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CPA held a conference on **International Dimensions of the Sri Lankan Peace Process** from July 8th –9th. Resource persons included Teressita Schaffer of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington D.C, (Former US Ambassador to Sri Lanka), Lt.Gen Raghavan, Director of the Delhi Policy Group and John Darby, Professor of Comparative Ethnic Studies at the Kroc Institute in the University of Notre Dame, and Director of the Research

INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS of the Sri Lankan Peace Process



Clockwise: Teressita Schaffer, Prof John Darby, & Lt Gen Raghavan

Initiative for the Resolution of Ethnic Conflict (RIREC) More info available at http://www.cpalanka.org/research_papers/International_Dimensions_Jayadeva_Uyangoda.doc and <http://www.island.lk/2005/07/11/news1.html>

CPA CONDEMNS THE ASSASINATION OF HON LAKSHMAN KADIRGAMAR

http://www.cpalanka.org/Press_Release_Lakshman_Kadirgamar.html

CPA files objection

Aug 8th CPA raised preliminary objections on the composition of the Supreme Court Bench which is to give an opinion on the date of the Presidential election. These were based on the ground that the Chief Justice was involved in many of the disputed facts that were at issue in the case such as the fact that he had administered the oath to President Chandrika Kumaratunga in December 1999.

Public Interest Litigation

CPA however had no objections to the President's decision to consult the Supreme Court on the date of the Presidential election as there were issues that need to be resolved and CPA felt that the constitutional interpretations were there to support the arguments of both the UNP and the President respectively

more at http://www.cpalanka.org/research_papers/Presidential_Election_Date.doc & <http://www.dailymirror.lk/2005/08/04/front/01.asp>



Women & Politics in Sri Lanka

The majority of women within political parties have had to accept a role of unheard and unseen representatives without much say. In other words, they remain an invisible entity within these parties, even as elected representatives. Although the major parties have an almost equal proportion of active men and women at the lower levels i.e. district and village levels, at the higher decision making level the representation of women is abysmal. It can be stated that due to the undemocratic nature of political parties and the lackadaisical attitude adopted by them with regard to increasing the representation of women, women continue to remain as the underdogs in the political field.

Social Indicator has therefore embarked on an in-depth qualitative study with financial assistance from the National Peace Council and technical assistance from Ms.Chulani Kodikara and Ms. Kumudini Samuel,

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**New
On
the
Board..**



Attorney at
Law, Ahmad Javid Yusuf,
former Sri Lankan
Ambassador to Saudi
Arabia and principal of
Zahira College and
currently Co Chairman of
National Peace Council
joined CPA's Board of
Directors July 2005



Dr Saravanamuttu presented the study on the Asia Pacific Region at the UNDP International Parliamentary Union Global Study Group Meeting on strengthening the role of Parliaments in Conflict Situations at the IPU, Maison Des Parliaments, Geneva **20th -22th July**. CPA was also commissioned by the UNDP to write the Sri Lanka case Study for the Regional meeting in Colombo in June. This case study was written by Dr Saravanamuttu and Asanga Welikala. Chatura Randeniya and Lionel Guruge assisted in the research for both studies.



Mirak Raheem of CPA's Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit, presented a paper on the impact of the Tsunami on the Sri Lankan Peace Process at a conference on *"Political and Economic Risks for Sustainable Reconstruction in the Tsunami Affected Areas"* organized by Fredrick Ebert Stiftung in Chennai **Sept 18th -20th**. Participants from the tsunami affected countries of India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia, attended the conference.

Sept 15th-17th Nishantha Hewavithana represented the CPA/Social Indicator at the 58th Annual Conference of World Association of Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) which was held in Cannes, France.

Staff Changes at CPA

New Faces...

Varthani Sivathamby who has a Masters Degree in Sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, joined Social Indicator as a Research Executive.



