



News Letter

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

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Study Circle Conference 2020- Kegalu College.



The first Study Circle Conference for the year 2020 was held on February 28th 2020 at Kegalu College. This conference was one of the successful conferences as a result of dedication and strenuous effort made by Mrs. R.A Kumudini, the teacher in-charge of the Study Circle at Kegalu College.

The welcome address was made by the Deputy Principal Mr. Kapila Munasinghe.

Valuable lectures were delivered by the resource personnel on United Nation, UNASL, vocational training, job opportunities in Sri Lanka, archeology, etc at this Conference. The resource personnel who participated were Mr. Dharmadasa Vitharana, Editor UNASL, Mr. S. L. R. D. Ratugama former Executive Committee member UNASL and Dr. Upali Jayawardhena Executive Committee member of

UNASL and Dr. Kamal Abeywardhane, Executive Committee member of UNASL. A very attractive dance was performed by the students of the college.

The activities which commence at 9.00 am concluded at 3.00 pm with the vote of thanks by the Vice Principal Mr. Nimal Weerasinghe followed by refreshments arranged by the Study Circle of the school.



Dharmadasa Vitharanage

Editor

United Nations Association of Sri Lanka

GLOBLE GIVING INDEX – 10th EDITION 2019

The **World Giving Index (WGI)** is an annual report published by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), using data gathered by Gallup and ranks over 140 countries in the world according to how charitable they are. The aim of the World Giving Index is to provide insight into the scope and nature of giving around the world.

This report is primarily based upon data from the Gallup World Poll, which is an ongoing research project carried out in more than 140 countries that together represent around 95% of the world's adult population (around 5 billion people). In most countries surveyed, 1,000 questionnaires are completed by a representative sample of individuals living across the country. The coverage area is the entire country including rural areas. The sampling frame represents the entire civilian, non-institutionalized, aged 15 and older population of the entire country. In some large countries such as China and Russia samples of at least 2,000 are collected, while in a small number of countries, the poll covers 500 to 1,000 people but still features a representative sample. The survey is not conducted in a limited number of instances including where the safety of interviewing staff is threatened, scarcely populated islands in some countries, and areas that interviewers can reach only by foot, animal or small boat.

Surveys are carried out by telephone or face-to-face depending on the country's telephone coverage. There is of course a margin of error (the amount of random sampling error) in the results for each country, which is calculated by Gallup around a proportion at the 95% confidence level (the level of confidence that the results are a true reflection of the whole population). The maximum margin of error is calculated assuming a reported percentage of 50% and takes into account the design effect. Gallup asked people which of the following three charitable acts they had undertaken in the past month:

- Helped a stranger, or someone they didn't know who needed help?
- Donated money to a charity?
- Volunteered your time to an organization?

The United States of America is the world's most generous country over the last 10 years, according to the CAF World Giving Index 10th edition. Consistently high numbers of Americans say that they helped a stranger, donated money or volunteered time and this has ensured its position as highest performer when we look at the last decade as a whole, with a score of 58%. Myanmar and New Zealand take second and third place. New Zealand is in fact the only country to appear in the top 10 for all three measures asked about; helping a stranger, donating money and volunteering time. The overall scores show that there is no real trend in terms of 'types' of country that are likely to appear high up on the Index. The top three countries on the CAF World Giving Index come from three different continents, have varying income levels and prevalent religions, as well as a number of other differing variables. **Whilst seven of the top 10 countries are amongst the wealthiest in the world, some are much less affluent: Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Indonesia are all classified by the UN as lower-middle-income countries.**

Worldwide, more than two and a half billion people helped a stranger over the past decade. On average, nearly half (48.3%) the world's adults have helped a stranger and it is the most commonly performed giving behavior across the world. Seven of the ten countries where people are most likely to help a stranger are located in Africa. This is likely to be as a result of Ubuntu which exists across almost all of Africa and is a philosophy by which people live. Ubuntu can be described as the capacity in an African culture to express compassion, reciprocity, dignity, humanity and mutuality in the interests of building and Maintaining communities with justice and mutual caring.



From: 02nd Page

The remaining countries are the United States of America in third place and Canada and New Zealand in ninth and 10th place respectively. **People from Myanmar are the most likely in the world to have donated money to charity.** Myanmar has the highest score in the world for donating money. The country has frequently held the top spot for donating money, but as its political and social crisis has deepened in recent years, the number of people there who donated money has dropped significantly, particularly amongst those aged under 50. As we have mentioned in previous reports, up to 90% of people in Myanmar are practicing Buddhists with as many as 99% of those following the Theravada branch of the religion. This is believed to be why Myanmar has the highest score in the world for donating money. Theravada Buddhism is also practiced by most people in Thailand, reflected in the high score for donating money in this country.

