

Report on the
ill- conceived Private Medical College
at
Malabe
(South Asian Institute of Technology and Management – SAIMT)



Government Medical Officers' Association

2010

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This report was prepared by a committee appointed by the GMOA at a special general committee meeting held on 01st September 2010 for the reference of GMOA members to facilitate informed decision making at the next general committee meeting.

- Terms of reference

To study the factual situation of the private medical institute at Malabe.

- Committee members

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Dr. Bimantha Gunasekara

Dr. Pushpitha Ubey Siri

Dr. Chandana Atapattu

Dr. Chandika Epitakaduwa

Dr. Nalin Ariyaratne

Dr. Chandana Ramyasiri

Dr. Ruwan Wickramasinghe

Dr. Mahesh Epa

Dr. Samantha Chandraratne

Dr. Kasun Weerakkody

Following persons and organizations were used as resources

- Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC)
- University Grants Commission (UGC)
- Board of Investments (BOI)
- General medical council of United Kingdom (GMC)
- Australian Medical Council (AMC)
- Resources in the internet and printed material

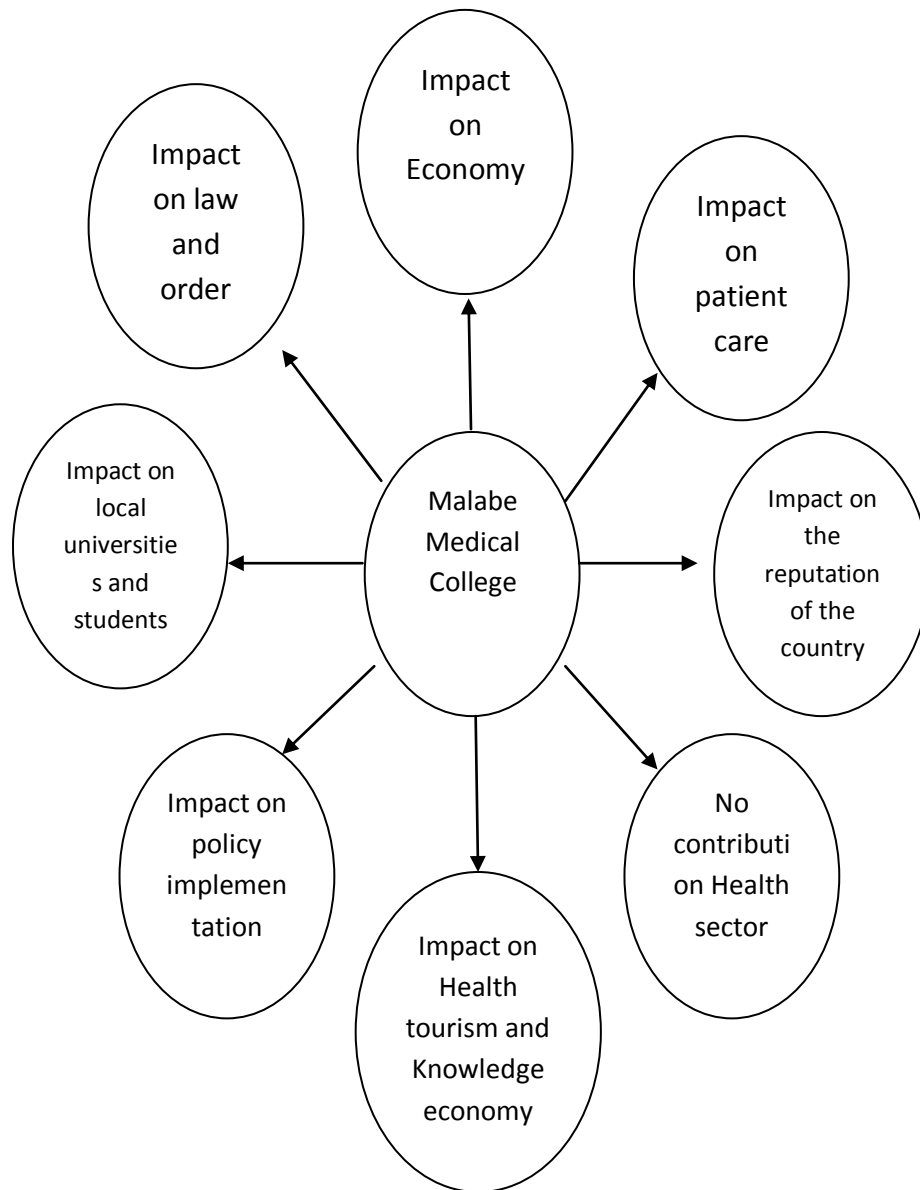
Executive summary

The Higher education minister states that the government policy is to establish private higher education institutes including few private medical colleges (PMC) in Sri Lanka. He claims that all political parties, save for the JVP, are in favour of this policy decision. However, the fee-levying higher education institutions need to comply with the standards of medical education and the law of the land. Moreover, they should positively contribute to the economic, education and health sectors of the country.

