

ALUMNI NEWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

July 2017

Vol. XIII 1st Issue
ISSN 2478 - 0480

13TH SUJATA JAYAWARDENA MEMORIAL ORATION : ONE BELT ONE ROAD



Vice Chancellor Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake, H.E. Yi Xianliang, Ambassador of the Peoples Republic of China, Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya, President and Prof. Nayani Melagoda, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

The 13th Sujata Jayawardena Memorial Oration was delivered by the Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka HE Yi Xianliang, on "One Belt – One Road" on 15th February 2017.

The inaugural address was delivered by University of Colombo Alumni Association President Rajeev Amarasuriya, which was followed by an address by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake. Prof. Nayani Melagoda then introduced the orator.

The Chinese Envoy explained the inception of the 'Maritime Silk Road' initiative nearly 2000 years ago which has developed into a stronger social economic relationship in present times. He went on to state that moving into the 21st century, an era

that is dominated by the themes of peace, development and cooperation, but continues to feature a complex international and regional landscape, a 'Maritime Silk Road' has become all the more important and precious as a symbol of peace, cooperation, openness, inclusiveness, mutual learning and resilience.

He said that regional integration is an unavoidable phase towards economic globalization. The flourishing cooperation in Asia has boosted peace and development in the region. However, compared with those in Europe and North America, regional cooperation in Asia remains inadequate, as evidenced in particular by the uneven development and poor connectivity

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FELICITATES VETERAN ALUMNI



At a very dignified and touching ceremony held during the 34th Annual General Meeting of the Association, eight distinguished veteran alumni of the University of Sri Lanka (which was predecessor to the University of Colombo) were recognized and felicitated.

They were veteran film actress Kala Keerthi Irangani Serasinghe, who graduated in 1947, writer and former President of the Dutch Burgher Union, Colombo, and Knight of the Order of Oranje-Nassau by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands Deloraine Brohier, who graduated in 1950, former Director/Secretary of Forbes and Walker Ltd and Chartered Accountant B.D.K. Saldin, leading intellectual and winner of the World No-Tobacco Day Award by the World Health Organisation in 2012 and Chairman, Sri Lanka

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among Asia's sub-regions, posing a considerable obstacle to deeper regional cooperation. The 'Maritime Silk Road' initiative, by linking South Asia, Southeast Asia and West Asia, will contribute to greater connectivity and complementarities across the sub-regions, and help the establishment and improvement of Asia's supply chain, industrial chain and value chain, thus bringing Pan-Asian and Eurasian regional cooperation to a new level. The 'Maritime Silk Road' initiative foresees infrastructure development and systemic innovation, which would result in an improved business environment in relevant countries and the region as a whole.

The 'Maritime Silk Road of the 21 Century' has been anchored on economic cooperation, and built on cultural and people-to-people exchanges. It foresees no interference in the internal affairs of the countries involved, nor does it seek to dominate regional affairs or secure spheres of influence in the region.

The event which was preceded by a formal ceremonial procession had a distinguished gathering which was attended by members of the academic community, eminent persons from the Public and Private Sectors and members of the Alumni Association. The Executive Committee is thankful to Past President, Advisor and Executive Committee Member Mr. Thilak Karunaratne (under whose Presidency the Oration was conceived) for providing leadership in its organization this year, as well as Mrs. Ramanee Amarasuriya, Past President, Advisor and Executive Committee Member.

The Alumni Association undertakes to build a Swimming Pool for the University

The Association has accepted the request and invitation of the Vice Chancellor to construct a swimming pool for the University of Colombo.

A swimming pool has been a long-felt need for the University of Colombo, which is the premier centre of tertiary education in the country.

This will be the largest project of the Association since the construction of the Hostel for Women Undergraduates at Buller's Lane, Colombo 07 under the presidency of the Late Mrs. Sujata Jayawardena.

In view of the enormity of the project, President Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya was nominated to Chair the Project Committee

together with Past President Mr. Thilak Karunaratne as the Chair of the Finance Committee and Senior Member Mr. J.M.S. Bandara as the Chair of the Building Committee. The entire Executive Committee comprise the members of the project committee. All Members willing to support this initiative are requested to contact the Ex Co.

