

## SRI LANKA GRABS FIFTY EIGHTH POSITION ON GLOBAL PROSPERITY ON MATERIAL WEALTH AND PERSONAL WELL-BEING

It is great news that Sri Lanka has achieved the 58th place out of 142 countries based on criteria in eight categories including economic strength, health, education and governance in the 2012 Prosperity Index published in November by the London-based Legatum Institute think tank, surpassing its neighbours Philippines (67), India (101), Bangladesh (103), Pakistan (132), and closing on China (55).

Sri Lanka should be proud of its position mainly due to the colossal development projects executed and the conciliatory

measures adopted by the Sri Lankan government headed by President Mahinda Rajapaksa and his Cabinet Ministers after the 30-year old civil disturbances which unfortunately ruined the economy and the social fabric of the country.

The Legatum Index is published annually, analysing the countries in eight categories: economy, education, entrepreneurship and opportunity, governance, health, personal freedom, safety and security and social capital.

In the current analysis, Norway topped the overall prosperity index, Switzerland for economy sub category, Denmark for entrepreneurship and opportunity, Switzerland for governance, Luxembourg for health, Iceland for safety and security, Canada for personal freedom, and Norway

for social capital.

Global prosperity index for the four years – 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 – in respect of the following countries are:

- Norway 1, 1, 1, 1;
- Denmark 2, 2, 2, 2;
- Sweden 7, 6, 5, 3;
- Australia 5, 4, 3, 4;
- New Zealand 3, 5, 4, 5;
- US 10, 10, 10, 12;
- UK 13, 13, 13, 13;
- China 58, 58, 52, 55;
- Sri Lanka 68, 59, 63, 58;
- India 78, 88, 91, 101;
- Philippines 61, 64, 66, 67;
- Bangladesh 95, 96, 95, 103 and
- Pakistan 107, 109, 107, 132.

The Legatum was founded in December 2006 by Christopher Chandler, Chairman of Legatum Global Holdings. He was formerly President of the holding company for the Sovereign Global group of companies, which he co-founded in 1986. During the period

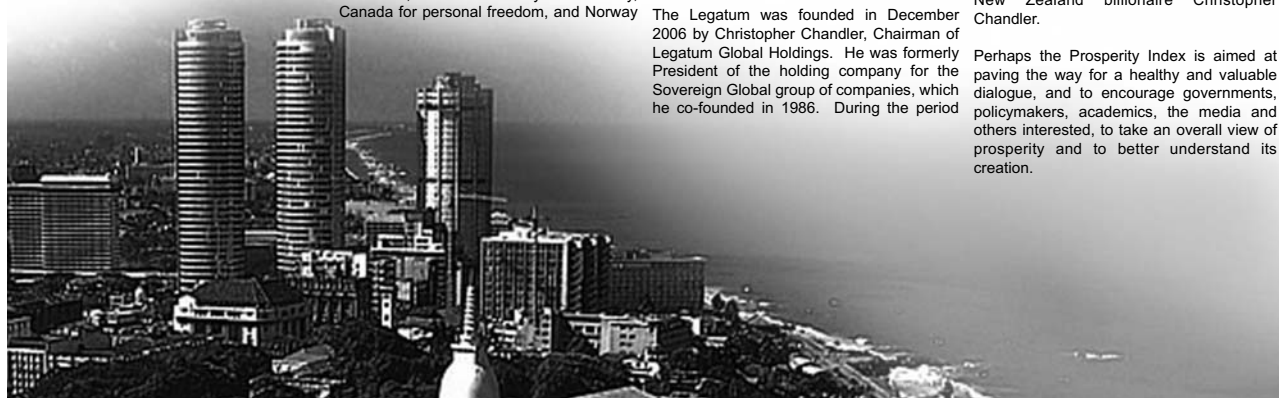


**Dr. Mathu H. Liyanage**

1986 to 2006, the Sovereign provided capital to companies and governments in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe, and to industries involved in electric utilities, steel, oil and oil refining, gas, telecommunications and banking. Legatum derived its name from the Latin noun "legacy" which means a "gift provided to others without a charge".

Bloomberg notes that the Legatum Institute is part of the Legatum Group, a Dubai-based private investment company founded by New Zealand billionaire Christopher Chandler.

Perhaps the Prosperity Index is aimed at paving the way for a healthy and valuable dialogue, and to encourage governments, policymakers, academics, the media and others interested, to take an overall view of prosperity and to better understand its creation.



## HISTORY MADE FOR OLD DHARMASOKIANS IN MELBOURNE



Old DharmaSokians from across the State of Victoria flocked to Mulgrave Community Centre located in Melbourne's South Eastern suburbia on Saturday, 13th October 2012 with much enthusiasm. A Reunion of the past pupils has been organised by a group of keen past pupils. There cannot be a better time for such a gathering as we are closing in for the Centenary of the College in 2013. This is a long awaited occasion for all of them and oh boy! It was a huge turnout. Forty of them representing different eras ranging from mid 1960s to early 2000s came all excited to meet and greet their second family. Among them were some prominent college mates including Lakshman Weerakkody; the pioneer of the 2-mile sea swim, Jayasri Chandrajith; the Sinhaya of Sinhabahu fame, Agbo de Silva from that

famous cricketing family and Prof Jayantha Kodikara of Monash University. The youngest was Mulitha De Silva who finished his studies in 2007 when some of the participants had already become grand fathers.

Following some socialising over a cup of tea the formalities commenced around midday. By this time all the kids have settled down inside the big inflatable jumping castle wisely organised by Sanjeeva and the crew.

The meeting started with the welcome and introduction by Saveen Semage who is here in Melbourne for a short time, but taking a leading role in organising the event. When the School song was sung, no one missed a word like they

have been singing it in their minds over last so many years. Then came the observance of a minute silence to commemorate those who were connected to the College and passed away starting from Late Mudliyar S Thomas de Silva, the founding father of the College, to Mrs Dhamma De Silva (AK Miss), who passed away recently in Melbourne.

The next item in the agenda was to elect an Interim Committee for DharmaSoka College Past Pupils Association in order to have a platform to move forward. A committee of eleven members were elected under

the presidency of none other than Mr Lakshman Weerakkody. The participants then discussed the potential future activities including how they can help the College with special focus on the Centenary. The Committee will meet in few weeks time to go through these proposals in detail and come up with an action plan.

There were a lot of hungry people at the end of the meeting and they all rushed to enjoy the light lunch brought in by their lovely families. It was good that we are a mixed school and had a number of old girls keenly putting their cooking skills to test. Then came the Karaoke time but Jayasri didn't want the help of the technology to demonstrate some of his drama song skills.

The event was concluded at 3PM with a promise that this is only the start and we all will be meeting soon again with more numbers. Special thanks should go to Sanjeeva de Silva and Dansly Perera who took the initiative and Saveen Semage and Hiran Rajapakse who together made this a hugely successful start.

More details :  
dhamsoemelbourne@gmail.com  
THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR OLD DHARMASOKIANS IN MELBOURNE.

Prepared by:  
Upali Ileperuma