

Nucleus Cricket Fest 2010 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 Sinhala Welanda

Peramuna 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 Sinhala Welanda Peramuna, 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 aside cricket tournament was held the following day with teams comprising of members of all the above organisations participating. The teams were randomly selected nor per organisation but with the participants being mixed within the teams. The fellowship and camaraderie between the entrepreneurs from different regions and different ethnicities were heartening to see. The winning team was awarded the *Nucleus Challenge Trophy* and a cash award of 15,000/- Rupees which was collected as registration fees from the teams.

