



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Sri Lanka  
National Commission  
for UNESCO



# Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO ANNUAL REPORT 2012

EDUCATION | SCIENCE | CULTURE | COMMUNICATION



Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.  
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

# ANNUAL REPORT 2012

**Sri Lanka National Commission  
for UNESCO (SLNCU)**

Ministry of Education  
"Isurupaya"  
Battaramulla  
Sri Lanka

Phone: +94 11 2177002

Fax: +94 11 2177007

Email: slncu@slt.lk

**Editors:**

Ms. S.L.D.K. Wijayasinghe

Ms. A. Köhler

Mrs. A.V.K.S. Karunapala

**Layout:**

Ms. A. Köhler

© SLNCU

January 2013

**Photo on the title page:**

© SLNCU/A. Köhler

**Photos on page 13:** (top left to lower right)

UNESCO/G. Akash; UNESCO/Save  
the Children/Jeff Holt<sup>2,5</sup>; UNESCO/  
BRAC<sup>3,7</sup>; UNESCO/D. Willetts;  
UNESCO/Stefan Erber;

**Photos on page 18:** (top left to lower right)

© SLNCU/A. Köhler<sup>1-3,5,7-9,11</sup>

© APCEIU/LEE Sung Man<sup>4,6,10</sup>

## CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Foreword by the Secretary General.....                 | 4  |
| Message from the Chairman.....                         | 6  |
| Message from the Vice-Chairman.....                    | 7  |
| UNESCO.....  | 8  |
| <br>   |    |
| <b>Programmes of the Sri Lanka National Commission</b> |    |
| Education.....   | 10 |
| Science.....   | 15 |
| Culture.....   | 17 |
| Associated Schools Project Network.....                | 18 |
| <br>   |    |
| <b>Other Programmes and Activities</b>                 |    |
| Participation Programme.....                           | 20 |
| Visits of UNESCO Delegations.....                      | 21 |
| Training Seminars & Workshops.....                     | 22 |
| Fellowships.....                                       | 25 |
| Competitions & Awards.....                             | 26 |
| <br>   |    |
| Collaboration with the UNCT and UNDAF.....             | 27 |
| SLNCU Facts & Information.....                         | 28 |
| Organizational Structure of SLNCU.....                 | 30 |
| List of Abbreviations.....                             | 31 |





© SLNCO

## Foreword

From Mr. R.P. Perera  
Secretary General  
Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO

In 2012, the focus was placed on the ongoing initiatives regarding Education for Peace and Sustainable Development and the establishment of a “South Asian Centre for Teacher Development”.

On 30 January 2012, HE the President of Sri Lanka, Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, launched the **National Action Plans on Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (EPSD)**, which are part of Sri Lanka’s action in the context of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). Sequel to the launch, the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO had follow up meetings with the Secretaries of Economic Development, Education, Environment,

Health, Social Services and the Director of National Planning, to develop further the draft plan and logical framework of actions for EPSD. Continued efforts in collaboration with all concerned stakeholders will be required in the years ahead, in order to ensure proper implementation of the plans.

As part of the preparations for the establishment of the “South Asian Centre for Teacher Development” in Sri Lanka, a **South Asian Ministerial-Level Symposium on Teacher Development** was held in Mount Lavinia on 9 October 2012. The Hon. Ministers of Education from Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, as well as delegates from India and Pakistan partici-



© SLNCO / A. Köhler

pated in the symposium. They expressed their interest and support for the proposed UNESCO Category II Regional Centre for Teacher Development and discussed and gave recommendations for the way forward.

Further, the National Commission organized a National Forum on Education for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and in Emergencies (EiE) in collaboration with UNESCO Bangkok, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Disaster Management, the Disaster Management Centre and other stakeholder groups.

The UNESCO Global Monitoring Report under the theme of “Youth, Skills and the World of Work” was



© RIBA Image Library

launched on 16 October 2012, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Skills Development and other UN partners. Also, a photo class was organized in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) in Seoul, Korea, to promote creativity and international understanding.

