



NewZ Lanka

Newsletter of the New Zealand Sri Lanka Foundation Incorporated

Volume 21 Spring 2003

From the President....

Greetings to all our readers from the new Committee of the New Zealand Sri Lanka Foundation! The new committee was appointed unanimously at the Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Foundation and we would like to thank our membership who placed confidence on us by handing over the reigns of this progressive organisation. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee for their efforts in making yet another very successful year for the Foundation.

The new committee, once again, consists of a multitude of talents and skills. We have lined up many new and exciting projects for the coming year.

One of our main objectives during this year is to work with other minority ethnic communities to address some of the burning issues facing migrant communities in NZ. It is time to take a concerted effort and clear some of the misconceptions beginning to surface about migrant communities. This could only be achieved by making migrant communities aware of the expectations of this country. Whilst it is good to establish our identities through the activities of community organisations, the end result should not be isolation in society. As the Foundation has worked from its inception, our activities will lead to positive integration with the citizens of this country and make it a pleasant place to live.

As the first event of this year, NZSLF is proud to sponsor the renowned stage production *Puthrasamagama* by the Presidential Award Winning Artist Jayalath Manorathne. We wish to extend our sincere thanks to The Sinhalese Cultural Forum of New South Wales, Australia, the co-sponsors of this Australasian tour of Mano and his group of artists for enabling us this opportunity.

We look forward for your participation at all our forthcoming events and your support to our organisation.

Jayasiri Basnayake



Renowned drama artist Jayalath Manorathne together with famous stage and TV artists Ratna Lalani, Sampath Tennakoon, Chandani Seneviratne, Sarath Chandrasiri, Janaka Kumbukge and Jayasri Chandrajith will be in Auckland on Sunday 12 October 2003 at Dorothy Winstons Theatre to stage the popular drama *Puthrasamagama*.

The Committee

President:

Jayasiri Basnayake (09) 579 8977

Vice President:

Lionel De Silva (09) 524 0665

Secretary:

Dharmasena Maddugoda (09) 526 5202

Treasurer:

Gamini Wanniarachchi (09) 580 1169

Committee Members:

Ari Randeni (09) 627 3975

Manjula Walgampola (09) 529 1443

Thesara Jayawardane (09) 276 4454

Editor:

Omar Fahmy (09) 846 9427

Auditor:

Nihal Jayawickrema (09) 579 1807

Next Event:

Puthrasamagama

Adding glamour to the list of best musicians and artists brought to you by us, the Foundation is proud to sponsor Presidential Award Winner Jayalath Manorathne and a group of six famous stage and TV artists to present their renowned drama *Puthrasamagama*. This popular production has been staged over 18 years in Sri Lanka and many other countries all over the world. Mano and the group will be arriving in Auckland after two performances in Melbourne and Sydney in late September.

Puthrasamagama will be staged at the Dorothy Winston Theatre, Auckland Girls Grammar School on Sunday 12 October 2003 at 6.00pm. Tickets are priced at \$25 and \$20. Half tickets for children under 13 are \$15 and \$12 respectively. All seats are reserved. Please contact any committee member for your early reservations to avoid disappointment.

Calendar of Events:

12 Oct 03: *Puthrasamagama*

15 Nov 03: Employment seminar

31 Dec 03: Lanka Nite 2003 [Lanka](#)

Sri Lankan News... Show the world 'our' medicines....

Many herbal remedies of Sri Lanka's traditional indigenous medicine are not found anywhere else in the world. Forms of treatment practised for ailments such as fractures and dislocations, ulcers and tumours, hydrophobia, eye disease, malnutrition, arthritis and snake bites are unique as well as effective.

Thousands of local formulas, taken from ancient ola leaves are not seen in any other countries, experts say. Sri Lanka's local '*Veda Mahattayas*' use these remedies in their day-to-day practice.

Exporters of indigenous herbal products fear that Sri Lanka's herbal medicine is not being adequately developed or promoted. "Our herbal industry could be a gold mine, which could be developed according to a systematic plan," says Wimal Kalubowila, Secretary of the All Ceylon Indigenous Medicine Exporters and Manufacturers Association. "The total value of herbal products in the international market was estimated as US \$ 400 billion for 2000.