Around one in five adults around the world volunteered over the past decade. Sri Lanka has the highest rate of volunteering in the world. Each year an average of around seven million people volunteered their time, nearly half of those aged over 15 in the country. In second place is Turkmenistan, which has frequently been ranked number one for volunteering due to its widespread and sometimes mandatory practice of Subtonic - giving up a Saturday to perform unpaid labour - which has existed on and off throughout the decade of producing the World Giving Index. Myanmar occupies third place with Liberia and the United States completing the top five. There are a mix of countries from different continents that occupy the bottom 10 for volunteering time.

E Karunaratne

Deputy Executive Chairman

United Nations Association of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka in Distress

Sri Lanka is in absolute distress and in a moribund state. She needs Intensive Care immediately and should be in the hands of a very capable, very honest (100 Presents) and a dedicated team of physicians. Those who treated the patients in the past few decades were grossly incompetent making the situation worse.

Every citizen should be aware of the diseases afflicting Sri Lanka. Some of the ills are mentioned below.

1. Trade Detail

Sri Lanka exports raw materials, partly value added and finished goods to many countries and Sri Lankans working abroad remits about 8 billion rupees every year. These benefits are nullified by the import of essentials, non-essentials and totally unnecessary items.

2. The Carnival Life Style of the Sri Lankans

- i) **First Day of the year (January 1st)** - Begins with a carnival though not a traditional ceremony in this country.
- ii) **Sinhala and Hindu Tamil New Year** - A full month of celebrating without any gainful or productive activity.



- iii) **Vesak** - This is an occasion where Buddhists should spend their times virtuously with sacrifice, benevolence, excellent behaviour and Contemplation vesak is nothing but a Trade Fair. During the time of the Buddha, there were no Birth day parties.



To: 06th Page

COVID 19 PANDEMIC - ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

The Coronavirus – COVID 19 Pandemic which originated in Wuhan, China, was first discovered in Sri Lanka in mid-March, 2020, by which time it had spread to many countries globally.

Prompt action was taken by the Government and the Health Authorities, with the help of the Armed Services and Police, to identify positive cases as well as those associates of these positive cases, who were vulnerable to the pandemic and place them under quarantine and those positive cases were transferred to the hospitals and other medical institutions for treatment.

In order to curb the spread of the pandemic, curfews were imposed and subsequently came the complete lockdown, bringing the entire country and its economy to a virtual standstill, since the main focus had to be on the control of the pandemic.

Hospitals and other institutions directly involved in the operations and treatment, were requesting for assistance in the form of protective equipment and materials, etc,

Due to the constrain of Funds, the Secretary General of the UNASL sent out an appeal, firstly to the members of the Executive Committee of the UNASL which received a very encouraging response. Appeals were also sent out to other selected Members who responded spontaneously.

Commencing on 20th March, 2020, we made donations of the following items, to the Panadura Base Hospital at the request made by the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital:

- An Industrial Hot Water Washing Machine
- Disposable Protective Kits
- Re-usable Protective Kits
- Disposable Examination Gloves
- Surgical Face Masks and Medical Isolation Face Shields
- Boots and Goggles, etc.

Personal Protective Kits and Face Shields were also donated to the Office of the Medical Officer of Health, Panadura for use by the Public Health Inspectors during their field visits.



1. The second phase was the distribution of 1,500 Dry Ration packs and Vegetables to the needy, sponsored by our members, valued at Rs.3,500/= per pack.



To: 05th Page

From: 04th Page

2. We continued with the second round, distributing 200 Dry Ration packs valued at Rs.2,000/=, each to the needy.



3. The third phase of donations were made to Police Stations, consisting of Personal Protective Kits, Face Shields, Infrared Thermometers, Face Masks, 20 Lt. Automatic Spray Cans, etc., The donation of these items were also sponsored by Members of the UNASL. These Donations were made to the Panadura, Moratuwa, Mount Lavinia and Wadduwa Police Station as well as all Police Stations in the Colombo North Police Division, etc., which consisted of approximately 20 Police Stations.



The Projects were sphere headed by Dr. M.M.M. Rushanudeen, Joint Executive Chairman of the Executive Committee of the UNASL under the personal direction, guidance and with the assistance of Mr. Errol Smith, Secretary General of the UNASL, ably assisted by Mr. Dharmadasa Vitharana, Editor & Asst. Treasurer as well as Dr. Upali Jayawardena, Executive Committee Member and several other members of the UNASL.

Through these projects were able to promote and propagate the name of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka among the Police,

Hospitals, and the General Public. These projects could be considered as great humanitarian and worthwhile Public Relations projects.



The monetary value of all these Project amounts to over Rs. 6,500,000/=. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all members of the UNASL who contributed in numerous ways and participated in these



projects, which were a tremendous success and received the appreciation of all concerned.

