

Welcome to the first issue of Noolaham News, the English newsletter from Noolaham Foundation. The aim of this initiative is to keep all our stakeholders updated about the Foundation's activities. Noolaham News will be published quarterly and will carry news and information about the projects and initiatives of the Foundation. Please send your feedback and suggestions to noolahamfoundation@gmail.com

Tamil Documentation Conference 2013

Noolaham Foundation has been successfully carrying out the task of knowledge sharing for the benefit of the present and future generations for the past 8 years. Our tasks include documenting and preserving the knowledge bases of the heritages of the Tamil speaking communities in Sri Lanka. Marking the completion of its 8th year, Noolaham Foundation has decided to hold a special event along with a research Conference on the theme "Documentation and Preservation in Sri Lankan Tamil Milieu" on the 27th and 28th of April 2013. knowledge with a research Conference on the theme "Documentation and Preservation in Sri Lankan Tamil Milieu" on the 27th and 28th of April 2013.

This conference aims at identifying and discussing the goals that have been achieved so far and the goals that

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need to be achieved in the future in the areas of documentation, preservation and dissemination of knowledge. Educationists and researchers across Sri Lanka and from other countries will submit their research papers on the following themes at this conference.

1. History, archaeological documents related to the heritages
2. Audio, visual and photographic documents
3. Individual personalities and institutions
4. Documenting society
5. Linguistic and literary documentation
6. Knowledge sharing and education
7. The role and uses of technology in documentation
8. Digital libraries, websites and databases
9. Cataloging and library science
10. Art, cultural memory and documentation

Researchers are invited to submit their abstracts not exceeding 400 words on or before 15th January 2013. Full papers for the accepted abstracts should be submitted on or before 1st March 2013. All accepted papers submitted for this conference will be published in the conference proceedings.

New Chief Operating Officer

Vimalathithan Vimalanathan is taking over from Seran Sivananthamoorthy as the COO of Noolaham Foundation from January 2013. Vimalathithan is currently working as an Assistant Manager, for Board of Architectural Education, Sri Lanka Institute of Architects. Photography, Poetry and Graphic Designing are his favorite creative fields. He is very much interested in Ancient Tamil Society's Culture, Economy, Technology, Arts and Settlement patterns. His first poetry book *Poiyum Pazhangathaiyum Verunghanavum* was published in 2010 by Thagitha Publication, Coimbatore, India. His research interests are South Asian Archeology, Heritage Management and Tamil Devotional Literature.

Noolaham Journal to be launched in April 2013

Noolaham Journal which is on its maiden step of the encouragement and acceleration of the researches concerning the past and present of our society has its prime objective of acquisition of research papers



and the publication of them after a careful examination of their quality. It is worthy to note that the 'Noolaham' journal is published to wipe out the emptiness of the availability high quality journals in the relevant field.

This journal has been decided to be published twice a year on April and October of each year. The Noolaham Foundation will pay special attention on the maintenance of high standards on the continuous publication, content and the external appearance of the

journal which has been initiated with an excellent management structure and with diverse varieties of resources. The first release of this journal will be held on 28th of April 2013 at the 8th anniversary of the Noolaham Foundation.

Donations Update

Noolaham Foundation relies heavily on the generous support from our users and well wishers. Please consider making a donation today. During 2012, twenty six donor donated 2.3 million rupees for the Foundation. The details are as follows:

Federal Assistance Award	568,147.50
Relief And Rehabilitation Network (UK)	420,945.00
Pathmanaba Iyer, Rathina Iyer	239,770.00
Neelan Thiruchelvam Trust	213,713.50
Bavaharan, Vanniyasingham	208,373.00
Natkeeran, L. Kanthan	109,095.00
Kopinath Thillainathan	72,100.00
Manamohan, V. (Dr)	65,000.00
Tamil Literary Garden	56,875.00
Kopi, Disan and Friends	55,900.00
Noolaham United Kingdom	46,912.50

Jeyachandran Vaithilingam	32,500.00
Sakar, Muthukumar	2,500.00
Kumaran, A.	32,500.00
Sutharshan Srinivasan	30,010.00
Premkumar, A.	26,000.00
Yoga Nathan Trust	25,000.00
Sivakumaran, K.	14,500.00
Franklin Marshal, K.	13,000.00
Akilan Poobalasingam	13,000.00
Anojan Gunaratnam	13,000.00
Arulpiragasam, S.	13,000.00
Sivakumaran, Aravind	11,750.00
Ganesan, Nanda	11,315.00
Balasuthan Gopalasingam	6,500.00
Sampath Bank – Wellawatte	5,000.00
TOTAL	2,336,406.50

Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust grant update

Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust has provided us with a grant to carry out a digitization project for six months. The main goal of this project is to document and digitize a minimum of 30,000 pages of books and other publications and make them available without access restrictions.

To make publications available without access restrictions, permissions from copyright holders have to be obtained and thus obtaining permissions from 50 copyright holders was also planned to be conducted as part of this project.

