



Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives

EU Delegation Colombo | Press Office

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Second Edition 2014

EU News

*From
Sri Lanka
And the Maldives*



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9th MAY 2014 EUROPE DAY EUROPE IN THE WORLD



Europe Day Cocktail

On May 6th, H.E. Mr David Daly, Head of Delegation to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, hosted a formal reception to celebrate Europe Day. H.E. Mr Daly and his wife received over 300 guests, including high level government officials, Ministers, Ambassadors, human rights activists, civil society members and media. The Minister of Traditional Industries and Small Enterprise Development, Hon. Douglas Devananda represented the government of Sri Lanka at the affair. H.E. Mr Daly and the Minister addressed the gathering, sharing their well-wishes and hopes for a long-lasting friendship between Sri Lanka and the European Union.



H.E. Mr Daly and Hon. Minister Devananda toast to the EU and Sri Lanka



Europe Day cocktail attendees mingling



H.E. Mr Daly and Hon. Minister Devananda cutting the Europe Day cake

EU "WOMAN" POSTER EXHIBIT



H.E. Mr Daly, Mrs Sybil Wettasinghe, and H.E. Mr Lischter inaugurate the poster exhibit

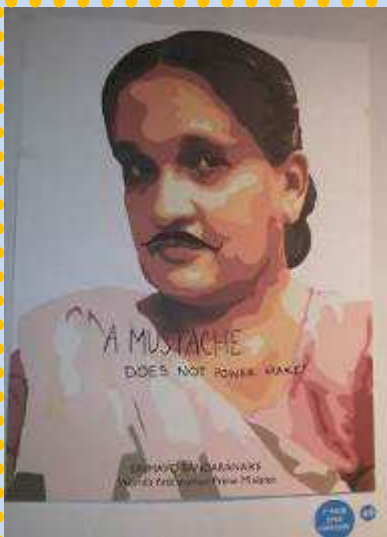


"WOMAN" Poster Exhibit at the Public Library, the top 50 poster entries from around the island

On May 7th, H.E. Mr David Daly, Swiss Ambassador H.E. Mr Thomas Litscher and celebrated writer and illustrator Mrs Sybil Wettasinghe inaugurated an exhibition of the top 50 entries of the EU poster competition "WOMAN" at Colombo's Public Library. The exhibition was open to the public until May 13th.

The exhibition, sponsored by the Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, the Swiss Embassy and Agenda 14, showcased the talents of artists of all ages from

around the island who had participated in a poster competition launched on the occasion of International Women's Day (March 8).



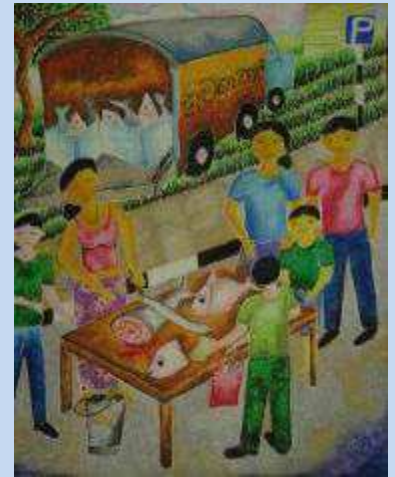
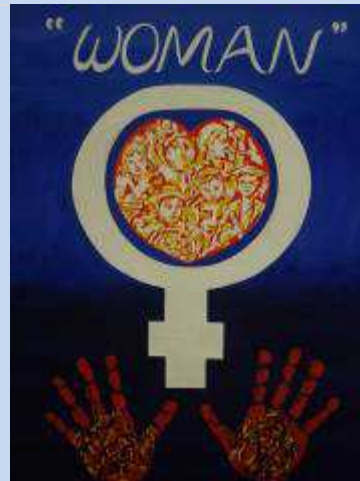
Mr. Mohamed Maanih, a Maldivian student at the Academy of Design in Colombo and graphic design enthusiast won first prize in the Open Category for his witty poster depicting the first female Prime Minister in Sri Lanka, Mrs Bandaranaike, breaking gender barriers in politics.

