



News Letter

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024/2025

The 75th Annual General Meeting of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka was held on Sunday, 31st March 2024 at its National Secretariat in Panadura amidst a large gathering of members.



Hoisting of the National Flag and the United Nations Association Flag by President Mr. M.M.

Zawahir and Secretary-General, Mr. Errol Smith, preceded the event after which the meeting was officially called to order by Mr. Zawahir who extended a warm welcome to all present. Others at the head table were the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Dr. M.M.M. Rushanudeen and Secretary-General Mr. Errol Smith.

The National Anthem was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the National Flag and the United Nations Flag which were led by Secretary-General, Mr. Errol Smith, who also performed the solemn ceremony of Remembrance of those departed during the year, who had served under the United Nations Flag.

Thereafter the meeting proceeded as per the Agenda with the Adoption of the Agenda, Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM held on 26th March 2023, Adoption of the Secretary-General's Annual Report for 2023, Adoption of the Treasurer's Report and Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st

December 2023 and the Election of Auditors for the year 2024. The Election of Office Bearers and the Executive Committee was then held, and the following were unanimously elected to the respective positions, for the year 2024/2025:

President: Mr. M. M. Zawahir

Chairman of the Executive Committee:
Dr. M. M. M. Rushanudeen

Secretary-General: Mr. Errol Smith

Treasurer: Mr. Kumudu Weerasinghe

Editor & Assistant Treasurer
Mr. Dharmadasa Vitharana

Deputy Chairmen of the Ex-Co:
(1) Mr. Sampath Priyankarara
(2) Mr. M.D. Siriwardena

Vice Chairmen of the Ex-Co:
(1) Mr. R. H. Ashoka Perera
(2) Dr. Sarath M. Samarage
(3) Dr. T. Anver Dole

Assistant Secretaries-General:
(1) Dr. Upali Jayawardena
(2) Ms. Panchali Rathnayake
(3) Dr. H. Ravi Nagarajah
(4) Mr. M.A. Rohan Fernando

Ordinary Ex-Co Members
(1) Mr. K. Ajitha Jayarathne
(2) Mr. Arthula Kanagaratne

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- (3) Ms. D.R.K. Wijewardana
- (4) Mr. Sanjeeva Peiris
- (5) Mr. M.W.Wimal Fernando
- (6) Mr. Kushan Fernando

This was followed by the Address by the re-elected President, Mr. M.M. Zawahir who thanked the outgoing Executive Committee for their hard work during the year under review. He also spoke on the global conflicts and disarmament. He emphasized that the United Nations Charter should be amended so that the world would be a better place with peace and harmony. He also highlighted the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. G.P.P. Silva expressed his appreciation and views on the work of the Association and spoke on the Ukraine war as well as the Sustainable Development Goals and equal rights for all.

Secretary-General, Mr. Errol Smith spoke on some of the important projects carried out during the year under review and proposing the Vote of Thanks, expressed his sincere gratitude to the Members of the Executive Committee for their commitment and unstinted support extended at all times. He also thanked all the members for their kind presence at the AGM as well as all those who had supported the association in numerous ways during the year under review. The meeting was followed by fellowship, networking and lunch.

Mr. Errol Smith
Secretary - General
United Nations Association of Sri Lanka

Former UNA Secretary General's 14th Death Anniversary



In commemoration of the 14th Death Anniversary of the former Secretary General and Founder Member of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka as well as the Chairman of the Kumaran Fernando Foundation, an alms giving was held on the 21 March 2024 at Kumaran Fernando Foundation Premises. The members of the Board of Directors of Kumaran Fernando Foundation and UNASL Executive Committee Members participated



Mr. D. Vitharanage
Edotor & Asistant Treasurer
United Nations Association of Sri Lanka

79TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE OF SIGNING THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER

The United Nations Association of Sri Lanka organized a Commemorative program to mark the 79th Anniversary Observance of Signing the United Nations Charter, at Renuka City Hotel in Colombo, on June 26, 2024.

President Mr. Mohamed Zawahir presided, and Secretary-General Mr. Errol Smith made presentations on - Introduction to the UNA - Sri Lanka & the Signing of the United Nations Charter, respectively.

The occasion was graced by several members of the Diplomatic Corps, including Charge d' Affaires of the French Embassy, Mrs. Marie-Noelle Duric, H.E. Ambassador Levan Dahargayan of the Russian Federation, H.E. Ambassador Alireza Delkosh from Iran, H.E. Badli Hisham Adam from the High Commission of Malaysia, H.E. Mohamed Mady from Embassy of Egypt, Mr. Stefan Winkler, Director of the Goethe Institut and Mr. Alexvey Jseleshela from the Embassy of the Russian Federation.

