



The Professional

*APSL Scholarship
Scheme –*

The Association of Professional Sri Lankans in the UK 2nd Anniversary Celebrations

UK Registered Charity No 1145786

2016 Winter Edition

President's Message



Today here in Manchester we proudly celebrate the second anniversary of the APSL Student Grant Scheme launched in 2014.

This scheme was initiated by Mr. Mervyn Silva (IPP) and Prof Terrance Fernando, who are currently executive committee members of the APSL, with the sole intention of supporting the education of underprivileged bright children in Sri Lanka. I wish to thank them for their effort and hard work in contributing to the progress of the scheme during these two years with the support of the APSL Education Sub Committee.

The most precious and valuable gift a parent can give to their children is education. However in Sri Lanka there are families living in extreme conditions of poverty, who does not have the means even to provide the basic necessary support and facilities to educate their children, though some of the children are doing extremely well in their studies. Due to this reason these children drop out after a while without continuing their education adding a huge burden to their families and also to the society.

The APSL Student Grant Scheme aims to reach out to these bright children, who desperately need financial support to fulfil their ambitions, by helping these children to achieve higher levels in their education reaching better standards and quality in their life and in turn help their families in future. It also fulfils one of the APSL prime objectives in knowledge transfer activities by educating children in Sri Lanka to become more useful citizens in helping the development and progress of the country.

During the last two years the Scheme has provided student grants to thirty deserving children in Sri Lanka from various parts of the country. I take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors (most of them who are here today) in supporting this worthwhile cause.

The success of the scheme solely depends on getting more like minded people to obtain sponsorships and I would kindly request all of you who are gathered here today to become a

sponsor to educate a child in Sri Lanka and support the APSL Student Grant Scheme to enable us to provide many more grants to the several needy children in Sri Lanka in future.

I hope you all will thoroughly enjoy the fun filled night today and very generously contribute to make it a very successful event.

As the great inspirational leader late Nelson Mandela once said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".

Thank you.

Leslie Dep

APSL Scholarship Scheme



THE APSL

Established in 2004, APSL is an association that is open to all Sri Lankans in the UK, irrespective of their ethnicity, creed or political affiliation. Its aim is to promote unity and professionalism among Sri Lankans, foster good will and cultural relations in the UK, as well as support relief and development activities in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lankans value education, and regard it as a reliable way of achieving economic success. Many Sri Lankan professionals in the UK, owe their success to the good education they were fortunate to have as children. Although education has been free in Sri Lanka since Independence in 1948, it has become competitive and costly over the years, thereby putting it beyond the reach of the poor.

Unlike Britain, Sri Lanka does not have a social security system, such as unemployment benefit or child benefit. Due to this, even the most gifted children born into poor families get trapped in poverty due to the lack of opportunity to access a

good education. Children who have the ability and ambition to become doctors, engineers and academics, fail to reach their full potential and often end up in low-paid routine jobs. This is an injustice to the families and children whose dreams get shattered and their potential wasted. It is also a tragedy for society and the world that fail to benefit from their untapped talent.

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

Part of APSL's vision is a peaceful, just and prosperous Sri Lanka where all children get the opportunity to realise their true potential. The APSL Scholarship Scheme, the idea of Prof. Terrence Fernando, Director of Think Lab, Salford University, was launched with 5 children, in 2014, during APSL's 10th birthday celebrations.

Its objective is to help academically gifted children from economically disadvantaged families in Sri Lanka, who are at risk of dropping out of education due to poverty. A good education given to a gifted child will not only benefit the child, but also their family. It helps transform the community they live in and ultimately the whole country.

The APSL Scholarship Scheme provides a simple and efficient channel for the Sri Lankan Diaspora who wish to 'put something back' to help their motherland. It is open to everyone who wish to make a real and lasting difference, in transforming the lives of the next generation. Since the scheme is operated by APSL members on a voluntary basis, there are no wage bills or any other overheads. Consequently, over 95% of your donations reach the children, which is higher than most of the UK Charities. So far, thirty children have been selected and are receiving support from the scheme.

2nd ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



This summer, two of the organisers were in Sri Lanka, meeting the Scholarship children and visiting their families. APSL has organised an event to share their experience and give a first-hand account of what they have seen to the UK audience - using photos and videos. This will be followed by a buffet dinner with a live band providing Sri Lankan music.

It will provide you an opportunity to find out more about the Scholarship Scheme, enjoy a good night out with a delicious meal and music to dance, at one of the North's premier restaurants and banqueting venues.

APSL CALENDAR 2017

APSL will be publishing a Sri Lanka Photo Calendar containing photographs taken by APSL members and their friends. Proceeds from the sale of the calendar will go towards the scholarship fund.

Calendars are available for purchase during the 2nd Anniversary Dinner, on 26th November in Manchester.

For further details and to place your order please visit:

<http://www.apsl.org.uk/calendar-2017>

HOW YOU COULD HELP

Here are some ways you could help:

- By attending this event, learning about the Scholarship Scheme and encouraging others to attend
- By donating:
 - One-off donation
 - Regular monthly, or annual donation
- By sponsoring a named child through his/her education
- By purchasing a calendar
- By leaving a legacy

At the current exchange rate, it costs only £200 a year to support a child!

