



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

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 66TH AGM

The Executive Committee takes pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year 2024/2025.

The 2024/2025 year was a success under President Tony Saldin's leadership, supported by the cooperation of the Executive Committee and members.

The 65th AGM was held on 04th December 2024, at the Sasakawa Cultural Center Auditorium, Colombo 03 and the following Executive Committee was elected to serve the Association.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patron (as per constitution)

His Excellency Mr. ISOMATA AKIO, The Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka

Vice Patrons (appointed)

Mr. Sumana Liyanage, Mr. Deepal Gunaratne, Mr. Merrick Gooneratne (IPP) & Mr. Mikinaga Hotta (representative of the Japanese business community)

The following were elected uncontested:

President

M. D. (Tony) Saldin

Vice Presidents

Mr. A. Anandagoda, Prof. Gaminda Haegoda, Mr. Jayaraja Chandrasekera, Mr. Neomal Perera, Mrs. Sunitha Wijepala

Hony. General Secretary

Ms. Samadara Mampitiye

Hony. Treasurer

Mr. M. Thiagarajah

Hony. Asst Secretary

Lt.Col.Dr. Asanka Pallewatte (Resigned on 5th August 2025)
Mr. Nemantha Abesinghe appointed on the 5th August 2025

Hony. Asst Treasurer

Ms. D A R M Nishanthi Galhena

Executive Committee (in alphabetical order):

Dr Vijaya Corea, Dr. P H P De Silva, Mr. Dushantha Goonetilleke, Ms. Jenneth Ismail, Dr. Upali Jayawardena, Mr. Chanaka Kariyapperuma, Mr. R. Kadiragamaraja, Capt.M G G Mendis, Ms. F V Marian, Mr. Inam Mohamed, Ms. Druki Martenstyn, Ms. Sarojini Nagendran, Ms. Diloshini Nesakumar, Dr. Rohan Pallewatte, Mr. S N Raghavan, Mr. Dilhan Thotahewage, Mr. Shelly Thenuwara, Mr. Mahendra De Vaz, Ms. Himani Wijemanne, Ms. Manoranjan Wijebahu

Representatives of EOJ to LJFS Exco

Mr. Kenji Innoue (1st Secretary) & Ms. Anna Suzuki (2nd Secretary) who were succeeded by Ms. Miyuki Eguchi as 1st Secretary, and Ms. Miyoko Kawamoto as 2nd Secretary, on 20-02-2025 and on 04-06-2025 respectively

MEMBERSHIP

LIFS has 895 members at present on record, of which 241 are on the General Member WhatsApp group and 350 are on email. Many mobile no's and email addresses on record are not presently working. 17 new members joined the Association this year, including 02 corporate members. New member application forms and the LIFS constitution can be downloaded from our website. The individual life membership fee is Rs.15,250/- and corporate membership is Rs.25,250/-

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

We held 12 Ex.Co. meetings during the year at the Sasakawa Cultural Centre, which were well attended and well conducted and productive.

The Attendance at the meetings was as follows:

NAMES OF MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE FOR THE YR
1. Mr. M.D. Tony Saldin (President)	11
2. M. Merrick Gooneratne (Immediate Past President)	03
3. Ms. Samadara Mampitiye (General Secretary)	11
4. Mr. A. Anandagoda (Vice President)	06
5. Prof. Gaminda Haegoda (Vice President)	04
6. Mr. Jayaraja Chandrasekera (Vice President)	08
7. Mr. Neomal Perera (Vice President)	02
8. Mrs. Sunitha Wijepala (Vice President)	08
9. Lt.Col.Dr. Asanka Pallewatte (Assistant Secretary – resigned)	06
10. Mr. Nemantha Abeysinghe (Newly Appointed – Asst. Sec.)	08
11. Mr. M.Thiyagaraja (General Treasurer)	12
12. Ms. D A R M Nishanthi Galhena (Assistant Treasurer)	07
EXCO MEMBERS	
13. Dr Vijaya Corea	11
14. Dr. P H P De Silva	10
15. Mahendra De Vaz	04
16. Jenneth Ismail	08
17. Dr. Upali Jayawardena	12
18. Capt. M G G Mendis	04
19. Sarojini Nagendran	08
20. Dr. Rohan Pallewatte	05
21. S N Raghavan	09
22. Shelly Thenuwara	03
23. R. Kadiragamaraja	05
24. Manoranjan Wijebahu	05
25. Diloshini Nesakumar	10
26. Himani Wijemanne	07
27. Chanaka Kariyapperuma	01
28. F V Marian	00
29. Dushantha Goonetilleke	06
30. Innam Mohamed	00

