

Report on activities of Ceylon Students Educational Fund in Sri Lanka

2012 (December)-2013 (January)

This update reflects on the recent activities by Ceylon Students Educational Fund ("Fund") in the North and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka and the Gambaha district. The Fund hosted a number of events and information sessions in the region and Assistant Treasurer Mr L. Murugapoopathy met with many of our war affected and displaced sponsored students and local facilitators.

- **Vavuniya District**

On 4th of December 2012, an event was held at the Vavuniya campus of the University of Jaffna (presided over by Rector Dr Arulvel) to recognise the war affected students who have continued their studies from the rehabilitation camps and were subsequently selected to the university to pursue their tertiary education. It was attended by our sponsored students, former Rector Dr R. Nanthakumar, Faculty heads Dr S Krishnakumar and Dr Mangaleswaran, Senior Faculty officer Mr M Ganesalingam, Mr T Ganesh (Founder -Voluntary Organisation for Vulnerable Community Development) and Mr Anton (a representative of VOVCOD).

Our request that university students should come forward and render much needed tutorial assistance to those students who are struggling with their educational performance (during their university holidays) was endorsed by the attendees. Funds for **Rs 1,80,000.00** were distributed among the sponsored students.

- **Mullaitheevu District**

On 5th of December 2012, the Fund held an event at the Mullaitheevu Mulliyavalai Vithyanantha College to distribute **Rs 81,000.00** to the sponsored students.

Ms Tanya, a visiting sponsor from Canada and Mr Karunakaran (journalist) spoke at the meeting which was presided over by Principal Mr Sivalaingam. Cultural programmes showcasing the talents of the students were also held to mark the event.

A special gift of shoes and socks for the sponsored students was also made during this event, enabled through the generosity of Dr Mathivathani Chandranath (former president and a committee member of the Fund)

- **Kilinochchi**

On 6th of December 2012, an event was held at the Kilinochchi Maha Vithyalayam (presided over by Principal Mr Pangayatchelvan) and funds for the amount of **Rs 45,000.00** were handed over to the sponsored students.

Special gift: Facilitated by the generosity of Mr Rajkumar from Colombo, a number of exercise books were also gifted to the sponsored students during this event.

- **Jaffna District**

An information session on Fund's activities was held on 7th of December 2012, at the office premises of Child Development Centre in Jaffna. The session was presided over by Centre's President Mr C.V.K. Sivagnam (former Jaffna Municipal Commissioner).

On the following day, a meeting with the sponsored students was held at the Kokkuvil Hindu College hall (presided over by Mr Balathayanathan, Coordinator of the Child Development Centre). Professor R Sivachandran (from Jaffna University) and Mr M Pathmaraja (regional officer from Children Welfare Development Fund) spoke at this meeting. On behalf of the sponsored students, Ms Niruththika from Jaffna University gave an emotional vote of thanks. Cultural programmes by the students were held followed by lunch. Scholarship funds for the total amount of **Rs 4,80,000.00** were handed over during this session.

- **Vavuniya VOVCOD meeting**

A meeting was held on 22nd of December 2012 at the office of Voluntary Organisation for Vulnerable Community Development (VOVCOD) in Vavuniya presided over by its Founder Mr T. Ganesh. This meeting also served as an information session and a discussion forum and scholarship payments were handed over to the sponsored students.

Bracing the heavy rain, many students, their parents & guardians as well as a number of university students from the Vavuniya campus attended the meeting. Lunch was served on behalf of the Fund.

- **Trincomallee District**

On 14th of January 2013, the Fund held a special event to mark the *Thai Pongal* day at the office of VOVCOD in Nilaveli, Trincomallee. The event was coordinated by Ms Rathika, a representative from the organisation. Another representative Mr Raveenthirakumar spoke at the meeting and emphasised the obligations of the sponsored students to appropriately utilise the assistance being offered.

- **Eastern University**

The Fund is supporting 26 students from the Eastern University with their tertiary education. Previously, the assistance was extended through the office of the University Vice Chancellor. Due to certain administrative difficulties in meeting

the compliance requirements of the Educational Department, presently, the funds are distributed through the Trincomallee branch of VOVCOD. Scholarship funds for the amount of **Rs 1,40,000.00** were handed over to these students during this event. Students who attended expressed their commitment to contribute to the region's future educational development.

- **Kalmunai**

On 16th of January 2013, the Fund held a meeting with its sponsored students, regional educational officers and local representatives at the Periya Neelavanai Vishnu Maha Vithyalayam, Kalmunai. It was presided over by Principal Mrs Sivamani Natkunasingham.

- **Gambaha District**

On 24th of January 2013, an event was held at the Negambo Wijayaratnam Hindu Central College (presided over by Principal Mr N. Ganesalingam). Financial support for three displaced students from the college for the amount of **Rs 13, 500.00** was duly distributed.

- **Notation**

With deep pleasure we advise that a number of our sponsored students have now completed their tertiary studies and secured employment. Some have also gained opportunities overseas. Some of the past sponsored students met Asst Treasurer Mr L Murugapoopathy and updated their current situation. They also took the opportunity to express their gratitude to their sponsors for the latter's timely assistance which empowered the students in their educational journey.

Details of past student achievers

- **Mrs Krishnaveni Suppiah (Principal, Saiva Pirakasa Primary School, Vavuniya) Sponsor: Mr L Murugapoopathy**
- **Ms Pamini Sellathurai (Planning Officer- Companies Registration Department , Colombo)
Sponsor: Mr Naveen Nadesan**
- **Ms V. Lojini (Teacher, Negombo Wijayaratnam Hindu Central College)
Sponsor: S. Thirukkumaran**
- **Ms M. Renuka (Teacher, Negombo Al Falal Maha Vidyalayam)
Sponsor: Mrs Nirupa Rubichandran**

*During all of the above mentioned events, lunch was provided to the students and their parents/guardians who attended the sessions. The associated cost was met through joint contribution of the following members:

Mrs Arun Vijayarani

Mrs Vithya Sriskantharajah

Mrs. Kosala Nadanakumar

Mrs Thulasi Krishnakumar

Mrs Thamayanthi Somaskanthan

Mrs Malathi Murugapoopathy

- Former President Dr Mathivathani Chandranath facilitate gifts of shoes to a number of students from Mulliyavalai Vithyanantha College.

The Fund extends its gratitude to those members for their kind gesture.

Thank you!

The Fund expresses its sincere gratitude to all its sponsors for their generous assistance to the war affected students and all the media outlets and websites for their timely publication and promotion of our activities.

Bank Details:

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