

## Similarities between Singapore and Lanka

### BUSINESS

PAGE- 54



Yeo Kay Boon, Regional Director of Genovate Holdings (L) at the launch with J. Anton Ravindran, Genovate's CEO and founder.  
*Pic: by Roland Perera*

Singapore's High Commissioner in Sri Lanka Tan Kah Hoe emphasised that Singapore and Sri Lanka are similar in many ways and both countries could work together in the IT field.

He was addressing the launch of Genovate Sri Lanka, an e-services company.

"Singapore is a small country like Sri Lanka. In fact, Sri Lanka is bigger both in land mass and population. Sri Lanka is at the hub of South Asia while Singapore is at the hub of South East Asia, another similar aspect. In Singapore, every two students has a computer and 80 per cent of the population have computers," said the High Commissioner, who was the special guest at the launch.

IT training in Sri Lanka entered a new paradigm with the launch of Genovate Sri Lanka, the latest international operation of the Singapore-headquartered software, e-services and value-added IT training company Genovate Solutions Pte Ltd.

Genovate provides software solutions, consulting, product development and value-added academic programmes and quality IT training services to the region.

"We are fully committed to developing IT education in Sri Lanka and intend expanding our services to at least three more cities (other than Colombo) within the next 12 months. The Lankan economy has reported a turnaround for 2003, recording a 5.5 per cent growth in the first quarter of the year. It is well positioned to maintain the growth target for the year. The widespread diffusion of technological skills is mandatory for such growth to continue," said Anton Ravindran, Genovate's Founder and CEO, who is of Sri Lankan origin. "IT education in Sri Lanka is expected to grow at a phenomenal rate with many Government programmes including the e-Sri Lanka initiative and IT schools being set up at district level," said Founder and CEO of Cybersoft Govind Nanrani.

As master franchise holder for Genovate, Cybersoft will market and run Genovate's structured and customised IT training courses for the corporate sector in Sri Lanka and offer academic programmes leading to IT degrees and diplomas from KnowledgeWindow Asia Pacific (a fully-owned subsidiary of Genovate)-affiliated international universities. These include the University of Cambridge, University of London, University of South Australia, University of Sunderland, UK and Pace University.

Established in 1997 by software professionals in Singapore, Genovate has offices in Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea and India. With a staff of about 150 IT professionals, the company has experience in software services, in particular the financial services industry, where it focuses on turnkey projects, design, development and implementation of customised software, e-services, training and professional services.

Guest of honour, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Ravi Karunanayake said Genovate is an authorised training partner of companies such as SAP, IBM, CA, SCP, Planet 3 Inc, Westlake and Prosoft. "Genovate is also a business partner of IBM, SUN, Oracle and Netrust. Training is an important element in the company's partnership with its clients. Its corporate high-end training courses are driven by clients and are based on real world experiences.

Cybersoft was established in Sri Lanka as a Board of Investment venture in 1996 and is a leading software and IT education company in the country. It provides IT solutions to a wide and varied clientele. Besides being an IBM business partner, Cybersoft also represents Hyperion, 4Js, and Tata Infotech. The Cybersoft Institute of Information Technology was established in 1999 as the educational services company of the group.

(PJ)