



The Theosophical Society, its various representations,
and Theosophical Centres in the World



11th WORLD CONGRESS
The Theosophical Society

**Consciousness,
Contemplation,
Commitment:
The Future is Now**



Singapore, 4 to 8 August 2018

WELCOME

Welcome to the World Congress held in Asia! It is a pleasure to meet Theosophical sisters and brothers from around the world. Singapore is a beautiful, multicultural, world-class city with a thriving Theosophical group hosting the Congress.



VENUE

The Congress takes place at the Ramada Hotel, in its Congress Hall.

For stays there are two hotels side by side, Ramada and Days Hotel.

MEALS AND BREAKS

Breakfast according Hotel timing.

At breaks tea/coffee and snacks.

10.30 am Break

12.30 pm Lunch

4.30 pm Break

6.30 pm Dinner

TIP-TALK: Theosophy In Practice (20 min)

HOST: Singapore Lodge

PROGRAM by International Headquarters



The first World Congress of the Theosophical Society was held in Paris, France, in 1921. In 1925 the second one was held at the TS International headquarters in what was then Madras (now Chennai), India. Since that time the Congresses have been held in every continent of the world with the exception of Asia.

This year the 11th World Congress is being hosted by the TS in Singapore. More than just a chance to meet and to share ideas with our fellows from around the world, each of these global meetings presents an extraordinary opportunity. Although our grasp of the depths of our own teachings is necessarily limited, we do know that harmonious gatherings focused on wisdom have profound unseen effects on the world. It is for the benefit of ourselves and the world that we try to come together every seven years in this way.

May our time together be a source of strength and renewal in this challenging time.



**It is the direction of our progress
that matters
—not where we stand at present.**

- N. Sri Ram

Saturday, 4 August

8.30—9.30 am

REGISTRATION

9.30—12 noon

OPENING OF THE WORLD CONGRESS

Welcome by the Hosting TS

Chong Sanne

President, Singapore Lodge

Greetings from the Sections and Areas

Opening Address

Tim Boyd

International President of the TS

Keynote

Marcos de Resende

Brazilian Section

Group photo

4.00—5.00 pm

GET TOGETHER OVER COFFEE OR TEA

An opportunity for participants to mingle

5.00—6.00 pm

CONGRESS LECTURE

A Theosophy for Tomorrow

Tim Boyd

International President of the TS

8.00 pm

EVENING

Multi-Racial Cultural Show



KEYNOTE

Mr Marcos de Resende

Former GS of the Brazilian Section

Life, in all its manifestations, has a purpose: the awakening of consciousness in everything that exists, expanding to all higher levels. In all of Nature's kingdoms, there is a growing and gradual awakening of consciousness.

It is only by contemplating life's motion, by observing ourselves, others, and relationships, without the attitude of thinking we already know, that we can expand our comprehension unlimitedly.

Following the path of self-knowledge requires commitment, not with another person, church or institution, but with our deepest nature, which lies in that dimension of wisdom that presents itself when our thoughts quiet down. Life's pressures and distractions easily take us away from this goal.

The future only exists in the universal mind and in our imagination. The only time we can express life is in the active present, the now.

The theme of the Congress is an invitation for reflection and action that encourages the awakening of consciousness, so that, by understanding ourselves, and life's motion, we can harmonize with it, be joyful and make the world better, right now.



