



ISAAME NEWS 2007

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7th - 8th December 2007

35th ISAAME Colombo 2007

“Ayubowan”

is a unique Sri Lankan greeting, spoken with the palms placed together as though in prayer, meaning ‘ may you have long life ’

Lilting Bag Pipes, Lissome Dancers And Throbbing Drums Herald ISAAME 2007

The hall was filled to capacity with delegates from many countries, some in their colourful national dresses. The chatter of many different languages filled the air, people were bustling around looking for seats, amidst all this were warm handshakes of people meeting perhaps for the first time. The first sounds of the bagpipes brought an immediate sense of urgency to be seated. Lissome dancers took over from the bagpipers and led the International President and his entourage down the aisle in a flurry of arms, hip and body movements. Amidst a resonating drum fusion the traditional oil lamp was lit.

The meeting was called to order by Forum Chairman ID K.G.Ramakrishna Murthy, which was followed by the very colourful flag ceremony conducted by PID Asoka Gunasekera assisted by the Leos of Multiple District 306. Forum Planning Committee Chairman, MCC and Board Appointee **Sarath de Fonseka** delivered the welcome



address. He was all smiles as all his and his committees’ hard work were beginning to show glowing results. He recognized the presence of four Past International Presidents Jimmy Ross, Ashok Mehta, Rohit Mehta and Kajith Habanananda and the two Vice Presidents in office Al Brandel and Eberhard Wirfs..

Chairman **KGR** in his address said that Lions speak from their hearts

the language of love, whatever nationality, religion they were. He echoed the slogan of IP and challenged the ISAAME area members that we have not done enough in membership development. He paid a glowing tribute to the Sri Lankan Lions as the best people in organizing events and this area forum would undoubtedly be the best. He concluded by saying that one should be proud not because of someone else’s achievement but in ones own contribution, not anything else.



The evergreen PID Chuck Wijenathen introduced the keynote speaker Minar Pimple Deputy Director UN Millennium Campaign.

Keynote Address

Minar Pimple congratulated IP Mahendra for including the achievements of MDGS in his program. Lions are already contributing towards the MDGs by the numerous service activities they have undertaken, but said



Brace yourself for more in the next two days

The International President's challenge is to change the ways we have been conducting our affairs making use of new technology to suit modern day needs

You have to brace yourself to absorb more of it in the next two days.

Know The Key Speakers



Prof. Carlo Fonseca

Prof. Fonseca is one of the most distinguished academics of our time. Having obtained his first degree in medicine and surgery from the University of Ceylon with first class honours, he

pursued his academic career overseas and soon acquired a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Edinburgh. Thereafter he successfully underwent diverse training programs at prestigious centers of learning in USA, Italy and UK.

His research interests dwelt on the subject of pain, unusual memory phenomena and perhaps searched for an answer in his research on music therapy. It is no wonder that this man of medicine and science was also able to acquire a Master of Arts from the University of Kelaniya.

Prof. Fonseca is an Emeritus Professor in the Universities of Colombo and Kelaniya and functioned as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya for several years.

He is a prolific writer with over 40 publications in national and international academic and non-academic journals and also published a book titled "Towards A Peaceful Sri Lanka". His special interests now are popularization of science and composition of songs

He will address us on "Conduct in Public Life – some Ethical and Legal Issues" at the 2nd Plenary Session in Committee Room B at 15.00 hrs, 7th Dec.



Dr Tae-Sup Lee

Dr. Tae-Sup "TS" Lee, of Seoul, Republic of Korea, was elected to serve as president of The International Association of Lions Clubs at the association's 86th International Convention held in Denver, Colorado, USA,

June 30 – July 4, 2003.

Past President Lee is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), USA, with a doctorate in chemical engineering. He has been the president of several companies in Korea, served four terms as a member of the Korean National Assembly and was his country's Minister of Political Affairs and Minister of Science and Technology. He is currently serving as the chairperson of

the board of the Korea Institute of Radiological and Medical Sciences. This institute has under its umbrella the Korea Cancer Center Hospital, the largest cancer treatment hospital in Korea.