A.R.M Inthizar, who is a part qualified CIMA student currently studying for a MCSD joined Translation Unit as a Research Assistant.



Nadie Kamallaweera, a graduate in International Relations (University of Colombo) who is currently reading for a Post Graduate Diploma in Women's Studies



offered by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, joined the Media Unit as a Researcher



Sivakadacham Dharini, from Batticaloa, who is a second year Sociology student at the Open University and worked previously for Sarvodaya, the Suriya Womens Develeopment Centre and CORDAID, joined the Media Unit as a Researcher.

Rathini Selvanayagam, joined Social Indicator as a Research Executive. She has worked previously with the CPA and took time off to complete her LLB(University of London)



Shenuka Goonetilleke joined Social Indicator as a Research Assistant. She is currently studying for the final year of a BSc Economics(University of London)



Left CPA...

Rajaratnam Ramanan of SI

Under the OTI funded *Inter-University Debate Series Project*, the first set of debates on Democracy and the Future of Sri Lanka was held at a three day residential workshop, **23rd-25th, Sept** in Kandy.

Approximately 100 Students from universities around the Island participated.

The project aims to provide a forum for the exchange of views of youth from across the country who are specialising in the disciplines of Political Science, Sociology, Philosophy and Mass Communications, on an overall theme of Democracy and the Future of Sri Lanka.

Unit in Focus

PEACE OUTREACH

In keeping with CPA's organizational objectives of promotion of a "peace culture" this Debate Series was seen as an excellent opportunity for a meeting of minds and exchange of ideas.

At the end of sessions, participating students were given subject titles for thesis they are required to prepare. The most notable of these are to be published in a final compilation at the end of the Project.

The Inter-University Co-ordinator was Dr S. Keethaponcalan, and Lionel Guruge of CPA co-ordinated the overall project.

...Women & Politics cont from pg 1

to examine the role of women at present, within the political parties in Sri Lanka. Due to time restrictions and financial constraints, SI has limited the study to five political parties namely UNP, SLFP, JVP, TNA and SLMC. Interviews have been conducted with party secretaries, women who hold positions at national, provincial and local level politics and are actively involved in politics.

At present, SI is in the report writing stage which is due to be released in November.



Interviews by ABC Radio and Radio Netherlands, with Dr P Saravanamuttu regarding the Peace Process after the

In the Media...

assassination of the foreign minister, are available at the respective websites.

"Fast forward to an election" and "Reviewing the CFA" were among the weekly articles submitted by Dr Saravanamuttu to the Insight Section of the Morning Leader and Daily Mirror's interview with Rohan Edrisinha, Director Legal Unit was published in its "Justice" Section under the title "Bizarre Constitutional Crisis" on 6th August <http://www.dailymirror.lk/inside/justice/050806.asp>

The 19th wave of Social Indicators public opinion survey, "Peace Confidence Index" was released in June 2005, and was given substantial media coverage in July in among other media, The Island newspaper (<http://www.island.lk/2005/07/24/news4.html>). One of the study's main aims is to develop a numerical gauge of the level of public confidence in the peace process using a set of standardized questions.

The survey was conducted in all government-controlled areas of the country's 22 districts and used a structured questionnaire administered through face-to-face interviews among 1,800 randomly selected people.

National Journalists' Charter...



The Media Unit of the Centre For Policy Alternatives facilitated a Conference of National Journalists, **9th- 11th Sept** at Human Development Centre, Tholangamuwa, in support of a democratic and pluralist media culture and social and professional rights for media and journalism in Sri Lanka.

A charter enshrining these values was drawn up by the Federation of Media Employees Trade Unions, Sri Lanka

Working Journalists Association, Sri Lanka



Tamil Media Alliance, Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum and the Free Media Movement.



