



S.C.O.T.

STANDING COMMITTEE OF
TAMIL SPEAKING PEOPLE

Christmas

Dinner Dance

Thistle Hotel Heathrow
21st November 2015

Adaikalamuthu Ilanchelian SOLICITOR

Commissioners for Oaths

24 Hour

Emergency Crime & Immigration Service

07939 474 342

Immigrations Related Applications and Appeals

Immigration
EEA Law
Entry Clearance
Human Right claims
Asylum Claim
Citizenship and Nationality
Detention and Deportation
Judicial review

Family Maters & Property

Divorce Maters Residential
Ancillary Relief Commercial
Other family maters Landlord

- Tier 1 (High skilled workers, Entrepreneurs, investors)
- Tier 1 (Post Study Work)
- Tier 2 (Sponsored skilled workers) (formely 'work permit')
- Tier 4 (Students)
- Tier 5 (Temporary Workers)

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Personal Injury
Road Traffic Accident
Slip and Trip
Work Related Accidents
Clinical Negligence

Crime (Public Funding Available)

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Representation at Magistrate /Crown courts

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President's Message

It gives me great pleasure in welcoming our guests tonight for the Christmas dinner dance of the Standing Committee of Tamil Speaking People and inviting them to savour our hospitality. I am honoured and privileged to have been given the task of leading this body which is the oldest charity among the Tamil people in this country, which has been in the forefront over the past 38 years.

Our association was formed with the objective of not only to help needy Tamils back home, but also to promote arts and culture among Tamils in this country, and to date has performed those functions to the admiration of people. Over the past years due to our dedication and hard work, we have brought our association to the present exalted state, thereby being an inspiration to others.

Members and well-wishers of our association by their own endeavour had walked the rugged path to generate resources and help many of their hapless kinsfolk whom they had left behind in the land of their birth. This resolve and commitment should continue, and need to be more determined than before, as challenges that are confronting us today are progressively becoming more intense.

The demand for assistance has increased after the end of war, as several people have been left destitute, such as widows, orphans and disabled, due to inadequate relief measures granted to them by the authorities. Our involvement in the humanitarian crisis of the innocent victims of unfortunate circumstances is bound to go on for some years to come, until the dawn of elusive peace on them.

We have taken a move, away from the practice of doling out money to the needy, to actively participating in livelihood projects, so that we could help them to enhance their quality of life, and wean them off from the custom of dependency. Our demonstration agriculture project in Vanni has been a success and we hope to take it to other districts, as well as diversify into livestock ventures.

I thank the members of the general council for assisting me to achieve the vision of staging this upmarket event, Thistle Hotel for providing the venue, caterers Rising Sun for the menu to wine and dine, band Breeze for their excellent music to hear and veer, advertisers in the souvenir, donors of raffle prizes and sponsors for the support and finally all our guests for gracing the occasion today.

