



THE BANGALORE TOASTMASTER

The Newsletter of the Bangalore Toastmasters Club, A Chartered Club of Toastmasters International U.S.A.
July - December 2005 Volume 7 No. 3&4



President's Message

Greetings to my fellow Toastmasters!

It is but natural that mankind hankers for success. But what is success? Different people view success from different angles. What does success connote to a Toastmaster? Perhaps near perfection in communication, effective leadership and progress and prosperity in career and in life.

It is the gift of verbal communication that distinguishes man from other species. Communication skills are one of the key skills in life. Failure to express due to nervousness or timidity, may lead to a dimmed or distorted image.

True leadership is the ability to be a catalyst for change, to improve and persuade people to the righteous path. A leader puts ideas into the peoples' mind and inspires them into action. Empowering one's followers rather than controlling them is the hallmark of true leadership.

We, at Bangalore Toastmasters have been rendering yeomen service in training future citizens in educational institutions to be effective communicators and leaders.

We don't need more strength or more ability or greater opportunity. What we need is to utilize what we have. The Bangalore Toastmasters Club is at your beck and call to hone and harness your latent talent in the right direction.

I convey my heartfelt wishes to one and all for a happy and a prosperous New Year 2006.

Umakanth Vichur

The mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn fosters self-confidence and personal growth.



Tips for Humor in Your Speech

While preparing for a speech, one should make a sincere effort to bring in humor. Following are few tips which could be handy.

1. Never mention that you would like to say a joke. Simply start of with whatever you have to say.
2. Connect the jokes to your speech. Build a background before you narrate the joke which should be somehow connected to your speech.
3. Do remember the jokes which you have already told. (At least do not repeat the jokes for the same audience).
4. Do not use the most popular jokes; chances are that somebody else would have told it earlier when you were not present.
5. Do not laugh after the joke. It looses its effect.

Most importantly, humor is not all about telling a joke. Many funny conversations you happen to listen to when you are at work or party can be used in your speeches to make it humorous. For instance, something I overheard "Will you please send someone to remove that boulder outside our gate, my wife tripped and fell on it last week and now she is pregnant!"

T. H. Somashekar



Editorial

New beginnings! The start of a new year always arouses in people a feeling that new resolutions should be made and stuck to.

At the end of a year, do we look back with regret, remorse or with joy about the things that have been? Do we look back and say 'I should have done this or I should have done that'?

There will always be regrets in life – what is important is that we should learn from our experiences and do things differently. For this year, let the key phrase be 'dare to be different'. Let us stand out in a crowd merely by being different. By this I don't mean, do bizarre things so that you stick out like a sore thumb. Do things in such a way so that people notice you. We have our club to help us with that. So many talented people who are always there to lend a ear and give a helping hand. All you have to do is ask!

Let us not be afraid to seek help when we need it. Embrace change and be different. Nothing remains the same – we are in a constant state of flux and change is inevitable.

For 2006, let us as Toastmasters, dare to be different! Do things differently and don't be afraid to do so. Like I said before, we will learn from our experiences and mistakes.

This is a jumbo issue - thanks to fellow TMs who have contributed articles, photos and snippets, and some experiences of Gavel Toastmaster's Club.

Melvyn Smith

(The editor is an airline executive who has put two decades in the travel field.)



Chairman's Desk

It is with pride I inform you that we have been recognized as a part of the Territorial Council of South Asia. We in India are over 40 clubs strong and the Territory has almost 55 clubs. The last one-year has seen an exponential growth of clubs in the country.

A toastmaster is a member of a Club, Area, Division, District and

Toastmasters International. Recognition as a Territory is the first step to gaining District status.

There is a flow of services, material and programs upward from the Board of Directors through the various echelons of TI to the ultimate beneficiary the individual member. A club has its executive committee like wise an area council comprises of Presidents, VPEs and VPMS. The mission of the area is to provide district control, support and services to the club so that the clubs may in turn fulfill its responsibility to its members. Like wise we have Divisions and Districts.

