

Equal Footing Foundation Computer Clubhouse Speaker Series Hosts Dr. Patrick Mendis, Author and Diplomat, at Willston Computer Clubhouse on Thursday, April 12, 2007

Discussion focused on educating youth about the convergence of global and local issues and the impact on our lives

HERNDON, Va., April 10 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The Equal Footing Foundation, the charitable arm of the Northern Virginia Technology Council with programs focused on youth development and education for underserved youth in the region, will be hosting Dr. Patrick Mendis this Thursday, April 12 from 4pm-6pm at the Willston Computer Clubhouse in Falls Church, Virginia. Dr. Mendis will be discussing his recent book, Glocalization, which explores how global issues have become local issues, and how our youth need to embrace and understand how this impacts societies. Dr. Mendis' lecture is part of the "Computer Clubhouse Speaker" series that serves as a platform for corporations, leaders and entrepreneurs to inspire local youth by connecting the path of education to real world applications.

"As we focus on the development of youth in Northern Virginia, the message that Dr. Mendis offers to young people is so valuable -- that all humans have similar aspirations, dreams, and goals, and regardless of our backgrounds we are all shaped by cultural, societal, and political factors that shape who we are as people," said Colleen Hahn, president and executive director of the Equal Footing Foundation. "His experiences are unique and diverse -- coming to America as an AFS student from Sri Lanka, working at a high level of the U.S. government at the Department of State, and teaching youth and traveling the world on the Semester at Sea college program. His core message, after all he has done and seen, is so important: the world is complex, but as humans we are all bound together in ways that make us all very much the same."

"The extraordinary work that the Equal Footing Foundation's Computer Clubhouses do is so valuable to the youth they serve," said Dr. Mendis. "I'm pleased to have the opportunity to share with them how my life has taken many paths, all of it not that easy, but my American mentors inspired me to serve others." He further added, "Serving others and charitable giving like the Equal Footing Foundation does are not lost; they are only things we have at the end of the day. That makes America a candle of light to the world."

Details on Dr. Mendis' discussion:

Thursday, April 12, 2007 from 4pm-6pm

Willston Multicultural Center Computer Clubhouse

6131 Willston Drive, Falls Church, VA 22044

703-536-2753, TTY 711

Directions: From 495 take Exit 8 onto Arlington Blvd/Rt. 50 going east. Continue to follow Arlington Blvd. to a left onto Patrick Henry Drive. Take second left to center.

About Equal Footing Foundation

Equal Footing Foundation (<http://www.efooting.org>), the charitable arm of the Northern Virginia Technology Council (<http://www.nvtc.org>), is a Virginia based 501(C)(3) nonprofit focused on youth development and education. The Foundation's goal is to provide an equal opportunity environment where youth can access the tools needed to successfully compete in a skilled and educated workforce. To achieve this, Equal Footing Foundation funds, launches and sustains Computer Clubhouses in partnership

with local governments, businesses and other non-profit entities. These Computer Clubhouse programs are centrally located within established community centers, in close proximity to schools and bus routes for easy after school access. The result is an innovative and safe after-school learning center where children ages 8-18, many of whom do not have access to technology at home, work with adult mentors to learn, develop, and explore their potential.

About Dr. Patrick Mendis

After his government service at the U.S. Department of State, Dr. Patrick Mendis served as a visiting professor of economics and public policy at the University of Pittsburgh's Semester at Sea program. He now teaches in the MA in Diplomacy program at Norwich University (<http://www2.norwich.edu/hkearsle/mdy/mendis.htm>). Before his government service, Dr. Mendis was a military professor through the University of Maryland in the NATO and Pacific Commands of the U.S. Department of Defense and a lecturer in international relations at the University of Minnesota. After his travel to and work in more than 70 countries and all the 50 states, Professor Mendis authored a book, *Glocalization: The Human Side of Globalization as If the Washington Consensus Mattered* (<http://stores.lulu.com/patrickmendis>). From the sales of this book and the previous edition, he established tsunami scholarships and a Peace Prize in Sri Lanka and a memorial scholarship in Minnesota where he was an AFS exchange scholar and an alumnus of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.