



International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

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InterAction Names Dr. T. Sathiyamoorthy Winner of the Prestigious 2010 Humanitarian Award!

IMHO is thrilled to announce that Dr. T. Sathiyamoorthy, current Medical Superintendent at the Vavuniya General Hospital in Northern Sri Lanka, has been named the winner of the 2010 InterAction Humanitarian Award! Each year InterAction recognizes an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in support of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the people they serve in the developing world. As the international relief and development community's national staff and counterparts often must surmount significant obstacles in order to carry out their work effectively in their own home countries, InterAction seeks to honor these individuals and their bravery and commitment to the most vulnerable populations in their own communities. The award recognizes individuals whose work reflects important leadership qualities such as courage, initiative, creativity, grace under pressure, personal integrity, personal sacrifice, and who have made significant contributions in the developing world in any of the following areas: disaster relief, human development, refugee assistance, civil society, equitable economic development, health, environment, education, population, or public policy.

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developing world in any of the following areas: disaster relief, human development, refugee assistance, civil society, equitable economic development, health, environment, education, population, or public policy.

Dr. Thangamuthu Sathiyamoorthy is a medical professional and administrator that has gone above and beyond in his service to the internally displaced and war-affected people of Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka during times of war and great distress. He has served in various official capacities under the Ministry of Health, including Medical Officer at Akkarayankulam Hospital (2000-2002), Regional Director of Health Services-Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu Districts (2003-2009), Medical Superintendent for Kilinochchi Hospital (2007-2009), Provincial Director of Northern Province (October 2009-June 2010), Chairman of the Dengue Task Force in Vavuniya District (December 2009-March 2010), Director for IDP Healthcare at Manic Farm, Cheddikulam (January 2010-July 2010), and now Medical Superintendent for Vavuniya Hospital (July 2010-present). In all the areas where he has served, he has been directly engaged with high numbers of impoverished and war-affected refugees and resettled persons.

As many health staff fled during the conflict period (especially in the first half of 2009), Dr. Sathiyamoorthy heroically stood by his people. He established makeshift hospitals and coordinated emergency medical efforts. According to the ICRC, he, along with two colleagues, coordinated the evacuation of nearly 14,000 patients and their caregivers from the warzone between February and May 2009. In the post-conflict period, Dr. Sathiyamoorthy returned to serving the displaced by running IDP camps. Housing more than 300,000 IDPs, he coordinated efforts related to running hospitals and administering day & night patient care in all six zones. He organized monthly meetings with all stakeholders and helped to coordinate many of the health-related efforts of the UN agencies and INGOs. He was able to maintain a strong healthcare delivery system and implement outbreak control mechanisms. Dr. Sathiyamoorthy, a married father of three, has consistently acted with incredible courage and assumed great personal risk to his life and career. We congratulate him on this very well-deserved recognition!

We are appealing to ALL of our supporters, no matter what corner of the world you may live in, to join us in honoring the selfless heroism of Dr. Sathiyamoorthy by making a contribution today to support his efforts to rebuild lives in Sri Lanka. Please click here [HONORING DR. SATHIYAMOORTHY](#) to make a donation today!

You can also read the official announcement on the InterAction website [HERE](#).

8th Annual Convention Brings Together Service-Minded Individuals from around the World

Supporters from across 17 US states and 5 countries (including Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Sri Lanka) gathered at the Sheraton North Houston in **Houston, Texas** for **IMHO's 8th Annual Convention**. Over 100 guests joined for the morning session and more than 200 for the evening session. The event provides a rare opportunity for those committed to providing humanitarian services to people in need globally to come together and share their insights, experiences, and motivation under the banner of IMHO.

The theme of our convention this year was "**Leading the Way Forward**". As an organization that is particularly interested in Sri Lanka and has a number of qualities that make our ability to work in the island unique, we believe we can continue to play an important role in developing the health services and infrastructure there. Along these lines, we kicked off our convention this year with a panel discussion focused on "*Strategic Initiatives on Improving Cardiac*

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continue to play an important role in developing the health services and infrastructure there. Along these lines, we kicked off our convention this year with a panel discussion focused on "*Strategic Initiatives on Improving Cardiac and Healthcare Services in Eastern Sri Lanka*". This panel was comprised of Dr. Arulnithy, Consultant Cardiologist at the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital (Sri Lanka), and two local cardiologists. Many in the audience participated as well, asking questions and sharing individual insights and experiences. It was a most interactive forum-the type of discussion and planning that is crucial to determining how we as a community can support these efforts.



