

## Noolaham Foundation meets with 'Asia Art Archive'

A meeting of Noolaham foundation with the Asia Art Archive (Hong Kong) was held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at the Noolaham Foundation Office. This pilot meeting was organized with the view of accelerating the activities of Noolaham Foundation and working together with Asia Art Archive. Linda Lee, Co-ordinator of Asia Art Archive, Seran Sivananthamoorthy, Director Noolaham Foundation and Ramanaish Kathiravel participated in this meeting.

*"I am very much impressed by the digitalization work you have been doing on Tamil documents. It's so great to see the specialization work in your documentation, archiving information and sharing it. Asia Art Archive also believes in 'preservation through sharing' which is in common with the vision of your foundation."* –these remarks made by Linda Lee are to be noted. We believe that this meeting will be a driving force for new joint project initiatives with Asia Art Archive.



Asia Art Archive website : [www.aaa.org.hk](http://www.aaa.org.hk)

## Interactive Discussion on Introduction to Wikipedia

An interactive discussion, "Panaiyolai" was held under the Chairmanship of Seran Sivananthamoorthy on 25<sup>th</sup> of April in the Vinothan Hall, Tamil Sangam, Colombo. A. Ravishankar from India was the Guest Speaker at this seminar.



### Introduction to Wikipedia - A. Ravishankar

He made a presentation on the basic features, contents and the joint development of world-wide volunteers of Wikipedia.

### Open Content - M. Mayuran

He explained the meaning of 'open' and the special features of 'Open content compilation'.

### Creative Commons - T. Gopinath

He gave explanations for Creative Commons exclusive right and also explained how this could be useful to contributors.

It is to be mentioned that R. Mayurathan, a major contributor to Tamil Wikipedia (more than 3000 articles) also participated at this event.

## Discussion with 'Raking Leaves'

The Activity Group of Noolaham Foundation organized a discussion with 'Raking Leaves' on June 13. Shamini Perera, Director and Sunila Galapathi, Assistant Director participated representing Raking Leaves in the discussion while Seran Sivananthamoorthy, Director and Sureshkumar Kandasamy, Coordinator-Pallikoodam Project participated representing Noolaham Foundation.

Noolaham Foundation was established by intellectuals with the objective of preserving, categorizing, documenting, and digitalizing Tamil cultural heritage. With a view to further strengthen our objectives, we have decided to engage in new projects in collaboration with 'Raking Leaves' who too are involved in documentation of books using high technology.

## 'Pallikoodam' joins G.C.E. A/L Model Examination Project

An agreement was made at Noolaham Foundation while conducting a meeting with the student representatives of Moratuwa University and the 'Pallikoodam' project activity group of Noolaham foundation. The agreement was that the 'Pallikoodam' project would co-jointly work in the G.C.E. A/L Model Examination Project which had been conducted solely by the Moratuwa University students.



MORA E-TAMILS 2015

Model Exam - 2013

மொறட்டுவையப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் மொறட்டியல் பீட தயார் மாணவர்கள், நூலக நிறுவனத்தின் "பள்ளிக்கூடம்" செயற்திட்டத்தின் கீழ் கிணற்று கில்லுடம் க.பொ.த. உயர்தரப் பரீட்சைக்கு தோற்ற கிருக்கும் கண்கை மற்றும் உயர்வல் பரீவு மாணவர்களுக்காக நாடளாவிய ரீதியில் நடாத்த கிருக்கும் தயார் மற்றும் ஆங்கில மொழி நூலக மாணவரும் சேர்ந்தோடு பரீட்சை.

பரீட்சைக்கான அனுமதிக்கை பரீட்சையின் முதல் நாள் அன்று பரீட்சை மண்டப நுழைவாயிலிலும் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளலாம்.

Districts
Jaffna
Trincomalee
Batticaloa
Mullaitivu
Kandy
Matale
Gampaha

Districts
Colombo
Vavuniya
Ampara
Mannar
Kilinochchi
Badulla
Hatton



Therefore Sutharshan Sirinivasan, Noolaham-Canada Co-ordinator, presented a cheque to the Examination Co-ordinator in this context.

Examination was held successfully in 14 districts from June 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> with the intention of benefiting 2800 students.

'Pallikoodam' Project is continuously assisting such educational projects while focusing the education of backward students of the Tamil speaking communities.

## Formulation of Handbook for Work Plan – Workshop



A workshop for volunteers on formulation of internal development and work plan was held at the Noolaham Foundation premises. Ramanaish Kathiravel served as the Resource Person at this workshop held on June 16. Three major issues, viz. procedures in preparing a handbook, the importance of handbook preparation and the impact of the preparation on the future activities of the Foundation, were discussed at this workshop. The Activity Group members of the Foundation participated at this workshop.



# Tamil Documentation Conference – 2013

Noolaham Foundation which has been engaged in the knowledge sharing mission for the present and future generations through its involvement in the documentation and preservation of the heritage of the Tamil speaking communities, held its Tamil Documentation Conference - 2013 along with its celebration to mark the 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013. This conference with the theme “Documentation and preservation in Sri Lankan Tamil milieu” was held on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. This conference is unique in the sense that it was the first ever conference on documentation in Sri Lanka. All the eight Forums of the conference were held in the Sangarapillai Hall and the Vinothan Hall of Colombo Tamil Sangam.

