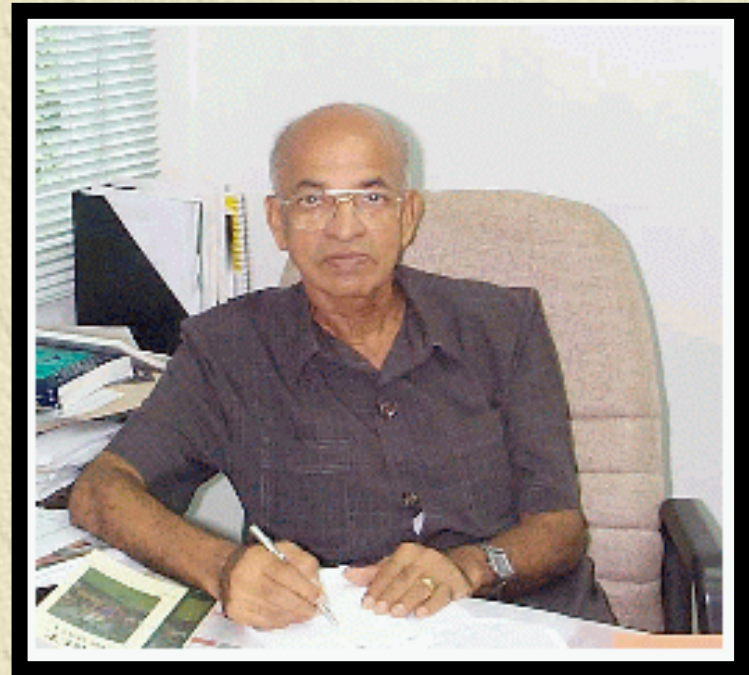


In Memory...

IR. K. KUMARASIVAM
1932 - 2003



Background...

- ✦ Degree in Civil Engineering from University of Adelaide
- ✦ He had a career span of 45 years
- ✦ Awarded the Langkawi Award in 1997
- ✦ Awarded the Fuk Ying Tung Award from China for contributions towards the environment in 2001

Langkawi Award 1997

Consultant Kumarasivam wins Langkawi Award

PENANG, Mon. — K. Kumarasivam, the deputy chairman of KTA Tenaga Sdn Bhd is the winner of the Langkawi Award 1997, held in conjunction with the Malaysia Environmental Week.

Kumarasivam, 65, received a plaque and RM10,000 cash for the award from Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Heng Ding at the Shangri-La Hotel tonight. There was no winner last year.

The Langkawi Award is only awarded to those who have contributed to past and present environmental needs of the country.

Kumarasivam, 65, is involved in a host of environment-related activities since he made the decision to start a consultancy firm against the advice of his family and close friends in 1965.

Today, his company employs 238 engineers and 593 support staff.

His citation stated that he had worked quietly to promote environmental projects and awareness.

He founded, and continues to be the president of, the Environmental Management and Research Association of Malaysia, a non-profit organisation for those interested in environmental management and research. He also founded the Centre for Environment Technologies, another non-profit organisation promoting research and development.



KUMARASIVAM
... RM1million in donations

One of the highlights of Kumarasivam's contribution to the environmental need was his excellent record of financial support to environment-related activities.

He has contributed, over the past decade, more than RM1 million in cash to various organisations.

A company in which Kumarasivam is a director recently donated a six-hectare property to the Environmental Management and Research Association of Malaysia in one Kuala Lumpur's industrial suburbs.

His hope is that one day this land will be the site of an environmental technology centre, handling a variety of R&D related activities.

Kumarasivam also holds office in many environmental committees and groups.

The RM1million environmentalist

Civil engineer K. Kumarasivam hit the headlines recently when he won this year's Langkawi Award. Up to this point, no one knew anything about the man. Sharon Kam finds out a little more about the man who has contributed close to RM 1 million for the cause of the environment.

Civil engineer K. Kumarasivam may seem like a quiet, unassuming man but the fact that he won this year's Langkawi Award shows that he is a man who believes that action speaks louder than words.

The award is given to individuals for their significant contributions towards environmental awareness and education. Previous recipients included Tan Sri Khir Johari and Gurnit Singh of the Environmental Protection Society of Malaysia.

Kumarasivam's action comes in the form of his work. He says he is a "brown" rather than a "green" environmentalist, i.e. his focus of interest is in the appropriate management of waste.

