

## Tamil youth come together to chart their future

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THE National University of Singapore Tamil Language Society (NUS TLS) organised its biennial Singapore Tamil Youth Conference on July 21 and 22.

It brought together about 100 people aged 17 to 25 who engaged in discussions on issues pertaining to the community.

Themed “Contextualising the Past and Charting the Future”, the conference focused on arts and education. Delegates analysed issues and came up with recommendations to mitigate them. There were also panel discussions where experts shared their insights and opinions.

One group came up with the idea of implementing a common calendar for Tamil organisations in relation to community events and making it available to the public. Another suggested making Tamil widely available in nurseries.

The problems faced by Tamil stage productions – such as funding and a lack of publicity – were also discussed. One group sug-

gested setting up a body represented by theatre production companies.

The solutions were presented to Mr Vikram Nair, the guest of honour and Member of Parliament for Sembawang GRC who is also the vice-chairman of Reach, the government’s feedback unit.

Later, during a dialogue session, moderated by NUS TLS alumnus Jayasutha Samuthiran, delegates got the opportunity to pose questions on government policies to Mr Nair.

The MP, who is also the Chairman of the Tamil Language Learning and Promotion Committee of the Ministry of Education, urged the community to work together for the language to thrive.

He reiterated that, since Indians are a small community, they have to help and support each other.

Although there are government policies which support various initiatives, the community’s support is also crucial.

**Irshath Mohamed**