



K. Madhava Sarma 1938-2010
Executive Secretary, Ozone Secretariat 1991 – 2000

Remembrance Book

Brief biography K. Madhava Sarma:

2000-2010:

Consultant on ozone protection issues and other global environmental work including synergies among multilateral environmental agreements; Senior Expert Member of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) of the Montreal Protocol; Co-author with Stephen O. Andersen of Protecting the Ozone Layer: the United Nations History (Earthscan, co-published by UNEP 2002), and with Stephen O. Andersen and Kristen N. Taddonio of Technology Transfer for the Ozone Layer: Lessons for Climate Change (Earthscan 2007).

2005-2010:

Trustee Secretary, Board of Directors, Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI), involvement with CMI from 2001

2006-2010:

Member, Board of Directors, Shriram EPC Ltd.

1991-2000:

Executive Secretary, Ozone Secretariat, UNEP.

1961-1991:

Served in the Indian government in various capacities as a member of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) from 1962, including in the Indian Delegation to the Montreal Protocol negotiations; as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forests and earlier over a 25-year span in district administration, state level management of water supply, irrigation and public works departments and municipal administration of the cities of Chennai and Madurai.

Awards:

*1996 US EPA Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award; 1995 UNEP Award for Extraordinary Contributions to Ozone Layer Protection; 2005 Special Vienna Convention Award for Ozone Layer Protection; 2007 US EPA Best-of-the Best Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award; 2007 Montreal Protocol Visionary Award.
Memorial book K. Madhava Sarma 1938-2010*

*Messages received from friends and colleagues of Mr. Sarma have been compiled as received
and in no particular order.*

Please send any message to ozoneinfo@unep.org so that they can be included.

The Ozone Secretariat, on behalf of the Ozone Community, pays tribute to Mr. Madhava Sarma, a pioneer in ozone protection, an outstanding statesman and leader who guided UNEP's Ozone Secretariat from 1991 to 2000.

It is undoubtedly the case that all of those who knew Mr. Sarma have fond memories of his grace and dignity as a representative of both the United Nations and the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. Among the members of the Ozone Secretariat who had the privilege of serving with him, Mr. Sarma will always be remembered for his kindness, as well as his exceptional dedication and commitment to both protection of the ozone layer and to supporting the needs of the Parties.

Mr. Sarma's outstanding contributions to the protection of the ozone layer are known by all who are familiar with the ozone regime. First as a delegate from India, and then as the Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat, he was instrumental in leading the Montreal Protocol as it grew from a fledgling treaty with fewer than 50 parties, to one that, by the time he left, had well over 150 parties. During that time, and through three amendments to the Protocol, his vision, wisdom and leadership helped shape the ozone protection regime, the success of which is recognized worldwide.

Mr. Sarma will be missed by all whose lives he touched. We will cherish his memories and guidance, and we express our gratitude for having known him. In his life, he achieved the accolade to which many of us aspire - as we can truly say of him, that the world is a better place because of his contributions

*Marco Gonzales
Paul Horwitz
Gilbert Bankobeza
Megumi Seki
Ruth Batten
Gerald Mutisya
Sophia Mylona
Maria Saldanha
Martha Mulumba
Betty Kamanga
Ann Gachingiri
Lora Manasseh
Ida Nzomo
Jacqueline Nyanjin
Jacqueline Gizan
Julius Njenga
Joseph Wanjiku*



I don't know how to write this down but our beloved Sarmaji passed away to heaven an hour ago. I am too overcome with grief to write anymore. My only solace is I will be in my pilgrimage abode in an hours time where I can pray for his peace

Atul Bagai



It was a shock to receive Suely's email yesterday informing us of the sudden demise of Madhava. He was literally one of the pillars of both the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol. He was a very able negotiator for India until he became Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat in 1991. He then was able to quickly change hats and became an effective and impartial resource for all countries, agencies and indeed civil society. His cool and calm demeanour during MP negotiations in the 1990s - even when all those around him were very excited and red in the face - helped calm things down and ensure that a positive result was obtained.

