



SRI LANKA—BELGIUM ASSOCIATION

Established in August 2003



ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

AGM 07TH SEPTEMBER 2018

5, Sudarshana Mawatha
Nawala, Rajagiriya,
Sri Lanka

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PATRONS

1. Hony. Consul General for Belgium in Sri Lanka
2. Mrs. Linda Stabal
3. Mr. John Van Dijck
4. Mr. P. Dayasiri Fernando

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -2017/2018

The President	-	Mr. Amaradasa Gunawardana
Vice Presidents	-	Mr. Nihal Perera
	-	Mr. Sumana Liyanage
General Secretary	-	Mr.J.Paranamana
Asst. Secretary	-	Mr. Jinith de Silva
Treasurer	-	Mr.Nimal Jayasundara
Asst.Treasurer	-	Mr.Nissanka Wannakukorale
Media Secretary	-	Mr Harold Peiris

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr.Wilmon Wickramasinghe

Mrs.Ranjani Silva

Mr.Dharma Gunasinghe

Mr.Vijitha Kadiragonna

Mr.K.K.Wijayaweera

Mrs.Chintha Akuretiyagama

Mrs.D.S.Karunaratne

Dr.E.M.B. Daniel

Mr.Tilak Fernando

Mr. Ruwan Ratnaweera

Mr.Nanda Corea

Hony. Auditor - Mr. Anton Hettige

**ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED AT THE 12TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE SRI LANKA BELGIUM ASSOCIATION BEING HELD ON 07TH SEPTEMBER
2018 AT AMARADASA GUNAWARDANA AUDITORIUM AT JOHN&LINE VAN
DIJCK HALL, 50/B, SARANA MAWATHA, RAJAGIRIYA.**

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Sri Lanka Belgium Association we are pleased to present the Annual Report for the year 2017/2018.

❖ **Our Mission**

Mission of Sri Lanka Belgium Association is to contribute to the upliftment of the poor and needy of Sri Lanka and to enhance the quality of life of the most vulnerable and backward communities in the villages in cooperation with the State and donor Agencies and other generous Organizations like Adoptie Sri Lanka Belgium VZW

❖ **Introduction**

It was on 19th August 2003 that those, who were in Sri Lanka China Society formed Sri Lanka Belgium Association with the friendly guidance from Mr.Dayasiri Fernando. It was he who introduced us to late Mr.Gaston Dillen of Adoptie Sri Lanka Belgium VZW. It was Mr. Gaston Dillen who established an Organization in Belgium namely ADOPTIE SRI LANKA VZW, a charitable organization with a view to assist needy people in Sri Lanka. As at present Sri Lanka Belgium Association has completed it's successive 15th year in humanitarian work in Sri Lanka with the assistance of Adoptie SriLanka Belgium VZW.

❖ **Membership**

The membership of the SLBA is now 48.

❖ **Executive Committee Meetings**

Since the last AGM held on 18th August 2017 we had held six Executive Committee Meetings. All six meetings were held at Sri Lanka Council for the Blind Headquarters, No.50/B, Sarana Mawatha, Rajagiriya. SLBA is thankful to the Sri Lanka Council for the Blind for making available the auditorium for meetings of SLBA free of charge.

❖ **SLBA Projects**

During this last 15 years of social service activities Sri Lanka Belgium Association had its attention concentrated on two village development programs namely

Vanameekanda in Meerigama area and Thunthalawa in Eheliyagoda area. Programmes were aimed at promoting and improving the standard of education of the school children and health condition of the elders in the respective areas in order to enhance their quality of life.

The two pre-schools established in these two villages have paved the way for a formidable unity among the villagers encouraging them to develop their villages. New houses, lavatory facilities, supply of drinking water that had been introduced to the two villages were all financed by Adoptie Sri Lanka Belgium VZW. Supply of the free mid-day meal for the students in the two pre-schools had been an attraction for the students and an opening for the parents of the students to mix-up regularly. Both villages have been provided with regular supply of drinking water. The scholarship programme provided for both villages keep the unity and understanding among the parents with adjoining villages.

❖ Vanameekanda

The activities that the SLBA started under this project are continuing. "Dilena Tharu" pre-school which was started on 30th December 2001 admitted the first batch of students in 2002 and is progressing with additional facilities. This pre-school with 42 students is presently managed by two lady instructors. Admission procedure followed at the pre-school is that three year old children from the village and the adjoining villages qualify to gain admission and leave the school on reaching the five year age. In the year 2017 this pre-school had 39 children.



Scholarship Holders at Vanameekanda



Hoisting Flags at Vanameekanda

These children are supplied with school uniforms, books and stationary and mid-day meal. An annual educational tour is also organized for these children.

In addition there is also a scholarship scheme where the past students of the pre-school and other students selected from Vanameekanda and adjoining villages totaling 129 are given financial assistance to meet their educational expenses. Usually these payments are made once in four months where a team consisting of some Committee members visit Vanameekanda and make the payments to the scholarship holders and hand over books and stationary. On 10th December 2017 President of the Association and some committee members attended the year end concert and new year celebrations held by the students where presents were provided to be given as prizes to the winners.

During the year 2017 SLBA has spent nearly Rs.800,000.00 for all Vanameekanda projects.

❖ **Thunthalawa**

This is a remote village which had been developed in stages with the funds provided by Adoptie Sri Lanka Belgium VZW. Some of the projects funded by Adoptie Sri Lanka Belgium VZW upto now from the start are the two drinking water supply schemes to the village, a



Scholarship Holders at Thunthalawa

building and a fully equipped playground with other related items to the pre-school, housing scheme with sanitary facilities for the needy families in the village and also funding a toilet facility scheme. Presently 19 children attend the Line Van Dijck pre-school and they are provided with shoes, school uniforms, school bags, books, stationary and also mid-day meal.

