

Lanka-Japan Friendship Society

Annual Report 2014 / 2015

The Executive Committee is pleased to present the Annual Report for the year 2014 / 2015 with great pleasure.

Year 2014 / 2015 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 55th Annual General Meeting was held on 14th June 2014 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. Akihiko Nakauchi (Japanese National)

Following were elected uncontested:

President : Mr. Sumana D. Liyanage

Vice Presidents : Dr. Mrs. Soma Edirisinghe, Mr. Rajah Sinnathuray, Mr. Kumara Semage, Dr. Prasad S. Gunaratne

Hony. General Secretary : Mr. Chandra Jayatilleka

Hony. Treasurer : Vacant

Hony. Asst. Secretary : Mr. Lal 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. W.I.Gunawardene, Mrs. Janneth Ismail, Mr. Upali Jayasekera, Mr. M.M.Kanaka, Mrs. Gertrude Nanayakkara, Mr. Harindra Rodrigo, Mr. Shelton Thenuwara, Mr. Manoranjan Wijebahu, Mrs. Sunitha Wijepala

Appointment of Hony. Treasurer

At the 01st Executive Committee meeting held on 02nd July 2014 Mr. Rukshan Perera was appointed as the Hony. Treasurer to continue, since he performed an excellent job as Acting Treasurer during last year proposed by Mr. Daya Weththasinghe and seconded by Mr. Upali S. Jayasekera.

Appointment to the Ex Co

To fill the three vacancies in the Ex Co President proposed the names of Dr. Vijaya Corea, Mr. Merrick Gooneratne and Mr. A.G.Wimalasiri to serve the Ex Co during year 2014 / 2015 at the 01st Executive Committee meeting held on 02nd July 2014 which was unanimously accepted.

Observer

At the 01st Executive Committee meeting held on 02nd July 2014 Dr. P.H.P. de Silva of the Japan Solidarity Association of Sri Lanka was once again invited to the committee as an Observer.

Nominee for the seat in the Sasakawa Memorial Sri Lanka Japan Cultural Centre Trust

The Executive Committee unanimously resolved to nominate the incumbent President Mr. Sumana D, Liyanage, for the seat in the Sasakawa Memorial Sri Lanka Japan Cultural Centre Trust to represent the Lanka-Japan Friendship Society at the 01st Executive Committee Meeting (2014/2015) held on 02nd July 2014.

Achievements

Compared to year 2013 / 2014 the achievements of this year are given in details under Activities during the Year as we had a very successful and a meaningful year. 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 860, and during the year eleven members joined our fold. (09 Life Members & 02 Ordinary members).

Enrolment of New Members (01st January 2014 to 31st December 2014)

No	Name	Date of enrolment	Category
01	Mr. Ranil Palinda Seneviratne	02 nd July 2014	Life
02	Mr. Akihiko Nakauchi	02 nd July 2014	Life
03	Mr. Rohana C. Hemachandra	06 th August 2014	Ordinary
04	Mr. Chaminda M. Udawatte	06 th August 2014	Ordinary
05	Mr. Udage Achchige Gamini	06 th August 2014	Life
06	Dr. P.M.Kiriarachchi	06 th August 2014	Life
07	Mr. P.I.Pathiratne	06 th August 2014	Life
08	Mr. W.A.Chammika De Silva	06 th August 2014	Life
09	Mr. W.K.H.Wegapitiya	03 rd September 2014	Life
10	Ms. Priyanthi Damitha Kandanearachchy	03 rd September 2014	Life
11	Mr. Salinda Chanaka Kariyapperuma	03 rd December 2014	Life

Ex Co Meetings

During the period we held 11 Exco meetings and our meetings were well attended. All meetings were well conducted and all Ex Co meetings were held at the Sasakawa Cultural Centre Auditorium hosted by the President with refreshments.

The attendance at the meetings was as follows:

