



Associate Parliamentary Limb Loss Group

for the Promotion of the Prevention of Limb Loss and of the Provision of Prosthetic, Orthotic, Wheelchair/Special Seating, Medical and other vital Rehabilitation Services to persons of all ages suffering Limb Loss and associated Complex Physical Disabilities in the United Kingdom and Internationally

SRI LANKA SCHOOL OF PROSTHETICS & ORTHOTICS CELEBRATES 4TH GRADUATION

On 8th July 2011 the Sri Lanka School of Prosthetics and Orthotics 'SLSPO' held its fourth graduation ceremony. Eleven students from all areas of the country graduated from

SLSPO's Category II training

course, qualifying as

Prosthetist/Orthotists;

specialists who prescribe and

fit prostheses (artificial limbs)

and orthoses (braces).



The eleven students, including

6 women received their graduation certificates from the Sri Lanka Minister of Health, The Hon. Maithripala Sirisena, at a ceremony at the Sasakawa Memorial Hall in Colombo.

SLSPO is a partnership programme of 3 partners – The Ministry of Health, The Nippon Foundation (Japan) and The Cambodia Trust (UK).



“This graduation is very significant for the future of persons with disabilities in Sri Lanka” explains **Dr Mary Scott**, SLSPO Director. ***“SLSPO is ensuring that Sri Lankan***

specialists from all communities on the island have the skills needed to provide professional prosthetics and orthotics services.”

“This graduation ceremony is of particular significance for the Ministry of Health, as for the first time in 2011, the profession of Prosthetist/Orthotist is recognised by the government of Sri Lanka and this group of graduates will be the first to receive certificates issued by the Ministry of Health” stated **Dr. Indrasiri** Deputy Director General (Education, Training and Research) Ministry of Health. Adding ***“Previous graduates from SLSPo are already working in prosthetics and orthotics centres and hospitals across Sri Lanka including the new centre opened by the Ministry of Health in Vavuniya Hospital in 2010. The Ministry of Health is planning to extend prosthetics and orthotics services to Trincomalee Hospital in July 2011.”***

Students Senthuran and Kugan experience what it's like to be an amputee

Students have a variety of learning techniques, and a major part of the course is learning what it's like to be a patient - here two students are shown with pseudo-knee disarticulations.





Student Mahesha at work in the casting room

Students learn how to make various different orthotic and prosthetic devices. Pictured is Mahesha rectifying the shape of a KAFO (Knee Ankle Foot Orthosis)

To find out more about the Sri Lanka School of Prosthetics and Orthotics or for more information, please contact Dr Mary Scott, Director at Sri Lanka School of Prosthetics and Orthotics, P.O. Box 37, Ragama, Sri Lanka. **Tel:** +94 -11 296 0686 **Fax:** +94 -11 296 0687 or **E-mail:** mary@slspo.com **Websites:** www.slspo.com /www.cambodiatrust.org.uk

Notes for editors:

- SLSPO was established in 2004 by UK NGO **The Cambodia Trust** in partnership with **The Nippon Foundation of Japan** (the project's funder) and the **Sri Lanka Ministry of Health**. The project was set up in response to an urgent need to train local specialists to prescribe and fit prostheses (artificial limbs) and orthoses (braces) for people with disabilities - including people disabled by landmines, UXO, the tsunami, disease and traffic accidents.
- In Sri Lanka there are tens of thousands of people with disabilities who need prostheses (artificial limbs) and orthoses (braces) including many victims of conflict and the tsunami. Sri Lanka needs a minimum of 115 Prosthetist - Orthotists to meet the needs of the disabled population. SLSPO is addressing these needs by training Sri Lankan professionals.
- **The Cambodia Trust** is a UK Registered Charity established in Oxford, UK in 1989. In Cambodia, the *Trust* runs rehabilitation centres, community-based rehabilitation projects and the *Cambodian School of Prosthetics & Orthotics* (CSPO). The Trust also runs prosthetics and orthotics training centres in Jakarta, Indonesia (JSPO) and Manila, The Philippines (PSPO).
- **The Cambodia Trust's** mission is to **enable** disadvantaged disabled people to **participate** in the normal life of the community. The Trust aims to **empower** disabled people so they can **break** the cycle of poverty and live **self-sufficient** lives, with **equal** access to education and employment opportunities. It does this through rehabilitation, advocacy, capacity building, training and community-based rehabilitation.

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