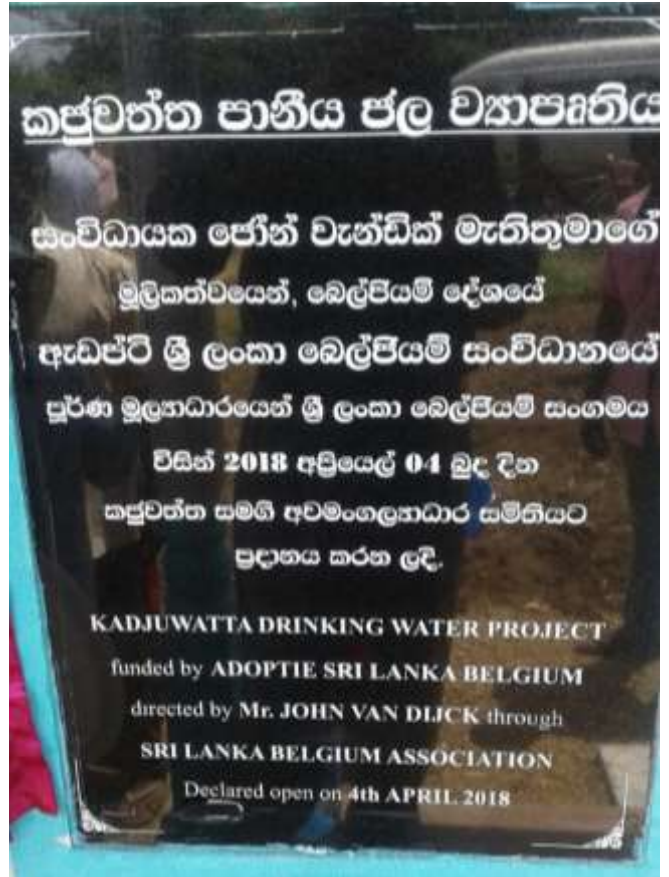
Scholarship scheme which was started in 2013 is also continuing with students from Thunthalawa area and the adjoining villages receiving a monthly payment in quarterly installments.

Year end celebrations were held on 24th December 2017 where the pre-school children participated. The President SLBA and several committee members were present at the occasion. During the year 2017 SLBA has spent nearly Rs.250,000.00 for the projects at Thunthalawa.

Projects to supply purified drinking water



Address by SLBA President at Nawamahasenpura



Site inspection at Kajuwaththa on 13.02.2018



Distribution of Coconut Plants at Kajuwaththa



Mrs. Linda Stabal addressing the gathering at Hidogama



Declare open the plaque at Hidogama Water purification project

In addition to all these ongoing social activities Sri Lanka Belgium Association started a new project to supply purified drinking water particularly to some selected villages in the Dry zone. The first request came in 2017 from His Excellency the President who was also the M.P. for Polonnaruwa.



Mr. John Van Dijck and Mrs. Line Van Dijck visit Projects assisted by Adoptie Sri Lanka VZW

The request was to provide an acceptable drinking water scheme for Welikanda area in Polonnaruwa District. This was gladly approved by Adoptie Sri Lanka Belgium VZW. This project was declared open on 9th April 2017 in a hamlet named Nava Mahasenpura. Second such purified drinking water project was opened up in April 2018 in an underdeveloped village named Kajuwaththa in the same district. The third project was declared open on 24th July 2018 at a village called Hidogama in Nachchaduwa area in Anuradapura district. These projects provide purified drinking water and also provide an opportunity for village level voluntary organizations to build up a fund for village development work.

It is observed that there is a heavy demand for such projects from the dry zone. Sri Lanka Belgium Association with Adoptie Sri Lanka Belgium VZW is willing and ready to extend this facility for more villages in the dry zone

Financial Assistance to a scholarship holder

SLBA provided Rs.25000.00 to a scholarship holder who gained admission to a university in People's Republic of China in order to meet the local expenses.

Website for the SLBA

Website for the SLBA www.lankabelgiumassociation.com which was declared open on 18th January 2015 by Donors from Belgium, Mr. and Mrs. Van Dijck is continuing. Members are kindly requested to provide information material and also to visit the Web site.

Other Contributions by SLBA

During the year 2017 a grant of Rs.563,355.00 had been made to Lanka Mahila Samithi and a contribution of Rs.157,600.00 to Sri Lanka Council for the Blind.

Accounts

The audited Annual Statement of Accounts for the year 2017 prepared by the Treasurer are presented for adoption.

The services of Mr. Anton Hettige as the Auditor of SLBA is much appreciated.

Gratitude

The Executive Committee of SLBA is thankful and grateful to all our members who helped us in planning and implementing all social service and community development activities. The Executive Committee gratefully remembers the name of late Mr. Gaston Dillen the founder of Adoptie Sri Lanka Belgium VZW several years ago. Also we appreciate the valuable contribution of Mr. John Van Dijck who succeeded Mr. Gaston Dillen. All our ongoing projects are there because of Mr. and Mrs. Van Dijck. We are grateful to Ms. Linda Stabal the President of Adoptie Sri Lanka Belgium VZW for being with us in all our projects. Similarly we are ever grateful to Mr. Dayasiri Fernando, one of our patrons, who introduced Adoptie Sri Lanka Belgium VZW to us and encouraged us to form SLBA. Finally we are thankful to the Sri Lanka Council for the Blind for providing us Amaradasa Gunawardana Auditorium at John and Line Van Dijck hall free of charge to have our meetings.

Amaradasa Gunawardana
President

J. Paranamana
General Secretary