The posters reflected the sub-themes of the competition, namely women's participation in public life, economic empowerment, women's rights and gender based violence. The independent jury panel comprised Mr Chandraguptha Thenuwara, Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of History and Art Theory at the University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo, Ms Dharshini Seneviratne, Youth Development Practitioner, and Ms Anoma Rajakaruna, Sociologist and Photographer. Winners and runners up were selected based on their ability to convey their chosen sub-theme's message and their artistic skills; they were awarded arts supply gift vouchers to encourage the pursuit of their passion.

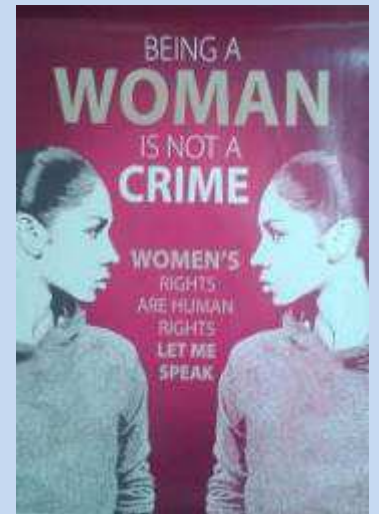


16 year old Prabhathini Jayanada from Dickwella won first prize in the Children's Category for her poster depicting a strong woman escaping her oppressive environs.

"The fact that complex themes have been finely addressed by the young participants deserves praise. The technical mastery displayed in the work promises a lot of potential. –Mrs Wettasinghe



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE POSTER EXHIBITION



Guest lecture at the University of Colombo



On May 5th, H.E. Mr Daly gave a guest lecture entitled "Contemporary Challenges in Protecting and Promoting Human Rights: EU Perspectives" at the University of Colombo Law Faculty.



H.E. Mr Monchau and the Asia Pacific Masters' Degree candidates in Human Rights and Democratisation listening attentively to the lecture

H.E. Mr Daly lecturing

The event was organised by Centre for the Study of Human Rights in collaboration with the University of Sydney Asia Pacific Masters' Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation. The audience was comprised of young Masters' candidates motivated to gain a deeper understanding of the EU's outlook on human rights.

The theme was topical and timely, as human rights issues are widely debated in the media. The interest of the students was evident; they listened intently, asked many questions, and extended the discussion with H.E. Ambassador Daly in the hallway over refreshments.



The discussion continues...

Ambassador Daly Shares EU Knowledge with Children Big and Small

EU Quiz at the French School

On May 19th, H.E. Mr Daly as well as the Ambassador of France, H.E. Mr Monchau, visited the French School of Colombo, where 23 lively students aged 6 to 11 were tested on their knowledge of the EU. Teams were formed and the students used the resource materials provided and consulted with the Ambassadors to get all the questions right.



A young student shows H.E. Mr Daly his answers

The students got into the competitive spirit, racing to answer all the questions correctly. Their efforts translated into a collective success: all

teams tied for first-place and rejoiced in the prizes given, including EU caps and new footballs for their recess games.



H.E. Mr Monchau and H.E. Mr Daly posing with the EU quiz participants in their new EU caps

Debut of EU Delegation Show and Tell

On May 7th, the EU Delegation in Colombo debuted its Show and Tell information sharing sessions. The motivation behind this initiative was to give the opportunity for members of the EU Delegation team to share their expert knowledge and passion with their colleagues from other departments. Colleagues were encouraged to create a short presentation and then facilitate a discussion on a topic of their choice. It was an occasion to step outside the box of one's daily tasks and tap into the wealth of knowledge contained within the Delegation walls.



- First, Mr Jaime Royo Olid, Infrastructure & Reconstruction Programme Manager at the Delegation, shared the lessons learned and best practices he observed over his 10 years of work in the housing reconstruction sector. He asked the session participants to critically examine the successes and failures he witnessed and described his vision for the future of housing reconstruction. The beneficiaries should truly take ownership of the construction from start to finish, all the while developing invaluable skills and a sense of empowerment. Locally sourced materials and sustainable construction methods should be privileged, and further growth of the household must be anticipated and integrated into the initial planning.
- Next, Ms Laura Rovamaa, Junior Expert at the Delegation and strong advocate for gender equality, described to her colleagues how gender is too often tacked on to projects as an after-thought, why this is detrimental to the cause of achieving gender equality and how to put an end to that bad habit. An enlightening summary of her presentation on practical approaches to mainstreaming gender in development cooperation follows.
- Last but not least, Ms Terhi Lehtinen, Head of the Political, Press & Information Section at the Delegation, used this occasion to share what she had learned in an International Humanitarian Law course she recently completed.