Following a brief break and opportunity to visit the pharmaceutical sponsor display booths, a second panel discussion was initiated with the focus on "*How to Best Address the Needs of Returnees*". Drawing on key input from visiting physician and Medical Superintendent of the Vavuniya General Hospital (Sri Lanka) Dr. T. Sathiyamoorthy, as well as IMHO Canada Secretary Meera Kandeepan (Canada), MIOT Board representative and IMHO International Coordinator Dr. Poologanathan (United Kingdom), and AMAF representative Dr. M. Sivakadachan (Australia), we had a truly international panel. Each representative shared what their respective communities have done to assist humanitarian efforts in Sri Lanka for resettled families, and put forth ideas and plans for moving forward. The key areas of intervention were determined to be *improved primary care, psychosocial support, rebuilding livelihoods, physical infrastructure (including shelter and water/sanitation facilities), and education*. IMHO, along with AMAF, MIOT, and the local partners intend to focus on these areas in the coming year.

After lunch, a small group of enthusiastic and optimistic youth gathered for the annual Youth Forum. This group of young people discussed the meaning of service and how we can help others in need. They also shared ideas about various projects or events that they or their schools have done to support humanitarian efforts in places like Haiti, Louisiana, and Japan. This year's Youth Forum attendees are planning to collectively hold at least one event to raise awareness and funds for a project to benefit war-affected youth in Sri Lanka. We look forward to seeing what they accomplish!

A small reception preceded the evening session, which featured a mix of medical lectures, presentations on humanitarian needs and service in under-

served communities globally, and fun activities including a riveting auction and delicious Indian cuisine for dinner. The highlight for many was watching the bidding war that ensued with the auction of a \$2,500 travel voucher from Rio Travel (donated by N. & S. Suntharalingam of New Jersey) and a beautiful saree. These two items raised an incredible \$30,450 thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Texas community and many visiting guests. In addition, two elegant watches donated by I.W. Marks Jewelers in Texas were put up for silent auction, with one lucky bidder walking away with the prizes. All in all, it was an enjoyable evening, and all for a great cause!

You can use the links below to view any of the evening presentations:

- ["Report on the Needs of Resettled Persons and Others in Sri Lanka"](#) by Dr. T. Sathiyamoorthy
- ["Status of Vavuniya General Hospital"](#) by Dr. T. Sathiyamoorthy
- ["Health Care Needs across Eastern Sri Lanka"](#) by Dr. K. Arulnithy
- ["In Service of Humanity: Global Outreach of IMHO"](#) by Greg Buie & Dr. Elizabeth Finigan
- ["2011 Update on Completed IMHO Efforts"](#) by Dr. Thavam Thambipillai
- ["Overview of Australian Medical Aid Foundation \(AMAF\)"](#) by AMAF (Dr. Sivakadadchan)
- ["Maternal-Fetal Nutrition: Laying the Groundwork for a Lifetime of Health"](#) by Dr. Paula Hertel Thevananther
- ["Overview of Parkinson's Disease"](#) by Dr. Joohee Jimenez-Shahed



IMHO wishes to thank all of our program sponsors and pharmaceutical representatives, including Merck, Daiichi Sankyo, Novo Nordisk, Novartis, Boehringer Ingelheim, Abbott, and MetLife Insurance. We would also like to thank Dr. and Dr. Mrs. Srinanthakumar for coordinating this entire event and going to great lengths to ensure this was an enjoyable and successful event for all who attended. It is only because of volunteers like you who go above and beyond that we are able to do the work we do.

Our **2011 ANNUAL CONVENTION SOUVENIR PROGRAM**, featuring articles from doctors and key partners in Sri Lanka (including Jaffna, Mullaithivu, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya, Valaichchenai, Batticaloa, and Kalmunai), Ethiopia, and Haiti, as well as various other insightful articles by various IMHO supporters is

available online [HERE](#).

Finally, to view a full **PHOTO GALLERY** of the event, please click [HERE](#).