Dr. Sanath De Silva, Head of Dept. of Strategic Studies, of the Kotelalawala Defence University, made a presentation on “The Role of Disarmament pursued by Sri Lanka”, and Dr. Ajith Colonne, a versatile Mentor, Trainer & Consultant, delivered an address on “Rational Decision Making”.

The meeting was well attended by invitees from the Public and Corporate sector, as well as members of UNA-Sri Lanka.

Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, former Speaker of Parliament, Minister & Diplomat, graced the occasion and presented the mementos to the Guest Speakers, on behalf of UNA-Sri Lanka.



Dr. T Anver Dole
Vice Chairperson
United Nations Association of Sri Lanka

Innovations and Trends in Healthcare Management

Healthcare management plays an important role in the efficient and effective delivery of healthcare services. They face many challenges including escalating healthcare costs, rapid technological advancements, increasing demands for transparency and quality, changing disease patterns and demographic transition.

These challenges have created a pressing need for innovation in healthcare management. To address these issues and prepare for the future, healthcare managers need to embrace innovative strategies and technologies.

The healthcare industry is integrating technological and digital innovations to improve administrative processes. This paper provides an overview of healthcare management trends and innovations. While remote patient monitoring tops the list, electronic health records (EHR), telehealth, online rehabilitation, and many others impact healthcare management.

An in-depth research on the top global healthcare administration trends and startups, conducted by StartUs Insights analyzed a sample of 2457 global startups and scaleups. They identified the Top 8 Healthcare Administration Trends for 2024.

1. Remote Patient Monitoring
2. Electronic Health Records
3. Telehealth
4. Hospital Robotics
5. Artificial Intelligence
6. Advanced Operations Management
7. Hospital Asset Tracking
8. Network & Security

1. Remote Patient Monitoring

Remote patient monitoring (RPM) though by no means a new care modality is evolving rapidly, spurred by the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding regulatory push to expand access to care.

Real-time physiological measurements such as heart rate, weight, blood pressure, and other vital indicators will be transmitted to increase patient consciousness and clinical support across virtual channels. Without requiring patients to visit the clinic physically, doctors can monitor their health state and modify treatment plans using technology and portable devices.

Such AI-based solutions monitor patients in real-time and send alerts to the workers if immediate care is required. At the same time, medical wearables track various body parameters, like sugar levels and heart rates, to notify healthcare providers of abnormalities.

2. Electronic Health Records

As hospitals deal with large amounts of patient data, manual maintenance of medical records is time-consuming and prone to human errors. As a result, platforms providing and integrating electronic health records (EHR) are on the rise.



Administrative work in a healthcare organization with respect to documentation of health records takes a considerable amount of time and money which can be reduced with the introduction of EHR solutions that reduce paperwork and storage space required to safeguard those files. EHRs facilitate instant storage and retrieval of vast data that reduce paperwork and the resultant clutter.

They store every minute detail of patient data digitally in software platforms, allowing physicians

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to access patient records remotely. Moreover, this enables doctors are able to better diagnose and treat patients as their medical history will be available in one place.

Benefits of EHR: Extremely affordable, patients privacy, easily share data, the use of data technology, smooth workflows, extreme quality.

3. Telehealth

Telehealth — sometimes called telemedicine — lets your health care provider care for you without an in-person office visit. Telehealth is done primarily online with internet access on your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

The increasing need for social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic generated high interest in telehealth solutions. However, patients and physicians still prefer remote consultation even after removing the pandemic restrictions. Some of the major aspects of this technology include teleconsultation, telenursing, telepharmacy, and telerehabilitation.

4. Hospital Robotics



Robots in the healthcare sector are advancing surgeries, delivery fulfillment, disinfection efforts, and much more. Surgical robots allow surgeons to have more precise control over various surgical procedures. This significantly reduces surgical errors and the complications associated with them.

On the other hand, delivery robots are useful for performing mundane tasks such as delivering medicines and meals to patient beds. This frees up

the time of healthcare personnel, enabling them to focus on more urgent patient medical needs. To further reduce staff burnout, startups are building care or companion robots that ensure patient cleanliness, check their vitals, offer them emotional support, and improve patient engagement.

5. Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) and related technologies are increasingly prevalent in business and society, and are beginning to be applied to healthcare. These technologies have the potential to transform many aspects of patient care, as well as administrative processes within provider, payer and pharmaceutical organisations.

Process automation and healthcare analytics are the primary use cases of AI in hospitals and healthcare administration. Machine learning (ML) and computer vision analyze medical images to detect various diseases, enabling advanced diagnostics. This allows doctors to detect conditions faster and intervene promptly. ML also helps in patient stratification.

For this, ML models predict the future state of patients based on their present clinical condition and available medical history. Additionally, AI-powered virtual assistants allow clinicians to conveniently digitize medical notes to save time and increase efficiency. Towards hospital administration, AI automates inventory management, clinical documentation, and revenue cycle management, among others.

6. Advanced Operations Management

Healthcare Operations Management refers to the day-to-day operations of a facility that influence the client experience and organizational objectives.

Healthcare professionals need to deal with massive amounts of operational tasks that are imperative for efficient care delivery. To make such processes more effective, startups develop advanced

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operations management solutions. This includes solutions for operation theater (OT) management, laboratory information systems, discharge summary digitalization, billing management, visitor management, hospital recruitment, and staff workflow management. These solutions not only save time but are also cost-effective. They reduce manual data entry and paperwork while enabling hospitals to allocate staff and resources for complex tasks. Reducing the manual workload of healthcare providers while improving operational efficiency is imperative for advancing healthcare management.

7. Hospital Asset Tracking

Hospitals have numerous expensive assets such as diagnostic equipment, surgical instruments, monitors, etc. Tracking these items effectively is only possible with advanced technologies like Bluetooth tags and other connected devices. For example, radio-frequency identification (RFID) and barcodes enable real-time tracking of medical assets.

This significantly reduces the chances of items getting misplaced, preventing the wastage of hospital resources. Moreover, such asset tracking solutions make sure that the right equipment is always present where they are needed, improving asset utilization and efficiency.

8. Network & Security

Network security is of paramount importance in any sector, but it is particularly critical in the healthcare industry. The healthcare sector holds vast amounts of sensitive patient data, including medical records, billing information, and personally identifiable information (PII), making it a prime target for cybercriminals.

Virtual Reality

The future of healthcare management is not limited to the above-mentioned trends. For example, as biometrics enables quick and secure access to sensitive data, the technology shows an upward growth to ensure data privacy and safety. Likewise, immersive technologies like virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) are being extensively used for medical training. They are also very effective for advancing telehealth with virtual exposure therapy. These innovations, among others, will improve the efficiency of healthcare operations and improve care delivery.

Virtual Hospitals

A virtual hospital is a full-scale digital hospital providing various medical services online and enabling patients to avoid the stress and burden of traveling to a distant brick-and-mortar facility. VH increases healthcare accessibility, helping people with limited access to medical care.



Prof. Sarath Samarage
Vice Chairperson
United Nations Association of Sri Lanka

Paris Agreement

Are we on track



Paris Agreement was a result of a series of discussions and conferences initiated by the United Nations on the subject of climate change and global warming. It was agreed after detailed study by many scientific organizations that the increase in the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has been a result of human activity. Therefore, it agreed that it was necessary for whole community to agree to containing the levels of increases of these gases; gases such as carbon dioxide. Even though these gases are necessary for maintaining the level of warmth in the atmosphere the main reason for increase in the levels of greenhouse gases were the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum to generate electricity and to provide transport facilities. After many discussions initiated by the United Nations, an inter government panel on climate change was established and finally in November 2015 the Paris Agreement was adopted. nearly 170 countries agreed to sign the agreement.

It was decided that all countries agree to maintain the release level of greenhouse gases to a level of 2% below the past levels. Most of the countries who were responsible for emissions of greenhouse gases too agreed to joined in this endeavor.

BUT

ARE WE ON TRACK

Even though many countries agreed to sign the agreement it's not clear whether the whole world is on track. After initial signing in Paris, regular discussions were held to discuss the outcome. Such conferences were held in Morocco in 2016, in Bonn Germany in 2017 and in Poland in 2018.

Even though discussions were held regularly it appeared that some of the participants were reluctant as some who had agreed to reducing the levels of global warming were major producers of fossil fuels. The three major producers of fossil fuel, namely, USA China and India are participating reluctantly.