A club in any part of the geographical boundary of a district will be a part of such a district and no club within the territory shall there after have the right to maintain an independent operation.

For many years we were operating individually as a club. The TI structure offers an opportunity to all its members to lead the club, area, division and district. We learn from other clubs and also are a part of a group of people who operate above the club level. There is a constant need for new leaders and with it opportunities to be leaders of a larger group and the benefits are immense. The inter club activities gives us an opportunity to work in synergy and at the same time offer members a rich learning experience.

It is our endeavor to ensure the TM movement reaches every city in India. This is an opportunity for us to find our voice and serve the world – by better thinking, listening and speaking.

We at the Bangalore Toastmasters club have the largest membership in the country probably in the world too. In the best traditions of toastmasters let us help our members grow and hone their skills, encourage members to start new clubs and take part in the territorial council activities. Let us not forget the goal to be one of the top ten clubs in the world. The new goal in the New Year is to be a top district too.

We are known for the excellent systems we follow in our club; let us work towards excellence in speeches and evaluations.

On behalf of the Territorial council of South Asia I wish you and your family, the best in the New Year.

J B Abraham CTM, CL

Chairman – Territorial Council of South Asia

Lighter Side...

A reporter once said to George Bernard Shaw, "You have a marvelous gift for oratory. How did you develop it?" Shaw replied, "I learned to speak as men learn to skate or cycle, by doggedly making a fool of myself until I got used to it."

A speaker had difficulty with the loud-speaker system. Finally the audio man handed him a note: "We've found what the trouble is. There's a screw loose in the speaker."

Page 3

Happenings . . .

A Youth Leadership Program was held at Gulabi High School, co-ordinated by Sumitra Manamohan. The club organized an Inter-Club contest - "Meet the Press", on 26th August.

Debabratta Dutta & Sumitra Manamohan have been elected as Area Governors.

Intra-club Evaluation contest was held on 16th December.

The members and their families got together on 2nd October for a picnic at Devaraj farms.



Participants of "Meet the Press" contest



Toastmaster's family day out



Variety is the Spice of Life —

At a food banquet, seldom do you find people just looking at the food and not eating it. Why is that so? That's because all of us do feel hungry, if not hunger is induced by the wonderful food. Let's assume that Toastmasters is a food banquet and all the various projects and opportunities are the dishes. How many of us have tried out different dishes at Toastmasters? Well, you might say that I'm attempting projects at my club. That's good, but what about the opportunities that are present in the form of inter-club competitions. These competitions are the true tests for any Toastmaster, because it is here that we can learn, grow and evolve as better speakers. At our club, we get used to the same set of speakers, audience, evaluators and even same ambience and atmosphere! We get into our comfort zones, as a result of which we don't push ourselves to the limit. In this kind of a scenario learning and growth take a beating. Then what is the solution?

The solution is to take part in inter-club competitions. Its here that you will get to hear a variety of speeches from people you don't know and also deliver speeches to an alien audiences which is challenging at the same time very rewarding. The biggest plus is that your self-confidence gets a major boost. You will also get to know the quality of speeches of other clubs, which in turn helps you and you can pass on this benefit to our club. Just imagine if you were given the same dish to eat 365 days in the year! Obviously no can take it. Then why are we having the same dishes at Toastmasters? Friends, its very disheartening to see the lack of enthusiasm when it comes to participating at competitions. For those of us who are less confident remember other club members are human beings and not monsters who will eat us up. If not participate, we could be there and cheer our fellow club members. This way too we get to taste the dishes. Variety is the spice of life and the same holds good at Toastmasters. So go ahead and taste all the wonderful dishes at Toastmasters.

S. M. Vijay Anand



Transformation through Outbound Learning

“The illiterate of the twenty first century is not the one who does not know how to read and write but the one who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn” says Peter Senge.

