Uth iNNOVATION Challenge

An opportunity to think beyond, to lead the world

1st Ampara district Youth Conference
30th December 2016 – 01st January 2017

Program Guide

Old Boys' Association
ZAHIRA COLLEGE
KALMUNAI
www.kalmunaizahiraoba.lk
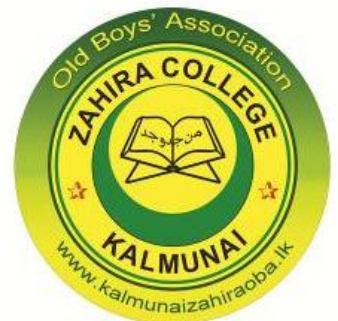
YOUTH
Power of Future

Preventing the conflicts of tomorrow means changing the mind-set of youth today.
- Grace Machel-Mandela

Welcome

Welcome to the Uth Innovation Challenge – First Ampara District Youth Conference!

Blending theory with practice, this workshop for youth takes you through new learning of world, an opportunity to think beyond to lead the Sri Lankan society. An innovative design of this workshop, brings 30 young competent and energetic men and women from all ethnicities across all localities from Ampara district. This program targets youth at undergraduate level in universities in Sri Lanka in variety of disciplines ranging from biological science to social science.

A 3 day workshop will bring leading practitioners and trainers in the community development, humanitarian and peace-building to interact and take the participants through the journey of exploring them to prepare for emerging world of challenges, we have been facing in our own communities.

We envisage to provide you an opportunity to develop a new innovation challenge, which you will formulate into a project proposal at the end of the workshop. Each group will be awarded a project grant to implement your innovative ideas in practice in your own community, your own designed solutions, shaped by experts.

We hope you find this workshop an enjoyable and informative, a life change experience.

Organising Team
Old Boys' Association
Zahira College Kalmunai
22.12.2016

Important emergency contacts:
Eng. MCK. Nishath, Secretary, OBA – 0771094058
Eng. AMZ. Zimar, Ex.co Member, OBA – 0778937777
Eng. AMA. Saja, Program Advisor, OBA - 0773958387

Introduction

The world over, there is a tendency to consider young people as a 'problem' rather than a 'solution' and this is more so in countries affected by war and violence. The relationship between youth and conflict is a two-way street; on the one hand conflict impact youth, and on the other, youth impact conflict. Service Learning is one method for undergraduate students to engage in social work so that their problem solving and creative thinking skills are built once they are ready for employment and to innovate new products and solving problems in the society. In a new approach to development, the emphasis is given to small-scale solutions developed in partnership with local communities. YOUTH 2017++ fits this approach while helping to shape the next generation socially conscious youth. YOUTH 2017++ project mobilizes undergraduate student youth from all universities who are from Ampara district from all three ethnic communities to develop their skills in social innovation, so that they return back to their own community to find solutions to social issues in partnership with communities.

The schedule of events includes variety of programs to inculcate the required knowledge, skills and attitude to build the capacity of the youth to identify community issues and positively contribute to solving the problems by designing innovative ideas. Identification of the community problems using cause-effect diagram and devising an objective tree using means to end is the key to prepare any proposal that seeks to implement a proposed solution. Hence an overview of community based project principles is provided as a background to this innovation challenge.

This small program book consists of schedule of events, with the intended objectives and brief guide about the key part of the program – which is to develop community based volunteer interventions. More training resources will be provided during each session of the workshop.

AM. Aslam Saja

Ex. Secretary – OBA/ Program Advisor for OBA, US Embassy Grant on Youth Empowerment

