



Leeds Met Carnegie is striving to become a world-class regional university with worldwide horizons, using all our talents to the full. Following the 2004 tsunami, the University made a commitment to work with its colleagues and partners in Sri Lanka for the long run.

As part of this development, among the projects the University has developed are the Carnegie Coaching for Life project, international volunteering programmes and the appointment of a visiting professor, Professor Lakshman Dissanayake.

University staff including Associate

Deans, Michelle Fraser and Dr Eddie Halpin, have been regular visitors to Sri Lanka for several years and have been working with the University to explore further education and community partnerships with academic and social enterprises within the country.

# Volunteering matters

During the summer, nine Leeds Met student and staff members took part in an international volunteering trip to Sri Lanka. Based in Colombo, they made donations and worked in partnership with the Leo Club of Colombo Millennium on a range of local projects. These included painting Camilla School in Mattegoda, visiting local schools and orphanages and distributing spectacles at a health camp near Matale. Before departing for the UK, several of the volunteers were installed as Leo Club members ensuring a sustainable relationship for future volunteering opportunities.



# Responsible tourism



Dr Harold Goodwin, Professor of Responsible Tourism Management at Leeds Metropolitan University, is also the Chair of the Responsible Tourism Awards which were recently announced at the World Travel Market (WTM) in London.

At the awards, Sri Lanka's Hotel Sigiriya received a 'Highly Commended Status' in the Best Large Hotel/Accommodation category beating off competition from many popular hotels from around the world.

The judges said, "Hotel Sigiriya has retro-fitted the hotel to increase its energy efficiency and sustainability. It measures its performance as a management tool for continuous improvement and shares information with others to encourage them to reduce their own environmental impacts."

# Enterprise in action



Alison Price, Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Director, travelled to Colombo, Sri Lanka, to run a full-day workshop to discuss graduate excellence, explore the needs of the Sri Lankan economy and the development needs of the country's students.

The workshop was hosted by the Council for Business for Business with Britain, sponsored by HSBC, supported by the British Council and led by key project partners, the University of Colombo.

The unique event formed part of a research programme designed to share UK best practice with Sri Lankan universities and support the development of collaboration between industry and academia.

Gareth McCormick, Senior Lecturer in sport development, also helped deliver a range of activities for National Entrepreneurship Week (NEW 2008) in Colombo as part of the UK Prime Minister's Initiative for International Education.

# Scholarly success

Commonwealth Youth Games gold medallist, Shehan Abeypitiyage, is planning to study the Sports Performance foundation degree at Leeds Met. The sprinter is extremely excited at the prospect of joining the University where he is confident he will receive world-class academic and athletic coaching and support through a Carnegie Scholarship to achieve his full potential.

Shehan won a breathtaking gold medal at the Games in Pune, India, where Leeds Met was the official education partner, breaking a Games record with 10.43 seconds in the 100m to give his country their first and perhaps most prestigious medal of the Games. This provided great excitement for the large contingent of Sri Lankan officials who included the Minister for Sport, Mr Gamini Lokuge, and Prema Pinnewale, a senior IAAF official, who with others has been instrumental in supporting Shehan's rise to success.



# Carnegie Coaching for Life



The Carnegie Coaching for Life project was launched in Sri Lanka last year. The project engages children in learning through sport and coaching and begins the process of helping them to develop their skills and use their talents to the full.

The project also incorporates working on the theme of literacy through story-telling workshops to engage children and their mentors, providing books to support a fully functional library service in areas affected by the tsunami, distributing cricket equipment to schools and community organisations and working with partners locally to make the project sustainable.

It also builds on the 'Taking Elmer to Sri Lanka Project' in which Leeds Met partners, Wakefield and Doncaster Library Services, collected 1.5 tons of high quality children's books for literacy development, and enables the university to continue its work with its partners at the British Council Sri Lanka and the University of Colombo to deliver a sustainable programme based on coaching for sport and literacy for children. The project is also a key component of Leeds Mets' Senator George Mitchell Centre for Peace & Conflict Resolution.

On a University visit to Karandinya Central School, the appearance of Ryan Sidebottom from the visiting England squad and local hero Champaka Ramanayaka demonstrated the value that rubbing shoulders with champions can have in inspiring young people.

# Education exchange



Professor Lakshman Dissanayake from the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka, has joined Leeds Metropolitan University as a Visiting Professor. He became Professor of International Development & Post-Disaster Reconstruction in September 2008 for the term of 12 months.

Professor Dissanayake, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Colombo, is no stranger to Leeds Met, following visits in the summer of 2007 when he joined the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Professor Tilak Hettiarachchy, as a special guest of the University at the Innovation North graduation ceremony where Shilpa Shetty received an honorary doctorate. He returned once again in January 2007 when he accompanied the Sri Lankan Minister of Education, The Honourable A D Susil Premajyantha, during a visit to Leeds.

# Partnership bowls over students



As part of the University's partnership with Yorkshire County Cricket Club, Sri Lankan students were able to enthusiastically support their national side as they played England in their last UK tour at Headingley Carnegie cricket ground. During the afternoon, the students were visited by the Vice-Chancellor and welcomed to Headingley Carnegie by Stuart Regan, Chief Executive of Yorkshire County Cricket Club and the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Mohammed Iqbal. The students were delighted that the University was able to provide them with the opportunity to watch their national side as the team visited Leeds.



# Applying global ethics



Dr Eddie Halpin is the Director of the Senator George Mitchell Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution and an Associate Dean at Leeds Met. Eddie's background within politics, community development, human rights and social informatics has, over many years, established strong links within Sri Lanka, his research interests include human and child rights, peace and conflict resolution and eGovernment. The School of Applied Global Ethics within Leeds Met delivers the main framework of the curriculum for the Centre, engaging students in peace, development and conflict transformation, community engagement, individual, civic and corporate responsibility and spirituality, religion and public life. The Centre seeks to engage the University actively in improving the human condition as our response to structural violence in society and the roots of conflict which include inequality, climate change, human trafficking, human rights abuses and social, economic and cultural exclusion. In partnership with peace practitioners, and reaching out through international and local community engagement, the Senator George Mitchell Centre's vision is to make a difference by delivering a challenging academic programme and developing a world-class profile.

# Developing fair play



Former Yorkshire cricketer, Ismail Dawood, is an International Development Officer within the Carnegie Coaching for Life team who has been working towards expanding the links between Leeds Met and Sri Lanka with development opportunities on various programmes for students and staff.

Ismail, also a former Leeds Met student, previously visited Sri Lanka as a player with the England under 19's cricket team and brings the elements of fair play that are synonymous with the sport to help the University build and transform education and development in Sri Lanka.

**If you would like more information about studying at Leeds Met's please visit [www.leedsmet.ac.uk](http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk) or contact our representative in Sri Lanka:**

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