Vice Patrons	Meetings Attended	Remarks
Mr. Daya Weththasinghe	11	
Mrs. Lalitha Rajapaksa	11	
Mr. Deepal S. Gunaratne	04	
Mr. Akihiko Nakauchi	00	Resigned w.e.f. 28 th August 2014
Mr. Naoto Honda	01	Appointed w.e.f. 03 rd September 2014
Executive Committee Members	Meetings Attended	Remarks
Mr. Sumana D. Liyanage	11	
Dr. Mrs. Soma Edirisinghe	10	
Mr. Rajah Sinnathuray	08	
Mr. Kumara Semage	06	
Dr. Prasad S. Gunaratne	08	
Mr. Chandra Jayatileka	11	
Mr. Rukshan Perera	08	Appointed w.e.f. 02 nd July 2014 as Hony. Treasurer
Mr. Lal C. Wewala	09	
Mr. M.D. (Tony) Saldin	10	
Mr. A. Anandagoda	06	
Mr. Jayaraja Chandrasekera	04	
Dr. Vijaya Corea	09	Appointed w.e.f. 02 nd July 2014 as an Ex Co member
Mr. Mahendra De Vaz	07	
Mr. Merrick Gooneratne	04	Appointed w.e.f. 02 nd July 2014 as an Ex Co member
Mr. W.I.Gunawardene	11	
Mrs. Janneth Ismail	10	
Mr. Upali S. Jayasekera	10	
Mrs. Gertrude Nanayakkara	08	
Mr. Harindra Rodrigo	05	
Mr. Shelly Thenuwara	04	
Mr. Manoranjan Wijebahu	10	
Mrs. Sunitha Wijepala	06	
Mr. A.G.Wimalasiri	00	Appointed w.e.f. 02 nd July 2014 as an Ex Co member
Dr. P.H.P.de Silva – Observer	07	Appointed w.e.f. 02 nd July 2014 as an Observer

Activities during the year

01. Fellowship Nite and to welcome Madam Asako Okai, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan – 13th September 2014

Project Chairman – Ex Co member Mr. Mahendra De Vaz

The Fellowship Nite was held on Saturday, 13th September 2014 at the Auditorium of the Sasakawa Memorial Cultural Centre, Colombo 3 with Madam Asako Okai Minister / Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan as the Chief Guest which was to welcome Madam Asako Okai. Event was a well attended function with the participation of members, their families, friends and the expatriate community. Participation fee Rs. 1,500/- per person. Total of 186 persons participated. Rs. 22,010/- was made as a surplus of this event.

02. Lanka-Japan Friendship Society Vehicle Sticker – 13th September 2014

Project Chairman – Vice President Dr. Prasad S. Gunaratne

First ever LJFS vehicle sticker was released at the Fellowship Nite and the first copy of the vehicle sticker was presented to Madam Asako Okai by Dr. Prasad S. Gunaratne.

03. Public Seminar – 27th November 2014

Project Chairman – Ex Co Member Mr. Merrick Gooneratne

A presentation was held on “People practices in Japanese business organizations: A glimpse” by Dr. M. Saman Dassanayake (Senior Lecturer in Human Resources Management, Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Colombo) at the Organisation of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka (OPA). The key topics covered included Japanese Economy and Labour Market today, major challenges of Human Resource Management and lessons from the Japanese experiences.

04. World Elders Day – 05th October 2014

Project Chairman – Hony. Treasurer Mr. Rukshan Perera

This project was carried out on a request made by the President for new ideas and proposed by Vice President Dr. Mrs. Soma Edirisinghe to carry out a project on the World Elders Day. Project was carried out at “Sanhinda” Elders Home, Kotte where 65 elders were treated with an entertainment programme with refreshments, music, dancing and companionship. The Society provided the refreshments and the Management of Sanhinda arranged the entertainment programme. Members of LJFS and their families and staff of Sanhinda participated.

05. Excursion – 11th October 2014

Project Chairman – Vice President Mr. Kumara Semage

A day excursion was organized to visit the famous Ridi Vihara and Rambodagalla Granite Statue. Cost per person was Rs. 2,900/- inclusive of Breakfast on the way at Shasha Restaurant, Seeduwa, morning tea at Saruketha Restaurant, Kurunegala, Buffet Lunch at Saruketha Restaurant, afternoon tea on the way back at “Kandila” Restaurant, new Kandy Road. Transport by AC coach with an English speaking tour guide lecturer. It was a well planned tour. Past

President Mr. Fred Medis as usual conducted a Quiz Program and gave away some handy gifts, and there was “in-flight entertainment” by a University Lecturer. Everyone enjoyed the programme.

06. Emperor’s Birthday Banquet – 18th November 2014

Project Chairman – Vice Patron Deshamanya Mr. Daya Weththasinghe

It is with pride we report that the 81st birth anniversary of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan was celebrated on 18th November 2014 at the Grand Ball Room Balmoral, Kingsbury Hotel, Colombo with His Excellency Nobuhito Hobo Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka and Patron Lanka – Japan Friendship Society and Madam Tomomi Hobo as Chief Guests. 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. Participation fee was Rs. 6,000/- per person. 300 persons participated. Surplus was Rs. 1,071,188/12. Organizing Committee was comprised of Mr. Mahendra De Vaz, Mr. Merrick Gooneratne, Mr. Harindra Rodrigo, Mr. Shelly Thenuwara, Dr. P.H.P.de Silva and President Mr. Sumana D. Liyanage, Hony. General Secretary Mr. Chandra Jayatilleka, Hony. Treasurer Mr. Rukshan Perera as ex officio members under the guidance of Mr. Daya Weththasinghe.

