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Dear Madame Sirimavo,

Namaskar !

What a devastating news about Saman's untimely death. Cannot even imagine that he could leave all of us so suddenly and so soon.

Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and our prayers for his soul's to rest in heavenly abode.

What an irreparable loss to South Asian community ?

Saman was a great friend of ours and was a pioneer in fostering regional cooperation and integration in South Asia. He inherited a great intellectual tradition of brilliant academics like late Gamini Corea and late Lal Jayawrdane of Sri Lanka. Saman's name had infact become synonymous to Sri Lanka in various policy issues/fora in South Asia. I remember it was in one of our meetings in Colombo Club we had thought of launching the South Asia Economic Journal which is now a well read and established publication.

We shall miss Saman and his erudition and of course his extraordinary simplicity, infectious smile and unending warmth forever. Our prayers for his family to withstand and overcome this untimely loss and also grief. He always said that he will visit my home town Darjeeling in India. He could not. However I shall decorate my late Fathers' library with Saman's portrait, as a tribute to a friend always so smart and sprightly. Our love and affection to Chandana and Jayathri.

Warmest personal regards.

Mahendra P. Lama

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