

Thank You



Remembering
The Late Prof. Dr. Ganakumaran Subramaniam
(1958-2021)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Past President of MELTA (2008-2019)





A Tribute to

THE LATE
PROF. DR GANAKUMARAN
SUBRAMANIAM
PAST PRESIDENT OF MELTA

Fondly Remembered by

FRIENDS OF MELTA



His Thoughts about English Language Education...

MELTA places great emphasis on promoting research in English language education and continues to push forward the agenda for objective decision-making based on data, not only for micro-level practices in schools and in the classrooms, but also very importantly, for policies and strategies instituted nationally to direct English language education in the country.

Prof Dr Ganakumaran Subramaniam

Past President of MELTA

2008-2019





As educators, we must continually work not only at developing professional knowledge, skills and judgements, but also at acquiring, updating and honing effective pedagogical craft.

Let the reason for doing all these be the reason why we chose to become teachers in the first place—to make a positive difference to the lives of others.





We risk forsaking the future of our children who struggle to acquire the English language in a context riddled with uncertainty, poor teaching and archaic resources and methodologies. To arrest this situation, we, English language educationists, must strive to come up with innovative and contextually sensitive approaches that not only meet these challenges but also possess the capacity to make learners global in mindset and competence.





MELTA runs literacy competitions called the 'Way With Words' for primary and secondary school students in conjunction with its conference. In addition, MELTA also launched its own CSR initiative called the MELT-A-HEART a programme aimed at assisting literacy development in rural schools through a book donation programme.





English language teaching fraternity bids farewell to outstanding teacher, mentor

Malaysian English language teachers and generations of students mourned the passing of Professor Dr Ganakumaran Subramaniam, a leading figure in Malaysia's English language teaching landscape. As past president of the Malaysian English Language Teaching Association (MELTA), Professor Gana was dedicated to providing professional development opportunities for English language teachers in Malaysia.

For more than a decade, he chaired an annual international conference on English language education. He was determined that MELTA conferences centre-staged teachers, and he organised them in different parts of the country including Sabah and Sarawak just to ensure that no teacher was deprived of the opportunity to be part of an international gathering of English language teaching professionals.

Unlike other conferences, he ensured that special events such as the Creative Teacher Showcase were included to champion English language teachers, and under his strong leadership, MELTA, Malaysia's only national English language teaching association has grown from strength to strength with over 1,000 members.

He also led an annual donation drive which saw the collection of English language story books which were then distributed to schools in rural parts of Malaysia.

Professor Gana began his career as an English language teacher before joining Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and later, the University of Nottingham Malaysia. Since his passing, the countless messages of condolences from colleagues as well as past and present students on social media sites serve as testimony of the impact he had in their lives as a teacher and mentor. His contributions to the nation must not be forgotten.



*Ramesh Nair
President, MELTA*

Tributes...



I met Dr Gana, his wife Lim and sons Shri and Khrysh in the 1980s, when I used to help out my late husband Basil Srisena Wijayasuria in MELTA activities. During those years and much later, I had the opportunity to work alongside him as part of the MELTA family. Dr. Gana's conference organisation skills are remarkable and I am sure his passing will be felt by all at MELTA.

The Late Elaine Fonseka



My friendship with Gana goes back to 1996, when we were both at the University of Nottingham. We became friends instantly. That's what you did with Gana: you became friends instantly. He was that kind of person. Likeable, generous, affable, nice. This is how I will remember him.
Forever.

Dr Mario Saraceni



*Dr Cheah Swi Ee,
Vice-President I*



Dr Gana will always be remembered as the man who pushed me out of my comfort zone. Years ago he made it possible for me to present in an international conference when I was still doubtful; he persuaded me to join the MELTA committee assuring me. I would get to do what I loved doing. I have not looked back since. Many years later, he was the one who convinced me I could be more than just a lecturer. When I decided to make a switch in my career path, he called to affirm it was a good move and that he knew I would be all right.

In MELTA, he was always there to render support to everyone, including the non-glamorous Special Projects Bureau. In 2008, he gave me the challenge to innovate Way With Words into a more collaborative mode. He ended up working on this challenge with me. In 2019, he gave me another challenge to start the President PBL Competition and again, he was the one who worked this project with me. From securing sponsors and prizes, ensuring a strategic spot for booth set up, checking on venue set up to personally giving words of encouragement to student/children participants, he was always there.

Dr G was a leader to us beyond the professional capacity. He cared for us personally as one fellow human being to another. When my hometown was hit by flood, he called to ask if my parents were all right. When one of my children couldn't find his handphone, he went quietly around searching for it. When I had to relocate for work, he was there to assure me I would have a roof on my head.

