



International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

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Return to Our Roots: 9th Annual IMHO Convention Summary

The 9th Annual IMHO Convention was held with great fanfare on April 27th & 28th, 2012 in Toronto, Canada, and we are so grateful to all those who attended, participated, and supported the event. The activities commenced Friday evening with a presentation and dinner aimed as an information session for the Sri Lankan Tamil business community in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The session included a number of presentations on IMHO's past projects, as well as future needs in Sri Lanka. The Chief Guest, Dr. Eric Hoskins, a cabinet minister with the Provincial Government of Ontario, was very appreciative of not only IMHO's work but also of the exhibition using models, videos, etc., set up by the Youth Group of IMHO Canada under the guidance of the two Youth Coordinators. The exhibition and the spirited and enthusiastic explanation provided by the youth group was also a great hit with the members of the Saturday morning audience and the large number who attended the Saturday night gala dinner. Concurrently on Friday, there was a meeting of the Ideas to Impact (i2i) group who engaged in a discussion of ideas to benefit the health and well-being of not only the community in Sri Lanka but also the their counterparts in the GTA. A particular feature of the night session was the delicious dinner provided by New Jaasmin Banquet Hall, consisting of hoppers, a favorite Sri Lankan delicacy that was much enjoyed by all the attendees, especially the visitors from the USA and UK.

[Education and Empowerment of Deaf Youth in Ethiopia](#)

[2011 Annual Souvenir Program](#)

[Report on the Needs of Resettled Persons and Others in Sri Lanka](#)

[Status of Vavuniya General Hospital](#)

[Health Needs across Eastern Sri Lanka](#)

[In Service of Humanity: Global Outreach of IMHO](#)

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all the attendees, especially the visitors from the USA and UK.

Saturday morning featured a similar information session aimed however, at the various Tamil community organizations that included village, school and other similar associations within the GTA. This session was extremely well attended and a number of the participants requested further meetings with IMHO Canada in order to explore how the needs of the people they represent in Sri Lanka could be best met using IMHO's ability to deliver projects on the ground in Sri Lanka

The convention's gala event took place Saturday evening and featured a delicious traditional Sri Lankan style sit-down dinner to a sold-out hall that was preceded by a few presentations and the much anticipated speech from Chief Guest, Sir Dr. Arulkumaran, which most certainly lived up to expectations. Sir Dr. Arulkumaran, a distinguished gynecologist from the UK, was recently knighted for his contributions to medicine. He very graciously agreed to be the Chief Guest for the night's events, and his presence and keynote address both humbled and inspired the audience, especially the younger members. The presentations from the visiting physicians from the North and the East of Sri Lanka generated considerable discussion and food for thought among the attendees, which IMHO Canada hopes will translate into support both monetarily and otherwise for its future projects.

In summary, the convention was a great success and the large number of attendees at the various sessions, as well as the sold-out gala dinner, meant that the primary objective of raising awareness of not only IMHO Canada but of the continuing pressing needs in Sri Lanka was met. IMHO Canada now intends to build on this awareness and momentum by establishing links with the various groups within the community in the GTA as well as in the UK and USA towards moving its mandate forward and providing much needed health care and social services in Sri Lanka.

You can view and download the Annual IMHO Souvenir Program here: [ANNUAL SOUVENIR PROGRAM](#)

For a full photo gallery of all the event activities, please click here: [9th ANNUAL IMHO CONVENTION PHOTO GALLERY](#)

And to view and download any of the presentations from the various events, please use the following links:

[Women's Health Issues & Current Needs](#)
by Dr. A. Ramanathan

[Return to Our Roots: Full IMHO Overview](#)
by Dr. Thavam Thambipillai

[Cancer Care at Batticaloa Teaching Hospital](#)
by Dr. A. Parthiepan

[Anpuneri Overview & IMHO Partnerships](#)
by Myuran Balasubramaniam

[Let Us Not Forget](#)
by Dr. S. Sivayokan

[Mental Health Development Efforts in Sri Lanka & Ethiopia](#)
by Dr. Alan Krohn

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by Dr. S. Raguraj

[Report from MIOT \(UK\)](#)
by Dr. Kantha Nirnanjan

Update on Efforts in Sri Lanka & Ethiopia

IMHO is pleased to announce its support for the following development and assistance projects in Sri Lanka and Ethiopia over the past few months:

1. \$2,400 for ongoing maintenance expenses and programs at the Jaffna Diabetic Center in Jaffna, Sri Lanka.



