

NAAL Annual report for the year 2023/2024

1. Election of office bearers

The last AGM was held on the 30th March 2023 as decided by the previous Executive Committee to conduct the AGM before the 31st March 2023 as mentioned in the constitution. Since the Executive Committee appointed on the 23rd October 2022, they had only four months to perform (From November 2022 to March 2023). The General Membership unanimously consented to allow the same Executive Committee (EXCO) to continue for the next year as well. Therefore, the following EXCO members were re-appointed for the year 2023/2024 period:

- i. Patron – Her Excellency Bonnie Horbach, the Ambassador
- ii. Vice Patrons
 - a. – Ms Anouk Baron, The Deputy Ambassador
 - b. – Mr S P C Kumarasinghe
 - c. – Prof K D Paranawithana
- iii. President – Mr Linton Fernando
- iv. Vice Presidents
 - a. – Mr Sarath Jayathilake
 - b. - Mr S Hettiarachchi
- v. Secretary – Eng (Ms) Thamara Mallawaarachchi
- vi. Assistant Secretary – Ms Indira Samarasinghe, P.C.
- vii. Treasurer – Mr Sumithra Fernando
- viii. Assistant Treasurer - Mr T G Wijeratne
- ix. Social Secretary – Archt. Nihal Fernando
- x. Editor – Mr Sunil Rodrigo
- xi. Executive Committee Members
 - a. Mr Gamini Abeysinghe
 - b. Eng Shantha Fernando
 - c. Eng T L Chandrasiri
 - d. Mr Roshan Serasinghe
 - e. Ms Cheka Premasiri
 - f. Mr Premalal Walpola
 - g. Ms Indika Guruge
 - h. Eng S K Wijethunge

It is important to note that The Deputy Ambassador, Ms Anouk Baron's term ended and the New Deputy Ambassador, Mr Iwan Rutjens was appointed as a Vice Patron from August 2023.

2. Attendance

NAAL conducted 11 Executive Committee meetings during the period from April 2023 to March 2024 and the attendance of the EXCO members is as follows;

No	Name	Present	Excused
1	Mr Linton Fernando	11	-
2	Mr Sarath Jayathilake	08	03
3	Mr S Hettiarachchi	10	01
4	Eng. (Ms) Thamara Mallawaarachchi	09	02
5	Mr Sumithra Fernando	06	05
6	Arch. Nihal Fernando	08	03
7	Mr Sunil Rodrigo	04	07
8	Ms Indira Samarasinghe, P.C.	08	03
9	Mr T G Wijeratne	08	03
10	Eng. Shantha Fernando	11	-
11	Mr Roshan Serasinghe	05	06
12	Mr Gamini Abeyasinghe	04	07
13	Eng. T L Chandrasiri	07	04
14	Ms Cheka Premasiri	09	02
15	Mr Premalal Walpola	11	-
16	Ms Indika Guruge	07	04
17	Eng S K Wijethunge	04	07

It is important to note here that the EXCO members volunteered to host the EXCO meetings at their residences considering the high cost of conducting the meetings at OPA or at hired places. In addition, they provided refreshments and dinner /lunch for the EXCO members and their spouses which enhanced the bond of EXCO and the team-sprit. NAAL wish to thank all EXCO who supported this activity which helped NAAL to reduce meeting expenses.

3. NAAL office

Since the DPM room is still not ready, NAAL continued to operate from its temporary office at the office of the Institute of Quality and Productivity Management (IQPM) situated at OPA by paying a nominal facility fee of Rs 7500.00. NAAL appreciates the President of IQPM (who is also the present president of NAAL) for allowing NAAL to occupy their office. One meeting was held at this office. Several discussions made with DPM officers to renovate at least the areas allocated to NAAL has failed and NAAL had to cover and protect furniture and files etc. at DPM to avoid any further damage failed and NAAL has to wait until DPM repair these rooms. Constant supervision was carried out by the Admin. Secretary and some EXCO members to make sure that the documents and refurbished items are safe enough. I wish to suggest that NAAL has to seriously think about an office of their own.