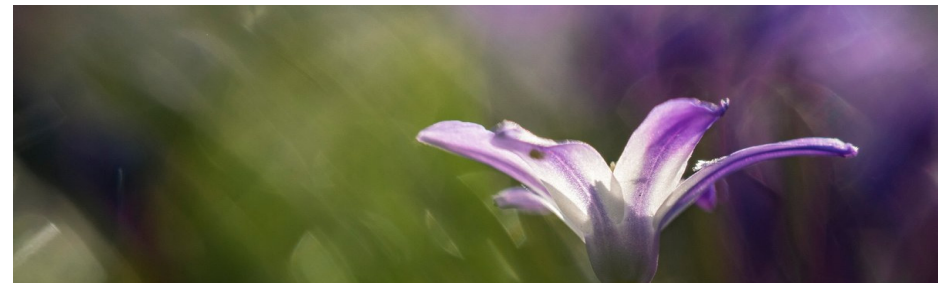
LECTURE

A Theosophy for Tomorrow

Mr Tim Boyd, International President of the TS

Theosophy has been described as the Ageless Wisdom. In 1875 the current form for this wisdom tradition was reintroduced through H. P. Blavatsky as a potential cure for the growing ills of the time. Our current acquaintance with it has been brief and has demanded an ongoing growth of our understanding.

Although wisdom is without limit, our capacity to comprehend has numerous limitations. Faced with the pressing global demands of this time, what will be the next unfoldment of the wisdom tradition?





Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall (below)

Situated just beside the Zhongshan Park, which lies between the Ramada and Day Hotels. This building, in the picture below, served as **Dr Sun Yat Sen's** residence during his visits to Singapore. He was a Chinese physician, writer, philosopher, calligrapher and revolutionary, the first provisional president and founding father of the Republic of China. Built in 1902, this colonial villa was designed with Singapore's tropical climate in mind.



ABOUT THE SYMBOL OF THE WORLD CONGRESS

1. The artist *Joma Sipe* was "inspired" by MERLION. The **Merlion** (Malay: *Singa-Laut*) is a well-known icon of Singapore depicted as a mythical creature with a lion's head and the body of a fish. It is widely used as a mascot and national personification of Singapore. The logo is not a replica of Merlion.



2. Two of our Founders, H. P. Blavatsky and H. S. Olcott were both Leos.

3. The lion logo shows strength, leadership, but also fairness thus portraying great majesty.

4. The colors used were adopted from an original 1886 book publication *Theosophy, Religion and Occult Science* by H. S. Olcott. Coincidentally those colors link directly with Singapore and its Chinese background and history.





Sunday, 5 August

9.00—9.20 am **Meditation**

9.30—10.30 am **PRESENTATION**

International Work of the TS
Team from GC planning

11.00—12 noon **TALK**

Consciousness, Compassion and Contemplation

Deepa Padhi,
International Vice-President of the TS

TIP-TALK

What is Our Role in Education
Clemice Petter, Adyar

3.30—4.30 pm

EXPLORE IN GROUPS

Choose group of your interest.
Group descriptions are in the next pages

7.20 pm

Coaches from Ramada Hotel

To the Regional English Language Centre (RELC)
30 Orange Grove Road
Singapore 258352

8.00—9.00 pm

PUBLIC LECTURE

At RELC Auditorium

The Intuitive Mind

Tim Boyd, International President

Consciousness, Compassion and Contemplation

Dr Deepa Padhi, International Vice-President of the TS



The knowledge of the real self (Consciousness) as the ground of everything, makes one feel the compassion for one and all. The Buddha underlines that the cultivation of true knowledge (wisdom) and compassion are the twin prerequisites of enlightenment. Contemplation is the means to realize Oneness of life and broaden the frontier of compassion.

Practical Theosophy lays emphasis on contemplative practices with resolute will and steadfast commitment, which enables one to find the underlying connection and deeper affinity with other beings and things. As a result, domination, intolerance, and hostility shall make room for equality, understanding, and compassion. The fragmented consciousness shall find itself as integrated with the universal consciousness, immanent in everything, microcosmic and macrocosmic.