The institution coming up in Malabe as a private medical college has failed to comply with the standards stipulated by the SLMC and disregarded the SLMC public notices cum warnings. They do not possess BOI approval, UGC approval or any other legally sound approval. As per medical council guidelines, there has to be numerous necessities including a well established hospital complex, fulfilling minimum standards, prior to recruitment of medical students. However, there is only an undated letter promising to build such standard hospital but no such hospital is visible in the said premises. Further, the process of recruitment has begun over one year, recruiting three batches, 50 in each, each batch six months apart, charging 6.5million from each student.

This act would contravene the government policy of uplifting Sri Lanka as the educational hub in Asia while affecting the varied aspects of the country including financial, Health sector, legal framework, and local universities. Further it has a negative impact on Health tourism, knowledge economy, foreign revenue generation and implementation of some important government policies. Other than the 3 key personals who involved, the irresponsible role played by the students and their learned parents has facilitated this fraudulent venture.

Graphical presentation on impacts of so called private medical college at Malabe



1. Malabe Medical institute(South Asian Institute of Technology and Management – SAIMT)

Malabe medical institute was started in year 2009 to undertake the first four years of medical education leading to a five year medical degree to be offered from Nizhny Novgorod State Medical University, Russia. According to the website accessed on 04.10.2010 final year clinical training will be carried out in Russia.

2. Government Policy

It was declared by the Higher Education minister at a meeting held at the parliament and openly to the public that the government policy is to establish private educational institutes including private medical colleges within the country. Further, he stated that the government vision is to make Sri Lanka, the educational hub in Asia and to generate foreign revenue. (A 1 -Press article)

3. Maintaining standards of Medical education

3.1 Sri Lanka Medical Council

Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) is the statutory body, established by the Medical Ordinance No. 24 of 1924, in order to safe guard and maintain the **standards of medical education and medical practice**. By assigning this task to SLMC, the **government fulfills its obligation to the safety of patient care delivery system.**

It is the ultimate responsibility of the Sri Lanka Medical Council to make sure the medical graduates, whom they entrust with medical practicing rights are “safe doctors” who can be posted to anywhere in the country to cater the public. To accomplish this, they make sure the standards are well maintained in the field of medicine from medical education onwards.

3.2 Medical education as a Twinning programme– worldwide unaccepted

Meaning of twinning is where part of the medical education is done locally and the rest in some other part of the world.

3.2.1 As a prime measure to maintain the standards, it is clearly mentioned in the Medical Ordinance that twin programmes are not accepted.

3.2.2 Twinning is unacceptable in countries holding good reputation pertaining to standards of medical education and medical practice.

3.2.3 International licensing examinations categorically reject recognition of twin degrees.

GMC and AMC web sites very clearly emphasize that the basic medical degree of a candidate should not be a twin degree, for them to sit in their licensing examination.

http://www.gmcuk.org/doctors/registration_applications/acceptable_primary_medical_qualification.asp

<http://www.amc.org.au/index.php/img/exam/appinfo>

3.3 Standards of Nizhny Novgorod State Medical University-Russia – Mother university of SAITM

According to the SLMC website, **Act 16 success rate is only 35%** for Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. It is hard to expect better results from its branch, which operates without minimum recourses and standards.

<http://www.srilankamedicalcouncil.org/download/article/8/29a4feb8b84716a385b21704a975f3fd.pdf>

4. Legal background

4.1 Conflict with the BOI

Until recent everyone was under the illusion that they had obtained BOI approval to establish a private medical college affiliated to a foreign university. But surprisingly BOI has replied in writing to SLMC that they have not given any approval to establish a private medical college.

4.2 Conflict with the UGC

This Malabe PMC does not come in the purview of University Grants Commission (UGC) since it does not come under any heading of the university act; section no 21 to 25A, wherein the UGC has the authority to intervene. Both the UGC and the administration of this institute state that since they initiated as a project of Board of Investment (BOI) it is not necessary to come under UGC regulations.

