

NAAL NEWS

Netherlands Alumni Association of Lanka (NAAL) Newsletter



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My Dear Friends, I know, it has been a long time since I issued the last Newsletter. NAAL worked hard to finalize the Golden Jubilee celebrations and now all activities are scheduled and ready to share with you. The COVID 19 pandemic situation has changed most of our lifestyles and slowly these changes are getting adopted to our routine living. We anticipated a challenging year 2021 and requested all of you to be ready face "new normal" culture. We still face many difficulties in organizing our events. But NAAL, with the kind support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands have successfully planned the activities for your benefit. One of the most important factors focused was to obtain more new members enrolled to NAAL and take forward NAAL in a new direction. Definitely, we want your continuous committed support to make these objectives achievable and celebrate success in the next 50 years as well.

Your inputs are always welcome! Contact us on naal.srilanka@gmail.com lintonfernando@vmail.com or by phone 0712306999

Cheers!
Linton Fernando
The Editor, NAAL

"A trap is only a trap if you don't know about it. If you know about it, it's a challenge."
- China Miéville, [King Rat](#)

NAAL Golden Jubilee Celebrations!

NAAL Executive Committee (EXCO) worked hard to finalize the much awaited 50 year celebrations. The Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands in Sri Lanka came forward to solve many issues faced and now NAAL has finalized the schedule which includes;

1. Survey on NAAL: From present and future members - going on
2. E-Conference: 5th May 2021 at 5 30 pm Sri Lanka time
3. A news paper supplement - 27th April 2021 with the "Kings Day" programs
4. A printed souvenir to remember the NAAL 50 years existence - going on
5. A Symposium followed by a membership networking event - 20th August 2021
6. A newspaper supplement to showcase NAAL activities - 20th August 2021
7. 50th Annual General Meeting - 20th August 2021

Dear Friends, Please reserve the above dates. NAAL will inform you in due course on the ways you can participate and celebrate the success story of NAAL. If you know someone who has studied or followed a programs in the Netherlands, please share the newsletter and encourage them to fill the survey and join the E - conference. Your support to take NAAL forward would be greatly recognized. Here, it is very important to mention that the financial assistance committed by the Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands paved the way to smoothly finalize these events

The First Event - E Conference

The first out of the above series of events is the E-conference which is scheduled to be held on 5th May 2021 at 5 30 pm Sri Lanka time (14 00 CEST). The Embassy of the kingdom of the Netherlands is sponsoring the event in parallel to their "Kings Day" celebration activities. All NAAL members, well-wishers, interested parties are welcome to attend, understand what is NAAL and share their ideas during the E-Conference. Please click the link <https://forms.gle/P4wBNLYbauU2sLKh9> to register for the E-conference. Upon Registration you will receive the link form NAAL team to participate through ZOOM technology.

A kind request from all Sri Lankans who have studied / followed programed in the Netherlands!

Please assist NAAL to direct their future activities by completing the survey @ <https://forms.gle/6vmpimUVBScvGWHr9> , join NAAL and enjoy benefits of meeting and networking with your colleagues and peers and many others.

Hope to see you all at the E-Conference on 5th May 2021 at 5 30 pm Sri Lanka time (14 00 CEST)!



News from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands... *solving puzzles together sustainably!*



King's Day Activities

The Netherlands Celebrates their "King's Day - *the birthday of his Majesty King Willem Alexander of the Kingdom of the Netherlands*" on 27th April and the Embassy has planned many programs;

1. Newspaper supplements in the Daily News, Daily FT and the Island on 27th April 2021– these includes brief information of NAAL activities as well. **Remember to reserve your copy!**
2. TV programs on 27th April 2021 at 6.30 PM at Rupavahini (Sinhala), at 7.30 PM at Channel Eye (Tamil) and, English on 28th April at 7 30 pm on Channel Eye. **Do not miss them!**
3. Cycling event – Together with "Ride For Life", the Embassy is planning to conduct two webinars in May with the relevant authorities to share the Dutch expertise on cycling culture and infrastructure and discuss next steps in Sri Lanka.