New IMHO Report Highlights the Need for Serving Deaf Youth in Ethiopia



Following an initial visit in October 2010 by IMHO volunteers, we have taken on a number of efforts in Ethiopia. One such effort is to help improve and develop the Yekatit 23 School for the Deaf in Bahir Dar in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia. Deaf people deal regularly with issues relating to stigma, exclusion from academic and professional opportunities and services, coping with an oftentimes extremely frustrating and isolating disability, prejudice, and many other challenges. Perhaps chief amongst the barriers prohibiting deaf persons from living meaningful and integrated lives are educational disadvantages.

Most deaf children in Ethiopia are either left out of the educational system entirely or are forced to learn alongside their hearing-able peers, in which case very little is actually learned at all. Considering the majority of all youth in the Amhara Region are left out of the formal education system completely, the obstacles for deaf children to participate in even primary education are that much greater. For those schools that do have special classrooms for deaf students, nearly all only offer instruction for deaf youth up to Grade 4, at which point they are integrated with the rest of their peers. Subsequently, many do not go on with their studies or understandably, cannot keep up because of obvious barriers. Another startling reality is that the age range of students in deaf classrooms varies wildly from young children all the way up to adults, which demonstrates just how late deaf people are brought in to the formal education system and low educational standards are amongst this community.

With such vast needs and so little currently being done, IMHO faces many challenges and opportunities in engaging deaf youth and improving educational standards and opportunities, as well as preparing and connecting youth with professional opportunities and livelihoods, and instilling valuable life skills in them so that they may lead healthy and productive lives. Our intent is to transform this school into a model for deaf education in the Amhara Region and in Ethiopia, taking a holistic approach to the project and creating quality programming that

so that they may lead healthy and productive lives. Our intent is to transform this school into a model for deaf education in the Amhara Region and in Ethiopia, taking a holistic approach to the project and creating quality programming that seeks to educate and empower the individual.

You can read the **full report** and learn about our proposed interventions by clicking [HERE](#).

Upcoming IMHO Events

Online Shopping Campaign

WHEN: Now! This is an ongoing campaign taking place online.

WHERE: Go to <http://cafegive.com/?cause=IMHO>

WHAT: Now you can make purchases from your favorite online stores and earn money for IMHO! Simply login to cafegive.com and shop your favorite stores...Target, Barnes & Noble, Expedia, Macy's, Home Depot, iTunes, and hundreds more. A percentage of all your purchases will go back to IMHO. Just use the following link and start shopping today!: <http://www.cafegive.com/?cause=IMHO>

2011 Semi-Annual IMHO Meeting

WHEN: Sunday, October 2nd; 8:00am-2:00pm

WHERE: Hilton Garden Inn White Marsh, 5015 Campbell Blvd., Baltimore, Maryland 21236

Join us for our 2011 IMHO semi-annual meeting in Baltimore where we will be joined by visiting physicians and others in the development sector who will speak about the major needs affecting people in the countries in which IMHO works, as well provide a forum for discussion and discuss opportunities for supporting this important work.

*Free breakfast and lunch will be provided

*Rooms can be booked under a special group rate; more details TBA

*Please RSVP to coordinator@theimho.org

IMHO Canada Greeting Card Sales

IMHO Canada is pleased to offer [greeting cards designed by Sri Lankan youth](#) whereby all profits will benefit youth in Sri Lanka. Each pack of colorfully designed cards comes with 10 cards and envelopes for just \$5! Or you can order 5 packs for just \$20. To order, simply email the IMHO Programs Coordinator at coordinator@theimho.org and give the details of your order.

The cards can either be picked up at the IMHO Canada office or can be mailed to you. If you are picking the cards up at the IMHO Canada office, simply bring a cheque or cash as payment. If you prefer to have the cards mailed to you, please make a donation online [HERE](#) and make sure to include \$5 extra for shipping. In either case, please coordinate in advance with the IMHO Canada Programs Coordinator by email or phone.

**Be the
Difference.**

During this crucial time in Sri Lanka and around the world, as we face monumental challenges in providing better access to quality medical and health care for those most at-risk populations, we need YOUR HELP now more than ever. With **just \$1/day** (or \$30/month) you can help save and improve lives in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. Please consider making a donation

**Save a Life
with just
\$1/day!
DONATE
TODAY!**

to IMHO today. You can **donate online via PayPal as a one-time or recurring donation** (the amount & frequency of which are up to you).

You can also **donate via mail** by sending a check made out to "IMHO" to the following address:

**IMHO Treasurer
PO Box 61265
Staten Island, New York 10306
U.S.A.**

All donations are tax-deductible (tax ID code #59-3779465)

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