LJFS ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

1. DINNER TO BID FAREWELL TO KENJI INOUE SAN 1ST SECRETARY OF EMBASSY OF JAPAN (EOJ) & WELCOME HIS SUCCESSOR – MS. MIYUKI EGUCHI ON 20TH FEBURARY 2025

- LJFS hosted a farewell dinner for Mr. Kenji Inoue, 1st Secretary (Cultural Affairs), EOJ, on 20-02-2025 at Kuuraku Japanese Restaurant, Colombo, who regularly represented the EOJ at LJFS EXCO meetings and upon completion of a three year tenure of service in Colombo was posted to the EOJ in Amsterdam. President Tony Saldin on behalf of LJFS thanked him for his close cooperation with LJFS and wished him the very best in all his endeavors in Amsterdam.
- His successor, Ms. Miyuki Eguchi, who previously served at Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic missions in India, was also warmly welcomed to the Society as the new representative of EOJ to LJFS.

2. MEMBERS DAY OUT ON THE 26TH OF APRIL 2025 AT GOLDI SANDS HOTEL NEGOMBO

- President Tony along and Hony. Gen. Secretary Samadara, together with the Presidents of the SL-UK, SL-USA & SL- Australia/New Zealand Associations organized a successful joint day outing for the members of the 4 societies, at Goldi Sands Hotel in Negombo, owned by Mr. Eric Suriyasena, LJFS member and President of SL - Australia/New Zealand Association hosted the event. 60 participants from the 4 associations attended and the event which included avurudu games, Avurudhu Kumaraya & Kumari Pageant and other fellowship building events, which brought the members of the 4 associations together.

3. FAREWELL DINNER TO MS. ANNA SUZUKI, 02ND SECRETARY, EOJ ON 4TH JUNE 2025

- LJFS hosted a farewell dinner to outgoing 2nd Secretary (Cultural Affairs) Ms. Anna Suzuki and 2nd representative of EOJ to LJFS Exco, on Wednesday 4th June 2025 at the Ginza Hosen Japanese Restaurant. President Tony Saldin and General Secretary Samadara Mampitiye paid warm tributes to Anna San for the seamless co-operation extended by her to LJFS during her tenure of service and conveyed the best wishes of LJFS in her new posting in the EOJ in Ottawa, Canada. Anna San thanked the LJFS members for their friendship and for the co-operation extended to her during her tenure in Sri Lanka.

4. FACETS OF JAPANESE CULTURE III - 21ST OF JUNE 2025 – CO-CHAired BY MR. DUSHANTHA GOONETHILEKE & MAHENDRA DE VAZ

- LJFS held its 3rd lecture in the series "Facets of Japanese Culture" on 21st June 2025, at the Auditorium of the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka, Colombo, attracting over 185 participants. The Chief Guest was H.E. Mr. Akio Isomata, Ambassador of Japan, accompanied by Madame Chieko. The main lecture on "Japanese Art and Paintings" was delivered by Lt. Col. Dr.Asanka Pallewatta, followed by demonstrations of the traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony, Kendo, and Ki-Aikido by Lalani Sensei, Kerthi Sensei, and Dushi Goonetilleke of Budo Sri Lanka. Bonsai and Ikebana exhibits were presented by Ms.Druki Martenstyn of the Bonsai Association of Sri Lanka and Ms. Sunitha Wijepala of Ikebana International Sri Lanka. The unique feature of this year's event was that the all the above items were presented by LJFS Exco Members and the event was compered by the Hony. Gen. Secretary, Samadara Mampitiye. The event concluded with a celebration of the birthday of H.E. Ambassador Isomata, which was on the same day.