Further, they estimated a 30% growth rate in this industry. Germany had the biggest market share, followed by U.S.A. and Japan." Mr. Kalubowila said the Association was formed about two years ago and has a membership of about 52 manufacturers and exporters of herbal products. The main exports are various types of herbal tea, for example, Diabetic tea, Slimming tea and so on. He said there are about 30 different types of herbal tea.

Sri Lanka has earned a name in the herbal industry, Kalubowila said. Several herbal plants and products such as *Gotukola*, *Polpala*, *Kothala Himbutu*, Cinnamon, *Niyangala*, *Siddhartha oil*, *Nawarathna Kalkaya*, anti-venom oil and herbal wines have been introduced in USA, Japan, Russia, UK, Mexico and Germany.

"Our recorded traditional knowledge on herbal medicines begins with king Ravana, about 4,500 years ago," he said. "Recorded history of Indian ayurveda and Siddha go back about 3000 years. The problem is we have not taken steps to protect and develop our traditional knowledge on herbal medicine in the past years. India has managed to develop their knowledge on ayurveda and Siddha continuously. Much of our traditional knowledge and products are closer to nature. So if we could introduce our herbal products to the world they will be accepted much better than Ayurveda and Siddha.

Although it is somewhat difficult to separate indigenous medicine from ayurveda, the basic principles and many formulas are different. Dr. Nimal Jayatileke, Assistant Commissioner of Ayurveda (Technical) and Advisor to the All Ceylon Indigenous Manufacturers and Exporters Association says that European countries ask for Ayurvedic medicines because they don't know the difference.

"We must promote our indigenous medicine and be prepared to meet the demand," he said. For this purpose, the Minister has set up a special committee headed by Prof. Tuley de Silva. "We have a problem within the country because none of our indigenous pharmaceuticals are standardized," said Prof. Tuley de Silva. He said the quality of products varies and there is at present no legal mechanism to bring about standardization.

The Ministry of Indigenous Medicine and Disaster Relief has appointed a committee to look into aspects of policy, development and an action plan to deal with herbal health care products. Another committee has been appointed to draft a national policy for indigenous medicine. This committee is entrusted with formulating policy for development of Ayurveda, which in legal terms includes Indigenous Medicine known locally as *Deshiya Chikithsa*.

Prof. De Silva said that at present, Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani are taught at graduate level at universities of Colombo, Gampaha and Jaffna. Private training institutes also prepare students for Diploma in Ayurveda, for which an exam is set by the Ayurveda Medical Council. In the case of Indigenous Medicine however, the remedies and treatments are inherited by word of mouth from generation to generation. Many are family secrets, jealously guarded. They are not written down or given to anybody to be taught. In the case of some of the practitioners, their children are not interested in following their father's practice. These have to be protected because our traditional medicine (*'Param parika Vaidy vedakama'*) is getting lost. Prof. de Silva said standardization and quality control are very important in developing indigenous medicine. The ministry is bringing out a new act, 'Ayurvedic Cosmetic Devices and Drugs Act' for this purpose. This act, which has already been drafted, will regulate all aspects of the herbal industry. The Ayurvedic Drugs Regulatory Authority will regulate the drugs and specify the standards. Those who sell sub-standard drugs will be prosecuted. He emphasized that as far as exports are concerned, it is most important to have standardization and quality specification of products that are exported from the country.

Another problem that has to be overcome is finding a regular supply of raw material. Medicinal plants are not cultivated in quantity unless there is an order. This increases the cost of raw material, which is found to be cheaper in India. The committee is also working on making arrangements to systematize the cultivation to ensure a regular supply to the producers. "We have to be very careful before promoting herbal health care products abroad," Prof. de Silva stressed.

(Courtesy of The Sunday Times)

Airport project in Matugama

The Board of Investment (BoI) is looking for prospective investors to undertake the construction of a state-of-the-art international airport in Matugama. The feasibility study has already been completed, and 4,500 hectares of land in Matugama, Itthapana, Parrigama, Pahalawela, Munamalwatha and Pallegoda has been allocated for the purpose.

