

Lanka-Japan Friendship Society

Annual Report 2015 / 2016

The Executive Committee is pleased to present the Annual Report for the year 2015 / 2016 with great pleasure.

Year 2015 / 2016 was a very successful year under the leadership of President Mr. Sumana D. Liyanage. This was possible due to the cooperation of the members of the Executive Committee and the members in general.

The 56th Annual General Meeting was held on 22nd May 2015 at the Sasakawa Cultural Centre Auditorium, Colombo.

The following served in the Executive Committee:

Patron (per constitution) : His Excellency the Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka

Vice Patrons (appointed) : Mr. Daya Weththasinghe, Mrs. Lalitha Rajapaksa, Mr. Deepal S. Gunaratne (Immediate Past President), Mr. Naoto Honda (Japanese National)

Following were elected uncontested:

President : Mr. Sumana D. Liyanage

Vice Presidents : Dr. Mrs. Soma Edirisinghe, Mr. Rajah Sinnathuray,
Mr. Kumara Semage, Dr. Vijaya Corea

Hony. General Secretary : Mr. Chandra Jayatilleka

Hony. Treasurer : Mr. Rukshan Perera

Hony. Asst. Secretary : Mr. Lal C. Wewala

Hony. Asst. Treasurer : Mr. M. D. (Tony) Saldin

Executive Committee (in alphabetical order)

: Mr. A. Anandagoda, Mr. Jayaraja Chandrasekera,
Mr. Mahendra De Vaz, Mr. Merrick Gooneratne, Mr. W.I. Gunawardene, Mrs. Janneth Ismail, Mr. Upali S. Jayasekera, Mr. M.M. Kanaka, Capt. Ganesh Mendis, Mrs. Gertrude Nanayakkara, Mr. Harindra Rodrigo, Mr. Shelton Thenuwara, Mr. Manoranjan Wijebahu, Mrs. Sunitha Wijepala

Observer

At the 01st Executive Committee meeting held on 10th June 2015 Dr. P.H.P. de Silva of the Japan Solidarity Association of Sri Lanka was once again invited to the committee as an Observer by the President and was unanimously approved.

Achievements

Compared to year 2014 / 2015 the achievements of this year are given in details under Activities during the Year as we had a very successful and a meaningful year. We celebrated our 60th Anniversary with a series of events commencing from 11th March 2016 to 19th March 2016 titled as ‘Japan Week’. This was possible no doubt due to the cooperation of the members of the Executive Committee and the members in general made it possible for our President to guide the Society with tremendous success.

Membership

As at present moment we have recorded a membership of 869, and during the year thirteen members joined our fold. (12 Life Members & 01 Corporate Member)

Enrolment of New Members

No	Name	Date of enrolment	Category
01	Mr. L.J.Deepal Peiris	10 th June 2015	Life
02	Ms. Chandrika M. Munasinghe	10 th June 2015	Life
03	Mr. Egodage Vijitha De Silva	08 th July 2015	Life
04	Ms. Subashini Dias Abeygunawardene	05 th September 2015	Life
05	Mr. Mohamed Faiq Doole	05 th September 2015	Life
06	Mr. Don Mahanama B. Dodampegama	05 th September 2015	Life
07	Mr. Gamini K.S. Wannakuwatte	09 th December 2015	Life
08	Mr. Lakshman Mahesh Jayasinghe	09 th December 2015	Life
09	Mr. Lanka H. E. Premawardhane	09 th December 2015	Life
10	Ms. Mitsuko Sakae	09 th December 2015	Life
11	Mr. Upali Jayawardena	06 th January 2016	Life
12	Yusen Logistics & Kushuhara Lanka (P) Ltd	02 nd March 2016	Corporate
13	Mr. W.M.S.K.Gamini Senanayake	06 th April 2016	Life

Ex Co Meetings

During the period we held 12 Exco meetings and our meetings were well attended. All meetings were well conducted and ten Ex Co meetings were hosted by Exco members to celebrate their birthdays as given below and the balance two meetings were held at the Sasakawa Cultural Centre Board Room hosted by the President with refreshments.

