

UNA NEWS LETTER

United Nations Association of Sri Lanka
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69th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019



The 69th Annual General Meeting of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka was held on 23rd March, 2019 at the National Secretariat, 39/1, Cyril Jansz Mawatha, Panadura.

The event commenced with the hoisting the National Flag by Secretary General Mr. Errol Smith, and the UN Flag by the Executive Chairman Mr. M. M. Zawahir. Over 60 members were present at the Annual General Meeting.



The National Anthem was sung followed by two minutes silence being observed as a mark of respect of those members who had passed away. They were remembered in particular for their contribution to the Association.

The Welcome Address was made by the Executive Chairman Mr. M. M. Zawahir. Secretary-General Mr. Errol Smith made a presentation on the various activities carried out by the United Nations of Association of Sri Lanka during the year 2018/2019. The report of the Annual General Meeting of March 2018 and the Financial Report were presented and approved by the members.



Mr. Anver Dole was elected as Pro-tem Chairman and the new office bearers were elected/re-elected to the National Executive Committee for 2019/2020. At the AGM, Major General Upul Perera was elected unanimously as President and Mr. Errol Smith was re-elected unanimously as Secretary General, by the members. The elected members of the National Executive Committee took their oath of office collectively.



The members were given an opportunity to express their views on activities of United Nations Association of Sri Lanka. President enlightened the new members regarding the history and the activities of UNASL

The Secretary - General delivered the Vote of Thanks.

The Office Bearers Elected for 2019 / 2020.

President:

Major General Upul Perera USP

MBA, MSc, PGD in CPS, FIAE (SL), FIM (SL), FIMI (UK), MISMM (SL)

Executive Chairpersons:

- HRH Prince Dato' Seri Ambassador
Deshakeerthi Dr. M.M.M. Rushanudeen,
- **Mr. M. Mohamed Zawahir**

Secretary General:

Mr. Errol G. Smith

FIM (SL), FCPM, AMIM (UK)

Treasurer:

Mr. M. A. Rohan Fernando

S.B.St.J, AoFA (UK), JP (W/I)

Editor & Assistant Treasurer:

Mr. Dharmadasa Vitharanage

Deputy Executive Chairpersons:

- Mr. Sampath Priyankara
- Mr. E. Karunaratne

Vice Chairpersons:

- Mr. D. M. Siriwardana
- Dr. M. Z. M. Nizar
- Dr. K. D. S. Ranasinghe

Assistant Secretaries General:

- Dr. S. M. K. Abeywardana
- Mr. R. H. Asoka Perera
- Dr. Rohan P. Dayaratne
- Mr. T. S. N. Fernando
- Ms. Arthie D. Jayawardana
- Mr. J. M. L. P. Banadara

Executive Members:

- Mr. M. D. Lalith D. Peiris
- Mr. T. Dammika Padmasiri
- Dr. K. D. Upali Jayawardane
- Miss. K. T. Osanji Ayeshamani
- Miss. U. A. Buddinie Kaushalya
- Dr. M. A. Jabbar (JP)

Honorary Members of the National Executive Committee 2019/2020

- Dr. G. P. Silva
- Brigadier G. V. Elapata vsv
- Mr. Meril Perera
- Deshakeerthi M. Z. M. Hanieffa, JP (W/I)

Maj Gen Upul Perera

New President of the UNASL 2019/2020



MBA, MSc, PGDCPS,
FIM (SL), FIAE (SL), FIMI
(UK), MISMM (SL)

Major General Upul Perera USP possesses a wealth of **experience in managing high profile organizations.** He served the Sri Lanka Army for nearly 35 years as a Commissioned Officer, held many senior appointments during his tenure and was the Deputy Chief of Staff at the time he retired from the Army in December 2010.

He steered the Institute of Management of Sri Lanka as the President for 3 ½ years, was the President of Sri Lanka Baseball & Softball Association for 4 years and currently is the President of the Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen's Association and functions as Vice President of the Institute of Automotive Engineers, Sri Lanka and Vice President of Lions Club of Panadura Central. Maj Gen Upul is a product of Thurstan College, Colombo 3, is married to Chandrika & and are blessed with two sons, Pasan & Harith.