Schedule of events

Day 01 – 30th December 2016 (Friday)					
Time	PM	Session Name	Session Objective	Methodology	Facilitator
	03.00 04.00	Registration			
30'	04.00 04.30	Opening sessions	Officially inaugurate the sessions and training program	Official ceremony	Eng. MCK. Nishath Eng. AMZ. Zimar
60'	04.30 05.30	S1: Introduction and Training overview	All participant are knowledgeable on the training and intended output	Discussion, Brainstorming	Eng. AMA. Saja
75'	05.30 06.45	S2: Peace, Social Harmony and Reconciliation – Role of youth	By the end of the session, the participants are able to demonstrate their role in peace	Presentation, Group Work	Ms. Sushanthy G.
30'	06.45 07.15	Tea break			
75'	07.15 08.30	S3: Guest talk: Social innovation – Think out of the box to engineer solutions	Participants are able to demonstrate how to formulate a new social innovation project	Presentation, Talk Group work	Eng. ZM. Hairu
	08.30	Dinner			
Day 02 – 31st December 2016 (Saturday)					
Time	AM	Session Name	Session Objective	Methodology	Facilitator
60'	06.30 07.30	Morning fitness	Multi-cultural team is developed through sports and active involvement of youth		Mr. Kadafy
90'	07.30 09.00	Breakfast			
90'	09.00 10.30	S4: 'Do No Harm' – Conflict sensitivity for youth	By the end of the session, the participants are able to know key aspects of conflict sensitivity	Group activity, Presentation, Discussion	Ms. Sushanthy G.
30'	10.30 11.00	Tea break			

U^th Innovation Challenge – Ampara district 2017

Schedule of events

	Time	Session Name	Session Objective	Methodology	Facilitator
60'	11.00 12.00	S5: Guest talk: Innovation-Path to successful career Preparation of the action plan	Participants are able to identify their potential towards planning an innovation career	*Presentation, Talk Group work*	Dr. U. Farook
60'	12.00 01.00	S6: Resilient society through youth empowerment	By the end of the session, the participants are able to apply skills in social resilience building	*Group activity, Presentation, Discussion*	Eng. AMA. Saja
60'	01.00 02.00	Lunch Break			
Time	*PM*	*Session Name*	*Session Objective*	*Methodology*	*Facilitator*
60'	02.00 03.00	S7: Essential emergency management skills	Participants are able to demonstrate key emergency management skills required in a day to day life	*Presentation/Talk Simulations*	Mr. N. Chamara
120'	03.00 05.00	S8: Healthy society – Identification of health/environmental/ engineering social issues	Participants are able to develop community health/environmental issues	*Presentation Group work*	Dr.PKCLJayasinghe Dr. N. Wijesekara Dr. N. Ariff Eng. AJAH. Jowsy Mr. T.Gopahan
90'	05.00 06.30	Tea/Evening games			
90'	06.30 08.00	S9: Drafting a proposal for social innovation projects	Participants will have developed the first draft of the proposal	*Group works*	Dr. N. Wijesekara Mr. N. Chamara Eng. AMA. Saja
120'	08.00	U^{th} Night Champions Dinner (Reconcile for new year)	Multi-cultural performances are staged to inculcate the mutual respect and build effective multi-cultural teams	-	

U^{th} Innovation Challenge – Ampara district 2017

Schedule of events

Day 03 – 01st January 2017 (Sunday)

Time	AM	Session Name	Session Objective	Methodology	Facilitator
120'	07.00 09.00	Morning fitness/ Breakfast			Mr. Kadafy
60'	09.00 10.00	S10: Youth Volunteering and future	Participants are able to demonstrate the importance of volunteering	*Presentation* *Case study*	Dr. N. Wijesekara Mr. N. Chamara
60'	10.00 11.00	S11: Project planning and implementation	Participants will have gained project planning and implementation knowledge	*Presentation*	Eng. AMA. Saja Mr. SMM. Lafir
150'	11.00 13.30	S12: Finalizing the social project proposals/presentation	Participants will have final proposal ready for implementation	*Group work* *Group presentation*	Dr. N. Wijesekara Mr. N. Chamara Mr. S.M. Lafir Mr. Sutharsanan Ms. Sharnya Mr. MS. Sanzier Eng. AJAH. Jowsy
30'	13.30 14.00	Lunch			
60'	14.00 15.00	Closing ceremony	Participants are awarded certificates of achievement		Eng. MCK. Nishath Eng. AMZ. Zimar

Uth Innovation Challenge – Ampara district 2017

Community Projects

Diagnosis

- What are the problems?
- What are the needs?

Objective

- What do we want to achieve in a particular period?
- In next 4 months time?

Approach

- Possible ways to achieve this objective?
- Brainstorm for proposals

Advantages/Disadvantages

- Of each proposal
- Needed time, money & personal effort

Decision

- Which proposal (plan) do we accept?
- May include several suggestions

4W + 1H

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?
- How?

