

March 2019



Dear supporters of *Friends of Madurai Seed (FMS)*

2018 was another year of achievements at Madurai Seed, and I'd like to take this opportunity to outline both the events of the year and the prospects for 2019 and beyond. I've also included the end-of-year balance sheet prepared by Martin, our Treasurer.

In February 2019, I made my annual visit to Madurai Seed, and spent a very productive nine days there, running two workshops for volunteers and teachers, and also taking part in numerous planning and administrative meetings. Some of the issues that we discussed are outlined below.

The latest enrolment figures show 180 children and young people taking part in classes at Madurai Seed in Karumbalai, with another 240 being taught in two nearby off-site locations (Sevalayam and Nandanar hostels). There are 20 volunteer teachers in all, plus 5 other teaching staff. In 2018, the pass rate in both the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standard examinations was 100%: 20 youngsters passed the 10<sup>th</sup> standard exam, and 19 passed the 12<sup>th</sup> standard exam.

Madurai Seed now reaches about 2,000 children around Madurai through workshops, festivals etc, in collaboration with other organizations such as Nandavanam from Chennai. This is an ongoing development, and illustrates how Madurai Seed is growing as an NPO in and around Madurai. Other NGOs and NPOs are now contacting Madurai Seed for advice and guidance in setting up similar projects elsewhere.

During 2018, the children and young people participated in a number of cultural and educational activities at the weekends and during the school holidays. Some attracted the attention of the press, including prestigious English-language newspapers such as *The Hindu* and *The New Indian Express*. You can read their reports by going to our new FMS web site at [www.friendsofmaduraiseed.org](http://www.friendsofmaduraiseed.org)

One key development for 2019 concerns classroom premises. Madurai Seed urgently needs a second building in Karumbalai, with at least two floors of available space, in order to provide the evening programme of classes for the twelve standards (school years) more comfortably. At present, up to four classes are held in each room, which is clearly not ideal. The rental cost for a second property would be about CHF 2,100 a year. An alternative, if it arises, is to take out a lease: this would be a single payment of about CHF 14,200, about 95% of which is returned at the end of the lease. (This is a large sum: we would try to set up a crowd-funding scheme if such a lease became available.

Another potential project is buying a plot of land outside Karumbalai and building a "rural centre" for weekend and school holiday activities. It would not replace the Karumbalai premises: the children would continue to have their regular evening classes from Monday to Friday in Karumbalai itself. This would be a far more expensive and ambitious project, and is obviously dependent on suitable and affordable land being found. If this does occur, we would clearly need to set up a crowd-funding scheme to help to raise the money.

A third development is providing support for young people who successfully pass the 12<sup>th</sup> standard college matriculation examination and who want to go on to college to study for a BA or BSc. An undergraduate scholarship comes to Rs 30,000 (CHF 430) per student for the three years. Furthermore, Madurai Seed also tries to help students after their graduation: a two-year post-graduate scholarship, such as a BEd in order to become a teacher is considerably more expensive, at Rs 150,000 (CHF 2,100) per student for the two years.

To support student scholarships, we have created a new brochure that outlines the various options for sponsorship: you can view and/or download it in pdf format on the FMS web site. There is also a special sponsorships page on our web site. If you are interested in any of these sponsoring options, please do contact us for more information.

Several teachers from Switzerland went over to teach and give workshops at Madurai Seed in 2018 and early 2019: Andrea in July 2018, Katrin and Urs in January 2019, and Keith and Nick, also in January 2019. Andrea has written a very helpful report on her experiences, combined with a diary of her visit. You can download her report from the FMS web site.

As mentioned above, we have updated the FMS web site: [www.friendsofmaduraiseed.org](http://www.friendsofmaduraiseed.org)  
The new site has more documents such as annual reports and press articles that you can view and/or download, a News page that is regularly updated, more photos, and other links.

Once again, the Committee of *Friends of Madurai Seed* join me in thanking you for your support and donations over the past year, and we hope that we can count on your support in the coming year too. Madurai Seed celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 - its continued success and growth could not be achieved without you.

With best wishes

John Potts  
President, *Friends of Madurai Seed*  
[www.friendsofmaduraiseed.org](http://www.friendsofmaduraiseed.org)

Appendix: 2018 end-of-year balance for *Friends of Madurai Seed*

### **Buchhaltung 2018**

Vermögen	
Eröffnung 1.1.18	<b>245'060.58</b>
Abschluss 31.12.18	<b>229'572.32</b>
<i>Reinverlust per 31.12.18</i>	<b>15'538.26</b>

1 Ertrag	
<b>Total Gutschriften 2018</b>	<b>8'940.00</b>
- Beiträge und private Spenden	7'940.00
- Beiträge von Stiftungen	0.00
- KFR/KmS	1'000.00
- Zinsabschluss	0.00

2 Aufwand	
<b>Total Lastschriften 2018</b>	<b>24'478.26</b>
- Administration (Internet, Porti etc)	234.10
- Druck/Werbung	139.60
- Postkontoverwaltung	137.30
- Banküberweisung an Madurai Seed	21'617.26
- Überweisung in Bar an Madurai Seed	0.00
- Ausgabe vor Ort (Madurai)	0.00
- Reisespesen Indien	2'350.00