

## Malaysia Proposes a New ILO Leader for Inclusive Recovery, Sustained Progress

Malaysia proposes Dr Jomo Kwame Sundaram for the position of ILO Director General. The candidate has made 3 commitments:

- 1) To broaden and deepen acceptance and *realization of ILO norms.*
- 2) To improve ILO *accountability, morale and performance.*
- 3) To draw on the ILO's unique strengths to provide international leadership to address relevant *contemporary challenges* on the basis of a *new social compact*, most urgently, to ensure a strong, sustained and inclusive *global economic recovery.*

His responsibilities at the United Nations over the last seven years as well as his earlier experience as an academic, analyst, consultant, civic leader, and adviser to governments, trade unions and business organizations, have prepared him well for the challenging responsibilities of leading the ILO in these difficult times. With his experience, he can effectively lead the ILO's combination of advocacy, analytical and operational work.

The ILO has a unique historic role to play in engaging key stakeholders in a common effort to articulate, visualize, coordinate and realize a new global social compact as the basis for rapid, sustained and inclusive progress.

## Who is Jomo Kwame Sundaram?

Since January 2005, Jomo has been Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

In recent years, he has led in all three areas of the Department's work, namely policy analysis, substantive support for the intergovernmental processes – for normative consensus building – as well as technical cooperation for capacity development.

He also served on the [Stiglitz] Commission of Experts of the President of the UN General Assembly on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System during 2008-2009.

As G20 'sherpa' to the UN Secretary-General and G20 'Finance Deputy' for the UN, Jomo has worked to forge international consensus for an inclusive, sustained and job-rich economic recovery.

Jomo is the first incumbent in his senior UN position, especially created to enhance the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which is responsible for four-fifths of the UN's New York Secretariat publications.

Since December 2006, he has also been (Honorary) Research Coordinator for the G24 Intergovernmental Group on International Monetary Affairs and Development.

Together with the Bank of International Settlements, the UN and the G24 have been acknowledged as the only

international organizations that warned of the impending 2008-09 crisis.

He has addressed the International Labour Conference, ministerial meetings of UNCTAD, most UN Regional Commissions, and most UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies, the UN General and Economic and Social Council, as well as the World Economic Forum (Davos), Global Policy Forum (Yaroslavl), World Public Forum (Rhodes), World Social Forum (Porto Alegre, Mumbai) as well as many academic, business and civil society conferences.

He was Founder Chair (2001-2004) of International Development Economics Associates, and has also served on the Board of the United Nations Research Institute on Social Development, Geneva, since 2002, as well as the executive committees of other international professional associations.

In Malaysia, Jomo was a member of the National Economic Consultative Council during 1989-1991. He developed innovative proposals for a new Malaysian social contract as the basis for accelerated economic, social and political modernization and nation-building based on Malaysia's unique multicultural heritage. He has long strived for tripartite consultations to strengthen collaboration in policymaking.

Jomo was also Founding Director of the independent Institute of Social Analysis (INSAN) (1978-2004), founding editor of the monthly bilingual magazine, *Nadi Insan* (Human Pulse) (1979-83) and of the journal, *Ilmu Masyarakat* (Social Knowledge) (1983-96), President of the Malaysian Social Science Association (1996-2000) and convened the first and second

International Malaysian Studies Conventions (1997, 1999).

Jomo has authored or edited over a hundred books and translated a dozen volumes besides writing many academic papers and media articles. His extensive writings have covered development economics, political economy, macroeconomic policy, labour economics, international economics, industrial policy, corruption, economic distribution, ethnic relations and economic history.

Internationally, he has pioneered analytical research on affirmative action, rent-seeking, and developmental governance, besides leading policy advocacy for a strong and sustained job-rich recovery. In 2007, he was awarded the Wassily Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought.

After graduating *cum laude* from Yale, majoring in economics, in 1973, he received his MPA from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard in 1974 and his PhD from Harvard in 1978.

He has taught at Harvard, Yale and Cornell as well as three Malaysian universities as well as. He has also been a Visiting Fellow at Cambridge and at the National University of Singapore.

Born in colonial Malaya to a multicultural family, he was named after two African anti-colonial leaders, Jomo Kenyatta and Kwame Nkrumah. Besides Malay and English, he has learnt some Indonesian, Tamil, Mandarin, Hokkien, Teochew, Russian, French and Spanish.