That concern for the environment led him to set up two organisations which over a period of time left an impact on creating awareness on the importance of sustainable development.

Kumarasivam founded the Environmental Management and Research Association of Malaysia (Ensearch) in 1984, a professional organisation which helps chart environmental policies and the Centre for Environmental Technology (Cotec) in 1992, a non-profit environmental research and development body which provides free services to both the public and private sectors.

For over a decade, his contributions to creating awareness for the environment and

in the sum put out to see up the two organisations came up to about RM 1 million.

It is a very large sum for a single individual to come up with for any cause, which, in his case, is the cause of environment.

The Langkawi Award is thus a fitting recognition for all his work, effort and money put out to enhance environment consciousness.

Kumarasivam feels greatly honoured for being given the award but adds quickly that it was not his efforts alone and the award should be shared by his fellow colleagues in the organisations.

He considers the setting up of these two organisations his greatest achievements and source of immense satisfaction. In the past, he has also headed mega environment-related projects involving waste water and sewerage treatment facilities, sewerage systems for townships and industrial areas.

Kumarasivam is not only recognised for his voluntary contributions but also for his work. He is a civil engineer by profession and right now he is also the deputy chairman of the third largest engineering consulting firm in the country, the KTA Tenaga.

His interest in the environment conservation is thus matched with expert skills. He feels that through these two organisations he founded, he could give more in terms of service to the community and industries and in

upgrading the standards of professionals.

"I enjoy doing this as a service to the community, educating and building all levels of professionals in the field of environment which is an essential tool for a country," says Kumarasivam.

His motivation is that he wants to develop something to give back to the community, and to leave behind something so that others can build upon it.

"Our part is to do whatever we can and let somebody else come and continue the work we have done. Whether it is engineering practice or an organisation, I hope that successive generations will continue to build upon it," says the 65-year-old environmentalist.

Ensearch started when he was approached by an international association for water quality to form a national chapter on water pollution control in the early 80s. During meetings with interested parties on the chapter, all agreed that the organisation should not just limit itself to water but cover all aspects of environment.

Before setting up Ensearch in 1984, he was an active Rotary Club member.

With Ensearch he found a niche in upholding environmental concerns especially in waste management.

Ensearch is at the moment embarking on setting up an environmental data bank to help professionals and researchers to get information in a properly structured format.

After all these years of service, Kumarasivam says there still is much to be done and that he would not stop serving and working with these two organisations.

Although active in the field of environment awareness, Kumarasivam is really a quiet man, but it is a quiet



Kumarasivam with his wife, Lim and a friend who visited them a few years ago.

ness which belies a strong independent spirit.

"If anyone were to tell him that something is impossible, he will take it as a challenge and prove that it is possible."

"After all, life is a continuous challenge. If one sets his mind to it, anything is possible."

He started his own engineering firm in 1965 in a small office at Jalan Imbi. Now he owns the building where his office is in Damansara Heights.

He holds a Masters in Highway Engineering from Australia and worked with a water and sewerage consultant firm in Australia for three years before he returned to Malaysia in 1962.

Being a civil engineer, he believes that in this age and time any development must integrate the environmental dimension.

"Whatever system one develops must incorporate environmental considerations in order to have sustainable development. In the past it was just commercial consid-

erations. "As the quality of life gets better, the demand for better environmental requirements and surroundings will also increase."

On environmental awareness among the general public, he says although there is greater awareness now but "at the same time there is a lot of lip service going on," says Kumarasivam who comes from Klang.

"A lot of people talk about it and Malaysians are aware of it but when it comes to action, it is more of a case of the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. They always have an excuse, either they are too busy or they do not have time or no money."

Kumarasivam is married to former office worker 55-year-old Lim Cheng Lian, they were married in 1986.

She supports and shares her husband's concern for the environment and usually follows him wherever and whenever he has to attend meetings or conferences locally and abroad, which he says is taking up most of his

time. He keeps a busy schedule attending environmental conferences and seminars, as participant or speaker.

His consuming interest in environment aside, he likes gardening - to relax the mind - but even that is not very frequent nowadays because of his many activities and travelling.

His two brothers and sisters are all living overseas and he has no intention to follow suit as after all the travels abroad, he still thinks Malaysia is the best place to live in.

