



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 65TH AGM

The Executive Committee takes pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year 2023/2024.

2023/2024 was a very successful year under the leadership of President Tony Saldin. This was possible due to the cooperation of the members of the Executive Committee and the general membership.

The 64th AGM was held on 25th November 2023, 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. Hideaki MIZUKOSHI, 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, Ms. Sunitha Wijepala

Hony. General Secretary

Ms. Samadara Mampitiye

Hony. Treasurer

vacant

Hony. Asst Secretary

Mrs. Diloshini Nesakumar

Hony. Asst Treasurer

Mr. R. Kadirgamar Rajah

Executive Committee(in alphabetical order): Mr. Nemantha Abeysinghe, Mr. Dhammika Attygale, Dr. Vijaya Corea, Dr. PHP de Silva, Mr. Mahendra de Vaz, Mrs. Nishanthi Galhena, Mr. W.I. Gunawardena, Mrs. Janneth Ismail, Dr. Upali Jayawardena, Brig. Samantha Jayasundara, Capt. Ganesh Mendis, Mrs. Sarojini Nagendran, Dr. Rohan Pallewatte, Mr. S.N. Raghavan, Mr. Shanil Perera, Mr. Shelly Thenuwara, Mr. Manoranjan Wijebahu, Mrs.Himani Wijemanne

Representatives of EOJ

Mr. Kenji Inoue, 1st Secretary, Ms. Anna Suzuki, 2nd Secretary

MEMBERSHIP

LJFS 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.

A record number of 51 new members joined the Association this year, including 1 corporate member.

New member application forms and the LFS 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:

NAME OF MEMBER		ATTENDANCE FOR THE YR
1.	Mr. M.D. Tony Saldin (President)	12
2.	M. Merrick Gooneratne (Immediate Past President)	10
3.	Ms. Samadara Mampitiye (General Secretary)	11
4.	Mr. A. Anandagoda (Vice President)	07
5.	Prof. Gaminda Haegoda (Vice President)	12
6.	Mr. Jayaraja Chandrasekera (Vice President)	07
7.	Mr. Neomal Perera (Vice President)	02
8.	Mrs. Sunitha Wijepala (Vice President)	08
9.	Ms. Diloshini Nesakumar (Assistant Secretary)	10
10.	Mr. M.Thiyagaraja (General Treasurer)	12
11.	Mr. R. Kadirgamarajah (Assistant Treasurer)	08
EXCO MEMBERS		
12.	Mr. Nemantha. N. Abeysinghe	01
13.	Mr. Sudhammika Attygalle	00
14.	Dr. Vijaya Corea	07
15.	Mr. Mahendra de Vaz	06
16.	Dr. P.H.P. de Silva	11
17.	Mrs. Jenneth Ismail J.P	08
18.	Dr. Upali Jayawardena	05
19.	Brig. J M S S Jayawardena	02
20.	Capt. M G G Mendis	06
21.	Ms. Sarojini Nagendran	11
22.	Dr. Rohan Pallewatte	04
23.	Ms. Nishanthi Galhena	08
24.	Mr. S.Ragavan	07
25.	Mr. Shelly Thenurawa	05
26.	Mr. Manoranjan Wijebahu	06
27.	Mrs. Himani Wijemanne	08
28.	Mr. Shanil Perera (Deceased)	03
29.	Mr. Wilson I. Gunawardena (Deceased)	01

APPOINTMENT OF HONY. TREASURER

At the 64th AGM on the 25th November 2024, Mr. Manikkavasagar Thiyagarajah, Chartered Accountant was appointed to the post of Hony. Treasurer by the President as there were no nominations received.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

1. LUNCH FOR GRANVILLE WICKRAMARATNE BOYS ORPHANAGE, GONAWELA, KELANIYA - CHAIRED BY VP JAYARAJA CHANDRSEKERA ON 06TH OF APRIL 2024

The Ex.Co. had a “Spend the day” with the 16 orphans at the home as our CSR project for the year, with lunch and a sing-song entertainment for the children. Donation of stationary items to the value of Rs.65,000/- collected from the Ex-Co. members were handed over to the home. Lunch was sponsored by Fab Foods (Pvt) Ltd.

