



Communiqué

Journey out of poverty: CDF Study Tour to Sri Lanka

The Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF) will take 10 Canadian co-operators to Sri Lanka on a two-week study tour this February.

In Sri Lanka, participants will learn firsthand about poverty alleviation through co-operatives and credit unions and will work together as a group to reach a single fundraising goal by December 31, 2011. They will learn about the daily challenges and adversity that our Sri Lankan partners have overcome through the technical and financial support of Canadian co-operators channelled through CDF, the charitable arm of the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA).

Co-ops and credit unions are central to the empowerment of communities all over the world. Canada is fortunate to have a vibrant co-operative community with leaders at every level of the movement.

The tour group is made up of community leaders with experience or interest in fundraising, organizing community or workplace events and working with groups or committees towards a common goal.

Each study tour participant will take life-changing lessons home with them from Sri Lanka and will help CDF build up support from a network of like-minded Canadian co-operators in fundraising and community mobilization efforts for the following year.

The Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada

The Co-operative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF) is the charity of choice for Canadian co-ops and credit unions. CDF raises money to support the development of co-operatives and credit unions in Africa, Asia, and The Americas. Co-operatives and credit unions have proven to be effective tools in helping poor people work their way out of poverty. The money raised by CDF is primarily used by the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA), in its efforts to reduce poverty in many countries around the world. CCA is a national association representing co-operatives and credit unions in Canada.

SANASA Development Bank & The SANASA Movement

The SANASA Movement is the leading collective of community-based organizations in Sri Lanka with a network of 8,400 primary thrift and credit societies in rural and urban districts across the country; a group of companies providing services to the primary societies and the Sri Lankan public; and a national federation. SANASA encourages its approximately one million members (17% of Sri Lanka's population) to "*establish a new social order based on co-operative principles and values*". The Canadian Co-operative Association has been working with the SANASA movement for more than 20 years, and is currently implementing the, "Rebuilding and Strengthening Livelihoods in Post-Tsunami Sri Lanka" project focused on micro-finance and on building /re-building livelihoods.