

WORLD TAMIL'S ECONOMIC CONFERENCE 2011

The Second World Tamil's Economic Conference held on 2-4 October 2011 at the Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates was attended by over 500 delegates from various countries like India, USA, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, UK, France, Russia, Austria, South Africa, Oman, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Mauritius and Sri Lanka. Delegates consisted of a cross-section of people represented by Ministers, senior Government officials, industrialists, educationists, doctors, legal experts, economists and bankers.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by dignitaries from India, Malaysia and GCC states including the **Honourable Union Minister for Corporate Affairs from India Sri M. Veerappa Moily**. The Minister who flew in specially for the inaugural ceremony addressed the elite audience and said that the Indian government is open to new ideas, innovative entrepreneurship and added that the phenomenal growth of IT and agriculture sector was a result of the progressive outlook of the government. He formally inaugurated the conference with the lighting of the traditional lamp.

H.E. Dato Sri Samivelu, Minister from Malaysia highlighted the economic development in general across the globe and encouraged the Tamil community to make things happen.

Many well-wishers of the conference such as H.E. Lokesh - Indian Ambassador to the UAE, Dr. Justice AR Laksamanan, HE Ahmed Fadhil bin Shamsuddin, Mr. Salahuddin of ETA Group of Companies, Mr. R. Seetharaman - CEO of the Doha Bank, Mr. Sidarth Balachandra of BUMGA Group, Members of Parliament Mr. A.A. Jinna, Mr. Abdulrahman and Mr. Alagiri and Industrialist Mr. Veeramani spoke on the occasion and wished the conference all success. Dr. V.R.S. Sampath, Convener of the conference and President of the Madras Development Society highlighted the need and importance of the conference and said that the Tamil community coming together from all over the world was a big success and welcomed every one to take this opportunity for business development and networking. He felicitated all the dignitaries. The event commenced with a Quraan recitation followed by the national anthems of both UAE & India and the Tamil invocation song.

The first session ***Emerging Business Opportunities*** was chaired by Mr. R. Veeramani who underscored the importance of looking for opportunities with every step. Explore and emerge successful, he said.

He also mentioned that the only way to progress is to educate the uneducated sections of society thereby bringing about a socio-economic change.

The trend of the first session seemed to emphasise the tone set by the Chairman, i.e., balance business success with social obligations towards the community, development of backward sections of society, corporate social responsibility and projects that were related to the issue of environment protection.

The second session based on *Sources of Funding for Projects* was chaired by Dr. G. Ramasamy, President – ICAI. The panel consisted of a senior banker, CFOs and entrepreneurs and discussed ways of mobilizing funds for small, medium and large-scale businesses.

The third session *Innovative Ideas and Projects for Development* was chaired by Dr. Balasubramaniam – Commissioner, Right to Information Commission, Tamilnadu. Innovation and invention is the force and source of development, finding new ways to deliver, thinking ‘out of the box’, anticipating and adapting to changes where some of the ideas highlighted during the presentations. Innovative ideas in fisheries, agriculture and connecting urban & rural consumers were discussed by experts in the relevant fields.

The fourth session *Legal Services for Business Opportunities* was chaired by Dr. Justice A.R. Lakshmanan. Needless to say that his vast experience in the legal sector made the Chairman’s address one of the most important of the various sessions. Several legal issues while starting up a business, advice on import-export legalities, tax avoidance, legal outsourcing, Intellectual Property rights where some of the areas discussed.

The fifth session chaired by Mr. R. Seetharaman discussed *Investment Opportunities in India and the GCC countries*. The chair gave a snapshot of the world financial and economic scene. Andhra Pradesh as a state of infinite opportunities presented by Mr. R. Karikalvalavan (Commissioner, Department of Industries, Government of Andhra Pradesh), Coimbatore as an investment destination and converting opportunities into guarantees were some of the topics discussed.

The sixth session on *Governmental Support & Community Networking* was chaired by Mr. Armoogum Parasuraman – Former Minister Mauritius, Former Director, UNESCO, Mauritius. The role of government in encouraging business was deliberated.

The seventh session on *Tamil Language for Business Communication & Business Techniques* was deliberated by a learned panel of Tamil professors chaired by Dr. M. Muthuvel. References to business techniques in ancient Tamil literature, need for improvement & ease of use of Tamil language in computer applications were some of the topics discussed. In the section on Tamil language as business opportunity, the success story from Muscat of the publication of a calendar highlighting the Thirukural was an interesting presentation.

The session on *Education, Research Training & Employment Opportunities* chaired by Dr. R. Kishorekumar saw experts in the field of education presenting very interesting papers that emphasized on holistic education, the need to improve primary education in rural areas and to make higher education accessible to a larger part of the population (currently only about 1% of the population has access to higher / professional education).

The penultimate session on *Health Care Services & Stakeholders* was chaired by Dr. Athi Narayan - President, North American Tamil Doctor's Association, Alpharetta, USA. Papers by eminent panelists touched on the topics of self-healing since it will not be possible to reach very specialized health care to the increasing number of ailing people worldwide; economic sense in investing in health care; investment in state-of-the-art hospital in Chennai with robotic, environmentally friendly technologies; medical tourism investment opportunities in Tamilnadu capitalizing on existing favourable conditions.

The last session *Investment and Business Opportunities in Cinema/Television/Mass Media* was presented by Mr. S.V. Sekar and Mr. U. Karunakaran. Both of them spoke of the tremendous opportunities in the entertainment sector, especially in the field of online advertising and television.

The concluding ceremony was presided by **Mr. V. Narayanasamy, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions & Prime Minister's Office, Government of India.** Speaking on the occasion the Minister congratulated the organisers for bringing

together the distinguished forum and various panels. He further stated that Tamilnadu is fast growing into the “Detroit” of India and highlighted the huge investment opportunities in the production of automobile spares which is currently being brought in from outside the state.

Awards were presented to distinguished Tamils from all around the world for their outstanding contribution to the community. The award “Uлага Tamil Maamani (*Jewel of World Tamils*)” was presented by H. H. Nawab Mohamed Abdul Ali - Prince of Arcot, Chennai, India to the following recipients: Dato Sri Samivelu from Malaysia, Sri Armoogum Parasuraman from Mauritius, Mr. S.M. Salahuddin from Dubai, Dr. Athi Narayan from USA, Mr. R. Seetharaman from Qatar, Sri Thirunalkarasu Palaniappan from Singapore, Mr. Paul Dominic from Australia, Sri R. Baskaran from Moscow, Sri K. P.R. Raja from Kuwait. Speaking on the occasion H.H. Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali emphasised the importance of living harmoniously and at peace with one another. He recalled the glorious history of India and his ancestors which showed that various religions and communities have always coexisted peacefully in the country. He said that it is only a very small percentage of individuals who propagate extreme thought and cause disharmony & strife to suit their personal & political agenda.

Another highlight of the conference was the carnatic vocal performance by renowned singer Smt. Nithyashree Mahadevan and Bhratanatyam performances by Ms. Swarnamalya, Ms. Smita Madhav and a Bharatanatyam group performance by students of Smt. Padmini Krishnamurthy from Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

The conference concluded with the convener of the conference Dr. V.R.S. Sampath thanking all dignitaries, speakers, delegates & sponsors for their valuable participation and announced Malaysia as the conference venue for the year 2012. The conference was very well-attended by a cross-section of people from different sectors from all over the world and proved to be an excellent opportunity for professionals / entrepreneurs who wished a face-to-face networking opportunity because of the potential for higher quality relationships.