

# Alternatives

Official Newsquarterly of the Centre for Policy Alternatives, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

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CPA, in collaboration with the Forum of Federations, hosted a three-day residential course on federalism entitled "The Federal Idea". The course was held from April 3<sup>rd</sup> - April 5<sup>th</sup>, in Negombo, and provided background information on federalism while exploring different models of Federal government. International experts on federalism examined these issues through case studies and participatory sessions. Applications exceeding three times the number of available places were received. Among

## THE FEDERAL IDEA



the Canadian High Commissioner, Valarie Raymond Dr P. Saravanamuttu, ED, CPA and Hon Bob Rea, Forum of Federations

the participants chose were public servants and representatives of civil society groups who deal with federalism related issues but who have not formally studied the topic.

Speakers included Professor David Cameron and the Hon. Bob Rae (Canada), Dr. Rekha Saxena (India) and Dr. Saravanamuttu, ED, CPA

Dr Rekha Saxena and Prof David Cameron



Participants at the Workshop



## On National List Nominations

### NATIONAL LIST NOMINATIONS

The petition filed by Sunanda Deshapriya, Director, CPA, challenging certain National List nominations to Parliament following the April 2004 General Elections was mentioned in the Court of Appeal on 26th of April 2005 and was postponed to 14<sup>th</sup> July 2005, pending the disposal of the petition filed in the Supreme Court by Mr. Ratnasiri Wickremaranyake.

### Public Interest Litigation

### ON THE 100 METRE BUFFER ZONE

A team of researchers from CPA visited tsunami affected areas in Hambanthota, to ascertain whether people of that area were interested in moving back to their original places of residence located within the 100 meter buffer zone. CPA is considering assisting any interested parties in litigation, but the idea is on hold, considering uncertainty over buffer zone rules and lack of clear will to prosecute on part of affected people interviewed.

## Study on Demand Side of Child Trafficking in the Fireworks Industry

Social Indicator was commissioned by ILO to conduct a survey on the demand side of child trafficking in the fireworks industry. This study identifies the factors and the labour market forces that create the demand for children to be exploited. The draft report was completed and submitted to Transparency International (SL) in June.

## Women, Land and the Law



Araliya Senapathi, Bhavani Fonseka and Reshma Harjani of CPA making presentations at the Workshop 26th May



This research conducted by the CPA, for CARE international, focuses on the difficulties women face in owning and accessing land and property, legal issues related to the topic, the nature of land disputes, the modalities of their resolution and availability of assistance from governmental and non governmental agencies.

The draft report of this study was presented at workshops in Jaffna, Batticaloa and Colombo in May.

<http://www.sundayobserver.lk/2005/05/15/new12.html>

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Rohan Edrisinha, Director, CPA and Head of Legal Unit, was invited to speak at the special session on Sri Lanka at the Private Sector Summit on Post-Tsunami Reconstruction and Rehabilitation, 12<sup>th</sup> May at the Ronald Reagan Convention Centre, Washington DC. The summit which was co-hosted by the US Chamber of Commerce, the US-ASEAN Business Council, the Asia Foundation and the Asia Society was addressed by former Presidents George Bush Snr., & Bill Clinton & UN Under Secretary General, Jan Egeland, Deputy Secretary of State, Bob Zoellick and Richard Holbrooke.

The session on Sri Lanka was chaired by former US Ambassador in Sri Lanka, Ashley Wills, and included presentations by Ambassador Bernard Goonetilleke, TAFREN chairman Mano Tittawela and Rotarian Jeanne Samuels.

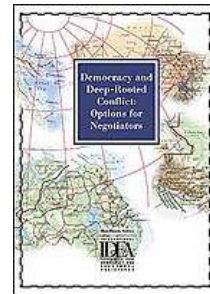
More information and transcripts of the Summit are available at <http://www.asiasociety.org/resources/>



Asanga Welikala of the Legal Unit joined the Office of Constitutional Support of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) as Associate Legal Affairs Officer

Bhavani Fonseka of Legal Unit participated in the follow-up workshop by the South Asia Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR) on *Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination against Ethnic Minorities and Indigenous People*, held in Milan, Italy, 11<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> June.

Pradeep Peiris, Head of Social Indicator, was invited by the Centre for the Studies on Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi for the Analysis Workshop of the South Asian Democracy Barometer survey, as an analysis expert, 17<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> May,



Dr Saravanamuttu attended an author meeting for the forthcoming *International Idea Handbook on Democracy and Deep Rooted Conflict* Stockholm, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> April

Dr Saravanamuttu, Executive Director, CPA, participated in a conference on the "The Future of Public Service Broadcasting" organized by Article 19 in collaboration with the Oxford Programme on Comparative Media Law and Policy, 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June, London.

