



LANKA - JAPAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

Sasakawa Cultural Centre, No 4, 22nd Lane, Colombo 3. Tel/Fax: +94 112 437 925 E-mail: lankajapanfriendship01@gmail.com
Web: www.lankajapanfs.com

LANKA JAPAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY - ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

The Executive Committee is pleased to present the Annual Report for the Year 2022/2023.

The 63RD Annual General Meeting of the Lanka Japan Friendship Society (LJFS) was held on 25th November 2022 at The Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, 100, Padanama Mawatha, Independence Square, Colombo 07.

The following persons were elected to the Executive Committee:

Patron (as per Constitution):	His Excellency the Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka
Vice Patrons (appointed):	Immediate Past President, Mr. Sumana Liyanage, Mrs. Lalitha Rajapakse, Mr. Deepal Gunaratne & Mr. Kenichi Umehara (President of the Japanese Solidarity Association & GM/Mitsubishi Corporation, Colombo)
President:	Mr. Merrick Gooneratne
Vice Presidents:	Mr. Mahendra de Vaz, Mr. A. Shelly Thenuwara, Mr. W. I. Gunawardena, Mr. M.D. (Tony) Saldin
Hony. General Secretary:	Professor Gaminda Haegoda
Hony. Treasurer:	Mr. Fredrick Vijayakumar Marian
Hony. Assistant Secretary:	Ms. Jenneth Ismail
Hony. Assistant Treasurer:	Mrs. Nishanthi Galhena
Executive Committee (as per nominations received a elected uncontested)	Mr. A Anandagoda, Mr. Sudhammika Attygalle, Mr. Jayaraja Chandrasekara, Mrs. Sarojini Nagendran, Mr. Neomal Perera, Dr. P.H.P. de Silva, Dr. Upali Jayawardena, Mr. Chanaka Kariyapperuma, Mrs. Sunitha Wijepala, Mr. R Kadirgamarajah Mr. Manoranjan Wijebahu, Ms. Samadara Mampitiye, Mr. D.H.R. Chadranath, Mr. Rukshan Perera

The following members were proposed by the Chair at the AGM to fill the shortfall in the EXCO and appointed on approval:

Dr. Rohan Pallewatta, Mr. Janaka Bandara

Japanese Representatives appointed:
by the President

Mr. T. Kawakami - Counselor who returned to Japan after completing his term was succeeded by Mr. Kenji Inoue, 1st Secretary (Public Relations & Cultural Exchange Affairs) & Ms. Anna Suzuki, 2nd Secretary as Representatives of the Embassy of Japan & Mr. Akira Matsui, GM of Itochu Corporation, representing the Japanese business community in Sri Lanka

EXCO MEETINGS:

Twelve (12) monthly Executive Committee meetings were held during the period under review to plan and execute the Activities below described under the leadership of the President.

ATTENDANCE RECORD OF THE EX. CO. MEMBERS AT MEETINGS:

NAME OF MEMBER	ATTENDANCE	NAME OF MEMBER	ATTENDANCE
1. Mr. Merrick Gooneratne	12	16. Mr. Manoranjan Wijebahu	07
2. Dr. Vijaya Corea	12	17. Mr. S. Chanaka Kariyapperuama	03
3. Mr. Mahendra de Vaz	09	18. Dr. Upali Jayawardena	06
4. Mr. A. Shelly Thenuwara	06	19. Mrs. Sunitha Wijepala	11
5. Mr. Wilson I. Gunawardena	03	20. Mr. D.H.R. Chandranath	02
6. Mr. M.D. Tony Saldin	10	21. Mr. R. Kadiragamarajah	12
7. Prof: Gaminda Haegoda J.P.	11	22. Ms. Samadara Mampitiye	10
8. Mr. Fredrick Marian	10	23. Mr. Neomal Perera	04
9. Mrs. Jenneth Ismail J.P.	08	24. Dr. P.G. Rohan Pallewatta	06
10. Ms. Nishanthi Galhena	12	25. Mr. Janaka Bandara	01
11. Dr. P.H.P. de Silva	10	26. Mr. Rukshan Perera	02
12. Mr. A. Anandagoda	09	29. Mr. Rukshan Perera	02
13. Mr. Sudhammika Attygalle	02	27. Mr. Kenji Inoue	07
14. Mrs. Sarojini Nagendran	11	28. Ms. Anna Suzuki	06
15. Mr. Jayaraja Chandrasekera	06		

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ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW:

- FELLOWSHIP DINNER WITH JAPANESE DIPLOMATS** - The EXCO hosted Mr. Kotaro Katsuki, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission, and Mr. Kenji Inoue, 1st Secretary of the Japanese Embassy, to a fellowship Dinner at the Long Feng Restaurant - Cinnamon Lakeside, Colombo on 26th Dec 2022, initiated by President/LJFS Mr. Merrick Gooneratne, to enable the EXCO to forge closer ties with the Japanese Diplomats.

Project Coordinator - Jayaraja Chandrasekera/EXCO member

- EXCO TRIP TO HOTEL TREE OF LIFE, KANDY** - The EXCO and their spouses spent the day at the Hotel Tree of Life, Kandy, owned by LJFS VP Mr. Shelly Thenuwara on 28th May 2023. Members had a whale of a time, singing, dancing, swimming and taking part in indoor games & partook of a sumptuous buffet at the "Kospela" Restaurant, with a calypso band in attendance.

