



40

Years of
Committed Service

Wonderful Memories - Powerful Vision 1968 - 2008



TRADE FAIRS: 40 Years of Empowerment



Distinguished guests at the fair

Trade Fairs are taking place all through the country to mark the 40th Anniversary of Caritas Sri Lanka (CSL)- SEDEC.

The aim of such events is to help small entrepreneurs promote their businesses by increasing their exposure. It is also a way of empowering the people and giving them the opportunity to focus on income generating projects.

The International Labour Organisation has provided training to small scale traders to help them improve their skills and become self sufficient in their businesses; (CSL)- SEDEC were the facilitating partners in this mission to empower the people.

GALLE

From the 25th to the 27th of March in the Galle Town Hall, Livelihood groups displayed their products among 54 stalls and a prize was

given to the best stand which exhibited craft products. Sculptor Lalith Jayasekara presented a personalised woodcarving to Rt. Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera Bishop of Galle.

KURUNEGALA

On the 4th of April in Kurunegala a similar event took place. Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando National Director of CSL -SEDEC and Rt. Rev. Dr. Bishop Raymond Peiris, were the chief guests while Founder of SEDEC Rev. Fr. Joe Fernando was honoured on that day.

This Trade Fair's objective was to commemorate the twenty years of Caritas Kurunegala - JANASETHA and the 40th Anniversary of CSL-SEDEC.

Two categories of stalls were displayed during the Trade Fair, one describing the programs and activities of the Diocese (Animation, Peace, Pre-school, Training Pre-school teachers) and the other set of stalls showed produces such as fruits, vegetables, home utensils all manufactured by the people of the area.

Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando hailed the work done by Rev. Fr. Joe Fernando



Lalith Jayasekara presenting the carving

who was behind the concept of encouraging, empowering and motivating the people to achieve higher goals and levels of success while reaching complete autonomy in their business ventures.

The mission to empower the people is an ongoing mission with the collaboration of The Animation and Tsunami Program of CSL.

Trade Fairs also took place on the 28th and 29th of March in Hambantota and the 10th and 11th of April in Matara

The Anniversary will also be celebrated by CSL through a varied range of events such as:

- ♦ **Documentary on Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC**
- ♦ **Publication on Caritas History**
- ♦ **Publication of a Book on the Church's & CSL's response on the Tsunami**
- ♦ **Inauguration of a webpage**
- ♦ **Special Stamp and souvenir commemorating the event**
- ♦ **Fund raising activities**
- ♦ **40th Anniversary Exhibition**
- ♦ **Press conference**
- ♦ **Final Day celebrations**

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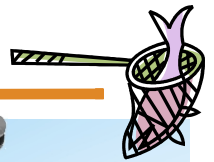


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FISHNET Farming in Jaffna



The fisheries sector was devastated by the Tsunami and the Northern coast was particularly hard hit. Furthermore the prevailing conflict situation and the bans on fishing have made it impossible for the community to eke out their day to day living and ensure their means of livelihood.

Fishing statistics

- ◆ There are 750 fishing villages in the region.
- ◆ Due to the conflict 90% of the industry's infrastructure was destroyed.
- ◆ Approximately 90% of the fishing families were affected due to the Tsunami. (extracted from the project proposal)

Approximately 18,000 boats and fishing gear and 600,000-900,000 Kgs of net supplies need to be replaced in the North-East. There is only one 30 year old net factory funded by NORAD, in existence currently in the North sea, which is on the verge of being closed down due to various reasons. The net factories in the south can only produce 25% of the total requirement.

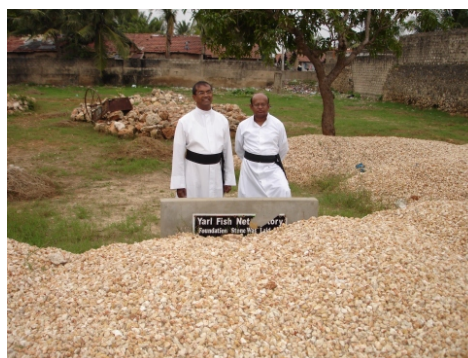
According to statistical data of the Fisheries Cooperative Societies and Department of Fisheries Jaffna, the total demand for fishing nets is about

15 to 20 Metric Tons (M.T) per month. This factory's maximum production capacity is expected to be about 16 M.T per month.

