



CLARION

THE NEWSLETTER OF ASIAN COMPAS PARTNERS

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COMPAS ASIAN PARTNERS MEETING

A meeting of the various Asian partners of the Compas network took place in Sri Lanka between 20 - 26 October, 2005. The meeting was hosted by the Sri Lankan Compas partners' network and was held at the campus of Nation Builders Association at Kundasale in the outskirts of Kandy in Sri Lanka. The Indian and Sri Lankan partners as well as the Asian Coordinator Mr. A. V. Balasubramanian and the Compas International Coordinator from the Netherlands, Mr. Wim Hiemstra attended the meeting. A brief summary of the meeting is outlined below.

The opening ceremony was held on the morning of 20th October with the lighting of the traditional lamp as well as Kandyan drumming and music. Mr. K. A. J. Kahandawa, Coordinator of the Compas Sri Lankan network welcomed the participants on behalf of the hosts. Mr. A. V. Balasubramanian, Compas Asian Coordinator provided an outline of the programme and there was a brief discussion to finalise the agenda for the meeting.

The first day of the meeting was spent in detailed exchange of views and discussions regarding the field activities of each of the Compas partners. The second day was devoted to presentations by each of the partners on the themes on which they are carrying out 'Topical research'. For this session the delegates were joined by a team of external resource persons, which included - Mr. Ranjit Desilva of the Gami Seva Sevana Ltd., Prof. Pushpakumara and Prof. Ittinayake from the Perediniya University, Dr. Nimal DeSilva, Professor of Architecture and Mr. Podinilame, Director, Centre for Human Development and Ms. Kamal Melvani, an expert on Analog Forestry. Presentations were made regarding topical research being undertaken by each of the partners. In the concluding session there was a panel discussion regarding varied aspects of research and investigations into traditional knowledge systems.

On the third day all the delegates went on a field trip that was organized by Friends of Lanka based

at Kegalle. The delegates visited and had discussions with a gathering of traditional *Visha Vaidyas* (specialists in treating poisonous bites) and witnessed the ceremonies involved in making special medical preparations that are useful in *Vishachikitsa*.

The fourth day was devoted to discussion on a proposed publication on 'Learning about Endogenous Development (LENDEV)'. The fifth day was devoted to discussions and decisions regarding the Compas Institutional Development process. For this part of the session the delegates were joined by Dr. Vijay Padaki of

the P&P Group, Bangalore, India who is the International Consultant for the Compas ID process.

On the sixth day, the participants went on a tour to Sigiria Fort and Palace which is a major tourist attraction in Sri Lanka and which has been declared as a world heritage site by UNESCO.

The seventh and concluding day was spent in discussing issues like Compas website and newsletter, review of recently concluded activities at the regional level such as exchange visits, updates about progress of Compas



activities like the programme initiated with the Gandhigram Rural University for a course on traditional agriculture and the coordinated programme for research on animal products used in agriculture that is being undertaken jointly by all the Compas Indian partners.

COMPAS SRI LANKAN PARTNERS MEETING

The Compas Asian Coordinator, Mr.A.V. Balasubramanian travelled to Sri Lanka in the first week of August. On 3rd August 2005 he visited the field area of Compas partner, Naula Rural Development Foundation (NRDF) at Naula. He was accompanied by Mr. Jayasinghe of FIOH and Mr. K. A. J. Kahandawa, Coordinator of the Compas Sri Lankan partners network. Initially they had a meeting with the NRDF team and later on they had a meeting with the expert group of healers with whom NRDF was working. Later in the

afternoon, the team visited Pubbiliya village where there was a meeting with a group of farmers which took place in the Buddhist Vihara in the village. There was a detailed discussion regarding the trials carried out about the use of Mantras and Kems for control of elephant damage to crops.

On 4th August there was a meeting of the Compas Sri Lankan partners at Kandy. The partners discussed the progress of the fieldwork, topical research and regional activities including exchange visits, Compas website and



Farmers meeting at Pubbiliya, Naula

newsletter. Later in the evening Mr. Balasubramanian and Mr. Kahandawa visited Perediniya University and

had a discussion with Dr. Pushpa-kumara who is a faculty member in the Department of Crop Sciences

OTHER WAYS OF KNOWING: AN INDEPTH INVESTIGATION INTO TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE – CONFERENCE AT KANDY



On 5th and 7th August 2005, a meeting was organized by CERD group, Sri Lanka on the theme of 'Other ways of knowing: An indepth investigation into traditional knowledge'. About twenty-five persons which included scholars, academicians, NGOs and some government officials attended the meeting. The Compas Asian Coordinator, Mr. A. V. Balasubramanian who was invited for the meeting made a presentation on the topic 'Walking on two legs and Seeing with two eyes: Reflections on the blending of traditional and modern sciences and technologies in India'. Darshan Shankar of FRLHT made a presentation on 'Traditional Knowledge validation and its value to contemporary society in the area of medical knowledge'. Professor Sarath Bhandara of Perediniya University made a presentation regarding the work that he has been carrying jointly with the Compas partner, Mr. Upawansa regarding traditional agriculture in Sri Lanka.