Overall, the first Show and Tell session proved stimulating and enlightening, and based on the level of interest, this will be the first of many Show and Tell sessions at the Delegation in Colombo!

Practical Approaches to Gender in Development Cooperation

Show and Tell Presentation by Laura Rovamma

BACKGROUND

Gender equality and women empowerment

- ❖ Equal rights (political, civil, economic, social, and cultural rights) for women and men, girls and boys.
- ❖ Equal access to, and control over, resources for women and men.
- ❖ Equal opportunities to achieve political and economic influence for women and men.

EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) in Development (2010-2015)

Approved by the EU Council (14 June 2010) as an Operational Framework to reiterate the strong EU Commitment to Gender Equality as:

- ❖ A human right
- ❖ A question of social justice
- ❖ A core value of the EU development policy

The GAP is based on a **three pronged approach** consisting of Political and Policy Dialogue, Gender Mainstreaming, and Specific Actions. These strands are complementary, as any action to promote GEWE requires all three to ensure optimal impact on the ground.

Political and Policy Dialogue

Entry points:

- ❖ Women in Peace- and State-building process
- ❖ Women as economic actors (in agriculture, in private sector development...)
- ❖ Health issues: HIV/AIDS control; sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
- ❖ Justice: gender-based violence and violence against women and girls
- ❖ Women, democracy, accountability and human rights
- ❖ Social inclusion and social protection
- ❖ Basis for dialogue: CEDAW + official and "shadow" reports

What kinds of specific actions?

- ❖ Specific programmes : EIDHR & Investing in People
- ❖ In bilateral cooperation – all sectors - whenever promoting:
 - Equal rights
 - Equal access to, and control over, resources
 - Equal opportunities to participate in the problem solving / decision making process

What is gender mainstreaming?

Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels.

It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.

Gender equality in Sri Lanka

- ❖ Women are under-represented in decision-making bodies: they account for just 2.3% of all political representatives in Sri Lanka, and only 5% of representatives in the Parliament are women.
- ❖ Women's labour force participation is amongst the lowest in South Asia, at 34%. Women continue to work in the informal sector, and are not calculated in the labour force.
- ❖ While the exact number of female headed households in the conflict affected areas is not known, studies suggest that there might be up to 40,000 female headed households in the Northern Province alone.
- ❖ Women comprise 65 % of the labour force on the tea estates, but an overwhelming majority, some 90% of female workers, are engaged in low-value, highly physical plucking activities in the field, where they are expected to pluck 20-25 kgs of tea each day.

A case study:

Fishing communities in Trincomalee

- 'Outside the Net': Women's Participation in Fishing Activities in Trincomalee District of Sri Lanka.
http://www.cepa.lk/templates/ja_university/images/favicon.ico

"My opinion is that nobody can make men responsible for the violence against women. Women are responsible for it." –Chamal Rajapaksa, Speaker the Sri Lankan Parliament, in his address to mark International Women's Day.

"Equality for women goes against our culture." – Minister of Child Development and Women's Affairs Tissa Karaliyadda

QUESTIONING THE WAY WE DO THINGS

Identification of the issue

- ❖ Does the analysis look at problems faced by men and women? Have the interrelations between the roles of men and women been subject to analysis?
- ❖ Is all data in the situation analysis disaggregated by sex?

Goals

- ❖ What is the main gender issue? Which problems are faced by men and women?
- ❖ Does the goal seek to correct gender imbalances through addressing practical needs of men and women?

Target Beneficiaries

- ❖ Is there gender balance within the target beneficiary group? Or does the action seek to specifically target men or women to enhance gender equality?
- ❖ Are there groups from which women are excluded? Are poor and/or older women excluded in the stakeholder groups?