BoI Chairman, Arjuna Mahendren, told the "Sunday Observer" that it had already done the feasibility study for the construction project and investors would be invited to undertake the project and complete it within a set period of time. Mahendren pointed out that the project location in Matugama was an ideal place to promote tourism as it was situated in the vicinity of Beruwala/Bentara, a tourist promotion zone, where it would pass through the proposed Colombo-Matara highway.

Minister of Employment and Labour and Chairman of the Kalutara District Committee, Mahinda Samarasinghe, said that the government had decided to relocate the Ratmalana airport in Matugama, since there were several acres of bare land within close proximity to Ratmalana airport, which could be used for more productive projects such as housing schemes, large-scale enterprises and technical institutes

(courtesy of Daily News)

The Most Senior Sri Lankan Immigrant....

Dr. Ray de Zylva, D.Sc is an erudite senior citizen who sparkles with a vivacious serenity. He is upright, quiet and considerate and is a very learned man. He is the longest surviving Sri Lankan resident in New Zealand, having arrived here in January 1959. Eighty-six-year old Dr. de Zylva has served his motherland, Sri Lanka, for 42 years and his adopted country, New Zealand, for 44 years.

He left Sri Lanka in 1958 along with his wife Irma, daughter Alison who was 12 and son Chris who was 10. During those days, New Zealand citizenship was more expeditiously perfected, and citizenship papers were posted to one's home address, recalls Dr. de Zylva.

Born in Kalutara, a town 23 miles from Colombo, in 1917, he completed his schooling at Trinity College in Kandy in the Central Province where he obtained the London Matriculation Examination Certificate. After a year at the School of Tropical Agriculture, he entered the then Ceylon University College. He spent five years in the University from 1936-41, serving as Student Demonstrator in Zoology and passing the B.Sc (Special) in Zoology with Botany. He continued with one year's research work as a research assistant in Zoology. A number of his typed specimen dissections have remained on display in the Zoology department, and his manual on The Toad (*Bufo melanostictus*) was used for several years by first year Zoology and Premedical students in Sri Lanka.

Dr. de Zylva had a very distinguished career in the Public Service in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon. The Government of the day appointed him as a Superintendent of Prisons in 1941, in which capacity he served in Colombo, Kandy and Jaffna until May 1945.

He was awarded a doctorate (honoris causa) from the Open International University for Complementary Medicine at the World Congress on Alternative Medicine 2000. This was in appreciation of his paper on "The Cure of Arthritis by Diet Selection" (which drugs have never achieved). Dr. de Zylva is a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, and a Chartered Biologist and a Member of the Institute of Biology, London. He is also a Member of the NZ Association of Scientists (in which he was on the Committee for ten years) and of the Royal Society of New Zealand

During his tenure of office until 1958, the Department witnessed many progressive changes for the benefit of the common man. Following a study tour of fish farming in Singapore and Malaya, he introduced fish farming into Sri Lanka in 1948, which pioneered the very lucrative fish farming industry of today. He was responsible for initiating Mechanization of Fishing Vessels and training of fishermen in the use of Modern Fishing Gear and Techniques with the assistance of the Extended Technical Assistance Programme of the Fisheries Division of FAO and a Colombo Plan grant from Canada, from 1950-55. C/Plan and FAO/ETAP specialists from the UK, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, India and Australia, and skilled technologists of the Japanese Fisheries Agency contributed their expertise in training departmental staff and fishermen. He reorganised the Fisheries Department in keeping with the Government's developmental objectives and his own knowledge and experience

He was decorated with a War Service Medal for ARP Warden duties as a Prison Superintendent. He assumed duties in Colombo as the Assistant Director of Fisheries in 1945, rising up in his career as Deputy Director and Director of Fisheries. In 1953 he received the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal, and in 1955 the King of Denmark awarded him the Galathea Medal 1950-52 for his contribution to the Galathea Indian Ocean Expedition.

He represented the country as a delegate in several conferences including some held in Singapore, Japan and Indonesia.

Dr De Zylva has contributed to the scouting movement of Ceylon for years. Scouting and sports were among his extra-curricular activities. He serves as the District Scout Commissioner, Colombo from 1948-58. He holds both the Scout and Cub Wood Badge, the highest award for Scouter trainers. Before attending the 8th World Jamboree in Niagara, Canada in 1955, representing Ceylon Scout Movement, he attended a Wood Badge Refresher Course at Gilwell Park in Essex, the home of world scouting.