"It is a place one can live at whatever level you want to live. I can go to Shangri-La or to a hawker for lunch, it is up to me."

He is due to retire at the end of the year from the firm but he believes in keeping the mind occupied and a person must try not to stagnate or he will just decay, as he puts it.

"I may retire from practice and may slow down in my activities but I will not completely stop," he says.

...NST 21 October 1997

...NST 21 October 1997



ACHIEVEMENTS

Formed KTA Tenaga Sdn Bhd in 1965



With wife Mary and other long service staff of KTA Tenaga

KTA Tenaga Sdn Bhd 30th Anniversary dinner



*Ir A Rajaratnam, Dato Ir. Lee Yee Cheong, Mr Siah Kwee Mow,
Guest of honour YB Datuk Leo Moggie, Ir K Kumarasivam.*

Initiated the formation of ENSEARCH in 1984



...with Mr. Peter Ho at Ensearch's 9th AGM 1993



With Prof Mohd Nordin Hassan and KK Aw
at Ensearch year end gathering 2002



With Ensearch Council Members 2002/2003

Helped set up CETEC in 1992



CETEC Board of Directors

Started the “Better Environment Award” now known as the Prime Minister’s Hibiscus Award



With Y.Bhg Dato' Seri Law Hieng Ding at the launching of the PMHA in 1996



POLMET 2000



Welcoming the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohammed

**...On stage with the
PM and other
dignitaries**



**.....Touring the
Exhibition with the
PM**



Delivering his speech



Presenting the Memento to the PM

Friends and family have quoted him as...



... *Inspirational*

... *Visionary*

... *Dynamic*

... *Creative*

... *Committed*

... *Dedicated*

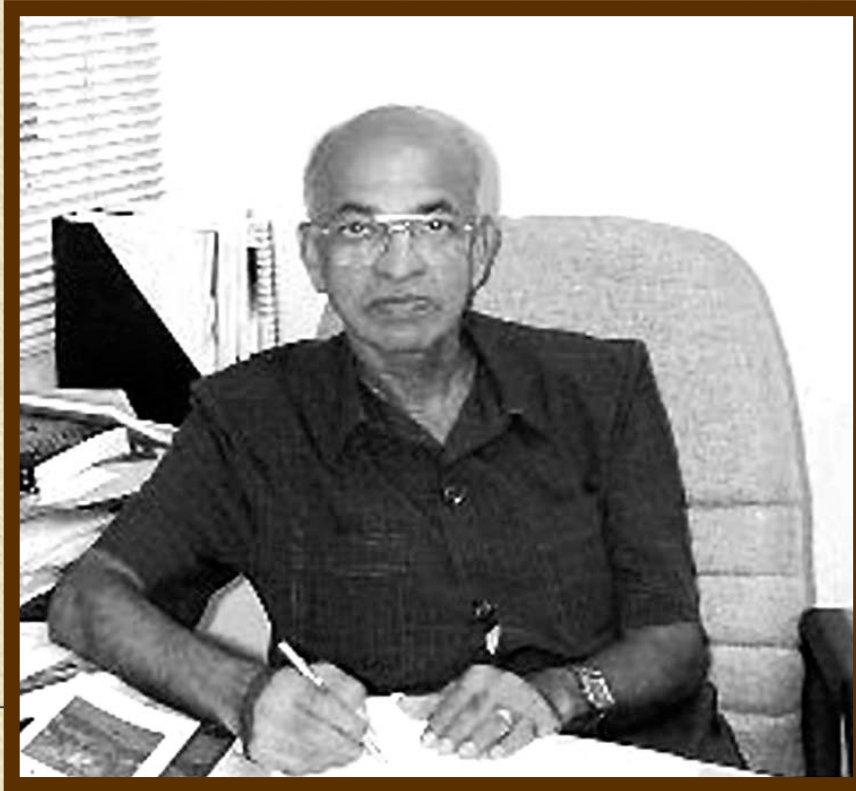


IR. K. Kumarasivam

We thank him for all the contributions and efforts towards conservation of the environment.

At **ENSEARCH** we shall endeavour to carry on Ir. K. Kumarasivam's dedication and commitment.

His departure is a great loss to the environmental communities and civil society ...



IR. K. KUMARASIVAM
1932 – 2003

Below the name and dates, there is a horizontal dashed line with small squares at the ends.