What is Our Role in Education

Mrs Clemice Petter, Head of Editorial Department, Adyar

To educate children is the noblest profession but, as with all that is noble, it also brings about an enormous responsibility. The impressions that parents and teachers imprint on the mental, emotional, and physical body have a direct influence in the direction that the child takes in life. So the role of an educator is the most important and dear occupation in any healthy society. In the present world crisis in which we are living, where schools have become an unsafe place for children and for teachers, who can and who will undertake this vital task? How have we come to this point? And how are we to come out of it? We need to bring about a new culture, a new civilization, a real human beings, with human qualities developed to their fullest. We need to start with educating the educator, and the educator is each and every one of us on this Earth.



PUBLIC LECTURE AT RELC AUDITORIUM

The Intuitive Mind

Mr Tim Boyd, International President of the TS

Our daily living reveals a number of levels at which the mind functions - everything from planning a meal, to calculating a formula, to the silent awareness of meditation and prayer. The Ageless Wisdom teachings speak of a deep, only occasionally accessed, layer of the mind that is the source of inspiration, profound guidance, understanding and wisdom. What is this Intuitive Mind and how do we access it?



Venue:
Regional English Language Centre
RELC Auditorium
30 Orange Grove Road
Singapore 258352

Coaches from Ramada Hotel

Explore Groups on 5 and 6 August 3.30 pm

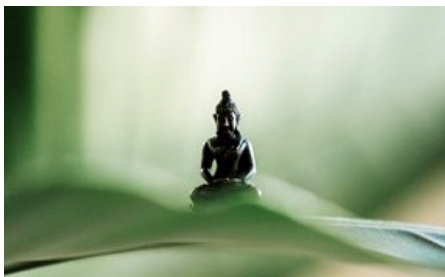
1. Meditation In the Light of Theosophy	2. Yoga Philosophy Applied to Theosophical Work	3. Activating Engaged Membership
4. New ways of making Theosophy known	5. Establishing Theosophical Schools	6. Utilizing Theosophical Centres

1. Meditation in the Light of Theosophy

Ms Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, France

Although meditation covers a wide range of methods, in the essentials they all point to one direction: to master the mind, at the first. Understanding and practicing meditation would further lead to modify one's own paradigm, and thus to transform one's way of living. Through awareness, one can heal oneself and heal the world.

During the session, the participants will receive some shared understanding. Fundamentals will be given, in theory and in practice.



2. Yoga Philosophy Applied to Theosophical Work

Mr Ricardo Lindemann, Brazil

The purpose of life and the cause of sorrow will be explored in the light of Yoga Philosophy. Answers to these questions, according to the Yoga-Sûtra of Patañjali and based on direct perception, can be applied to theosophical work.

The Yoga-Sûtra affirms that a kind of illusion or ignorance about oneself, or *avidyâ*, is the cause of evil, as also has been said by the Buddha, Krishna, Shankara, Plato, and by the Christ, who said: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John VIII: 32) So, ignorance is the subjective cause of sorrow, and the way to present the Ancient Wisdom is a first step in helping the human mind to find freedom.

3. Activating Engaged Membership

Mrs Patrizia Calvi, Italy

What urges each of us to join the Theosophical Society?

Is that "dream" still alive in us? Going deeply into this question is essential before doing any other type of analysis.

What makes us feel "proud" to belong to the TS?

Who are the theosophists that have inspired us?

What does "being active members" mean?

Can we inspire enthusiasm for those values in which we trust?

Are we able to give the right value and significance to people's strengths?

Explore the meaning of "belonging to a group"

What is the purpose of working together?

Are we aware that we can really "make the difference"?

5. Establishing Theosophical Schools

Mr Vic Hao Chin, Jr, Philippines

We will explore, discuss and learn about the possibility of establishing theosophical schools. What does it include and require. How to do it.

4. New Ways of making Theosophy Known

*Mr Pedro Oliveira, Australia and
Mr Wim Leys, The Netherlands*

How to put together an Introductory Study Course on Theosophy that is contemporary in modern language, avoiding excessive metaphysical concepts and directed to those who have never heard of the TS or Theosophy? The study course should present not only an exposition of Theosophy and its principles, but also of suggested ways through which it can be made practical and relevant for our daily lives.

