



# NEWS LETTER

Medical Institute of Tamils - தமிழர் மருத்துவ அறிஞர் சங்கம்

## ELECTION 2002 - 2003

Many of our MIOT members who were present at the last AGM would know that two of our active members contested for the post of president for 2001 - 2002.

A secret ballot was taken & the result was neck to neck. A difficulty arose when one member handed the same postal ballots to the recruiting office. The then president Dr Mathi Chandrakumar was entrusted with a task of resolving the situation by the MIOT members present at the AGM.

It took several hours in four present meeting for the central committee to decide as how best we could resolve the situation as both candidates felt that they had won the election and has had several correspondence with the committee & the then president.

It was finally agreed that we did not fully understand the complexity of the constitution at the time of election (this is the first time when there was a contest!) and in order to uphold the spirit of MIOT we should Null & Void the election result for the President's post and hold fresh elections. However due to passage of time it was felt that the Vice-President Dr S Kangesan would be acting as President for the remaining period until next AGM when elections could be held.

There is much more we can do at a time when there is a ray of hope for peace. Let us all work for the betterment of our nation.

Time goes very fast - we are soon going to have our next AGM on 30th Nov 2002 and the venue to be decided soon.

In order to avoid any unpleasant feelings in future we would urge all members to check their postal address, e-mail address, Tel No (also tell your friends to let MIOT office know of any changes of their address, email, Tel No) in order communication could be improved. We wish all our members to participate in MIOT's activities. Those who wish to contest please give a summary of the contribution they have made towards the betterment of our nation/MIOT. Please use the nomination paper enclosed.

## HONORARY MEMBERS FROM TAMIL NATION

MIOT would like to honour members from the Tamil Medical community, who have made a substantial contribution towards the cause of MIOT in the Northern and Eastern part of Sri Lanka. Any member of MIOT can nominate an honorary member and submit an application with relevant bio-data to the management committee. The person who is nominated should have given consent for the proposal.

If any member would like to propose any honorary members, please follow our constitution.

## PROPOSAL FOR MEMORIAL FUND

Central committee would like to establish a "MIOT Memorial Fund" in remembrance of our late members for deserving medical student should be able to do so by writing to the MIOT central committee.

Central committee propose to set up a separate account initially by depositing £1000 for this purpose. Friends & well wishers could contact the Secretary/Treasurer to contribute towards this fund.

Initially it is proposed that the medical faculty would select the student for this scholarship and recommend the name to the central committee of MIOT. This should be approved by the MIOT's central committee and scholarship would be allocated on a yearly basis based on merit.

## OVERSEAS PILOT PROJECTS

MIOT wishes to give technical support (Not financial) for small projects individual members would like to take up for the betterment of our homeland towns or villages where we come from.

MIOT feels if efforts are co-ordinated then the benefits would be much greater.

If you are interested please submit your proposals to the Overseas secretary at 339, South St, Romford, Essex, RM1 2AP. For example,

### Moolai co-operative hospital development project

Moolai co-operative hospital established in 1936 in 84 larchams is the first co-operative medical institution in SE Asia.

It grew from strength to strength and became a popular co-operative hospital for Jaffna peninsula and catered for the poor & middle class. In 1985 a north Sri Lankan private medical school was established with the co-operation of private medical practitioners to meet the growing need for doctors in the North. This project could not succeed due to the war situation.

The hospital continued to function by the dedicated work of medical personnel and auxiliary staff and with the help of donations from well-wishers. The British High commission in Colombo donated Rs. 1,256,000 in 97 and later Rs. 4,000,000 towards hospital development.

If you wish to help with re-establishment of your popular Moolai co-operative hospital, please contact Mr K. Selvarasan, Secretary or Mr Ratnasingham, President at the co-operative hospital Moolai, Chulipuram Sri Lanka or Mr Seeva on 0208 777 8262.

At present the hospital provides medical OP services, surgical, Obstetric, Dermatology, psychiatry and Dental services.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The management committee of MIOT wishes its members to write to the Secretary Dr Sri Kumar, regarding any constitutional amendments they wish to bring, at least four weeks before the next AGM to be held on 30th Nov. 02. Please note that this should be proposed and seconded. Please use enclosed nomination paper.

### WE WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW THE MIOT'S CONSTITUTION VIZ.,

4.20 Nominations for the officers of the management committee shall be in the hands of the Secretary in time to allow their circulation to all members at least 28 days before the AGM. Each nomination shall be proposed and seconded in writing and shall have the written consent of the candidate.