Following are some of the ways to give:

Via our Online via Virgin Money Giving page:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/APSLScholarshipScheme>

By Standing Order or Bank Transfer:

HSBC Bank plc – Rickmansworth Branch Account No. – 1144450 Sort Code – 40-38-20

Cash or cheque – payable to 'APSL (UK)'

FURTHER INFORMATION

Mervyn Silva, Scholarship Scheme Coordinator

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APSL Executive Committee 2016-2017

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Prof. Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran	Prof. Athula Sumathipala
Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy	
(APSL Representative in Sri Lanka)	

APSL-UK Initiative in Replication of Solar Villages in Sri Lanka

A solar village at Nochchiya village cluster situated in Kurunegala district will be established in few weeks' time initiated by APSL UK and in association with UK registered charity Hela Sarana. After opening of the pilot solar village at Kaduruwewa, this will be the next large village cluster initiating the replication phase in Sri Lanka.

Solar village project concept was designed and developed to empower rural communities, using clean energy technologies for sustainable development and poverty reduction. Poverty reduction programmes in any community should have two main features; a method for creation of wealth following up with suitable programmes for job creation within that community. The first phase in Nochchiya village will be completed by pumping water for drinking purposes in the dry-zone using clean and freely available solar energy. Modifying the project features according to the requirements of the community, this new project at Nochchiya will create the much needed funds for the operation of water pumps within the village cluster.

The concept of the proposed system is as follows;

Two solar roofing systems of 3 kW each including associated equipment will be installed in the village with the funding provided by the above two charities for each system. The total

cost of the project is SLR 1.66 million. The power produced from 6 kW solar roofs will be fed into the national grid and the income generated will cover the cost of operating two water pumping stations using grid electricity. It is estimated that over SLR 250,000.00 per annum will be created by these two systems for the village community. This project also encourages and enhances the One Million solar roof programme initiated by the new Sri Lanka Government to produce clean energy and reduce burning of imported coal to Sri Lanka.

Water pumped and purified within the village is used for drinking by over 1200 people to avoid kidney diseases, and the purified water is also supplied to surrounding seven villages to purchase for a small fee. The project team within the APSL-UK is guiding the community to achieve rapid economic development applying solar village concepts. This project fulfils 13 out of 17 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), and highly relevant to the country helping the promotion of new ONE Million solar roof programme, and providing clean drinking water to people avoiding kidney diseases spreading in this region.

APSL is planning to implement more of similar solar projects in other parts of rural Sri Lanka in future. Your generous support is highly appreciated in fulfilling these objectives of APSL in supporting worthwhile long term humanitarian projects benefitting the rural masses in Sri Lanka.

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SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME ON ITS 2ND
ANNIVERSARY!**

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APSL UK Scholarship Scheme*

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APSL 12th Anniversary Fundraising Dinner Dance

The fundraising Dinner Dance event to celebrate the 12th anniversary of the Association of Professional Sri Lankans in the UK (APSL UK) was held on 16th July at the Hilton Hotel, Watford, with the presence of a large gathering of members, their families and well wishers of the Association.

This year the event was dedicated to raise funds for the APSL solar village projects in Sri Lanka. The funds raised from the event in 2014 were utilised to purchase much needed medical equipment to the renal unit at the Anuradhapura Hospital in Sri Lanka for the benefit of the patients, and from the proceedings of last year's (2015) Dinner Dance, APSL Scholarship fund is supported.

A video was shown of the story of young Vajira Lakshan, studying at Jayapala Vidyalaya, Molagoda, one of the beneficiaries of the APSL Scholarship Scheme from Kegalle district. To raise awareness of the replication of Solar Villages, which was the theme of the event, Prof I M Dharmadasa (Past President APSL) a global expert in solar energy research studies, delivered an excellent presentation on the concept of Solar Villages by citing a pilot project completed in the Kurunegala District.

APSL Young Professional event 2017 Announcement

As part of the APSL initiative for promoting knowledge transfer, the 2nd Young Professional Event will be held at the Sri Lankan High Commission in London on Friday, 27th January 2017. The event will include talks by a successful young professionals of Sri Lankan origin based in the UK and a panel discussion with a Q & A session. It will be held between 6PM-8PM and will be followed by an informal networking session over refreshments.

The 1st event was held in March, 2015 and was well attended by a mix of professional Sri Lankans, representing a range of expertise and experience. Three successful young Sri Lankan professionals based in the UK delivered key-note speeches, on interesting and diverse topics, discussing their journey to success and aspects of their current work.

APSL UK – Scholarship Scheme 2nd Anniversary Celebrations

26th November at
Royal Nawaab, Manchester

PROGRAMME

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 5.30 - 6.00 | Guests arrival |
| 6.00 - 6.10 | Welcome Address:
Mr. Leslie Dep, APSL President |
| 6.10 - 6.25 | Scholarship Scheme: Background and reasons
Professor Terrence Fernando,
(Initiator of the Scholarship Scheme) |
| 6.25 - 6.45 | The journey so far and what's next
Mr. Mervyn Silva – Project Leader |
| 6.45 - 7.00 | Q&A/Audience participation |
| 7.00 - 7.45 | Light music & dancing |
| 7.45 - 8.30 | Dinner |
| 8.30 - 9.00 | Dutch Auction |
| 9.00 - 10.00 | Music & dancing |
| 10.00 - 10.15 | Raffle Draw |
| 10.15 - 10.20 | Vote of Thanks by Dr. Mohan Siriwardena –
APSL General Secretary |
| 10.20 - 11.00 | Music & dancing |
| 11.00 | Close |



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