



THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA LECTURE ON
THURSDAY 30TH JANUARY 2020

“HEALING KNIFE”

By Dr. Gamini Goonetilleke

The 123rd Session of 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 6.30p.m. on Thursday 30th January 2020.

My lecture will be an emotional rollercoaster relating the personal and professional challenges faced by a surgeon in times of war and peace. My own personal struggles to adjust to life with next to –no comforts and learning to perform my duty with basic facilities and staff, the ups and down, joys, sorrows and pitfalls of being a surgeon in a rural area will be highlighted. Several missions of mercy to war torn Jaffna to treat soldiers injured in combat and also to the “Tiger land” to teach & examine medical students in Jaffna was nerve – wracking, but yielded much benefit. The horrors of the ethnic conflict and treating an array of war injuries, saving lives and limb will be described. The pain caused by personal struggles who tried to find solace in poison, the injuries caused by horrifying accidents and a surgeons attempt to bring about relief of their suffering will be brought to light.



Gamini Goonetilleke is a Senior Consultant Surgeon in Sri Lanka. He retired from the post of the Senior Consultant Surgeon at the Sri Jayewardenapura General Hospital and Clinical Professor in Surgery for the Faculty of Medicine, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Ratmalana, in October 2014. Gamini graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo in 1973 and had his postgraduate surgical training in UK, India, Japan and Israel. He has served his motherland as a Consultant Surgeon for 33 years, having worked at hospitals in Polonnaruwa, Gampaha and Sri Jayewardenapura. He has been an undergraduate and postgraduate teacher and examiner and trained over 200 Intern house officers and many postgraduate surgical trainees. Gamini has been a member of the Board of Study in Surgery of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, Colombo, a member of the council of The College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka for 14 years and it’s President in 2001. Gamini volunteered his services to the armed forces in both civil and military hospitals. The knowledge and experience in surgery gathered over a period of 33 years has been the subjects of many publications, lectures, and orations delivered locally and internationally. Gamini is the recipient of 13 medals awarded by the medical associations for his outstanding work in the field of surgery in Sri Lanka. He is the author of the book titled — IN THE LINE OF DUTY — the life and times of a surgeon in war & peace and the recipient of the Josephian award for Excellence in 1994.

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 at a nominal fee. The HNB Sustainability Foundation is the principal sponsor of the events of the National Trust – Sri Lanka.

Further information can be obtained from the Trust Office Tel 2682730 / 0778081214 at the Post Graduate Institute of Archaeology, 407 Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7. Members please bring your Membership Card, Invitation if available and provide vehicle no., if not given previously.