Dr Gnana Sankaralingam

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SCOT General Council

Past Executive Officials

1977-2015

YEAR	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER	PROJECT OFFICER
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1978/79	Mr. K. Arumugam	Mr. C. Kathiresan	Mr. T. Ramachandran	
1979/80	Dr. S. Navaratnam	Dr. R. Thayaparan	Mr. N. S. Kandiah	
1980/81	Dr. S. Navaratnam	Mr. R. Mahadeva	Mr. N. S. Kandiah	
1981/82	Mr. C. Kathiresan	Mr. R. Mahadeva	Mr. N. S. Kandiah	
1982/83	Mr. C. Kathiresan	Mr. T. Visvendran	Mr. M. Thiagarajan	
1983/84	Dr. R. Thayaparan	Mr. T. Visvendran	Mr. M. Thiagarajan	
1984/85	Dr. R. Thayaparan	Mr. T. Visvendran	Mr. M. Thiagarajan	
1985/86	Mr. N. S. Kandiah	Dr. S. Arunachalam	Mr. M. Thiagarajan	
1986/87	Mr. N. S. Kandiah	Dr. S. Arunachalam	Mrs. S. Sivanithy	
1987/88	Mr. P. Rajanayagam	Dr. V. Paramanathan	Mrs. S. Sivanithy	
1988/89	Mr. P. Rajanayagam	Dr. V. Paramanathan	Mrs. S. Sivanithy	
1989/90	Dr. S. Arunachalam	Mrs. S. Sivanithy	Ms. K. Pathmaseni	Mr. P. Rajanayagam
1990/91	Dr. S. Arunachalam	Mrs. S. Sivanithy	Ms. K. Pathmaseni	Mr. P. Rajanayagam
1991/92	Dr. K. Sivakumar	Mr. K. Gunaratnam	Ms. K. Pathmaseni	Mr. C. Kathiresan
1992/93	Dr. K. Sivakumar	Mr. K. Gunaratnam	Ms. K. Pathmaseni	Mr. C. Kathiresan
1993/94	Mr. A. Sriharan	Mr. N. Sidamparapillai	Mrs. S. Arunachalam	Dr. K. Sivakumar
1994/95	Mr. A. Sriharan	Mr. N. Sidamparapillai	Mrs. S. Arunachalam	Dr. K. Sivakumar
1995/96	Mr. T. V. Arumugam	Ms. K. Pathmaseni	Mr. N. Ariyaratnam	Dr. S. Balakrishnan
1996/97	Mr. T. V. Arumugam	Ms. K. Pathmaseni	Mr. N. Ariyaratnam	Dr. S. Balakrishnan
1997/98	Mr. K. Sanguhan	Mrs. R. Sriharan	Mr. N. Ariyaratnam	Ms. K. Pathmaseni
1998/99	Mr. K. Sanguhan	Mrs. R. Sriharan	Mr. N. Ariyaratnam	Ms. K. Pathmaseni
1999/00	Dr. N. Poobalasingham	Dr. S. Balakrishnan	Ms. A. Sankaralingam	Ms. K. Pathmaseni
2000/01	Dr. N. Poobalasingham	Dr. S. Balakrishnan	Ms. A. Sankaralingam	Ms. K. Pathmaseni
2001/02	Mrs. R. Sriharan	Mrs. S. Arunachalam	Ms. A. Sankaralingam	Mr. J. P. Swampillai
2002/03	Mrs. R. Sriharan	Mrs. S. Arunachalam	Ms. A. Sankaralingam	Mr. J. P. Swampillai
2003/04	Dr. S. Balakrishnan	Mr. V. Indran	Mr. N. Sivapalan	Mr. J. P. Swampillai
2004/05	Mr. S. Srikanthan	Mr. V. Indran	Mr. J. Paramanathan	Mr. J. P. Swampillai
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2008/09	Mr. V. Indran	Dr. R. G. Sankaralingam	Mr. K. S. Satgunaseelan	Mr. F. Swampillai
2009/10	Mr. V. Indran	Dr. R. G. Sankaralingam	Mr. K. S. Satgunaseelan	Mr. F. Swampillai
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SCOT – OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

SCOT was formed in September 1977 as an umbrella organisation of Tamil associations that existed in the UK at that time, with the primary objective of ensuring poverty alleviation and social uplifting of Tamils in Srilanka, and subsequently extended to give humanitarian assistance to Tamils affected in ethnic violence, natural disasters and other circumstances, who are often left neglected.

In furtherance of its primary objective and in addition thereto, SCOT has endeavoured to provide or improve educational opportunities to poor children, to support housing homeless and rehabilitating displaced people and to create economic advancement by financial assistance to self-employment projects. This service to Tamils in Srilanka was discharged despite the hostile environment.

The funding policy of the association had always been to keep with the needs and priorities of Tamils in Srilanka, working with non-governmental organisations close to these communities, to bring relief to the affected people of these areas. Procedures were set up and followed in maintaining standards in all aspects of transparency and accountability to the satisfaction of members and public.

Action was taken by investigation and assessment of applications for assistance, to ensure that funds allocated reached only deserving causes and they are properly utilised by these recipients. Pragmatic and prudent management of projects were done by receiving feedbacks from beneficiaries regarding information of progress. Strong financial standing of SCOT enabled it to meet the demands.

SCOT has been strictly non-political, but has successfully accommodated all views and survived over the years. In addition to the pioneering humanitarian service to Tamils in Srilanka, SCOT had always taken up issues relating to Human rights affecting the Tamils in Srilanka. Due to the firm stand taken to keep politics out SCOT was able to champion the cause of Tamils without being stigmatised.

The policies and procedures formulated and implemented from the beginning have stood the test of time, not only guiding the organisation to the present stage, but also maintaining its integrity. During entire period of its existence, the organisation has pursued its objectives with vigorous commitment to the cause and rigorous compliance of the policy guidelines enshrined in the constitution.




