

## SSF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS - 2009

SSF has invited applications for scholarship for the year 2009. The application closing date is 31st May 2009. Advertisements were placed in the national newspapers (i.e. Sunday Observer and Thinakaran) in April. The same was announced in the SLBC Muslim news for the message to reach more deserving candidates. So far we have received not more than 750 applications which is a very low turnout compared with past years.

We invite our donors and well wishers to pass on this message to the schools and social service organizations in your hometown to ensure fair distribution of scholarship all over the island.

The applications can be downloaded from our website [www.ssf-lanka.org](http://www.ssf-lanka.org) or can be obtained by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to The Administrator, Serendib Scholarship Fund, No. 77, Dematagoda Road, Colombo -09.

The shortlisted candidates will be called for a personal interview in the first week of August-2009. The selected candidates will be receiving their scholarship money from January 2010 onward.

Currently SSF is paying Sri Lankan Rupees 1,500/- per student per month. This is paid on a quarterly basis. The recipients need to send quarterly progress reports signed by the head of the institutions for qualifying to receive their payments regularly.

## PARLIAMENTARY INCORPORATION

We are pleased to announce that the draft Act to incorporate Serendib Scholarship Fund at the Sri Lanka Parliament went through its final reading at a Parliamentary standing committee session on 7th May 2009, Alhamdulillah. The Parliamentary standing Committee comprising of Hon Chandrasekaran (MP & Chairman of the committees) Hon. Faizer Cassim (MP), Hon. Nowshad (MP), Ven. Vellanvila Thero (MP) passed the Bill and it has to be formally signed off by the parliamentary Speaker in due course. This will, Insha Allah take place in two to three months time. This is a major struggle that SSF has fought for the last 7 years. This incorporation will be a significant milestone in the history of SSF.

Parliamentary incorporation will give SSF more legal status and strengthen its foundation to widen its scope & reach to serve the community better. We wish to place on record our sincere gratitude to all those who helped us in this momentous achievement. May Almighty Allah bless them all.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By the grace of Almighty Allah SSF conducted its AGM on 27th February 2009. The members unanimously agreed for the present committee to hold the office with an addition of a new member. The participants expressed their views, suggestions to enhance the services of SSF while clarifying their questions regarding SSF activities over the last one year. The Financials were presented by the treasury team and was adopted by the members.

The president in his speech emphasized the importance of strengthening the Endowment Fund of SSF for ensuring continuity of its services to the community. Endowment Fund will ensure free flow of funds through profits earned from Islamic Investments. The Fund has attracted over US\$ 60,000 at present and its target is to reach US\$ 300,000.

## SSF AWARENESS MAJLIS IN ABU DHABI - UAE

SSF successfully conducted a Majlis in the emirate of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates with the expatriate Muslims on Friday 22nd May 2009. The session started soon after the Jummah prayers followed by a lunch.

A power point presentation was made by the president highlighting the growth of SSF and the importance of its undisputed role to shape up the Muslim community in Sri Lanka. A religious talk followed by networking session was conducted by two committee members. The program was well received by the participation of over 50 people. Approx. 60,000 UAE Dirhams donations was committed by the participants. May Allah reward them abundantly and bestow barakah in their earnings.

## HAI SYDNEY & AUSTRALIANS DONATE AU\$ 20,000

Alhamdulillah, this year too SSF received a generous contribution from the Sydney brothers who have been supporting SSF activities over the last 3 years. The donor community in Australia, together with HAI-Australia donated AU\$ 20,000 (approx. SL Rupees 1.7 million) towards SSF's scholarships and educational welfare projects.

It is noteworthy to mention that SSF successfully conducted a free G.C.E. O/L seminar last year at a budget of SL Rupees 800,000/- which was funded from the donations received from HAI Sydney last year. The seminar was conducted in 24 locations throughout the island and over 6000 students participated and benefited from it. Moreover 31 students came under their sponsorships.

We wish to thank our brothers in Sydney & HAI for their continued support and for the trust they have on us. May Allah increase His blessing manifold on all of them and their families.

## SSF TO HELP CHILDREN OF SLAIN SOLDIERS

SSF has decided to allocate funds to sponsor 5 children of slain soldiers of Sri Lankan military who fought for the country, as a token of appreciation of their sacrifice. SSF will contact a reputed local organization which involves in helping soldiers' families to nominate 5 or more children following G.C.E. A/L. SSF will select out of them 5 applicants based on the criteria followed by the selection committee of SSF.

### PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAL) ON CHARITY

- "Charity is a proof of your belief"
- "Heal your sick with charity"
- "Each person is in the shade of his charity till people are judged"
- "Giving in secret cools Allah's anger"
- "The most loved actions to Allah are :
  - o Happiness you give to a Muslim, or Sadness you take away, or
  - o Debt you help him with, or
  - o Hunger you put away,
  - o supporting a brother in one of his needs is better for me than staying in this mosque for a month ..."
- "Allah will have mercy on those who are merciful,
- "Have mercy on those on earth and you will get mercy from Him who is in heaven"
- "When a human dies, all his doing is over except three:
  - o Continuous Charity
  - o Usable science
  - o righteous son praying for him"
- "Good doings protect from bad destinies"

## SSF WEBSITE BOOSTS TRAFFIC

The official website of SSF is [www.ssf-lanka.org](http://www.ssf-lanka.org). SSF website has been made a central communication hub for all stakeholders. Recently the website traffic increased dramatically – 69 unique visitors in April to 662 in May. According to our analysis, this is simply due to prospective applicants browsing the website, which is one of our primary purposes in running the website. However, Insha Allah, we hope to enhance our brand symbol and the website will be the key tool to do it. Significant amount of useful contents have been added recently - thanks to brothers who tirelessly work on this cause. We encourage everybody to visit the page on a regular basis for the latest updates.

## Conclusion

We are confident that our proven strategy, the dedication of the Exco and the support of our members will continue to drive us to our goal of helping our community in Educational and Social advancement.

### You may forward your contributions direct to our bankers as follows:

Muslim Commercial Bank – Islamic Banking Division, Main Branch - Colombo-01

SL Rupee A/c No. 004125-006006

US Dollar A/c No. 004126-000221

Euro A/c No. 004126-000232

### Cost of Sponsoring a scholarship for a student is as below:

G.C.E. Advanced Level		
(For 20 Months)	- SL Rs. 30,000	(US\$ 225)
University / Shariah / Others		
(4 Years)	- SL Rs. 72,000	(US\$ 675)
(3 Years)	- SL Rs. 54,000	(US\$ 500)
(2 Years)	- SL Rs. 36,000	(US\$ 350)

**AND THE LAST WORD IS ..... ALL PRAISE BE TO ALLAH, LORD OF ALL THE WORLDS**

please contact us or call or email now

## A LETTER FROM A FORMER SSF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

"It is with great pleasure I wish to thank you for your enormous contribution to my Graduate studies during the 2003/07 period. I have successfully completed the Honours Degree of M.Sc. in Town and Country Planning at the University of Moratuwa with a First Class pass in August 2007. Presently I have been attached to the Dept. of Town and Country Planning at the University of Moratuwa as a temporary lecturer. In fact, I had to re-think weather to attend the university when I was selected to study at the University of Moratuwa in 2003, because I had no any financial support to carry out my studies outside my village. However, with the help of Almighty Allah, I could find your assistance throughout my studies and Masha Allah, I could complete my studies with great achievement with First Class Honours. The only financial assistant apart from Mahapola was the SSF, which had been always behind my success. I am always grateful to the Almighty Allah, and then the SSF contributors, administrators, and all those who have helped directly and indirectly for the continuous service of the same. I am looking forward to have continuous touch with the SSF and in its future activities" (Signed by NMR).

## EXCO MEETINGS AND CODE OF GOVERNANCE

Executive Committee meetings are held on a regular basis, at least once a month. In addition to attending meetings, Exco members are typically assigned regular tasks depending on their areas of expertise. Recently, the Exco adopted a "Code of Governance" in order to ensure four basic principles in managing affairs: Responsibility, Accountability, Transparency and Fairness. Good governance is key to the health and success of any organization. Adopting good practice can Insha Allah help keep pace with the changes and can make SSF more effective. The essence of governance is a responsible and transparent management committee with the following proposed structure:

**President - Vice President - Secretary**  
**Treasurer - Committee Member**

**Shura Advisory committee - Finance Committee**  
**Endowment Committee - Investment Committee**  
**Audit Committee - Strategy Development Committee**  
**IT Committee - Overseas Committee**

Exco is currently working on this structure.

### CONTRIBUTION SLIP

Name : \_\_\_\_\_  
Address : \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact No. : \_\_\_\_\_  
How can I contribute : \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount : \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature : \_\_\_\_\_