



Newsletter

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

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Annual General Meeting 2025/2026



The 75th Annual General Meeting of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka was held on 06th April, 2025 at the National Secretariat, 39/1, Cyril Jansz Mawatha, Panadura.

The event commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by Secretary General Dr. M. M. M. Rushanudeen, and the UN Flag by the President Mr. M. M. Zawahir. Over 70 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 President Mr. M. M. Zawahir. Secretary-General Dr. M. M. M. Rushanudeen made a presentation on the various activities carried out by the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka during the year 2025/2026. The report of the Annual General Meeting of March 2024 and the Financial Report were presented and approved by the members. Professor Rohan Fernando was elected as Pro-tem Chairman and the new office bearers were elected/re-elected to the National Executive Committee for 2025/2026.

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At the Annual General Meeting Mr. M. M. Zawahir was re-elected unanimously as President and Dr. M. M. M. Rushanudeen was 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 the activities of United Nations Association of the Sri Lanka. President enlightened the new members regarding the history and the activities of UNASL. Finally, the Secretary- General delivered the Vote of Thanks.

75th Annual General Meeting - Sponsored by Mr. S. Kumaraniram.



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

National Executive Committee

2025/2026

President:

Mr. M. M. Zawahir

MBA (Manipal), MABE (UK), Dip IR (BCIS)

Executive Chairperson & Assistant Treasurer:

Mr. Dharmadasa Vitharanage

Secretary General:

HRH Prince Dato' Seri Ambassador

Deshakeerthi Dr. M. M. M. Rushanudeen (JP/WI)

Treasurer:

Mr. N. Kumudu D. Weerasinghe

Editor

Ms. Shyama Wijekulasuriya

Deputy Executive Chairpersons:

Mr. Sampath Priyankara

Mr. D. M. Siriwardena

Vice Chairpersons:

Dr. H. Ravi Nagarajah

Dr. Sarath M. Samarage

Dr. T. Anver Dole

Assistant Secretaries General:

Ms. Panchali Rathnayake

Mr. K. M. Athula Kanakarathna

Mr. R. H. Asoka Perera

Dr. S. M. Kamal Abeywardena

Dr. Chrishantha Dissanayake

Dr. Madavi Bandara

Executive Committee Members:

Ms. Thamara Ramya kumari Wijewardena

Mr. Lalith Peiris

Mr. K. K. Sarath Jayathilaka

Dr. T. W. M. Ananda Jayaruwan Bandara

Mr. Abdul Marzook (attorney-at-law)

Ms. Maleena Laxana

Honorary Members - 2025/2026

Dr. G. P. P. Silva

Ms. Chandani Vitharanage

Mr. Indrajith Wijekulasuriya

Dr. M. Z. M. Nizar

Mr. Selladurei Kumarendiram

Prof. Rohan Fernando

Written By: Mr. M. M. Zawahir

President

UNASL

Beach Cleanup Project - 2025



The United Nations Association of Sri Lanka along with the UN Association Youth Forum conducted a Beach Cleaning Project towards CLEAN SRI LANKA Programme introduced by the Sri Lankan Government, at the Panadura Beach on Saturday, 18th January 2025.

The project was extremely successful with over 50 participants.

This Project was carried out successfully in collaboration, with the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka, Study Circle Members of Visakha Vidyalaya Colombo and St. John's College Panadura.



Also participating in this project were members of the Sri Lanka Police, Public Health Inspectors and volunteers from the MOH Office Panadura, Panadura Urban Council and other volunteers for Civil Society Organizations invited by the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka.

Founder of the UNASL / Secretary General's 15th Anniversary

The 15th commemoration of the Founder and former Secretary - General of the United Nations Association, Chairman of the Kumaran Fernando Foundation's Alms Giving Ceremony held on 21 March 2025 at the Kumaran Fernando Foundation Premises. Board of Directors, Kumaran Fernando Foundation and UNASL Executive Committee Members participated the day.

Written by: Mr. Dharmadasa Vitharanage
Executive Chairman
UNASL



International Women's Day – 2025



The International Woman's Day for The Year 2025 Organized by The Una Sri Lanka Chapter Was Held On 22nd March with The Attendance of The Honorable Prime Minister Dr. Harini Amarasuriya Accompanied by The Honorable Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath, Prof Rohan Fernando & Dr Jayaruwan Bandara.



The Recipients Were Chosen by A Panel of Judges Who Have Excelled in Their Individual Life Achievements Towards Humanity. This Was Held at The Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo 07 With Over 250 Personalities in Attendance. Awards Were Given to The Distinguished Ladies with Cultural Dances and Music Performances Through Out the Function Planned.



