

Portuguese-speaking Communities in Sri Lanka

by

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The 42nd lecture in the Monthly Lecture series of the National Trust of 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 26th July 2012.

Portuguese-speaking communities in the Indian Ocean World are a reminder of the Lusitanian intervention in Asian trade. The contact language, Indo-Portuguese of Ceylon or Sri Lanka Portuguese Creole, was once an important lingua franca. Today it is endangered but, against all odds, it still survives. Indo-Portuguese plays an important role in the lives of people who have a tenuous link to Portugal. This lecture will focus on the Portuguese-speaking peoples of Sri Lanka whose roots are diverse but whose histories are entangled.

Dr Shihan de Silva Jayasuriya is a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (University of London), a member of the UNESCO International Scientific Committee (Paris) and an elected Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society (Great Britain & Ireland). She has a PhD (Linguistics), an MSc (Finance) and a BSc Honours (Economics) from the University of London. She is the author of eighty five peer-reviewed articles in international journals, and has also written eight books in the fields of Historical Linguistics, Ethnomusicology, Portuguese Studies, African Diaspora Studies and Ethnography. Among her publications are *'The Portuguese in the East: A Cultural History of a Maritime Trading Empire'* (I B Tauris, London) and *'African Identity in Asia: Cultural Effects of Forced Migration'* (Markus Wiener, New Jersey).