

Who is Randrianasolo Lalarison Richard?



Randrianasolo Lalarison Richard, Honorary Consul of Madagascar to Hungary, was born in Madagascar, the second child of a middle class family. His mother worked as a teacher at the local primary school, and his father was involved in carriage for his own business. The parents provided six of their children - three boys and three daughters were born. With special gratitude, his mother has given them all the opportunity to learn: children can go to schools and universities.

Randrianasolo Lalarison Richard is pleased to recall the times when he spent time working as a young child, during grandparents living in the village, and during school holidays he was used to help them in doing heavy agricultural works.

His studies, then, began in Antsirabé

(Madagascar), city of his birthplace; and where he attended elementary school and then completed his high school.

Initially, he was awarded a Mathematics and Physics degree at Lycée Rahevivo-Ramamonjy of Fianarantsoa Madagascar, which opened up to him an opportunity for a scholarship that he won for an abroad study. In the middle of 1975, he went then to Moscow to pursue his university studies for Oil-Mining Engineer at the Russian People's Friendship University of Moscow. After his university graduation in 1980, he moved to Hungary from the Soviet Union, on invitation of his wife – who is Hungarian – and who is teaching English Translation and Interpretation at the Technical University of Budapest, as well as she is the chief-coordinator of the Interpreting and Translation Center. They have two daughters and one grandchild girl.

Randrianasolo Lalarison Richard started to work, from the middle of 1980, for OKGT, (Hungarian National Oil and Gas Trust, today's name is MOL Hungarian Oil and Gas Plc.) after arriving in Budapest. In the course of his work, as oil-mining engineer he focused primarily on finding oil deposits in Hungary, planning their exploration possibilities and using the necessary technical tools and technologies.

At the same time, acquisition of professional knowledge did not end there, as he was constantly interested in new fields of sciences. By the end of the 80s, he graduated as Programmer-Mathematician from the Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences of Budapest, Hungary. After a short period of time in the early 1990s, he received a new postgraduate-degree on Digital Control Engineering at Kandó Kálmán Polytechnic Institute of Budapest.

He also dealt with these areas at his next workplace. From the middle of 85's to the mid-90, he worked on a large-scale engineering project as a project engineer for MMG Automation Works of Budapest. The project promoted complex, automated, controlled and efficient production of crude oil and natural gas. Using his knowledge of applied mathematics and of

digital control engineering, he was successfully got to the result which has been implemented and applied at the site of one of the world's largest oil extraction plants in the area of Surgut, located in Western Siberia, Russia.

Randrianasolo Lalarison Richard with his technical professional knowledge, at the beginning of the 1990s, obtained a postgraduate-degree in Economics and Finances from the Business School of Rouen in France, and completed an **Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA)** postgraduate-degree at Purdue University - Krannert School of Management, West Lafayette - in the United States of America.

For more than 10 years, he worked for Unilever - a Dutch-British transnational Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) company - in various positions, such as an economist, a financial analyst, and a commercial regional controller. He was also financial and commercial manager, as regional manager for Unilever Group of Serbian, Slovenian, Ukrainian, Croatian and Bosnian subsidiaries. With his positions and expertise, he contributed to increasing the financial profitability of the Group, to the proper and controlled execution of financial transactions, as well as to the company's new investor relations.

At the beginning of 2008, he started his own business, which mainly focused on IT (Information Technology) development and system design, as well as the development of Office Information and Telecommunication Systems (OITS).

At the same time, although years have been extremely busy and active, there has been a gradual increase in feeling that he is increasingly beginning to break away from his native Madagascar. He began to think of what he could do to help Madagascar, to welcome closer acquaintances between Madagascar and Hungary, so Hungarians and Malagasys should help each others, and share their knowledge and cultural values. An important link between the two nations was certainly given.

So he turned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Madagascar with his proposal that he asked for the two countries to sign up for official and direct diplomatic relations. The proposal was adopted, as a result of which, in spring 2004, the President of the Republic of Madagascar appointed him Honorary Consul of the Republic of Madagascar to Hungary. Shortly thereafter, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary also approved to open and to start the activities of the Consulate of the Republic of Madagascar in Hungary.

Randrianasolo Lalarison Richard's commitment, for developing the relationships between the two countries, has since become an official form, and can be safely maintained in the future.

His aim is to promote consular assistance, economic, political and cultural relations between the Central European region and the Republic of Madagascar. Thanks to his lobbying activities, he provides advises to those Hungarian citizens who want to travel or to do businesses in Madagascar.

One of the major achievements of his Consular Duties is success of, by his personal advice, the first one of accreditation of the Hungarian Ambassador of Pretoria (South Africa) in Madagascar. In addition to this, also by his personal suggestion, the opening of the Consulate of Hungary in Antananarivo (Madagascar), this was also successfully set up. These represent a significant part of his practical aspects of maintaining relationships.

By proposals coming from Hungarian and Universal NGOs (the Organizing Committee of the Hungarian World Meeting, the Panorama World Club, the Hungarian Federal Service

Foundation, the Hungary-Madagascar Memorial Association - in memory of Móric Benyovszky, the Hungarian Alliance of Solar Cells and Solar Energy), on 17th May 2017, the title "*Honorable Hungarian*" has been officially awarded to **Randrianasolo Lalarison Richard** for his prestigious and outstanding work, as recognition and appreciation.

Once again, under the personal request of the Honorary Consul, by February 2018, as „*a unilateral act of Hungary, the Government of Hungary in accordance with its domestic laws and regulations enables the provision of Stipendium Hungaricum scholarships to the citizens of the Republic of Madagascar*”, to those who wish to continue their higher studies in Hungary.

His skills and expertise in diplomacy and in management of foreign affairs is an asset to carry out the various entrusted missions.

About cooperation between Hungary and Madagascar, the Honorary Consul hopes for the realization in the following main areas, as well as exchange of knowledge and experience: cooperation between educational institutions, exchanges and study opportunities; promoting the use of renewable energies and developing related technologies; agriculture, family farms and the modernization of related infrastructure; food security and sustainable development; facilitating the establishment of production and assembly plants, sharing technologies and knowledge for production; health; environmental protection; mutual promotion, dissemination of the cultural values of the two peoples; renewal and modernization of local, interurban and long-distance transport.

Budapest, 27th of February 2018.

Hon. Randrianasolo Lalarison Richard