Monitoring

- At what point?
- How do we make sure we are on track?

Uth Innovation Challenge – Ampara district 2017

Community Development and Youth Interventions

This is an attempt to search the answer for the more trivial question in mind which is posed among the community development practitioners. "Where the professional expertise is needed?" In search of answering this question, it is necessary to think outside the box and to work with others, with other professionals and with skilled, non – professionals, to make effective use of their existing skills, knowledge and attitudes in the community development. In addition, new skills are needed to work with the very communities where the major attention is given in the development sector. It becomes an increased importance to identify the gaps and to develop an effective framework for bridging the gaps in order to devise the possible mechanisms to address the issues and thus working to achieve the common goal which ultimately benefits the community as whole.

In fact, Technology has a role to play, but it needs to be used intelligently. New forms of water resource management technique and the land use planning for example need to be explained simply i.e. to be transformed which can be understood by the community itself. No matter whether we have a good sophisticated physical system, but we need to make sure that the community will ultimately benefits from that. In order to achieve this it is also necessary to focus on empowering the people not just only developing the hardware. This is where the sustainable development is being spoken by the community development practitioners. We should be ready to learn and promote good practices not only in physical development but in the whole community development. We also need to note that the term community development should not be seen as social, economic and political empowerment, but includes technology, shared values, beliefs and ideas.

One of the slogans as it is being used in management training is, "If you do not know where you are going, then any road will do" (Training handout "Knowing your goals" – Dr. Phil Bartle). This can be applied here as well. It is easy to run around, looking busy, arranging meetings, getting buildings and latrines constructed, talking to community leaders (Even in most of the development projects, this is rare), moving advocacy groups, without moving forward in accomplishing genuine community targets and strengthening it on its own foundation.

So again with the focus on youth in development projects, we need to expand our horizons and ready to listen and learn from the community and be able to transform our technical, analytical and managerial expertise in solving the real community problems. As we have creative and innovative young generation, it can be anticipated that these will be addressed and appropriate mechanisms and techniques will be explored.

Community based project – An overview

The community project is an organized set of actions which codify the priority choices and desires of the community as a whole, not a single individual, faction, or power group within the community, and not an agency outside the community. – Phil Bratley

Characteristics of a good community based project

- *Must contribute to community's shared vision and mission*
- *Community participates in every step during the life of a project- process ownership*
- *The aims and objectives of the projects are simple and clear to be understood by all*
- *Uses simple participatory design process that is understood by all*
- *Benefits of projects are shared by most if not all, in a fair way*
- *Has a strong local management team with full community support*
- *Good communication system among management team-villagers-donors- stakeholders*
- *Dynamic Leadership- may change with time*
- *Projects use local resource*
- *Transparency & accountability to the community*

One of the **SIMPLE** ways to describe key characteristics of a community based project design:

S	**S**trategically orientated with **S**hared benefits
I	**I**nteractive process promoting **I**nterdependence
M	**P**articipatory process & **p**eople centred
P	**M**anageable size with **M**easurable results
L	**L**ocal leadership, **l**ocal management using **l**ocal resources
E	**E**ssential for people, economically viable, effective in achieving goals, enduring solution)

## Strategic analysis for community based project

Before embarking on a project design it is important to understand what constitutes a community based project in relation to community's vision, needs and its capacity. As shown in the figure above, it is best described as an area where all these three elements meet. In other words, a community based project is one which contributes towards its shared vision while meeting the community's priority needs through the mobilization of its capacities and resources.