Looking back I recall that I had joined UNDP in April 1991 to establish and head its Montreal Protocol Unit. This was two months after Omar had been appointed Chief Officer of the MLF Secretariat in Montreal. Both Omar and I were new to the political processes of the Montreal Protocol - both of us heavily relied on Madhava for advice and guidance all during the 1990s and his guidance always proved to be accurate.

Most of all he was a good friend. Your father and your mother formed a perfect team and both loved and supported each other so well. My sincere sympathies to you and your mother on his sudden demise, but as you will find from the outpouring of messages you are likely to receive, he was "one in a million" and we will forever honour his memory and achievements.

You and your mother and loved ones are in our prayers. Warmest regards.

Frank Pinto

Senior Consultant on Climate Change and Development



Mr. Sarma will be missed and remembered forever, his spirit will be with us and lighting the way ahead.

Shiqiu



His legacy is astounding. Memories are many. Grief is profound. Words can barely express my sorrow. A light has gone out in our lives. Let's find ways to celebrate his achievements and to honour him.

Helen Tope



Please accept my sincere condolences, and offer my sympathy to your mother and sisters. He was a great man who I'll dearly miss. The ozone family has lost its leader.

Helen Tope



We are greatly thankful for his pioneering contribution on the Montreal protocol Community. Mr. Sarma will be missed and remembered forever by all who lived together in the Ozone Community.

It is really a sad month, September 2010, when we heard a sudden passing away of the former senior expert member, Mr. Yuichi Fujimoto and we received Mr. Sarma's heart-felt condolence to him, saying "We were family and friends and we shared the joys of protecting the earth for future generations even as we celebrated the lives of each other's children and grandchildren." And then just within a week, we were shocked to hear the unexpected passing away of Mr. Sarma himself.

Love and prayers go to Mr. Sarma and his family.

Masaaki Yamabe



I am saddened by Mr. Sarma's death. He was a fine man and we all benefitted from his intimate knowledge of the Montreal Protocol (that applies especially to newcomers like me). He's left a wonderful legacy.

Ian Rae



Atul informed us one hour after he passed away. I am very sad Steve.

Could not go to work because I have been crying all day! I really admired him and will miss him a lot. Many memories ...hard to let go....

*Suely Carvalho
UNDP*



My heartfelt sympathy to all in your family. This is a very sad time for us all. Mr. Sarma has touched so many lives. He for sure made mine change for the better. In the past 20 years, he has guided me as a Brazilian delegate, then as TEAP co –chair and as part of the UN community. He was always there for me as he was for the whole ozone family!

Smart, wise, firm, humble and a caring human being, Mr. Sarma always had a word to say that made all difference!

He will always have a special place in my heart and will be remembered. I am praying for his soul and hoping we, his friends, together with his family, can find comfort and celebrate his wonderful life.

Suely Carvalho



The whole ozone family community is saddened by the loss of our great leader. God bless his soul and gives us and his family comfort. And let's celebrate his wonderful life so full of achievements.

Suely Carvalho



When the soul is sad for a friend that moves ahead, when the grief is beyond your boundaries and your passion fades away, just live and live the best memories of Sarma as your tribute-, your invisible yet indelible bond to beyond the beyond of our own existence.

Best

Marco Gonzalez



Mr. Sarma will be sadly missed and I will always remember his kind disposition and gentle manner. He was a true champion of the ozone layer!

Marta Pizano



*Very Sad News. We were hoping that our friend Sarma will recover.
Sincere condolences to Sarma family and also to the TEAP' family
In the Coran, we can read "We belong to God and we return to God"*

*Regards
Mohamed Besri*



We were overwhelmed with sadness when we heard that Mr. Sarma passed away today. His life and work will be valued and remembered for many years to come.

He was a skilful negotiator, people-friendly administrator and coordinator who carefully brought together the right ingredients for successful decisions – and there were many of them.

We feel very privileged that we were a part of his ozone family, and immensely sad that he has left us so soon. He lives on in our hearts!

We send our heartfelt condolences to his family.

Tom Batchelor and Melanie Miller



We've just lost too much; I will always remember Mr. Sarma as a fine man making a lot for our planet. Words can't express my sorrow.

