

a by BEEZ for green project



shman Dissanayake handing over

Jaffna University planted the goodwill tree presented by the Colombo University Vice Chancellor with the help of Prof. Yapa and Dr. Sampath Seneviratne - thus being the main event of the morning program. The other two goodwill trees were planted by Prof. Mayuri Wijesinghe of Colombo University, Dr. Ganeswaran of Jaffna University and the Regional Manager of the People's Bank. Outside, all the undergraduates (Colombo and Jaffna) were ready to board the buses to go in different directions to plant trees in outstation schools.

It was a pleasure to see how the academic staff and the undergraduates of the two universities mingled with the school children specially the kids in Jaffna outstation schools who do not get much prominence. They all worked together for a common cause in a true human spirit.

Brochures on climate change and global warming also were distributed among the school children. Staff from People's Bank, DFCC Bank, Mobitel, and People's Leasing and Finance, were in big numbers for the tree planting campaign while CandleAid, Mobitel, HNB and DFCC Bank donated plants for the program. There was another meaningful program carried out simultaneously - that is the distribution of waste bins



People's Bank sponsorship for Jaffna district tree-planting campaign

THE tree-planting campaign organised this year by the Base for Enthusiasts of the Environment Science and Zoology of University of Colombo, in association with the Zoology Students' Association of the University of Jaffna, was sponsored by People's Bank.

1,000 plants were planted during this campaign conducted with the aim of strengthening and securing the country's environment and building a green future. The project also saw the development of closer understanding and co-existence between students of the two universities.

The aim of People's



donated by the Rotary Club of Moratuwa to keep the school environment clean. If we are to have a healthy nation, a clean environment is a must and the awareness must start from schools.

After tree-planting event the participants came back to the university. The academic staff and the undergraduates of the Jaffna University had taken a lot of trouble to prepare a special lunch for the visitors. It was nice to see how all were seated on mats and enjoyed the lunch served on banana leaves. Some Jaffna ladies were wearing expensive sarees and shoes while others who went for tree planting came with denim and ordinary shoes but when they came to lunch all had to remove shoes and sit on mats. This clearly shows how simple their lifestyle is but rich in traditions.

After lunch two cricket matches for girls and boys took place and it was a shorter version of T-20 that is, T-10, ten overs a side. Since some of the Colombo undergraduate cricketers came from cricketing schools such as Royal, Ananda, D.S. Senanayake, Vidyarthi etc they were badly beaten by the Jaffna undergraduates but Colombo girls managed to win their match after a hard struggle. It was not a question of who won or who lost. Both sides played very hard but at the end of the day it was the friendship that came out from both matches.

After the matches the sing song continued from where it was stopped the previous night. The weather was fine with a cool breeze was blowing across the ground and little by little the darkness crept in and it was time to wind up a memorable journey to the North. For some (4th year undergraduates) this was their last outdoor activity in their university career which ended up in a high note. The bold decision that was taken by the two Vice Chancellors for sake of unity in the country and goodwill among the undergraduates of both universities paid off rich dividends. Both sides will not forget this memorable event of their lives.

If not for Prof. Yapa of the Zoology Department of the Colombo University and Dr. Sivaruban of the Zoology Department of the Jaffna University this event wouldn't

have taken place. The Colombo Undergraduates had a rare opportunity of visiting poor schools in Jaffna and talked to the school children while planting trees. This may be the first time that those school children met undergraduates in their lives. Though this was a joint project the bulk of the work was done by the University of Jaffna and we all must raise our hats to them.

There were so many who deserve to be mentioned specially the sponsors... People's Bank, Sampath Bank, Bank of Ceylon, Commercial Bank, Brandix Sri Lanka, Free Lanka Trading, Singer Sri Lanka, Elpitiya Plantation, IUCN, People's Leasing and Finance. There were several banners given by the big companies as their contribution. Environment Ministry Director Climate Change Dr. R.D.S. Jayathunga supported the program from the start and arranged the Tamil Literature and brochures on climate change and global warming to be distributed among the school children in Jaffna.

Zoology Department of the Colombo University will host them in June this year and I am sure the Colombo undergraduates will do their best to welcome their counterparts from Jaffna. We understand that some of the Jaffna undergraduates have already asked their Colombo friends to prepare traditional Colombo food such as Kiribath, Lunumiris, Kavum, Kokis, etc and now messages are going up and down from Colombo to Jaffna and vice versa regarding the pending visit to Colombo from Jaffna. Facebook has brought them more closer than before.

Due to the sad past that we had for nearly three decades it may be difficult to bring the two communities together but



not impossible. The two universities proved that beyond any doubt. Though the idea was to counter climate change and global warming, it ended up with the friendship, goodwill and harmony. The main thing is not to look back but to look for the future. Let the tree planting continues year after year and the corporate sector should encourage the undergraduates to get involved more and more in programs such as this for sake of unity and harmony in the country. Colombo undergraduates had the will to go to Jaffna which they never did before and Jaffna welcomed them with open arms which they also never did before. Well done University of Colombo and well done the University of Jaffna.