4. An E– Conference on 5th May 2021 at 5 30 pm Sri Lanka time (14 00 CEST) - NAAL has already shared details and for more information you may refer the page 1 of this newsletter - **register now and enjoy together**

There is another celebration on the 5th May 2021 in the Netherlands. - "The Liberation Day: a remembrance of the end of the Second World War and celebrate freedom" - **please click here to know more details!** <https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/activities/events/liberation-day.htm>

Due to the present situation and adhering to the health and safety guidelines The Embassy will not conduct any event with physical presence of well wishers and their stakeholders.

NAAL wishes the Netherlands an enjoyable and happy "King's Day" !

An Appreciation!

The President and the Executive Committee members of NAAL, together with all members wish to convey their valued appreciations to the Ambassador Her Excellency Mrs Tanja Gonggriip and the Deputy Ambassador Ms Anouk Baron for their generous contributions and assistance to NAAL in celebrating the Golden Jubilee.

The E-conference, King's Day newspaper supplement, and a heavy part of the symposium will be sponsored by the embassy.

While thanking again NAAL wishes to maintain and enhance the cordial relationship both parties had for the last fifty years.

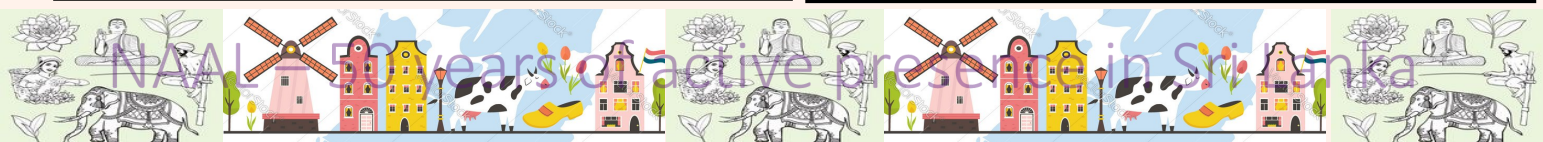
Dutch people like cycling. Not only for fun, but for commuting to work, to school, to the shop, to friends - for everything they do. Even the King! In Sri Lanka, many people used to cycle every day.

Do you use a cycle?

General cycling rules in The Netherlands;

- Since July 2019, cyclists are no longer allowed to hold a telephone or other electronic device in your hand while riding a bicycle.
- Two cyclists are allowed to ride side by side, no more.
- If cycling side by side hinders traffic, you must cycle in single file.
- Cyclists are allowed to turn right at a red traffic light if there is a sign that reads: 'rechtsaf voor fietser vrij' (cyclists free to turn right).
- Cycles can be parked on the sidewalk unless there is a sign that forbids it.
- Cyclists are only allowed to transport children under 8 if they are in a safe seat.
- Cyclists must pass each other on the left; they are allowed to pass other vehicles on the right.
- Cyclists must have a working light on the front and back of their bicycle at night

How about introducing these in Sri Lanka?





Sinhala and Hindu New Year

The Sinhala and Hindu New Year (“*Aluth Avurudu*” in Sinhala) is a very important occasion for both Sinhala and the Tamil population in Sri Lanka. The uniqueness of this occasion is the celebration of the beginning of the New Year as well as the ending of the old year at the auspicious times stated by astrologers

Sri Lankans Celebrated their Traditional Sinhala & Hindu New year on 13th and 14th April 2021. According to the guidelines, they enjoyed the festival at their homes by observing the new moon, bathing for the old year, consuming meals, engaging in work & financial transactions and the anointing of oil.

The COVID 19 situation restricted many outdoor festive activities such as bicycle races, traditional New Year games, selection of “New Year Princes and Prince” etc., Many visit their parents and families in the villages and take the whole week off and come back for work on the final day leaving home at the Auspicious time.

The traditional eats such as “kavum”, “Kokis” “mung aluva” “Assmi” and “pani valalu” etc.,(shown on the right side from top to bottom respectively) are mostly made at home and they share these with each other, relations, friends etc., and are the essentials for the New Year food table. The milk rice (kiribath) with hot chili chutney is the main course.

NAAL wishes all of you a happy and prosperous “Sinhala & Tamil New year!”



