Obituary.

Professor Arashanipalai Neelameghan

Prof. A. Neelameghan was born on 3rd July 1926, in Ooty, India. The year he was born saw the flowering of the *Kurinji* that spreads a carpet of blue flowers on the Nilagiri Mountain slopes every twelve years or so; hence the name '*Neelameghan*.' He graduated in 1947 majoring in physics from the Madras Christian College. He obtained his Diploma in library science from the University of Madras and did his master's degree in library science in the USA on Rockefeller Foundation and Fulbright Scholarships.

Prof. Neelameghan began his professional career in the early 1950s and distinguished himself by providing innovative information services in different types of institutions including the Madras Medical College, Hindustan Antibiotics, etc. He joined the Documentation Research and Training Centre as a member of faculty at the invitation of its founder S. R. Ranganathan and retired as its professor and head.

Professor Neelameghan made significant contributions to the field of knowledge organization. Mention must be made of his contributions to the understanding of the epistemological foundations of knowledge organization by way of identifying and defining different modes of formation of subjects, his search for multi-disciplinary evidence in support of Ranganathan's postulate of absolute syntax to help identify universals in indexing languages, his work on the need for a theoretical basis for UDC, his work on the applications of Ranganathan's postulates and normative principles in the design of specialized databases, his research into developing a typology of lateral semantic relations, etc. His more recent work was on expressing the concept of time in knowledge organization systems.

Prof. Neelameghan served as Chair of FID (International Federation for Information and Documentation/ Fédération Internationale d'Information et Documentation)/Classification Research from 1972 and was instrumental in organizing the Third International Study Conference on Classification Research of FID/CR at Bombay in 1975. He was also chair of the Second International Conference of ISKO on cognitive paradigms in knowledge organization held in Chennai, India in 1992; He is also one of the editors of the ISKO Conference volume *Categories and Relations in Knowledge Organization* (Volume 13 in the series Advances in Knowledge Organization), 2012. Prof. Neelameghan also served as a member of the FID/SRC-Group (Subject Reference Code) which, after 1974, became the BSO (Broad System of Ordering) panel.

Prof. Neelameghan authored over 600 papers of which more than 250 are research papers, several with S.R. Ran-

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ganathan and with colleagues in the DRTC, and researchers in India and abroad. He has also authored, coauthored and/or edited some 25 books and conference/seminar volumes; prepared course materials for open university programmes; prepared a large number of technical reports to international organizations, governments and institutions in India and abroad following advisory and technical assistance missions undertaken to various countries on behalf of or at the invitation of international organizations. Prof. Neelameghan was one of the contributing editors of the journal *International Classification* which now is the present journal *Knowledge Organization*.

Prof. Neelameghan was Head, Section on Institution Building and Networking, UNESCO/PGI (General Information Programme), and also the Regional Advisor for Asia-Pacific, UNESCO/PGI. He undertook Technical Assistance missions to a number of developing countries in Asia, Arab League States, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean sponsored by UNESCO/PGI, United Nations Development Programme, International Development Reserach Centre, etc. These missions included formulation of national information policies, development of information institutions, organizing and teaching in national and regional training workshops in information studies. He established a regional post-graduate programme for training science information specialists in South Asia at the University of Philippines in Manila, a similar programme for Africa by establishing the School of Information Studies for Africa at the University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and another programme for Latin America at the University of Simon Bolivar, Caracas, Venezuela. He was also responsible for building a national training programme for China in Beijing. He initiated the regional information network ASTINFO (Regional Network for the Exchange of Information and Experiences in Science and Technology in Asia and the Pacific). Prof. Neelameghan retired from UN civil service in 1986. His contributions as a member of staff of UNESCO PGI and as a UN consultant are many and varied. Until the very end he was closely and actively associated with the Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science (SRELS 1963-) and the Ranganathan Centre for Information Studies (1993-), both not-for-profit organizations promoting research, lectures, and publications in information studies.

Prof. Neelameghan passed away in Bangalore on 28th July 2014 leaving behind two sons, two daughters, grandchildren and a large family of students, friends and admirers.

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