



# High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

## PRESS RELEASE

### Remembering Prof. Saman Kelegama

On the initiative of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) and UNESCAP in Delhi, a joint meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> July at Habitat Centre to pay tribute to late Prof. Saman Kelegama.

In his opening remarks Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS stated that the three organizations had come together to organize the meeting as Prof. Saman Kelegama had over years maintained close links with them at a professional as well as at the personal level. He elaborated on the vast amount of work that had been initiated by Prof. Saman Kelegama to provide and establish linkages at the bilateral, regional & international level.

Dr. Nagesh Kumar of UNESCAP who is now based in Bangkok spoke of the commitment of Prof. Saman Kelegama to regional economic Development and the role he played on promoting open economic policies and the leadership taken at regional fora such SAARC, BMISTEC & IORA.

Special mention was made on the South Asia Economic Summit and South Asia Economic Journal which were two initiatives by Prof. Saman Kelegama.

Prof. Deepak Nayyar of SACEPS added that Prof. Saman Kelegama also represented and spoke for the Civil Society and that he contributed his knowledge as a institution builder. He said that he put the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) in the world map. Although he was a Sri Lankan citizen, he was also a citizen of South Asia and a citizen of the global South.

Prof. Muchkund Dubey , Former Foreign Secretary of India and President Council for Social Development, in his speech referred to the vast knowledge, Prof. Saman Kelegama possessed on global economic issues which contributed to South Asian Cooperation, and South-South Cooperation.

He was a prolific writer and an astute thinker and he said that Prof. Kelegama could be considered in the same league as Gamini Corea. Prof. Dubey added that he was free from prejudices and at the same time aware of the pitfalls and issues confronted when one has to implement proposals. He added that his contribution to South Asia Cooperation would be a role model. SACEPS may work towards adding to the memory of Prof. Saman Kelegama.

While speaking of his intellectual capacity and integrity and soft spoken personality the Speakers conveyed their condolences to the Government of Sri Lanka, the IPS & the family of Saman Kelegama.

The High Commissioner Chitranganee Wagswara thanked the organizers for the initiative taken to organize the event to pay tribute to Prof. Saman Kelegama, which demonstrates the high esteem that he is held in India and in Asia. While touching on the role played by Prof. Saman Kelegama as an academic, as an adviser and as a representative of the Government of Sri Lanka in various fora, as well as the links he established with the private sector she mentioned that his demise is an irreparable loss for Sri Lanka.

The audience included former Indian High Commissioners representatives from think tanks, and experts on economic issues.

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