In order to revive and rehabilitate the fishing industry and provide employment opportunities, Caritas Jaffna- HUDEC in collaboration with Caritas Sri Lanka (CSL)-SEDEC, the Victorian Government, Caritas France and Caritas Australia initiated a fishnet project. **In July 2006, Caritas Australia's Chief Executive Director, Jack de Groot laid the foundation stone for this factory in Vaal, Jaffna.** The total project costs \$1.8 million.

The factory will address the shortages in fishing nets. The nets produced will be sold at a more affordable price than what is imported or sourced from the South. The factory hopes to employ 100 staff, primarily women and also provide a source of livelihood for about 8,400 members of the fishing community, who lost their main source of income in the Tsunami. **"Employment will be provided to many widows who are already in Livelihood groups of Caritas HUDEC-Jaffna,"** said Rev. Fr. Jeyakumar, Diocesan Director of Caritas Jaffna expressing his views. The recruited staff will be employed in the production units, namely the netting, dyeing and twining Units.

In the event of a complete ban on fishing, there is still a huge demand



Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando and Rev. Fr. Jeyakumar at the site

Fishing Bans in the areas

Due to the conflict situation Lagoon and deep sea fishing is permitted in certain zones in the Jaffna and Mannar Districts and Eastern Province. Fishing takes place without any hindrance in the uncleared areas of Vanni.

for these nets outside the North and East. The factory is flexible to meet the varied demands to suit our local fisherman and those of the Indian sub-continent.



Chief Executive Director, Jack De Groot ceremonially opening the plaque

It also has the flexibility to produce nets to suit each fishing season. However a complete ban on fishing cannot take place because fish has become an essential food item, like rice, especially in the North and East.

Currently approval has been granted by the relevant authorities for the construction of the factory. Local communities and fishermen and women's groups will be involved in the design and implementation of the fishnet program. This clearly reflects the commitment and strength of Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC in community based development. The factory operations are expected to commence in **September, 2009.**

Caritas Sri Lanka bids Adieu to APHD



The group who participated at the special closing ceremony

After 10 years of an enriching and fruitful partnership with Asia Partnership for Human Development (APHD), Caritas Sri Lanka (CSL)-SEDEC said its goodbyes to the valued organisation. Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando, National Director, and Mr. Shantha Fernando, Project officer of CSL - SEDEC attended the special closing ceremony from March 1-3, in Bangkok.

The objective of the event was to remember the achievements of

APHD's 34 year solidarity with the poor and the marginalised, their development work in Asia and also to celebrate the APHD, Caritas Asia merger. During the event, the contribution of the partners was also acknowledged and an analysis of the current situation, future actions and strategies were also discussed.

CSL - SEDEC and APHD formally launched its partnership on November 19, 1998. APHD has systematically monitored and facilitated community empowerment ever since the 'Sri Lankan consultation on integrated development' at grass root level in 1999. It focused its attention on capacity building, women's development including Anti trafficking. APHD also organized a new intervention on Sustainable Agriculture and environment which

provided input for economic and social development and took the lead towards high level farmer's rights dialogue at a Pan Asia level.

Partnering with APHD gave CSL-SEDEC the ability to make a meaningful contribution towards community empowerment. CSL and its local network would like to say a big 'thank you' to APHD for its immense contribution towards uplifting the poor and marginalised community in Sri Lanka.



Rev. Fr. Damian bids farewell to Teresita D Suselo, APHD Executive Secretary

People - Images - Life - in the Vanni

Manuel Thevarajah is the father of six and at the age of forty seven, he has had to give up his home and his means of livelihood due to the unstable situation in the country. This is often a frustrating state of affairs for a man like Manuel who earned well and provided for his large family while living in the village of Mullikulam.