Donation of Computers & Contribution for Student

We acknowledge with deep gratitude the contributions made by the following:

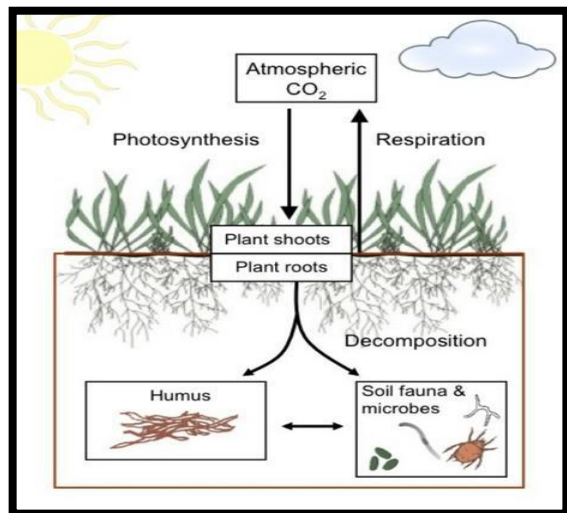
- H.E. Ambassador Dr. Zana Tashin Shaker Khafaf - SLO
- H.E. Ambassador Dr. Bassam Massalkhi Farchoukh - SLO
- H.E. Ambassador Ahmad Hassan Elsayed Hamad - SLO
- Mr. M. Abdeen (Shiyam)
- Dr. Rohan P. Dayaratne
- Mr. M.S.M. Rizan

Contribution for Student:

- Mr. Errol Smith
- Dr. G. P. P. Silva
- Dr. D. W. Weerasuriya
- Ms. Arthie Jayawardane
- Mrs. Panchali Rathnayaka
- Mr. D. M. Siriwardane

ROLE OF SOIL IN REDUCING GLOBAL WARMING

Soil plays a crucial role in eco system functioning. Soil carbon (C) enhances soil fertility, restores degraded soils, enhances biomass production and purifies surface and ground waters. At the mean time soil carbon sequestration has become a simple and effective method for reducing the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases and slowing down global warming.



Soil carbon sequestration is the process of transferring atmospheric CO₂ into the soil through plants residues and other organic solids, in a form that is not immediately reemitted. This sequestration of carbon in soils helps not only to offset the emissions from fossil fuel combustion and other carbon emitting activities but to enhance the soil fertility as well.

Soil carbon sequestration can be improved by management systems that add high amounts of biomass to the soil, cause minimal soil disturbance, conserve soil and enhance soil faunal activity.

Fig 2.1. Diagram of soil carbon sequestration showing the soil carbon balance between carbon inputs from photosynthesis and carbon losses by respiration (Source: Ontl and Schulte, 2012).

Soil Carbon Pool

The pedosphere plays an important role in the global carbon cycle of the Earth because it is a major location of carbon storage in terrestrial eco systems. The total soil C pool of 2,300 Pg is three times than that of the atmospheric pool of 770 Pg and 3.8 times that of the vegetation pool of 610 Pg. Therefore, soil acts as a significant C pool that absorbs more C than the other C sinks. It is therefore important to understand the dynamics of soil carbon as well as its role in terrestrial eco system carbon balance and the global carbon cycle. The two types of carbon pools in the pedosphere are soil organic carbon and soil inorganic carbon.



Soil Organic Carbon

Soil organic carbon is a component of soil organic matter and it is assumed to be 58% of soil organic matter. Organic carbon forms are derived from the decomposition of plants and animals in the soil which are in various stages of decay. Soil organic carbon is the basis of soil fertility because, it releases nutrients of plant growth, promote the structure, biological and physical health of soil and is a buffer against harmful substances.



Continued on 05th page ...

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – 2019 “BEAT AIR POLLUTION”

The United Nations “**World Environment Day – 2019**” was commemorated by the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka, with the distribution of 1000 Fruit Plants among Schools from Matara to Moratuwa, on 4th June, 2019, culminating with a ceremony held at the National Secretariat of the United Nations Association in Panadura, on 5th June, 2019. This event was presided over by the UNASL President, Maj Gen Upul Perera.

Dr. Upali Jayawardena spoke on **Environment Protection & Air Pollution**, highlighting its importance and values. This was followed by a lecture by Dr. Amitha Bentota, Agricultural Consultant to the Ministry of Agriculture, who spoke on the need to plant trees in order to protect the environment. She also explained the scientific methods of planting and how to identify unhealthy plants and provide these plants with necessary food, as she called it.



In addition to the plants, several publications on Tree Planting, Environment, Air Pollution, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, etc., were presented to the schools. The UNASL is also conducting an Essay Competition within the Schools in the UNA Study Circle, encompassing the environment, tree planting, air pollution as well as the SDG’s. Simultaneously, there will also be a competition organized to monitor the progress of the plants distributed and the winners of all these competitions will be recognized on the United Nations Day – National Observance and will all be

awarded with valuable Cash prizes.

