

## The 139<sup>th</sup> International Convention

### Report

The 139<sup>th</sup> International Convention of the Theosophical Society took place from 26 to 31 December, 2014, at the International Headquarters of the TS in Adyar, Chennai, India. The theme of the first Convention with Tim Boyd being the International President, was “Theosophy in a Changing World”. There were around 1200 participants from 31 countries.

The Convention began with the traditional recitation of the prayers of the religions, as well as the Invocation to the Unity, and was followed by the Presidential Address. Tim Boyd gave an overview of the activities of the Sections and groups around the world in 2014, noting that the highlight of the year had been the 37<sup>th</sup> European Congress in Paris.

The programme of the Convention comprised talks, lectures and various additional cultural and other activities. The speakers addressed the theme of the Convention from various angles. The International President stressed the transformative aspect of Theosophy, pointing out that in the present day, and now even more than ever, there is a need for aware individuals and for an organization that supports that awareness.

Altogether there were 22 speakers, including 8 from the European Sections. The Chairperson of the EFTS and General Secretary (GS) of the French Section, Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu spoke about “The Challenge of Wisdom”. Marja Artamaa, EFTS Treasurer and International Secretary, spoke about “Principles of the Higher Life”. EFTS Executive Committee member and GS of the Dutch Section, Els Rijnaker delved into the theme “Brotherhood, a Fact and a Challenge”. Sabine Van Osta, also EFTS Executive Committee member and GS of the Belgian Section, delved into “Beacons for a World in Motion: A Clear Mind, a Pure Heart”. Angels Torra, GS of the Spanish Section, spoke about “Theosophy in Daily Life”. Colin Price, GS of the English Section, covered the theme of the Convention by exploring the subject “The Cycle of Life”. Jacques Mahnich, President of St Jean Lodge (Paris, France) delivered the annual Theosophy-Science lecture on “Transcending Science - A New Dawn”.

Between lectures and talks, the participants could visit Adyar institutions: the Theosophical Publishing House; the Bookshop; the Museum to view various objects well-known in the theosophical history, like the saucer and the cup materialized by HPB, etc.; Olcott Memorial High School to attend cultural activities and an exhibition; and the Social Welfare Centre which runs a nursery school for small children. The Vocational Training Centre and the Beauty Without Cruelty had their stalls at the Convention to sell various products.

This year’s Convention was a special one as for the first time all talks and lectures (including the Opening and Closing programmes) were live-streamed and can be now watched at [videos.ts-adyar.org](http://videos.ts-adyar.org).