

In Loving Memory of Dr. Tissa Cooray

Dr. Navadeva Tissa Cooray a distinguished Medical Administrator and a Fellow of the College of Medical Administrators of Sri Lanka passed away recently. He was the son of Professor Gerald Henry Cooray (Professor of Pathology, Colombo Medical Faculty) & Mallika Dias Cooray.

He had his entire education at Royal College Colombo. Tissa Graduated with his MBBS degree from the University of Ceylon in 1966. He then started work as a Government Medical Officer. He pursued his Post Graduate Studies in UK and obtained the Diploma in Tropical Public Health from the University of London in 1977. He also further qualified by gaining a certificate in Teacher Training for Primary Health Care from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, University of Liverpool in 1979.

After a brief stint as the Port Health Officer, he was appointed to the Institute of Hygiene, Kalutara as Medical Officer of Health in December 1977 and, when it was upgraded to the National Institute of Health Sciences (NIHS) in 1979, he served as the first Deputy Director of Training and thereafter in 1985 as the Director of NIHS when Dr Godwin Fernando retired. He continued to work at NIHS till his retirement as the Director in 1988.

He was responsible as a pioneer in helping to upgrade NIHS & thereafter during his tenure as the Director NIHS developed the National Institute of Health Sciences into a

premier training institute in Southeast Asia for Primary Health Care. In recognition of his hard work, he was offered to work at the



South East Asian Regional Office of the WHO. He held the positions of Regional Advisor, Program Development Officer & Planning Officer in Primary Health Care for the South East Asian region of WHO.

He also had the privilege to attend the executive education program in Managing Health Programs in Developing Countries at the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston in 1992.

After retiring from SEARO he continued to work for WHO as a Consultant at the WHO Kobe office Japan & SEARO until 2007.

Dr. Cooray served as the Chairman of the Visakha Vidyalaya Board of Trustees. His great-grandmother, Mrs. Jeremias Dias, was the founder of the school, and he is the grandson of Arthur V. Dias (Kos mama).

Tissa leaves behind his loving wife Nelum Devi, daughter Ayomi & son Dr Harendra.

May he rest in peace

Dr. Sarath M. Samarage