“Wesak” festival

Wesak is one of the most important Buddhist festivals. It is also known as Buddha Day. It is a celebration of Prince Sidhdhaatha’s birthday, his enlightenment (when he discovered the meaning of his life) and the death of Gautama Buddha. It



is also a time to reflect on his teachings and what it means to be Buddhist. The event is observed on the full-moon day of the lunar month “Vesakha”, which falls in April or May. This year it falls on the 26th of May and for Sri Lankans, Wesak and the day after the Wesak day are national holidays.

While observing “sil”, Buddhists decorate temples, houses and roads etc., beautifully. Further they, build and lit Pandols attractively, which shows the past stories of the Buddha. Many people organize free food outlets (Dansala) for those who attend the religious activities and for the crowds who moves around to enjoy these decorations.

Both last year and this year, they have to restrict these activities due to the current COVID situation and attend only to their religious functions.



NAAL Members' news and Leisure page



A Good bye!

The NAAL, with utmost sorrow, wishes to notify the demise of Mrs. G. A. C. R. Ganepola, a member of NAAL since 2003. She was a Chartered Civil Engineer (Director of Engineering -Traffic) attached to the Colombo Municipal Council and She obtained Post Graduate Diploma in Sanitary Engineering from UNESCO-IHE at Delft in 2003. She leaves behind her loving husband and two children. NAAL wishes to convey its heartfelt sympathies to her grieving family. **May she attain supreme bliss of Nibbana!**



Spend your leisure time actively and enjoyably..... Try these out!

Work out a SUDOKU puzzle ! No 4

| 1 | C1 | C2 | C3 | C4 | C5 | C6 | C7 | C8 | C9 |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| R1 | | | | 6 | | 4 | | 1 | |
| R2 | 1 | 9 | | | | | 6 | | |
| R3 | 8 | | | | 3 | | | | |
| R4 | 3 | | | 8 | | | | 7 | 6 |
| R5 | | | 8 | | | | 2 | | |
| R6 | 7 | 6 | | | | 9 | | | 8 |
| R7 | | | | | 7 | | | | 3 |
| R8 | | | 1 | | | | | 6 | 2 |
| R9 | | 3 | | 5 | | 1 | | | |

Please send your solution and the time taken to complete!

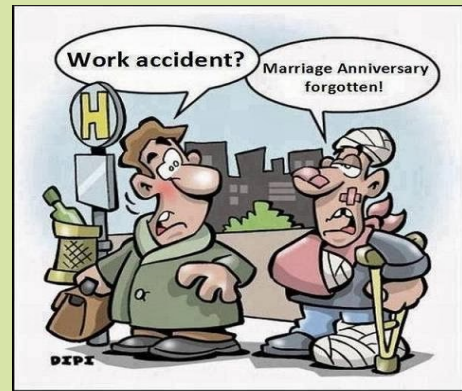
Find the words!

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | D | T | V | L | A | N | D | X | M |
| R | R | A | C | B | Y | T | I | P | A |
| E | A | D | L | A | G | M | S | F | E |
| C | U | B | U | B | R | N | N | O | T |
| N | G | B | B | A | A | O | A | O | A |
| U | Y | O | B | R | E | L | C | L | U |
| O | D | X | E | A | T | R | B | K | X |
| B | O | E | R | C | R | Z | U | O | Y |
| B | B | R | O | U | M | D | N | T | A |
| E | W | R | E | S | T | L | I | N | G |

Words to find:
 B.A.BARACUS
 BOUNCER
 MR.T
 A-TEAM
 TVLAND
 BODYGUARD
 ROCKY
 BOXER
 LANG
 BALBOA
 TUREAUD
 CLUBBER



50th
A cashier is ringing up a customer...
Customer: Alright here you go \$6.43, perfect change!
Cashier: CONGRATULATIONS! You're the 50th person to pay in exact change, you know what you get now?
Customer: No, what?!?
Cashier: Nothing!



Dear NAAL Members / Stakeholders!
This is your Golden Jubilee! Don't forget that you will get so many things! Join us in celebrating!

Published by the Netherland Alumni Association of Lanka for circulation among the members and well wishers. For any comments and /or feedback please contact the Editor on email lintonfernando@gmail.com or phone +94718306999
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