4.21 when an election is contested, a paper ballot shall be conducted amongst those members of the institute present at the AGM. Voting by proxy will be allowed. Please send your proxy vote to the Secretary, 53 Clayhall ave, Ilford, Essex, IG5 0PW to reach him atleast 1 week before the AGM.

4.22 Any officer shall be permitted to resign or retire on giving not less than 3 months notice to the Secretary. Interim arrangements shall be made by the Secretary, in consultation with the President and Vice-president, to cover the work of the officer concerned until the office is filled.

4.23 In the event of serious illness or death of an officer, the Secretary in consultation with the President and the Vice-president may temporarily co-opt a member to fill the above vacancy until either the officer resumes his or her duties or pending an election as appropriate.

Nominations are called for all the posts as per constitution. If you wish to contest please use the nomination paper provided.

### FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE MEDICAL INSTITUTE OF TAMILS (MIOT)

To All Tamils in the Medical/Dental professions

**Sub: Urgent need for help in peace times in our motherland**

Our motherland needs our help for the rehabilitation of her "war wounds", which she has suffered for over twenty years.

We have been her privileged sons & daughters to whom she gave the best of education. This has made us to be respected by the local population wherever we live world over.

MIOT has been engaged in a fact-finding mission and has identified several urgent needs of our people in the medical and educational fields, as seen practical by local population and the interim administration.

Please do go through the proposals enclosed and do let us know by letter (MIOT, 339 South St, Romford, Essex, United Kingdom, RM1 2AP) or email [admin@miot.org.uk](mailto:admin@miot.org.uk) as what help you or your organisation could offer in order to help.

**"WHAT CAN WE OFFER TO OUR MOTHERLAND TO RESTORE HER FORMER GLORY"**

If we could co-operate and work hand in hand we can offer very much more to those who are in need of our help in the peace times.

## OVERSEAS COMMUNITY CARE & EDUCATION

Medical Institute of Tamils has been growing steadily over the past fourteen years.

We have established a very good relationship with most of the Tamil welfare organisations in homeland, United Kingdom and world over. Our aim is to unite all Tamils involved in the field of medical care worldwide to work towards helping the TAMILS in the homeland and beyond.

MIOT aims to promote physical, psychological and social well being of TAMILS in the homeland and further a field, striving to help and relieve Tamils from the sufferings they had during the past two decades. There is a ray of hope for peace in homeland at present. The parties involved in the conflict are engaged in peace talks with the help of Norwegian peace negotiators. MIOT wishes every success in this present peace effort.

We pray & wish that a long lasting peace were achieved where mutual respect is preserved and people live with dignity and harmony as equals in their motherland. Let them have no more suppressions or sufferings, which they never deserved.

The government had placed an economic embargo during the war, which has resulted in the destruction of the infrastructure for health services in the war zone.

Following the ceasefire agreement, various motorways have been opened for the members of the public and there is a gradual relaxation in the control, which has existed for the movement of people from the government-controlled areas, and LTTE controlled areas. Travel between the two areas has become easier and it was felt that members of medical professional from the UK should visit the health services in the North & Vanni areas to assess the medical & social needs.

Two of our active members were invited to go on a fact-finding mission to Sri Lanka. They went on their own expenses, one visited Jaffna and the other visited the Wanni area. This was a very useful and eye opening visit - This has brought to our attention various issues that our Tamil Nation in North and East had been facing over the years of war - MIOT sincerely wishes to help in whatever way it could, on its own and in collaboration with other Tamil welfare organisations to relieve the sufferings of our people in their homeland. MIOT proposes to achieve these ambitions in the following ways:

#### 1. Help with immediate needs

In education - the Jaffna medical school urgently needs lecturers in Paediatrics, Pathology and Radiology.

MIOT (South Thames branch) has already paid for a Paediatrician to visit Jaffna medical school (with the help of Professor Southgate) and work as a visiting Paediatrician for a period of 6 months.

We are also arranging to form Focus groups of various specialist fields viz., Gynaecologist, Psychiatrists, Paediatricians, Orthopaedic surgeons, physicians who would co-ordinate with Dean of medical school and take turn to visit as specialist and teach medical students.

Please contact MIOT at [admin@miot.org.uk](mailto:admin@miot.org.uk) if you feel you could help or if you know of someone who would be interested in helping.

## 2. Intermediate needs:

In Wanni, we need financial help to help to eradicate malnutrition and clear land mines.

There is a proposal to establish a hospital in Kilinochi area to meet the increasing need of the local population and also the internally displaced population.

We also propose to set up a "Self learning centre" for medical students at request by the Dean of Jaffna medical school by installing computer Internet connections and providing new medical books & journals etc. If you are interested please contact MIOT office.