Objectives

- ❖ What is the desired future situation for men and women? What are the means by which these ends can be achieved?
- ❖ E.g. To establish systematic means for determining the gender impact of municipal policies and resource allocation
- ❖ To increase the representation of women at the highest levels of government

Activities

- ❖ Do planned activities involve both men and women?
- ❖ Are any additional activities needed to ensure that a gender perspective is made explicit?
- ❖ E.g. specifically targeting women: financial and legal literacy, establishment and functioning of gender focal points, budget allocations

Implementation

- ❖ Who will implement the planned intervention? Do the organisation and partners have the required capacity? Will men and women participate equally in the implementation? E.g. women may not be able to participate fully due to cultural context and time restrictions.

Indicators

- ❖ Have indicators been developed, and do they measure the gender aspects of each objective? Are they disaggregated by sex? Are targets set to guarantee a sufficient level of gender balance in activities?
- ❖ Quantitative: Is a gender mainstreaming policy in place? Male: Female unemployment levels.
- ❖ Qualitative: % of population that feels women should be primarily responsible for childcare.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- ❖ Does the M&E plan include a gender perspective? Will it look at both the content and the process?
- ❖ Does the log frame include gender sensitive objectives and results?
- ❖ Are the resources adequate to ensure sex-disaggregated data can be collected?



Tea Plantations where women are underpaid and overworked

Risks

- ❖ Has the gender context been considered? Has the potential negative impact of the intervention been considered?

- ❖ Stereotypes may prevent full participation of men or women.
- ❖ There may be an increased burden on women following the activity.

Budget

- ❖ Have financial inputs been assessed to ensure that both men and women will benefit from the planned intervention?
- ❖ Has the need for additional training been taken into account?

Gender Action Plan

Specific Objective 4: Ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed in EU funded projects:

Action 4.3. Analysis and integration of gender equality in development programmes is one of the requirements for projects design and implementation.

Indicator 4.3.1 By 2013 all development projects are screened against their gender sensitiveness (quality assurance mechanisms).

Indicator 4.4 By 2013 at least 75% of all new proposals score G-2 (gender as a principle objective), or G-1 (gender as a significant objective).

Gender Equality Policy Marker (G-marker) of the OECD

G-marker is used to track resource allocations of donors to promoting gender equality

There are 3 G-markers:

- G-0: When gender equality is not targeted
- G-1: When gender equality is a significant objective
- G-2: When gender equality is a principle objective

G-marker goals and targets

By 2013 at least 75% of all new proposals score G-2 (principal objective) or G-1 (significant objective) (Gender Action Plan 2010-2015)

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

"According to the 2013 OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) statistics, in 2011, **20% of the new proposals** (general budget support excluded) scored G-1 or G-2. Although this figure represents an improvement compared to the 14% registered last year, this score remains very low according to the initial objective which indicates a need for stronger and more sustained support to Delegations."

Source: 2013 Report on the Implementation of the EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Development 2010—2015

G-marker examples

G-1 – Significant objective

Drinking water facilities programme that includes specific actions to guarantee safe and easy access to women and girls to these facilities

G– Principle objective

Legal literacy for women and girls; capacity building of Ministries of Finance and Planning to incorporate gender equality objectives in national poverty reduction or comparable strategies; male networks against gender violence.

Available Tools

➤ **EU Gender Toolkit**

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sp/gender-toolkit/en/content/toolkit.htm>

➤ **Capacity4Dev**

<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/topic/gender>



COMMEMORATING IDAHOT

On May 20th, the Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and the Embassy of the Netherlands, in collaboration with EQUAL GROUND and the Goethe Institut, held a Discussion Forum to commemorate International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT).

The main aims of the event were to celebrate and show support for the LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Intersex) community in Sri Lanka, to commemorate

LGBTI victims of discrimination and violence, to disseminate the EU Guidelines on the protection and promotion of human rights of LGBTI persons, and to engage various stakeholders in an active discussion on how this can be achieved in Sri Lanka.

The event was a success as it permitted stakeholders from diplomatic missions to engage in meaningful discussion on key strategies to protect LGBTI rights in Sri Lanka.

Over the course of the discussion session, the participants, guided by prompt questions, identified key stakeholders, networks, advocacy tools and priorities for action as well as monitoring and evaluation indicators to determine progress.