A Lion since 1975 and a member of the Seoul Sejong Lions Club, past president Lee has held many positions within the organization, including district governor, council chairperson and international director from 1993 to 1995. He also was chairperson of the 32nd OSEAL Forum and co-chairperson of the Host Committee for the 78th International Convention. He is currently serving as the chairperson of Campaign SightFirst II with a initial target to raise US\$ 150 million and a stretch target of US\$ 200 million.

He will address us on "Promoting CSF II" in Committee Room C from 10.30 to 12.00 hrs. on 7th Dec.



Eberhard J. Wirfs

Eberhard J. Wirfs, of Kelkheim am Taunus, Hessen, Germany was elected to serve as second vice president of The International Association of Lions Clubs at the association's 90th International Convention,

held in Chicago, Illinois, USA, July 2-6, 2007.

Vice President Wirf's is an entrepreneur and retired CEO of his own company.

A member of the Hofheim am Taunus Lions Club since 1985, VP Wirfs has held many offices within the association including district governor, multiple council chairperson and international director. He has also served as CEO of the German Lions Foundation "Deutsches Hilfswerk," Europa Forum president, and International Convention Election Committee chairperson. In addition, he systematically implemented Lions Quest in Germany, has been involved with the Guiding Lions Foundation, trained incoming district governors for 10 years and worked with the Development Leadership Training system at the club and district levels

He will be meeting prospective Vice District Governors in Committee Room B from 12.00 to 13.30hrs. on the 7th Dec. He will also address the 2nd Plenary Session in Committee Room B at 15.00 hrs. on 7th Dec.

Quiz

For your light entertainment and also to enrich your "Knowledge of Lionism" a simple quiz has been arranged. All you have to do is to take a sheet of paper, write your ISAAE 2007 registration number, your name, your club name, your district number and country. Write the answers indicating only the number of the questions. Hand over the completed sheet to the Secretariat at the BMICH.

Entries close at 17.00 hrs on 7th December

A token prize will be awarded to the winner at the Open Forum of the Closing Session on 8th Dec.

Each question will carry one mark. If there are more than one entry with the highest number of marks lots be drawn to select the winner. Good Luck!

TIP: Some answers could be found in the book "The Pride of Sri Lankan Lions" and the two issues ISSAME NEWS 2007.

Farewell Banquet

A grand banquet has been arranged at Waters Edge, Battaramulla commencing 7.30 p.m. on 7th Dec. It is only a short distance and your hotel transport should get you there and back safely. This will undoubtedly be an occasion to say thank you to the many who toiled hard to make this Forum an outstanding success as well as to say thank you to the many visitors to Sri Lanka, who have braved the uncertainties in life to be with us. We thank you for your show of solidarity with Sri Lankan Lions.

Closing Sessions

Closing Sessions would be held on 8th Dec. bringing down the curtain on the 4 days of deliberations. It has been wonderful communicating with you. Hope you found the two issues news worthy. Please carry with you the warmest regards of the Sri Lankan Lions. We have been privileged to host you. Au Revoir!

Questions

1. Who was the Founder of the association, which later became "The International Association of Lions Clubs"?
2. When (date and year) and where (city and country) was the association first established?
3. Who challenged the Lions to become her "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness" and in what year?
4. SightFirst became a major blindness preventive initiative of the Lions, when was it launched.
5. What does "CSF II" stand for, what year was it launched and what is its target?
6. What does MJF stand for and what is the target set for the total number of MJFs by IP Mahendra?