Sergey



Dear Family,

One of the best parts of knowing, loving, and working with Sarma was to be part of his family. I knew Sarma well by the time I met the remarkable K Ramalakshmi, probably in some formal way at a reception, but more memorably on a bus tour when we sat together on a day so wet that the windows made looking out impossible. We talked and talked and talked. I heard about the daughters before we met and I was impressed that they had such modern lives and that they were changing the world in their own way.

The big bang was the retirement cruise at Geneva when hundreds of his professional ozone family celebrated Sarma's decade at the Ozone Secretariat. On what might have been the wettest day in Swiss history, the clouds began clearing as we left the dock and the sun soon spotlighted the beauty of nature as we celebrated fast and hard what Sarma had done. Other memorable celebrations were for the two ozone books.

Better for me was the recent Sarma family birthday celebration, the reception at the Sarma and Ramalakshmi's home in Nairobi, and my week in Chennai. Better, because when you see Sarma with his family you know that it is the team of mutual support that allowed him to be so great.

I want to thank you all for sharing Sarma with me over the last twenty years. The books and articles we wrote together will be the enduring legacy of ozone layer protection; the memories are the priceless joy that will help us all continue to champion the values Sarma taught us all.

Just now I can see Sarma the child at the foreign movies dreaming of being the world-citizen he became, in a math class finding the magic of science that served him so well on ozone and climate protection and at his beloved math institute, at the Montreal Protocol Meeting of the Parties holding court and pulling strings from behind every curtain. Best of all I see him with you, proud to have had an influence in your lives and the lives of children to come.

It is simply the case that the ozone layer could not have been saved without Sarma, and that the lives of so many people never would have been so grand and satisfying.

Please take care of yourselves. It will be difficult to accept this terrible loss.

Stephen O. Andersen



These are indeed sad days for the Montreal Protocol community. Doubtless, we will be able to reflect further over the coming days and weeks as these realities sink in.

Above all, we should be thankful for the tremendous contribution that Sarma made to the Protocol overall.

*Best regards
Paul Ashford*



This is very sad. Sarma made huge contributions to protect our children and our world. He was very gentle in manner, and very determined in pursuing his goals.

*David D. Doniger
Natural Resources Defense Council*



Dear Family Sarma, dear Gouthami,

Thank you very much for letting us know this very very sad news.

We will carry Sarma's spirit with us in all our work and all endeavours and are certain that this cannot be other than of great support to us.

Via this email we also send you our heart-felt condolences.

We wish you lots of strength in these difficult times.

On behalf of all TEAP members,

Lambert Kuijpers



*Dear Friends,
As many of you may already know, today we lost a great teacher, a cunning leader, and a dear friend with the passing of K. Madhava Sarma.*

I learned an extraordinary amount about the environment and international law from his simple, elegant, and always trenchant way of looking at the many complex and seemingly intractable problems confronting us -- and his inimitable way of finding a path through them. The world is a richer place for his many selfless and far-reaching contributions, and a poorer place for his passing.

Although this is wholly insufficient, and certainly mere words cannot properly dignify this sad occasion, I wanted to pass along, in remembrance, this interview Sarma gave with Dr. Mario Molina to the Financial Times, which I always liked for the way it captured his distinct and insightful approach to global environmental challenges...

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and the scores of people his long and distinguished life has touched.

Scott Stone



I am deeply saddened. I learned more from brief conversations with Sarma than I did from hours of lectures and speeches by others. A great teacher and friend — and a great loss for us and for the environment.

Scott Stone



I know this breaks all of our hearts. We were so lucky to know this great man and have him as our friend. We'll never be able to replace him, but we can try harder to live up to his standards.

Durwood Zaelke



Please accept our sincere condolences. He was a great man. We will miss him.

Ashley Woodcock



Sage and Guru left us. Simple avatar of complicated logic has disappeared.

Life passes by. Makes us feel like standing on the platform while train passes by. Sarmaji was in the train. Deafening silence of the train passing by is so unbearable.

Rajendra Shende



I am terribly shocked by this sad news and could not refrain myself from crying for the loss of a wonderful friend and a great leader for the ozone family.

Like Suely he guided me as a representative of my country and later on as the MP coordinator at UNIDO.