Cyrene Siriwardhene, Director, CPA, participated in the ASEAN People's Assembly and made a presentation on "Human rights and people's participation in post-conflict Sri Lanka" at the ASEAN Human Rights Colloquium in Manila on the invitation of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation from 10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, May

## Staff Changes at CPA

### New Faces...



Rasika M Perera who previously worked with the Yukthiya Newspaper and then as a copywriter, joined the Media Unit as a Research Assistant



Supun Madhusanketha who previously worked with CMEV as an Assistant Provincial Co ordinator ,and Field Co-ordinator joined the Media Unit in the as a Researcher.



S.G.Chanaka Krishantha who previously worked with CMEV as an Province Co ordinator of the North Central Province, joined CPA Media Unit as a researcher.

LEFT CPA :  
Sundari De Alwis,  
Kumaravadivel Gurupparan,  
Saman Gunethilleka  
Reshma Harjani



**8<sup>th</sup> June** CPA hosted a discussion on HIV/AIDS and Stigma and Discrimination faced by People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). The discussion was based on the findings of a study commissioned by the Asia Pacific Leadership Forum (APLF) to measure the stigma and discrimination faced

Kumaravadivel Guruparan, Lilanka Botheju, Dr P.Saravanamuttu, and Bhavani Fonseka, of CPA



## Fighting Discrimination faced by PLWAs

by PLWHA and their families in areas such as Employment, Healthcare, Social Life, Education and Housing. The aim of the discussion was to address the various levels of stigma and to explore possible ways in which it could be mitigated if not eradicated.



Jan Leno  
Chair  
UNAIDS

Articles by CPA staff and on CPA events appeared in Daily Mirror, Daily News, Lakkima and Dinamina among others. Dr

Saravanamuttu contributes a weekly column named "INSIGHT" published in the Morning Leader on Wednesdays and to the Lankadeepa. Kethesh Loganathan, Unit Head Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit, CPA, was a panelist in a Rupavahini Talk Show on "P-TOMS and Implications for the Peace", **26<sup>th</sup> June**.

**Daily News**



Photos from the Dialogue Workshop on Political Parties with IDEA, April 6<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>

The Media Unit Voices of Reconciliation project team attended a two day capacity building workshop on Facilitation Skills conducted by PALTRA (Program for Alternative Training) on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June at the Human Development Centre at Tholangamuwa, Ambepussa. Through the workshop, the team received training in the skills and attitudes necessary for effective facilitation of a workshop, application of adult learning techniques and use of visual aids and other tools in facilitation and workshop planning and organizing.

### Unit in Focus

### PEACE UNIT

As a part of the Donor Working Group Project, a field visit to Mannar was conducted on **May 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>** to look into the issue of conflict-related IDPs. The Team consisted of Dr Devanesan Nesiah, Mirak Raheem, (Peace Unit) Bhavani Fonseka, Shehana Gomez, Nikhil Narayan (Legal Unit) and Krishnamurthy (SI). The Team met with a number of stakeholders including the GA and local government officials, the LTTE, NGOs and local community leaders. The principal issues were the situation of Muslim IDPs, Tamil refugees in India and their efforts to return to Sri Lanka.



Social Indicator launched the third wave of its KAPS survey in June 2005. Prof. Steven Finkle, (University of Virginia) and Prof. William Mishler (University of Arizona), provided technical assistance in designing the questionnaire. Prof. Mishler and Social Indicator's Unit Head Pradeep Peiris met twenty individuals who are directly involved in the current

### KAPS 2005

a three day residential workshop for a total of 79 recruited field enumerators. In addition to the questionnaire briefing SI invited Prof. Jayadeva Uyangoda Head of the Political Science department (UOC) and Mirak Raheem (CPA) respectively to deliver a talk on the role of survey research and to provide current political analysis. Mary Mulvihill and Melanie Brehaut were also present at the workshop representing the Academy for Educational Development (AED).

## Calendar of Events

For more updates on latest and upcoming CPA events, visit  
[http://www.cpalanka.org/calendar\\_events.html](http://www.cpalanka.org/calendar_events.html)

### April

**1<sup>st</sup> SLFI Colombo** CPA launched a "**Handbook on Suicide Reporting**," in collaboration with PressWise Trust, a UK based media ethics organisation.

**3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Negombo**, CPA in collaboration with the Forum of Federations, hosted a three-day residential course on federalism entitled "The Federal Idea".

**6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Negombo/Colombo Dialogue Workshop on Political Parties** hosted by CPA with International Idea, a meeting of the researchers in the South Asian Region, in a Programme Of Research And Dialogue On Political Parties to assess the internal functioning of political parties and intra-party democracy.