6. Utilizing Theosophical Centres

*Mr Minor Lile, USA and
Mrs Els Rijnker, The Netherlands*

There are many Theosophical program centres around the world. They are some of the jewels of the Theosophical Society. While every centre is *unique* in its own right, and often autonomous in its governance structure, they also have much in common. We will discuss the many opportunities and challenges of fully utilizing these very special centres in the 21st century.



Monday, 6 August

9.00—9.20 am **Meditation**

9.30—10.30 am **TIP-TALKS**

**Practicing the Gems and Values
in Theosophy**

Ay Na NG, Malaysia

**Prayer – it's Nature, Different Types and
Efficacy**

Lily Chong, Singapore Lodge

**Theosophy – an Unceasing Path
of Self-discovery**

Krista Umbjarv, French Section

11.00—12 noon **LECTURE ONLINE**

**Consciousness, Communication And
Change: Aligning with Source to Make a
Difference in Our World**

Dr Cassandra Vieten, USA

3.30—4.30 pm **EXPLORE IN GROUPS**

Choose group by your interest.

5.00—6.00 pm **LECTURE**

A Study in Consciousness

Chong Sanne, Singapore Lodge

8.00 pm

CULTURAL PROGRAM

Sights and Sounds of Chinese Opera

Practicing the Gems and Values in Theosophy

Ms Ay Na NG, President of the Selangor Lodge, Malaysia

The talk will highlight the Three Objects of the Theosophical Society and re-iterate the words of wisdom in our Universal Prayer, to put them into practice in our daily life! Talk is with a short visual presentation.

Prayer – It's Nature, Different Types and Efficacy

Mrs Lily Chong, Secretary of the Singapore Lodge

The modern scientific mind rebels at the thought of prayer, yet the religious spirit is strongly attached to it. However, some religious people sometimes feel uneasy as to the rationale of prayer. Is he altering the will of Him in “whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning”? Are prayers answered? If so, who or what answers them and under what circumstances? Why are the most fervent prayers not answered? The talk will examine the nature of prayer, the different types of prayers, and methods for answering them, how we should pray, and prayers for the departed.

Theosophy – an Unceasing Path of Self-discovery

Ms Krista Umbjarv

Secretary of the European Federation, Estonia/France

Theosophists are often known for appreciating knowledge. Yet knowledge, due to the functioning of the “I”, can become a means for trying to find more security, leading to stronger crystallisation of the ego. How do we turn from this repeated outward movement towards inside, towards what we really are? On this path of self-discovery, we will see the pain and happiness of the world in our soul because fundamentally it functions the same way in everybody. Hence, the path of self-discovery becomes the discovery of the world.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

O Hidden Life, vibrant in every atom;
O Hidden Light, shining in every creature;
O Hidden Love, embracing all in Oneness;
May each who feels himself as one with Thee,
Know he is therefore one with every other.





LECTURE ONLINE

Consciousness, Communication and Change: Aligning with Source to Make a Difference in Our World

Dr Cassandra Vieten

President, Institute of Noetic Sciences, California, USA

Cassandra Vieten, PhD, is president of IONS. She is a licensed clinical psychologist and a scientist in the Mind-Body Medicine Research Group at California Pacific Medical Center Research Institute. Dr Vieten is an author, an international workshop leader, and a public speaker.

She has been studying how people transform their way of looking at the world for more than twenty years. Her current projects focus on spirituality in mental health care, extraordinary experiences during or as a result of meditation, and virtual reality approaches to inducing perspective-shifting experiences that change people's lives.

LECTURE

A Study in Consciousness

Mr Chong Sanne

*Presidential Representative,
East and Southeast Asia*

Consciousness is a word that spans a whole world of different meanings, from the simplest to the most complex. At its simplest, the word would mean just being awake or being aware. In metaphysics, it would mean the existence of life. In the grandest scheme, it would allude to the vastness and varied levels of evolution. Annie Besant's *A Study in Consciousness* is about the evolution of a universe. We shall try to understand a little more of this word in this talk.