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1977-2015

Record of humanitarian assistance to Tamils in Srilanka

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Hari Children's Home, Batticaloa - Orphanage.	Ozanam CMRC, Batticaloa – Mentally Disabled.
Thilagavathiyar Magalir Illam, Batticaloa.	RC Girls Home, Ilavalai – Orphanage
Vipulanada Children's Home, Akkaraipattu.	CORD – Women's Development Project
Hindu Council – Mangayar Mandram.	Vivekananda Girls Home, Valaichenai .
Assist Resettlement & Rehabilitation	AEDU Trincomalee. – Vocational Training Centre,
Mallkam. REDO,	Hatton – Livelihood Projects for Widows .
Family Rehabilitation Centre, Colombo .	YMCA School for Visually Impaired,
Batticaloa . Human Development Centre, Jaffna	St. Patrick's, Jaffna – Children from Vanni .
Ahavoli Family Service centre, Jaffna	Centre for Women and Development, Jaffna
Caring Hands Centre – Disabled Children	Rehabilitation Project of Bishop of Mannar.
Association for visually Handicapped, Jaffna	TIDE – Nuffield School for deaf, Kaithady .
Nectar Dairy Farm Project, Batticaloa	Holy Family Convent, Uruthirapuram .
Jaipur Foot Program for War Victims.	OFERR – For Srilankan Refugees in Tamil Nadu
NAHRO Health Project in Killinochchi	Hindu Samaya Abhivirutti Saba, Trincomalee.
TRO – Nursery School in Athikovilady.	YMHA Batticaloa – IDP Relief & Flood Relief .
Ramakrishna Mission, Colombo – IDP relief.	VOVCOD Trincomalee – IDP Relief.
Catholic Relief Organisation .	Gurukulam, Killinochchi – Vocational Training
Gods Own Children, Jaffna	SYNERGY, Batticaloa – Community Project
.Mahadeva Ashram, Killinochchi – Orphanage	Siddha Hospital, Kaitady – Herb Garden Unit
Jaffna Medical Faculty Gold Medal in Obstetrics	Moolai Co-op. Hospital – Repair of Ambulance
Sri Shanmuga Trust, Trincomalee - Orphanage.	St. Joseph's Home for Elders, Columbuturai
St. Lourdes, Vavuniya.	Federation of Youths – Relief to IDPs in Vaharai.
ISLF of USA – Demo Farm, Kanakarayankulam	Nanattan Maha Vidyalayam – Lab Equipment
St. Mary's Boys Home, Kalmunai .	Grace Home for children, Cheddikulam .
Vasantham Home for children, Vaddukkottai.	Shakhti Social Welfare Centre, Batticaloa
St. John's Centre, Batticaloa – Orphanage .	FOSDO Vavuniya – War displaced
Holy Family Sisters, Jaffna – War affected.	Selva Sannathy Temple – Health Facility .
God's own children, Jaffna – Education project	Jaffna Hospital Development Association
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Dance Programme

- 7.00 pm** Guests take their seats
- 7.30 pm** Starters served to the table
Band plays light music
- 8.00 pm** Address by President SCOT
Announcements by Emcee
- 8.30 pm** Main dinner served as buffet
Band plays light music
- 9.15 pm** Desserts served to the table
Sale of raffle tickets
- 9.30 pm** Dance commences
Music by Breeze
- 11.00 pm** Raffle Draw & Auction
- 11.30 pm** Dance continues
- 1.00 am** Vote of Thanks & Carriages



Dinner Menu

STARTERS

Fish Cutlets

Chinese Rolls (V)

Patties (V)

MAINS

String Hopper Buriyani (V)

Fried Pittu (V)