Secretary General of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka, Errol Smith, in a communique has highlighted that according to statistics, approximately 7 million people worldwide, die prematurely each year from Air Pollution with about 4 million of these deaths occurring in the Asia Pacific Region. He emphasized that, the World Environment Day – 2019, urges governments, industries, communities and individuals to come together to explore renewable energy and green technologies, to improve air quality in cities and regions across the globe.



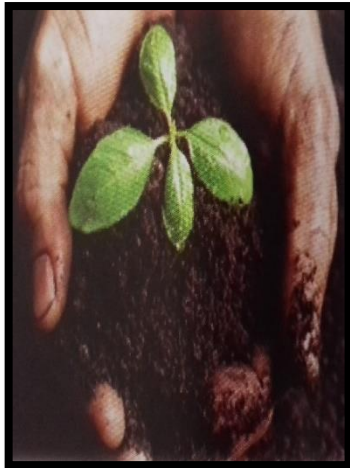
Written by: Mr. Errol G. Smith
(Secretary-General of UNASL)

From the 03rd page ...

The enhancing and degrading processes of soil organic C are affected by the pedospheric processes. Soil organic C enhancing processes include plant biomass production, humification, aggregation and sediment Deposition. Soil organic C degrading processes are soil erosion, leaching and soil organic matter decomposition. A high heterogeneity in soil organic C is probably associated with the variability and topography, stoniness, parent material, soil depth and microclimate on a local scale.

Carbon Trading

Carbon trading, also known as “cap and trade”. Is a system designed to cut down the carbon emissions which contribute to global warming. Generally, in a market based cap and trade system, a central authority such as a government or international body sets a limit on the amount of carbon which can be emitted and then divides this amount in to several parts which are allocated to different groups. These parts can then be traded as any commodity. Carbon trading can occur both between countries and among the industries within a country.



The price of a carbon credit may vary depending on the demand and the supply. Hence, the carbon market is considered as demand driven. At present, one ton of carbon is traded for around US \$ 14 and is expected to increase as more and more countries start buying carbon.



Increasing temperature due to climate change can affect the agriculture sector negatively and therefore countries like Sri Lanka. Which have agriculture-based economies, may be affected badly.

In response to growing demand for knowledge on how Sri Lanka plan to address the climate change, the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment has established the climate change secretariat to plan and implement comprehensive action to contribute towards the local, regional and global efforts in combatting negative impacts of climate change and to integrate unavoidable scenarios in to national sustainable development plans and address them at a national level.

Written by: Ranuka Ratnayake¹, Kumari Rajapaksha²

¹ Research Fellow, ²Research Assistant National Institute of Fundamental Studies' Kandy

Invitation to All Members

74th UNITED NATIONS DAY

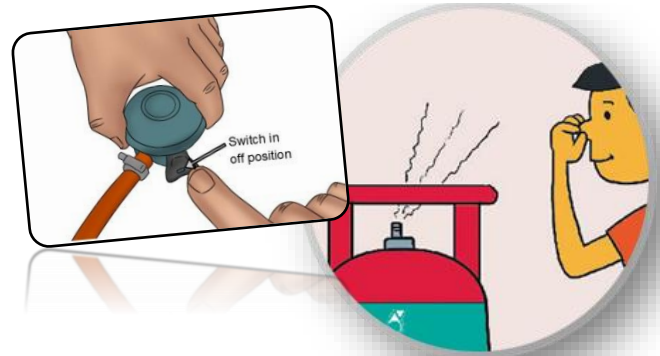
The National Observance of the 74th UNITED NATIONS DAY will be held on SATURDAY 26th October 2019 at 03.00 p.m. at Saffron Beach Hotel, Wadduwa.

Please Keep the Date Free

ALL ARE WELCOME

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF L.P.G. LEAKING

01. In case of any sign of gas leaking
Immediately turn off the regulator or
Valve to stop gas flow.



02. Open the doors and windows to exhaust the
accumulated gas outside the kitchen or room.

03. Never switch or off any light fitting / electrical
instrument in the place so sparks in the
switches create serious fire or explosion hazard.



04. Wait for half hour till the total accumulated gas is completely removed.

05. Don't use any mobile phone, candle or match light to check any sign of gas leakage from the cylinder
which may cause any fire hazards.



06. Do not turn on regulator switch, gas oven or any other source of ignition till the kitchen, room are
completely free from leakage gas safe for cooking.

07. If it is difficult to control the gas leakage then immediately inform the Fire Services department or
L.P.G. Supplies and evacuate in the room or
kitchen.