Learning is a continuous activity for every one of us and it is also a life long activity. People who understand the need for continuous learning outperform their peers who fail to learn. In a rapidly changing business world continuous learning gains greater importance as the challenges faced are from time to time and complex and uncertain.

Organizations spend a lot of time and resources in ensuring that people learn new things. In fact learning ability is one of the competencies which employers today look for in their new entrants. People who learn new things develop the capabilities required to perform and achieve success in a dynamic and competitive environment.

One of the most interesting forms of learning is outbound learning. It is called as outbound learning as the actual learning occurs in open places such as a forest, rivers, hillocks, open etc. Today there are professional institutes which impart outbound learning. They possess all the facilities and infrastructure to provide a real experience to the learners.

Outbound learning approach is derived from the educational philosophy advocated by Dr. Kurt Hahn (1886-1974). He believed in the need for a real action and value oriented educational experience.

Outbound learning offers a wide range of benefits to the learners. A few of them are mentioned below -

1. Self Discovery. An outbound learning provides opportunities for people to discover themselves, realize their hidden potential and the ways to harness the same to achieve greater success in career and life. While undergoing various activities in an outbound programme people discover their abilities, passion, and values. People learn how to handle difficult and unexpected situations. In many activities people are required to unleash their creative powers to solve problems or come out with innovative ways of doing things. All these experiences lead to greater self awareness of people and hence people discover themselves. Their self esteem increases and they develop a positive attitude in life. This kind of self discovery will have strong bearing on what people do in their career and in life. Some of the values and passion discovered during an OBL will guide them in their crucial decisions and the energy and enthusiasm drives them to move forward to achieve their goals.

2. Develops Creativity. An OBL experience enhances the creative abilities of the learners. Many of the exercises are designed in such a way that without generating new ideas, people fail to accomplish their goals. In any OBL programme usually a group of people undergo the learning together. While working together they develop camaraderie and concern for each other. When they face some challenges they collectively do brainstorming to

generate new ideas. They create a pool of new ideas. They then collectively decide the best course of action in a given situation. Every aspect of work in an OBL offers innumerable opportunities for creative thinking. When people come out of an OBL they start slowly demonstrating the creative abilities in most of the career and life situations.

3. Empathy & Caring. As people work together they develop empathy and caring for each other. People who possess empathy and caring for others can successfully manage people and build trust. In organizations where people have to collectively achieve the business goals bonding among people is essential. People with empathy can create strong bonds among people to make it a cohesive workforce to achieve results. An OBL experience develops this competency among the people who undergo it.

4. Competition & Collaboration. People in an outbound learning programme learn to compete with others at the same time work in collaboration with others. This is what is required in modern organisations. If people work only with competitive spirit and ignore collaboration they may compete at the cost of others. Similarly if they collaborate with each other and no competitive spirit they may not achieve optimum results. Hence a right blend of competition and collaboration is essential to achieve what teams need to achieve. OBL learning offers rich experience in this regards.

5. Winning attitude. In many of the activities in an OBL initially people openly say that they can not do it. But with some conditioning and also by observing others doing the same activity effortlessly they develop the motivation to do it. After doing such activities people shed their old belief system and outdated paradigms and develop new beliefs and different paradigms. They get motivated to accept challenges, become more positive and will be able to take greater risk in life. This winning attitude helps them in their real life to accept greater responsibilities and become more successful. People with a winning attitude believe in limitless inner powers and unleash it to get ahead in life.

Who Provides OBL?

Today there are many professional institutes such as Pegasus, Ozone, Z-bac, in various part of the county with the entire infrastructure to provide a mind-boggling variety of activities to enrich learning at the same time transforming individuals and teams.

Fellow Toastmasters, if you desire to get ahead in life and career and make a difference to yourself, your family and to your organization pack up your things and embark on an OBL as soon as possible.