<http://www.ugc.ac.lk/en/policy/universities-act/29.html>

4.3 Conflict with the Medical Ordinance

This Malabe PMC comes as a twin programme violating medical ordinance. The SLMC has refused to grant approval for Malabe twin programme defending this legal status. As such current operation of Malabe PMC is illegal. SLMC has repetitively informed the authorities' of Malabe institute through letters and the public via news paper advertisements in all three languages on this. (A 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

But the alarming fact is that they keep on recruiting students for a locally and internationally non accredited degree, charging 6.5 million from each student. (A 8)

Hence it is very clear that this institute does not fall in any legitimate category and it is simply a fake institute with no recognition. (A 9)

4.4 No approval from Russian Medical Council

A university alone cannot decide whether or not to establish an off-shore branch of the main university. It should be recognized by the medical council of the country where the main university is situated. With regard to the private medical institute at Malabe, the authority could not substantiate evidence to prove such recognition of Malabe PMC as a branch of Nizhny Novgorod State Medical University, Russia.

Considering these facts it is very clear that Malabe private medical institute is yet another financial fraud in this country.

5. Lack of infrastructure to function as a PMC

5.1 No hospital for clinical training

Having a functioning hospital fulfilling minimum prescribed standards is a fundamental requirement to establish a medical college. Understanding the above fact Dr. Neville Fernando, the chairman of the said institute has promised with an undated letter to put up a 400 bedded hospital with all the needed facilities where patients are treated free of charge, for his students to practice clinical component of the medical curriculum. But he also admits the fact that he has not even laid the foundation stone to that hospital, although the 1st batch of students he recruited is about to start the clinical training now.

5.2 Lack of academic staff and the quality

There should be minimum level of qualifications to become a lecturer in medicine. The majority of doctors who teach medicine at Malabe PMC are foreign graduates with the basic degree. Out of them, the majority including the director of the institute are failures at the ACT 16 examination, which is the fundamental requirement to practice as a doctor in Sri Lanka.

According to their web page accessed on 01.10.2010, there is only one permanent professor for the whole medical college with two other visiting professors.

<http://www.saitm.edu.lk/faculty-medicine/staff>

5.3 Poor teaching framework

In order to provide with quality medical education, there need to be a number of essential departments in a medical faculty. Essential departments are not available in this institute.

<http://www.cmb.ac.lk/academic/medicine/departments.html>

But this institute has only three main departments and some unusual departments. Out of them, more than 4 departments are under one retired professor and some of the departments are under visiting professors, which is grossly unsatisfactory.

<http://www.saitm.edu.lk/faculty-medicine/staff>

6. Establishment of substandard private medical colleges and its consequences

6.1 Impact on national healthcare delivery system

6.1.1 Reputation of Sri Lankan graduates

Present day Sri Lankan medical graduates are well recognized all over the world and they are not questioned about their credibility. The simple reason is that only best performed students at local examinations are selected to medical faculties and they are given a comprehensive and thorough training as under-graduates. But with the inception of substandard medical institutes without even minimum standards, the international acceptance of Sri Lankan medical graduates will start to erode.

6.1.2 Maintenance of health indices

It is globally accepted that Sri Lanka is doing well with their health indices in comparison to other countries in the region. Being a developing country we have achieved standards of developed countries when it comes to health care system. One of the key factors behind this is the competence and dedication of health care professionals. These substandard private medical institutes are much profit oriented and the public cannot expect quality doctors to contribute to maintaining the present standards.

6.2 Impact on national economy

6.2.1 Damage to the reputation of the country

The government of Sri Lanka aims to create Sri Lanka as the educational hub of Asia. For that to happen we should make our educational institutes more attractive with higher standards. If we were to start off with an ill-conceived, illegal, substandard private medical institute, it will be a nightmarish example to the investors as well as for foreign students who wish to come here for educational purposes. Despite the goal of making an educational hub, Sri Lanka will be another land of thousands of low quality educational institutes with no attraction and standard. As Panama is notorious for registering bogus shipping companies contributing to a global maritime menace, Sri Lanka too will be as famous for its rogue medical institutes and its factory made phony medical graduates who will only contribute to a global educational racket.

No proper medical governing body in the world will even look at those graduates. We lament that even the genuine, well qualified medical graduate also will be looked at with suspicion. The post graduate education also will suffer as a result since the prospects of foreign training for aspiring post graduate trainees will be marred in this mess.