Errol Smith
Secretary General
United Nations Association of Sri Lanka

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact

Corporate sustainability starts with a company's value system and a principled approach to doing business. This means operating in ways that, at a minimum, meet fundamental responsibilities in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Responsible businesses enact the same values and principles wherever they have a presence, and know that good practices in one area do not offset harm in another. By incorporating the Global Compact principles into strategies, policies and procedures, and establishing a culture of integrity, companies are not only upholding their basic responsibilities to people and planet, but also setting the stage for long-term success.

The UN Global Compact's Ten Principles are derived from: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

Human Rights

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Labour

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Environment

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Anti-Corruption

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

From: 03rd Page

Sri Lanka in Distress

iv) **Poson Day** - This should be sober day for Buddhists who should be fully involved in religious practices, but thousands flock to Anuradhapura disturbing the serenity of Mahamewnawa and Mihinthale. What piety could one expect in that overcrowded. Unhealthy restless atmosphere. The pilgrims would certainly have spent their time move gainfully (spiritually) in their village temple or in their homes.

v) **Veneration at Adams Peak** – This ceremony goes on for six month from December to May. Some visit the place and this perhaps is the first and the last visit. Some would go there to increases the count of visits. Many organized group of racketeers attend the festival to market their narcotics, alcohol and involve in other illicit trades.



To: 07th Page

From: 06th Page

- vi) **The Katina Pinkama** – This is considered to be the most meritorious act of a devotee. This ceremony is completely distorted and has become a competition among temples and Dayaka Sabhas. What a Tragedy?
- vii) **The Kandy Perahara** – This is an epic that everyone should view. This festival also attracts those who are not welcome there.



- viii) **The Katharagama Perahara** – This too is frequented by categories of persons mentioned at the festival.
- ix) **Christmas** – Christmas has lost its Religious Festival and become a Gigantic Trade Festival. Appeals repeatedly by the Bishop and the much respected Malcom Cardinal Ranjith to make Christmas a Day of Sacrifice has fallen on deaf ears.



- x) **Weddings and Funerals have become Glutinous Feasts** – All the above escapades

involve immense expenditure to impoverish Mother Lanka which she can ill afford.



3. Consumption of Alcohol

Sri Lanka gobbles down 700 million liters of alcohol and this is by 3 million Sri Lankans according to a recent survey which is an average of 133.3 liters for person per year. On the assumption that a liter costs Rs. 1,500.00 on the average, the cost is a stunning 600 billion rupees. This perhaps a conservative estimate.

4. National Debt

Sri Lanka's foreign debt is rupee 5959 million and the local debt is rupee 6017 million which amounts to rupees 11976 million. Each individual is in debt to the tune of nearly 6000,000 rupees. A new born baby arrives with a debt of 600,00 rupees either the mother nor the baby knows this when the umbilical cord is severed.

5. Holiday Carnival

A public servant enjoys the following holidays annually.

• Year 2020

52 Saturdays, 52 Sundays public holiday falling on weekdays 20, casual leave 21, vacation leave 28, 3 hours of short leave per month adding up to 36 hours (4 ½ days per year). These add up to 177.5 days of holidays leaving 18805 working days. Teachers get 12 weeks of school holidays and the legal sector has their court holiday as well.

6. Those who pledge to rule the country are blessed with such immense luxuries that they seem to lose their intellectual equilibrium forgetting their responsibilities.

This country has had a glorious past in spells and may have a future. Sri Lanka is at great risk of being subjugated by a powerful country, sooner than expected.

Dr. G. P. P. Silva

Honorary Member

United Nations Association of Sri Lanka

WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS 2020. 01. 01 – 2020. 06. 30

Special Life Member Overseas

Dr. Ahmed Hussein Abdelgawad Youssef	- 1859
Dr. Sayed Samir Mohamed Hassan	- 1860
Dr. Hussein Aly Farag Essa Eldeib	- 1861
Dr. Velusamy Abdul Wajid	- 1862

Special Life Member

Mr. Mohamed Shibly Mohamed Shaheem	- 1857
Mr. Mohamed Asar Mohamed Rimas	- 1858
Mr. Mohamed Muzaffar Nadeem	- 1867

Life Member

Mr. Mohamed Rahumathulla Mohamed	- 1855
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Ms. Suduwa Dewage Sasni Santhushya	- 1856
Ms. M. Kankanamge Maya Lakmini Perera	- 1864
S Hari Hara Suthansharma	- 1865
Deshabandu W Jude Lalantha Fernando	- 1866
Ms. H. Mriani Devika Smith	- 1868
Mr. Chrishan Thivanka Smith	- 1869
Mrs. Jayanthi Rodrigo	-1870
Mr. J. Upul Dharmapriya Nishantha Perera	-1871
Mr. Thelge Viraj Kumar Perera	-1872
Mrs. Prengige Shiromi Sudharshani Peiris	- 1873
Mrs. Neigh Farina Dole	- 1874

Beginning the 70th Anniversary



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