07. Lanka-Japan Society Website – 18th November 2014

Project Chairman – Hony. Assistant Treasurer Mr. M.D. (Tony) Saldin

Website was launched by His Excellency Nobuhito Hobo, Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka at the Emperor’s Birthday Banquet held at the Kingsbury Hotel Colombo. This indeed was a landmark event in the LJFS calendar as it integrates our activities with the technology and information systems of the age of internet. We

Website was created by Team 9 Solutions, Nugegoda.

08. Ladies Cultural Project – 21st February 2015

Project Chairperson – Vice Patron Mrs. Lalitha Rajapaksa

This was an event filled with Japanese songs, Dance items, Sri Lankan Brides, demonstration of Ikebana flower arrangements, Tombola game etc. Participation fee was Rs. 600/- per person inclusive of snacks with tea or coffee and a glass of complementary beer. Assisted by Ms. Mali Cooke and her Ikebana Students was held at the Auditorium of Sasakawa memorial Cultural Centre, Colombo 3. Over 200 persons including Japanese community participated. It was a very exciting event worth repeating every year. Honorary Compere was Dr. Vijaya Corea.

09. Religious Ceremony – 11th March 2015

Project Chairman – Ex Co Member Mr. Upali S. Jayasekera

This was another project carried out on a request made by the President for new ideas and proposed by Ex Co member Mr. Merrick Gooneratne for us to remember the thousands of Japanese affected by the Great Eastern Tsunami of Japan on 11th March 2011 and for us to carry out a religious ceremony for those who lost their lives and who are affected by this great disaster.

Ex Co member Mr. Upali S. Jayasekera without any reservation accepted to be the Chairperson of this project which was carried out at the Gangaramaya Temple, Hunupitiya, Colombo 2. His Excellency Nobuhito Hobo Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest with many Embassy Officials and participation of our members. Local sweet meats were served after the ceremony.

10. Fund Raising Project – 31st January 2015

Project Chairperson – Vice President Dr. Mrs. Soma Edirisinghe
Mr. Mahendra De Vaz – Project Coordinator

“Sing Along with Sohan & the X-Periments” was held at the BMICH Banquet Hall. His Excellency Nobuhito Hobo Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest. This event was well attended by members and their families and friends. Everyone participated got their monies worth. Participation fee was Rs. 1,200/- per person.

11. Lanka-Japan Journal 2015

Editor – Ex Co Member Mr. Upali S. Jayasekera

LJFS is pleased to present the Society Journal for 2015, this will give an opportunity for the members and well wishers of the Society to get an idea of the activities of the Society as well as insight to the life and culture of Japanese people. We wish to thank our Editor Mr. Upali S. Jayasekera in bringing out this Journal in time. Lanka Japan Journal 2015 will be out at the 56th Annual General Meeting on 22nd May 2015.

12. Revision of the LJFS Constitution

To need to revise the Society’s Constitution has been under consideration for quite some time. A sub-committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Vice Patron Mr. Daya Weththasinghe to identify the necessary change to the existing constitution. The recommendations made by the committee were approved by the Ex Co and will be placed before the 56th AGM on 22nd May 2015.

13. Final Programmer for the Year - Trip for Members & families – 17th May 2015

Project Chairman – Vice President Mr. Rajah Sinnathuray

On a request made by the members of the Ex Co Mr. Rajah Sinnathuray volunteered to organize an outing for members and their guests to wind up the years activities with a trip to Pegasus Reef Hotel, Hendala, Wattala on Sunday 17th May 2015.

Special rate for Lanka-Japan Friendship Society members with a welcome drink on arrival, a sumptuous International Buffet Lunch, afternoon Tea/Coffee with a piece of Cake, Swimming Pool facilities, Games etc. An opportunity where everyone is able to relax and enjoy good food, good company and special facilities provided by the hotel. Participation fee Rs. 2,200/- per person. Transport from Sasakawa to Pegasus Reef Hotel and back at a very nominal charge of Rs. 500/- per person.

All those present had a wonderful time with a game of softball cricket - ladies vs gents, lots of team games, sing song, tombola and a dip in the pool. Everybody also enjoyed the sumptuous international buffet lunch and evening tea as well. Asst Treasurer Mr. Tony Saldin organized the games.