EU Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights for LGBTI persons

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/137584.pdf

GET INSPIRED

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UN Video "A History of LGBT Rights at the UN"

<https://www.unfe.org/favicon.ico>

ooo

UN Video "Free and Equal: The Power of Sharing"

<https://www.unfe.org/en/actions/IDAHOT2014>



EU Election Observation Mission



Presents its Maldives Election Report in Male

The March 22nd elections to the People's Majlis were the second multiparty parliamentary elections in the Maldives.

Following an invitation from the Maldivian Elections Commission, the European Union established an Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to observe these elections. The Colombo based EU Delegation as well as diplomats from the UK, Germany, Italy, France and Switzerland participated in the EU Elections Observer Mission as local short term observers. The EU EOM demonstrates the EU's interest and concern in promoting democratic elections within its wider policy of support for democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

In the first week of June, representatives of the European Union's Election Observation Mission returned to the Maldives to present the mission's final report (http://www.eueom.eu/files/pressreleases/english/eu-eom-maldives2014-final-report_en.pdf) and recommendations on the People's Majlis elections.



Chief Observer Mr Edward Kukan presenting the mission's final report

"Our recommendations are focused on improving the environment for the next elections here in the Maldives. They are potential solutions, cornerstones for debate." –Chief Observer Mr Edward Kukan



"All human rights which exist offline must also be protected online, in particular the right to freedom of opinion and expression".



The Council of the European Union Adopts The Guidelines on Freedom of Expression Online and Offline

On May 12th, the Council adopted the [EU Guidelines on Freedom of Expression Online and Offline](#), thus bringing a new addition to the family of EU Human Rights Guidelines.

With these guidelines, the EU reaffirms the pivotal role that freedom of opinion and expression play in a democratic society. These freedoms are essential for the fulfilment and enjoyment of a wide range of other human rights, including freedom of association and assembly, freedom of thought, religion or belief, the right to education, the right to take part in cultural life, the right to vote and all other political rights related to participation in public affairs. Freedom of opinion and expression should be seen both individually, as a means of promoting an individual's self-fulfilment and autonomy as well as collectively, in the context of a free, diverse and independent media. Without freedom of expression and freedom of the media, an informed, active and engaged citizenry is impossible.

Technological innovations in information technology and communications have created new ways of promoting freedom of expression but have also brought new challenges. The EU is firmly opposed to any unjustified restrictions on the internet and other new media.

The Guidelines provide a comprehensive compilation of definitions, covering all aspects of this fundamental right, including the right to hold opinions without interference, the right to seek and receive information and the right to impart information and ideas of all kinds through any media and regardless of frontiers.

The EU, through these Guidelines, stresses that the right to freedom of opinion and expression is a universal right and applies to all persons equally. States must ensure that their legal systems provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of opinion and expression to all and can be properly enforced.

When addressing freedom of expression, the EU is engaged to address all operational aspects and areas of importance, such as:

- Combating violence, persecution, harassment and intimidation of individuals, including journalists and other media actors, because of their exercise of their right to freedom of expression online and offline and combating impunity for such crimes
- Promoting laws and practices that protect freedom of opinion and expression
- Promoting media freedom and pluralism and fostering an understanding among public authorities of the dangers of unwarranted interference with impartial/critical reporting.
- Promoting and respecting human rights in cyberspace and other information communication technologies
- Promoting best practices by companies
- Promoting legal amendments and practices aimed at strengthening data protection and privacy online/offline

While pursuing its aims, the EU will make full use of the tools available, such as traditional diplomatic tools (political dialogues, high level visits, public statements and demarches), but also good and effective use of financial instruments available, public diplomacy in multilateral fora and continuous cooperation with regional organisations, such as the Council of Europe and OSCE. The general aim of the Guidelines is to address unjustified restrictions on freedom of expression, promote media freedom and provide valuable guidance to EU officials and staff across the globe.

