

# PM's book 'A New Deal for Asia' now available in Tamil ✓

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - *A New Deal for Asia*, the Prime Minister's most recent book, is now available in Tamil and may soon be on bookshelves in the Indian sub-continent.

The book was launched today by Datin Seri Indrani Samy Vellu after officiating the opening of the 2nd Malaysian-Indian Book Fair at Netaji Hall at the Malaysian Indian Congress headquarters in Jalan Ipoh today.

The fair, a joint venture between Chennai based distributor Kalaignaan Pathipagam Anuragam and leading local Tamil publisher Jaya Bakti Sdn Bhd, is on from 10am to 10pm until March 24.

In launching the book, Indrani urged Indians in Malaysia to read more Tamil books so as not to lose touch with their roots.

KPA representative M. Nandan said he would distribute limited copies of *A New Deal for Asia* at bookstores in South India.

He said that since the book would be expensive to most buyers in India his compa-

ny was considering coming up with an Indian edition.

More than 200,000 books in both English and Tamil are on sale at the fair, including computer software guides in Tamil and children's books.

Jaya Bakti managing director Dr K Selvaraju said he expected the fair to bring in at least three times the revenue of last year's fair which totalled around RM100,000.

Selvaraju estimated that only half of Malaysian Tamils were able to read the language.

He added that in addition to school textbooks Jaya Bakti was working on a series of Tamil language books specifically for adults.

By noon about 1,000 schoolchildren, mainly from Tamil schools, visited the fair along with Universiti Putra Malaysia undergraduates who have been studying Tamil for at least two years.