The Committee acknowledges with gratitude Mr. Thilan Koththigoda, lead Project Architect and Principal Partner, KWA Architects for agreeing to support this project on an honorary basis, together with KWA Architects, NB Consultants, Haritha Consultants, ARQS Consultants and Magic Morpheus Design Studios.

Women at the Helm - Evening with Mrs. Ramya Weerakoon



Mrs. Ramya Weerakoon the Chairman / Managing Director of Ramya Holdings Pvt. Ltd addressed over three hundred students at the Sujata Jayawardena Hostel, sharing her challenges during her journey as an entrepreneur.

She hailed from a conventional background and was widowed at a very young age. As a single parent she shouldered the responsibility of bringing up two daughters and worked against all odds to overcome difficulties thrown in her path and established a successful enterprise.

She ventured in to the business world in 1976 by manufacturing batik wall hangings and garments to the export market and later

diversified into exporting of handicrafts. In 1988 she entered the apparel industry by establishing Ramya Apparels.

Ramya Weerakoon is recognized and awarded locally and internationally for her achievements as an entrepreneur. She represents many organizations and chambers as the key personnel.

Mrs. Weerakoon also sponsored dinner for all the students who attended the programme. The Alumni Association is indeed grateful to Mrs. Ramya Weerakoon and our own Alumni Member Mr. J M S Bandara for organizing the event.

FIVE LEADING CORPORATES PARTNER WITH THE ASSOCIATION

A highlight of the Association's activities this year was the launch of the University Alumni Partner Programme which would enable the Association to work closely with leading private and public sector organizations in order to provide opportunity for enhanced corporate sector involvement and support in the activities of the University of Colombo.

LOLC Group, Seylan Bank PLC, Nations Trust Bank PLC, Deutsche Bank and 3CS have recently joined this programme.

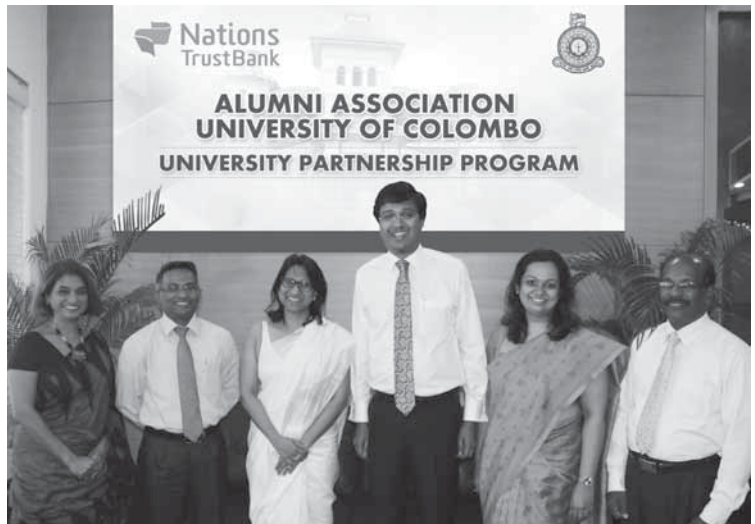
It is envisaged that the Partnership Programme will provide further impetus to the Association to carry out its Student Development and Welfare activities including Mentoring, Communication and Leadership Programmes, Career Guidance, Inspirational Talks, Health Programs and also member engagement and social activities.

Under this partnership, the partner organisations would play a role beyond traditional financial commitments and will nominate personnel who would be part of the Mentoring, Career Guidance and Soft skills development programs, thereby providing opportunity for corporates to directly be involved with the University of Colombo.

Under the MOU signed with NTB, a series of Personal Effectiveness workshops and Mentoring Engagements would be conducted for University undergraduates. The content for these Workshops have been developed by internationally renowned Bridge Consultancy and will be conducted by an expert trainer in an interactive style of delivery.

Selected senior management members from Nations Trust Bank, who are trained in coaching and mentoring, will also be made available during the workshops for students to network and select as their mentors, who will engage in mentoring for a period of three months and which could be further extended as well. The visioning and introspection exercises are expected to help the young undergraduates to better understand themselves and overcome inhibitions to pursue their aspirations.

