

NAAL NEWS

Netherlands Alumni Association of Lanka (NAAL) Newsletter

NAAL President's Message

First, I wish to thank all the members of NAAL for appointing me as the new President of NAAL at the AGM held on the 30th March 2023 for the second term. When a new Executive Committee (EXCO) as appointed in October 2022, we, the new EXCO, decided to have the AGM before the end of 31st March 2023 and the promise was met. Hereafter NAAL will conduct their AGM before 31st March of the other year. I thank all EXCO members who supported in meeting this task. As we all know, NAAL does not get any projects for monitoring and follow-up work. NAAL's income was the administration fee obtained by monitoring these projects. NAAL now has no income source other than interest form the funds saved by NAAL EXCO. Now we have to think strategically to generate fund to maintain our activities to meet the new demands and to make the members satisfied. NAAL EXCO is now working on several possibilities on income generating work that will be beneficial to NAAL and its membership.

We have already conducted a workshop and started earning slowly. As we have a range of professional membership, we will be able to use them to conduct various workshops from which even the member can earn an income using their knowledge, experience and skill. We will keep you informed on the programs planned. We celebrated 50 years of successful operation because of the committee members who volunteered to NAAL activities and is it our responsibility to continue the same or a better momentum for the next 50 years as well.

Today, with the changes in technology and communications, we will be able to think out of the box and plan activities to attract the younger generation to take the leadership of NAAL to suit the present day. We have to create the path for them. We have created a WhatsApp group for sharing information quick and easy way. I cordially invite all the membership to get in touch the NAAL EXCO and join with the as sub-committee members. Any alumni association builds on three pillars namely Development, Networking and Fun. Let us join our hands together to make NAAL the most sought after alumni association in the world! Cheers!

Linton Fernando -



Netherlands Alumni Association of Lanka (NAAL) - New Executive Committee 2023/24

Standing form Left to Right - Mr Premalal Walpola, Mr T G Wijeratne (Assist. Treasurer) Mr T L Chandrasiri, Ms Indika Guruge, Mr Roshan Serasinghe, Ms Indira Samarasinghe (Assist. Secretary) Mr Shantha Fernando, Mr S K Wijethunge, Ms Cheka Premasiri, Mr Gamini Abeysinghe, Mr Nihal Fernando (Social Secretary)

Seated from Left to Right - Mr Siri Hettiarachchi (Vice President), Mr Sarath Jayathilake (Vice President) Ms Anuok Baron (Deputy Ambassador, Royal Netherlands Embassy of Sri Lanka / Vice Patron, Mr Linton Fernando (President) Ms Thamara Mallawaarachchi (Secretary), Mr Sumithra Fernando (Treasurer)

Not in the picture: Mr Sunil Rodrigo (Editor)

Patrons of NAAL

Patron - Her Excellency Ms Bonnie Horbach, The Ambassador, Royal Netherland Embassy of Sri Lanka

Vice Patrons - Ms Anuok Baron, Deputy Ambassador, Royal Netherlands Embassy of Sri Lanka

Prof. K D Paranavitana

Mr S P C Kumarasinghe

Appointed at the 52nd Annual General Meeting held on 30 March 2023

NAAL successfully conducted a workshop on "Enhance Productivity using Spatial Data Science"

As a first step toward pioneering fund raising activities, NAAL conducted a successful one-day workshop on "Enhance productivity using Spatial Data Science". It is the very first activity organized by NAAL in the past history to generate funds.

It was held at the Darshana Room of the Postgraduate Institute of Management on 12th July 2023. Starting at 9:00 am it went on till 4:30 pm during which the participants were provided with morning snacks/tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

Main resource persons for the workshop were Dr Kumara Hirimburegama, Mr Nelson Wijenayake, Eng. Prasanna Lenadora who are members of the association. In addition, Mr Manoj Thevarapperuma joined to explain about Photogrammetry applications and how it can be used in many occasions.

Mr Sarath Jayathilake, Vice President, NAAL gave an introduction to the workshop and Mr Linton Fernando welcomed the participants and gave a brief about NAAL and its activities. Ms Aruni Nadeesha, The Admin Secretary of NAAL compered.

Above 36 participants from many organizations participated in the program and it was highly appreciated by them. By this way NAAL hopes to engage NAAL membership and conduct more programs. It is allow the members also use their knowledge, experience and skills and earn an income while providing NAAL the opportunity generate funds for future activities.