Siraj Ur Rahman

Think about it . . .
In life lots of people know what to do, but few actually do what they know. Knowing is not enough!
You must take action.

- Anthony Robbins

How to Find a Speech Topic



For many of us Toastmasters choosing a speech topic is one of the hardest things to do. Finding a great topic is half the job done in preparing a great speech.

While browsing through the internet and discussing with a few fellow members, I found the following ways which can help all of us find great speech topics -

- Listen carefully to the Table Topics Session. Did someone speak about a subject on which you could have spoken much more? Then note the subject down and elaborate it into a speech the next time around.

- Did you read any new article in a magazine or on the Net, which you found

novel and interesting? Then your audience could find it interesting too. Consider converting it into a speech. So always cut and save an interesting article between the pages of your manual so that you will find it when you really need it.

- Go through your Speech Manual's guidelines. Are there any example topics given. Consider speaking on these illustrated topics. You could even modify them to suit your interests.

- Everyone loves stories. Pick up a short story book or look through the net for stories. Choose a story that can be woven into your Project Guidelines.

- Do you wish to share a personal incident that happened in your life? Do it. A Speech based on a personal incident always has a great impact.

- Do you have strong views about any news item that happened recently? Then express your views on the same in the form of a speech.

- Brainstorm with family, friends and colleagues. List out the topics that come through during such a brainstorming session and list them down and later go on short listing based on your own interests.

- Already know of a subject, which interests you, but do not know how to find content to elaborate into a longer speech? Then go to www.google.com and try various searches based on the subject to help you find more content.

Gauresh Mehra

Report of Educational Activities – July to December '05

The strength of a Toastmasters Club is its members, and when members take up and complete scheduled assignments to the best of their ability, it bodes well for the health and spirit of the Club. The term July to December 2005 stands out, in the quality of meetings, enriching speeches and spectacular success in inter-club competitions.

There were a total of 46 speeches given based on specific project guidelines, out of which, as many as 21 speeches were based on the guidelines of Advanced manuals and 25 were from the basic Communication and Leadership manual. There were only 2 non-project speeches during the whole term, which highlights the commitment of the members in achieving their educational goals. The average number of speeches per meeting was 2, which can be improved upon.

CTM: Mr. Sridhar V., on 29th July, Title: Power of Friendship

CL: Mr. Deepak Lekhi, on 18th Nov.

Credit for starting new Toastmasters Clubs:

Mr. Debabrata Dutta, for sponsoring SunTalk Toastmasters Club

Mr. John Bosco Abraham, for sponsoring Cisco Samvad Toastmasters Club

Mr. Arnold Mascarenhas & Mr. Melvyn Smith, for sponsoring Orators Toastmasters Club

Participation in inter-club contests.

WHO	What	When	How
Sanchayan Nath & Sumitra Manamohan	Speech contest conducted by SunTalk Toastmasters Club		Sanchayan Nath won the 3rd Place
John Bosco Abraham & Rudranil Chakraborty	Meet the Press contest conducted by Bangalore Toastmasters Club	26th August	John Bosco Abraham won the 2nd Place
Arnold Mascarenhas & Vijay Anand	Hot Seat contest conducted by LA1924 Toastmasters Club	5th October	Participated Won the 3rd Place
Vijay Anand	Turn Coat contest conducted by Mecon Communication Club	14th November	Participated B. Nithin won the Second Best
Robert Dass (& Jaishree Iyengar)	(Table Topics Contest) conducted by Daffodils	3rd December	Debater Award (Table Topics Contest) conducted by Daffodils
Arun Kumar & B. Nithin	Inter-club debate contest held by Garden City Speakers Forum	16th December	Inter-club debate contest held by Garden City Speakers Forum



There Is Life Out There!

It was a cold dark, December night in Delhi, we a group of girls were huddled together in our train compartment waiting for the departure.

Suddenly...!! A hand or rather a stump of hand thrust through the bars of the window.