He had always the right word at the right time to help me go through some particularly difficult moments.

Sharma Ji was a truly wise man and a great contributor to the protection of the ozone layer.

May his soul rest in peace and as we say in my country RAHIMAHOU ALLAH since I strongly believe that beyond any belief and any faith he can only be granted the doors of Eden.

*Sincerely,
S.M.Si Ahmed*



Dear Hamsheera Ji,

Please accept my deepest condolences on the sad news of Sharma Ji. He was a dear friend and a guide. He will be sorely missed. Please count on my continued pursuance of Sharma Ji's, works, ideals, happy and pleasant memories.

Husamuddin Ahmadzai



Will remember Sarma Ji as a beacon. A peer and a fond friend. His deeds immortalise him.

Husam



Dear Mrs. Sarma

We were deeply saddened to learn that our most esteemed former colleague, Mr. K.Madhava Sarma passed away on 30 September 2010. Please accept my and UNEP's sincere condolences.

Mr. Sarma was a pioneer in ozone layer protection. With exceptional dedication, Mr. Sarma made outstanding contributions to shaping the Montreal Protocol to what it is today - a most successful multilateral agreement in global environmental protection. During his tenure as the Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat, Mr. Sarma was instrumental in getting over 100 countries to ratify the Protocol and the strengthening of the control measures through three Amendments and five sets of adjustments. Montreal Protocol is currently the first multilateral agreement to have achieved universal ratification.

Mr. Sarma's vision, wisdom and leadership were an inspiration to all and he will be sorely missed. There are so many other issues on the protection of the environment where we could have benefitted from his vast experience and knowledge. For example in recent years, he had embarked on work to enhance synergies between ozone and climate protection. Mr. Sarma will always be fondly remembered by the staff of the Ozone Secretariat and those who worked closely with him. Mr. Sarma will remain in history of ozone layer protection and UNEP as a person whose efforts made a significant and positive difference to the future of the environment for our children and grand children.

We pray for Mr. Sarma's eternal peace and at the same time we celebrate his life a great life lived to its fullest.

*Achim Steiner
Executive Director
UNEP*



Message from Michael Graber

It was in 1996 that I moved to Nairobi to serve as deputy to K. Madhava Sarma, known to all of us as Mr. Sarma. It should be noted that I was not at all his first choice for the post of Deputy Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat. He was actively seeking for this post a female candidate, to balance the all-male team that populated the Ozone Secretariat at that time. However, since no female candidate was willing to be posted in Nairobi, I got the job.

I joined the Secretariat just a few weeks before the 13th OEWG Meeting, which took place in August 1996. The 13th OEWG in Geneva and the 8th MOP in San Jose, Costa Rica, as well as the time period between them, became my initiation rite into the Ozone Secretariat, this under the firm hands of Mr. Sarma. This was a very worrisome time for the Secretariat, as the Meeting of the COP and MOP in San Jose in Costa Rica in 1996 was the first time that the Secretariat had to make the arrangements in a developing country with no previous experience in hosting such a large international meeting. It goes without saying that in spite of quite a few difficulties, the San Jose meeting was extremely successful. Immediately after the end of the 8th MOP, Mr. Sarma left to India on a well-deserved 2-month home leave. It turned out that because of the heavy workload as Executive Secretary, he did not allow himself since he started work at the Secretariat in 1991 to take any home leave. It was under Mr. Sarma's guidance that at that time new tools were developed, which today we all take for granted:

- A unique computer program was developed that established a database that enables the Secretariat to receive and input all the data provided by the Parties regarding their production and consumption of ozone depleting substances. This database enables the Secretariat to provide to the Parties and the Implementation Committee the up-to-date reports on the status of compliance of all the Montreal Protocol countries. It is probably one of the best examples of a governance tool that provides evidence on the state of compliance of each country (as highlighted in the motto of this year's message of the Secretary General of the United Nations on the occasion of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer).*
- The Ozone Handbook, without which today it would be difficult to operate, was personally initiated by Mr. Sarma in May 1991 as a small 100-page document. This 1st edition was soon followed by a second edition in October 1991, by a 3rd edition in 1993 and a 300-page 4th edition in 1996. The Ozone Handbook proved to be real bestseller, and hundreds of copies of it were printed and distributed free of charge to anyone who asked for a copy. Today, the current edition of the Ozone Handbook can be of course accessed for free on the Internet.*
- The Ozone Secretariat's home page on the Internet, from which all the documents of the meetings are available to everyone all over the world. Until then, all documents had to be shipped at a huge expense to an extensive mailing list. And no matter how many documents were sent, many key persons seemed not to have received their copies. Indeed, I am cherishing his memory, and am expressing my gratitude for having had the benefit to work under his guidance for all those years.*