If the government is genuine in its intentions we need to follow the path of the countries that succeeded in education as an industry. United Kingdom and Australia are two good examples generating the highest revenue through education. The secret of the success is the respective government mechanisms to ensure that high standards are maintained in educational institutes without any loopholes. No one would question the accreditation of a UK or Australian graduate irrespective of the discipline of education.

It is only appropriate to follow scientific evidence in this regard. Any other paths chosen will only make the goal of making Sri Lanka the hub of Asia's education, a distant dream.

6.2.2 Impact on Health Tourism

With the government concept of upgrading Sri Lanka as the economical hub in the Asian region, health sector has a vital role. Since Sri Lanka has a good reputation in the field of medicine and worldwide accredited healthcare professionals, it is a huge unexplored area of revenue generation. But if the substandard medical officers were to be incorporated into the local health system-as invariably it has to be, since the doors in the wider world will be closed on them- our reputation will be challenged globally and will pose a direct negative impact to the field of Health Tourism.

6.2.3 Impact on Knowledge Economy

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Ministry of External affairs, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine and the Government Medical Officers' Association has already established the Foreign Placement Coordinating Centre in order to place Sri Lankan healthcare professional all over the world as a method of foreign income generation. We have received a fabulous response from over 15 countries all over the world and a very good demand exists for our medical officers. Nearly 1000 doctors are to be posted to Libya in the near future as a result of this programme. All these opportunities are there due to the worldwide reputation of Sri Lankan doctors as quality service providers. All these avenues will be at a danger due to accumulation of poor quality doctors and Panama like ill repute to the system via substandard private medical institutes.

Health Sector Contribution to Knowledge Economy – Concept of skilled labour exportation and knowledge economy – ISBN 978-955-1928-00-1

6.2.4 Financial burden on affected parents

We, as a country have faced many financial frauds in the recent past. People like “Sakvithi” collected money from the public giving loads of fake promises and vanished within seconds. The same applies to this bogus private medical institute because they have collected nearly 865 million rupees for an unrecognized medical degree. This will be an additional burden to the government to entertain their grievances and utter waste of time of nearly 150 youths in this country and outside. The problem with authorities is that no lesson is learnt from the past and even after an impartial professional body like the GMOA highlights the misgivings of those ill conceived fraudulent projects and the dangerous predicaments of those victims, the same authorities pay no heed to those.

6.2.5 Draining of local currency to Russia

The government policy is to prevent draining of local currency to the world through the field of education. But this Malabe PMC pays 22% of the collected money, which amounts to 225 million per year just to use the name of the "Nizhny Novgorod". We assume that the role played by these three individuals may be highly regarded and rewarded by the financial division of the said university.

6.3 No contribution to the Health sector

6.3.1 No infrastructure development

Other than the fake letter given by the chairman/SAITM, there is no attempt to put up a hospital by him for his students to study while providing free health care to the public. But in other countries where private medical colleges are established, they have their own standard hospitals. E.g. India. Contrary to practice in other countries, public will not gain anything in return through this project, for letting themselves exposed for these students to examine. Finally it is only a financial advantage to few individuals involved.

6.3.2 No carder expansion

If this institute were to put up a private hospital, there would be a carder expansion in the health sector including for doctors, nurses, MLTs etc. but no such advantage through this project. Further, by offering a government hospital such benefit will never be met.

6.3.3 No advantage to patients

Since patients are not given any concession for their contribution and they are not provided with advanced facilities, they will not benefit at all. This will be an exploitation of patients.

6.4 Impact on state medical faculties

6.4.1 lack of lecturers

This would attract university lectures from state medical faculties which are under-staffed. As a result, the quality and the standards of state universities will be compromised, unless appropriate measures are taken.

6.4.2 Country's future need of foreign graduates

According to the latest analysis done by the SLMC there are 20,000 – 23,000 active registered medical officers working in the country. Out of them nearly 14,000-16,000 are employed in the government sector. Usual carder expansion comes around 650 medical officers annually, to government sector. Since 1,165 medical students are recruited annually to local medical faculties, they can supply the government requirement without any difficulty with an excess. Hence it is questionable whether there is a genuine requirement of medical graduates from local or international private medical colleges.

6.4.3 Unrest among medical students

In late 80's the north Colombo PMC (NPMC) ended up being absorbed into the government after creating an extremely unpleasant crisis, which is yet to recover in certain aspects. A commission to unearth the lessons learnt from the NPMC issue perhaps may reveal how this fiasco paved the way for the opportunists to thrive.