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From the 06th page ...

HOW TO HANDLE GAS FIRE IN KITCHEN OR SMALL ROOM

01. If you can enter the place, stop regulator or valve.

02. Smothering of the gas fire using fire blanket.

03. If the oil should ignite, turn of the gas cooker
and do not use water.



04. Using Carbon dioxide (CO₂) extinguishes or dry chemical extinguishes.



05. If you cannot put out such type of fire, evacuate
and call the Fire Service department.



Written by:
A.V.G.N. Indika
Fire Service Department, Moratuwa.
UNASL Life Member (#1741)

WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS

Special Life Members

Don Susil Atapattu, Colombo 06 - (1788)
 Mohamed Zarook M. Rashard, Muruthagamulla – (1789)
 Hussain Imran Isfahan, Colombo 06 – (1790)
 J. A. Don Ravindra Jayalath, Mathugama - (1805)
 A. H. Sanjeewa pushpitha, Mathugama - (1806)
 Mohamed Thowfeek Mohamed Sally, Beruwala - (1807)
 Mohamed Zalmy Zanoosi, Dehiwala – (1826)
 Mohamed Rasheed Niyaz, Dehiwala – (1828)
 Koyeldeem Mohamed Nizamdeen, Dehiwala – (1829)
 Mohamed Muhsin M. Ifham, Dharga Town – (1830)
 Mohamed Ajward M. Rimzan, Dharga Town – (1831)

Special Life Members Overseas

H.E. Ambassador Dr. Zana T.S.K. Kurdistan, Iraq - (1784)
 H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mohamad Al – Ghabra, Syria - (1801)
 H.E. Ambassador Dr. Hamad Zouher Ghabra, Syria - (1802)
 H.E. Ambassador Raghad Ryad Awad, Syria - (1803)
 H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Samir M. Hassan, Egypt – (1810)

Life Members

Ranhaluge Somasiri, Pannipitiya – (1785)
 Athuraliya Gamacharige Kasuni Neranja, Matara - (1786)
 K. Dona Krishanthi Peshala Kumari, Piliyandala – (1787)
 Karuppudayar Dhanesh Kumar, Colombo 15 – (1791)
 Kanddia Chandramohan, Colombo 13 – (1792)
 Kanniahpillai Kanapathy, Norton Bridge – (1793)
 A. A. Prabudda A. Kulathunga, Madampe – (1794)
 N. Bandula Indranath Dharmasena, Panadura – (1795)
 Kotigalage Iroshani Perera, Colombo 08 – (1796)

K. Pamila Banjitha Karunarathne, Panadura – (1797)
 Kamburugamuwe Liyanawaduge Premarathna – (1798)
 V. P. Nirosha Dushmanthi, Deniyaya – (1799)
 W. A. Sanjaya Kapila ariyaratne, Kandy – (1800)
 J. Sandun Buddhika Madushanka, Kuruwita – (1804)
 Y. A. K. G. Karunarathna Gunathilake, Maspotha - (1808)
 K. A. Haritha asela Kollure, Udathuththiripitiya – (1809)
 Saroj Kumar Lamaheewa, Pepiliyana – (1811)
 Mohamed Arshad M. Ibrahim, Mabola Wattala – (1812)
 Vaithilingam Kanagalingam, JP, Colombo 13 – (1813)
 Edirippulige Premanath Fernando, Pannipitiya – (1814)
 Srivasam Loganathan, Wattala – (1815)
 K. M. Thilakarathne, Maharagama – (1816)
 Kottahachchige Dayarathnasiri, Alubomulla – (1817)
 W. M. Warnapriya, Keselwatta – (1818)
 Suranga Ranjan Liyanage, Colombo 08 – (1819)
 Udara Sampath Siriwickrama, Baragama – (1820)
 Dr. L. M. Geeth G. srilal De Mel, JP, Panadura – (1821)
 H. P. Dileep Chathuranga Nirmal, Kuruwita – (1822)
 Amitha Priyadarshani Benthota, Panadura – (1824)
 N. D. K. I. Weerasinghe, Panadura – (1825)
 Kaushalya Sonali Ganegoda, Panadura – (1827)
 Muhammad Hilmy M. Husny, Kaluthara South – (1832)
 Muhammadu Kabeer M. Hammadh, Dharga Town – (1833)
 Muhammad Jabir M. Nabrees, Dharga Town – (1834)

Cooperate Members

The International Cooperation and Diplomatic Relations Council, Egypt – (1823)



UNASL

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