*Dear Mr. Sarma, RIP.
Karkur, Israel, 8 October 2010*



I first met Madhava Sarma Garu about four decades ago. Yes, it was a long time ago, but the memory of that meeting is still very fresh in mind. I took an immediate liking to him, particularly since he had none of the airs of self-importance, often associated with bureaucrats in India, and was warm and open. We discussed the changing landscape in India in the early seventies where careers in industry were just becoming as attractive as careers in public service had been in the previous decades.

Over the years, we met almost every year or two, mostly in Madras. I recall that when he was on a sabbatical at IIT, Madras, he made it a point to travel to the institute by bus, something unheard of for a senior government officer. His scrupulous honesty in service was fabled and seems even more so today as the social milieu in India has changed.

The passion and concern he developed mid-career about environmental issues were noteworthy. In the second career he had carved for himself, he delved into this complex subject and became a world authority on the effects of pollution on the ozone layer. Unlike many career civil servants, who often are unable to adjust to retired life, once the official status is no longer with them, he was completely comfortable being a scholar studying the environment.

More recently, I interacted with Madhava Sarma Garu in connection with the other passion he developed post-retirement. He was instrumental in obtaining resources - money, land, government recognition - for the Chennai Mathematical Institute and helped it become a first-rate academic institution. He found this particularly satisfying since it enabled him to combine two diverse aspects of his background - mathematics and public service - in making a genuine academic contribution.

His infectious smile, his interest in academic issues, and his curiosity about the world at large made an afternoon of conversation with him great fun. I still cannot believe that he is no longer with us."

*Marti G. Subrahmanyam
New York University*



Tribute to Mr Sarma

It was a shock to us to learn that the indefatigable Mr Sarma had passed away – it seems only yesterday that he was front and centre of our wonderful Montreal Protocol. Mr Sarma is remembered in Australia as a “no-fuss” man, who got on with the job quietly, but always with full engagement, 24 hours a day. His good humour and optimism helped the wheels of international diplomacy roll smoothly and set the foundations for the success of the Montreal Protocol.

Mr Sarma will be especially remembered for the considerable effort he put in to encouraging engagement by non-government organisations and newcomers to the Protocol family. Even in retirement he was fully involved in Montreal Protocol activity, for which we are thankful. His guidance and support to all was the mark of a great and humble man.

He was the grand old man of the Protocol and we will miss him.

John Whitelaw, Tony Hetherington, Tamara Curl, Steve Anderson, Barry Reville, Patrick McInerney, Annie Gabriel



I still am struggling with how to take the news.

I was the Administrative and Fund Management Officer responsible for all the UNEP trust funds -- including those for the ozone programme -- when Mr. Sarma joined UNEP as the Executive Secretary for the Ozone Secretariat. To me, Mr. Sarma symbolizes a leader who one would enjoy working with and for, tirelessly with the goals ahead of you properly defined and going for them as a team and with the full contribution and commitment from each of the team-members. No wonder the achievements under Mr. Sarma will remain so memorable to each one of us as they made the model of what the Montreal Protocol has become something which many are emulating and will for a long time. He simply was a wonderful man in all aspects of life and his wife was always besides him and the two of them were simply a father and mother to us!!

I have tears welling in my eyes even in writing this message for the big loss I feel -- and so rightly expressed by Dr. El-Arini -- "the hole in our hearts". I hope the family members will be granted by God the courage to go through this immense loss of someone who so dedicatedly worked for the success of these treaty organs which the Governments of the world entrusted with and delivered well --- thanks to efforts of people like Mr. Sarma, while he at the same time continued to enjoy his family's support.

