

SPEAKERS

Prof. P. Ragupathy – Norway
Prof. Dagmar Hellman – Munich
Dr. Vitaj Mendis – Germany
Tan Sri Datuk Prof. Dr. Khoo Khay Khim – Malaysia
Prof. K. Inthrapala – Sydney
Dr. Murugar Gunasingam – Archives, Sydney
Prof. V. Nithyandandam – New Zealand
Mr. Visahan Suberamaniam – Archives, London
Mr. Anton Ravindran – Genovate, Singapore
Prof. S. Sathia seelan – Jaffna University
Prof. Chitrlekha Maunaguru of the Batticaloa University
A/Prof. R. Cheran – University of Windsor Canada
Prof. Rajah Rasiah, University Malaya
A/Prof. Datuk Dr. D.M. Thuraiappah, University Putra Malaysia
Mr. V. Srikathirgamanathan, Denmark
Mr. Jay Jeyathesan, London
Dr. A.R. Mohammed Imtiaz – Philadelphia
Mr. Mariampillai Selvin Ireneus – Germany
Prof. A Sanmugadas – Jaffna
Dato' Dr. G.K. Ananda Kumarasari – Malaysia
Mr. Vijaya Samarawickrama-Taylor, Malaysia

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Advisors: Dato' S. Kulasegaran, President, FOMSO
Dr. Murugar Gunasingam, Librarian, Sydney, Australia

1. Datuk Assoc. Prof. Dr. D.M.Thuraiappah,
Chairman of Economics Bureau,
Federation of Malaysian Sri Lankan
Organisations (FOMSO)
2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kumaran Suberamaniam,
Ketua Jabatan Pengajian India
Fakulti Sastera dan Sains Social,
University of Malaya
3. Prof. Dr. Rajah Rasiah,
Professor of Technology and Innovation,
Faculty of Economics and Administration,
Univeristy of Malaya
4. Prof. Dr. Dagmar Rajanayagam
Department of Social Strategies
University of Munich
Germany

SUBCOMMITTEES

1. Program Co-ordinators:
Mr. K. Thanaraj
Mr. Vijayaraj Vijayasingam
Mr. Poobalan Mahalingam
Dr. John Thavaselvam
Dr. Raj Kumar Maharajah
2. Cultural Program
Mr. Sivanathan Retnam
3. Social Program and Registration
Mrs. Sarojini Pasupathy
Miss Hemalatha Balasubramaniam
4. Dinner Program
Ms. Sumita Gnanarajah
Mr. K. Tharmabalan
5. Logistics Program (Transport, Audio-visuals)
Mr. N. Rasanayagam



International Conference On **THE SRI LANKAN DIASPORA – THE WAY FORWARD**

ORGANISED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

**THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA,**

AND

THE FEDERATION OF MALAYSIAN SRI LANKAN ORGANISATIONS

DATES:
28–31 AUGUST 2008

VENUE:
**UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA CAMPUS
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA**

THE SRI LANKAN DIASPORA – THE WAY FORWARD

Sri Lankans have emigrated to different parts of the world over centuries, resulting in the creation of a vast Diaspora straddling the Globe. They are to be found in the United States, Canada, in Europe, in Australia, in UK, in Malaysia and elsewhere in sizeable numbers totalling more than one and a half million. In most cases they have blended into the fabric of the countries in which they find themselves and have actively contributed to the nation-building process in those countries.

In doing so, they have acquired new dimensions, new perceptions and perspectives and even new values. They have undoubtedly encountered problems in the course of their progress. They have proven their potential in those different countries.

This Forum seeks, inter-alia, to review those problems, progress and the potential of the people as experienced by the Diaspora around the Globe. Needless to say, there are lessons to be learnt and to be passed on; experiences to be exchanged and shared, pain and pitfalls to be avoided. And out of all this, how have Sri Lankans emerged? How has their potential been tested? How have they responded to those tests? What does the future hold? How will their future generations chart their course.

Equally importantly, there is a vast pool of knowledge, experience and expertise which can and should be drawn upon through interaction and networking between the different segments of the Diaspora. How is this to be achieved? How is this to be co-ordinated? How is this to be implemented to the best advantage of the Diaspora? These are some of the issues that need to and will be addressed during the Forum.

