

# NAAL NEWS

Netherlands Alumni Association of Lanka (NAAL) Newsletter



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My Dear Friends,

*This is a time of uncertainties. We can not plan our activities or we have to postpone our planned programs. It is not an easy task to exist in this situation of New Covid variations spreading through-out the country. As a country and as individuals, we all have a challenge to act vigilantly and avoid spreading the virus.*

*But the lives have to go on! We can't just ignore the responsibility of taking the country and our lives forward by balancing acts to suit the situation. It is very important to "Act for Facts without reacting for Acts" The fact we have to understand is that we all, irrespective of our positions, are accountable for the "final outcome" which we still do not know. Therefore, we shall follow proper guidelines of the health authorities and make sure that others also follow the same.*

*Take care.*

*Stay safe and blessed!*

**Linton Fernando**  
The Editor, NAAL

**"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all."**  
- Helen Keller, *The Open Door*

## NAAL conducts a successful E-Conference

NAAL conducted an E-conference with the Embassy of Kingdom of the Netherlands in Sri Lanka on 5th May 2021 to mark the Golden Jubilee of NAAL and the Kings Day of the Netherlands. Her Excellency, the Ambassador, Ms Mrs Tanja Gonggrijp and the Deputy Ambassador Ms Anuk Baron, Representatives from NUFFIC & Other Netherlands Alumni Associations (NAAs) in Asia (Nepal, Philippines etc.), Present and potential members of NAAL, the Executive committee of NAAL and many well wishers joined with NAAL to expressed their views.

NAAL President Mr S P C Kumarasinghe Welcomed the participants and briefed on the success of NAAL over the past 50 years. Me Sarath Jayathilake, the chairman of the 50 year celebrations committee did a brief presentation of the NAAL activities including member events, projects etc.

The glamour of the E-Conference was enhanced by the experiences shared by NAAL members and few scholars who had benefited form NAAL and by studying in the Netherlands. It was further enhanced with the speeches by the representations of NUFFIC, Nepal and Philippines NAAs.

Participants expressed their views and the Q&A session was moderated by the

Vice President Mr S. Niyangoda.

Her Excellency, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands in Sri Lanka appreciated the organizers and showed the importance of being a member of NAAL and requested the scholars to join hands in developing the relationships further into a new level with the new technology available and by using their knowledge gained. She wished NAAL a very successful future.

The Social Secretary presented the results of a survey (Ref Pg 3) done by NAAL to asses the present situation of NAAL. Further a message sent by a representative from the municipality of Velsen Mr Klaas Van Slooten was read by the President NAAL.

The E-conference was funded by the Embassy and was conducted as a part of celebrating the "Kinds Day" which was on 29th April 2021 as well. Ms Anuk Baron, Deputy Ambassador coordinated the activity and Mr Linton Fernando, Editor, NAAL moderated and compared the session. Recording of the E-conference is available for viewing at the link below;

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/7/my-drive>  
Mr S Hettiarchchi delivered the vote of thanks. NAAL appreciates and values all those who supported NAAL to make the E-conference a successful event.

*For more details..Refer Page 2*



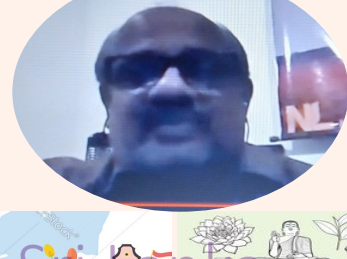
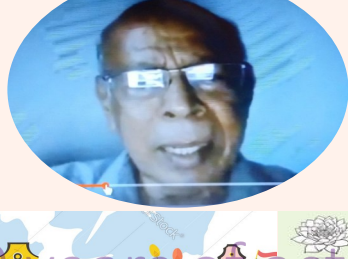
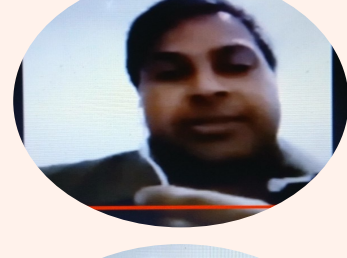
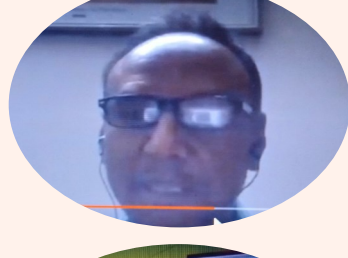
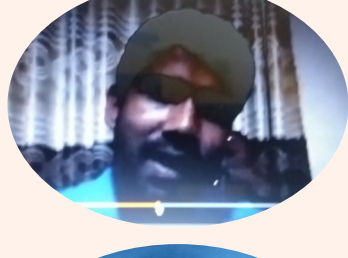
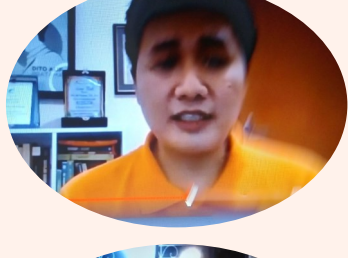
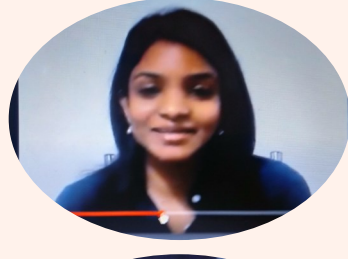
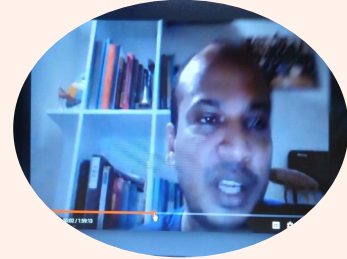
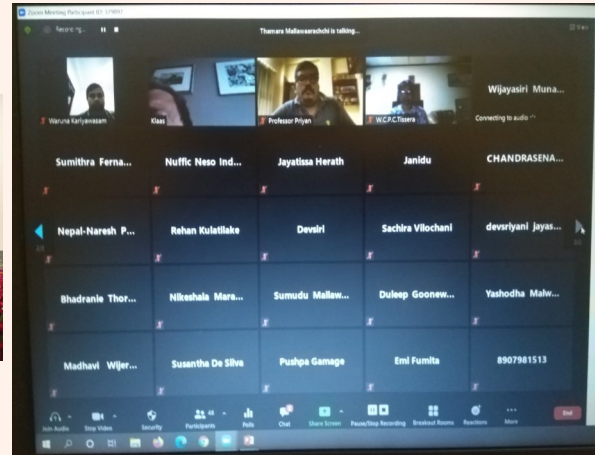


