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# Joint tribute to Dr. Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka



New Delhi, 11 July 2017 -- The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) South and South-West Asia Office, the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) paid a joint tribute today to Dr. Saman Kelegama, Executive Director of the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka, who passed away suddenly on 23 June 2017 while attending a conference in Bangkok.

At a commemoration event held at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, which was attended by H.E. Mrs. Chitranganee Wagiswara, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India, colleagues, peers and friends of Dr. Kelegama gathered to express their profound sadness on his untimely demise and convey their deepest condolences to his family.

“Dr. Kelegama was a great visionary and a champion of regional economic cooperation and integration,” said Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP and Officer in Charge of the ESCAP South and South-West Asia Office. “Dr. Kelegama was also an institution builder and is behind such far-reaching initiatives as the South Asia Economic Summit and the South Asia Economic Journal. He was also a prominent economist and policy advisor whose sphere of influence extended well beyond Sri Lanka and South Asia”.

H.E. Mrs. Wagiswara stated that Sri Lanka and South Asia had lost a great figure, a renown economist, but also a very humble and remarkable human being.

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