Month	Hosted by	Venue	Remarks
June	Mrs. Lalitha Rajapaksa	Peach Valley Chinese Restaurant, Flower Road, Colombo 7	Dinner
July	Mr. Harindra Rodrigo	Fortune Boat Chinese Restaurant, Independence Square, Colombo 7	Dinner
August	Mr. Shelly Thenuwara	Tree of Life Nature Resort, Kandy	Dinner
September	Mr. Manoranjan Wijebahu	58, “Sirikalgiri”, Dutugemunu Street, Pamankada	Dinner
October	Mr. Lal Wewala &	Sasakawa Cultural Centre	Dinner

	Mr. Tony Saldin	Reception Room	
November	Mr. Kumara Semage	4, Kirimandala Mawatha, Nawala, Rajagiriya	Dinner
December	Mrs. Sunitha Wijepala & Mr. A.Anandagoda	Sasakawa Cultural Centre Reception Room	Dinner
January	Dr. Vijaya Corea, Mr. Rukshan Perera & Mr. M.M.Kanaka	Capri Club, Colombo 3	Dinner
February	Mr. Daya Weththasinghe	Sasakawa Cultural Centre Auditorium	Dinner
March	President	Sasakawa Cultural Centre Auditorium	Refreshments
April	Mr. Rajah Sinnathuray	Sasakawa Cultural Centre Board Room	Refreshments
May	President	Sasakawa Cultural Centre Board Room	Refreshments

The attendance at the meetings was as follows:

Vice Patrons	Meetings Attended	Remarks
Mr. Daya Weththasinghe	07	
Mrs. Lalitha Rajapaksa	12	
Mr. Deepal S. Gunaratne	04	
Mr. Naoto Honda	03	Resigned w.e.f 06 th April 2016
Mr. Shungo Yoshioka	02	Appointed w.e.f 06 th April 2016
Executive Committee Members	Meetings Attended	Remarks
Mr. Sumana D. Liyanage	12	
Dr. Mrs. Soma Edirisinghe	02	Passed away on 14 th November 2015
Mr. Rajah Sinnathuray	10	
Mr. Kumara Semage	04	
Dr. Vijaya Corea	08	
Mr. Merrick Gooneratne	07	Appointed as Vice President w.e.f. 09 th December 2015
Mr. Chandra Jayatilleka	12	
Mr. Rukshan Perera	04	
Mr. Lal C. Wewala	09	
Mr. M.D. (Tony) Saldin	10	
Mr. A. Anandagoda	08	
Mr. Jayaraja Chandrasekera	06	
Mr. Mahendra De Vaz	09	
Mr. Lal De Alwis	05	Appointed as Exco Member w.e.f. 09 th December 2015
Mr. W.I.Gunawardene	12	
Mrs. Janneth Ismail	09	
Mr. Upali S. Jayasekera	11	
Mr. M.M.Kanaka	11	
Capt. Ganesh Mendis	07	
Mrs. Gertrude Nanayakkara	06	
Mr. Harindra Rodrigo	07	
Dr. Sujeewa Suriyaarachchi	09	

Mr. Shelly Thenuwara	09	
Mr. Manoranjan Wijebahu	11	
Mrs. Sunitha Wijepala	08	
Dr. P.H.P.de Silva – Observer	07	

Activities during the year

Emperor’s Birthday Banquet – 21st November 2015

Project Chairman – Vice Patron Deshamanya Mr. Daya Weththasinghe

It is with pride we report that the 82nd birth anniversary of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan was celebrated on 21st November 2015 at the Samudra Ball Room, Taj Samudra Colombo with His Excellency Kenichi Sukanuma Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka and Patron Lanka – Japan Friendship Society as the Chief Guest accompanied by Madam Akiko Sukanuma.

This event is the most prestigious event in our calendar. It is an important occasion when we renew and reiterate our commitment towards upholding and strengthening long years of friendship between our countries. We are also indeed very happy that the Japanese Expatriate Community also participated in large numbers.

60th Anniversary Celebrations:

Week full of activities were organized to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Society on a grand scale from 11th to 19th March 2016 titled as “Japanese Week” as follows:

01st March 2016 – Press Conference was held at the “Monara” Restaurant of Samudra Hotel.

Project Chairperson: Dr. Sujeewa Suriyaarachchi

10th March 2016 - Live TV Programme on Swarnavahini – ‘Ayubowan Sri Lanka’ – President and Hony. General Secretary participated.