7. Impact on education sector

7.1 Frustration among school children due to obvious discrimination

It is inevitable that schooling students, awaiting for their higher education lose their faith in higher education institutions due to this kind of breach in the standards. This will lead to frustration among youth population and tendency will be created for seeking easy ways to get over with higher education. Also they might believe and aim at foreign degrees.

8. Irresponsible role of recruited students and their learned parents

8.1 Disrespect to government warnings

SLMC on behalf of the government of Sri Lanka has repeatedly informed the public via newspapers that Malabe PMC has not been given its approval and there is no room for the students of that institute to sit for ACT 16 examination. But surprisingly the students, whom are expected to have a higher IQ to learn medicine and their learned parents have got themselves registered in this fake institute which has no local or international recognition. It is a huge risk taken by them, despite the warnings given by the government and should bear the sole responsibility for their adamant behavior.

8.2 Recognition of an institute is not retrospective

According to medical ordinance a medical institute needs to be recognized by the SLMC before they recruit students. An Indian example on this issue also clearly says that the recognition should not a retrospective effect since it dilutes the standards of education. Even though this Malabe PMC is recognized at some point in future, it will not be applied to the present students will not be eligible to obtain SLMC recognition.

Recommendations

According to the terms of reference, mentioned above, this committee was appointed to analyze the factual situation, but not to make any recommendations. These findings should be considered to make appropriate recommendations and decisions.



SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

31, NORRIS CANAL ROAD, COLOMBO -10

In reply please quote MCI.

28th May 2009.

President

Dr. H.H.R. Samarasinghe
MB.BS (Cey.), MD (Cey.),
FRACP, FRCP (Lond.)

Vice-President

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MRCP (UK), MRCP (Irel.),
DTPH (Lond.) DIH (Eng.),
MFOM (Lond.)

Dr.Neville Fernando,
President,
South Asian Inst: of Tech: & Mgmnt (Pvt) Ltd,
147/2, Senanayake Mawatha,
2nd Lane, Nawala.

Dear Dr.Fernando,

Request for recognition of the 4 years of study for M.D. Nizhny
Novogorod State Academy of Medicine Russian Federation.

This is in reply to your letter of 27/5/2009, regarding the above.

The Sri Lanka Medical Council has recognized the degree awarded by Nizhny Novogorod State Medical Academy of Russian Federation, for the course of study conducted in Russia where the period of the course is six years.

The Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) has not recognized any other programme conducted in Sri Lanka or elsewhere by the Nizhny Novogorod State Medical Academy Russian Federation.

Regulations for Prescribed Standards for recognition of institutions awarding degrees other than a University established or deemed to have been established by the Higher Education Act no.20 of 1966 have been gazetted but have still not been passed by our Parliament.

I must state the obvious viz that the SLMC has no power to place these regulations before Parliament.

When these regulations are passed by Parliament, you could apply to the SLMC. At that stage the SLMC will visit your institution to ascertain whether your institution meets the standards prescribed and then decide whether to recognize or not recognize your institution.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. H.H.R. Samarasinghe.
President.
SLMC.

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No.147/2, Senanayake Mawatha,
2nd Lane,
Nawala.

To Council


The President

Sri Lanka Medical Council

30 Norris Canal Road

Colombo. 8

Dear Sir

Approval to commence a private

Medical College in Malabe

Asian Institute of Technology and Management is a BOI approved project to set up a higher education institute on 3.5 acres of land and Malabe. Health science is one of the fields approved.

Recently I had a discussion with Hon Wishva Warnapala who revealed the fact that of the 210,000 who sit the "A" level exam 100,000 qualify to enter the University but for reasons of accommodation of all these students only 19,500 are selected for admission. This is a tragic situation not only for the student and his /her parents but also for the country to leave out intelligent students out of higher education. I know the desperate state of the parents who do their best to find places for their children in universities abroad.

This is so specially in medicine. Children are sent to unheard of place all over the world to unknown places with extreme change of weather, culture, language and racial bias.

Some students return from Russia without having touched a single patient.

It is considering this sad fact and knowing that the government cannot increase the intake that I gave considerable thought this and put myself in the position of the student and his parents that I decided to commence a private medical college without any support by way of finance, facilities or other privileges.