The hand was badly mutilated with acid, 'Thode Paise Do Ma'.... Pleaded an old man.

Good Evening Toastmaster, fellow Toastmasters, and dear guests.

There is life out there when there is money; there is life out there when there is good health, there is life out there when there is peace of mind.

So is there no life in the absence of them? No, I strongly believe life can exist even without them. Life is the way u look at it. It gives u a choice where you can decide whether u want to make the most of it or just complain about everything and everybody.

Life is hope and belief. Life has different meanings to it. Here is an example....

For city dwellers like us, 24 hours electricity, water supply, good roads, transportation system, telephones, mobile connectivity, and high speed internet have become necessities, without which we cannot imagine our lives. Any disruption in these services and things instantly go haywire.

But if u look at the rural areas, most of these facilities are not present. Yet their happiness is not lost. They live content, stress-free and probably better lives. There is life out there as well.

Quality of life does not depend on the number of luxuries and amenities we have. It depends on the peace of mind and the ability to find happiness in what we have. In this way, city dwellers fare much worse than our village counterparts.

Look at the office scenario, where subordinates have to bear with their superior's mood swings. They suffer their superiors' verbal abuse and function according to their whims n fancies. Yet, the subordinates don't lose hope. They strive to achieve better results, to improve, to impress in the hope that one day the boss will be pleased. Hope is the essence of life, one who stops to hope, stops living.

Old people, they work hard, suffer, struggle all their lives. Then suddenly their mental and physical faculties, that they had taken for granted all these years, start to fail them. Simplest tasks of walking, bending, lifting become painful exercises. Mentally, they just have their experiences and memories to make it worth living, but that too, soon fades away. But they still smile, mumble to themselves and try to share their wisdom even if there is no one to hear or care. Why? Because they believe there is still life. It is short but should be lived to the fullest if it is to be lived at all.

The most dreaded place where I am sure everyone hates to go is the hospital. The stench of blood and pain, the moans of anguish and helplessness, the sterility and cheerlessness of the place can dampen the spirits of the jolliest. Thousands of people battle

daily for life, for survival. But they don't give up; they will bear the stench, the pain, the helplessness because they believe their life ahead will definitely be worth the present struggles. There will be life out there.

The recent floods in Mumbai brought to light the everlasting human spirit to survive, to hope and to help. We have heard many such stories. I would like to share one, which I recently heard from a mumbaikar. In one of the areas, about 200 people in a double Decker bus, few cars and few two-wheelers were stuck in the water. As the water level rose, the people in two wheelers went into the cars, then into the bus. The water kept rising. People now shifted to the upper deck of this bus. As water now rose to about 15 feet, the 200 people climbed on to the roof the bus. But the water level showed no signs of receding. They could see a high rise apartment building about 300 meters away. One man took courage and jumped into the 18 feet water and swam across to ask for help. The apartment he went to was a small 2 bedroom one belonging to a retired army general. The old couple agreed to help and the lady removed 50 saris from her cupboard. A long chain of saris was made and with one end tied to the bus, the slow agonizing process of 200 people wading across 300 meters of 20 feet of swirling water holding just to a chain of saris began.

202 people stayed in that small two bedroom house that night, in the rooms, kitchen, bathroom, toilet...

It's a story that shook me up and made me proud to be a human, to have the ability to hope, to help and to believe that there is life out there, always.

The man who begged us for some money was feeble and really old. He was wearing tattered clothes which barely covered his body, let alone provide any warmth.

But it was his eyes that moved us the most, eyes that have seen all the miseries life had to offer, but they were shining..... shining in the dim station lights with not just acceptance of his misfortunes but with his determination of survival and hope for a better tomorrow, a better life.