Establish computer links with Trincomalee & Batticaloa Hospitals and Jaffna Teaching Hospital.

## 3. Long Term Needs

Our earnest effort to have a MIOT house in UK was unfortunately unsuccessful. It could be within our reach (financially viable) to have a MIOT house in the vicinity of the medical school, which could fulfil the above task.

### I. MIOT House In Homeland

MIOT to have a building in the Homeland university surrounding, which could be used as

- (a) a learning centre
- (b) Residence for visiting lecturers
- (c) Office for our proposed Sri Lanka Branch

(The Jaffna medical association and the University have expressed their sincere wish to joint hands with MIOT)

### II. Video Conferencing

We propose to study the possibility to establish a videoconference link with teaching hospital in order to improve teaching via video link. It would be possible to organise & support from outside of Sri Lanka once North East has efficient telecommunication system.

### III. Students Exchange Programmes

Students may come for elective appointment outside Sri Lanka and Tamil students studying in foreign universities could visit and work at home university and hospitals.

It was observed that 20 University students from USA & Canada were visiting Vanni to involve voluntary work in the hospitals (from Tamil Students Voluntary Program- TSVP - www.tsvp.ca)

IV. Explore the possibilities of opening up ways for University of Jaffna medical school to take private medical students in the future. This would bring foreign income to our medical school.

V. Explore developing the existing medical college for complementary medicine to a higher standard to be known internationally. Presently this faculty is affiliated to Jaffna University.

VI. Batticaloa provincial and Trincomalee district general hospitals need to be upgraded to University Teaching status and to construct a new hospital with facilities like the above at Kilinochi, Vavunia and Mannar. MIOT's role in this aspect is to co-ordinate with the authorities in advising professionally.

We are well aware these proposals could go ahead only if the existing peace process continues.

Thank you for your cooperation  
Co-Ordinators

**Dr Kukathasan**

**Dr Poologanthan**

# MIOT'S AIMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## MAIN AIMS OF MIOT

To ensure the health of the Tamil people worldwide in all aspects of physical, psychological and social well being by:

- ◆ Supporting health projects in the Tamil homeland and other countries
- ◆ Support medical schools and aid health professionals in our homeland
- ◆ Organise conferences and seminars in order to promote knowledge on health related matters especially trans-cultural medicine and to help in better understanding the health needs of Tamils
- ◆ Promote cultural activities and at the same time raise funds for health projects in our homeland
- ◆ Liase with other like-minded voluntary organisations like SCOT, TIC, TRO, TEEDRO, etc., in order that resources could be used effectively to help war victims in homeland without incurring additional administrative expenses or duplication of services

## SOME OF MIOT'S ACHIEVEMENTS UP TO 2001

1989: Links established with medical administration in Jaffna to co-ordinate the supply of medical equipment and journals to medical education centres.

89-92: Assistance to medical colleagues in the preparation for PLAB examinations when they arrive in UK

1991: Two oven sterilisers sent to Jaffna Hospital and Batticaloa Hospital. Medical appliances sent to Jaffna Hospital

92-93: Medical slides sent to Pathology Departments in Jaffna Medical School.

1993: Health Care training programmes in refuge camps in South India Financial help to refuge camps in Madu in Northern Sri Lanka this in 1993

1994: International conference "Victims of War in Sri Lanka - A quest for health Consensus" organised in London in conjunction with TIC and TRRO (California)

- 1995: (i) Two oxygen-extracting devices sent to Jaffna Hospital.  
(ii) A health resource centre established in the Department of Community Medicine in the Medical College, Jaffna.  
(iii) Proceedings of the international conference 'Victims of war in Sri Lanka' published.  
(iv) First youth conference organised by MIOT  
(v) 200 Blood transfusion sets sent during the war in Jaffna in November

1996: Emergency financial resources sent through NGO to assist refugees in Jaffna. Aid given to children in need, North East Sri Lanka

- 1998: (i) Valvaghams project in Vanni £250.00  
(ii) Cancer Project North East Sri Lanka £1000.00  
(iii) SLEAT Trincomalee £100.00  
(iv) 6 wheel chairs to hospitals in Vanni  
(v) Midday meal project Vanni £100.00  
(vi) Sivananda Thabovanam in Trincomalee £150.00

