



# TOASTMASTERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## **Balraj Arunasalam** 2011–2013 International Director, Region 13

**Balraj Arunasalam, DTM**, of Colombo, Sri Lanka, is the Chairman and Managing Director of the Gemtrans Engineering Company in Sri Lanka; he has more than 30 years' experience in developing and implementing financial policies. Appointed by the President's Office of Sri Lanka as a member of an Educational Board that had "English as a life skill" as its primary objective, he has also served on several committees for Rotary International and as Senior Vice President of Arunadu Velalar Society of Sri Lanka, a family service organization.

As a member of Rotary International, he planned and implemented a Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program in association with the United States embassy in Sri Lanka to educate rural children in communication and leadership skills.

A dedicated Toastmaster since 1990, and current member of the Colombo and Ralph Toastmasters clubs, Arunasalam has held a number of distinguished leadership positions within the organization and has attained the Distinguished Toastmaster designation — the highest level of achievement in Toastmasters. In 2008-2009, his district was number one in the world, earning the President's Distinguished District award. Arunasalam has received several notable honors from the organization, including the President's Extension Award for outstanding achievement in Club Extension and Retention, the President's 20-plus Award and a Presidential Citation.

Arunasalam credits Toastmasters training for his success. "Toastmasters International taught me to think critically, focus on specifics and plan for effective implementation of projects," he says.

As a member of the Toastmasters International Board of Directors, Arunasalam is a "working ambassador" for the organization. He works with the Board to develop, support and modify the policies and procedures that guide the organization in fulfilling its mission. Arunasalam was elected to his current two-year term in August 2011.

### **About Toastmasters**

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Founded in October 1924, the organization currently has more than 270,000 members in 13,000 clubs in 116 countries. Each week, Toastmasters helps more than a quarter million people of every ethnicity, education and profession build their competence in communication so they can gain the confidence to lead others. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please visit [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org).