11th March 2016

- ❖ Tree Planting Ceremony at the Vihara Maha Devi Park to plant trees (Sakura) as the inaugural project of the 60th anniversary celebrations with His Excellency Kenichi Sukanuma as the Chief Guest. Chairperson: Vice Patron Mr. Daya Weththasinghe
- ❖ Publication of a full colour newspaper supplement in the Ceylon Daily News on 11th March, Chairperson: Exco Member Mr. Lal De Alwis
- ❖ Members Nite & Anniversary Dinner – was held at the Grand Ball Room, Galadari Hotel, Colombo. His Excellency Kenichi Sukanuma Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest. Project Chairperson: Exco Member Mr. Mahendra De Vaz
- ❖ Souvenir – an excellent informative souvenir was published. Project Chairperson: Hony. Asst. Treasurer Mr. M.D. (Tony) Saldin
- ❖ Granting of Scholarships to needy students to study Japanese Language: 13 scholarships were granted with the generous contributions from the Exco members. Project Chairpersons: President Mr. Sumana Liyanage and Hony. General Secretary Mr. Chandra Jayatilleka
- ❖ Membership Card: Plastic Membership Cards were introduced. Project Chairperson: Hony. General Secretary Mr.: Chandra Jayatilleka

13th May 2016 – Religious Ceremony to remember the thousands of Japanese affected by the Great Eastern Tsunami of Japan on 11th March 2011 for those who lost their lives and who are affected by this great disaster was held at the Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo 2. His Excellency Kenichi Suganuma, Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest accompanied by Madam Suganuma with many Embassy Officials and participation of our members. Project Chairperson: Vice Patron Mrs. Lalitha Rajapaksa.

19th March – Health Camp & Tree Planting Project – Held at the Weheragoda Purana Viharaya, Kolonnawa Very successful CSR Project where we treated more than 500 patients with a team of 25 Doctors and Para Medics. Chief Guest was Mr. Masaki Takaoka, First Secretary (PR & CEA) of Embassy of Japan. Project Chairperson: Exco Member Mr. Jayaraja Chandrasekera.

11th May 2016 - Deshamanya Dr. P.R.Anthonis Memorial Oration 2016 - Held at the Sasakawa Memorial Cultural Centre Auditorium on 11th May 2016 which was attended by a distinguished gathering of over 150 invitees.

The oration was delivered by retired Justice Ministry Secretary Dr. Nihal Jayawickrema, Attorney at law on ‘Healing the Nation A Question of Leadership’. The theme was Challenges of Reconciliation not only an issue between the major communities, but also concerns every unjust situation in the country. The Chief Guest for the occasion was His Excellency Kenichi Suganuma, Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka. Refreshments and networking amongst those present, followed after the conclusion of the oration. Wide coverage of pre and post publicity received through the print and electronic media. Project Chairperson: Vice President Mr. Merrick Gooneratne.

24th May & 01st June 2016 - Flood Relief Projects

On 1st June the Lanka Japan Friendship Society donated 1700 Exercise books of 120 pages, 200 pens, 200 pencils, 200 erasers and 200 foot rulers to the Weheragoda Purana Viharaya for distribution to needy school children of the Sedawatte, Wellampitiya & Kolonnawa areas which were badly affected by the recent floods.

President Mr. Sumana Liyanage, Gen Secretary Mr. Chandra Jayatileka, Exco members Mr. A.Anandagoda & Mr. Jayaraja Chandrasekera were present at a simple ceremony to hand over the items.

Separately on 24th May 2016, 20 mats, 50 bed sheets, 50 each of towels and pillowcases, together with clothing and some medicines were handed over to the Sri Vajirajana Dharmayathanaya, (Bikkshu Madyasthanaya) down Lake Rd, Maharagama. The items were handed over to Mr. Pushpakumara, A Committee Member by Ms. Sunitha Wijepala, EXCO Member, Lanka Japan Friendship Society for distribution to the needy and displaced.

Total value of the project Rs. 115,000/-

10th June 2016 - Presentation of Books and a Computer to the “Japanese Corner” of the Colombo Public Library

On a proposal made by Mr. Masaki Takaoka First Secretary (Public Relations & Cultural Exchange Affairs) of the Embassy of Japan ,regarding the need for upgrade the” Japanese Corner” of the Colombo Public Library, Lanka – Japan Friendship will be donating books written on Japan and a computer. Presentation will be made on 10th June to His Excellency Kenichi Suganuma, Ambassador for Japan at the 57th Annual General Meeting.

Bereavement

We are sorry to record the passing away of Vice President Dr. Mrs. Soma Edirisinghe, Exco Member Mr. A.G.Wimalasiri, and members Mr. Deepal Peiris, Mr. R.M.A.Ratnayake, who did a yeoman service to the Society. We miss them so much and offer our deepest sympathies to the bereaved families. Our condolences were intimated.