Requiescat In Pace! (May His Soul Rest in eternal peace).

Yours sincerely,

*Theodor N. Kapiga
UNEP*



Condolences from Turkmenistan

Dear Mrs. Sarma,

Staff of National Ozone Unit of Turkmenistan would like to convey our condolences. There are no words to express our feelings. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and please be strong.

National Ozone Unit staff



Dear Mrs. Sarma,

The sad news has just reached me from colleagues in UNEP. I can only add that I, too, am very sad to hear of Mr. Sarma's death and send you and your family my condolences and prayers at this time.

Mr. Sarma was such a gentle and charming man and my first contact with UNEP (17 years ago) was to undertake some editing work on an Ozone booklet for Mr. Sarma. He was a very patient but persistent advocate on ozone and I feel honoured to have worked with him. I went on to work on many publications and information materials with Mr. Sarma and remember him with much respect and fondness.

May his soul rest in peace.

*Naomi Poulton
UNEP*



Dear Mrs. Sarma,

Please accept my condolences.

Sincerely

Gerald Mutisya



Dear Mrs. Sarma and family,

I have just learnt of the untimely passing away of my friend and colleague K. M. And only yesterday I had read his article on Ozone, written with Anderson and Zaelke: perhaps the last article on this pet subject as far as he was concerned.

Please accept from me and my family our profound condolences. This is a great loss to family, friends and humanity. We shall pray for you during the difficult moment and after. I had the privilege of working with K.M. at UNEP and thereafter on several assignments. He was decent and mindful of the welfare of colleagues all through. Whatever he did, he put his best foot forward!.

Rest in Peace, great friend.

Donald Kaniaru.



This is very sad news. My heart goes out to Sarma's family in this loss, but I also reflect on how important and valuable the serious commitment of one life's work can be for all of us.

Drusilla

*Drusilla Hufford
U.S. EPA*



I am really saddened by this news, even while I know that it is inevitable for all of us. He was so committed to his work and taught me to care for it as well. I had a very interesting exchange of views with him just recently on the links between climate change and the Montréal

Protocol. Please extend to his family my deepest condolences, and like you, I will retain the memory of his kindness and total engagement.

Sincerely,

Bernarditas Muller



This is indeed sad news...it is hard to imagine our quest to recover the ozone hole without his direct involvement, yet I am sure Mr. Sarma's memories will be with us while we finish the process he helped so much, and he will always be an example to follow...

The suddenness of his departure hits us with the harshness of the unexpected, but it is a consolation to know that our good friend was not physically diminished till the very end.

Receive my sincere regards

Jose



Tonight I chew a clove.

I chew the clove in honor of our brother, our colleague, our friend, our guide.

The clove is such a perfect shape. It points in all four directions. It points toward the earth, that he so devotionally worked to protect while here. And the clove's spherical bud points toward heaven, toward the sky, toward the ozone layer, toward the celestial sphere, where he's now resting.

*Tom Land
U.S. EPA*



Omar, friends and family members,

Yes, this is really a sad news indeed. We all know his commitment and the diverse nature of his contribution to our collective endeavor. I feel so honored to have known and shared work with him. We should all pray for the all mighty to accept him in his kingdom and as Omar put it, until we meet in another life.

Sincerely,

*Sekou Toure
Global Environment Facility (GEF)*



Dear Mrs Sarma,

I learnt the sad news and want to express to you and your family my sincere condolences.

After twenty one years of working with Mr Sarma, having followed his leadership and having him as an example, not only as a professional, but more importantly as a gentle and caring person, it is very hard to express the feeling of loss. Yet I am sure he would be the first to prop us to move ahead with his sense of humor and strong realism.

I hope that your beautiful family, of which he was so proud, will let you see him through them and will give you strength for the future.

My wife and I send our warmest regards and think of you with love

Sincerely

Jose and Carmen Pons



Dear Mrs. Sarma and daughters,

It is with great sadness that I learnt today about the passing of Mr. Sarma. I had the privilege of working closely with him when I was the assistant to Dr. El-Arini here in Montreal; there was not a single day we did not speak to him.