Under the partnership with Deutsche Bank, two intensive 6 month workshops for two groups of 50 students each will be conducted to improve the business English communication skills of the undergraduate participants. The course content will include Language enrichment, Speech and reading enhancement, Speech fluency and idea formation, Pronunciation, Listening comprehension, Grammar, Vocabulary extensions, Effective dialogue, Facing interviews, Business discussions, meetings - presenting information, negotiating etc., and a certification will be provided upon successful completion of the programme. This project is chaired by Ms. Mahesha Amarasuriya.



NTB Bank Consultant and Bridge Consultancy Resource Person Keshini Jayawardena, NTB Bank DGM Legal and Administration Theja De Silva, NTB Bank Chief Executive Officer Renuka Fernando, Alumni Association President Rajeev Amarasuriya, Alumni Association Secretary Ruwandhi Thantrige and Alumni Association Head of Administration Sumanaratne Marasinghe.



LOLC Chief Human Resource Officer Pradeep Uluwaduge confirming the partnership with Alumni President Rajeev Amarasuriya in the presence of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake, Jithendra Gunathilake, Treasurer of the Alumni Association and Ruwandhi Thantrige, Secretary of the Alumni Association.



Seylan Bank Chief Marketing Manager Gamika Silva confirming the partnership with Alumni President Rajeev Amarasuriya in the presence of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake, Chamil Sumathipala Executive Officer Marketing, Seylan Bank and Ruwandhi Thantrige, Secretary of the Alumni Association.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



13th SUJATA JAYAWARDENA MEMORIAL ORATION : ONE BELT ONE ROAD



THE PULSE OF CLOUD COMPUTING WITH BIOINFORMATICS AS AN EXAMPLE



A programme on Cloud Computing was organized by the Association in collaboration with the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) on the 27th of February at the University of Colombo School of Computing. The programme was conducted by Dr. Enis Afgan, a research scientist in the Taylor Lab at Johns Hopkins University and Dr. Nuwan Goonasekera, a research fellow in the Victorian Life Sciences Institute at the University of Melbourne.

The programme provided a brief introduction to Cloud Computing, emphasizing its conceptual underpinnings, and advocated for its use in various domains with specific examples from Bioinformatics as well as highlighting some research activities currently underway to deliver a state-of-the-art Bioinformatics platform on the Cloud.

This programme was coordinated by Executive Committee Member Mr. Milad Mubarak.

ALUMNI OFFICE TO ALSO FUNCTION AS A BOOK COLLECTION CENTRE

On the proposal made by Senior Executive Committee Member Mr. J.M.S. Bandara and further conceptualized by Ms. Dayani Panagoda, Ms. Ruwandhi Thantrige and Mr. Milad Mubarak, the Executive Committee decided that the Alumni Office would also function as a collection centre to collect books which can be spared and given to the Library of the University of

Colombo or such other relevant institution. From the feedback received, this new facility has addressed a long-felt need to have an efficient and effective process for collection of books for donation.

The first donation of a set of valuable books in near new condition was made by Mr. J.M.S. Bandara.



SUJATA GEE SENDEWA

The Sujata Gee Sendewa was an evening of music and song organised by the Alumni Association for the undergraduates of the Sujata Jayawardena Memorial Hostel. Over three hundred students attended the evening of entertainment and fellowship. The professional musicians were sponsored by Senior Member of the Association Mr. J.M.S. Bandara while Prima Kottu Mee

and Admo Solar were the other sponsors to provide dinner for the students. The Academic Warden of the Hostel Dr. Kumudika Boyagoda, the former Warden Dr. Dilhari Atygalle, and Executive Committee Members of the Association were also present.



Scholarships for Women Undergraduates in Collaboration with CENWOR

In collaboration with the Centre for Women's Research - Sri Lanka (CENWOR), the Alumni Association has facilitated the provision of an annual stipend to deserving women undergraduates with funds from CENWOR.

Thank You... The Editor and the Assistant Editor of the Alumni Association of the University of Colombo together with the members in the Executive Committee wish to extend a very warm thank you to Mr. Thilak Karunaratne, Chairman and Managing Director of Multiform Chemicals (Pvt) Ltd and Past President of our Association, for sponsoring the Alumni News since its inception, including this issue.

Alumni Association Felicitates Veteran Alumni



University Alumni Partners




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Posts of Sri Lanka Under
No. QD/181/News/2017

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 The Alumni Association of University of Colombo