4. Administrative matters

Ms Aruni Nadeesha, Admin Secretary successfully assisted the NAAL EXCO in implementing the decisions taken. She was compensated with the confirmation of the employment and a salary increase. NAAL wish to thank her for her contributions during the year 2023/24.

It was found that NAAL has not submitted their returns to the Registrar of Companies since 2015 and the Treasurer went through the records and appointed a new Company Secretary M/S SDH Corporate to work on completing the process. NAAL already submitted the returns for the year 2015 and proceeding the balance submissions.

5. Fund management

As NAAL has invested Rs 10 million fixed deposits as long-term deposits with high interest rates, NAAL did not receive a sufficient interest income to manage the expenses but it was possible to reduce the total cost with the help of the Treasurer who was monitoring the funds carefully. Further, NAAL started fund raising activities to make sure that NAAL will be able to balance its expenses. Further, NAAL managed to conduct “highly subsidized” events for members without any reductions compared to last year. These will be explained in details below.

6. NAAL Activities During 2023

6.1 Members Outing

Nearly 100 members participated in a member outing on 03 September 2023 by an airconditioned special train to visit Seethawaka with the assistance of the Western Province Tourism Board. Two guides and Calipso Band were provided throughout the tour.

Members had the chance to visit Kalatuwawa Reservoir and two water falls on the way to Seethawaka Miracle Resort for lunch and fellowship.

6.2 Workshop on GIS

One Day Workshop on GIS and photogrammetry was held on 12th July 2023 at the Post Graduate Institute of Colombo. The theme was “Enhancing Productivity using Spatial Data Science.” Nearly 30 participants attended from both the private and the state sector organizations. It was a successful event with a profit for NAAL and the Resource Personnel were members of NAAL.

6.3 Dutch Period Museum (DPM) furniture project

As requested by the Director General of the Department of National Museums, ten display cupboards were manufactured and supplied to DPM at a cost of Rs 2.9 million. These were funded using DPM furniture project fund. These cupboard designs were supplied by the DPM officers and produced with the supervision of DPM officers. All cupboards were supplied before the end of December and the management of DPM must do some interior work before start displaying artifacts. Brass or stainless-steel name boards will be fixed on all display cupboards under the name of NAAL mentioning the donation. NAAL appreciates the assistance given by the officers of DPM to complete the Project.

6.4 Plan for 2024 (Dutch trail and art exhibition)

Few committee members visited the Dutch Trail Project in Pamunugama. This project will be planned as a fund-raising event for the next session.

An Art Exhibition with a prominent Artist, Mr. S H Sarath who is a spouse of one of NAAL members, will be planned to be implemented during the next session.

6.5 Membership drive

A Membership Drive (self-funded) was conducted on 10th March 2024 – 15 new members were introduced for the first time in NAAL history. They were offered a free membership for the first year. This event was very successful and it gave an opportunity to strengthen the NAAL network.

7. Meeting with the new Deputy Ambassador

President, Two Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer met the newly appointed Deputy Ambassador MR Iwan Rutjens at the Royal Netherlands Embassy. It was a very successful meeting and he promised that the embassy can help NAAL whenever possible. Embassy will work with NAAL on the Development of friendship and cultural relations.

8. Suggestion by members

NAAL EXCO request all members to suggest and get involved in future activities and work on fund raising activities since there is no income generating activities at present with NAAL.

9. Appreciations

NAAL EXCO take this opportunity to thank our Patron, Her Excellency the Ambassador of The Netherlands in Sri Lanka for her presence at the last AGM and appreciate our Vice Patron, The Deputy Ambassador for his presence today.

In addition, NAAL wish to thank all the NAAL members for the support extended during the period and the highly committed EXCO members for the excellent services provided to make all activities a success. NAAL also expresses its gratitude to the energetic Admin Secretary, Ms Aruni Nadeesha for her committed coordination for the implementation of all programs.

Prepared by
Eng. (Ms) Thamara Mallawaarachchi
Hon. Secretary, NAAL
16 March 2024