WORKSHOP FOR SRI LANKAN PARTNERS



A four days workshop on Capacity Building, Documentation and Assessment, Conservation of Medicinal Herbs and on Ethno Veterinary Practices (EVP) was sponsored by Compas network. It was organized by Future In Our Hands (FIOH), Sri Lanka and Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), India. The workshop was held between September 6th -9th, 2005 at Sri Lanka. The

objectives of the workshop were to give training to Sri Lankan partners on the methodology on Documentation and Assessment of Local Health Traditions (DALHT), to share and exchange the knowledge on indigenous health practices related to human and animal health, and medicinal plants conservation and management.

There was a total of seventeen participants, three from

Friends of Lanka (FOL), six from Future In Our Hands (FIOH), one from Ecological conservation Organisation (ECO), three from Biodiversity Research Information and Training centre (BRIT), two from Naula Rural Development Foundation (NRDF), a representative from the Government department and a reporter.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Wijetunge, chairman of FIOH and Mr. Kahandawa presided over the function. Welcome address was given by Mr. Prabath. Mr. Nair from FRLHT gave a brief account on the objectives of the programme. The participants were requested to express their expectations individually in the four days workshop.

The resource persons from FRLHT were Dr. M.N. Bala-krishnan Nair - Senior Programme Advisor,

Dr. K. Ravikumar - Angiosperm Taxonomist and Dr. Raneesh - Ayurvedic Physician. A sample group exercise was undertaken during the workshop to study the documentation and assessment.

The resource persons from FRLHT gave a special training on Ethno Veterinary Practices (EVP) to the Village Resource Persons (VRP) to identify diseases, remedial measures, maintenance of daily records etc.

The programme was extremely valuable to carry out better search on promotion of Local Health Tradition for endogenous development. Hand-outs and modules were also distributed to the participants for the future reference.

There were also visits to Government Ayurvedic herbarium and garden and Gami Seva Sevana (GSS) an NGO, Buddha temple at Badulla and Kandy and the

REGIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Sri Lankan Folk Healers Visit to Selected Locations of Southern India

Regional exchange program was held for Sri Lankan Folk Healers between 21 – 28 August 2005. During this program, a six member folk healers team headed by Mr. A.W.K. Wickramaarachchi visited selected locations of Southern India. The program was coordinated by FIOH, FOL, ECO, BRIT & NRDF of Sri Lanka, FRLHT, Bangalore and CIKS, Chennai. This program was supported by ETC-Compas,

The Netherlands. The program commenced with a formal introduction of Sri Lankan team. Mr.G. Hariramamurthi gave a presentation about FRLHT and its programmes and activities. After discussion, the team was taken to various departments of FRLHT namely, Traditional Systems of Medicines, Laboratory, Herbarium, Raw Drug Section etc.

The team along with local folk healers, Mr. Venkataraman and Mr. G. Hariramamurthi left for Tiptur to have an interaction with the local vaidyas from Karnataka. The Sri Lankan

team made a visit to BAIF, Institute of Rural Development, Karnataka on 23rd August 2005 and interacted with the local vaidyas regarding the methods of diagnosis and treatment for poisonous bite, bone setting, skin diseases, general medicine and veterinary medicines. On 24th August 2005 the team along with Mr. Venkataraman and Dr. Raneesh visited Covenant Centre for Development (CCD), Sevayoor (near Madurai) where they had a discussion with the local vaidyas and made a field visit to identify the common plants used in India as well as Sri Lanka for snakebite and other ailments. They also made a visit to Gram Mooligai Company Ltd and came to know about the process of collection, cultivation and processing of medicinal plants.

On 25 August 2005 the Sri Lankan team held a discussion with Ethno veterinary Healers of Dhavathiricholam and shared the ideas about various treatments with the local vaidyas. On the same day, the team visited Arya vaidya Nilayam, a well known company near Madurai and went around the various sections of manufacturing unit of the company. On 26th August 2005, the team met Vaidyar Poovar, a traditional bonesetter of Nagerkoil and held a discussion with him. They appreciated his treatment given for open fractures, which was not practiced in Sri Lanka by local vaidyas.

At Kanyakumari, the team made a visit to Vivekananda Kendra and discussed about *Varma* with the local vaidyas. They also visited Triveni Nursing Home a well-known centre for traditional orthopedics and Ayurveda College, at Thiruvananthapuram, an oldest formal institution of Ayurveda in South India.

Later at FRLHT, the Sri Lankan team had a feed back session facilitated by Dr. Unnikrishnan, Dr. Raneesh, Mr. Hariramamurthi and Mr. Venkataraman. During this session the Sri Lankan team shared their experience and views about this exchange program.

The Sri Lankan folk healers team mentioned that during their trip they got to know many new things and hoped that they would start fresh work with a strong motivation. They mentioned that Kerala Panchakarma, usage of mercury for the treatment and handling open fracture by Vaidyar Poovar were new to them. Finally Vaidyar Rambanda thanked the FRLHT team for making this program a grand success.

New Publication from CIKS

“Organic Cotton Cultivation”



This book presents the Organic agricultural techniques used to cultivate cotton. A list of the major pests, diseases and deficiency symptoms in cotton are listed with colourful illustrations. Non-chemical remedial measures are also listed for the above problems. The major composting techniques and a complete ‘Package of Practices’ for Organic cotton is given in detail. Hence this book will serve as a complete

guide to growing cotton organically.

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To

Book-Post