Even USA, under President Trump withdrew from the agreement but President Biden rejoined. It has been noted that even though the aim of the exercise was to reduce the use of fossil fuel it appears the “Coal” has not been mentioned in the documents specially during the initial period. Some who organized and initiated discussions and conferences sometimes were the major producers of fossil fuel. UAE who organized the cop 28 in the year 2023 was one of world's leading producers of fossil fuel. However, it appears that due the signing of the Paris Agreement and follow up action it has been possible to keep the levels of increases in global warming at levels below the levels it would have been if no such action were taken.

However, the reductions were somewhat below levels anticipated by the Paris agreement, this fact has been mentioned in a report of the United Nations published in Sept. 2023. The next set of discussions COP 29 is scheduled for November 2024 to be held in Baku Azerbaijan. The objective is to aim at advancing the goals of the Paris Agreement including the efforts to limit global warming and adapting to the impacts of climate change and also mobilizing finance for all these activities. However, as a result of these discussions the world community realized the importance of renewable energy. Many countries have initiated action to generate renewable energy; even producers of fossil fuels.

Mr. T. Sumathi Fernando
Former Assistant Secretary General
United Nations Association of Sri Lanka

Poson Poya Day – Ice Cream Dansala

The Youth Forum of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka conducted an Ice Cream Dansala at 21st June, 2024, (Poson Poya Day) in Panadura where over 1500 Cones of Ice Cream were distributed.



Welcome Our New Members 2024 01 01 to 2024 06 30

Special Life Members

Mr. Abdul Latheef Mohamed Nipras	- 2028
Mr. M. N. Mohamed Ashan	- 2047
Mr. Brahmanage Premalal	- 2055
Mr. Angoda Bandaralage Buddhika Perera	- 2056
Mr. Ravindra Lakshman Gunawardana	- 2062

Life Member

Mrs. Thanuja Sivaruban	- 2027
Mr. Sayed Sulaiman Moulana Sithy Naziya	- 2029
Mr. Sudhammika Keminda Attygalle	- 2030
Mr. M. Nalin Chaminda Munasinghe	- 2031
Mr. A. L. Buddhika Madusnka Karunarathna	- 2032
Mr. Amarathas Abinesh	- 2033
Mr. Arumugam Jeyabalasingam	- 2034
Rev. Johnson Nishanth	- 2035
Mr. Pettagam Praveen De Silva	- 2036
Mr. Andrwge Nipun Nithya Premalal	- 2037
Mr. Ponnampereuma Arachchige Chandrani	- 2038
Mr. Thiagarajah Pirapakaran	- 2039
Mr. G. H. G. Wasantha Lankathilaka	- 2040
Ven. Meegahajandure Sirivimala Thero	- 2041
Mr. Lognathn Gengatharan	- 2042
Mr. Subbramaniam Maniwannan	- 2043
Mr. Sajith Lahiru Adikari	- 2044
Mr. P. A. Charth Madusanka	- 2045

Life Member

Ms. Kasthury Ahalankan	- 2046
Mr. Ravindra Yasalal Kanlansooriya	- 2048
Mr. Wadumestry Kasun Madusanka Kumara	- 2049
Mr. Don Sajith Ravindra Baddewithana	- 2050
Mr. Rahubaddha Kankanamlage Kasun Rajeeva	- 2051
Mr. M. K. Prasad Chandimal	- 2052
Ms. Fathima Shamina Farook	- 2053
Mr. A. A. A. Lakshman Perera	- 2054
Dr. Samantha Rathnayake	- 2057
Mr. Rasanayagam Kumanan	- 2058
Mr. Paramanathan Pratheepkumar	- 2059
Ms. Abishayini Vishnuraj	- 2060
Ms. Pinipa Sumudu Waiddyaratne	- 2061
Mr. Wilson Robert Thevarajah	- 2063
Mr. Victor Rasarathinam Valantine Dinesh	- 2064
Mr. Thirunavukkarasu Jeyanthan	- 2065
Mr. Sriskandarajah Thirupparan	- 2066
Mr. Selvaratnam Kajenthiran	- 2067
Prof. C. M. P. P. Roshan Priyankara Perera	- 2068
Mr. Pathmanathan Parameswaran	- 2069
Mr. Ranmuni Priyantha Mark De Silva	- 2070
Mr. I. B. Don Jagath Thilanka Weerawardana	- 2071
Mr. Karunakalage Sanath Chandana De Silva	- 2072
Mr. Nirosan Illeperuma	- 2073
Mr. M. D. Sriyananda Fernando	- 2074

Computer Training Center

A Computer Training program is conducted by the UNASL, aimed at improving the knowledge of the general public, especially school leavers, through information technology. The computer Training Centre which is in operation, provides accredited IT courses which have been designed.