The organizers wish to express their sincere gratitude to all those who supported the program to a successful one and assistance given by the Secretary NAAL Eng. Ms Thamara Mallawaarachchi on recruiting participants is to be mentioned specially. *(by Linton Fernando)*



DUTCH PERIOD MUSEUM AND ITS LINKS TO NETHERLANDS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

This article would emphasise and highlight the relationship Netherlands Alumni Association (NAAL) has towards the Dutch Period Museum (DPM) mainly for the awareness of our new members. Archiving documents of Dutch period and conservation of built heritage has been given due recognition by the Government of Sri Lanka. The Dutch Governor of Sri Lanka from 1692- 1697 used this building as his official residence. During the British period this building was used as an arms store of army hospital, Police Training Centre, and Pettah Post Office.

The late Lanka Rathna Dr. Evert Jongens Patron of NAAL, was the pioneer in establishing a Dutch Museum in the country. He first arrived in Sri Lanka in 1973 and was fortunate to visit the remains of the VOC in the Colombo Fort and Pettah. In Pettah he saw this impressive building with eight colossal columns in front, on Prince Street which was then used as the Pettah Post Office. It was on the verge of collapse, and he immediately realized that it was an ideal place for a Dutch Period Museum. On his return to The Netherlands, he started raising funds to restore this majestic building.

The DPM project was successful due to the constant supervision by the NAAL and support of the Sri Lankan departments of Archaeology, Archives and Museums. This was one of the first projects NAAL was involved in. 1973 a committee was established with representatives from the Ceylon Tourist Board, the Department of Archaeology, the Netherlands Alumni Association of Lanka and the National Archives, to restore the building and establish a museum covering the Dutch colonial period. One of our founder member of NAAL, Prof K.D.Paranavitana was involved with many committees which were formed to restore DPM, and contributed as a consultant as well as a knowledgeable person who knew the history of DPM.

One of the objectives of NAAL according to its constitution is “To strengthen cultural ties between Sri Lanka and Netherlands”.

A Special Preservation Committee monitored the preservation of the building. The mutual agreement among the parties in this Special Preservation Committee allowed NAAL to have its Secretariat in the Museum premises, thus representing the interests of NAAL, Netherlands-Sri Lanka Foundation, Netherlands-Sri Lanka links. This allocated space allowed NAAL to exhibit the work undertaken by NAAL in fostering the Dutch-Sri Lanka relationships. NAAL in this outlet NAAL displayed books published on Dutch-Sri Lanka relationships. NAAL used to have their Christmas parties and get-togethers in the beautiful lawn in the centre of DPM.

Even today NAAL continues its interest to support the re-construction of the DPM by the Department of Museum. Today NAAL had obtained funds about Rs3.5 million from Netherlands-Sri Lanka Foundation and discussing with the Department of Museum how best these funds should be utilised to improve the DPM facilities. *(by Sarath Jayathilake)*



Food for Thought

Understanding NAAL

What do we do

1. Promotional activities for Potential Members
2. Support / Helping / Co-ordination of Services
3. Knowledge sharing services
4. Fund Management Services
5. Project execution
6. Newsletters + Web based Information
7. Professional Services to Development of Members

To whom we serve - Focus Group

1. Membership (Old + New + Potential)
2. Institutions of Members (Sri Lanka + The Netherlands)
3. Embassy
4. Other Alumni Association of the Netherlands
5. Community
6. Community based Organization
7. Fund Bonders
8. New Scholarship Holders
9. Fellowship Awarding Institutions (Local + Abroad)
10. Dutch Community having foot in Sri Lanka

How do we serve

1. New Membership campaign
2. Co-ordination with Foreign (NL) Institutions about Scholarship Holders (NUFFIC)
3. Recoup and harness knowledge of the (Netherlands + National) Professional experience
4. Project Financial Management
5. Conducting Exhibitions / Seminars / Workshops
6. Professional Service provision
7. Lectures / Knowledge sharing
8. Fund Raising Programs

Editors Message- NAAL

It is indeed a great honor to be the Newsletter Editor for the Netherland Srilanka Alumni Association; it is an immense pleasure to issue the First edition of the Newsletter for the Year 2023.

NAAL is well known for its dedicated hard work of members, sharing their wealth of experiences, commitment to their voluntary contributions and brotherhood.

In an effort to attract more contributors for the newsletter and its readers, request tidbits about you and drop a line about the happenings in your environment and personal development news that would be helpful to our members who can gain and enjoy. We especially want to hear from Alums being an Alumni Newsletter.

For everyone else, please have a happy end of semester and a healthy Life, do good work, and let us hear from you!

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the persons who contributed writing the wonderful and inspiring articles, without which there wouldn't have been this newsletter issue.

-Sunil Rodrigo-

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Share your thoughts

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