Even though this project was scheduled to start on 1 September 2012, we were not able to commence activities because the grants were received in October. Activities commenced in October 2012 and during the first two months of the project, we have

1. scanned 29 publications with 5,927 pages
2. Obtained another 45 publications with 3,758 pages to be scanned
3. Obtained new permissions from 15 copyright holders
4. Revamped the copyrights permissions database

Pallikoodam initiated

Pallikoodam (Tamil word for School) yet another ambitious initiative of Noolaham Foundation has been initiated during 2012. The vision of this initiative is to create open, freely accessible, self-organizing virtual learning environments for the Sri Lankan Tamil speaking students and educators.

Two pilot projects (*Digital Library for Advanced Level Students* and *Digital Library for Ordinary Level Students*) were started in October 2012 and it will be finished in September. Two project officers were assigned for scanning and all other activities are being carried out by volunteers, mainly university students. These volunteers have approached schools, private institutions, individuals and education departments to identify, locate and collect educational resources. About 500 exam papers are already digitized. So far many schools from Jaffna, Trincomalee and Colombo have provided or agreed to provide their study materials for this project.

Education department of Northern Province has given permission to collect resources from all the schools under their domain. Some Zonal Education Departments have agreed to provide resources as well. Resource collecting activities are currently being extended to other districts as well.

Noolaham Digital Library Update

2,050 documents were added during 2010 to the Project Noolaham database, taking the tally from 10,058 to 12108. They include

Books	3,806
Magazines	4,930
Newspapers	1,986
Others	1,386
Total	12,108

These publications were published in 108 years. The books includes publications of 1,586 publishers and 2,147 authors. There were four Special Archives and nine portals enhancing the accessibility of the website.

Noolaham Digital Library Usage 2012

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits
Jan-12	11,116	19,948	214,710	648,841
Feb-12	10,287	19,258	195,269	595,388
Mar-12	10,619	19,559	223,437	660,509
Apr-12	10,618	18,782	240,913	615,190
May-12	12,143	20,686	229,385	708,767
Jun-12	12,913	20,870	205,025	612,906
Jul-12	13,594	21,743	278,039	703,907
Aug-12	14,319	23,560	399,523	807,132
Sept-12	12,918	20,417	399,095	743,393
Oct-12	14,168	23,258	536,773	930,126
Nov-12	13,288	21,996	436,909	856,856
Dec-12	14,194	23,378	394,657	758,184
Total	150,177	253,455	3,753,735	8,641,199

Veththiyar Thamizhavanam 2013

Students of Royal College Tamil Debate Council have electronically documented the school books published for the past 48 years. This pioneer event has been named 'Veththiyar Thamizhavanam 2013' by them. The occasion of releasing the CD was held with the collaboration of Noolaham Foundation at Royal College Union Skill Centre on 31st March 2013.

The chief guest of the event of releasing the CD was Hon D. M. Swaminathan and special guest was M. Raja Rajeswaran Thangarajah, Attorney-at-Law. The other distinguished



participants were School Principle, Mr. H.A.Upali Gunasekara, the Deputy Principal of Royal College, Mr M.Ganapathipillay, The Teacher-in-Charge of the current debate team of Royal College, Mr G.Sri Ragawarajan, Noolaham Foundation Director Mr.S.Seran, Past presidents of Royal college debate teams of yester years and several old boys of the college.

Discussion on "Pallikoodam" Program in Colombo

A small discussion on seeking advice on the Pallikoodam Project currently undertaken by Noolaham Foundation was held at the Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel on March 6th 2013. The discussion was attended by some foreign resource persons namely Agneta W Flinck, Lecturer Department of Sociology, Division of Education and Andreas Bryngelson, project Co- ordinator, Lund University. Prof.S.Santhirasegaran, Mr. Sureshkumar Kanthasamy, Mr. Seran Sivananthamoorthy, Ms. Chinthoorie Yogalingam and Ms. Varakini Shanmugas also participated in the event. The meeting enabled the participants to get a broad understanding of the project. It also strengthened the relationship of the foundation with those who could be of great help in the future in the projects initiated by the Foundation



Introducing Noolaham in Batticola

An introductory event about Noolaham Foundation and its projects and programmes was held at the Co-op center hall in Batticaloa on the 30th of March 2013. The primary intention of the event was to broaden the people's awareness about the Noolaham Foundation and the projects currently undertaken by the Foundation. The event had two segments. The first one was for the general public from 9 A.M. to 12 Noon and the second one was catered to the educational sector, especially students and teachers, from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M. The content of both events were the same. The participants at the event from the Foundation were Mr.Seran Sivananthamoorthy, Mr.Sureshkumar Kanthasamy, Mr.Anuheman Annalingam, Mr.Umadaran Sivathas, Mr.Mayuran Sivanathan, Mr.Harishanth Thiraviyanathan and Mr.Sivarajan Balakumaran. The major topic of the event was on the feasibility for the Noolaham Foundation to operate in Batticaloa and to pursue its projects by obtaining available resources from the region. Emphasis was also given to the Virtual

Classroom project presently being undertaken by the Foundation.