- 1999:(i) £1500.00 (MIOT £750.00 and SCOT £750.00) for school books project through the Hindu Abhivaruthi Sabai in Trincomalee for Orphan students.
- (ii) Medical equipment donated to Jaffna Hospital including Vitalograph ECG machine, suction catheters, endotracheal tubes, glucose oxidase gel, trans-swab transport medicine, chest drains trachestomy sets, slides, lenses for implantation after cataract surgery.
- (iii) Donations to Siva Mangayar Kazhagum towards the upkeep of orphaned elderly at Balambigai Nama Sivayam Home in Colombo
- (iv) Contribution towards CT scanner to Jaffna Teaching Hospital £5000.00 (given via Dr Gunananthan, Consultant Neuro Surgeon)
- (v) Rev. Fr. Jeyakumar for midday meals, Vanni - £1000.00
- (vi) Durai Amman Thevasthanam - Sevei Thangamma Appakutty -£300.00
- (vii) Anbu Illam Trincomalee £400.00
- (viii) Swami Jevanantha Ramakrishna Mission, Batticaloa - £300.00
- (ix) Red Cross cataract surgery £100.00 year marked
- (x) Selvi Thangamma Appakutty - £1000.00 donation to orphanage fund
- (xi) Part funding also given to the transport of medical equipment by Mr. Ambalavannar FRCS for Jaffna Hospital
- 2000: (i) We have started in a wider scale to work with like-minded organisations like SCOT, TEEDRO, TRO, etc., to make the best use of your contributions to MIOT
- (ii) Purchase of infusion pump and Glucometer £1000.00
- (iii) KORAD in kilinochchi make and fit artificial limbs
- (iv) Vipulananda s student orphan at Akkaraipatta
- (v) Annai Illam Project in Kilinochchi £750.00
- (vi) Jaffna Red cross health project preventive medicine & IT skills £1000.00
- (vii) Annai Illam Project in Vanni £1000.00
- (viii) Jaffna Teaching hospital medicine's fund £1000.00
- (ix) Tri-cycle project for disabled victims of landmines in Trincomalee through Hindu Abhivaruthi sabai £500.00 (Jointly funded with SCOT)
- (x) Mobile hospitals fund provide basic health facilities in the Jaffna district £3500.00 (jointly funded with TRO)
- (xi) Improving water supply for drinking and irrigations project £3500.00 (jointly funded with TEEDRO)
- (xii) Dr Jayaratnam raised £3500.00 during his birthday celebrations and donated it to MIOT to fund two named projects organised by:
- (a) Jaipore Foot centre £1500.00
- (b) Tamil Orphan fund £1500.00 (London) for rehabilitation of Tamil orphan children
- (c) 13year old Mayoaran Gowribalan collected £1000.00 via his email at mgb2000x@hotmail.com and donated to MIOT to help children in need in Sri Lanka. If anyone interested please contact him directly.
- 2001: (i) Dr Velayutham a sincere hard working member from northern MIOT visited Trincomalee, Sri Lanka and was able to see for himself various humanitarian and welfare services organised by the Hindu Abhivaruthi Sabai. MIOT plans to help in the establishment of a Tamil school in a war zone in eastern Sri Lanka for the education of the children of war victims.
- (ii) North Thames MIOT was able to fund the following:
- (a) Annai Illam project Wannai £1000.00
- (b) Jaffna Red Cross for preventive medicine project £1000.00
- (c) Jaffna Hospital Medicine Fund £1000.00
- (iii) South East MIOT members have been very active with fund raising events and have contributed to the following:
- (a) Prof. Shanmugathan's Muthuthambi Illam £550.00
- (b) Durgapuram 'mahalir' Illam £1000.00
- (c) Hindu Abhivaruthi Sabai, Trincomalee £1000.00
- (d) HUDEC for Orphans and widows £1500.00
- (e) Sponsored Prof. George Gossius, Consultant comm.. medicine, Norway to co-ordinate with Jaffna medical school to collaborate with foreign medical schools
- (f) The Artificial limb centre, Jaffna (from Kalai Vizha 2001) £3000.00

### Working with Organisation for Ealam Refugee Rehabilitation (OFERR), India

With over 70,000 Ealam Tamil refugees in South India, OFERR continues to work with the refugees to assist in health care, education and income generation. MIOT over the years has been involved in the training of healthcare workers.

MIOT member visit the refugee camps on a regular basis at their own expense and give assistance in its running and help in training the staff.

If you are in the medical profession or a paramedic and not yet a member then visit our web site <http://www.miot.org.uk> to get the application form and apply for membership.



## NEWS LETTER

Medical Institute of Tamils - தமிழ் மருத்துவ அறிஞர் சங்கம்

Editor:  
Dr. Sivaloganathan

Editor Board:  
Dr. Kugathasan, Dr. Poologanathan, Dr. Kulendran

**ஒன்று பட்டால் உண்டு வாழ்வு!! Unity is strength !!**