



Conference Closing Remarks

We are approaching the end of the Conference. It has been a weekend full of love, sharing, inspiration and the renewal of commitment to take the Sai Education mission further. This venue, the Sai School, is a landmark collective achievement of the Sai Organisation of Australia, a source of pride and joy and a concrete manifestation of the resolve to establish the Sathya Sai model of Education on Australian soil.

I want to thank all of you for making this a successful Conference. Your enthusiasm, your dedication, your devotion to Sai and His teachings is the engine of all that has been achieved at this Conference. Before the formal vote of thanks by the next speaker I want to personally express my gratitude to the Organising Committee for all their hard work and marvellous performance throughout the weekend. The hospitality and the food that has been served with so much love have both been excellent. I want to thank all the presenters for their contributions given with so much love and dedication. Through the presentation not only have we reviewed and evaluated what we have done in the past but the exchange of ideas, the mutual stimulation through the discussions both formal and informal, and the quality of presentations have given fresh directions to the active workers for future areas of Sai Education.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the alumni and the faculty members of the ISSE not only for the presentations at this Conference but for year round intellectual support, discussions, teaching and dedication to Sathya Sai Education. The success of this Conference is in a significant measure from the enthusiastic work in Sai Education in the ISSE hubs in Melbourne, in Sydney, here in Murwillumbah, in Perth and in the U-Turn Training School in Gympie. Let us all join together to express our special appreciation for the overseas delegates from New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore and Hong Kong for their insightful contributions and enthusiastic participation. They have come from far to inspire us and to renew our enthusiasm. Enjoyment, renewal of enthusiasm, new directions, new ideas and deeper personal ties are some of the benefits of a Conference like this. You will agree that all these have been achieved admirably at this Conference.

The main conclusion from the various papers and workshops presented at this Conference is that though the world is undoubtedly going through turbulent and challenging times in many areas of human endeavour, Sathya Sai Education is the specific solution to them all. Every single presentation started with acknowledging that the challenges are real and have to be acknowledged, but every single presentation concluded that none of the challenges are insurmountable. Most of the presentations focussed not on short term solutions and quick fixes, but on providing humanity with

the means to find lasting solutions that will create a new and enduring civilisation that will last for many centuries to come. This is because not only does Sathya Sai Education endow us with an optimistic outlook grounded in spirituality but on sustainability. Sathya Sai Education is based on elevating the consciousness of humanity as the main driver of change that is needed at the present time. Therefore to the question whether we can solve these various global challenges that face us and evolve a better civilisation, the answer is an unequivocal “Yes! We can!!” and we can do so with Sathya Sai Education in Human Values.

Almost every presentation emphasised that the challenges are from the lack of focus on Human Values and that to find solutions we need to bring a fresh focus on a philosophy of life, in this case Sathya Sai philosophy, to spiritualise our lives, our thoughts and daily actions and through these our homes, our workplaces, our commerce, our environment, our government and trades. We need to recapture the essence that everything in our life is sacred whether it is animate or inanimate, vegetable or animal or human. At an individual level this means that we have to develop a new way of looking at the creation, at our resources and the current commercial emphasis on consumption. This begins with monitoring our thoughts and desires and our feelings and actions. We have to become aware of the vagaries of our minds and consciously work with the dynamics of transformation processes that are at the heart of Sathya Sai Education.

As I said at the beginning of this Conference Sathya Sai Philosophy makes absolutely no distinction between philosophy and the actual lived life. It is of no value to know that we are wasteful, or that we pollute or that our educational system is in need of serious reform. Unless we implement the Sai philosophy in our everyday thinking, feelings and actions, moment by moment, each moment – whether at home, in the shopping centre or driving or at work there will be no solution. This means if we recognise we are wasteful we need to stop that, if we acknowledge we are consuming excessively then we need to stop that and if we sense that our educational system is in need of reform then we work to create a better system. Adopting Sai philosophy is a momentous training of the heart and mind. In this regards both the Sai Organisation and the ISSE are in essence training Organisations. They are for the training of the mind and heart. Indeed this inner transformation that Sathya Sai Baba advocates through Sathya Sai Education is the very foundation of raising the level of consciousness of humanity and establishing a new set of values as the roots of a new civilisation that is both spiritual and practical.

