

# Candidate For The Executive Committee



**ASSITEJ**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Cape Town, South Africa, May 17 – 27, 2017

## Candidate For The Executive Committee

Name of Centre/Network: **Assitej India**

Name of Candidate: **Udaya Bhanu Garikipati**

Presentation of candidate:

I am in theatre for the last four decades with my theatre group Bhoomika at Hyderabad, India. During my stint as Secretary of Assitej India, several initiatives were taken including Tifli – the International TYA Festival. Starting at Delhi in 2014. In the following two years, the Festival has spread to two more cities, making it a three-city celebration. Again in 2014, following the Asian Assitej Meet at Seoul, I have attended subsequent Meets at Chennai and Colombo with the objective of strengthening TYA in Asian region countries. In our next meet scheduled for Lahore, Pakistan, in March 2017, we look forward to working on the formation of Asian Network.

In the last six years or so, ASSITEJ India has played a positive role in bringing South Asian TYA practitioners closer by way of establishing contacts, discussions and through Next Generation initiatives, The election of an Indian in ASSITEJ EC over two consecutive terms had helped in this endeavour. Also, being part of the EC, the ASSITEJ India could help South Asian members come closer to global decision makers, provide exposure of TYA plays from other countries. I feel that Indian representation in EC is important for strengthening ties with global ASSITEJ, for facilitating South Asian and Asian TYA workers to come closer, and for advocacy of TYA in this area.

The continued Indian presence in EC is important also because the world will get an idea of the progress of TYA in this emerging region. Our presence in EC will help artists and companies of the region to connect with their counterparts in other countries which, in effect, is lifting the standard of TYA in the region. The efforts of last six years resulted in starting new International festivals here, in establishing new national centres, in making other country centres active, in initiating exchanges, in organizing

TYAsia meet in the region for three consecutive years, and in focusing on annual Next Generation project with South Asian participants.

I present my candidature for EC in consciousness of my responsibility and with eagerness to continue the work done by the present Indian EC member. Under the present political scenario, it is important to promote inclusive TYA so as to help artists come closer to promote art and peace.