We might not always have the smoothest relationship between us but that's what endeared him to me as a fellow human being. For all the greatness I witnessed in him, this was also a man who never stopped giving and pushing himself beyond his limit.

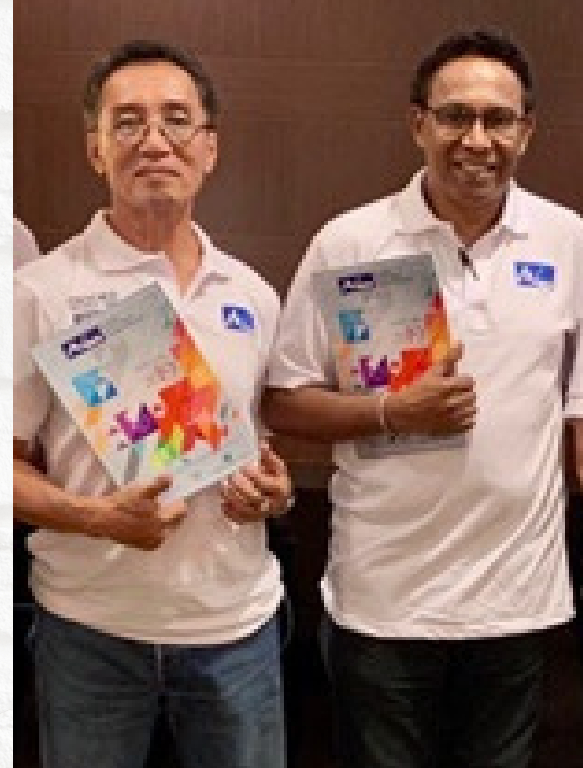
Dr G, your legacy in MELTA lives on and so will the many good memories of whom you had been to us. Thank you for a great adventure filled with possibilities. May your soul find rest among the blessed ones.

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Gratitude to Guru Gana

A point of the Divine's insight coloured lives
in beautiful hues
Pouring into generations of Aku
with knowledge and passion
Walking between times, languages,
and emotions without cessation
Your absence leaves me with a tad of blues

Dr Ali Ahmad



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Dear Guru,

Sometimes, we will remember
the chiding,
Oft times, we will remember
the advice,
Many times, we will think
of the laughing,
Forever, you have enriched our lives.

Your legacy lives on in us...

*Fiona L. Sadagopan
Class of 2002, UKM.*

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Thank You Dr Gana

Dr Gana, thank you for always
caring about my well-being and health.
May your soul rest in peace.

Elizabeth Thor



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I am proud to have been a friend of Dr Gana. My respect for Dr Gana is absolute – I admired him for his academic prowess, charismatic leadership, and the vision he had and achieved for MELTA. His sudden departure is indeed a great loss to the nation and the ELT community globally.

*Datuk Eric Chong, Founder,
Erican Education*



I admired Dr Gana's passion for education and especially his dedication to MELTA. He was never afraid to challenge the status quo when it came to English language education and with his passing, we have lost a strong advocate and voice in this area. Perhaps even unknowingly, his sense of humility, compassion and empathy touched many of us as he celebrated our successes and lent a listening ear to the professional challenge we faced.

Rest in Peace Dr G. You will live on in all the lives you have touched.

Professor Dr Stefanie Shamila Pillai

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The Hollywood Men in Black has gentlemen moving in dramatic action, obviously and often in spectacular, flashy ways. Gana was a different style of man, who often wore black. A fellow wordsmith once remarked "Gana is dressed in black again" to which I replied; 'Some things are constant'. He moved quietly, often behind the scenes and in a measured manner to achieve goals and to build MELTA's influence nationally and across the Asia Pacific.

Professor Dr Stephen J Hall

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Working with Gana in many MELTA events showed me his leadership qualities, resourcefulness and calmness in the midst of crises. But I also fondly remember seeing him pull pranks, crack jokes and unwind in our fun-filled committee ritual volleyball matches at each conference.

He was a father who would iron his sons' clothes if necessary to make sure they looked presentable. A memorable visionary, colleague and family man.

Glad to have known you, my friend.

Datin Dr. Mardziah Hayati Abdullah

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“A true leader who could dream and not make dreams his master, who could think and not make thoughts his aim and who walked with Kings and Queens but never lost his common touch”

Dr Shanthini Pillai

“

“Never judge a book by its cover” is the metaphor that fits Prof Gana perfectly. Looking stern and serious but a warm and friendly human being with a heart of gold. To Prof G, heartfelt gratitude for welcoming me into the MELTA family and giving a lifetime of precious memories.