Srilakshmi Shankar



Gavel Toastmasters Club at St. Anne's College

A "Gavel Toastmasters Club"? What's that? Is that a new club in Bangalore? Well, yes and no! A Gavel Toastmasters Club is a club that is set up for participants who do not, for some reason, meet the eligibility criteria of a regular Toastmasters Club. Typically, this could be for students in schools and colleges, who are not yet 18 years old. Bangalore Toastmasters Club recently successfully undertook the responsibility of starting off a Gavel Toastmasters Club at St. Anne's P.U. College on Millers Road.

Theresa Chinnappa was the motivating factor behind the

movement. She rounded up a few members and arranged a demo meeting at St. Anne's. Within 2 weeks, a set of nearly 40 eager I and II PUC Arts and Commerce students had signed up as participants. Elections were held to choose a President, Vice President, Secretary and Sergeant-at-Arms and things were under way...

The students met at 11am every Saturday to practice the art of speaking, thinking and listening. As could be expected, anxiety, nervousness and lack of preparedness marked the first few speeches were. However, there was steady improvement as the weeks went by, not only in the quality of the meetings, but also in the speeches given by the students. All the students completed their Icebreakers, some of which were really good. One of the students, Kushbu, even summoned the courage to present her Icebreaker in front of the club members at a regular club meeting!

Bangalore Toastmasters Club has shown yet again, it's commitment to society, by helping to develop the communication and leadership skills of youngsters. The Club is indebted to the Principal and management of St. Anne's College, for providing us the opportunity to develop the innate talents of its students. Special mention must be made of the Staff-in-charge, Mrs. Magdalene Richards, who was an able coordinator and mentor to the students.

Some of the participants shared their experiences. Here are some excerpts from their experiences.

"We had stage fear and its been eradicated. We use to get tongue-tied while speaking in public before but now we are free to speak in front of every one. It has given our confidence level a new boost." – Ruhi

"One of the greatest achievements that I have gained through the Gavel Toastmasters Club is that, I was able to win 1st place for my performance in Debate competition and it has helped me in achieving great fame and also positive comments from my lecturers." – Neeha

"Before joining this club, there was complete darkness in my life for public speech. I only dreamt of speaking before the audience but was not able to convey the message due to stage fear and nervousness. But now, I have gained self-confidence in communicating face to face and I feel that my dreams are coming true. I can see complete brightness in the field of public speaking and all because of the youth leadership program conducted in our college." – Kushbu

Arun John Mathias



A New Club takes off!

Bangalore Toastmasters Club has done it again! It sponsored yet another corporate Toastmasters Club!

In early July, Thomson Financial wished to start a club. They contacted our member, Toastmaster Arnold Mascarenhas who put the wheels in motion! Executives from Thomson first visited our Club and understood the benefits of this marvelous world wide organization. Soon a

team from the BTC conducted a Demo Meeting at Thomson. This meeting was attended by around 60 employees. The hall was overcrowded and the meeting was a resounding success. Most of the employees expressed their desire to join the Toastmasters movement.

Soon, the Office bearers were in place and the Thomson Financial Toastmasters Club took off! They were enthusiastic and ready to embark on a great journey. The BTC members' Richard D'Souza, George Timothy, Arun John Mathias, Melvyn Smith, Theresa Chinappa and Arnold Mascarenhas attended their meetings to provide Evaluation and Feedback. The Charter Process was explained and they complied with the necessary formalities and sent their dues to Toastmasters International.

The good news is that Thomson Financial Toastmasters Club is now a fully chartered Toastmasters Club. They are budding Toastmasters and raring to go!! They call themselves the Orators Club and are slowly but surely making their presence felt in the Toastmasters fraternity. Well done!! Keep it up! We wish you all success in this exciting journey!! We wish you to scale new heights in 2006!