The following guiding questions help to carry out this strategic analysis:
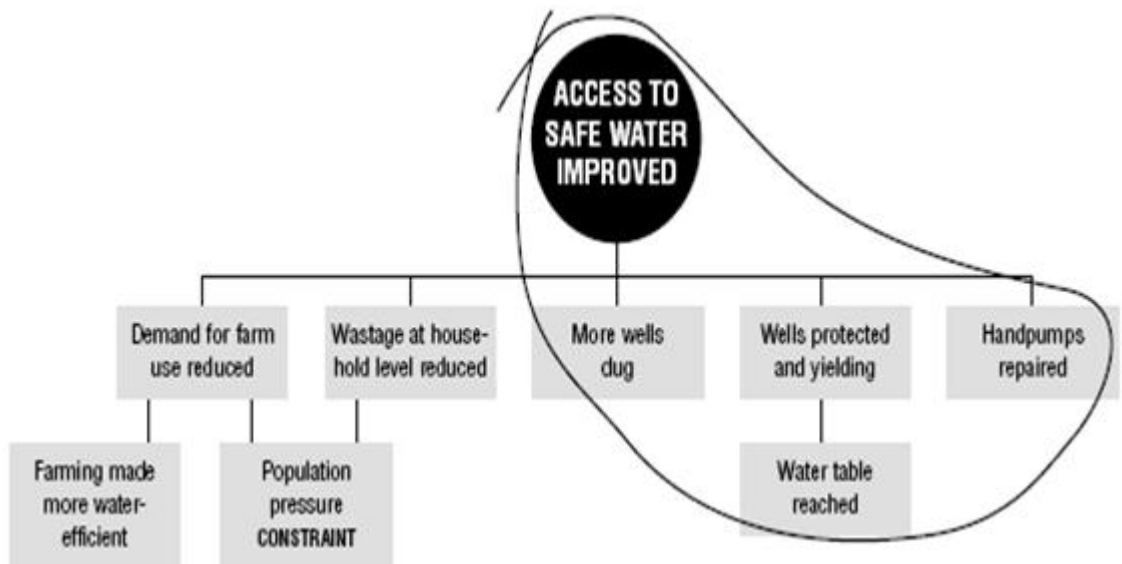
☞ What is that community wants to achieve (Vision, specific goals supported by strategies)?

☞ What are community's needs?

☞ What does it have (resources, capacities) to address these needs?
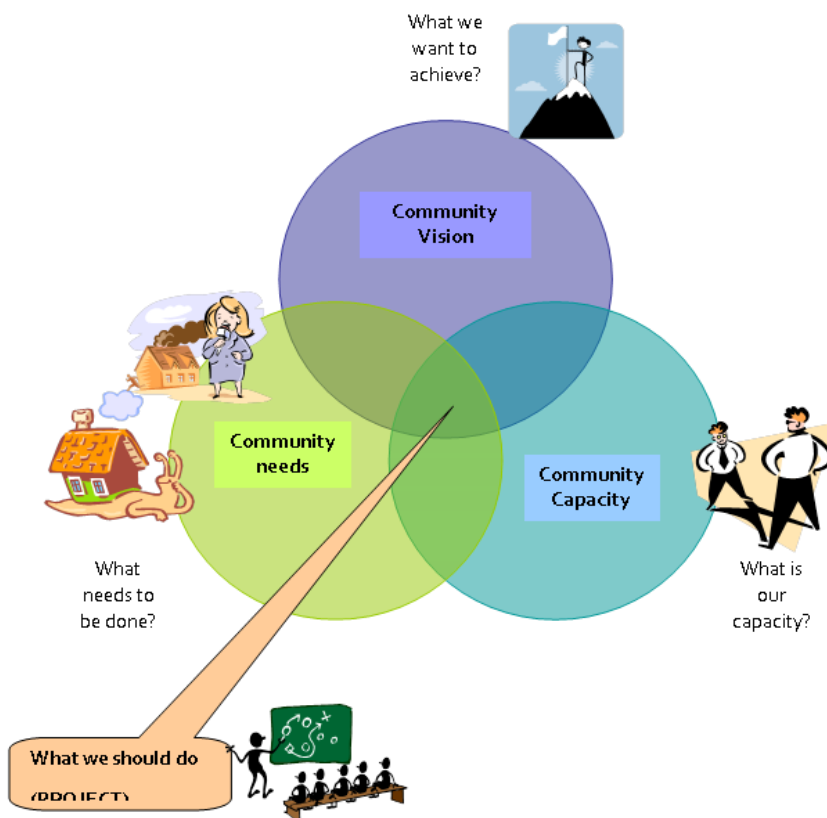
Problem Analysis

