



Hotline: 0773622222 info@nucleus.lk www.nucleus.lk March 2010

Nucleus Cricket Fest for Peace Building and Networking

The Nucleus Cricket Fest 2010 was successfully concluded in Kandy on the 6th and 7th of March 2010. The program was supported by GTZ FLICT (Facilitating Local Initiatives for Conflict Transformation) Project and implemented by the Nucleus Foundation in collaboration with the *Mahanuwara Sinhala Welanda Peramuna* (Traders' Association).

The program is promoted for Peace Building through creating business and social linkages between entrepreneurs of different ethnic groups and regions. The Muslim, Tamil and Sinhala entrepreneurs from Ampara were hosted to tea by the members of the Mahanuwara Sinhala Welanda Peramuna and then guided on a tour of the Dalada Maligawa. A fellowship dinner and networking session was held with the participation of the Mayor of Kandy and the DIG Kandy.

DIG Kandy Mr Pujitha Jayasundara speaking at the event said that:

In this post conflict situation it is imperative that we all come together, and work together, so that the competitive advantages can be best made use of. The business community especially can make a great contribution to the development of the country in this



context.



Mr Daya Weeraratna, Past President and Founding member of the SWP shared his experiences, he said:

39 years ago, 12 businessmen came together to discuss our problems and to work together to address the issues that affected our business environment; this is how the SWP was born. Today we have over 300 members from the business community in Kandy, we provide various services and undertake common activities. We are willing to share our experiences with our counterparts in other regions.

The President of The SWP Mr Budhi Ramawickrama also spoke. Representatives of the SWP, Central Province Women's Chamber of Commerce, The Central Province Computer Vendors Association, the Tea Smallholders Association, and Printers Association of Kandy, Nawalapitiya Traders Association and Uva Printers Association participated.

A six a side cricket tournament was held the following day with teams comprising of members of all the above organisations participating. The teams were randomly selected and not per organisation.

The fellowship and camaraderie between the

entrepreneurs was heartening to see. The Kandy group wanted to visit the east next.

Economic and Social Re Integration of Ex Combatants through Entrepreneurship Development



NF has been conducting business development and civic education training and providing follow up support to ex combatants in Batticaloa under the Information Counselling and Referral Services project. The training

was organised and conducted by the Nucleus Foundation and International Organisation for Migration in coordination with the Government of Sri Lanka with the financial support from the United States Agency for International Development. 297 beneficiaries participated in the civic education training, which covered a multitude of topics including social skills, communication and social empowerment. 162 beneficiaries have been successfully trained in entrepreneurship and business plans developed. Based on these plans IOM has given grants of small machinery and equipment for beneficiaries to commence their small enterprises.

The certificate awarding ceremony for this group was held recently in Batticaloa with representatives of all stakeholders participating. The Nucleus Foundation would like to take this opportunity to thank IOM for entrusting this project to us. The trained persons will be further supported and counselled by the Nucleus Counsellors in the next days as they translate their plans to action, start production and look for their space in the local markets.

Capacity Building Needs Assessment of EU partners in Sri Lanka

The Nucleus Foundation is implementing a survey on behalf of the European Union to assess the capacity building requirements of EC funded partners in Sri Lanka. The process follows includes a three step sequence comprising discussion with senior management, visit to field and head offices to meet staff and focus group discussion with a

cross section of personnel involved in the project. EU partners around Sri Lanka including those from the districts of Puttalam, Kandy, Trincomalee, Anuradapura, Batticaloa, Ampara, Colombo, Badulla, Jaffna, Vavuniya, Galle, Matara, Hambanthota and Mannar are covered through this study conducted by a multi cultural team.

Entrepreneurship and Business Planning for tsunami affected persons



Over 100 tsunami-housing beneficiaries of the Spanish Red Cross were trained to develop business plans. Five training programs were completed during the month of March and beneficiaries were taken through a process of entrepreneurship development and small business management. The training program was specially developed for this target group, some of whom who could not read or write and included the best of adult learning techniques tailored to suit their needs. The beneficiaries appreciated the learning outcomes of the program:

I am engaged in sewing clothes for the last 3 years, but there was no development. I had not calculated my costs, how much I pay my workers, or my expenditure. I now understand that I have been making losses during the last 3 years. Through this program I learnt how to work towards an objective, and what I liked most was the production game where I learnt that I spend what I earn not on my business but in my daily needs. I will use this new found knowledge to



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improve my business – Ms Manel Gamage.