Arnold Mascarenhas

New Members sworn in - July-Dec 2005

- Shivanand Hedge
- Javed Yunus
- Udaya Shankar
- Abhishek Misra
- Vamshi Krishna Rao
- Maheshwar Rao
- Pramila Prasad
- Arvind Ravindran
- Anitha James
- Mathews Z.M.
- Mathews M.J.
- Govindraya Shenoy
- Vilasini Prabhu
- Prashanthi Sastry
- Subramanian V.
- Seegler Ittyvirah
- Pragathi Raj

Wedding bells

Watson wed Esther on 4th October

Deepak Sharma wed Rekha Hegde on 25th December

New Arrivals

Nicole, born to Tina & Santhosh D'Souza on 30th September
 Umair, born to Naveeda & Javed Yunus on 6th October
 Jyotsna, born to Hema & Arun Kumar on 9th October
 So?a, born to Azra & Siraj ur Rahman on 14th October

Our Leaders July - Dec 2005



> Umakanth Vichur
President

Jaishree Iyengar <
Imm. Past President



> Arun John Mathias
Vice President -
Education

S. M. Vijay Anand <
Vice President -
Membership



> Melvyn Smith
Vice President -
Public Relations

Srilakshmi Shankar <
Secretary



> Richard D'Souza
Treasurer

Theresa Chinnappa <
Sergeant-at-Arms



Thanks & Welcome to Tokyo

Dear TM Umakanth, and Members of the Bangalore TM Club,

First of all I would like to thank you for your gracious hospitality last night. With reference to TM Umakanth's opening address last night, the TM Club is a bridge between people and countries. I immediately felt at home in the meeting last night, and made the acquaintance of many interesting and kind people. Although the basic format of the TM meeting is the same world-wide, I was intrigued by the "local variation" of your meeting - in particular the custom of giving ?owers for the best-speaker prizes. This is an idea I would like to introduce in Japan. "Local variety" but a global mission - that of promoting and improving human communication - that is the attraction of our club.

I was very impressed by the quality of the speeches - both prepared and table topics - and by their enthusiastic delivery. Many of the club members are connected in some way with international business, and it is re?ected in the expert way in which the speeches were organized. The table topic was an excellent mix of serious, light, and challenging.

Finally I would like to describe the TM movement in Japan. TM was introduced during the US occupation after World War II. I belong to the Tokyo TM Club which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year - founded by US military of?cers and staff. Today the club has about 50 members - about 90% Japanese. Members are from a variety of backgrounds. Ages range from recent university graduates, through middle age, up to retirees. Clubs in Japan typically meet twice per month in the evening on a business day, although a there are a few in residential areas that meet on weekend afternoons. There are about 45 TM Clubs in Japan (about the same as in India). Except for about 10 Japanese-language clubs, and one bilingual club, the meetings are conducted in English. Japan has just become a TM District, and can now enter international speech competitions.

I joined the TM club about 10 years ago soon after arriving in Japan. I was invited to an English-speaking club. I thought it would be a waste of time because I was struggling to learn Japanese. I was attracted however by the opportunity to meet people outside my workplace, and also by the fact that after the meeting many members went to a pub - where there was plenty of chance to practice Japanese while drinking beer. My ?rst speech was a disaster. I over-short time and was ill-organized. **Just because you speak good English does not mean that you can give a good speech in English.** Later a joined a bilingual TM club and gave speeches in Japanese. I even got ?rst prize in a Japanese-language contest - with my imperfect Japanese. More than mastery of the language, the organization and content is important.

Finally I hope to welcome you in Japan. I will be happy to assist with any arrangements that you might require.

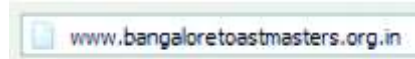
Sincerely,

James B. Cole

Tokyo Toastmasters Club

(This is a letter received from a guest who visited our club on 23rd December 2005.)

Log on for latest events and news of our club.



Thanks to S. Harikumar and the previous committee for launching the Bangalore Toastmasters' website.

The website has become very popular, creating awareness about our club around Bangalore.

The Bangalore Toastmasters Club meets every Friday at 6.30 pm at St. Joseph's College Langford Road 2nd Floor, Room No. 203 Bangalore 560 025