Objective Analysis

Source: Prem Chand, Community Participatory Approaches, RedR, 2008.
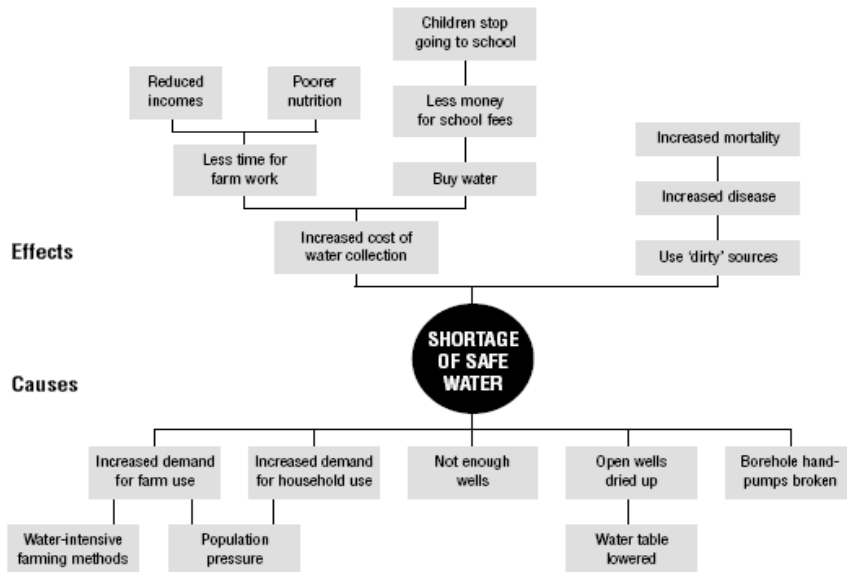
Community Participation

The term **Community Participation** is defined as advocating for the transfer of decision making power from those who control resources to those who need them. The core of community participation is exercising '*voices and choices*' of the community and thereby developing the human, organizational and management capacity to solve problems as they arise in order to sustain the improvements made over time.

The **Community Participatory Approach** (CPA) is an inclusive process that recognizes, organizes and utilizes the great experience, wisdom & power of all the community members working in groups to develop community's long term vision, identify, prioritize, plan, implement, monitor & evaluate the community based reconstruction & development activities.

CPA is an open ended and longer term process and therefore needs longer term partnership with the communities. It focuses on:

1. **Developing partnership with communities** defined in its geo-social context. That is, partnership with the people who live within a geographically defined area and who have social and psychological ties with each other and with the place where they live.
2. **Building on community strengths** that relate to social capacity or social readiness to accomplish tasks or improve community living standards.
3. **Understanding of community's culture**, social structure, demographics, political structure, major issues/concerns on the minds of residents and natural and human resources available within community to address them.
4. **Exploring and developing wherever necessary community's internal potential** to accomplish what it needs to do rather than focussing on the task accomplishment itself
5. **Establishing and/or strengthening internal organizations** and strategies as opposed to accomplishing tasks as per outside organization's strategy
6. **Establishing linkages to organizations and resources outside** the community.

The first step of any community based development is community based participatory research. This is truly community driven which enables in depth understanding of a community's socio economic context and its development needs as expressed by community members.

Community based participatory research involves clusters of activities aimed at:
- Information collection
- Information synthesis / Analysis
- Problem/needs identification and prioritization
- Final research report / Community profiling

Finally all these information are collated by the community in the form of a research report for community based project planning, implementation and monitoring.

Go to the people, Live with them, Learn from them, Love them
Start with what they know, Build with what they have,
But with the best leaders, When the work is done,
The task accomplished
The people will say, "We have done this ourselves" (Lao Tsu. China 700 B.C)

CPA is the process where external agencies learn how to obtain best results by participating in community programmes as opposed to making community's participate in their programme (agenda).

Why CPA?

- *Effective*- communities responsible for own projects
- *Efficient*- communities mobilize their own resources & avoid dependency
- *Equitable*- members equally participate & enjoy benefits
- *Enduring*- communities learn skills & knowledge

It is a basic human right of all the community members

It is process of community ownership and decision making

Project proposal format

1. Date of the proposal:

2. Uth Group Name:

3. Group Members Name:

4. Project Title:

5. Project Overview:

6. Description of Beneficiaries (persons who will benefit from project):

7. Goal:

8. Objectives:

9. Methodology & Project Description (Activities and Outputs):

Activities	Outputs	Indicators

10. Impact:

11. Budget:

Item	Unit price	# of Units	Total

12. Monitoring and E**valuation Plan (How do you plan to monitor the success of your project?)**

Idea?   Idea?   Idea?   Idea?   Idea?