I will invest Rs 500 million of my money without seeking a return on capital to minimize the cost to the students,



The fees charged by foreign Universities range from British Pounds 3500 per year or Sri lankan Rs7 million to Rs 20 million in Manipal and Bangladesh .Other countries other countries charge

less. In addition living costs, accommodation and expenses like airfare and the mental agony have to be added to this.

I will get the best Professors and lecturers not only from Sri Lanka but from UK and Australia.

Sri Lankans from the local universities will not be employed unless they on sabbatical leave

. will charge affordable fees and also construct a 400 bed non paying hospital . It will be the most modern hospital with five operating theatres, including heart surgery, brain surgery, orthopaedics and general surgery. There will be a psychiatric ward and all the other specialties

ICU's and emergency rooms will be available. A detailed list will be sent later.

I seek your assistance and cooperation to recognize our organization.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully


Dr. Neville Fernando MBBS(Cey)

**SRI LANKA
MEDICAL COUNCIL
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

**REGARDING MALABE
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF THE
SOUTH ASIAN INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY AND
MANAGEMENT**

As a followup to our previous newspaper notices published in October 2009, the Sri Lanka Medical Council states as follows :

Whereas the South Asian Institute of Technology and Management (SAITM) has claimed by way of newspaper advertisements etc. with regard to the Malabe Medical College that the programme will be closely monitored by the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC).

THE SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL WISHES TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT THERE IS NO LEGAL PROVISION UNDER THE MEDICAL ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 105) FOR THE SLMC TO MONITOR THE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME AT THE MALABE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF SAITM OR TO RECOGNISE THE DEGREE THAT MAY BE AWARDED AT THE END OF THAT PLANNED MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME.

Dr N.J. Nonis
Registrar,
Sri Lanka Medical Council,
On the directions of the Council
31, Norris Canal Road,
Colombo 10.

NOTICE

SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL

The method of determining the Rank Order of medical graduates **qualified in Sri Lanka** for appointment as Intern House Officers has been finalised.

In this context, it would be necessary to formulate a scheme for determining the merit position of **medical graduates qualified abroad**. The Council has formulated such a scheme at the request of the Ministry of Health taking into consideration. 1. Performance at the Examination for Registration to Practice Medicine (Act 16 exam) 2. Government Scholarships.

This would come into effect from 1st June 2006.

Registrar,
Sri Lanka Medical Council
31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.

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REGARDING MALABE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF THE SOUTH ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

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Sri Lanka Medical Council
31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.

24-03-2010

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වර්ෂ 2009 ඔක්තෝබර් මස පළකරන ලද ප්‍රචිත්තත් නිවේදනයෙන් අනතුරුව ශ්‍රී ලංකා වෛද්‍ය සභාව මෙසේ දන්වා සිටී.

දකුණු ආසියාතික තාක්ෂණ හා විද්‍යා හා කළමනාකරණ ආයතනය (SAITM) මගින් මාලබේ පිහිටුවා ඇති වෛද්‍ය විද්‍යාලය ශ්‍රී ලංකා වෛද්‍ය සභාව විසින් අධීක්ෂණය කරනු ලබන බවට ප්‍රචිත්තත්වල දැන්වීම් පළ කර ඇති හෙයින්,

ශ්‍රී ලංකා වෛද්‍ය සභාව, මහජනයා වෙත දැනුම් දෙනු ලබන්නේ වෛද්‍ය ආඥා පනත (105 පරිච්ඡේදය) අනුව මෙම සභාවට මාලබේ වෛද්‍ය විද්‍යාලයේ වෛද්‍ය අධ්‍යාපන වැඩසටහන අධීක්ෂණය කිරීමට හෝ ඉන් අනතුරුව ප්‍රදානය කරනු ලබන උපාධිය පිළිගැනීමට හෝ නෛතික විධිවිධාන නොමැති බවයි.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා වෛද්‍ය සභාවේ නියමය පරිදි,
වෛද්‍ය චන්.ජේ. තෝතිස්,
ලේඛකාධිකාරී.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා වෛද්‍ය සභාව,
31, නොර්ත් කැනල් පාර, කොළඹ 10.

Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy Russian Federation, Sri Lanka Campus

Vacancies for Consultants, Professors, Senior Lecturers and Lecturers

Qualifications and appointments on U.G.C. guidelines.