Directory of Exco Members

For the fourth year in succession we printed and published the Directory of Exco Members without any cost to the Society compiled and sponsored by the Hony. General Secretary Mr. Chandra Jayatilleka.

We are happy and proud to report that our members participated in the following events:

03rd June 2015 – Reception hosted by His Excellency Nobuhito Hobo & Madam Hobo at their residence – 12 Exco members were invited and participated.

14th February 2016 – Reception aboard “Nippon Maru” – ship for world youth leaders to welcome its arrival in Sri Lanka at the Colombo Port was attended by the President & Hony. General Secretary on invitation.

05th September 2015 – Japanese Cultural Exhibition 2015– The embassy of Japan in collaboration with the Japanese Language Teachers Association of Sri Lanka - opening ceremony of the Japanese Cultural Exhibition 2015 at the Lionel Wendt Gallery, Colombo 7. 12 Exco members participated.

02nd October 2015 – 24th Annual Exhibition opening ceremony of Sri Lanka Bonsai Association at the National Art Gallery, Colombo 7 was attended by the HGS on an invitation.

08th November 2015 - Bunka Awards 2015 - Presentation Ceremony of Bunka Awards 2015 organized by Japan – Sri Lanka Friendship Cultural Fund held at the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation - Studio 3 to recognize the talents of middle level artists. Many members of the Exco and their spouses participated.

02nd December 2015 - Invitation from The Embassy of Japan to a Reception from 18:30hrs to 20:30hrs at the Official Residence of the Ambassador to Celebrate the Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor. 12 Exco members participated on invitation extended by the Ambassador for Japan.

05th April 2016 – Reception hosted by HE Kenichi Suganuma and Madam Akiko Suganuma to bid farewell to Ms. Asako Okai, Deputy Head of Mission, who will be assuming the position of Consul General at Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver, Canada. Reception was held at the residence of the Ambassador was attended by six Exco members with their ladies.

06th April 2016 – Dinner organized by the Sasakawa Trust, JICA A.A., JASTECA, LJFS to bid farewell to Ms. Asako Okai, Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Japan held at the Golden Dragon Chinese Restaurant, Taj Samudra Hotel was attended by the President, Hony. General Secretary and Vice President Mr. Merick Gooneratne representing the Lanka – Japan Friendship Society.

Our appreciation to the Embassy of Japan for invitations.

Congratulations

Exco Member Mr. Upali S. Jayasekera was honoured by the Japanese Foreign Minister for contributing to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Sri Lanka as Chairman Sasakawa Trust and Secretary of JICA Alumni Association of Sri Lanka (JICA AA). His Excellency Kenichi Suganuma formally awarded the Foreign Minister's Commendation to Mr. Upali S. Jayasekera at a special ceremony held on 26th October 2015 at the Ambassador's Residence in Colombo.

Exco Member Mr. Lal Chandra De Alwis was honoured by the government of Japan and announced the conferment of "The order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette" in recognition of his significant contribution in strengthening and deepening Japan and Sri Lanka relations.

Presentation ceremony was held on 22nd January 2016 at the Japanese Embassy. He was instrumental in establishing the Japan Sri Lanka Technical Cultural Association (JASTECA). In 1985, He was elected as the Secretary General of the JASTECA and became its President in 1984, 1989, 1990 and 1991. In 1989, he was unanimously elected to chair the World Convention of AOTS Alumni Societies held in Yokohama, Japan. On his initiative as the Chairman of the World Convention of AOTS an independent fund known as the WNF was established to assist developing countries. Mr. Alwis was instrumental in introducing the 5S management practices in Sri Lanka.

Legal Matters

Mr. M.G.M.S.Zurfic Vs. LJFS – Mr. Ronald Perera PC is looking after the interest of the Society, instructed by Mr. Daya Weththasinghe.

Financial Status as at 31st December 2015

Our financial status includes: Current Accounts and Savings Accounts with Hatton National Bank and Bank of Ceylon.