There is a misconception that undergraduates are there to create problems in the country. Some say that they are waiting to strike without following lectures. We should be able to divert their energy for a good cause. The undergraduates of the two universities diverted their energy for a good cause to counter climate change and global warming and ended up by promoting the goodwill and harmony which is the need of the hour. If the Bo Tree and Palmyrah Tree can grow side by side in nature, why not we live in peace and harmony in our beloved country? The Colombo University Zoology Department with the help of the Jaffna University Zoology Department planted three goodwill trees in Jaffna and it may become 30, 300 or 3000 who knows? Someone should continue from where undergraduates stopped and there will be more 'Green Cover' and 'Goodwill Trees' in Jaffna. These trees can be the bond between the North and South.



AREA Director Sri Lanka and Maldives and General Manager of Taj Samudra, Colombo together with the Associates conducted a cleaning drive around the hotel - Galle Face Centre road pavements, Galle Face Green pavements, and the garden area in the hotel premises to commemorate the TATA Volunteering week 2017.

The Shramadana activity started at 6:30 a.m. in the morning hours and ended at 9 a.m. The associates cleaned the Galle Face Centre Road pavements and colour washed the parapet walls of the hotel.

Taj Shramadana Campaign



TATA Volunteering

week is a program that aims to encourage the group's employees around the globe to get involved in community welfare. Each Tata Volunteering Week (TVW) is celebrated Groupwide across a four-week period, twice in a year. The key objective of this initiative is to encourage and inspire Taj employees to experience volunteering and eventually pursue it on a regular basis.



Sri Lanka Insurance supports Gangarama Nawam Perahera once again this season

SRI Lanka Insurance (SLI) took another step forward in its Corporate Social Responsibility projects with a donation made towards the annual Nawam Maha Perahera of the Gangarama Temple in Hunupitiya, Colombo.

SLI's association with the temple goes back many years, but what was unique about this year (2017) is that all 11 trade unions of the organi-

sation got together to participate in this worthy cause. All unions and the SLI Buddhist Association were represented in the delegation which visited the Gangarama to hand over the donation. Additionally, for the first time, a group of employees from SLI took part in the Nawam Perahera too.

The Gangarama Nawam Perahera took place on 9 and 10 February.



SLI representatives with Chief Incumbent of the Gangarama Temple Ven. Galaboda Gnanissara Thera

People's Leasing and Finance recognised with Ian Dias Abeysinghe Memorial JASTECA CSR/Sustainability Silver Award

PEOPLE'S Leasing and Finance PLC was conferred with the Ian Dias Abeysinghe Memorial JASTECA CSR/Sustainability Award 2016, Silver award for its dedication towards corporate social responsibility.

The annual award ceremony was presented by Japan Sri Lanka Technical and Cultural Association (JASTECA) and the event was held at Galadari Hotel, Colombo recently.

JASTECA has been actively involved in identifying and recognising efficiency of organisations for the last 21 years. JASTECA awards 2016 focused on three major categories; Taiki Akimoto '5S' Award, Nagaaki Yamamoto 'Kaizen Award' and Ian Dias Abeysinghe Memorial JASTECA CSR/Sustainability Award.

Ian Dias Abeysinghe Memorial JASTECA CSR/Sustainability Award 2016 was bestowed on PLC recognising the company for its adherence towards the Triple Bottom Line; People, Planet and Profit. The concept of Triple Bottom Line provides a holistic approach



Sanjeeva Banadaranayake and PLC officials receiving Ian Dias Abeysinghe JASTECA CSR/Sustainability Silver Award 2016

towards business sustainability.

While being conscious of its business impact on the society and environment and focusing on company goals and long term objectives, PLC adheres to a fivefold corporate responsibility model; entrepreneurship and financial literacy building, road safety, uplifting education, sustainable social development and environment conservation towards business sustainability. PLC's corporate responsibility initiatives are also in harmony with the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) declared by the United Nations.

People's Leasing and Finance PLC was commissioned in 1995 as a wholly owned subsidiary of the state owned People's Bank. PLC has retained the market leader position for 14 consecutive years and is the largest non-bank finance institution in Sri Lanka.

PLC is the only Sri Lankan finance company to have two international ratings. Fitch Rating Lanka has assigned PLC a credit rating of AA-(lka). PLC's special financial

services products include; leasing, business loans, personal loans, factoring, margin trading and Islamic finance. Its five subsidiaries are; People's Insurance PLC, People's Microfinance Ltd., People's Leasing Property Development Ltd., People's Leasing Fleet Management Ltd. and People's Leasing Havelock Properties Ltd.

The uniqueness of PLC is its strength and the ability to provide people friendly and customised financial services under one roof to its most valued customers.