Naan Bread

Mutton Curry

Chicken Pirattal

Aubergine Curry

Potato Curry

Devilled Paneer

AFTERS

Watalappam

Fruit Salad

BEVERAGES

Orange Juice & Water

Wine & Whisky



Raffle Prizes

1. *One economy class return air ticket to Colombo
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2. *Pair of gold ear rings
Donated by Ramprakash Jewellers, Southall*
3. *Designer Saree Donated by a Past President AND
Christmas Hamper Donated by The President*
4. *John Lewis Voucher for £60 + Gift Pack
Donated by The President*
5. *Marks and Spencer Voucher for £40 + Gift Pack
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6. *Murphy Richards Coffee Maker + Gift Pack
Donated by The President*
7. *One Litre Black Grouse Whiskey + Gift Pack
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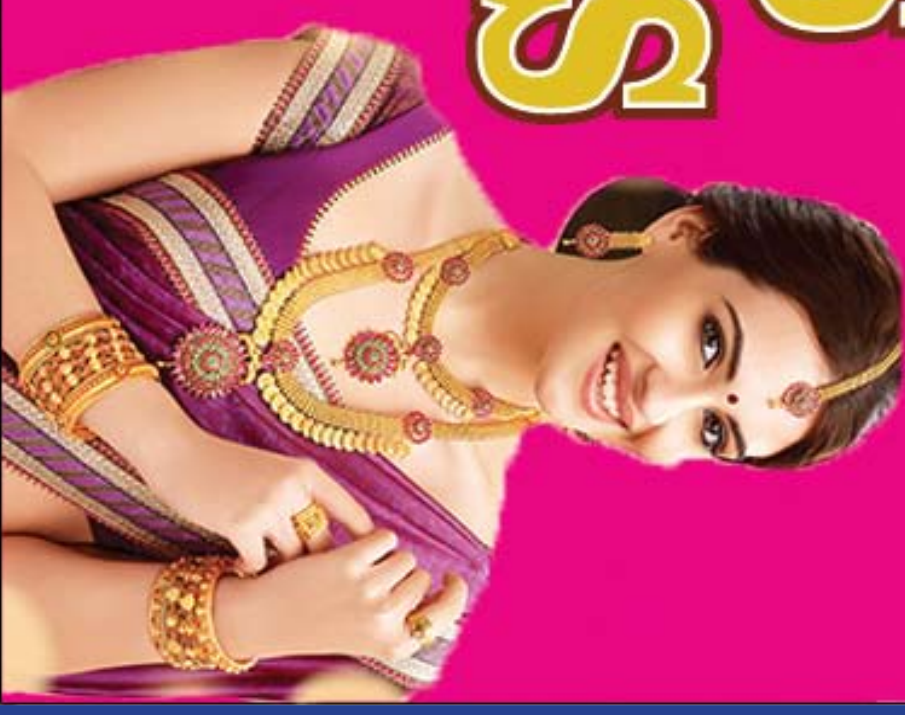


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Demo Farm: Onion under drip irrigation: Two drip lines per bed taking off from buried sub-main; Seed bulbs planted in February 2015. Photo taken in March 2015. Two covered nurseries in the background

Demo Farm: Chilli crops supported by drip irrigation. 2nd season seedlings planted in late March 2015. The crops are ready for 1st harvesting. Photo taken on 7 June 2015



Demo Farm: Rows of drip lines are seen along beds, soon after 1st season tomato crops had been cleared. They will be rolled back to facilitate land preparation followed by bed formation – to get ready for 2nd season cultivation. Photo taken in January 2015



SCOT Flagship Project

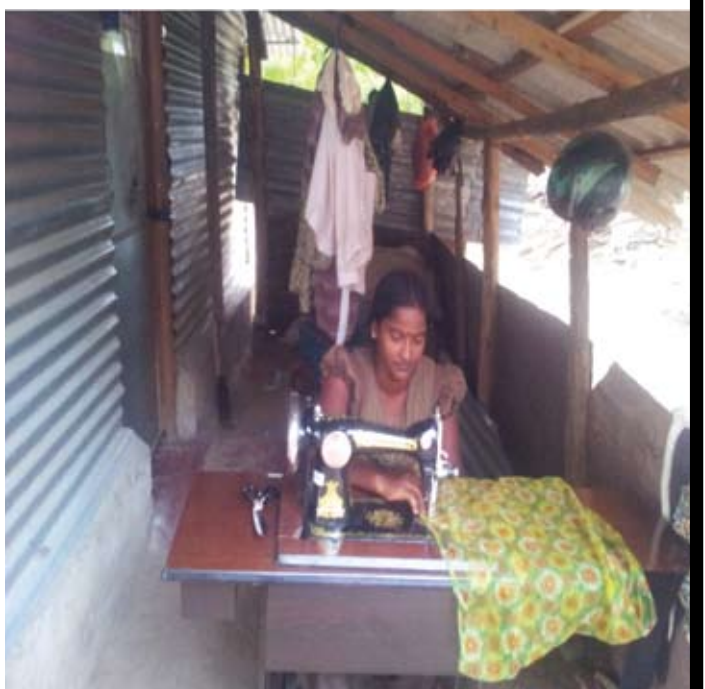
Demonstration Farm and Small Holder Farmer Support