2. FELLOWSHIP DINNER FOR MEMBERS OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WAS HELD AT IMPERIAL MONARCH, BATTRAMULLA ON 31ST MAY 2024 - CHAIRED BY MAHENDRA DE VAZ

Old and new Members in the Executive Committee met for fellowship, drinks and dinner.

3. ALLEVIATION OF MALNUTRITION AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN - CHAIRED BY VP JAYARAJA CHANDRSEKERA

50 dry ration packs were donated to selected needy school children of Kelanitissa Vidyalaya, Gonawela, Kelaniya on 6th June 2024. Mali Algama, Biyagama Pradeshiya Sabha Member with Exco Members were present at this event.

4. RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES TO INVOKE MERIT TO LATE DR. SARA DE SILVA - CHAIRED BY VP SUNITHA WIJEPALA ON 30TH JUNE 2024

A “Pinkama” was held at the Gangarama Temple, Colombo 02, to invoke merit on late Dr. Sara de Silva, Associate Professor at Abu Dhabi University, daughter of our Exco. Member Dr. PHP de Silva,

5. FACETS OF JAPAN II - LECTURE BY H.E. THE AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN’S FOR SRI LANKA - CHAIRED BY DR. ROHAN PALLEWATTE ON 26TH JULY 2024

Second lecture on Facets of Japan, by H.E Hideaki, MIZUKOSHI, The Japanese Ambassador, themed, “Japan’s vision for Sri Lanka, an Ambassador’s perspective”, was held at Sasakawa Cultural Centre Auditorium to a full house of over 150 persons, comprising government officials, diplomats, members of the Japanese business community and LJFS members, followed by dinner. The Ambassador gave his candid opinion on the subject and dealt with 3 issues, post aragalaya economic relationship focusing on debt restructuring process, his commitment to Sri Lanka’s post war reconciliation efforts and the people-to-people relationship. He also announced the resumption of the suspended projects funded by Japan and disclosed the emergency humanitarian assistance granted to Sri Lanka by Japan in the post aragalaya period exceeded USD 100 Million. He exhorted any government that will be established after elections must follow the reform measures agreed with IMF to navigate the economy in the right direction. He stressed the responsibility of the government to tackle corruption, delays and inefficiencies and bring in transparency of administrative procedures to attract foreign investment. He stated that “Japanese investors will come to SL when asked to come but when they are convinced that Sri Lanka is a trustworthy country to do business with.” He also detailed the extensive development work done in Sri Lanka by EOJ during his 3 year tenure in Sri Lanka.

It was a rare occasion where both the Ambassador of Japan to SL and Ambassador of SL to Japan were at the same event and HE Rodney Perera, Sri Lanka’s Ambassador to Japan, encouraged the Sri Lankan entrepreneurs to excel and reach global markets with innovation.

A lively question and answer session followed the lecture which culminated with cocktails, networking and dinner.

6. LJFS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS - CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT TONY SALDIN

Dr. Vijaya Corea - "Sri Lanka's No.1 Compere" with 60 years in broadcasting. He is a former Director General of SL Broadcasting Corporation and a Director of SL Rupavahini Corporation and National Film Corporation. He promoted many talented musicians into fame, including, Clarence Wijewardena, Indrani & The Three Sisters, Annesley Malawana, La Bambas, Luke Henricus. He counts over 3 decades as a Life Member of LJFS and has served as Vice President during the tenures of 6 Presidents. We are grateful for his services as MC for most of our events.

Sunitha Wijepala J.P. - She is an expert in Ikebana, holding certifications from "Sogetsu" School of Ikebana in Japan, from the "Yamano Beauty College" and the Philippines-Japan Brotherhood and Sisterhood program. She is affiliated to Ikebana International and has received the esteemed Higashikuninomiya International Cultural Award. She is a Partner of Suwi Traders and Suwi Travels. She counts over 3 decades as a life member of LJFS and serves as a Vice Resident currently. She is our florist who provides beautiful floral decor for our events.

