Message from Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dinesh Gunawardena

His Excellency the Late Justice Christopher Goonetilleke, former President of the International Court of Justice, had been the Honorary Vice-President of the Association.

UNA SL holds its Annual General Meeting on the last Saturday of March every year to elect the Committee which is formed of the newly elected Committee members.

The Committee consists of the President who is an eminent citizen of the country and an Executive Committee consisting of the Secretary-General, Executive Chairperson, Treasurer Editor, Two Deputy Executive Chairpersons, Seven Assistant Secretary-Generals, Three Vice Chairpersons and Seven Committee members.

Several categories of members form the association, namely, Life, Special, Longitudinal, Honorary members, Corporate members, Overseas Life Members, etc.

It also has a conferred category of membership which is a Membership for Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Sri Lanka. A unique feature that UNA SL is perhaps the only organization which has Diplomatic members.

The Diplomatic members have been contributing immensely towards the activities of the United Nations National Association of Sri Lanka, in the past but have recently taken an interest in the past five years and we propose to reinvigorate this class of membership and maintain closer links with the foreign missions in Sri Lanka.

UNA SL currently has over 1800 members, comprising Special Life, Life, Honorary, Corporate Members as well as 326 Diplomatic Members. A number of these members include their families and their children also participate in the work of UNA SL.

It is pertinent to elaborate on the functions of the UN system and the UNA SL in this context.

The world today stands at the crossroads of an unprecedented challenge, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has brought the entire planet to a standstill.

The pandemic has disrupted global economies, affected millions of lives, and resulted in considerable loss of human life.

In the face of this global crisis, the United Nations has worked tirelessly to provide guidance and support to countries around the world, emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in addressing the pandemic.

The UNA SL has been deeply involved in the work of the United Nations, particularly in the areas of health, education, and environmental sustainability.

The Association has been actively engaged in organizing seminars, workshops, and other events to raise awareness on important issues, such as sustainable development, human rights, and global governance.

In addition to its regular programs, the UNA SL has also undertaken special initiatives during the pandemic, focusing on the needs of vulnerable communities and providing support to individuals and organizations affected by the crisis.

The Association has been working hand in hand with the UN system and its various agencies to address the challenges posed by the pandemic, underscoring the importance of international cooperation and solidarity in overcoming this global crisis.

The UNA SL continues to play a vital role in promoting understanding and appreciation of the work of the United Nations, and in fostering dialogue and engagement with all stakeholders.

In this context, the UNA SL remains committed to continuing its efforts to contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global priorities, working closely with the UN system and its partners to ensure a sustainable and inclusive future for all.

I am indeed happy to have been re-elected for a further term as Secretary-General of the General United Nations Association of Sri Lanka, with overwhelming support from the members and the Executive Committee.

I look forward to working with the new Council for the upcoming term, and to continuing our efforts to advance the goals of the United Nations and promote the principles of international cooperation and peace.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have supported the UNA SL and the work of the United Nations, and to encourage continued engagement and support for the important work of the UN system.

I remain deeply committed to serving the UNA SL and the United Nations, and to ensuring that the voice of Sri Lanka is heard in the global arena.

Thank you for your support, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

god bless you all.

Message from the Secretary

General United Nations Association of Sri Lanka

The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the world’s most successful organization, established after World War II with the aim of preventing future wars, officially came into existence on 24 October 1945.

The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization comprising 193 member states whose primary purpose is to maintain international peace and security, protect human rights, promote sustainable development, and ensure that all nations live in harmony with nature.

The UNA SL, established after World War II, is one of the oldest Non-Governmental Organizations affiliated to UNA World and maintains a very active role in the United Nations family.

The UNA SL has a membership of over 1800 and is approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka. It is an active member of the UN family of organizations.

The UNA SL is the sole National Affiliate of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) and maintains a very active role in the United Nations family.

The UNA SL has been very active in organizing seminars, workshops, and other events to raise awareness on important issues, such as sustainable development, human rights, and global governance.

The UNA SL has been working hand in hand with the UN system and its various agencies to address the challenges posed by the pandemic, underscoring the importance of international cooperation and solidarity in overcoming this global crisis.

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The Schools Study Circle Programme

Study Circles play a significant role in mobilizing the goodwill work of UN in the school and parents of school children. These study circles promote leadership skills, organizing abilities, and the exchange of knowledge among students. Once a year the Study Circles conduct meetings on UN days, contributing to sustainable development and awareness of teachers of Study Circles and the public on the UN. Public lectures have been arranged by the UNASL, UN Information Centre in various ways in conducting teacher training programmes.

The UNASL forwards artworks of children from Study Circles, to Kanagawa Biennial World Children’s Art Exhibition conducted by the Japan Overseas Cooperation Association (JOCA). We are happy to announce that a number of awards have been won by students of Study Circles who have submitted their art work through us. UNASL is pleased to record here that 12-year-old Deepika Priyanganee, a student from a Study Circle won the World Price in 1983. These awards have been presented at the National Observance of the UN Day in Sri Lanka by the UNASL forwards art works of students from Study Circles.

Regional Conferences
UNASL conducts regional conferences in order to educate and exchange views with teachers and students in study circles in a district basis. Usually a seminar is held in one school with the participation of several member schools in the locality. study circles play a significant role in mobilizing the goodwill work of UN in the school and parents of school children. These study circles promote leadership skills, organizing abilities, and the exchange of knowledge among students. Once a year the Study Circles conduct meetings on UN days, contributing to sustainable development and awareness of teachers of Study Circles and the public on the UN. Public lectures have been arranged by the UNASL, UN Information Centre in various ways in conducting teacher training programmes.

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World Environmental Day – 2019
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