EU Parliamentary Elections



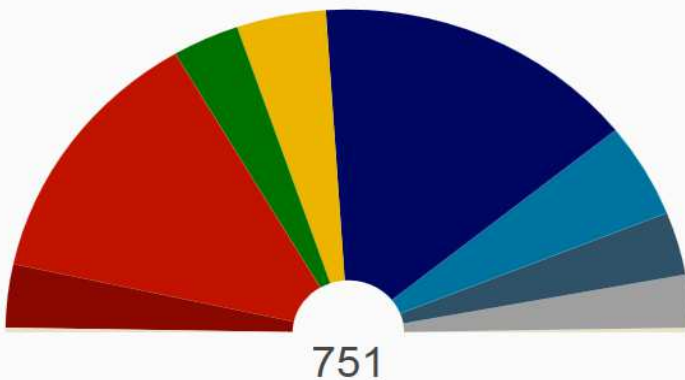
From 22 to 25 May 2014, elections to the European Parliament were held in the 28 countries of the European Union. It was the 8th parliamentary election since the first direct elections in 1979, and the first in which the pan-European political parties fielded candidates for the president of the European Commission.

The election gives voters the opportunity to influence the political course of the European Union by electing Members to the European Parliament to represent their interests.

The top candidates were Jean-Claude Juncker for the European People's Party, Martin Schulz for the Party of European Socialists, Guy Verhofstadt for the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party, Ska Keller and José Bové jointly for the European Green Party and Alexis Tsipras for the Party of the European Left.

Seats by Member State	
Belgium	21
Bulgaria	17
Czech Republic	21
Denmark	13
Germany	96
Estonia	6
Ireland	11
Greece	21
Spain	54
France	74
Croatia	11
Italy	73
Cyprus	6
Latvia	8
Lithuania	11
Luxembourg	6
Hungary	21
Malta	6
Netherlands	26
Austria	18
Poland	51
Portugal	21
Romania	32
Slovakia	8
Slovenia	13
Finland	13
Sweden	20
United Kingdom	73

EU Election Results



Turnout

Estimation 25/05/2014 23:58 CEST

43.09%

	EPP Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)	221 29.43 %
	S&D Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament	191 25.43 %
	ECR European Conservatives and Reformists	68 9.05 %
	ALDE Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe	67 8.92 %
	GUE/NGL European United Left/Nordic Green Left	52 6.92 %
	Greens/EFA The Greens/European Free Alliance	50 6.66 %
	EFD Europe of freedom and democracy Group	48 6.39 %
	NI Non-attached Members – Members not belonging to any political group	43 5.73 %
	Others Newly elected Members not allied to any of the political groups set up in the outgoing Parliament	11 1.46 %

The European People's Party became the largest group in the new parliament.





EU Head of Operations visits EU Funded Projects in the North & East

European Union Head of Operations to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Mr Willy Vandenberghe, visited EU funded projects in the Batticaloa and Mullaitivu Districts on the 24th, 25th and 26th June to mark the completion of the EU Support to Socio Economic Measures (SEM) projects and to meet the beneficiaries.

During the visit, Mr Vandenberghe held meetings with senior Government representatives and local authorities. He also visited small and medium-enterprises which have benefited from this programme in the sectors of agriculture, fisheries, dairy and livestock, animal husbandry as well as infrastructure related interventions such as markets, seed paddy stores, food processing centres, milk collection and chilling centres.

The European Union invested EUR 16 million (LKR 2.8 billion) through this programme. It has provided LKR 94 billion in funding from 2005 – 2015 to Sri Lanka as an act of solidarity from the European citizens, and is further pursuing the development of Sri Lanka.

"During my visit to the development projects and speaking directly with the beneficiaries, I took great pleasure in being able to witness the progress that has taken place in lagging areas where poverty indicators have previously been high. This is not something that can be taken for granted and it reflects the dedication and perseverance with which all parties alike have worked to making the projects a success."

—Mr. Willy Vandenberghe, upon his return



During his visit to Kaluwanchikudi on June 24th, Mr Vandenberghe met with local entrepreneurs who kick-started their own ventures with the initial capital provided by the EU. This initiative to help build Small and Medium Enterprises, funded by the EU and implemented by ACTED, yields tangible and life-changing results for its beneficiaries.





Socio Economic Measures Steering Committee meeting held in Batticaloa on June 24th. This steering committee saw the participation of high level government officials, delegates from the European Union and EU partner organizations.



Mr Vandenberghe at the Civil Society Local Government platform awareness workshop held in Batticaloa Town on June 24th. The project will be implemented over two years in six districts by *Search for Common Ground*. The objective of the action is to improve local service delivery through increased cooperation between local government and civil society groups.