Mahendra de Vaz – “The Tuna King of SL”, who processes and exports over 200 tons of seafood per month to USA & Japan with Marutetsu Company in Miyazaki, Japan. He has lived & engaged business in Japan for over 35 years & opened the first Sri Lankan restaurant in Japan. Upon returning home, he commenced a deep sea fishing business and is the pioneer who introduced long-line fishing method for Tuna which has revolutionized the fishing industry in SL. He counts 3 decades as a LJFS and over 2 decades as a VP. He is our ground operations expert & our “go to expert” for everything else. He is one of the strong columns in which LJFS stands.

7. FAREWELL DINNER FOR MR. KOTARO KATSUKI, MINISTER COUNSELOR AND DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION OF EOJ ON 8TH AUG 2024 - CHAIRED BY IPP MERRICK GOONERATNE

The LJFS EXCO hosted Minister Counselor and Deputy Head of Mission of the Japanese Embassy, to dinner at the Kamakura Japanese Restaurant, Imperial Monarach, Sri Jayawardenapura. 25 members attended the dinner to bid farewell to him. A coffee table book on the history of Sri Lanka, autographed by all those present for the dinner was gifted to Katsuki san as a memento.

8. FUNDRAISER – LANKA JAPAN FANTASY NITE’ 24 WITH COSMIC RAYS ON 07TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AT EXCEL WORLD, COLOMBO 10 - CHAIRED BY HONY. GEN. SECRETARY SAMADARA MAMPITIYE

The much looked forward to annual fund raiser and evening of song, dance & fellowship, “Lanka Japan Fantasy Nite ’24” was a grand event with Cosmic Rays providing entertainment and Dr. Vijaya Corea compering. The Chief Guest, was HE Hideaki MIZUKOSHI, Ambassador for Japan and the Guests of Honor were Madame MIZUKOSHI, Deputy Ambassador, Mr. Naoki KAMOSHIDA & Madam KAMOSHIDA. Over 220 members, diplomats, Japanese and Sri Lankan businessmen graced the event. Special guest performances of song and break dance were made by Mr. Hiroshi Inoue of EOJ and Mr. Tate of Toyota Lanka. HE The Ambassador, 1st Secretary and 2nd Secretary of EOJ also sang with the band in Japanese and English. Valuable gifts were given for the many competitions, including Lanka-Japan King and Queen, Baila King and Queen. Event was covered by Hi Magazine and Sunday Times. Gold Sponsor for the event was Dindigul Thalapakatti Restaurant Chain with Silver Sponsor being Nippon Paints Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. and the 4 Bronze sponsors being Hayleys Advantis Ltd, Maliban Biscuits Ltd. The Automobile Association of Sri Lanka and Saladin International Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd.

9. 2024 NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - CHAIRED BY HONY. GEN. SECRETARY SAMADARA MAMPITIYE

Most ExCo. members have served LJFS for over 25 years and most of the general members have been in LJFS for over 30 years. This new membership drive saw 51 new life members, including 1 corporate member, enrolled, as part of it’s succession plan to identify and bring into the fold young and dynamic

leaders and train them to serve the nations of Sri Lanka and Japan and carry LJFS to greater heights in the coming years. Some of them will join the 2024/2025 Executive Committee.

10. CLEANING & PAINTING THE WALLS OF THE JAPANESE SECTION AT BORELLA CEMETERY ON 7TH & 8TH SEPTEMBER 2024 - CHAIRED BY DR. P H P DE SILVA

LJFS organized the cleaning and painting of the Japanese cemetery wall, supported by members of the Japanese Solidarity Association of Colombo (JSA) to prepare it for the annual commemoration of the Japanese nationals who died and were buried in Sri Lanka, from the time of World War II.

Nippon Paint Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. donated 20L of paint for the event with IPP Mr. Merrick Gooneratne, Director of TOS Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. providing labor for the cleaning work, Mr. Suren Raghavan providing the paint brushes, Mr. R. Kadirgamarajah providing transport and President Tony Saldin, providing the “bass” for painting.

Gen. Secretary Samadara Mampitiye and Mr. Suren Raghavan attended and represented LJFS at the solemn ceremony to commemorate the departed Japanese buried on 15th September 2024, organized by Japanese Solidarity Association.