CULTURAL PROGRAM 8.00 pm

Sights and Sounds of Chinese Opera

Introduction to the art and culture of Chinese opera. A look at the costumes, gestures, movements, and the symbolism of the makeup. Includes an excerpt in full costume and makeup of a traditional Cantonese Opera.



What man really seeks is not
perfection which is in the future,
**but fulfillment which is ever
in the present.**

- N. Sri Ram



Tuesday, 7 August

9.00—9.20 am **Meditation**

9.30—10.30 am **LECTURE**

**Contemplative Living
in the Modern World**

Linda Oliveira, Australian Section

11.00—12 noon **LEARN ABOUT**

Theosophy.World

*Richard Sell and John Vorstermans,
New Zealand Section*

3.30—4.30 pm **GIVE INPUT**

The Future is Now

Discussions in rotating circles with a host

5.00—6.00 pm **TALK**

TOS Yesterday—Today—Tomorrow

Nancy Secrest, TS Headquarters, Adyar

TIP-TALK

**Conscious, Subconscious and
Unconscious Mind in our Daily Life**

Pradeep Gohil, Indian Section

FREE EVENING

LECTURE

Contemplative Living in the Modern World

Mrs Linda Oliveira, General Secretary, Australian Section



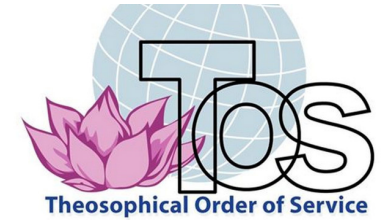
For many centuries, cloistered communities in the East and West have been the primary centres of contemplative living. Fewer such communities exist today, yet many people with similar inclinations are functioning in the everyday world. What is contemplation? What does it mean to adopt a contemplative life? And how is it possible to live in such a way within the contemporary world?



Theosophical Order of Service: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Ms Nancy Secret, TOS International Secretary, Adyar

From its founding by Annie Besant in 1908 the Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) has been putting the First Object of the Theosophical Society into action every day. Implicit in the word “Brotherhood”, as used in the First Object, is the Oneness of all life. As Annie Besant said: “There is no ‘other’ in this world. Each is a separate form, but one spirit lives and moves in all.” Today, as yesterday, in ways large and small, TOS workers are devoting their lives to the service of other sentient beings and to the planet itself. We’ll take a look at some of these efforts. What will tomorrow bring? How will this changing world affect our endeavors? Will they bring positive changes to the world? Maybe, but they will certainly bring changes to the worlds of those we serve.



Conscious, Subconscious and Unconscious Mind in our Daily Life

Mr Pradeep Gohil, General Secretary, Indian Section

The conscious mind is responsible for logic and reasoning. Its two unique functions, which help in achieving our goals are: a) Its ability to direct focus and b) Its ability to imagine that which is not real --- visualization.

The subconscious mind is in charge of one's recent memories, it is in continuous contact with the resources of the unconscious mind, and can react spontaneously.

The unconscious mind is the storehouse of all memories and past experiences which form our beliefs, habits, and behaviours. It constantly communicates with our conscious mind through the subconscious mind, but needs a trigger.

Practicing creative visualization and constantly remaining conscious can change our thinking patterns, resulting in our meditation becoming effective and effortless, facilitating our progress on the path of evolution.



LEARN ABOUT

Theosophy.World

- Online Theosophical Resources Centre

*Mr Richard Sell and Mr John Vorstermans, New Zealand Section
Creators and Administrators of the site*

In this session we take a closer look at the wonderful online resource centre, called <theosophy.world>. This is a great site to “explore” for all your important theosophical resources ranging from articles to videos, and ebooks to photo galleries.