Dr De Zylva is also a keen sportsman and has been a keen rugby and hockey player as well as a tennis player. He has represented his university and also his country rugby. He was full back in the Ceylonese XV at the All India International Rugby Tournament held in Madras in 1938. He was full back in the Ceylon XV in Colombo against the Australians, and in the All India Tournament winners in Colombo in 1949. He was a Clifford Cup referee from 1950 to 1958, until he left Ceylon.

His achievements during his sojourn in Kiwiland speak volumes. His first appointment in New Zealand was as a Senior Biology Teacher in the Feilding Agricultural High School. He worked in Feilding for a period of ten years from 1959 to 1969 and coached school rugby, tennis and hockey, until he became Deputy Head at Manawatu College, Foxton for a year from 1969-70.

He then moved into the Fisheries Research and Development field, becoming the R&D Manager at JBL Fisheries in Auckland. This work lasted for two years only, until JBL Fisheries closed its doors. He was immediately appointed Head of Science at Hillary College, Otara, Auckland, where he served from 1972 to 1978.

He retired to Gisborne, on the East Coast to join his daughter and her husband and family there. Here he worked as Fisheries Consultant from 1978-96, Honorary Curator of Natural History at the Gisborne Museum, and a member of the Wastewater Committee of the Gisborne District Council. He was the Gisborne candidate for the New Zealand Party in the 1984 Parliamentary elections.

He has a large number of publications to his credit. He has been a Fisheries Correspondent to Journals in London, Melbourne and New Zealand from 1970 to date. He was also actively engaged in social services as a Rotarian. He was a member of the Rotary Club in Ceylon as well as after he moved to New Zealand. He was made a Paul Harris Fellow in 1987 and is now a Senior Active member of the Napier Rotary Club.

His final move was to Napier in 1997 and now lives in Taradale with his wife. His wife Irma who has been at his side during all his achievements is also a very talented person. She has served as an organist in Gisborne for many years and has supported Mr De Zylva who is a keen bass singer and they still sing with the Napier Civic Choir. Mrs Irma De Zylva is a daughter of Rev Clarence Nathanielsz who was a former Charity Commissioner and Founder of the Lady Lochore Loan Fund in Colombo. The De Zylvas have been married since 1943.

We would like to wish this distinguished son of Lanka and his wife good health and long life. God Bless them both.

The article is summarised from an article written by M C A Hassan of Rotorua in his website:
<http://www.srilankanz.net.nz/screen2.html>

Puthrasamagama in Auckland....

It is with pleasure that the Foundation announces the arrival of renowned drama artist Jayalath Manorathne and his production "Puthrasamagama". Mano, together with famous stage and TV artists Ratna Lalani, Sampath Tennakoon, Chandani Seneviratne, Sarath Chandrasiri, Janaka Kumbukge and Jayasri Chandrajith will be in Auckland on Sunday 12 October 2003 at the Dorothy Winston Centre of the Auckland Girls Grammar School, to stage the drama "Puthrasamagama". This production has been staged for over 18 years in Sri Lanka and many other countries. In July 2003, they had a very successful tour of USA and Canada. They will be arriving in Auckland after two shows in Melbourne and Sydney and we are proud to sponsor them to Australasia together with the Sinhalese Cultural Forum of NSW.



Puthrasamagama is based on the well-known Russian novel, "The Elder Son" by the famous author Alexander Vampilov. The play was translated by international award winner Prasanna Vithanage and produced by Jayalath Manorathne. Puthrasamagama has won 5 awards at the 1985 State Drama Festival including those for best actor (Jayalath Manorathne), best supporting actor (Jayashri Chandrajith), best translation (Prasanna Vithanage) and best music direction (Lakshman Wijesekera).

Jayalath Manorathne - Mano was born in *Dehipe* in Nuwara Eliya District. He had his secondary education at *Poramadulla* Central and entered the University of Peradeniya. It was at the University of Peradeniya that he had the opportunity to work with veteran stage artists such as Prof Sarathchandra, Sugathapla de Silva, Dayananda Gunawardena, Henry Jayasena and Gunasena Galappaththi. His own productions on the stage are :*Mahagiridamba*, "*Talamalapipila*", "*Puthrasamagama*", "*Gurutharuwa*", "*Andarela*", and "*Sandagira*".