His calmness and sage to deal with issues was an example to me. He always had a smile and kindness was also present on him.

I do not have words that will ease your pain but just wanted to tell you that I am very, very sorry and that I pray to God that you all will have comfort in knowing that you had a great man next to you.

May God rest his soul.

Sincerely,

*Martha Leyva
Multilateral Fund Secretariat*



Dear Mrs. Sarma, Gouthami and Sridevi,

I feel very sad to hear of Mr. Sarma's passing on. He was like a father to us when we were working with him, giving us a lot of advice. He was also a very understanding and sympathetic man. I pray to God to keep his soul in eternal peace.

Mrs. Sarma, please take it easy. Me being a widow, I know it's not easy because you were very close and you will feel lonely. Please keep yourself busy.

Gouthami and Sridevi, please take good care of your mom. Gouthami please give me your email address.

I wish you all the best.

*Esther Gaitho
UNMIL HQ*



Dear Mrs. Sarma and daughters,

I have learnt with profound shock about the sudden passing of our beloved Mr. K. Madhava Sarma! He was a great man of integrity and high intellect whom I will miss very much. The time we spent together in Nairobi was a pleasant one.

As you may know, Mr. Sarma recruited me as the Legal Officer when I joined the Ozone Secretariat in 1991 and closely worked under him for nine years until he retired from United Nations service in 2000.

May God rest his soul in eternal peace!

May God give you strength and courage to overcome grief and anguish as we mourn the passing of a great man!

My wife Sylvia, too, sends her condolences.

Dr. Gilbert M. Bankobeza



May his spirit and soul rest in peace. Please accept our heartfelt condolences.

*Charuwan
UNEP Bangkok*



To the family of the late Dr. Madhava Sarma

I just learnt from our friend Dr. El-Arini the sad news of the passing away of our dear colleague Dr. Sarma.

Please accept my heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies.

*Dr. Mostafa K.Tolba
Former Executive Director UNEP*



Dear Mrs Sarma, Naga Nandini, Gouthami, and Sridevi,

As you might recall, I served in UNEP from 1998 to 2007, during which I had the pleasure and honour of knowing and working with Sarmaji. My wife and I visited your home for dinner and we often met during our evening walks in the UN Compound. I developed enormous fondness and respect for Mr Sarma on account of his ability, commitment to public wellbeing and personal decency and politeness. Mr Sarma agreed to undertake a consultancy project at my request on the role of the Environment Management Group despite his other commitments and the short notice at which we requested him to undertake the assignment and performed the task in a most admirable manner. Later, during a visit to Nairobi, Sarmaji told me to freely ask him whatever I needed him to do without bothering about having to pay for the work! This showed that for him, doing something good was more important than financial rewards and recognition. He was very happy that he was contributing some thing to India after retirement and advised me to do the same in Pakistan after retirement. He called it "paying back to the country part of the debt one owes it". I am glad to say that I have carried out his advice to the best of my ability. My wife and I share your grief and wish to convey our condolences and pray that you all get the courage and strength to bear this huge loss with fortitude.

*Yours in grief,
Shafqat Kakakhel,
Former Deputy Executive Director, UNEP*



Dear Mrs. Sarma,

I have just been informed about the passing of Mr. Sarma. I wanted to pass along my sincere condolences and my very best wishes to you and your family.

During my time as Executive Director of UNEP, I came to know a most professional and dedicated public servant. I was never in any doubt that Mr.Sarma had the best interests of the environment and people at heart.

I sincerely hope that you will have many fond memories to help you through this difficult time. There will be many people thinking of you and keeping you in their prayers. Please count me among them.

*Very warmest wishes,
Liz*

*Elizabeth Dowdeswell
Former Executive Director of UNEP*



Dear Mrs. Sarma, Naga Nandini, Gouthami, and Sridevi,

We are all very sorry to hear this. Mr. Sarma was a father-figure, he did great work for the protection of the ozone layer and much more beyond that. We benefited so much from his leadership and wisdom. We are all praying here now for his peace. We have so much memories of Mr. Sarma which will live for ever. May you be strong at this time of grief. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Meg on behalf of Marco and the staff of the Ozone Secretariat



