

20 January 2018



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

In this letter, I shall outline some of the main developments at Madurai Seed during 2017 and include the end-of-year balance sheet prepared by Martin, our Treasurer.

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The latest enrolment figures show some 165 children and young people taking part in classes at Madurai Seed in Karumbalai, with another 190 or so being taught in two nearby off-site locations (Sevalayam and Nandanar hostels). There are 24 volunteer teachers in all, of whom 9 are young women.

One major development is the implementation of regular English classes for the volunteers, taught by Elaa, Karthik's wife. It is clearly very important to raise the standard of English among the volunteers as much as possible, and Elaa's classes are instrumental in helping to achieve this goal.

Since our letter in June, in addition to the regular classes, more events have taken place at Madurai Seed, either in Karumbalai or at the new Thedalgal Resource Center on the outskirts of Madurai. These events often include visiting speakers, whether local, national or international, and so the children and young people widen their experience in a way inconceivable without the help of an organisation like Madurai Seed.

During the summer of 2017, summer camps out in the countryside were organized for the children, in collaboration with CESCO (Centre for Experiencing Socio-Cultural Interaction), with a focus on traditional food, games, culture and art. These attracted some attention from local media and press, which can only add to the local presence and reputation of Madurai Seed.

December 2017 saw more workshops at the Thedalgal Resource Center to mark Madurai Seed's 19th anniversary. In Karthik's words: *Margazhi Utsav ran various activities for the children and young people, including an art carnival, photo expo, story-telling event, songs and music, children's plays, and kolam competition. The theme was mainly to show the skills of children and young people to the public.*

Keith Rossborough, an English teacher from the Zurich area, visited again in early January, and two training programs were organized at Thedalgal resource center for MS young people, along with a two-day workshop for school teachers and education college students from Madurai. A workshop on "Art for Change" connected young people from various colleges. At the Sevalayam hostel (see above), theatre plays by children and young people from Madurai Seed were staged.

Again, in Karthik's words: *we had good opportunities to work with other organizations and the general public. MS people were given exposure in such a way which showed their talents to their parents too.*

You can also view some short videos via Madurai Seed's Facebook link:

<https://www.facebook.com/askarthikbharathi/videos/1563149060434011/>
<https://www.facebook.com/askarthikbharathi/videos/1575879022494348/>

And more videos can be viewed on Madurai Seeds YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/maduraiseed1999/videos>

In February 2018, Laura and I shall be returning to Madurai Seed for our annual visit. We are currently arranging the programme, and shall report back to you after our return.

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.

With best wishes

John Potts
President, *Friends of Madurai Seed*

Appendix: 2017 end-of-year balance for *Friends of Madurai Seed*

Friends of Madurai Seed 2017

Buchhaltung 2017

Vermögen		
Eröffnung 1.1.17		258'489.68
Abschluss 31.12.17		245'060.58
<i>Reinverlust per 31.12.17</i>		13'429.10
1. Ertrag		
Total Gutschriften 2017		20'460.00
- Beiträge und private Spenden	14'460.00	
- Beiträge von Stiftungen	1'000.00	
- KFR/KmS	5'000	
- Zinsabschluss	0.00	
2. Aufwand		
Total Lastschriften 2017		33'889.10
- Administration (Internet, Porti etc.)	375.70	
- Postkontoverwaltung	85.85	
- Versammlungen	0.00	
- Banküberweisung an Madurai Seed	31'607.55	
- Spesen Madurai (Flug)	1820.00	