Mano is a graduate of the University of Peradeniya and is a full time artist. He is the director of Puthrasamagama and also plays the role of a trumpet player Andrei Saravnov.

Janaka Kumbukage – plays the role of medical student Vladimir Booshin in Puthrasamagama. Janaka's favourite roles are the doctors role he played in popular teledrama "Isiwaru Asapuwa", role of King Iddipus in stage drama Iddipus and the role of a teacher in the film "Saroja". In addition to acting, he is also working as a TV and radio presenter.

Chandani Seneviratne – Chandani is an old girl of St Paul's Girls Milagiriya and got involved with stage dramas under the direction of renowned drama producer Mrs Somalatha Subasinghe while still a schoolgirl. Chandani has had an illustrious career as an actress having played roles

under the direction of veterans such as Lalitha Sarachchandra and Parakrama Niriella. She has also played some memorable roles in teledramas such as Sumithra Rahubadde's Bumuthurunu, Nedayo, Doo Daruwo, Sekku Gedera and Sankranthi Samaya.

Sampath Tennakoon – Sampath commenced on his artistic career while he was still a schoolboy at Issipathana College in Colombo. He was first a make up artiste and ended up as an actor in popular stage dramas Mahasara, Suba Sandavak, Thala mala pipila, Pemathi Jayathi Soko etc. He is also a director of Lanka Link, a production company. He plays the role of a pilot in Puthrasamagama.

Rathna Lalani – Ratna who plays the role of Nina in Puthrasamagama is a talented and well known actress who had won the Best Actress award several times. She has given equal consideration to her involvement with the arts as well as education from the time she was a student at the Kolonnawa Girls College. Some memorable roles where Ratna excelled are in Lester James Peiris's film Avaragira, Prof. Sarachchandra's Maname and Parakrama Niriella's teledrama Yashorawaya. She is currently employed as a teacher at Royal College, Colombo and also a television presenter and singer.

Jayasri Chandrajith – Jayasri is well known for his roles in Prof Ediriweera Sarachchandra's dramas and is a graduate of the University of Peradeniya. He was awarded the best supporting actor's role for his role in Puthrasamagama. He currently resides in Melbourne.

Puthrasamagama In USA/Canada....

Jayalath Manorathne's "*Puthrasamagama*" was staged in Los Angeles on 26 July 2003 amidst a large Sri Lankan gathering.. The traveling drama troupe of Manorathne staged the play in Toronto,(Canada), New York, Washington D.C. and Springfield before arriving in Southern California.

A visiting Sri Lankan dramatist Mrs. Lalitha Sarathchandra lit the traditional oil lamp to inaugurate the drama.

Based on Alexander Vampilov's celebrated Russian play, "The Elder Son", the drama tells the moving story of a young man who works his way into a family.

Jayalath Manorathne, a product of the University of Peradeniya developed his drama under the influence of Professor Ediriweera Sarathchandra, Sugathapla de Silva, Dayananda Gunawardena, Henry Jayasena and Gunasena Galappaththi. *Mahagiridamba*, *Thalamala Pipila*, *Guru Tharuwa*, *Anderala* and *Sanda Gira* were some of his other productions.

Janaka Kumbukage, a stage actor of twenty years repute, Sarath Chandrasiri who made a name in *Raja Kapuru*, Chandani Seneviratne a leading teledrama and movie actress who robbed the hearts of her fans in the teledramas of *Sekku Gedera*, *Doodaruwo*, *Sudu Sudu*, and *Nedeyo*, Rathna Lalani of *Yasorawaya* fame, Jayasiri Chandrajith who acted in Sarathchandra's *Mahasara*, and Sampath Tennekoon (Manager) were some members of the troupe who toured in USA and Canada for the play.

Manorathne said the 15th anniversary of the drama was celebrated in Europe in the year 2000 when the troupe toured many countries of the continent. This year "*Puthrasamagama*" marks its 18th anniversary.

The late Hugo Fernando (Hugo Master) – An icon of the Sinhala film industry....

