

## **AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR SRI LANKAN STUDIES**

The American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies (AISLS) is a private, not for profit corporation with tax exempt status under section 501(c) (3) of the IRS code of 1986 and has over 50 percent of its funding from private and public United States sources. It is a member of the Council of American Overseas Centers and has fourteen U.S. universities and research organizations as institutional members. AISLS seeks a grant to maintain its office to develop support facilities and language programs for U.S. scholars working on Sri Lanka.

Since its inception in 1995, AISLS has sought to develop the field of Sri Lanka Studies. It has successfully administered grants from the USIA since 1996. These grants have been used to regularly award post-doctoral research fellowships in Sri Lanka. In 2000, AISLS was awarded a grant under the American Overseas Research Centers Program to establish an office in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The office was established in early 2001 with a part-time Executive Officer and a full-time Administrative Assistant. This funding enabled us to develop a library with an emphasis on recent publications and to inaugurate a workshop series that has served to link U.S. scholars with local experts. The Sri Lanka office supplies (at cost) materials from Sri Lanka to scholars in the U.S. It has developed a Directory of Centers of Research in Sri Lanka and, in 2002, began to make arrangements for language training.

The American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies requests funding of \$252,828 for the 48 months commencing on 1 October 2003, to continue and further develop these activities.