

27. 09. 2017.

Dear President/Secretary

INVITATION

The Jaffna College Board of Directors invites each Alumni Association to be represented at our College to celebrate an important anniversary date in our College's history.

I apologise for the short notice. Our Board and the College has had a very full year. So it was only recently that we noticed that the 9th November 2017 is the 150th anniversary of the public meeting on 9th November 1867 that founded Jaffna College.

The Board of Directors is committed to inaugurate Founders Day to commemorate the historic decision of Jaffna Tamils to establish a new College. Jaffna College proudly became 'the first College in the Mission field started by the people themselves'.¹ That first public meeting elected a Committee of five Tamil men to raise funds for the College 'and to attend to other preliminary arrangements for the establishment of the College'.²

In the spirit of this great day in our history, the Board wishes to sponsor a Conference at Jaffna College to involve Alumni in considering how to:

1. Establish an international umbrella body for Jaffna College Alumni.
2. Set up a Jaffna College Endowment Fund to raise funds for the College.

I ask the Alumni Associations to send up to three delegates each for this two-day gathering on 9th and 10th November 2017. College accommodation and meals will be provided. We are able to accommodate ten Alumni at the College on a first-come basis. Please notify your members of this historic opportunity to remember our founding fathers.

Please let me know (solomon3111962@gmail.com) as soon as you are able the names and contact details of representatives you are able to send. I am pleased to tell you that we have opened an Alumni Relations Office at the College with the generous support of the Colombo Alumni. I will arrange for the Alumni Relations Officer, Mr. Rajendra Ramesh to be in touch with those visiting with us to provide further details.

I have attached a draft program for your information. I will send further details shortly.

I look forward to hearing from you.

¹ J. Chelliah, *A Century of English Education: the story of Batticotta Seminary and Jaffna College*. Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai. 1984 (reprinted), p.61.

²Chelliah, *A Century of English Education*. P.62

Yours sincerely,
D.S.Solomon.
Principal,
Jaffnacollege,
Vaddukoddai.

DRAFT PROGRAM
FOUNDERS DAY COMMEMORATION AND ALUMNI
CONFERENCE

Jaffna College
9 – 10 November 2017

Thursday 9 November

8.00 a.m. School assembly welcome to alumni visitors
(Speeches by Principal and senior students. Choir
and College song)

9.00 a.m. Founders Day Service of Thanksgiving at
Vaddukodai Cathedral

10.00 a.m. Morning tea

11.00 a.m. Greetings and alumni associations' reports.

12.30 p.m. Lunch: Bunker Hall

2.00 p.m. College tour highlighting infrastructure and
educational needs

3.30 p.m. Afternoon tea

4.00 p.m. Workshop: what would be the purposes and
structure of a JC Alumni International Association?

7.00 p.m. Founders Day Dinner with a guest speaker

Friday 10 November

Friday 10 November

- 9.00 a.m. Presentation by the Board of Directors:
'Meeting the challenge of our educational mission in Sri Lanka's post-war environment: a conversation.'
- 10.30 a.m. Morning tea
- 11.00 a.m. Workshop: steps needed to set up a Jaffna College Endowment Fund
- 12.30 p.m. Lunch
- 2.00 p.m. Official opening of the Alumni Relations Office
- 2.30 p.m. Tamil Cultural Performance: JC students
- 3.30 p.m. Afternoon tea
- 4.00 p.m. International Remembrance Eve Service:
remembering Jaffna College colleagues, families and communities who died or disappeared during the war.
- 5.00 p.m. Close