This Forum, which follows on the previous attempts in Toronto and in Sydney, seeks to examine the many aspects of the Diaspora. The related issues, and the outcome thereof, will affect the direction which the future of the Diaspora will take. Unless the current generation takes steps to co-operate in a positive manner, to network, to promote, to review and to update its academic, commercial and linguistic, cultural and other activities and create a global infrastructure to co-ordinate these activities, there is a distinct possibility that the Diaspora as we know it today will not only diminish but quite possibly disappear in the course of time.

In this context, therefore, various aspects, and in particular, those listed below, need to be explored in considerable depth:

1. Demographic, Geographic, Linguistic
2. Networking

from the point of view of:

1. Women and Youth
3. Educational
4. Commercial
5. Socio-Cultural
6. Professional

Sri Lankans have been and are a resilient people. Their determination to succeed where-ever they are is amply evident. This Forum seeks to harness and galvanize this resilience and determination into a bonding of the Diaspora which would be capable of meeting the challenges of the future.

Datuk Assoc. Prof. Dr. D. M. Thuraiappah
Chairman of the Organising Committee

PROGRAMME

TIME	28th THURSDAY	29th FRIDAY	30th SATURDAY	31st SUNDAY
9.00		OPENING CEREMONY Displaced Peoples Globally	PLENARY 3 Culture, Colonialism and Diversity of the Sri Lankan Diaspora	PLENARY 6 <i>Economic Activities of the Sri Lankan Diaspora: An Overview of their Spread and Impact</i>
9.45		PLENARY 1 The Evolution of the Sri Lankan Diaspora	PLENARY 4 The Impact on the Diaspora on the Country of Adoption	PLENARY 7 The Malaysian Showcase
10.30		TEA	TEA	TEA
11.00		SYMPOSIUM SESSION 1 S1.1 – Demography a. Global distribution b. Occupational evolution c. Population measurement S1.2 – Mother Tongue a. Educational excellence b. Prevalence of language Institutions c. Current preferences among the Diaspora S1.3 – Initiatives a. Capabilities of the emigrants b. Various initiatives submitted c. Inherent survival abilities S1.4 – Successes a. Individual b. Professional c. Corporate	SYMPOSIUM SESSION 3 S3.1 – Problems a. Adaptation to Country of Adoption b. Integration and Assimilation c. Attitudes to with Motherland S3.2 – Educational Outreach a. Impact of Foreign Education on the Sri Lankan b. Impact of the Sri Lankan on the Land of Adoption c. Knowledge Practices and Initiatives S3.3 – Single Women a. Parental Influence b. Women and Society c. Single Women, Single Parent S3.4 – Commercial & Industry a. Commercial enterprises b. Impact of ICT contribution to Foreign Market c. Industrial opportunities	SUMMARY FORUM
12.30		LUNCH	LUNCH	FAREWELL LUNCH
2.15		PLENARY 2 The Impact of the Sri Lankan Conflict on the Diaspora	PLENARY 5 The Case for a Diaspora University of Human Resource Development	
3.00		SYMPOSIUM SESSION 2 S2.1 Global Directory a. Statistics of global distribution b. Methods of collating information c. Initiatives for models of directory S2.2 Historical Museum a. The Colombo and Jaffna Library b. History of the peoples c. Repository of original sources S2.2 Educational Institutions a. Sri Lankan forays into education institutions b. Contributions to educational systems c. Opportunities for Sri Lankans S2.3 Forms of Networking a. Networking and Culture b. Professional/Occupational Networking c. Networking or not working	WORKSHOP W1 – Women’s Status a. The Role of the Sri Lankan Women b. Sri Lankan Women and the Culture W2 – Youth Status a. Youth’s Contribution to Society b. The Role of the Sri Lankan Youth c. Response of the Youth to Sri Lankan Culture W3 – Entrepreneurship a. The Sri Lankan entrepreneur b. ICT and the Sri Lankan Entrepreneur c. Global opportunities for the Sri Lankan W4 – Marriage Bureau a. Culture and the Sri Lankan men and women b. Setting up of marriage bureau c. Identifying clients and managing a bureaus	
4.30	Registration at Eastin Hotel	TEA	TEA	
	Welcome Reception	FREE	CITY TOUR	
7.30		OFFICIAL DINNER	CULTURAL EVENING	