



# NAAL NEWS LETTER

Quarterly News Letter by Netherland Alumni Association of Lanka.

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Netherlands Alumni Association of Lanka

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## 47<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Netherlands Alumni Association of Lanka

The Netherlands Alumni Association of Lanka (NAAL) held its 47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on 24 June 2018 at "Kiralala Island" Gorakana, Panadura.

Her Excellency Mrs Joanne Doornewaard, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Sri Lanka graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Over 60 Members attended the AGM with their families. Membership of NAAL increased up to 670 members holding responsible positions in both public and Private Sectors in Sri Lanka voluntary contribute their service for the Social and Economic development of our Country.



Front Row – From Left to Right

Eng (Mrs) Thamara Mallawarachchi, Mr Ajith de Silva - Secretary, Mr S G Punchihewa – Vice President, Eng (Mr) S P C Kumarasinghe - President, Mrs. Joanne Doornewaard HE the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Sri Lanka – Honorary Patron, Mr R P Wimalasena – Hon Vice Patron, Mr J Paranamana – Vice President, Mr S M S B Niyangoda - Treasurer, Mr Sarath Jayathilake - Editor

Second Row– From Left to Right

Mr Newton Karunarathne, Mr W H Munasinghe - Assistant Secretary , Mr T G Wijerathne - Assistant Treasurer, Mr Nihal Fernando, Mr S Hettiarachchi – Social Secretary, Mr Aruna Wickramarachchi, Mr Linton Fernando, Mr Mahinda Padmasiri, Dr (Mrs) Badrani Thoradeniya, Mr Sunil Rodrigo (Not in the Picture)

**SPONSORING THE STUDENT VIYATH MINSARA NILAWEERA FOR HIS HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE HOSTEL**

NAAL collaborated with Royal College Past Teachers Association on a proposal made by Mr J Paranamana the Vice President, NAAL and was able obtain funds for a sponsorship for a Grade 6 scholarship holder at the Royal College Hostel for his accommodation who came from Galle District from a backward family.

NAAL has been following the student’s performance and has been regularly updating our donor Mr Arthur Starreveld of Grammar School Felisenum in the Netherlands. Mr. Dirk van Zonderen the Treasurer of S O S Velsen visited Royal College this year and met the student, the Principal of Royal College and the parents of Minsara Nilaweera.



The Principal of Royal College, Mr. Dirk van Zonderen, Mr & Mrs Paranamna and Mr Niyangoda with the student Viyath Minsara and his parents.

Estimated cost for the Hotel fees for 6 years is LKR 2,88,000 approximately LKR 4,000 per month for this project.

**NAAL COORDINATES CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDING WITH ASSITANCE FROM VELSEN IN GALLE FOR A SEWING CENTRE**



The Netherlands Alumni Association of Lanka (NAAL) built a new 3-storey building for the Magalle Sewing Centre of the Galle Municipal Council with funds from the City of Velsen in the Netherlands. It was recently handed over to the Galle Municipal Council. Magalle Sewing Centre was first established in 2004 and NAAL was supporting the Centre until it was devastated by the Tsunami. The new three-storey building was handed over to the Municipality by NAAL on a “soft opening” on 20 December 2017.



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The building with the sewing center was ceremonially handed over on 28 February 2018 in the presence of the SOSV Treasurer Mr Dirk van Zonderen.



4 Sewing Machines, 1 Industrial Machine, 1 over lock machine, 1 Embroidery Machine and 12 sets of hand tools with all new furniture were also handed over to the sewing centre.

### Member Achievements

Our heartiest congratulations to the Social Secretary of NAAL Mr Siri Hettiarachchi who has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Wild Life.

### ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER FOR THE NAAL FAMILY

NAAL family get-together was successfully held on 24 January 2018 organized by the Social Secretary, Mr S Hettiarachchi at the Village End Resort, Meepe.

59 NAAL Members including their families participated in this event.



Members and their spouses enjoyed the day followed with fellowship among the Netherlands Alumni. These interactions help the members in their official and private life since most of the Alumni are holding responsible posts in Public and Private organisations.

It is hoped that more younger members who had gone for study recently in Netherlands will join the Association to give much needed young blood.

PLEASE SEND TO THE EDITOR MR SARATH JAYATILAKA ANY ARTICLES RELEVANT TO NAAL OR ON THE NETHERLANDS TO THE emails: [hemasiri42@gmail.com](mailto:hemasiri42@gmail.com) and [kumar45@sltnet.lk](mailto:kumar45@sltnet.lk) for considering for publication the next newsletter

## **VISIT OF MR & MRS DIRK VAN ZONDEREN TREASURER OF SOS VELSEN IN FEBRUARY 2018**

Mr Dirk van Zoderen, Treasurer of SOS Velsen along with his wife visited Sri Lanka during February 2018 on a working visit to meet the NAAL Committee and to visit Galle.

He first met with Her Excellency the Ambassador Mrs Joanne Doornewaard, of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and proceeded to Royal College to meet the student who is been sponsored by Netherlands through NAAL.

In the evening he attended the NAAL Executive Committee meeting and was hosted for dinner at the OPA. Following picture shows the Committee meeting in progress.



The following day he left to Galle accompanied by NAAL Officials. In Galle he visited Karapitiya Teaching Hospital, PIL project and Peddlars Street House which was renovated and the Swimming Pool at Light House Hotel built through NAAL for the residents and students of Galle.

Unfortunately, during his visit to Galle, due the local government elections held early February there was no Mayor appointed

## **NAAL COMMEMORATED THE SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF LATE DRS. EVERT JONGENS.**

The committee commemorated the second death anniversary of the late Drs. Evert Jongens, former Director of NUFFIC and Vice Patron of NAAL.

Dinner was served to the 100 inmates of “The Little Sisters of the Poor” Elders Home, No 204, T B Jayah Mawatha, Colombo10, on 5 October 2018 in order to bestow merits to the late Drs. Evert Jongens. All inmates were presented with a bottle of Eau de Cologne each for their personal use.



## **THE NETHERLAND’S EMBASSY ORGANISED AN EVENING PARTY FOR THE NETHERLAND’S SCHOLARSHIP ALUMNI REUNION.**

For more than fifty years, the Netherlands provides Nuffic scholarships to Sri Lankans to study in Holland. To stress the importance of Nuffic to Sri Lanka, an information session was organized at the Embassy. At the information session, Mr. Kumarasinghe, President NAAL made a presentation about the NAAL, showing the history and projects executed by the NAAL.

After the information session, Ambassador Her Excellency, Doornewaard welcomed Nuffic Alumni at her Residence and listened to their experiences in the Netherlands. Alumni showed how they use their obtained knowledge in Sri Lanka. The new Fellowship Holders were encouraged to join NAAL on their return to the Island.