Project Coordinators - Shelly Thenuwara VP, R. Kadiragamarajah, Nishanthi Galhena, Sunitha Wijepala

- LECTURE ON THE "FACETS OF JAPANESE CULTURE"** - 1st of the lecture series on "Facets of Japanese Culture" was delivered by Professor Dilrukshi Ratnayake, PhD in Linguistics, Dept. of Modern Languages, University of Kelaniya, to a distinguished audience of around 140 persons, comprising members, businessmen, diplomats and well-wishers on 27th June 2023 at the Sasakawa Hall.

The Chief Guest was His Excellency Hideaki Mizukoshi, Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka.

A donation of a rare collection of books on "Facets of Japanese Culture" was made by Mr. Chinthaka Nugegodage, General Manager of Okaya Electronics.

Project Chairman Mr. Tony Saldin VP

4. **DINNER WITH THE AMBASSADOR - The** President arranged a fellowship dinner for the EXCO with the Japanese Ambassador H.E. Hideaki Mizukoshi at the Ginza Hohsen Japanese Restaurant @ the Galadari on 5th Sept 2023 over a 6 course Japanese dinner. In attendance were also Mr. Kenji Inoue, 1st Secretary and Ms. Anna Suzuki, 2nd Secretary of the Embassy and Mr. Richard Balasuriya, the Chairman/MD of Ginza Hohsen.
5. **LJFS LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENTS AWARDS** – President initiated the Lifetime Achievement Awards to recognize and appreciate the yeoman service rendered over the years by some unsung members to the Association. The following members have received awards for the year 2023:
 - i. Mr. Sumana Liyanage, Vice Patron/Past President - in recognition of his contribution to the enhancement of Sri Lanka Japan relations and outstanding professional integrity, awarded at the 1st Lecture series of **Facets of Japanese Culture** on 27th June 2023. The award was presented by His Excellency Hideaki Mizukoshi, Ambassador for Japan.
 - ii. Mrs. Sarojini Nagendran Past Vice President/present EXCO member - in recognition of 47 Years of dedicated service to LJFS, awarded at the “LJFS Sing-Along & Musical Nite” held on 23rd Sept 2023 by Mr. Kotaro Katsuki, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Japan
 - iii. Ms. Jenneth Ismail – to be recognized and awarded at the 64th AGM on 25th November 2023
6. **SING – A-LONG & MUSICAL NITE WITH NALIN AND THE STAR COMBINATION** - the much awaited “LJFS Sing-A-Long & Musical Nite” was held on 23rd Sept 2023 at the Grand Oriental Hotel - Grand Ballroom with the band “Nalin and the Star Combination” in attendance & our own VP Dr. Vijaya Corea Emceeding.

The Chief Guest was His Excellency Hideaki Mizukoshi, Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka. The event was well attended with over 250 members, guests, Japanese Diplomats and members of the Japanese Business community in SL.

Highlights of the night were, a mime by 3 Japanese comedians who entertained the crowd by their performance, game of Tombola/Bingo, with attractive cash prizes and a baila competition.
Project Chairman – Mahendra Vaz, VP

This event brought in a profit of Rs.1,200,000/- to the Association. Portion of the proceeds will be donated for the LJFS Project to reduce malnutrition in underprivileged school children.

Project Chairman Mahendra de Vaz, VP

7. ALLEVIATION OF MALNUTRITION AMONG UNDER PRIVILEGED CHILDREN BY PROVIDING

The initial fund raiser for this project was the LJFS Sing-a-Long Night 2023 and the project will be implemented by the incoming Executive Committee for 2024

Project Chairman – Mr. Neomal Perera

8. OTHER EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE LJFS

Annual General Meeting of the Sasakawa Trust on 29TH July 2023 at the Sasakawa Hall


A few senior EXCO members of the Lanka Japan Friendship Society namely Dr. Vijaya Corea, Mr. Mahendra de Vaz, Mr. Shelly Thenuwara, Professor Gaminda Haegoda, Dr. PHP de Silva and Mr. Tony Saldin attended the above AGM, which was followed by cocktails and dinner. Mr. Sumana Liyanage and Mr. Deepal Gunaratne of the LJFS who were present are also office bearers of the Sasakawa Trust.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We offer our sincere thanks to the Ambassador of Japan, His Excellency Mr. Hideaki Mizukoshi and Madame; Mr. Kotaro Katsuki, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission; Mr. Kenji Inoue, 1st Secretary, Public Relations and Cultural Exchange Affairs, Ms. Anna Suzuki, 2nd Secretary and all the staff of the embassy, Mr. Akira Matsui, GM, Itochu Corporation and Mr. Kenichi Umehara, GM, Mitsubishi Corporation for attending our meetings and various functions and for the warm co-operation extended towards Lanka Japan Friendship Society at all times.

We thank the Board of Trustees, Manager and staff of the Sasakawa Trust for their co-operation, the Chairman & Director General of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority & the Management of Sifani Jewelers for releasing their car parks to us for our various functions. We also thank all our sponsors and well-wishers for their contributions and support at various events of the society.

We also thank the President Mr. Merrick Gooneratne for his leadership, and to the office bearers, EXCO members and the general membership of the LJFS for their co-operation, contributions, participation at EXCO meetings and events at all times.



Prof: Gaminda Haegoda J.P.

General Secretary / Lanka Japan Friendship Society
(for and on behalf of the Executive Committee)

17th November 2023