

The Tea Plantation Workers Museum & Archive - "A Milestone in the History of the Tea Plantation Workers"

Institute of Social Development (ISD) as an organization working for the right issues of the tea plantation community intended to protect and preserve the artifacts, traditional dance, drama folklore, oral history and literature of the tea plantation workers. This project was initiated in 1997 and from that day on ISD has been able to collect valuable artifacts and information on traditional cultural practices. After many years of hard work ISD had the grand opening of the tea plantation workers museum and archive on the 15th of July 2007. This is the first museum and archive which was created for the tea plantation workers. Not only that, but this is the first time in history that a museum and archive has been created for the working community. The Ceremony was held at the Ramadorawatta, Paradeka, Pussellawa, Sri Lanka. His Excellency, the Ambassador of the Royal Embassy of Norway Mr. Hans Braxtor graced the occasion as the chief guest. Further, government ministers, university lecturers, trade union leaders, academics, intellectuals, journalists, planters, plantation workers and specially school children were present for this historical event. The following photograph is a small glimpse of the proceedings of the grand opening:



(Photograph 1: Opening of the tea plantation workers museum and archive by his Excellency, the Ambassador of the Royal Embassy of Norway Mr. Hans Braxtor)

Exhibits

The Tea Plantation Workers Museum & Archive - Sri Lanka

The exhibits at the museum include various artifacts, items used by the tea plantation workers at the earlier period and posters, banners rare books, articles, journals written about the lifestyle, folklore and work of the tea plantation workers at the earlier age. The following photographs are some of the exhibits which are displayed in the tea plantation workers museum and archive.



Urumi-Melam

Kind of drum used for folk dance during the festivals and other ceremonial events.



Grinding Stones

Grinding stones used in the earlier period



Sangu (Scorch)

This is used at religious festival



A collection of written documents on plantation industry, social life and history of the plantation community.

Directions to Reach the Tea Plantation Workers Museum & Archive

If you travel from Colombo, you should pass Gampola towards Nuwara Eliya (Known as little London) From Gampola travel till you reach the paradeka junction which is 10km from Gampola and turn right towards the New Peacock factory. From the factory you have to travel 2km to reach the Tea Plantation Workers Museum & Archive. If you are traveling from Nuwara Eliya, after coming to paradeka junction turn to the left.

Facilities

Adequate accommodation and parking facilities are also available. The idyllic climate and the beautiful surroundings would be perfect for students and research persons to carry out their work peacefully

Contact Details

Tea Plantation Worker Museum and Archive – Sri Lanka

Ramadoraiwatte.
Doragala Road,
Gampala, Doragala.
Sri Lanka.
Tel: 060 2849421

Kandy Office – Sri Lanka

Institute of Social Development
No. 37, Bodhiyangana Mawatha,
Kandy.
Sri Lanka.
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Donations & Contributions

We request the philanthropies, well-wishers and supporters to make contributions in order to sustain the museum by contributing financially or by any other relevant documents, artifacts,...etc. All cheques and drafts to be drawn in favour of “The Tea Plantation Workers Museum & Archive” and sent according to the following details:

Name of the account: Institute of Social Development

Account Number: 004100015341

Name of the bank: Nations Trust Bank

Address of the bank: 147, Kotugodella Veediya, Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Swift Code: NTBCLKLX

Bank Code: 7162

ISD would be delighted to warmly welcome anyone who is interested to visit & donate to the tea plantation workers museum and archive.