In the Culture Sector, a workshop on the implementation of the 2003 UNESCO Convention on the **Safe-guarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage** was held in close collaboration with UNESCO New Delhi and the Ministry of Culture and the Arts. Further, the 40th Anniversary of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and



© Alan Zwagers

Natural Heritage was celebrated with a seminar organized by the Ministry of National Heritage on 3 August 2012.

In the Sciences, the efforts of promoting Chemistry in Sri Lanka were carried over from the International Year of Chemistry, which had been celebrated in 2011. Continued support was also provided to the Global Forum of Sri Lankan Scientists.

Furthermore, the participation of Sri Lankan experts in a number of international workshops organized by UNESCO was facilitated, and 7 proposals for the Participation Programme of UNESCO were processed and forwarded to UNESCO



© Thimindu Goonewardene

Headquarters.

This report aims to provide the reader with a comprehensive overview of all activities carried out by the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO and UNESCO itself in Sri Lanka in the year 2012, as well as the visits of UNESCO delegations, grants, training programmes and fellowships awarded to Sri Lankan Officials.

Last, but not the least, the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO will continue to pursue the incorporation of its statutes by way of an Act of Parliament to strengthen its capacities.

**Rohan Prithviraj Perera**





©MinE SL

## Message

**From Hon. Bandula Gunawardhana  
Minister of Education  
Chairman of the Sri Lanka National  
Commission for UNESCO**

2012 was the second year that I have served Sri Lanka as the Minister of Education, as also, the Chairman of the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO. Throughout this time, I have come to appreciate UNESCO's goals and objectives, as also the concepts the organization promotes, including Education for All, Education for Sustainable Development, Inclusive and Early Childhood Education, as well as the promotion of Teacher Development to enhance the quality of education.

Numerous activities were carried out in Sri Lanka by UNESCO in 2012 under its various fields of

competences, comprising Education, Sciences, Culture and Communication, thus demonstrating the wide and cross-cutting nature of UNESCO's mandate.

At this opportunity, I wish to thank the Secretary General and the staff of the National Commission for their dedication and commitment in assisting in the delivery of such a wide array of services, despite limitations in their staffing strengths. The efforts put in by them, especially in promoting Teacher Development and Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, Training of Trainers in English Language Teaching and monitoring of



© GOSL, President's Secretariat

the delivery of quality education for all, will make a positive impact on the future of Sri Lanka.

I remain committed to strengthening and supporting the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO in taking forward these initiatives and see these as a priority of the Ministry of Education.

**Bandula Gunawardhana  
Minister of Education**





©M.A.E.S.L.

## Message

**From Mr. S.M. Gotabaya Jayarathne  
Secretary of Education  
Deputy Chairman of the Sri Lanka  
National Commission for UNESCO**

Since assuming duties as Secretary, Ministry of Education, I have come to value the work of the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO in promoting the objectives and concepts of UNESCO in the fields of Education, Natural, Social and Human Sciences, Culture and Communication.

In 2012, the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO moved forward the initiatives in Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, Teacher Development, Nano Sciences, and Heritage Management. Further, efforts are being made in partnership with the Planning Unit of the Ministry, to put in

place a monitoring system for regular process monitoring of key areas in the delivery of quality education for all. I am convinced that these initiatives and concepts being promoted by UNESCO will have a long term and lasting impact on Sri Lanka and its institutions.

As the Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Deputy Chairman of the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO, I am aware of the fact that the office of the National Commission for UNESCO needs strengthening in terms of staff and by formalizing of its statutes. I am committed to supporting the Sri Lanka National Commission for



©GOSL, President's Secretariat

UNESCO to the best of my abilities, to ensure that Sri Lanka can benefit fully from UNESCO's varied fields of competences for the greater common good of the country.

In the past year, UNESCO has provided opportunities to numerous officials of the Sri Lankan Government in the various sectors, Education, Sciences, Culture and Communication, to participate in and benefit from international training seminars and fellowships.

**S.M. Gotabaya Jayarathne  
Secretary of Education**

## UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a multi-lateral organization with 195 Member States. Its Headquarters are located in Paris, France.

