

## *Editorial Note*

**W**elcome to the inaugural edition of Sangam Maala, a quarterly e-magazine from Sangam e.V, an organization based in Leipzig, Germany. In the moments of Sangam stepping into its third year by celebrating its second anniversary on March 18, 2009, the first edition of Sangam Maala was planned to be issued in April 2009. In the past two years, as a cultural organization, Sangam has been an exciting platform for both students and professionals from various cultural backgrounds to express and exhibit their art and craft.

Every platform has its own dimensions, which are often not bounded and can be broadened. Depending upon the scope of the organization and the motivation levels of its team, there is always a chance to add just another dimension to it. Sangam too has added to itself, another facet in the form of an e-magazine, Sangam Maala. Since the start of our organization in March 2007 to the latest initiative of Sangam Maala, it has been an eventful journey for our entire team.

Maala, in Sanskrit language, means garland. Flowers of different kind can be bunched together to compose a beautiful garland. On the similar lines, views and opinions of people from different cultures can be bundled together to compound an elucidative publication, for each quarter of the year, as Sangam Maala. In this age of rapid changes in social dynamics, people often desire to share their views and opinions on a regular basis. So it is important for socio-cultural organizations to provide platforms that suit the needs and necessities of local communities. Sangam Maala is one such platform where anybody, who is interested in any aspect of South Asian and European cultures, can voice their opinion in a profound manner. Expression of thought is best articulated when one has the freedom to use a language of one's choice. German being the local language, and English being the lingua franca for international students and professionals, the contributors of Sangam Maala have the freedom to chose either of these two languages to articulate their works. The original versions of the authors' contributions will be published to preserve their authenticity, which means the audience can expect Sangam Maala in a delicate mix of German and English languages depending upon the author's choice.

It is our modest hope that Sangam Maala would act as a catalyst in a humble way, not only for the enthusiastic writers who want to showcase their aptitude, or share their experiences, in wide ranging areas such as literature, sociology, religion, politics, science & technology, sports, entertainment, photography, travelogues, cookery etc., but also for the interested readers who want to explore the alternative views that might not necessarily comply with the opinion in vogue projected by the mainstream media. We wish that our efforts will benefit us all in a constructive manner. We look forward to hear from you, and your feedback would always be critical for us in shaping our content and editorial policies.

-Vigneshwaran Namasivayam

## **Editorial Team**

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