7. To which country in the present ISAAME Area was Lionism first introduced and in which year?
8. How many countries are represented in the present ISAAME Area?
9. How many categories of membership are stated in the Lions Clubs Standard Form Constitution?
10. What are the minimum number of Lion members and minimum number of Lions Clubs required to constitute a District?
11. What is the Lions motto and when was it adapted?
12. Where is the headquarters of Lions International situated? Give city/state/country.
13. What is the address of the Lions Clubs International Web site?
14. When was the Leo Club Program established?
15. A Leo Club in Sri Lanka won the academy award for the Best Leo Club in the World at the Convention in June 2006. Name the Leo Club.
16. Lions Club International became the first service club organization to admit women as members. In what year was this?
17. What is the maximum number of Lion members permitted under a "Family Membership" unit?
18. What is the name given to the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International and when was it established?
19. What is name of the home club of the present International President and when did he join Lionism?
20. What are MDGs, and how many are there?
21. The cover page of the book "The Pride of Sri Lankan Lions" depicts a famous rock fortress in Sri Lanka. What is the name of the rock fortress?
22. The United Nations invited Lions Clubs International to form the non-governmental organization section of the UN. When was this?
23. What is the age group for children participating in the Lions International Peace Poster Contest?
24. LCIF has given a considerable amount of funding to rehabilitate the victims of the terrible tsunami, which caused much destruction and loss of life in Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and neighbouring countries. When did the tsunami strike? Give date and year.
25. At the international convention held in June 2006, a district governor from Sri Lanka was adjudged the Best District Governor in the whole world of Lionism. Who is he?





that a more concentrated effort is needed. We need global partnerships if we are to achieve the MDGs by 2015 and Lions with their worldwide network are ideally suited for the task, he said.

He said that the developed countries too had an social responsibility towards helping developing countries achieve MDGs by enlarging the quantity and quality of their aid packages, by ensuring fair and just trade, by granting relief to debt repayment of developing countries which are as high as 60% of their GNP.

On the other hand developing countries have to improve their delivery system, eliminate corruption, enforce better financial discipline and governance through reforms.

- He reiterated the priority areas, in which we should focus, namely,
- End Poverty – there is no justification for poverty in a world of abundance.
- Provide easy access to basic health – in spite of all the advancements in medicine, there are still many delays in accessing health services.
- Education for all – ensure that quality of education is good in local schools.
- Environmental sustainability by reducing greenhouse gas emissions

He concluded stating that achieving MDGs requires a greater contribution from all of us. At 2007 we have now come half way and he challenged the Lions to take a pledge to be partners in this millennium effort.

Board appointee Sunil Watawala had the very pleasant but difficult task of introducing IP Mahendra and had to come up with something special. And he did. His introductory words were interspersed with a scintillating dance to the music of “Challenge to Change” by the Channa-Vipuli dance ensemble before IP Mahendra took center stage.

IP’s Address

IP **Mahendra** said that ISAAME was a unique area with a heterogeneous membership, with different cultures, different languages, many differences, but what brings us all together is that we are all LIONS with a singular purpose “We Serve”

He said that 90% of the countries in the ISAAME area can be categorized as developing, Growth will take place; economies may grow, but may not trickle down to the poor. That is where the work of Lions can play an important role, to improve the quality of life of the poor by providing the



necessary skills to get employment. Providing employment is the key to alleviating poverty.

He said that he had visited many countries in the area and he was deeply impressed by what Lions are doing in the field of education, but we have to work

harder, he said, if we are to achieve the MDGs.

Environmental sustainability has taken center stage in development activities because of the serious consequences of global warming. Lions can create an impact by disseminating information on mitigating the emission of greenhouse gases, undertaking reforestation programs as further step in tree planting.

He said that global partnerships is one area where we can be really effective and mentioned the assistance to tsunami victims, one affected been his own country, as an outstanding example of what can be achieved through global partnerships.

IP Mahendra said that much of the funds collected through CSF I were diverted to fund humanitarian projects in this part of the world. In return, thanks to the efforts of Past President Ashok Mehta this area has raised US 19 million for CSF II and US\$ 2.9 million from Africa due to the efforts of ID Manoj Shah

He said that although we may have the money, and the know-how to carry out projects, we cannot do so without members. We need more members for our work, he said. We need to arrest the decline in membership and turn it around. He said that the latest country to come into Lionism is Iraq. It is unbelievable he said that we could extend a club in war-torn Iraq, but PID Salim Moussan has been able to achieve it.

IP Mahendra stressed on membership development and contribution to CSF II as two areas of priority and concluded his address to a standing ovation from the audience.



The vote of thanks was delivered by PDG Rohantha de Fonseka the secretary of the organizing committee, thus concluding a colourful and memorable inauguration.