

## KUSHIL GUNASEKERA

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### Personal Profile

Kushil is a results-driven visionary who effects sustainable development. His integrity, dependability and generosity creates hope and trust in individuals and teams. Whilst financially astute, he trusts his entrepreneurial instinct. Persistent, extremely organised and with a meticulous attention to detail (in both planning and implementation), he remains flexible. Successful entrepreneur, relief worker or ambassador for peace and reconciliation, Kushil is dedicated to working for humanity while inculcating the spirit of goodness for a better world.

### Most Difficult Assignment: "The Ocean is coming".

The 2004 tsunami consolidated Gunasekera's integrity and managerial expertise. He rapidly galvanized a community of villagers and volunteers committed to social service. Within three years, his *Foundation of Goodness* had taken a village from near annihilation to vibrant growth: Medical, educational, vocational and recreational facilities were provided to over 20,000 across 25 villages. The Foundation is now expanding its widely extolled holistic model for rural empowerment, whose seeds were planted long before the tsunami, to other parts of the country.

### Key Achievements

- Outstanding professional record, e.g. no. 1 market leader for Nissan vehicle sales in Sri Lanka and the attainment of no.1 supplier of Rice & Sugar under his able leadership.
- Tournament Secretary for inaugural under-19 Cricket World Cup in Sri Lanka (2000). International Cricket Council (ICC) acknowledged his man and event management as "outstanding. . . surpassing all expectations. . . and a showcase to the world".
- Secretary of the Governing Body for Cricket in Sri Lanka & Chairman of the Sri Lanka Cricket Board Tour Organising Committee for several years.
- Manager, for almost a decade, of World-Record holding cricketer Muttiah Muralidaran.
- President of a scholarship fund for 500 children of diseased soldiers.
- Established the Foundation of Goodness, a Sri Lankan NGO, in 1999.
- Donated the remains of his home to be used as a Relief Coordinating Secretariat- which later evolved into the MCC Centre of Excellence and associated Sports Academy.
- Established partnerships with internationally acclaimed philanthropic bodies and individuals, e.g. USAID, AusAID, KPMG, MCC and Steve Waugh.
- Coordinating a well-established and rewarding international volunteer program maximising the participation of all ages, interests and levels of commitment.
- Facilitating the construction of over 1,000 homes for Tsunami affected families including 4 housing complexes containing essential modern amenities.
- Masterminding the utilisation of the USAid grant for the reconstruction and upgrading of several remote schools across Southern Province, Sri Lanka.
- The inspiration and realisation of numerous entrepreneurial ventures such as a Diving School, Brush Factory, Women's Enterprise and International Sports Academy.
- Mentoring of the visionary Children's Goodness Club initiative.
- Arranging the sponsorship for 1000 poverty struck children, mediated through Rotary in support of the "Sevana Sarana, Foster Parents Programme"- an initiative of former President HE. R. Premadasa.

## The Future

By realising the Foundation of Goodness' goal of rural empowerment through replicating the Village Heartbeat Project (VHP) across the Island- and indeed throughout the developing world- the Foundation of Goodness will exemplify an NGO whose holistic vision complements and enhances the UN's developmental goals in a comprehensively human-kind manner. Through visionary educational programmes, nurturing citizens fulfilled within and fit to effect national and global peace and prosperity the divide between urban and rural can be bridged for a better future.

## Principal Awards & Felicitations

- 2009** Discovery Chanel Asia features the Foundation of Goodness as a story of success in a documentary to mark the 5-year anniversary of the tsunami.
- 2009** [Surviving the Tsunami: Stories of Hope](http://tsunami.trust.org) (<http://tsunami.trust.org>) Red Cross/ Reuters film and associated website documents Kushil's story as part of a 5-year tsunami anniversary feature that charts five people's work to rebuild their communities
- 2009** RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia highlights the Foundation of Goodness as the best post-tsunami developmental project examined to date.
- 2009** Anthony Bourdain's US show applauds the Foundation of Goodness for its unparalleled achievements regarding Tsunami relief, urban empowerment and infra-structure development.
- 2008** Robert Blake (US Ambassador to Sri Lanka & Maldives) proudly highlights the Foundation's exemplary management and operation of a rural community model in collaboration with USAID.
- 2008** Mike Brearley (Marylebone Cricket Club President) applauds the sterling work of the MCC Centre of Excellence- and associated sports complex- in rebuilding people's lives.
- 2005** Invited to Buckingham Palace to both advise on emergency relief work and receive a post-tsunami donation from The Royal Household.
- 1993** Received "Ten Outstanding Young Persons (TOYP) Award" from Jaycees International Award for Voluntary Humanitarian Service.

### Rotary International Awards (District 3220):

- 2005** The Rotary Centennial Service Award for Professional Excellence.
- 1991-1993** Best Director, Community Service Award.
- 1990, 1991** Best Club President Award.

## Conferences Attended and Publications

- 2009** Pathways to Reconciliation Summit, Key Note speaker, (Jordan).
- 2008** International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability, Key Note Speaker (Chennai).
- 2006** Commonwealth Games Sports Federation, Session Speaker, (Scotland).
- 2006** USAid, US State Department Visitor Leadership Programme on Disaster Management (Pentagon, USA).

**Gunasekera K & Tennekoon D, et al (2009)** Lahiru Guna Ras, (Rays of Goodness)(Sinhala), FoG, Colombo.

**Gunasekara K et al (2008)** Work Done with the Waves of Compassion, FoG, Colombo.

**Gunasekera K, Lowey G et al (2008)** The Village Heartbeat, FoG, Colombo.

**Gunasekara K (2008)** Village in the Wake of a Wave, International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability (IJECESS).

**Chaves WV & Gunasekara K (2008)** Fostering Compassionate Alliances for the Betterment of Humanity, IJECESS.

**Gunasekera K & Patmore L (2007)** The Foundation of Goodness, FoG, Colombo.

### **Broader Concerns and Interests**

- ❖ **Devout Buddhist committed to compassion & the art of living demonstrating goodness.**
- ❖ **Accomplished sportsman: 1<sup>st</sup> Class cricketer & Captain of Hockey at a Premier school.**
- ❖ **Living life to love and loving life to live.**