Youth,
Peace &
Security

UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2250 (2015)

ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

Today's generation of youth is **THE LARGEST** the world has ever known, and... young people often form the majority of the population of **COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY ARMED CONFLICT**

Disruption of youth's access to **EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES** has a dramatic impact on durable peace and reconciliation

Youth should actively be engaged in shaping lasting **PEACE** and contributing to **JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION**

A large youth population presents **A UNIQUE DEMOGRAPHIC** dividend that can contribute to lasting peace and economic prosperity if **INCLUSIVE POLICIES** are in place

YOUTH

= YOUNG WOMEN AND YOUNG MEN
= DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

YOUNG LEADERS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

POWERED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ENVOY ON YOUTH

Profiles of lead facilitators

Aslam Saja: Saja is an Engineer by education, has been a humanitarian/disaster management practitioner for past 10 years. He lectures at Faculty of Engineering, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, since 2013. He completed his Master's degree in Disaster Management and currently pursuing PhD at QUT, Australia. He worked for one of the world largest humanitarian donor, Humanitarian aid department of European Commission (ECHO) - Sri Lanka & Maldives in Colombo (2010-13), and RedR UK in Sri Lanka, (2005-10). He is a registered professional member of RedR UK, accredited RedR Associate Trainer and founder of RedR Lanka. His involvement in community development as a volunteer/social worker with several community based organizations and National NGOs since 1999, and 2004 Tsunami relief operation in Ampara district, has made him to start his professional career in the humanitarian and development sector in Sri Lanka. Saja has been trained in more than 20 international trainings held in 12 countries across South Asia, South East Asia, Australia, United States and Europe. In 2015, Saja recently attended research academy at Brown University, USA. He continues to research on post-conflict issues in Sri Lanka including risk management, resilience, community participation, capacity building of community based organizations, and humanitarian standards. (www.aslamsaja.com)

Sushanthy Gobalakrishnan: Sushanthy is a peace-building and humanitarian professional with 13 year career span with national and international nongovernmental organisations involved extensive hands on experience in her main areas of interest, learning and change processes in conflict transformation, conflict analysis, conflict sensitivity & Good Humanitarian Practices, Community Development & impact assessment of peacebuilding programmes, at the field level, with frontline association of the affected communities, working with war victims who include war widows, children, victims of enforced disappearances and Internally Displaced People (IDP). She has been involved in numerous consultancies at the national, regional & international level that has allowed her to increase her depth of knowledge & skills in these areas. Key educational background is in the areas of Conflict Transformation, Humanitarianism & Community Development. She has a keen interest in Humanitarian / Development actions and Armed Conflict and undertaken an Action Research connecting the Humanitarian Guiding Principles and Conflict Sensitive Practice in the field as part of her two years Graduate studies on Applied Conflict Transformation. She also holds MSc International Conflict. She was one of the International Scholar at Kingston University and the recipient of the MSc International Conflict prize for 2011. She is an associate trainer of RedR UK/Lanka, registered member as well as a founder of RedR Lanka.

Novil Wijesekara: Novil is a medical doctor with post graduate qualifications in Disaster Management (M.Sc), Community Medicine (M.Sc), Diplomatic Studies and Foreign Relations (P.G. Dip) and Human Rights and Peace Education (P.G.Dip). Since 2014 August, He is functioning as a Community Solutions Fellow of the US Department of State, attached to the World Cares Center in New York. He was attached to the Disaster Preparedness and Response Division of the Ministry of Health, where He was involved in program planning, development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation with regards to health sector disaster preparedness and response, both at health institution and community level. He contributed as a resource person in Disaster Management for four specialist post graduate training program conducted by the Post Graduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo. In addition, He functioned as a visiting lecturer in Counseling Psychology at the Institute of Human Resource Advancement of the University of Colombo. He is an associate trainer in RedR-Lanka affiliated to RedR-UK. He has over 10 years of experience in public health which includes provision of health care for internally displaced persons at the termination of the 30-year old internal conflict of the country. He was the co-founder of the Community Tsunami Early-warning Centre and Community Resilience Centre.