11. FAREWELL DINNER FOR H.E. MIZUKOSHI HIDEAKI, THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR AT THE PLATES RESTAURANT, CINNAMON GRAND HOTEL, COLOMBO 3 ON 08TH OCTOBER 2024 - CHAIRED BY HONY. GEN. SECRETARY SAMADARA MAMPITIYE

Over 50 members paid tribute to our Friend, Patron and Ambassador par excellence, who was departing Sri Lanka end of October 2024, after a successful 03 year term to take office as Ambassador for Japan in Sweden. We reluctantly bid sayonara to HE Hideaki MIZUKOSHI and Madam MIZUKOSHI, who were true friends of Sri Lanka in her time of need. The Ambassador was presented with an ornate Brass Scroll container with a scroll inside, containing personal messages from LJFS members to him, among the gifts presented to him.

OBITUARIES

It is with deep sadness that we mention the passing away of Mr. Frederick Medis our past president, Mr. W I Gunawardene, long standing past vice president, Mr. Shanil Perera, new Exco member and Dr. Sara de Silva. We condole with their families and the families of other LJFS members who passed this year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Mr. Kosala Wicremanayake, past President of LJFS and past President of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka, for the conferment of award “Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette”, by the Government of Japan, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to promoting friendly relations, mutual understanding and economic exchange between Japan and Sri Lanka on 30 July 2024.

Mr. Athula Edirisinghe, Life member was conferred “The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays” on 9th Aug 2024. Japan Sri Lanka Technical and Cultural Association (JASTECA); former President and Co-Owner/Director “KUURAKU” Japanese restaurant, in recognition of his outstanding contribution in promoting friendly relations and mutual understanding and cultural exchange between Japan and Sri Lanka and in promoting Japanese-style management systems such as 5S and Kaizen in Sri Lanka.

Mr. R. Kadirgamarajah, Our Exco Member, on his election as President of the Royal Commonwealth Society Sri Lanka.

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

- 21st Feb 2024 – Reception to celebrate the Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.
- 21st March 2024 - Invitation to a lecture on “Economic Development and Modernization with lessons from Japan” organized by EOJ and Geopolitical Cartographer
- 16th Aug 2024 – Reception to bid farewell to the outgoing Minister/Deputy Head of Mission Mr. KATSUKI Kotaro and to welcome his successor Mr. KAMOSHIDA Naoki.
- 12th Sep 2024 – Ceremony and Reception to award the Foreign Minister’s commendation upon Japanese Language Teachers Association (JALTAS).
- 14th Oct 2024 – Reception to inaugurate the newly refurbished embassy premises at No 20, Gregory’s Road, Colombo 7.
- 21st Oct 2024 – Ambassador’s farewell Reception.

- 26th Nov 2024 – Concert by Mr. Shogo Hiyoshi (Koto) and Mr. Koga Michio (Shakuhachi) at EOJ
- 28th Nov 2024 – Reception for the new Ambassador, HE Akio ISOMATA, to meet friends

OUR APPRECIATION AND THANKS TO

- His Excellency Hideaki MIZUKOSHI, Ambassador of Japan in Sri Lanka and Madam for their patronage, unstinted support and friendship extended to LJFS for all its activities during the year.
- His Excellency ISOMATA Akio, the new Ambassador of Japan and Madame for accepting our invitation as Chief Guest at the LJFS AGM on 4th Dec 2024.
- Mr. Kenji Inoue, 1st Secretary and Ms. Anna Suzuki, 2nd Secretary of EOJ, for their close co-operation and valued assistance rendered 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 Sasakwa 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 Sifani Jewelers for releasing the car parks for our functions.
- Our sponsors for their generous giving.
- Chairpersons and members of all sub committees for successfully carrying out 11 meaningful projects during this year.
- President Tony Saldin for his leadership and guidance which has strengthened and united LJFS.
- All our members for the encouragement, support and presence for all our activities.

The Annual Report is presented to the general membership of the Society on 25th November 2024 at the 65th Annual General Meeting.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee



Miss Samadara Mampitiye
Hony. General Secretary
03rd November 2024