### May

**12<sup>th</sup> SLFI** The Federal Idea (available in English, Sinhala and Tamil), the former edited by Lionel Guruge of CPA and the Sinhala translation of Asanga Welikala's Fiscal and Financial Arrangements in a Federal Sri Lanka all published by CPA, were released to the public in a Book Launch.

**18<sup>th</sup> Postal Auditorium, Kandy**. Opening ceremony of the "Vibhasha" Kandy Regional Center.

**26<sup>th</sup>** Workshop on Women's Access to and Ownership of Land and Property, CPA with CARE international.

**29<sup>th</sup> - June 1<sup>st</sup>**. In collaboration with World Bank Institute, SL, a three day **Workshop on Freedom of Information and Mass Media in Sri Lanka**.

### June

**8<sup>th</sup>** discussion on **HIV/AIDS and Stigma and Discrimination faced by People Living With HIV and AIDS (PLWHA)**.

**9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Negombo**. In collaboration with UNDP, CPA hosted a Roundtable on the Role Of Parliaments In Conflict And Post-Conflict Situations In Asia.

### EVENTS ATTENDED

**9<sup>th</sup> April** Kethesh Loganathan, head of Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit, served as a panelist in a Panel Discussion on "**The Security and Humanitarian Situation in the East - Implications for the East**" organized by the Rotary Annual Convention.

**17<sup>th</sup> April** Dr Saravanamuttu was the key note speaker at the New Year luncheon meeting of the Standing Committee of Tamil Speaking People (SCOT) London. He spoke on "**The Tamils Right to Self Determination**".

**18-19<sup>th</sup> April** Dr Saravanamuttu attended an author meeting on the forthcoming *International Idea Handbook on Democracy and Deep Rooted Conflict*, Stockholm, Sweden.

**19<sup>th</sup> April**. Kethesh and Mirak attended a briefing by US Asst Secretary of State (South Asia) Christina Rocca at the official re-opening of the American Centre Library

**12<sup>th</sup> May** Rohan Edrisinha, Director, CPA, was invited to speak at the special session on Sri Lanka at the Private Sector Summit on Post-Tsunami Reconstruction and Rehabilitation at the Ronald Reagan Convention Centre, Washington DC.

**17<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> May, Delhi**. Pradeep Peiris, Head of Social Indicator, was invited by the Centre for the Studies on Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi for the Analysis Workshop of the South Asian Democracy Barometer survey, as an analysis expert

### EVENTS ATTENDED cont...

**21<sup>st</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> May** Nishantha Hewavithane, Researcher at Social Indicator participated in a residential workshop on "Social Theory", organized by the ACS Hameed foundation in collaboration with the University of Peradeniya

**10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> May** Cyrene Siriwardhene, Director, CPA, participated in the ASEAN People's Assembly and made a presentation on "**Human rights and people's participation in post-conflict Sri Lanka**" at the ASEAN Human Rights Colloquium in Manila on the invitation of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation from

**June 2005** Asanga Welikala of the Legal Unit joined the Office of Constitutional Support of United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) as Associate Legal Affairs Officer

**11<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> June** Milan, Italy. Bhavani Fonseka of Legal Unit participated in the follow-up workshop by the South Asia Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR) on *Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination against Ethnic Minorities and Indigenous People*

**24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> June, London, UK** Dr Saravanamuttu, Executive Director, CPA, participated in a conference on the "**The Future of Public Service Broadcasting**" organized by Article 19 in collaboration with the Oxford Programme on Comparative Media Law and Policy.

**22<sup>nd</sup> June**. Cyrene Siriwardhane, Director, CPA made a presentation on **Local Governance and Conflict** - at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for the Canada/ITDG Consultation on Post-Tsunami Research issues.

**24<sup>th</sup> June** Cyrene Siriwardhane spoke on **Human rights and Women** at the National Committee on Women (NCW)/CENWOR Workshop on the National Plan of Action on Women.

### LATEST PUBLICATIONS

Federalwadaya - the Sinhala Version of the Forum of Federations Newsletter - available free of charge and in electronic format

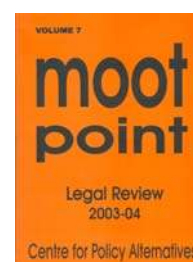


The Federal Idea - English, Sinhala and Tamil

MootPoint Vol 7 Legal Review



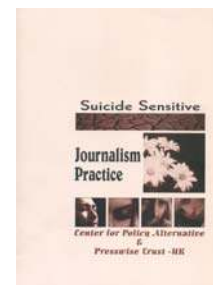
Janamadhyawedeenge Aarakshawa Magapenweem - Sinhala



The Draft report of CPAs study on Women's Access to Land and Property too was printed in limited edition in June 2005



Suicide Sensitive Journalism, English



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