

## **Ancient cultures and traditions to better humanity**

by Charles Chang

**On the screen was "Ancient Cultures and Traditions of the World '. That was what the lecture was by Dr. Pathak Yashvant was about last Friday in the University Geusthouse conference room. The scientist, attached to the Sullivan University in the United States, wanted to demonstrate the importance of preservation of ancient traditions and cultures in the world for humanity.**

"Two thousand years ago the world was divided into believers and nonbelievers. If you wanted to believe in God, you had to follow him, but if we look at the old traditions, says Pathak, we see that all the old traditions talk about the total human. None of them says that if you do not believe in, you're not going to heaven!"



**DWT Photo / Charles Chang**

**Dr. Yashvant Pathak, coordinator of International Centre for Cultural Studies (ICCS) in America, gave upon invitation of the organization Sewa International Suriname a lecture on "Ancient Cultures and Traditions". The scientist who studied in over twenty countries has emphasized the importance of retaining the ancient traditions which accordingly was aimed at all humanity .-**

"Pathak visited for investigation more than twenty countries, took samples from the traditions of African peoples, the Maya, Aboriginal and Asian countries. "Tradition is divided into religion and dharma. They have no books, talk about living and dead ancestors which influence the personality. It is a way of life in which the knowledge past orally from generation to generation. God is everywhere and can also be a woman. The (oral) tradition is based on dialogues between more knowledgeable & less knowledgeable. In the various levels is man related to nature, there is a round cycle of life and while in existence you are borrowing the Earth from the next generation. "" Respect for the elderly is also strong in ancient traditions. "Pathak not only recognizes the concept of rebirth but also the "law of karma" (who does good, will also receive good) and the philosophy of communicating with God: "Keep quiet and listen to nature. Once you start talk, God stops talking .. "

The lecture supported by Cultural Studies of the Directorate of Culture, organized by foundation Sewa International Suriname, a social organization consisting of mostly university students, affiliated to Sewa International which Dr. Pathak Yashvant is part of. Pathak, scientist in nanotechnology, has his hobby, studying ancient cultures, developed into a scientific institute - International Center for Cultural Studies (ICCS) - which he co-founded and is the coordinator of. He visited Suriname for the third time, but still focussed his lecture on 'Global'. Why is preservation of ancient cultures and traditions in this world of globalization important? "They contribute to the diversity in the world and diversity is the soul of humanity. There is an increase in people who have a faith but also retain their traditional beliefs. More and more scientists also see the importance of conservation. The pharmaceutical industry invests in traditions because there lies the knowledge about medicinal plants. In 2007, the Institute of Alternative Future, hundreds of scientists from leading universities in America concluded that the curriculum for all of 2029 should focus on 2060 and can not do without the Western and Eastern traditions together for a holistic approach of education. Because Western has only a low background of two hundred years, while the eastern is thousands years old. We are after all related to each other and are all part of this world. "" We are one small family. "

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