Approximately forty Provincial journalists organizations also contributed to the creation of this charter and unanimously agreed to

strengthen Mike Dobbi of IFJ, Matt Abud of Internews, Dr P Saravanamuttu of CPA, Christopher Warren of IFJ, these values. Rita Manchanda of SAFHR and Jonathan Wheatcroft of CIDA



CPA launched two publications in on 23rd August: Assessment of the Media Situation of the South (with IMS) and the Handbook on Safety for Journalists (with UNESCO).

Calendar of Events

For more updates on latest and upcoming CPA events, visit http://www.cpalanka.org/calendar_events.html

July

8th – 9th A two-day closed door conference on the **International Dimensions of the Sri Lankan Peace Process** on the role and impact of the international community in the current peace process, conducted by CPA in Colombo.

19th, a consultation on post-tsunami children's issues at SLFI, Colombo.

August

1st-5th CPA conducted a "Training of Trainers Workshop" to instruct 25 Trainers under the OTI supported programme on **Awareness Raising Workshops on Federalism** which aims to improve understanding of the concept among the local communities.

6th CPA along with the International Center for Transitional Justice and the Law and Society Trust, organized a Workshop titled **"Human Rights Agendas of Victims of Political Violence and Victims of the Tsunami: Intersections, Divergences and Future Paths"**

23rd CPA launched two publications in August: *Assessment of the Media Situation of the South* (with IMS) and the *Handbook on Safety for Journalists* (with UNESCO).

26th - 27th As part of the Civil Society and Media "Voices of Reconciliation" Project supported by IMPACS, CPA hosted a workshop on **Effective Newsletter Production**, conducted for the Communications and Media Relations Officers of selected civil society and community based organizations.

September

9th – 11th **Conference of National Journalists**, 9th – 11th September at Human Development Centre, Tholangamuwa, facilitated by the Media Unit.

23rd – 25th The first of the *Inter- University Debate Series on Democracy and the Future* for students of Political Science was held in Kandy. Approximately 100 Students from 12 universities from around the Island participated along with their lecturers.

EVENTS ATTENDED

20-22nd July :

Dr Saravanamuttu presented the study on the Asia Pacific Region at the *UNDP International Parliamentary Union Global Study Group Meeting on strengthening the role of Parliaments in Conflict Situations* at the IPU, Maison Des Parliaments, Geneva

August 2nd Sriyanie Wijesundera of Peace Unit, delivered a lecture on *"How to Prepare a National Work Plan for the Democratic Youth Leadership"*

EVENTS ATTENDED cont...

Network Programme (DYLP)" at SLFI. This was attended by around 75 DYLP Youth representatives.

August 28th- 31st Bhavani Fonseka and Chatura Randeniya of CPA's Legal Unit visited Indonesia as part of a study of the law making process sponsored by The Asia Foundation

Sept 1st - 2nd Kethesh Loganathan, Head, Peace and Conflict Analysis Unit, attended the conference on **"Finding Common Ground: India's Global Peacemaking Interests"** organized by the Delhi Policy Group and the European Union, New Delhi.

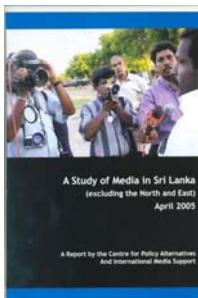
Sept 15th-17th Nishantha Hewavithana represented the Centre for Policy Alternatives-Social Indicator at the **58th Annual Conference** of World Association of Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) which was held in Cannes, France.

LATEST PUBLICATIONS



Tamil translation of "Safety for Journalists"

Tsunami PrathiSangskarana Vikalpa Yojana (Proposals for Reconstruction in Post Tsunami Rehabilitation)



A Study of the Media in Sri Lanka

A quarterly newsletter on IDPs published with CHA and HRC's IDP Unit.



On the Road to Peace - a report on a study on Conflict Reporting - a pamphlet on Conflict Reporting based on key findings of the study is also available



The report of the 19th wave of the Peace Confidence Index is available at http://www.cpalanka.org/research_papers/PCI_19_topline_results.pdf

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