

## S. D. Gokhale

Hon. President, ILC-India

My memories of Bob as we all fondly called him will always be dominated by his gentle and soft-spoken demeanour.

His simple approach to life, his warmth and geniality was what struck me as most appealing right from the time I first met him.

The erudition that characterized Bob has been acknowledged world-wide and especially so in the field of research in population ageing.

His contribution to the field of population ageing is undoubtedly unsurpassable and he will always remain the pioneering champion of research in ageing.

I had accompanied him on his personal tour of Delhi and Agra when he had come to India in 2007 along with his daughter.

As I explained the nuances of Indian culture and traditions of the historic places that we saw, his childlike enthusiasm was truly endearing. The researcher in him watched everything with curiosity and he would question me on some of even the smallest details.

Bob, was indeed a giant in the field of gerontology and geriatrics, an inspiring icon for all of us working in the field of ageing. He was widely respected for his erudition, knowledge, wisdom and experience.

The legacy that he left behind is a treasure to be cherished by all of us as we grow old and face life guided by the principles he had advocated.

Bob, we will miss you sorely.  
May his soul rest in peace.



(Left to right): Dr. Gokhale, Mr. Morioka and Dr. Butler

## Monica Ferreira

Co-President of ILC Global Alliance  
President, ILC-South Africa

Robert Butler inspired and encouraged us to establish ILC South Africa. Earlier, I was cognisant of his work as the doyen gerontologist and geriatrician, and had listened to countless lectures he gave around the globe. In 2002 he wrote me about setting up an ILC in South Africa. The following year he and his gracious wife Dr Myrna Lewis visited Cape Town, and we engaged in earnest discussion. In 2005, in Rio de Janeiro, ILC South Africa (ILCSA) was admitted to the Global Alliance.

Bob's contribution to knowledge, understanding, policy and practice on ageing is legendary. That he pioneered a change in attitudes towards a view of ageing as "a positive thing" is beyond doubt. Bob's philosophy and concepts were however largely grounded in a Western context and ILCSA's mission is

to translate them in African settings. He was committed nonetheless to understanding the myriad challenges of ageing in the developing world and how they might be addressed. The full global impact and enduring relevance of his work have not yet been articulated, which remains a task for the Alliance as we journey forward without him.

We will remember Bob for his dignity, humility, generosity and erudition. We will remember him too for his curiosity, enthusiasm and gentle humour. Sadly, Bob will not be with us in the 2010 board meetings to be held in Cape Town in October, and we will miss his presence, wisdom and guidance greatly. His passing leaves an enormous void, but our memory of his inspiration, collegiality and friendship will remain always.



(Left to right): Mr. Morioka, Dr. Ferreira, Baroness Greengross, Dr. Butler and Dr. Osako