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October 11, 2010

Honorable Mahinda Rajapaksa
President of Sri Lanka
Araliyagaha Mandiraya,
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dear Mr. President,

I am pleased to write this letter of introduction and recommendation for Mr. Roy Malleappah, Ms. Kim McWhorter and Mr. Laki Wickremesinghe whom I have known for many years, for they have answered your call to contribute to the development of Sri Lanka.

Every year many Sri Lankans die from poisonous snake bites, mainly children, poor peasant farmers and members of the security forces traveling in unfamiliar territory. Mr. Malleappah, Ms. McWhorter and Mr. Wickremesinghe have told me of their work to try to prevent these deaths by developing anti-venom especially for Sri Lanka.

They have organized as non-profit corporation named Animal Venom Research International and will be transferring state of the art technology in anti-venom production; safe and human methods of handling reptiles in Sri Lanka. They have made arrangements for collaboration with the University of Peradeniya and with medical faculty of leading universities and laboratories in the West, as well as Central and South America to develop and produce the anti-venom in Sri Lanka, thereby providing high end tech employment in the country.

I hope that the information about their project will reach those in a position to make this life saving project a success for Sri Lanka.

Yours in the Dhamma,

Bhante Dr. Walpola Piyananda