## Forum - A view

### 1. Documentation and Technology Forum

**Chair: Prof. V. Maheswaran**



Five research papers, viz. documentation of paintings in Tamil scenario, preservation of human Social History through photography, preservation of manuscripts of Eelam Sidda Medicine, the importance of digitalization in

preservation of the documents faced with the risk of extinction and also Documentation of ancient olla and paper documents were presented during this session.

In his concluding speech, Prof. V. Maheswaran said that documentation should not only focus on published or reachable documents, but also on carrying forward to the future the documents that one need to dig into.

### 2. History, Archeology and Heritage Forum

**Chair: Prof. S. Pathmanathan**

Five research articles, viz. Sri Lankan Tamil traditional architecture, influence of the arrival of the Dutch on art and culture in Jaffna peninsula, stone inscriptions and stone inscription research in

Batticaloa, history of Wellaweli village and the Batticaloa-Palugamam charter, were presented during this session.

Prof. Pathmanathan in his concluding speech said, “Changes are currently taking place in history and untruths are being propagated. Therefore, the intellectual world will believe only if the truth is revealed with evidence.”



### 3. Folk Art Forum

**Chair: Prof. S. Mounaguru**

Four research articles, viz. Eastern Sri Lanka folk tales, traditional worship and rituals in Batticaloa, Eelam ‘word of mouth songs’ and the Folk tales that existed among the Tamil and Muslim communities in Batticaloa, were presented at this Forum.



Prof. S. Mounaguru in his concluding speech directed the researchers to minutely examine and comprehend the research components of research articles and understand its micro politics. He further said that the objective of research should be directed to its core.

### 4. Art Forum

**Chair: Prof. Saba. Jeyarasa**

A number of research articles were presented at this Forum. They included all the events that had taken place since the commencement of Drama and Theatre





Course at Swami Vipulananda Institute of Aesthetic Studies, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, street dramas performed in Batticaloa, costumes, jewelry and make-ups of the Ravanaesam Vadamodi Drama of the 1960 – 2012, art events conducted by the Department of Fine Arts, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, short films produced in Batticaloa and Dissertation of the students of the Department of Fine Arts, Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

#### 4. Community Forum

**Chair: Prof. S. Yogarasa**

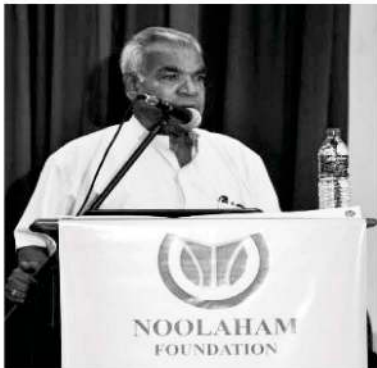


Five research papers were presented at this Forum. They included Arayampathy Tamil community, those who propagated Tamil medicine in Jaffna, life, art and political activities of poet, Subathiran, worship traditions of Tamil speaking veddas and first Sri Lankan Tamil Women journalist, Mangalammal

Masilamani. Prof. Yogarasa created a space for a healthy debate and effectively moderated the events.

#### 5. Tamil language and Literature Forum

**Chair: Prof. S. Thillainathan**



Eight research articles were presented at this Forum. They included graffiti, Eelam literature initiatives of the initial stages, Eelam 'sathaha literature', children's play songs

of the Polonaruwa District, book index in Tamil, colloquial words related to Palmyrah, great efforts of Rev. Fr. Thaninayagam in search of olden books and Eastern Sri Lanka Christian magazines.

Prof. Thillainathan in his concluding speech emphasized the necessity to compile a Sri Lankan Tamil dictionary consisting of words that are no

more in usage with their meanings as a document for the present situation.

#### 6. Library Forum

**Chair: Prof. S. Sandrasegaram**

Five research articles were presented at this Forum. They included the role of library information exchange in raising the standard of higher education sector to international levels, history of the Jaffna Library, pursuing books- an evaluation, documentation of 'kirantha' model Sanskrit books found at Jaffna Library and the Sri Lanka Public Library system.



In his concluding speech, Prof. Sandrasegaram said that this Forum became significant in view of the fact that libraries are birth places and also places of preservation of knowledge. He also expressed his happiness at the contribution of young researches.

#### 8. Culture Forum

**Chair: Dr. Selvi Thiruchandran**

Four research articles were presented at this Forum. They included the impact of the advent of Christianity on the life of Tamils in Sri Lanka, extent of *Throupathi* worship in Sri Lanka, the traditional food customs of the people of Jaffna and the procedure for the functioning of documentation efforts in stateless societies.



Dr. Selvi Thiruchandran in her concluding speech said that "Researches in the universities mostly take place within a specific intellectual circle and they are points-related. But, outside researches have no limitations." She appreciated the youth for participating in conferences such as this.