

## Report on Prof. Malcolm Adiseshiah Centenary Celebration\*

R. Maria Saleth  
Director, MIDS

The Centenary Celebration of Prof. Malcolm Adiseshiah Centenary was planned with the advice and inputs from a 14-member Centenary Celebration Committee, chaired by Prof. Radhakrishna. A detailed program with budget was worked out and got approved by the Committee. The program consists of four main elements: workshops/ seminars, a public lecture series, a set of publications, and the effort to release commemorative stamp for Prof. Malcolm Adiseshiah through the Department of Posts.

The core funding for the implementation of the program came from the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust. Additional funds were also obtained from NABARD, ICSSR, ISEC, Bangalore, IWMI-Tata Program, Hyderabad, and Dalit Intellectual Collectives, and MIDS Trust Members. During the year-long celebrations, the faculty, staff, and students have participated in various ways.

After the 2009 Founder’s Day Lecture on April 3, 2010, the centenary celebration was formally launched on May 4, 2009 by Prof. M. S. Swaminathan with his inaugural address: “Agrarian Crisis: The Way Ahead”. Following the launch function, 4 major events were organized at MIDS. The first one was the Workshop on the theme: “Financing for Rural Development”, which was held on May 4, 2010 with the funding support from NABARD. The second event was the Workshop on the theme: “Climatic Change, Vulnerability, and Livelihood Resilience”, which was organized during August 26-27, 2009 in collaboration with the IWMI-Tata Program. This Workshop was organized by Prof. S. Janakarajan and his team. The third event was the “Imaging Dalit Reality”, which was an Art Exhibition-cum-Film Festival dealing

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with the question of how dalit reality is portrayed in documentary films and paintings. This event covered three days during January 25-27, 2010. This event was organized by Dr. C. Lakshmanan in collaboration with the Dalit Intellectual Collective. The final event was the workshop: "Global Financial Crisis and Indian Economic Revival", which was held today and included the participation of some of the key policy-makers and experts on the subject.

Besides these events, MIDS has also hosted several seminars and workshops, including the Workshop on: "Feminist Research Methodology" co-organized by Prof. Padmini Swaminathan and Dr. S. Anandhi with the funding support from the Indian Association of Women Studies.

As to the Public Lecture Series, seven Malcolm Adiseshiah Centenary Public Lectures were delivered both at MIDS as well as in other institutions such as Annamalai University, Kandasamy Kandar College, Madras Christian College, and Stella Maris College. These lectures were delivered by Prof. Kaliappa Kalirajan, Australian National University, Canberra; Prof. Ramasamy Iyer, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi; Prof. S. Neelakantan, Former Director, MIDS; and four of MIDS Faculty, Prof. A. R. Venkatachalapathy, Dr. L. Venkatachalam, and Dr. M. Vijayabaskar, and myself. The Public Lecture Series was coordinated by Dr. M. Vijayabaskar and Dr. Ajit Menon.

As to the publications, a double-numbered special issue of *Review of Development and Change* on the theme: "Cultural Encounters at Tranquebar: Past and Present" was published and dedicated to the memory of Prof. Malcolm Adiseshiah. Three other publications are also to be published shortly. They are the Tamil version of Prof. Guhan's monograph on: "Cauvery Water Dispute" being prepared by Prof. Venkatachalapathy and Prof. Janakarajan, a Tamil monograph on water management prepared by Dr. Sivasubramanian, and the book: "Remembering Prof. Malcolm Adiseshiah", which includes an updated bio-sketch of Prof. Adiseshiah and the reminiscences of many people associated with him during his career.

Besides the books and monographs, there were also notable write-ups on Prof. Malcolm Adiseshiah appeared in popular magazines *Theeranadhi* and *Kalvi Today*. A paper on Prof. Adiseshiah was published by Prof. Neelakantan in *Theeranadhi*. Similarly, Mr. Arivazhagan has a paper published in Tamil in the magazine *Kalvi Today*.

On the issue of commemorative stamp, a formal application with all the required details has already been submitted to the Philatelic Division within the Department of Posts. We have also received reply indicating that the application for the issue of commemorative stamp will be considered by the Philatelic Committee in its next meeting. We expect that the commemorative stamp will be issued this year.

I am also happy to report that thanks to the efforts of Prof. Ramgopal and his colleagues, the Annamalai University has declared the birthday of Prof. Adiseshiah as the 'Social Sciences and Humanities Day'. Prof. Neelakantan and me have the opportunity of attending the most well organized first 'Social Science and Humanities Day' function at Annamal Univerity on April 16, 2010. Following this declaration, I have written to all the Vice-Chancellors of the Universities in Tamil Nadu to make a similar declaration. Notably, among them, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras has responded positively. The University has celebrated the Social Science Day on April 19, 2010. I am sure Prof. Rajalakshmi, Head, Department of Economics, University of Madras will inform more on this and other activities that the University has undertaken to celebrate the Centenary of Prof. Adiseshiah.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to express thanks to a number of organizations and persons.

- First of all, the several elements of the centenary celebration would not have been a success, as it is, without the advice and direction provided by the members of the Centenary Celebration Committee. I thank all the members.
- Secondly, I like to thank the faculty, staff, and students for their active support and cooperation in making various events of the centenary celebration more effective and successful.
- Thirdly, I like to thank the University of Madras, especially its Vice-Chancellor Dr. Col. G. Thiruvassagam, Prof. Rajalakshmi, Head, Department of Economics, Prof. Duraisami, Head, Department of Econometrics in collaborating with us during the entire year.
- Fourthly, but importantly, I thank the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust for the generous financial support without which the centenary celebration would not have been possible. In particular, I thank Prof. C.T. Kurien, Chairman and Dr. H.B.N. Shetty, Executive Trustee of M&EA Trust for their advice and support.
- Fifthly, I also like to thank ICSSR; NABARD; ISEC, Bangalore; IWMI-Tata Program, and Dalit Intellectual Collectives for additional funding support.
- Finally, I also like to express my gratitude to Prof. Radhakrishna, Chairperson, MIDS, for his advice and guidance throughout the year and beyond.