Hatton National Bank current account balance – Rs.	801,964.00
Bank of Ceylon current account balance	- Rs. 92,529.50
Hatton National Bank savings account balance – Rs.	3,499.63
Bank of Ceylon savings account balance	- Rs. 11,559.79

Fixed Deposits at HNB and BOC are as follows:

Hatton National Bank				
Fixed Deposit No	Amount (LKR)	Date of Maturity	Maturity Period	Interest %
115031068926	250,000.00	02/09/2016	12 Months	6.50%
115031068933	250,000.00	02/09/2016	12 Months	6.50%
115031069268	300,000.00	27/09/2016	12 Months	5.00%
115031072619	200,000.00	02/07/2016	12 Months	7.00%
115300007834	845,449.00	28/12/2016	12 Months	6.00%
Total	1,845,449.00			
Bank of Ceylon				
74167771	771,197.19	29/12/2016	12 Months	6.50%
5800066	102,296.11	31/12/2016	12 Months	6.50%
Total	872,493.30			

Payment of Tax – Year of Assessment 2014 / 2015

On the basis of the audited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015 tax payable for the final quarter was Rs.27,662/- to the Inland Revenue and this amount was paid to the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue.

Relationship with the Embassy of Japan

Mr. Kenichi Suganuma, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka arrived in Sri Lanka on 22nd June 2015 and presented his credentials to His Excellency President Maithripala Sirisena on 7th July 2016. Ambassador Suganuma is the twenty-second Japanese Ambassador in Sri Lanka since diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in 1952. Equipped with a wide experience in the diplomatic service, Ambassador Suganuma would contribute positively towards further promoting bilateral relations between the two countries. After the presentation of credentials, on an invitation extended by His Excellency Kenichi Suganuma Ambassador for Japan and Patron Lanka – Japan Friendship Society a courtesy call was made by President Mr. Sumana Liyanage, Hony. General Secretary Mr. Chandra Jayatilleka and Hony. Treasurer Mr. Rukshan Perera on 09th July 2015 at the Embassy Office where a very cordial and fruitful discussion took place. His Excellency was briefed about the history of the Society, its achievements and plans for the future. His Excellency was very much impressed of the work carried out by the Society and its future plans.

Our Thanks

We offer our sincere and grateful thanks to the former Ambassador of Japan His Excellency Nobuhito Hobo & Madam Tomomi Hobo and the present Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Kenichi Suganuma and Madam Akiko Suganuma for their patronage and cooperation in regard to the activities of the Society. Our thanks also go to Madam Asako Okai, former Minister & Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Japan.

Special word of thanks to Mr. Masaki Takaoka, First Secretary (Public Relations & Cultural Exchange Affairs) for his participation at our meetings and coordinating with the Embassy with regards to our events.

Mr. Janak Bandaranayake (Senior Culture and Information Officer) for his assistance extended to us at all times and the members of the Japanese Embassy.

Mr. Naoto Honda, President of the Japanese Solidarity Association Sri Lanka, Dr. P.H.P.de Silva Representative of the Japanese Solidarity Association of Sri Lanka

We want to remember and thank the following who have given us assistance without reservation:

Board of Trustees of the Sasakawa Memorial Sri Lanka Japan Cultural Centre,
Administrative Secretary – Mr. Hector Fernando, Ms. Shakila Dissanayake – Asst. Secretary and Ms. Esther Thilakaratne – Accounts Assistant of Sasakawa Trust Office. President of the Japanese Language Education Association Mr. Dayasiri Warnakulasooriya and Manager Mr. Dimutha de Silva.

Chairman – Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority – for releasing the car park for our events

Mr. M.S.Jayakody – General Secretary CMU & his staff in releasing their car park for our functions.

Special appreciation for the support given by the following Ex Co Members:

Vice Patrons Mr. Daya Weththasinghe and Mrs. Lalitha Rajapaksa, Vice Presidents late Dr. Mrs. Soma Edirisinghe, Mr. Rajah Sinnathuray, Mr. Kumara Semage, Dr. Vijaya Corea, Mr. Merrick Gooneratne, Hony. Treasurer Mr. Rukshan Perera, Hony. Asst. Secretary Mr. Lal C. Wewala, Hony. Asst. Treasurer and Website Coordinator Mr. M.D. (Tony) Saldin and Ex Co Members Mr. A. Anandagoda, Mr. Mahendra De Vaz, Mr. W.I.Gunawardene, Mr. Jayaraja Chandrasekera, Mr. Harindra Rodrigo, Mr. Shelly Thenuwara, and to all other members of the Ex Co who made their contributions to make this year a success to carry out our meaningful projects during the year.

We are grateful to our President Mr. Sumana D. Liyanage for his good guidance, efficient administration and solid decisions which without doubt have made our Society a strong unit.

The Annual Report is presented to the general membership of the Society on 10th June 2016 at the 57th AGM.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Chandra Jayatilleka
Hony. General Secretary
04th June 2016