# Highlights of the E-conference

## Solving Global Problems Together!



Participants, Speakers and other Contributors in action.... It says everything!



# The Survey results



NAAL conducted a survey to know its present position and to understand the preferences of stakeholders. A Google form was sent to members, made available through social media, the embassy contacts etc. Results are to be utilized to plan and focus the activities of NAAL for another successful 50 years! This is the challenge for the future NAAL members and Executive committee members! Let us all come together to thrive NAAL for many more years

Results of the survey conducted by NAAL on its present position and member preferences

No	Question	Result		
1	Participation	Members - 60%	Non-members - 40%	
2	Do you know the objectives of NAAL?	Yes - 87.5%	No - 0%	Can't remember - 12.5%
3	In your opinion does NAAL adhere to these objectives?	Yes - 69.6%	No - 0%	Sometimes - 30.4%
4	At Present do you actively participating NAAL Activities?	Yes - 45.8%	No - 16.7%	Sometimes - 37.5%
5	Are you satisfied with the present NAAL Activities?	Yes - 45.8%	No - 4.2%	Yes, with some activities - 50%
6	What is the best you have experienced from NAAL to date?	First Five choices • Family gathering - 75%      AGM - 70.8% • NAAL outing - 58.3%      Project activities - 54.2% • Networking - 45.8%		
7	Were you informed about the existence of NAAL before or after your visit to the Netherlands? (asked from non-members)	Yes - 35.8%	No - 61.5%	
8	Who informed you about NAAL (asked from non-members)	• The embassy - 0% • NAAL - 0% • Friend - 100%	NUFFIC - 0% Institution - 0% Own search - 0%	
9	If you are not satisfied with the present NAAL activities what do you suggest NAAL to introduce?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better to attract young blood as members to NAAL for the sustenance of its objectives.</li> <li>membership development work</li> <li>Promote among young members.</li> <li>to have a guest speaker to deliver a speech on a current global subject with an interacting session at the AGM.</li> <li>New thinking is required to serve the objectives</li> <li>To have more interaction with members</li> <li>I have not participated in any activities so far. I hope to join in future</li> <li>i have not been in touch with NAAL for some time</li> </ul>		
10	What would you expect from NAAL by joining?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Networking</li> <li>to share members' expertise knowledge and new updates.</li> <li>Networking with NAAL members, sharing experiences, gain experience and knowledge</li> <li>Meet people</li> <li>to get updated information about the Netherlands</li> <li>Meet academic people and share knowledge</li> <li>share the knowledge and experience, contribute to NAAL work</li> <li>Share the experience and future opportunities in Netherlands</li> <li>Join with the activities conducted by NAAL,</li> <li>Volunteer on Knowledge sharing</li> <li>Networking opportunities with fellow alumnus based in SL and possibly mentoring IR students who wish to study in the Netherlands. I'm open to know about other opportunities NAAL can provide as well.</li> <li>To be a member of a NAAL network, share and gain knowledge and experience from the courses participated and also from professional life</li> <li>Cooperation</li> </ul>		





## A unique opportunity to all stakeholders of NAAL!

NAAL is in the process of publishing a "Souvenir" to mark the celebrations of its Golden Jubilee". NAAL wishes to share the experiences and remembrances of NAAL members during their stay in the Netherlands. NAAL souvenir committee cordially invites all of you to submit a short write-up on an unforgettable event / experience you encountered which you like to share with others. When writing you may share one or two photographs and your writing to be in accordance with the following specifications;

**Language: English, Font: Arial - 11 points, Line spacing -1.5, No of words - 400 Max.**  
 Please send your write-up by mail to [lintonfernando@gmail.com](mailto:lintonfernando@gmail.com) before 31st August 2021.  
 For more details please contact the Editor Mr Linton Fernando on 0712306999.

### A note to all members -

The Symposium, Member's Networking Event and the 50th AGM will be held as soon as the Sanitary Conditions in the country improves. All of you will be informed. All formalities in relation to the AGM is being followed by the Executive Committee and the audited accounts and the annual report will be available for members soon.

Complete this Sudoku and focus your brain

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

*Simple goodbye can make us cry. Simple joke can make us laugh. And...a simple care can make us fall in love.*  
 - Coolnsmart.com

A big thank you for all those who contributed to release this newsletter and to conduct the E-conference. Your support encourage me to serve you better. Stay together.  
 Linton Fernando, The Editor, NAAL

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](mailto:lintonfernando@gmail.com) or phone +94718306999

NAAL Office: No 95, Prince Street, Colombo 11. Tel:+91112695590 Web: [www.naal.lk](http://www.naal.lk)