On the 14 of July 2003, a group of fans and well-wishers gathered to celebrate the 91st birth anniversary of a living legend from Negombo at the Negombo Town Hall. Hugo Master passed away on the 12 of April 1999. He was born in Negombo on 14 July 1912.

He started his long career in music, singing, acting, direction of music, composing and even writing dialogues for films in 1934 and his career span in the arts lasted for over half a century. He acted in the first Sinhala film, "Kadauna poronduwa" and wrote dialogues and wrote the lyrics of a song that became very popular for this film.

His birthplace Negombo has produced many an artist in the Sinhala film industry such as B A W, Eddie and Andrew Jayamanne, Rukmani Devi, Vijitha Mallika etc. He was actively engaged in the production of musicals in his village and in church groups and veteran film producer B A W Jayamanne, who produced the first Sinhala film saw the talent of this young man and invited him to participate in his film. He left for India to be its Assistant director of music and ended up as an actor as well as a playback singer. The journey thus commenced went on until his death and he acted in over 60 films.

The path to success of the Sinhala cinema was not a smooth one. Hugo Master was one of the few people who strived to organise the launch of the Sri Lanka National Film Cooperation. This was no easy task but "Master" took it in his stride and was still around to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sinhala film industry.

Hugo Master has been an assistant film director of 4 films and wrote dialogues for 16; composed songs for 12 films and was a play back singer for 3 films. He has been honoured with several national awards for his contribution to the Sinhala silver screen including the prestigious Kalashoori award by the President's Tower hall fund in 1984. He also received the President's Award from the State Film Cooperation in 1986. He obtained over 11 awards for his contribution to the Sinhala cinema.

Hugo Master's 91st birthday celebration was held on the 14th of July in the Negombo Town Hall and a highlight of the event was the release of a CD with 14 songs written by him. Also, a book on him and the Sinhala Film Industry written by Sidney Marcus Dias was reprinted. Although he was a legend and a very well known man, Hugo Fernando lived a very simple and unassuming life. He even planned a very simple funeral plan for his own funeral before he passed away. One of his last wishes was that oriental music be played during the time until he was buried.

Hugo Master was an actor and made a name for himself as a comedian. However, to his family, he was a devoted father and to his wife a loving husband. One of his son's Sarath Fernando is a former committee member of the NZSLF is a musician himself and Sarath's only son Praveen carries on the talents of his grandfather in the third generation. Sarath and Praveen have both contributed to the activities of the "Foundation" from its inception by providing music and Praveen has played the guitar or the keyboard for many a visiting musician in Auckland and Wellington. Their entire family including Chitra has contributed immensely to the Foundation from the time it was commenced.

We wish to acknowledge the contribution of this legend of the Sinhala Cinema and may the soul of the late Hugo Fernando, veteran actor and musician rest in eternal peace.

Migrant Employment

The Foundation has organised a series of employment-related workshops and seminars during the past four years, which has assisted many migrants to secure better employment. We have had many success stories from the previous participants of this workshop. In recognition of this the Foundation has been given a grant by the Lotteries Grants Commission to improve our efforts this year. The following areas are addressed during the workshops:

- CV preparation
- Improve job search strategies
- Interview skills
- Communication and presentation skills
- Net working
- Employment relations
- Cultural awareness in work place

The workshops are conducted by professional Employment Consultants and Career Development Advisors.

If you are a recent migrant looking for suitable employment or if you are planning for career advancement, this is the ideal opportunity for you. Our next employment workshop will be held in mid November this year. You could register your name and obtain further details by contacting any Committee Member of the Foundation.

Opportunity for the Sri Lankan Expatriate Scientists...

We quote below the full text of a letter dated 24/07/03 written by the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka sent to us through The High Commissioner in Canberra, which is self-explanatory.

Dear Sir
Technology Watch Center at NSF

The Technology Watch Center (TWC) was established at the National Science Foundation (NSF) by the Ministry of Economic Reform, Science & Technology with funding from the ADB. It was set up with a view to disseminate the latest technological information to the local industry. The TWC is working in the following areas, which were identified to be the areas in which Sri Lanka has a competitive advantage. They are Aquaculture Resources, Biotechnology, Civil/Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, Food Science and Technology, Information Technology, Management of Technology, Polymer Science and Technology and Textile Technology.

