



5<sup>th</sup> AKKA World Kannada  
Conference Hosted by  
Vidyaranya Kannada Kuta  
Chicago - Illinois  
August 29, 30 & 31 - 2008

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ವಿದ್ಯಾರಣ್ಯ ಆಶ್ರಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಜನೇ  
ಅಕ್ಕ ವಿಶ್ವ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನ  
ಶಿಕಾಗೊ - ಇಲಿನಾಯ್  
ಆಗಸ್ಟ್ ೨೯, ೩೦, ೩೧-೨೦೦೮



Showcasing the Talents & Heritage of World Kannadigas

ವಿಶ್ವ ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರ ಪ್ರತಿಭೆ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಂಪರೆಯ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ

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Preparations are going on with a hectic pace for the 5<sup>th</sup> AKKA World Kannada Conference to be held in Rosemont, Illinois, USA on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> 2008. The host Organization Vidyaranya Kannada Kuta of Illinois, one of the oldest Kannada Kutas in North America, is making every effort to make this an enjoyable and educative event celebrating the talents and heritage of Worldwide Kannadigas.

The host city Chicago is the third largest city in US and is endowed with some magnificent sight seeing places such as the Lake Michigan, Sears Tower, number of Art galleries and museums, etc. Chicago is the place where Swami Vivekananda delivered the memorable speech at the Parliament of Religions in 1893. The Rosemont Convention center is in the proximity of O'Hare International airport and is one of the premiere convention centers of the country. Chicago has the advantage of having several Kannada Kutas located in cities like Detroit, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Peoria, Columbus, etc which are at driving distances. With all these advantages, this year's Conference is expected to draw a large number of Kannadigas from all over USA, Karnataka and other parts of the World.

The planning is headed by three Conveners Vasanthi Gowda, Mokshagundam Jayaram and Shivamurthy Keelara supported by more than 35 Committees and 175 plus Committee members. Some of the unique features planned are:

- Decoration replicating Karnataka throughout the Convention venue.
- A Karnataka History Exposition depicting 1,000 years of Karnataka's glorious History all the way up to the present day Silicon Valley revolution.
- The highly successful 'Kanandave Satya' musical treat by C.Asmath's group.
- For the first time a 'Film Nite' in which a number of leading stars of Kannada silver screen will enthrall the audience. The program will be conducted by the renowned music director Guru Kiran with Puneet Rajkumar, Ramesh Arvind, Upendra and others. They will be accompanied by Nandita and Chaitra along with Instrumentalists.
- Janapada Sangeetha by the Folklore singing group "Honnaru Janapada Gaayakaru" headed by professor P.K. Rajashekar.
- Magic Show by the nationally acclaimed magician Ganesh Kudroli.
- 'AKKA Lifetime Achievement Award' to be given for the first time for individuals who have made outstanding contributions in various fields such as Business, Fine Arts, Science & Technology, Literature, etc.
- AKKA Idol program to be voted by the audience and professional judges.

- An onsite ‘Radio Program’ with innovative contents and format.

Kannadigas will be treated with variety entertainment provided by Artists from Karnataka and various Kannada Kutas in North America. Just to name a few:

- ‘Jokumaraswamy’ drama by Nagabharana’s troupe,
- Classical music by the musical maestros Mysore Nagaraj and Manjunath.
- Literary giants like Chandrashekar Khambara, S.L. Byrappa, Jayanth Kaikini and Prof. P.K. Rajashekar will lead Kannada literature seminars.
- ‘Hasya Loka’ stalwarts Krishne Gowda, Gundu Rao and Pranesh (Beechi) will be there to with their stomach splitting jokes and dialogs.
- In the spiritual field, Swami Sukhabodananda, Tumkur Swamiji and others will enlighten the audience with their discourses and workshops.
- Dr. Omkar will conduct Yoga sessions for the attendees, with particular focus on the youth growing up in US.
- Charitable Committee has planned a number of speakers and seminars to raise funds for deserving Institutions.

Many dignitaries and Businessmen both from Karnataka and US are expected to attend the conference. The Business, Women’s and Youth Forums have planned many exciting events and seminars. Ex-CM of Karnataka Veerappa Moily and the well known entrepreneur Sam Pitroda have already accepted to attend the conference. There will be a number of vendor booths by businesses from Karnataka and US selling jewelry, clothing, Cd’s, books, gadgets, paintings, and a host of other items.

Of course no Sammelana can be termed successful unless the delicious and authentic Karnataka food is served in style. The attendees will feast on the delicacies specially prepared at the venue under the direction of Chicago’s very own Kannada family.

All in all, this year’s AKKA World Kannada Conference will be a treat to the Kannadigas from all over the world and will truly exhibit the talents and celebrate the heritage of Kannadigas.