Dr Souba Rethinasamy

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*Chandrakala Raman,
Director of Chapters*



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Care in Others

Greetings hailed, a burst of cheery banter,
Warm hugs of sincere care,
The smiling eyes, twinkle teasing askance,
Shall we begin....says he,
Forward visions, with new beginnings,
Passion enrolled, to set in motion,
A paradise enacted,
Of talks and shares, insights perceived
And learnings received.
Many enhanced, more advanced
It began with...him,
Arms folded, a firmness observed,
Watchful eyes of kindly care, that...
That all is done, for the best in others.
To this end, it was, it is, it shall always be.
Such was he, who led us.
Now...echoes in treasured memories,
The distinct chuckles, a merriment
Of mirthful thoughts,
The flash of grin at joyful shares,
The kindly eyes, of gentle queries
The guiding spirit for the well-being of others,
Thank you Dr. Gana, guardian to others
A strive it shall be, fare thee well.
A forever friend to one and all.



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Meeting Dr Gana in 2014 has changed my life to a whole new level, personally and professionally. Totally in his blessings and mentorship, I grew to be who I am today and I've learnt abundantly by observing him.

Thurairaja A/L Sunmokasudram

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Thank You for being "A HERO" to many many students kept under your guidance Dr. I have always known you as a "A TOUGH LECTURER" with a "MAGICAL TOUCH" of inspiring n leading every student of yours to their "life direction".

I will never forget each and every occasion I spend going shopping with the most feared lecturer of mine when we became family friends. In many occasions, you helped me n my family lift up.

And from the many, TWO deeds that made my heart sink and my eyes tear are

1. when you drove my hubby to JPN to receive his appointment letter as the SPI head and
2. writing the most precise testimony for Daryll's BAR entry in his University.

Your genuine care for others is "BEYOND" these words that I will remember the rest of my life brother Gana. You have my eternal & deepest THANKS Dr G. "YOU ARE A STAR"



*Maligga Perumal,
Negeri Sembilan
Chapter*



Dr G, thank you for always inspiring me to do my best. Your calming and reassuring voice always made me feel that I could count on you no matter what. I found guidance, warmth and friendship, everything in one person.

And that person was you Dr G.

RIP my Mentor.

From: Nooreen



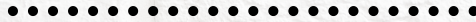
~Gone too soon but always in our hearts~



A friend, a mentor, a leader - gone too fast, too sudden. I remember that day when I received the news that you left us ... but I hope you are at a better place now. You will be remembered always.

Gladys Koshy, Kuala Lumpur Chapter

Dr Teh Pei Ling,
Director of Special Projects



You empowered us
With the power of knowledge
You motivated us
With the best tutelage
You helped us move ahead
With unending motivation
As a leader and a human being
You are a true inspiration
My professional accomplishments
Are a result of your mentorship
A significant part of my professional life
Has been moulded by you
Thank you Gana, you are dearly missed.

Lacey Gregory, Penang Chapter





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Dear Dr Gana,

We celebrate thee for the invaluable gift you have sowed unto us. You made the impossible possible, translating our dreams and ideas into a reality, sharing your views and perspectives and walked us through this enriching journey, transforming us into teachers who make a difference. You have touched our hearts dearly, leaving a beautiful gift of your legacy. In spirit, we shall eternally be one.

Santhi Krishnan, Sandakan Chapter



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I met Dr Gana for the first time in 2019 when I volunteered as an MC at the MELTA conference held in Kuching. Despite our brief encounter, he taught me a lot about addressing royalty & how a formal ceremony held in English should be run. Thank you, sir.

Jarod Yong, Kuching Chapter



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Although unheard, I want to thank you for the motivating messages and advice you'd given me. You always seemed to care, and very supportive particularly in lending a hand to our career advancement. I'm certain that we will always celebrate your lifelong contribution. Thank you for your friendship; it is my privilege to have known and worked with you.

Faith Wong, PPD Kuching



It was an incredible feeling to meet you for the first time at MELTA Conference 2019 in Kuching, Sarawak and I was looking forward to meeting you in 2021. I never knew that it was our last meet-up. It was heartbreaking to know the news about your demise. You were a wonderful educator who helped all your students and I heard many things about your kindness. I am sure no words can replace the sadness of many of us but you are a legend in the education field.

Nirmaladevi Kandasamy, Tawau Chapter





*Noor Azlinda Binti Zainal Abidin,
Kuantan Chapter*



Ease Chang, Kota Kinabalu Chapter



Forever gone but never forgotten...

Dr G, you are a larger than life character to some
and a staunch friend to many who knew you.

May you rest in eternal bliss.

Tam Lye Suan, Treasurer

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I am the person I am today because of you.

Thank you for being a great mentor.

Always and forever in our hearts , Dr Gana.

Dr Subarna Sivapalan, Director of Journals





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