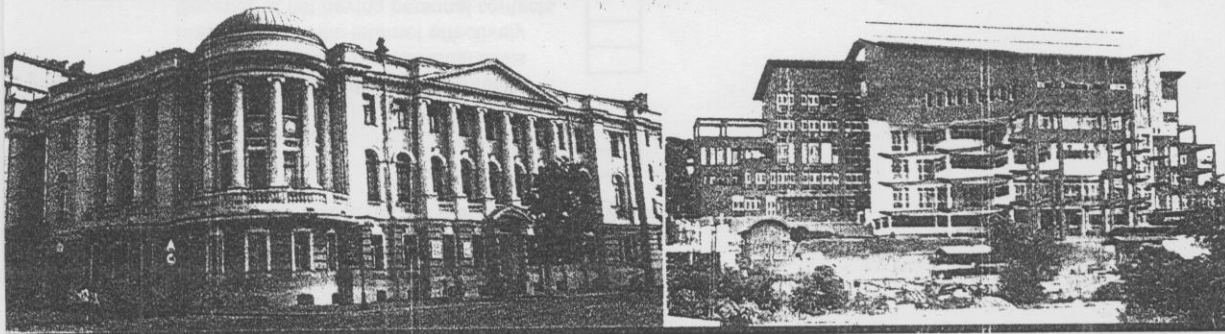
- Human Anatomy
- Physiology
- Pathological Anatomy
- Microbiology, Virology and Immunology
- Biochemistry
- Psychology & Medical psychology
- Medical Physics
- Community Medicine
- Assistant Coordinator & Computer Applications Assistant
- Biology and Ecology
- Nursing care
- Pharmacology
- Medicine
- General Surgery, Anesthesiology
- Pathological Physiology
- Physical training
- Russian language

Persons with good working knowledge in English, computer literate, and at least 1 year work experience in an office environment is required. A/L qualifications in science and other qualifications will be advantageous.

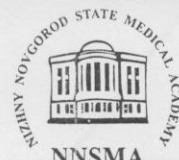
Please submit CV's with names of 2 referees and a recent photograph, on or before August 30, 2010 to the Registrar, P.O. Box 11, Malabe. The Management reserves the right interview short listed applicants.

- Our academy is approved by the Ministry of Public Health, Russian Federation.
- Those on Sabbatical Leave from Universities or who prefer to work during weekends are invited to apply.
- At the Sri Lankan Campus academic programs from Saturday to Thursday.
- At present after one year of existence we have 90 students.
- We have the cream of London and Cambridge students, International Baccalaureate and Sri Lankan A/L students who just failed by a few marks to enter State Universities.

Next Intake of Students is September 15th 2010. Interviews are now on for students with A/L's on U.G.C. guide lines.



Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy Sri Lanka Campus,
Millennium Drive, off New Kandy Road, Malabe.



INVESTMENT DEPARTMENT



BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA

World Trade Center
West Tower
Echelon Square
Colombo 1
Sri Lanka

Date: 09.08.2010
Our Ref:

Your Ref: EC/4/9823/08

Professor Lalitha Mendis
President SLMC
Sri Lanka Medical Council
31, Norris Canal Road,
Colombo 10

Dear Madam,

SOUTH ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT (PVT) LTD., (SAITEM)

I refer to your letter dated 29th July 2010 on the above subject and wish to respond to the questions raised therein as follows:

1. When was SAITM approved as a BOI project?

Dr. Neville Fernando Investment Company (Pvt) Ltd., was granted approval on 31st March 2008 to set up a Higher Education Institute to provide Training Programmes in the following areas with an envisaged investment of US\$. 5 Million.

- Information Technology
- Management and Finance
- Engineering
- Vocational Studies
- Nursing
- Languages
- Health Science

This approval was granted subject to the condition that the approval from Ministry of Health and Nutrition be obtained prior to providing training in Health Science.

Subsequently, on a request made by Dr. Neville Fernando, the company was granted approval to change the main investor as Dr. Neville Fernando instead of Dr. Neville Fernando Investment Company (Pvt) Ltd. SAITEM signed the Agreement with the BOI on 1st October 2008. At present the company is in operation.

