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Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

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Young School to offer assistantship to Sri Lanka student

ATLANTA – The Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University plans to award a scholarship to a qualified Sri Lankan doctoral student in economics as early as spring 2000.

As part of its ongoing partnership with the Sri Lankan government, the Young School will offer a stipend and full scholarship for one student who remains in good standing for up to four years. The student will work closely with Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, director of the Young School's International Studies Program, researching taxation in transition and developing countries.

The Young School recently conducted a training program in tax policy analysis for 13 Sri Lankan government officials from the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Inland Revenue Department and Customs Service. The program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development through the International Science and Technology Institute, included instruction in the design of income and consumption taxes, as well as issues in tax administration. The sessions also included computer modeling of tax-revenue forecasting and the revenue effects of proposed tax legislation.

Program participants were Ananda Abayaratna, assistant director, Department of Fiscal Policy and Economic Affairs; A.M.R. Adasooriya, assistant superintendent, Sri Lanka Customs; D.A.I. Daranagama and M. Puviharana, assistant directors, Sri Lanka Customs; S.K.P. Anura Fernando, deputy commissioner, Inland Revenue; D.G.P.W. Gunatilake, K.P. Kaluarachchi, T.D.D. Nanayakkara, H.B.A. Seneviratne and D.A.D.D. Herath, all senior assessors, Inland Revenue; J.P. Hiripitiya, research assistant, Department of Fiscal Policy and Economic Affairs; A.K. Seneviratne, assistant director, Department of Fiscal Policy and Economic Affairs; Sujatha Sathkumara, director, Department of Fiscal Policy and Economic Affairs.

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Kennesaw State University economics professor Mark Rider managed the program. Young School faculty who conducted the training included Roy Bahl, dean and professor of economics; Jim Alm, professor of economics; Felix Rioja, Kelly Edmiston and Neven Valev, assistant professors of economics; and Shannon Mudd, visiting assistant professor of economics. Other trainers were Al Schibani, tax administration and legal expert; Allan

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Firestone, former advisor for the International Monetary Fund; and Richard Bird, professor of economics for the University of Toronto.

Rose Cooray, director general of Sri Lanka's Ministry of Finance and Planning, attended the trainees' end-of-program presentations on behalf of P.B. Jayasundara, Sri Lanka's deputy secretary of treasury.