Nuwan Chamara Ekanayaka Arachchige Don: Nuwan is the Director Training and Development/ EMS Consultant at MEDIASIA GROUP (Private) Limited. He has more than ten years of experience in humanitarian relief and development programs in management roles. He started his career in humanitarian relief as a volunteer leader and a trainer at St John Ambulance Sri Lanka in 1999. On January 2002 He joined DEIHERM (Development Education Institute for Human and Environmental Resource Management) a local non-government organization at Galle, Sri Lanka as the trust management and assistant program officer. After serving with volunteer groups at Sri Lanka during Tsunami in 2004, St John Ambulance Sri Lanka recruited as a Trainer and Tutor to expand their training in disaster preparedness and basic life support skills throughout the country. He joined Medical Teams International as the deputy program manager for their emergency medical service program on November 2007. After completing a four year contract with Medical Teams International in 2011 he joined So Others May See incorporation as the program officer and project consultant. So Others May See was expanding their programs in Sri Lanka in 2011 and he worked with them for five months helping them to develop, expand and establish their programs throughout the country. In 2012 he was awarded with the Fulbright Professional Scholarship to conduct a research on program and management functions on 9-1-1 system in USA and end of February 2013 he returned to Sri Lanka after completing his research.

Thank You!

Program Advisor: Eng. AM. Aslam Saja, Lecturer/SEUSL, PhD scholar/QUT-Australia, Immediate Ex. Secretary-OBA, Former Program Officer/European Commission-Colombo, & Alumni of Brown University – 2015 Institute.

Lead Facilitators:

1. Ms. Sushanthy Gobalakrishnan, Peace-building, humanitarian practitioner/trainer

2. Dr. Novil Wijesekara, Founder-Community Resilience Centre, CSF-USA

3. Mr. Nuwan Chamara, Director Training and Development at MEDIASIA GROUP Pvt.Ltd

Proposal development session facilitators:

1. Mr. S.M. Lafir, Consortium Project Manager, Action Aid, Myanmar

2. Mr. M. Sutharsanan, Country Program Coordinator, ACTED Sri Lanka

3. Ms. Sharnya Ravikumar, Project Manager, Handicap International Sri Lanka

4. Mr. MS. Sanzier, Project Officer, UNICEF

5. Mr. T. Gopahan, Social activist/Trainer, Green Movement

Guest speakers:

1. Dr. U. Farook (PhD) Senior Consultant, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

2. Eng. Z.M. Hairu, Chairman, HEC (Pvt) Ltd

Session resource persons:

1. Dr. PCLK. Jayasinghe, Director, Ampara General Hospital

2. Dr. N. Ariff, Regional Epidemiologist, RDHS Kalmunai

3. Eng. AJAH. Jowsy, Chartered Engineer, Environmental Engineering

Program Coordination/Organisation

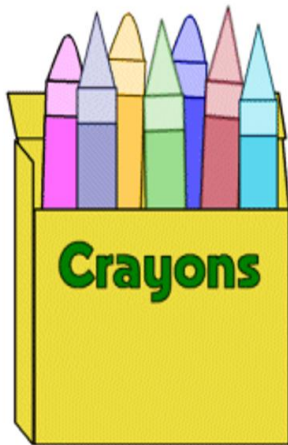Mr. P.M.M. Bathurtheen, President, OBA - ZCK

Program Coordinator: Eng. MCK. Nishath, Secretary, OBA, Kalmunai Branch

Program Team members:

1. Mr. Musthakeem, Treasurer, OBA, Kalmunai Branch

2. Mr. MK. Thowfeek, Secretary, OBA Colombo Branch

3. Mr. A.M. Rafeek, Secretary, SDC

4. Eng. AMZ. Zimar, Ex.co member, OBA

5. Mr. SM. Kaleel, Ex.co member, OBA

6. Mr. U.K. Kalideen, Ex.co member, OBA

Notes

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Every member in a Team, has times when they need support -->>>

We could learn a lot from Crayons

Some are Sharp
Some are pretty
Some are Dull
While others Bright
Some have Weird Names
...but we have to
learn how to live in the same box