The Fifth Certificate Awarding ceremony of this Program was held on 09th March 2024, in the presence of the UNASL President, Secretary General, Executive Committee Members, Parents and Students.



(For Private Circulation only)
Proceed in Aid of UNASL Programs and Projects



UNITED NATIONS
Association of Sri Lanka

Presents
Sing-A-Long
Musical Extravaganza & Dance

featuring:
NALIN & THE STAR COMBINATION
and other Guest Artists.....

Saturday, 19TH October, 2024 @ 7.00 p.m.
at Ramadia Ranmal Holiday Resort
(Sapphire Ballroom)
Old Galle Road, Gorakana, Moratuwa

BYOB - corkage free
Hard Liquor, Beer, Bites, Refreshments
available at Reasonable Prices
Chasers & Soft Drinks "On the House"

Tickets: Rs. 3,500/= each
Song Book will be provided FREE

Tickets Available with:
UNASL Secretariat: Tel: 038 223 2123
Mr. Errol Smith (Project Chairperson): Tel: 077 378 5780
Mr. Dharmadasa Vilharanage (Asst. Treasurer): Tel: 077 697 9539

Entrance Ticket & Table Draw:
Return Air Ticket (exclusive of Taxes), One Night Hotel Stays for Two,
Sunday Buffet for Two, and a host of other Prizes & Surprises

An Opportunity you cannot afford to miss
It will really be an Enjoyable & Memorable Evening

Hurry Reserve your Tickets now and avoid disappointment



UNITED NATIONS
Association of Sri Lanka

PROPOSED SING-A-LONG AS A FUND RAISER
ON SATURDAY, 19TH OCTOBER 2024 at Ramadia Ranmal Hotel, Moratuwa,
featuring Nalin and the Star Combination and other Guest Artists

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES:

Platinum Sponsorship:.. Rs. 200,000.00

- Platinum Sponsorship status will be carried on all publicity and promotional material.
- Company logo will be carried on the LED Screen, highlighting Platinum Sponsor status
- Inner Cover Full Page Colour Advertisement in the Songbook / Souvenir which is the official event publication
- Display of Four company "X" banners in a prominent location within the hall
- Display of Two company "X" banners / pennants, outside the hall in the entrance area
- 10 Complimentary Tickets for the Event.
- Any other facilities which would be discussed and mutually agreed upon.

Gold Sponsorship:.. Rs. 100,000.00

- Gold Sponsorship status will be carried on all publicity and promotional material.
- Company logo will be carried on the LED Screen, highlighting Gold Sponsor status
- Full Page Colour Advertisement in the Songbook / Souvenir which is the official event publication
- Display of Two company "X" banners in a prominent location within the hall
- Display of Two pennants outside the hall
- 05 Complimentary Tickets for the Event
- Any other facilities which would be discussed and mutually agreed upon.

Silver Sponsorship:.. Rs. 50,000.00

- Silver Sponsorship status will be carried on all publicity and promotional material.
- Company logo will be carried on the LED Screen, highlighting Silver Sponsor status
- Full Page Colour Advertisement in the Songbook / Souvenir which is the official event publication
- Display of Two, Company "X" banners / pennants, in a prominent location within the hall
- 02 Complimentary Tickets for the Event
- Any other facilities which would be discussed and mutually agreed upon.

Bronze Sponsorship:.. Rs. 25,000.00

- Bronze Sponsorship status will be carried on all publicity and promotional material.
- Company logo will be carried on the LED Screen, highlighting Bronze Sponsor status
- Full Page Colour Advertisement in the Songbook / Souvenir which is the official event publication
- Display of One, Company "X" banners in a prominent location within the hall

FitsAir **Indya Island** **4A2m** **tvG** **ADA** **24** **pulse**

UN announces 2024 as International Year of Camelids



The UN has designated 2024 as International Year of Camelids noting that camelids are an important livelihood for millions of poor families that live in the most hostile ecosystems of the earth. The aim of the announcement is to highlight the important role of camelids in the context of protection of ecosystems, biodiversity conservation and food security and in adapting to climate change. The special year should raise public awareness of the importance of camelids for food security and ecosystem functions.

The initiative by the UN General Assembly was made after a recommendation by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO).



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA National Secretariat

39/1, Cyril Jansz Mawatha, Panadura. 12500. SRI LANKA

Tel: 038-2243080 Tel/Fax: 038-2232123

E-mail: unasl@slt.lk Web: www.unasrilanka.org