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All Sponsors Were Given Their Due Place at The Function with A Digital Backdrop and Side Screens. This Function Was Fully Funded by Sponsors with No Cost to The UNASL Coffers Which Is A Big Achievement by The Working Committee of UNASL Comprising of Mrs. Panchali Ratnayake Assistant Secretary General as The Project Chairperson Backed by Dr. Madhavi

Bandara Assistant Secretary General and Dr. Ravi Nagarajah Vice Chairman.

Written By: Dr. Ravi Nagarajah
Vice Chairman
UNASL

UNASL Organizes Successful Eye Camp in Pannala



The United Nations Association of Sri Lanka (UNASL) successfully conducted a special eye clinic at the Pannala Galayaya Rajamaha Viharaya on Sunday, June 15, 2025, providing vital eye care services to the local community.

The initiative was spearheaded by Dr. Chrishantha Dissanayake, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka, and offered comprehensive range of services, including eye examinations, distribution of free eyeglasses, referrals for further medical treatment, and recommendations for free intraocular lenses. A total of 120 individuals from villages surrounding the Galayaya Rajamaha Viharaya in the Pannala Divisional Secretariat benefited from the clinic. Of those examined, 18 received complimentary eye glasses, 15 were referred for medical treatment for conditions such as cataracts and other eye diseases, and 10 were recommended for free eye lens implants.

The successful execution of the clinic was made possible through the dedicated participation of numerous UNASL members and local dignitaries. Notable attendees included Kurunegala District Additional General Secretary Priyankara Aruna



Shantha, UNASL Secretary General Dr. M. M. M Rushanudeen, Executive Chairman Dharmadasa Vitharana, Vice Chairman Ravi Nagarajah, Assistant General Secretary Ms. Panchali Ratnayake, Dr. Darshana Weerakoon, Grama Niladharis, and other esteemed members of the community.

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The medical relief program received significant financial and organizational support from Mr. Dhammika Sisira Kumara, Mr. Sujeewa Nuwan, Mr. Niroshan Indrawansa, Mr. Subramaniam Prabhakara, Mr. Jayatissa Athauda Hetti, Dr. Chrishantha Disanayake, Dr. Madhavi Bandara, Mrs. Renuka Disanayake, and Mrs. Chamika Jayaweera. Complementing the eye clinic, Mr. Chaminda Nishantha also organized a special 'Belimal Dansala' (a traditional offering of refreshing drinks) for all attendees. Crucial professional support was extended by the staff of Pannala Makandura Eye World Optical, including Director Mrs. Sakura Panditharathne and Dr. Asanka Bandara, who ensured the high quality of the eye examinations. W.K.S Medical Service played a vital role in facilitating the procurement of eye lenses.

The event commenced with religious rituals performed by the Venerable Thero of the Galayaya Rajamaha Viharaya, who invoked blessings upon all present. Mr.

Dharmadasa

Vitharanage, Executive Chairman, Dr. M. M. M. Rushanudeen, Secretary General, Dr. Ravi Nagarajah, Vice Chairman, and Ms. Panchali Rathnayake, Assistant Secretary General, participated this event. Dr. M. M. M. Rushanudeen, Secretary General of the UNASL addressed the gathering, enlightening them about the mission and role of the United Nations. Priyankara Aruna Santha, the Additional District Secretary of Kurunegala, commended the initiative and pledged his continued support for future endeavors. The Additional District Secretary of Kurunegala, commended the initiative and pledged his continued support for future endeavors.

Written by: Dr. Chrishantha Dissanayake
Assistant Secretary General
UNASL

Welcome Our New Members 2025 01 01 to 2025 06 30

Special Life Members

Mr. K. W. Gunath Kavinga Fonseka	- 2113
Ms. H. D. Vibudi Vimansa	- 2114
Mr. Nizamudeen Mohamed Rohan	- 2131
Mr. W. M. Yohan Chathuranga Peters	- 2133

Life Members

Mr. J. A. Kavika Sasmita	- 2115
Mr. R. D. Ananda Tissa	- 2116
Dr. (Ms.) Preethi Liyanage	- 2117
Mr. L. H. Nipuna Damsith Dayawansha	- 2118
Ms. Badhrani Yasoja Devasurendra	- 2119
Mr. Palith Tikri Bandara Kohowa	- 2120
Mr. Harindu Dharshana Weerakoon	- 2121
Mr. Kannaiya Hyogaras	- 2122
Mr. K. Keerthi Sirimewan Gunawardana	- 2123
Dr. Palitha Abeykoon	- 2124
Mr. Mahathewan Rajarooban	- 2125
Ms. P. A. Thrilakshi Chathurika Jinadasa	- 2126
Ms. W. G. Niroshani Jayasekara	- 2127
Mr. Charana Lakpriya Kanankegamage	- 2128

