

Respected TAGA members and Guests,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Annual General Body Meeting 2006 of TAGA, on this virtual platform.

For many of us who passed out in the 70's and earlier, there was very little contact with TKMCE and its Alumni Association ever since we left the College. Now, through TAGA, it is like 'getting transported back in Time' when we meet our old friends and teachers on the Internet.

A corollary to the popular saying "Necessity is the mother of invention", in our case, "the invention of Internet fulfilling the necessity of Global Alumni meetings from the privacy and convenience of one's PC."

Founder of TKMCE, late Thangal Kunju Musaliar's philanthropic activities is an example to emulate. Does it not give us all a great feeling of pride that we are all a part of the Great TKMCE Alumni Community?

At the Silver Jubilee reunion of my batch (1978), Prof. P.O.J. Lebba advised us: "Try to remember only the good things that happened during your College days, and try not to remember other stuff".

This is in line with the following lines written by a malayalam writer- "Kaalathinte neelakkayathil mungi thappuvaan naamum theerumaanichu kazhinjaal, pinne namukku vendathu muthukalum pazizhangalumaaanu, chappum chavarrumalla (When we decide to dive into and search the floor of the blue ocean of time, what we should search for must be pearls and corals, and not Trash).

Rock-solid foundation for TAGA was built with a constitution drawn up by notable members like Prof. Muhammed Basheer of 81 batch, KPSA Pookoya Thangal of 68 batch and George Varghese of 96 batch.

We went through a lot of growing pains and Learning Curve in the past two years, and now are more stabilized and settled.

Our home list of 1048 members - TAGA@Yahoogroups - is kept moderated for obvious reasons, but the General Body list - TAGA\_GB@Yahoogroups - is kept moderated only to prevent viruses.

However, the Open Forum list - Taga-openforum@Yahoogroups - is

unmoderated, and anyone can publish his/her opinion in this forum of most active members of TAGA.

Our member representation is truly global, both in the General Body and the Steering Committee, except the fact that, there is no representation from Europe in the TAGA Steering Committee. As the outgoing Chair Person, I request Prof. Muhammed Basheer of Queens University, Belfast, Ireland to rescind his earlier decision, and be part of the TAGA Management.

A lot of potential future TAGA members are apparently watching and 'testing the waters before taking the plunge'. I hope they are convinced enough now to take that final step in joining TAGA and contributing to fulfil our objectives.

Let each one of us take an oath that we will not rest until all the Alumni from TKMCE are located, wherever they are on the Globe, and brought under the umbrella of TAGA. It is not that difficult, considering the fact that my batch members succeeded in locating and documenting all the 1978 batch members.

I would like to mention the ongoing debate about the co-existence of TAGA with TEAA, (TKM Engineering Alumni Association). Into its third year, TAGA is now a reality, which cannot be ignored or avoided.

Quoting from the recent speech of the incoming General Secretary of TAGA, "we are willing to work together with any chapter or association on any project aimed at improving the quality of education and infrastructure at TKMCE, and welfare of students and alumni, without any prejudice". Let me also inform you that incidentally, 4 of the TEAA Executive Committee members are also TAGA Steering Committee members, which shows that TAGA has no conflict with TEAA.

Let me thank you all for the support you have given us during the past two years. My best wishes to the new team of Office Bearers. Let us support and encourage them to take TAGA to newer heights in the years and decades to come.

Jacob Thomas

**Chairperson 2005-06**

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