in Andhra Pradesh, Bhopal and Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, Khandesh in Maharashtra, Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh and Kolkata in West Bengal adding to the tally of 30, in our attempt to reach out to resourceless centres. Our sincere request to all the chapter convenors is that they should engage intensively in professionalising teachers in their respective regions and to make a difference in their classroom performances. Further, number of our chapters continued to conduct international and national level conferences, workshops, symposiums and webinars.

The publication of the e-newsletter, to be a quarterly, was brought out by ELTAI to disseminate information about different activities carried out by different chapters and of course, some of our chapters also have their own newsletters, some in the electronic form and others in print.

Our thanks are due to S S Rajagopalan, a committed educationist, for his liberal donation of one lakh rupees, for ELTAI members who are willing to undertake action research to bring about meaningful changes in the pedagogical process.

Finally, as we are marching towards our Golden Jubilee conference next year, 2019, there are many more new projects in the offing, which will be known to our members as we go along. So, let us wish ourselves the best to hold a gala jubilee next year to mark an important milestone in our journey.

**Dr K Elango**

General Secretary, ELTAI