...2

2. Did the application include a proposal to set up a medical school ?
No
3. Was the application submitted jointly with the Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy (NNSMA) of Russia to set up an off shore campus in Sri Lanka ?
No, as indicated above, this is a 100% locally owned venture.
4. Is there a separate BOI application by the NNSMA to set up an off shore campus in Sri Lanka ?
No
5. Was the SAITM application referred for scrutiny to an educational authority ? If so – which educational authority?
No

6. Has this authority replied ?
If so, is there any reference to a medical school in the reply ?
Not applicable.

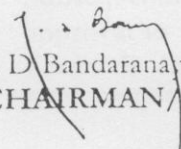
7. Please provide any other relevant information

Dr. Neville Fernando Investment Company (Pvt) Ltd., by their letter dated 21st May 2008 had informed the BOI that he had requested the Hon Minister of Health, President, Sri Lanka Medical Council and the Chairman, University Grant Commission to permit him to commence a private medical college and had forwarded the copies of the letters sent to them.

By letter dated 26th January 2009, Dr. Neville Fernando had informed that they had been able to affiliate with a prestigious University in Russia, namely, Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy to offer Doctor of Medicine (M.D) Degrees. Further, he had informed that the degree (M.D) had already been recognized by the SLMC and the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom and the World Health Organization.

Yours faithfully,

BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA


J. D. Bandaranayake

CHAIRMAN / DIRECTOR GENERAL

cc : Dr. Neville Fernando

Dr. Neville Fernando - M.B.B.S(Ceylon)
Tel : 2788341- Office,
2805120 - Residence,
2789933/4 - JF&I Printers Office

No.147/2, Senanayake Mawatha,
2nd Lane,
Nawala.

The President

Sri Lanka Medical Council

30 Norris Canal Road

Colombo. 8

Dear Sir

Approval to commence a private

Medical College in Malabe

Asian Institute of Technology and Management is a BOI approved project to set up a higher education institute on 3.5 acres of land and Malabe. Health science is one of the fields approved.

Recently I had a discussion with Hon Wishva Warnapala who revealed the fact that of the 210,000 who sit the "A" level exam 100,000 qualify to enter the University but for reasons of accommodation of all these students only 19,500 are selected for admission. This is a tragic situation not only for the student and his /her parents but also for the country to leave out intelligent students out of higher education. I know the desperate state of the parents who do their best to find places for their children in universities abroad.

This is so specialy in medicine. Children are sent to unheard of place all over the world to unknown places with extreme change of weather, culture, language and racial bias.

Some students return from Russia without having touched a single patient.

It is considering this sad fact and knowing that the government cannot increase the intake that I gave considerable thought this and put myself in the position of the student and his parents that I decided to commence a private medical college without any support by way of finance, facilities or other privileges.

I will invest Rs 500 million of my money without seeking a return on capital to minimize the cost to the students,



The fees charged by foreign Universities range from British Pounds 3500 per year or Sri lankan Rs7 million to Rs 20 million in Manipal and Bangladesh .Other countries other countries charge

less. In addition living costs, accommodation and expenses like airfare and the mental agony have to be added to this.

I will get the best Professors and lecturers not only from Sri Lanka but from UK and Australia.

Sri Lankans from the local universities will not be employed unless they on sabbatical leave

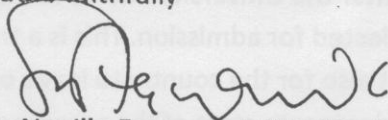
. will charge affordable fees and also construct a 400 bed non paying hospital . It will be the most modern hospital with five operating theatres, including heart surgery, brain surgery, orthopaedics and general surgery. There will be a psychiatric ward and all the other specialties

ICU's and emergency rooms will be available. A detailed list will be sent later.

I seek your assistance and cooperation to recognize our organization.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully



Dr.Neville Fernando MBBS(Cey)



479:8.1

To Council
J. C. Ste

Dr.H.H.R. Samarasingha. MD. FRCP

President

Sri Lanka Medical Council

Noris Canal Road

Colombo.8

DR. H.H.R. SAMARASINGHA
FRCP
SRI LANKA

Dear Dr Samarasinga

Thank you very much for meeting me with Prof Bulanov Vice chancellor Nizhny Novgorod State Academy of Medicine Russia and Prof Vladimir regarding the setting up of the Malabe campus of their University to award the degree of Doctor of Medicine. The duration of the course will be 5 years with 4 years being in Sri Lanka and final year in Russia.

The degree is already recognized by the SLMC and the GMC.

Since part of the course will be delivered in Sri Lanka I write to find out what conditions have to be met with.

We have already signed the MOU.

We will supply all the information that you need

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

Dr.Neville Fernando. MBBS (Ceylon)

President

16th Feb 2009

403/1, Hokandara Road, Hokandara South, Sri Lanka.
Tel: +(94) 115748442/3, e-mail : sneville@sltnet.lk