Since 24th April this year it is clear that Sai Baba has given His teachings in full. They have ranged over the whole spectrum of human experience. They have the power not only to transform our lives individually, but to enrich immeasurably all around us, create joy and happiness, make our family lives rewarding, our communities and societies strong and our planet a more congenial and sustainable place. Indeed His teachings give each one of us the means to liberate ourselves and attain the very goal of life. So the question is not about the benefits of His teachings, but how are we prepared to understand and live our lives in accordance with the teachings.

In the Sai Organisation some of you may recall we had some 15 years ago Sai Awareness and Sai Vision programs initiated at the national level. These programs were based directly on His teachings. They were very powerful in deepening the understanding, in creating unity and in spiritualising lives. In the last decade or so this foundational strength was further enhanced by the ISSE through the Diploma program which has been awarded to over 200 students in Australia and in some overseas

countries. Many of the Diploma holders as alumni of the ISSE are playing vital roles in the Sai Organisation as office bearers and as trainers and facilitators in the hubs of the ISSE. Now they are poised to launch the Introductory Course in Sathya Sai Education in Human Values. This course is open to all the devotees or even to the non-devotees who wish to find out more about Sathya Sai Education. This Introductory Course will lead to Intermediate Course and then to the Diploma Course. The syllabus of these courses has been designed by the Education Committee of the World Foundation. These courses will be available from early next year. The question I want to ask the Sai Organisation is what you can do to interest the devotees in these courses. The course material, the delivery and the standards of the courses will be overseen by the ISSE in Canberra but for the benefit of the devotees they will be delivered by the hubs in the various cities right around Australia.

There are two programs of the ISSE currently being delivered by the alumni trained as facilitators – the Dynamic Parenting Program and the STP. Both have proved to be very transformative programs. I believe that we need to recognise that the devotees benefit spiritually greatly from a deeper understanding of Sathya Sai's teachings. At present we have a very large number of activities in the Sai Centres in education, service and devotion and all these are very good activities but they do create challenges for the devotees in allocating priorities. However, recognising that the Sai Organisation is a training Organisation in which the emphasis on understanding of teachings and transformation is vital for the inauguration of a new era of Human Values we need to review the priorities.

On another matter I would like to clarify the role of the hubs of the ISSE as opposed to the role of the alumni who are not actively following up on their Diploma with further training through attending the regular meetings of the hubs. . May I appeal to the alumni who are not currently playing active role in the hubs to please become more active in the regular meetings and activities in your local hub. The trainers in the hubs are being prepared to run the Introductory Course and other activities that will be initiated by the ISSE. The training teams have been trained very well and I have every confidence that they will do an excellent job of training SSE teachers, launching the Introductory Course and in Parenting and the STP. The strength of each team depends on the love, dedication and commitment to Sathya Sai's teaching in everyday life and in all the activities in the hubs. Turning to the alumni, the new Chair of the alumni, Sister Padma Ayyagari will no doubt come up with interesting initiatives for the alumni in SSEHV initiatives. She has worked very closely with the ISSE for many years and at the ISSE we all look forwards to continuing this mutually rewarding association into the future.

Finally the Resolutions of this Conference:

- Supervised by the ISSE, SSE teacher training will commence with the Introductory Course in all the hubs from the beginning of 2012. The Introductory Course is open to all the devotees and the Sai Organisation will disseminate information via its network to all the devotees
- The focus on the environment, the five elements, educare and Baba's teachings has led to requests for greater environmental awareness both for the Sai devotees and for the SSE children. Our Brother Sivakumaran has agreed to prepare appropriate material for enhancing this focus for the ISSE.

- In collaboration with a Registered Training Organisation, PMV, ISSE will train trainers in the Brisbane and Perth and ensure nationally recognised qualification (Certificate IV in Training and Assessment) for the trainers. Nationally this will bring the total of 65 Trainers. This will make the ISSE and the Sai Organisation have probably the best trained and skilled set of trainers in the world.
- In collaboration with the ISSE Padma Ayyagari will identify new initiatives of the alumni in SSEHV Projects.

May I close with a final request to all the presenters: Please submit your full text of the presentation as soon as possible. All these presentations will be placed on the ISSE and Sathya Sai Organisation website as "Proceedings of the Education Conference, 2011."

Thank you once again – delegates, organisers, alumni, ISSE and Sai School staff for giving us a memorable Sai Education Conference, 2011! Sai Ram!!

Presented by:

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