<theosophy.world> links you to other useful sites and centres to become a truly central place to start your search from.

We will guide you through the site looking at how to get around and how easy it is to download an eBook or two. This fabulous resource is available for members and the public alike, and so this session is all about how to make the best use of it, hear about the most popular content, and to explore perhaps some of its less well-known sections.

We will also ask you to share what you are interested in seeing added to the portal and we will update you about the site’s future plans.

<theosophy.world> is an exciting development in the promulgation of theosophy and spreading the message of the Ancient Wisdom teachings .

Wednesday, 8 August

9.00—9.20 am **Meditation**

9.30—10.30 am **GRAND DISCUSSION WITH Q&A PANEL**

Short reports from three Explore groups

Q&A with a Panel

Session led by Renée Sell,

New Zealand Section

Our Work in the 21st Century



Mr Vic Hao Chin, Jr, Philippines Section

Almost one and a half century has passed since the founding of the Theosophical Society. We need to ask how relevant the TS is to the problems of individuals and the world on a global scale. Are we getting relatively weaker? What should be our thrust in order that theosophical wisdom will become part of social and global change?”

11.00—12 noon **LECTURE**

1.00 pm

HALF DAY OUTING

Discover the beautiful city of Singapore

Tour starts from Ramada Hotel

8.00—10 pm

CLOSING

Closing words with gala dinner

Musical performance arranged by
Singapore Lodge

HALF DAY OUTING

Participants will be guided to discover the beautiful city of Singapore and enjoy its many multicultural delights.



CLOSING AND GALA DINNER

Closing program with gala dinner.

Musical performance arranged by Singapore Lodge.



Boyd, Tim , International President of the TS, USA & Adyar

Calvi, Patrizia, Secretary, Italian Section

Chin, Vic Hao, Jr, Former General Secretary, Philippines Section

Chong, Lily, Secretary, Singapore Lodge

Gohil, Pradeep, General Secretary, Indian Section

Leys, Wim, General Secretary, Dutch Section, the Netherlands

Lile, Minor, American Section

Lindemann, Ricardo, Former General Secretary, Brazilian Section

NG, Ay Na, President of the Selangor Lodge, Malaysia

Oliveira, Linda, General Secretary, Australian Section

Oliveira, Pedro, Education Coordinator, Australian Section

Padhi, Deepa, International Vice-President of the TS, Indian Section

Petter, Clemice, Head of Editorial Department, Adyar

Resende, Isis de, President, Inter-American Federation, Brazil

Resende, Marcos de, Former General Secretary, Brazilian Section

Rijneker, Els, Former General Secretary, Dutch Section, the Netherlands

Sanne, Chong, Presidential Representative of East and Southeast Asia, President of the Singapore Lodge

Secret, Nancy, TS International Treasurer, Adyar, TOS International Secretary

Sell, Renée, New Zealand Section

Sell, Richard, New Zealand Section

Trân-Thi, Kim-Diêu, President, European Federation, France

Umbjarv, Krista, Secretary, European Federation, Estonia/France

Vieten, Cassandra, Guest Speaker, President, Institute of Noetic Sciences, California, USA

Vorstermans, John, General Secretary, New Zealand Section



Singapore Botanical Garden



World Congresses held so far:

- Paris (1921)
- Adyar (Jubilee Congress 1925)
- Chicago (1929)
- Geneva (1936)
- Salzburg (1966)
- New York (1975)
- Nairobi (1982)
- Brasilia (1993)
- Sydney (2001)
- Rome (2010)
- Singapore (2018)

Three Objects of the Theosophical Society

The Theosophical Society was formed in New York on 17 November 1875, and incorporated at Chennai (Madras) on 3 April 1905. Its three declared Objects are :

- To form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour.
- To encourage the study of Comparative Religion, Philosophy and Science.
- To investigate unexplained laws of Nature and the powers latent in man.