"The village is suitable for fishing, cultivation and animal husbandry. Fishing and cultivation were my key jobs and I earned more than thirty thousand rupees per month through

both. I was living a happy and peaceful life with my family in the village" he said.

After nearly thirteen years spent in refugee camps, Manuel thought he had found some kind of peace and stability thanks to Caritas Mannar - Valvuthayam which had implemented a housing project in their village and provided the villagers with homes.

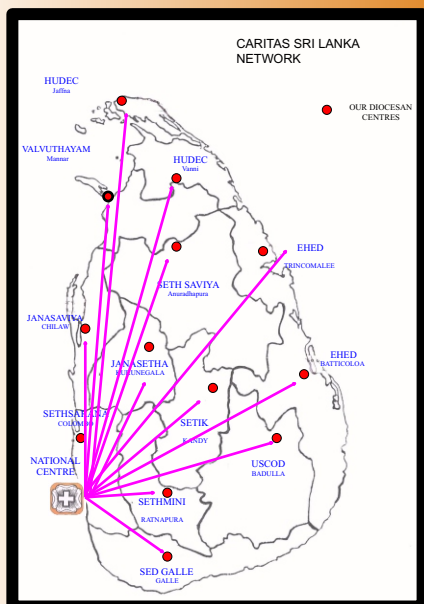
The intense security situation evicted them from their home and Manuel and his family have been

shifted around from place to place carrying only a handful of belongings; depending on the kindness of friends and the support of Caritas Mannar-Valvuthayam.

The War Victims Program of the Relief and Rehabilitation Unit of (CSL)-SEDEC in collaboration with Caritas Mannar-Valvuthayam provided Manuel's family along with many others who were in the same situation with food, non food items and temporary shelters.



Psychosocial Training Programme



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This course gave me confidence to put theory into practice," said Ms. Singarayan Rosarigo who successfully completed the psychosocial training programme. Like her, 45 other psychosocial workers were awarded certificates after the completion of a one year training on April 3 in Trincomalee. It was initiated by the Psychosocial Unit of Caritas Sri Lanka (CSL) SEDEC and Caritas Trincomalee EHED, through the mediation of the Mental Health Department (MHD). The 12 module course was conducted by Dr. T Gadambanathan, the Technical Advisor of the CENT psychiatrist Mental Health Unit, Trincomalee on the recommendation of Mrs Hiranthi De Silva.

The chief guest Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando, National Director of CSL-SEDEC Addressing the event, said "Although these psychosocial workers have weathered many problems, they are committed to uplift the downtrodden. He also mentioned that this certificate course should be initiated in other diocese too."



A participant receiving a certificate from Rev. Fr. Francis Dias

Singarayan Rosarigo joined Caritas Trincomalee - EHED as a psychosocial worker in 2002. The training has enabled to carry out her work more efficiently, "I was empowered to empower people," she adds. As at February, 590 psychosocial workers have received training and 8660 people have been supported for their psychosocial needs through CSL.

Rev. Fr. Francis Dias, Diocesan Director of Caritas Trincomalee - EHED, Rev. Sr. Fatimanayaki A.C. National Psychosocial Coordinator, National and Diocesan Staff and Dr. E.G Gnanagunalan, Regional Director of Health Services, were also present for the ceremony.

Financial Matters



The Tsunami Programme Manager in discussion with the participants

Ensuring good governance, transparency and accountability can mean the very existence for many humanitarian agencies. Whilst it is essential that we use our funds efficiently and effectively at Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC, it is also necessary to train our finance staff from the National and Diocesan Centres. We also innovatively manage our funds giving due recognition to risk management and maximising the 'income interest'.

Programme and Finance Managers and staff of the Tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction programme of the National and Diocesan Centres attended a workshop on February 27 - 28, 2008 at the Ragama Retreat Centre. The objective of the workshop was to identify areas of concern with regard to finance in the diocese and improve planning and budgeting. Some of the topics touched on were budgeting, construction accounting, accounting procedures and managing construction accounting through the Tally Software.

An action plan was drawn with regard to overcoming the challenges faced by the Diocesan centres in financial matters for further follow up.

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