Life Members

Honorable Mr. Sajith Premadasa	- 2129
Mr. Rausdeen Mohamed Hasmeen	- 2130
Mr. Amirthanathan Thanujan	- 2132
Mr. Lahiru Uthpala Ranasinghe	- 2134
Mr. Tilan Manjula Wijesooriya	- 2135
Ms. K. Shashika Ashani Silva	- 2136
Mr. M. D. Gayan Sampath Samarasinghe	- 2137
Mr. I. A. Rajitha Lakmal Senadheera	- 2138
Mr. Nadarajanantha Senthuran	- 2139
Mr. E. A. Isindu Jayawihan	- 2140
Mr. G. Janaka Priyantha Dayaratne	- 2141
Ms. G. M. Iroshini Kawshalya Jayaratne	- 2142
Mr. Dumith Pushpakumara Palandage	- 2143
Ms. A. M. Madhubhashini Shashikala	- 2144
Mr. H. L. Malith Pasindu Bandara	- 2145
Ms. Murugathas Arani	- 2146
Mr. W. A. Nuwan Prabath Silva	- 2147
Ms. T. Deepika Nilanthi Fernando	- 2148
Mr. Vimalathas Thisonthas	- 2149

Farming in the Face of Climate Change

Climate change is no longer a distant threat it is a daily reality for farmers across Sri Lanka. Agriculture, the backbone of livelihoods and food security, is now increasingly vulnerable to erratic weather patterns. The oncepredictable Yala and Maha seasons have become unreliable, turning farming into a risky endeavor. A recent study by the Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ) identified Mannar and Monaragala as two of the most climate vulnerable districts in the country. In these regions, communities that have long relied on traditional farming practices are grappling with the harsh new realities of prolonged droughts, sudden floods, and shrinking cultivation windows. In Mannar's Manthai West division, CEJ selected three highly vulnerable communities Kayanagar, Koorai, and Seethuvinayagar Kulam for a special climate adaptation project. Conditions in Seethuvinayagar Kulam are particularly severe. The community lacks even basic infrastructure, and farmers depend entirely on agriculture for their survival. With no reliable water sources or transport facilities, they are wholly at the mercy of the natural climate. They farm only during the rainy season, while the rest of the year is marked by struggle and uncertainty.

Heavy rains frequently flood the village, blocking roads and cutting off access, making daily life incredibly difficult. In response, CEJ launched a pilot project aimed at strengthening these communities' resilience to climate change. Through awareness programs and specialized training, farmers were introduced to climate change mitigation techniques and adaptation strategies. The project implemented solar-powered water irrigation systems, renovated existing water storage tanks, and established model farms showcasing climate-resilient agricultural practices. Farmers were trained in regenerative agriculture methods, such as crop rotation, organic composting, and water efficient farming, helping to restore soil health, conserve water, and increase biodiversity.

Recognizing the urgent need for broader transformation, CEJ's efforts extend beyond local interventions. Their programs also emphasize Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and innovative, sustainable farming techniques that can not only boost productivity but also safeguard the environment. Yet, the fight against climate change cannot rely on community action alone.

Comprehensive policy reforms are urgently needed to promote climate-resilient agriculture, improve market access for farmers, and provide financial support to those impacted by climate disasters. Environmental degradation, including illegal sand mining and deforestation, further exacerbates the crisis by accelerating soil erosion and disrupting vital ecosystems. Protecting natural resources must go hand in hand with adapting agricultural methods.

Despite these immense challenges, the resilience of farmers in Mannar and Monaragala offers hope. With the right blend of knowledge, technology, and policy support, they can continue to thrive. But their success hinges on collective action strong government leadership, active community participation, and greater awareness among consumers and stakeholders.

As climate change continues to reshape our world, the time to act is now. Supporting climate-smart farming practices, investing in sustainable research, and enforcing policies that protect both farmers and the environment are essential steps forward. Together, we can secure a sustainable future for Sri Lanka's farmers and ensure food security for generations to come.

Written by: Ms. Thusyanthini Nagarasa
Programme Officer
Center for Environmental Justice



The International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ) and the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC).

In 2025, there are two recognized International Years: the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ) and the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC). The UN proclaimed 2025 as IYQ to celebrate the 100th anniversary of quantum mechanics and raise awareness of its applications. 2025 is also the IYC, highlighting the role of cooperatives in sustainable development, with the theme "Cooperatives Build a Better World".

International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ):

Purpose:

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of quantum mechanics and promote understanding of its impact on various fields.

Activities:

The year will feature events and initiatives at all levels to increase public awareness of quantum science and technology.

Key Focus:

Raising awareness about the past, present, and future of quantum science and technology.

International Year of Cooperatives (IYC):

Purpose: To emphasize the vital role of cooperatives in sustainable development.

Theme: "Cooperatives Build a Better World," showcasing how cooperatives contribute to social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

Impact: IYC highlights how cooperatives contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA National Secretariat

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