The event began with the introduction of the participants from the Foundation by Mr.Seelan Sivaguru. Thereafter, Mr.Seran Sivananthamoorthy gave a brief introduction to the background and the past and present activities of the Noolaham Foundation. This was followed by an address by Mr.Umadaran Sivathas on Institutional Archive and an address by Mr.Mayuran Sivanathan about the Tamil Documentation Conferance and the Noolaham Journal. The next part of the event was the introduction of the Virtual Classroom project by Mr.Sureshkumar Kanthasamy and an overview of the noolaham.org website by Mr.Harishanth Thiraviyanathan. We are happy to note that the event received a warm response from the audience and it served as a signal for the future dissemination of the Noolaham Foundation's activities in Batticaloa. This event was organized with the help of Sarmila Ragunathan and Seelan Sivaguru.

Volunteers discuss Pallikoodam initiative

A meeting about the 'Pallikoodam Project' was organized at the Cosy Restaurant, Jaffna on 09.03.2013 at about 7.30 P.M. The primary intention of the meeting was to explore and discuss the ways and means of pushing the project towards its next phase. The participants of the meeting were Mr.S.Seran, Mr.K.Sureshkumar, Mr.Sarveswaran Kengatharaiyer (Lecturer, Department of Computer Science, University of Jaffna), Mr.Sayanthan (Solution

architect, hsenid), Mr.B.Raveendran (Advance Level Combined Maths teacher), Mr.K.Sivalingam (Advance Level Physics teacher), Miss.N.Kala (Advance Level Chemistry teacher) and N.Piranavaruban, E.Kawsihen, T.Harishanth, S.Tharshikan, A.Vimosanan, V.Magilan, S.Athirayan from the Resource Team. The main topic of the discussion was the preparation of the Moodle for the advanced level especially for the Maths

stream immediately. The teachers who took part at the discussion promised to provide course structures of their respective subjects. Each of them will be helped in their tasks by a team. It has been planned to accomplish this work at least by the 10th of March. The meeting which continued with some other miscellaneous matters regarding the contribution of the teachers was finally over by about 9 P.M.

Nudpam Conference – 2013

The 'Nudpam' Technological conference was held at the Jaffna Public Library Auditorium on 9th of March 2013. It was organized by a Tamil Information Technology Organization named 'Nudpam'. More than 14 research papers on diverse topics in the area of Information Technology were submitted at the conference. The Chief Operating Officer of the Noolaham Foundation, Mr.Seran Sivananthamoorthy provided his address submitting a research paper on the topic 'Tamil digitization efforts in Sri Lanka'. Mr.Sarveswaran Kengatharaiyer, Lecturer, Department of Computer Science, University of Jaffna too submitted a research paper on the topic of. Both research papers were greatly welcomed and the audience seemed to have found them useful.



'Panaiyolai' Documentation Conference held in Colombo

A documentation seminar titled 'Panayolai' was held in 'Vinothan Hall' at the 'Colombo Tamil Sangam', Wellawatte on 03.03.2013. The event commenced at 10.00 a.m. with the welcome address by Mr.Vimalathiththan Vimalanathan and was followed by an address by Mr.T.Mathusoothanan. Thereafter, a short lecture on the topic of 'Documentation and the sharing of Knowledge' was delivered by Prof.Saba.Jeyarajah. The next event was an address by

Mr.K.Raguparan on the topic 'The Documentation related to the Tamil societies of Sri Lanka and the adjacent phases to be adopted'. There was a discussion then on common topics related to documentation. People from various spheres of society such as architects, people attached to the news media and linguists took part in the discussion and presented their views and thoughts. The seminar ended with Mr. Seran Sivananthamoorthy's vote of thanks.

Tamil Documentation Conference Organizing Committee met in Colombo

The Organizing Committee of the TDC – Tamil Documentation Conference 2013 met on the 3rd of March at the ‘Vinothan Hall’ of Colombo ‘Tamil Sangam’. Vimalathithan Vimalanathan, Chairman of the TDC organizing committee, Seran Sivananthamoorthy, Director of Noolaham Foundation and Y.Chinthoorie, Secretary of the TDC organizing committee were the chief participants at the meeting. The participants discussed the current status of the projects and activities related to the conference and the future plans to improve and implement them.

Tamil Documentation Conference - 2013 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Chairperson - Vimalanathan Vimalathithan
Secretary - Chinthoorie Yogalingam
Treasurers – Anuheman Annalingam
Gajani Satchithanandan

Program Organizing Team

Puviraj Iroshan
Jeganathan Thivatharan
Balasubramaniam Neethujan
Thayaparan Moganarangan
Selvanayagam Jegathepan
Rajendram Tharshanth
Krishnamoorthy Mayuresan
Sivakumar Luckshan
Arulhasan Kandepan

Publication Team

Sivanathan Mayuran
Thavendran Kapilan
Arunasalam Sambhanthan
Arulseeelan Harishan

Registration Team

Chinthoorie Yogalingam
Sivadas Umadaran
Nanthakumar Subesan
Varakini Shanmugadas
Balakumar Sivarajan
Ratnasegar Natheesan
Thadshayini Ragunathan

Guest Relations Team

Jeyaseelan Ladeslous
Murugesu Suthakar
Jagaseelan Varalakson
Nagarajah Kapilan

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