5. LJFS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

At “Facets of Japanese Culture III” on 21st June 2025, Dr. P.H.P. de Silva, longstanding member of LJFS who, despite his health issues, has always supported the projects of LJFS, especially in bringing the Japanese community in SL to our events, was presented with the LJFS Lifetime Achievement Award by H.E. the Ambassador of Japan, in recognition of his 18 + years of yeoman service to the Society.

6. DONATION OF A DESK TOP COMPUTER TO THE JAPANESE LIBRARY CORNER AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY ON 11TH JULY 2025 - CHAIRED BY DR. P H P DE SILVA AND MRS. JUNKO DE SILVA.

- The LJFS Executive Committee donated a new desktop computer with a large monitor to the recently revamped Japanese Corner of the Colombo Public Library on 11 July 2025, replacing the computer previously donated by LJFS, eight years ago. This was handed over by President Tony Saldin and Hony. Gen. Secretary, Samadara Mampitiye, to Ms. Varuni Gangabadaarachchi, Chief Librarian, and to Ms. Pavithra Wijewardene, Librarian, together with Ms. Miyuki Eguchi, 1st Secretary, and Ms. Miyoko Kawamoto, 2nd Secretary, of EOJ. The Japanese Corner is well patronized by many university students and the general public interested in Japan and LJFS members also donated books on Japan.

7. ANNUAL CLEANING OF JAPANESE CEMETARY AT BORELLA KANATTA ON 6TH & 7TH OF SEPTEMBER 2025 - CHAIRED BY DR. P H P DE SILVA

- Our annual CSR Project and labour of love to the Japanese Community in SL, to clean and paint the Japanese cemetery within the General Cemetery Borella, took place on the 6th & 7th of September 2025 with the participation of LJFS Members and members of the Japanese Solidarity Association. This was done in preparation for the annual religious ceremony to be held under the auspices of H.E. the Ambassador for Japan, to commemorate Japanese nationals who had passed away in Sri Lanka and was held on 13th September 2025. The labour and equipment for cleaning the walls were provided by TOS Lanka Co (Pvt) Ltd, and the paint was sponsored by Nippon Paint Lanka (Pvt) Ltd.

8. ANNUAL FUND RAISER “RYTHM OF THE NITE” - HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 25 AT THE RAMADA - CHAIRED BY MR. MAHENDRA DE VAZ

- The annual fundraiser and Musical Night of LJFS was held on 14th November 2025 at the Grand Ballroom of the Ramada Hotel, with H.E. Ambassador Akio Isomata and Madame being the Chief Guests. The event was attended by over 300 guests, including Mr. Naoki Kamoshida, Minister/Deputy Head of Mission, and several diplomats. The evening was compered by Dr. Vijaya Corea, with music provided by “Nalin and the Star Combination.”
- Our Platinum sponsor was the Expolanka Group, with the Gold sponsorship by Elephant Reach Hotel/Lanka Ice Group, and Bronze sponsorships by 07 Co’s including H&M Western, Saladin International, and Hayleys Advantis, Leisure World, Freeland Enterprises, Serendipity Retreats, and Serendib Flour Mills. We appreciate the dedication and leadership of Mr. Mahendra de Vaz, Project Chairman, who, whilst convalescing from a major operation, with his able team, organized the event to it’s successful completion. The Souvenir Committee, was headed by Dr. P H P de Siva, who also organized the Japanese singing competition, which was a hit among the Japanese guests. The event saw many games and competitions, including LJFS King and Queen & The Baila King and Queen. LJFS appreciates and thanks all our sponsors, advertisers, donors, well wishers and all attendees for making the event a grand success. The event brought in a profit of **Rs. 1,100,000/-** for LJFS for it’s CSR and other projects.

9. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2025 – CHAIRED BY HONY. GEN SECRETARY, SAMADARA MAMPITIYE

- The 2nd year of the membership drive to bring in young and dynamic members to the LJFS fold, as future leaders of the Association to drive it to greater heights, as encouraged by our Patron, the H.E. The Ambassador of Japan, connect with the youth of Sri Lanka, to serve our 2 nations better, saw ~~new~~ 17 new life members, including 2 new corporate members, which also brought in an income of **Rs. 279,250/-**. Although not youth, we recognize and laud the entry of 5 new members to the 2025/2026 Executive Committee.

10. DISTRIBUTION OF LUNCH PACKETS TO FLOOD VICTIMS AT KELANIYA DISPLACED BY CYCLONE DITWA ON 28TH NOV 2025

- Due to the havoc wreaked by storm and cyclone Ditwah in Sri Lanka, displacing over 1.7 million individuals due to floods and landslides, on 28th Nov 2025, 1st day of the cyclone, Mr. Mahendra de Vaz, Gen. Secretary, Samadara Mampitiye and VP Jayarajah Chandrasekera together with general member Ms. Vijitha Fernando visited several community centers and homes of flood victims in the Kelani river area and distributed 100 lunch packets, fruit, fish and vegetables and encouraged those affected in the villages of Gonawela, Thalwatta and Koskumburawatta. The provisions bought for our AGM Dinner on 28th November 2025, but postponed for today due to Ditwa, was used with some adjustments to make the 100 lunch packets distributed among the flood and we are happy that the advances given to the caterer was well used for the need of the hour.

11. E MAGAZINE FOR LJFS MEMBER NEWS AND ACTIVITIES CHAIRED BY DR. UPALI JAYAWARDENA

- Dr. Upali Jayawardhana, who is an editor by profession, suggested that the Lanka Japan Friendship Society should consider starting its own magazine to document and share information about the events and activities organized by the Society on a regular basis, with interesting articles and features that highlight the long-standing friendship, cultural connections, and cooperation between Japan and Sri Lanka. This was approved as such a publication would be a valuable method to preserve records of the Society's work, improve communication with members, and promote greater public awareness and appreciation of the strong relationship between the two countries.

12. INVITATIONS EXTENDED BY THE AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS OF LJFS:

- 28th November 2024 – Reception to greet friends in Sri Lanka
- 18th February 2025 – Reception to celebrate the Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan
- 28th March 2025 – concert of the Japanese Traditional Music by the Honganji Temple & Foundation Japanese Orchestra

13. OUR DEEP APPRECIATION AND THANKS TO;

- His Excellency Akio ISOMATA, Ambassador of Japan in Sri Lanka and Madam Cheiko for their patronage, unstinted support, encouragement and friendship extended to LJFS for all its activities during the year.
- Ms. Miyuki Eguchi, 1st Secretary and Ms. Miyoko Kawamoto, 2nd Secretary of EOJ, for their close co-operation and valued assistance rendered to me as the General Secretary and to LJFS, and to the staff of EOJ for their assistance.
- The Japanese organizations in Sri Lanka, especially the JSA, for their help and support.
- Board of Trustees of Sasakawa Memorial SL Japan Cultural Center.
- Staff of Sasakawa Trust Office, especially to Mr. K.K. Dayarate, Ms. Diyani Jansz and Ms. Manoja Herath.
- Chairman, SL Tourism Development Authority and the Saudi Embassy for releasing their car parks for our functions.

- Our sponsors for their generous giving.
- Chairpersons and members of all sub committees for successfully carrying out meaningful projects during this year.
- President Tony Saldin for his exceptional leadership and guidance which has strengthened and united LJFS.
- All our members for the encouragement, support and presence for all our activities.

This Annual Report is tabled and presented to the general membership of the Society on today, the 30th of January 2026 at our 66th Annual General Meeting.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Samadara Mampitiye', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ms. Samadara Mampitiye
Hony. General Secretary