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New England Tamil Sangam
New Jersey Tamil Sangam
New Jersey Tamil Arts & Cultural Society
New Jersey Tamil Sangam
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Tamil Sangam of Los Angeles
Tampa Tamil Association of USA
Tennessee Tamil Sangam
Thamizh Sangam of Missouri
Wisconsin Tamil Sangam

July 3, 2006 – New York

Resolution
ON THE CRISIS OF TAMIL COMPUTING ENCODING

WHEREAS, The crisis of Tamil computing encoding impacts and will continue to impact millions of Tamil speaking people in many different ways; and

WHEREAS, Tamils have responsibilities for the continuity and effective use of the Tamil language using modern technology; and

WHEREAS, As part of the Indian nation, the Tamil Nadu government is under constitutional mandate to respect the national standards and the international standards that the Government of India recognizes, but at the same time, Tamils have a right to expect the both the State and Union Governments to address the unique needs of the Tamil language and its speakers throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, as users of modern technologies for information storage and communication in the Tamil language we are concerned about the correct application of the technology for Tamil language; and

WHEREAS, the Tamil Unicode segment as it stands today is designed primarily for the Devanagari based Indic languages; and

WHEREAS, the Tamil Nadu Government, through the agency of Tamil Virtual University, has created a better encoding for Tamil using the all character encoding known as TUNE (Tamil Unicode New Encoding);

WHEREAS, this TUNE encoding needs the endorsement and support of the Union Government of India; and

WHEREAS, the union government's inability to resolve the Tamil encoding crisis amicably, has caused severe consternation among the users of Tamil language on the internet and computers and has led to the crisis we now face; and

WHEREAS, The union and state government have not only failed to agree on a computer encoding standard for Tamil but failed to enforce the various competing standards in government documents. archives as well as Tamil based internet web pages in India; and

WHEREAS, The governments have failed to adequately represent the concerns of the Tamils to the Unicode Consortium and other international bodies and multinational corporations; and

WHEREAS, These encoding standards will have a great impact on the archives of billions of government records that are being digitized; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED. That the delegates to the Federation of Tamil Associations of North America Convention meeting in New York, New York, July 3, 2006, urge the Union Government of India and the State Government of Tamil Nadu, to recognize the TUNE encoding as the standard 16-bit encoding for Tamil Language; and be it further

RESOLVED. That we urge the Union Government of India and the State Government of Tamil Nadu to enforce the TUNE encoding as the Indian national standard for Tamil 16-bit encoding in a way that will restore trust among the Tamil speakers; and be it further

RESOLVED. That we urge the Union government of India to enforce the TUNE encoding in all the Tamil software that is sold to the Central and State Governments of India; and be it further

RESOLVED. That we urge Tamil language users on computers and internet to follow the TUNE encoding as a standard in their use of Tamil in computers.

Sincerely,
Thilai K Kumaran
President