

**Report of the Representative of IPA Sri Lanka for the Arthur Troop Scholarship in Gimborn Castle -2010**

In the year 2009 I was successful in being selected for the Arthur Troop Scholarship at Gimborn Castle as the nominee from Sri Lanka, however due to unavoidable circumstances I was prevented from attending this seminar that year. On representations being made to the PEB by the Secretary General Sri Lanka Section I was once again selected for the course in 2010 to be held in Germany.

For this course I selected the topic "Police Missions" which I felt would be of use to me in the future and I could also learn much from the experience from the others.

The reason to select the topic "Police Missions" was to get a good exposure related to the missions conducted by the United Nations and European Union. It was a five day course from which I gained valuable knowledge.

I have been employed for the past 6 years In charge of the International Police Association Sri Lanka Section office which is a prestigious post, prior to that I had worked in various divisions of the Sri Lanka Police.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 at about 0945 pm I arrived at Frankfurt airport. From there I travelled by train to Cologne which I reached around 1255 am. My thanks go to Dr. Peter Lebmann for kindly arranging a vehicle to transport me to Gimborn Castle where I arrived at about 2 am the next morning.

In a strange Castle it was a frightening night till dawn as I was the only occupant since none of the other participants had arrived at the castle. It was an unforgettable but also a frightening experience. By dinner time a number of other participants had arrived and we made friends and had a good dinner that night.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> morning all participants had arrived and the Seminar commenced with the welcome presentation and brief history of the Centre, In addition to the introduction to the seminar's programme by the Director Mr. Kalus-Ulrich Nieder, he also mentioned about the strange lady that walked beside the lake with her black dog by midnight. I took him very seriously until the last day when the truth finally came out and everybody had a good laugh at me. After the lunch the participants introduced each other and made friends.

On the second day that is the 15<sup>th</sup> of June Mr. Ulrich Schiefelbein commenced the programme with a discussion on the Training for Peace Keeping Missions and Foreign Assignments. 30 participants from 6 countries shared their experiences and knowledge which was a good exposure since I had not taken part in any of these missions.

After a traditional German lunch enjoyed by all Mr. Wilfred Olde Nordkamp delivered the lecture on Police Missions, experiences of Multinational Cooperations and the Netherland Police Perspective and Experiences. By the end of the second day of the week long session I realized that I had gathered some additional knowledge.



Wilfred at the Lectern

That evening one of the participants namely Dietmar Poplow who was from Cologne took us around this beautiful city, where we visited the old Cathedral and walked beside the river Rhine and came to know about its usefulness as a Transcontinental route from the North Sea to the Black Sea. We were also shown ruins of the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war with the damages caused to the buildings. Thereafter we retired to our lodgings happy but exhausted.



In front of the Cologne Cathedral

The 16<sup>th</sup> which was the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the seminar once again Ulrich Schiefelbein spoke to us and discussed regarding the International Police Forces in Liberia, Sudan and Ghana. This was followed by a discussion on planning and coordinating of the International Police Contingents from the UN Headquarters in New York. It was indeed a new experience and useful information for me.



Ulrich and the Course Coordinator Antonius Rutting

Peter Callens was with us on the 4<sup>th</sup> day morning to share his knowledge with us re-the Belgium Police Forces on foreign assignments-Mission areas and how to prepare for the tasks, this information was very valuable to me as I had no exposure in this field.

Maureen Poole spoke to us next on another important topic namely the work of Peace Keepers in Sierra-Leone. Maureen also impressed on us how wealthy Africa was and the different geographical areas and natural deposits available in that country. This talk on Africa was a remarkable insight to me and coming from a small country like Sri Lanka realize the hugeness of this Continent.

After an interesting but heavy session during the day we enjoyed the evening with plenty of Beer an excellent BBQ followed by an enjoyable session of dancing with all the instructors and students joining in.



Maureen and self at the Dancing Session

18<sup>th</sup> the final day of the Seminar, started off with a group discussion followed by a Plenary Discussion where everyone joined in. Sylvia, the participant from Germany delivered a presentation about the knowledge gained by us this fruitful week. After the evaluation and closing address, the seminar was declared closed. We the 30 participants from 6 countries bade farewell to each other with sadness but promising to keep in touch with each other.

Finally I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Nieder, Dr. Peter and all the staff of Gimborn Castle who facilitated this event, and also to the PEB and Mr. Stephen Crockard, for all the help rendered in this connection.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not thank the President and the Executive Committee of the IPA Sri Lanka Section who enabled me to proceed on this scholarship thus affording me this great opportunity. I hope that more IPA members from Sri Lanka will have this opportunity of proceeding to Gimborn, Germany, thus gaining valuable experience and meeting and making friends from different IPA countries.

Servo per Amikeco

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