2. \$10,000 towards the establishment of a Model Regional Center for Deaf Education, Empowerment, and Information Delivery in Bahir Dar, Northwest Ethiopia. This project is set to commence this September with the hiring of 2 full-time highly trained teachers of the deaf to benefit both students and other local teachers, and the provision of educational supplies and equipment for 21 regional schools with special classrooms for deaf students. IMHO matched a \$5,000 contribution from a generous donor for this project.

3. \$20,000 to the local Rotary Club to buy Operating Room equipment for the Tellipalai Base Hospital in Northern Sri Lanka.

4. \$8,100 to the Tellipalai Mental Health Society for the establishment of an out-patient transportation facility and to purchase 10 bicycles for patients residing at the "Kudil" rehabilitation center for patients with severe mental illness.

5. \$7,050 to the Jaffna Hospital Development Association to support mental health care workers who work as part of the regional multi-disciplinary mental health team serving the Northern Province.

6. \$5,000 to Sivan Arul Illam for the construction of tube wells and toilets to improve sanitation facilities and promote proper hygiene in Mannar, Sri Lanka.

7. \$250 to Survivors Associated to buy 3 wheelchairs for paraplegic patients needed mobility assistance in Kilinochchi.

8. \$5,000 to Vallapalai Kannaky Amman Kovil Trust to support livelihoods development projects for the benefit of families in Mullaithivu, specifically for the purchasing of livestock such as goats and cows.



Loss of a Dear Friend & Humanitarian

IMHO wishes to express its deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Suren Pathman of Vestal, New York, who suddenly passed away on Saturday, May 26th. Suren was a great friend, philanthropist, physician, and family man, and he was a steadfast supporter of our organization and of humanitarian causes in Sri Lanka. He is survived by his loving wife, Shashi, and children, Chris and Suhanya. Dr. Suren was a native of Sri Lanka and practiced as a physician at Lourdes Hospital and Clinic in Vestal, New York for the past 12 years. He will be greatly missed.



IMHO Events

IMHO Recipe Book

Dr. Shiamala Suntharalingam is currently collecting recipes to make a cookbook, the proceeds of which will benefit the work of IMHO in serving communities in need in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. Please join her in this

communities in need in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. Please join her in this endeavor by providing any recipes you may have that you think others would like to learn and try as they explore various flavors and cuisines. If you have a recipe you would like to share, please submit it by email to shiamala72@gmail.com and title the email "in aid of IMHO". Along with the recipe please include digital photos of your ingredients and the final dish. Also, include a photo and a small description of yourself. For more detailed instructions and to view a sample recipe, please visit our website [HERE](#).

*****Audio Book of Not Quite Paradise Continues Support for University of Jaffna Students*****

Dr. Adele Barker, who is a Professor at the University of Arizona in Tuscon and author of Not Quite Paradise, a memoir on her experiences in Sri Lanka as a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellow and repeat visitor, has recently recorded an audio reading of her book, the proceeds of which continue to benefit students at the University of Jaffna. Not Quite Paradise (Beacon Press, 2009) is the record of her sojourns on the island as she moved between her tranquil life in the south and a very different life up on the Jaffna Peninsula. Dr. Barker gave a presentation at the IMHO Annual Convention in Boston 2 years ago and initiated a scholarship fund for students at Jaffna University from the proceeds raised from her book. To purchase the audio book and support her efforts, please use the following link: [SHOP HERE](#)

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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 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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