

“WATER THAT FLOWS THROUGH OUR CULTURE”

By PROF. J.B. DISANAYAKA

46th lecture in the Monthly Lecture series of the National Trust- Sri Lanka will be held at the HNB Auditorium, 22nd Floor, HNB Towers, 479 T.B. Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10 at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday the 29th NOVEMBER 2012. The lecture will be simultaneously transmitted to the E.L. Senanayake Children’s Library Hall at Kotugodella, Kandy.



Desamanya J.B. Disanayake, Emeritus Professor of Sinhala occupies a prominent place among the Sinhala Scholars in contemporary Sri Lanka. He has had a major influence on Sinhala language and grammar and a significant effect on a range of other areas from culture to journalism, children’s literature and language technology.

He graduated in the field of Sinhala language and literature from the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya and received his MA in Linguistics from the University of California, Berkeley . His doctoral dissertation on “The Word in Modern Literary Sinhala” was submitted to the University of Colombo in 1980. He was instrumental in establishing the Department of linguistics in the University of Colombo.

Prof Disanayake has made a lasting contribution to advance the knowledge of Sinhala grammar , language and culture. He has published more than 100 books in Sinhala and English the latest being “Encyclopedia of Sinhala Language and Culture” which gives a comprehensive account of the history, structure and development of the Sinhala language. Some of his major works on Sinhala culture and folklore are “Aspects of Sinhala Folklore”(1984), “ Water in Culture: The Sri Lankan Heritage” (1992), “The Monk and the Peasant”(1993) and “Understanding the Sinhalese” (1998). In recent years Prof Disanayake has ventured into Sinhala Children’s literature including the series “Once upon a Time”

and “Wisdom of the Folk” that explains to children the wisdom of their forefathers as found in their proverbs.

The National Trust – Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures on the last Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and the public.

Further information could be obtained from the Trust Office at the Post Graduate Institute of Archaeology, 407, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7. Tel: 2682730,

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