Since 2005, Tami Nadu Government has been promoting the use of precision farming model for cultivation of high value crops developed by the agriculture university in Coimbatore, to reduce cost, increase yield and obtain higher profit. Two members of SCOT General Council, Dr. Sooriyamoorthy and Mr. Paramanathan together with Mr. Kandiah former FAO agriculture expert and Dr. Ramesh of hydrology institute of UK, formed a team to formulate a demo farm in Vanni on the above methods, and to supervise the implementation of this project. The services of Prof. Navaratnaraja former dean of agriculture of Jaffna University was utilised to co-ordinate the project in Srilanka. Field assessment was done by International Sustainable Livelihood Foundation of USA and SCOT.

Due to security concerns, a five acre plot was leased from Sevalanka land in Kanakarayankulam for a period of three years, of which two acres were for demonstration and three acres for cultivation. A farmer from Vanni and an agriculture graduate were selected and sent to Tamil Nadu on eleven day training program on precision farming, including interactions with successful small holder farmers. Accommodation was provided to the farmer within the farm. The land that had not been cultivated for six years was ploughed and manured. Seedlings of tomato, onions and chillies were planted in a covered nursery and transferred to the land helped by labour from local community. Drip irrigation system was designed and installed by Srilankan firm which was accepted by the team.

Funding for this project has been mainly from SCOT with inputs from team members. Financial assistance may be sought from other sources in the future. This project has given an opportunity to farmers in the area to learn and practice this model thereby enhancing their financial return. Also it gives employment to women in the area to carry out seeding and harvesting. Local institutions like agriculture faculty of Jaffna University, Agriculture Research Centre and Agriculture Extension Office have shown interest to associate with this project, for the undergraduate and postgraduate studies. This method is compatible with agro-climatology and soil status prevailing in north and east. After encountering some problems initially, the project has taken off with successful results.

The next phase of small holder farmer support project has been launched with the selection of ten farmers, two from each district of the province. The project schedule will conform to the monsoonal pattern to cultivate from January to September in two seasons. SCOT has funded for the importation and installation of the drip irrigation system. Each farmer will be given the drip irrigation system on a lease agreement and will be given training to operate it. Each farmer will cultivate half an acre in two stages using their own resources. The commitment expressed by the agriculture department and the enthusiasm of the staff has given the project the assurance needed for proper implementation. It is proposed to appoint an independent person to monitor the progress of these farmers.



SCOT – Women Empowerment Projects

War in Sri Lanka has left with several widows who have to take the role of breadwinners to support their family. These people needed financial assistance to fulfil their new found responsibility, taking up a vocation which is familiar. Most of them being in a low state of education could not enter into any established careers and had to rely on self-employment such as dress making, home gardening and livestock breeding. SCOT had entered into a partnership with organisations that were working with these unfortunate women, such as Centre for Women and Development (CWD), Mangayar Mandrams of Hindu Council, and Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development (CORD). Although major funding for these projects were by these organisations as well as other international agencies and micro-credit scheme of the banks, SCOT has also contributed substantial amount towards them. The overall objective of these projects is to support these women to have a dignified and contented life and have the ability to provide for their families. The feedbacks received by SCOT from the above projects show that these women are managing reasonably well, feeling secure and confident. The project also focussed on psycho-social support for women, by awareness lectures conducted and appropriate therapy given by experts in those fields.





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Kaithady Deaf School - Training for Hearing Impaired Children

This project was initiated by TIDE, a charity founded in Srilanka by Ms. Anne East of UK. It has been funded by SCOT during past 03 years and the progress co-ordinated on behalf of SCOT by Dr. Ranjit Thambyraja, a general council member. TIDE is a group of teachers with special expertise in deaf education and offers in-school training programmes specially formulated to address the needs of teachers in deaf schools. Funds donated by SCOT helped teachers at the Kaithady school for the deaf to improve the quality of education of the children there and to establish a new library with books covering a range of subjects and audio-books for the visually handicapped.





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