The TWC plans to expand its activities to better cater to the industry in Sri Lanka. In this context, we are developing a database of expatriate scientists who are in a position to advise the local industry. These scientists may sometimes have to undertake joint research projects with Sri Lankan scientists or give advice to the Sri Lankan industry on how to change their process technologies to meet international competition.

Therefore, we would appreciate your fullest support in giving the maximum publicity to our request through Sri Lankan associations in Australia and New Zealand. The expatriate scientists may visit our web site at www.twc.nsf.ac.lk for further information.

Thanking you,
M Watson
Director

In Lighter Vein

Bill arrives at the pearlies....

"Well, Bill", said God, I'm really confused on this one. I'm not sure whether to send you to Heaven or Hell! After all, you enormously helped society by putting a computer in almost every home in the world, and yet you created that ghastly Windows. I'm going to do something I've never done before. I'm going to let you decide where you want to go!"

Bill replied, "Well, thanks, God. What's the difference between the two?"

God said, "You can take a peek at both places briefly if it will help you decide. Shall we look at Hell first?"

"Sure!" said Bill, "Let's go!"

Bill was amazed! He saw a clean, white sandy beach with clear waters. There were thousands of beautiful women running around, playing in the water, laughing and frolicking about. The sun was shining and the temperature was perfect! Bill said, "This is great! If this is Hell, I can't wait to see heaven!"

To which God replied, "Let's go!" and off they went.

Bill saw puffy white clouds in a beautiful blue sky with angels drifting about playing harps and singing. It was nice, but surely not as enticing as Hell. Mr. Gates thought for only a brief moment and rendered his decision. "God, I do believe I would like to go to Hell."

"As you desire," said God.

Two weeks later, God decided to check up on the late billionaire to see how things were going. He found Bill shackled to a wall, screaming amongst the hot flames in a dark cave. He was being burned and tortured by demons. "How ya doin', Bill?" asked God.

Bill responded with anguish and despair, "This is awful! This is not what I expected at all! What happened to the beach and the beautiful women playing in the water?"

"Oh THAT!" said God, "That was the screen saver!"

Mexican village when a small boat with just one fisherman docked. Inside the small boat were several large Yellow-fin tuna.

The American complimented the Mexican on the quality of his fish and asked how long it took to catch them. The Mexican replied only a little while. The American then asked why didn't he stay out longer and catch more fish? The Mexican said he had enough to support his family's immediate needs.

The American then asked, "But what do you do with the rest of your time?"

The Mexican fisherman said, "I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, take siesta with my wife, Maria, stroll into the village each evening where I sip wine and play guitar with my amigos. I have a full and busy life, señor."

The American scoffed, "I am a Harvard MBA and could help you. You should spend more time fishing and with the proceeds buy a bigger boat, with the proceeds from the bigger boat you could buy several boats, eventually you would have a fleet of fishing boats. Instead of selling your catch to a middleman you would sell directly to the processor, eventually opening your own cannery. You would control the product, processing and distribution. You would need to leave this small coastal fishing village and move to Mexico City, then LA and eventually NYC where you will run your expanding enterprise." The Mexican fisherman asked, "But señor, how long will this all take?"

To which the American replied, "15-20 years."

"But what then, señor?"

The American laughed and said, "That's the best part. When the time is right you would announce an IPO and sell your company stock to the public and become very rich, you would make millions."

"Millions, señor? Then what?"

The American said, "Then you would retire. Move to a small coastal fishing village where you would sleep late, fish a little, play with your kids, take a siesta with your wife, stroll to the village in the evenings where you could sip wine and play your guitar with your amigos."

Business Advice

The American businessman was at the pier of a small coastal

Views expressed in articles are those of the contributing authors and may not necessarily reflect the views of the NZSLF

Contributions

This newsletter is published quarterly. We thank everybody who sent contributions to this newsletter and apologize for not being able to publish all contributions due to the limitation of the available space. Please send your contributions to the winter Issue by the end of November 2003 to the correspondence address below, Attn: Editorial Committee or by email to:
omarf12@hotmail.com

Correspondence Address: Editorial Committee, NZSLF, P O Box 41191, St Lukes, Auckland, New Zealand



NewZ Lanka

Newsletter of the New Zealand Sri Lanka Foundation Incorporated