Bereavement

We are sorry to record the passing away of Mr. L.H.R.Peiris, Mr. Peter.N.M.Alles, Mrs. Sharmini Matthew, Past President Mr. Joe Aloysius and Mr. Ananda Chittambalam 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 third 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:

19th July 2014 – ‘Bon Odori’ – Summer Festival - a festival filled with traditional Japanese flair organized by the Japanese Solidarity Association of Sri Lanka together with the Embassy of Japan and the Japanese Graduates Alumni Association of Sri Lanka (JAGAAS) at the Moors Grounds, Colombo 2. Many of our Society members, spouses, & children participated.

30th August 2014 – Japanese Cultural Exhibition 2014 – The embassy of Japan in collaboration with the Japanese Language Teachers Association of Sri Lanka - opening ceremony of the Japanese Cultural Exhibition 2014 at the J.D.A.Perera Gallery, University of Visual & Performing Art, Horton Place, Colombo 7

01st November 2014 - Bunka Awards 2014 - Presentation Ceremony of Bunka Awards 2014 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.

04th December 2014 - Invitation from The Embassy of Japan to a Reception from 18:30hrs 20:30hrs at the Official Residence of the Ambassador to Celebrate the Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor. President, Hony. General Secretary and Vice Patrons with their spouses were invited by His Excellency the Ambassador for Japan.

Our appreciation to the Embassy of Japan for invitations.

Congratulations

The Government of Japan conferred the “Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays and Rosette” on our Ex Co member and former Hony. General Secretary Mr. Merrick Gooneratne in recognition of his services in promoting Japan-Sri Lanka relations.

Hony. General Secretary Mr. Chandra Jayatilleka was elected as the President 2015 / 2016 of the International Association of Lions Clubs District 306 C2 Sri Lanka- Lions Club of Nugegoda to lead the club during their 50th year celebrations. He was also adjudged the most outstanding Secretary for the year during the Annual Convention held at the BMICH on 17th May 2015.

Legal Matters

Mr. M.G.M.S.Zurfi 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 2014

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

Hatton National Bank current account balance – Rs. 357,466.58
Bank of Ceylon current account balance - Rs. 12,279.49
Hatton National Bank savings account balance – Rs. 2,427.14
Bank of Ceylon savings account balance - Rs. 11,107.35

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	02/09/2015	12 Months	6.50%
115031068933	250,000.00	02/09/2015	12 Months	6.50%
115031069268	300,000.00	27/09/2015	12 Months	5.00%
115031072619	200,000.00	02/07/2015	12 Months	7.00%
115300007834	801,222.00	28/12/2015	12 Months	6.00%
Total	1,801,222.00			
Bank of Ceylon				
74167771	727,630.79	29/12/2015	12 Months	6.50%
5800066	96,199.47	31/12/2015	12 Months	6.50%
Total	823,830.26			

Payment of Tax – Year of Assessment 2013 / 2014

On the basis of the audited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014 Tax payable for the final quarter was Rs. 37,885/- to the Inland Revenue and this amount was paid to the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue.

Our Thanks

We offer our sincere and grateful thanks to the His Excellency Ambassador of Japan for Sri Lanka and Patron Lanka – Japan Friendship Society Mr. Nobuhito Hobo and Madam Tomomi Hobo for their patronage and cooperation in regard to the activities of the Society. Our thanks also go to Madam Asako Okai, Minister & Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Japan, Mr. Masaki Takaoka, First Secretary (Public Relations & Cultural Affairs), Mr. Janak Bandaranayake (Senior Culture and Information Officer) for their assistance extended to us at all times and a big thanks to 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

Mr. S.H.M.Zuhar – former Administrative Secretary – Sasakawa Trust Office and present Administrative Secretary Mr. Ravi Wijenaike.

Ms. Shakila Dissanayake – Asst. Secretary – Sasakawa Trust Office

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

Late Mr. Bala Tampoe – 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, Mr. Deepal Gunaratne, Mrs. Lalitha Rajapaksa. Vice

Presidents Dr. Mrs. Soma Edirisinghe, Mr. Rajah Sinnathuray, Mr. Kumara Semage, Dr. Prasad

S. Gunaratne. Hony. Treasurer Mr. Rukshan Perera, Hony. Asst. Treasurer Mr. M.D. (Tony)

Saldin and Ex Co Members Mr. Mahendra De Vaz, Dr. Vijaya Corea, Mr. Jayaraja

Chandrasekera, Mr. Merrick Gooneratne, Mr. Upali S. Jayasekera, Mrs. Janneth Ismail,

Mr. Harindra Rodrigo, Mr. Shelly Thenuwara, Mrs. Sunitha Wijepala, Mr. A.Anandagoda, Mr.

A.G.Wimalasiri and to all members of the Ex Co who made their contributions to make this year a success to carry out over 13 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 22nd May 2015 at the 56th AGM.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee.



Chandra Jayatilleka

Hony. General Secretary

18th May 2015