*»Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.«*

*From the UNESCO Constitution,  
signed on 16 November 1945*

UNESCO has the broadest mandate of all United Nations organizations:

**EDUCATION** is a central focus of UNESCO to promote peace and social development. UNESCO coordinates the global programme “Education for All” (EFA) with the objective of providing all children worldwide with a basic education as well as halving the illiteracy rate.

The Global Monitoring Report on the EFA goals, which UNESCO publishes annually focused on the topic “Youth, Skills and the World of Work” in 2012.

In its global network, UNESCO cooperates with approximately 9.000 associated schools in 180 countries, 700 UNESCO Chairs at universities worldwide as well as UNESCO Category I and II institutes and centers in all fields.

UNESCO promotes all aspects of education, including early childhood education, inclusive education, “Education for International Understanding”, adult education, technical and vocational education. UNESCO is the coordinating agency for the UN Decade on “Education for Sustainable Development” (ESD) (2005-2014) and the UN Literacy Decade (2003-2012).

The promotion of international cooperation in the **SCIENCES**, is another aspect of UNESCO’s mandate. UNESCO focuses particularly on global climate change, sustainable development, biodiversity and disaster preparedness and mitigation. UNESCO has six long-term programmes in the fields of water (IHP), oceanography (IOC), biospheres (MAB), geology (IGCP), basic natural sciences (IBSP) and social transformations (MOST).

UNESCO coordinates a global tsunami early warning system and promotes international cooperation in the research on pressing global questions: the water crisis, decline of biodiversity and international migration, as well as others.

UNESCO is the only UN agency with a mandate for **CULTURE**. The main aim of its Culture programmes is to safeguard the



world's cultural and natural heritage, and to promote the dialogue between cultures. The Conventions on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) and concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) serve as the international legal framework.

In 2012, UNESCO celebrated the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention and inscribed 26 new properties on the World Heritage List, including both cultural and natural sites.

The **COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION** programme of UNESCO supports the development of knowledge societies around the world, that ensure freedom of opinion and speech, allow access to information, knowledge

and education for all and promote cultural diversity.

The “Memory of the World” programme of UNESCO, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2012, allows the safeguarding and worldwide access to culturally and historically significant documents by digitalizing the documents for future generations. With its “Information for All” programme, UNESCO sets global standards for the access to information as well as the use of the new information and communication technologies (ICT).

The “International Programme for the Development of Communication” (IPDC) of UNESCO promotes the development of infrastructure and independent media in developing countries.

Further information:  
[www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)



Director General of UNESCO, Mrs. Irina Bokova.



UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.



## EDUCATION

In 2012, SLNCU advanced several important programmes in the Education Sector. The main activities included the following:

- » Launch of the National Action Plans on Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (EPSD)
- » Preparations for the establishment of the South Asian Centre for Teacher Development
- » Launch of the Education for All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report under the theme of “Youth, Skills and the World of Work”
- » National Forum on Education for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and in Emergencies (EiE).

### Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (EPSD)

The National Action Plans on Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (EPSD) were launched by His Excellency the President, Mahinda Rajapaksa, at Temple Trees, Colombo, on 30 January 2012.

The National Action Plans lay out measures to promote EPSD at all relevant levels, by addressing the five pillars of sustainable development: viz., environment, education, peace, health, economic and social development.

Follow up meetings and consultations with the Secretaries of the Ministries of Education, Environment, Economic Development, Health and Social Services, as well as the Department of National Planning took place throughout the year with the objective of further developing the action plans and



© SLNCU

HE The President of Sri Lanka, Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, launching the EPSD Website.



© SLNCU

Dr. Qian Tang, UNESCO Assistant Director General for Education, at the EPSD Launch.



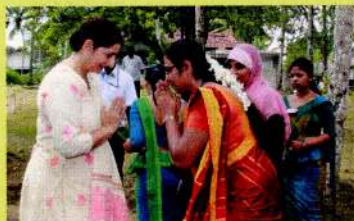
© SLNCU

The honorable guests of the Education for Peace and Sustainable Development Launch.



HE The President, the Minister of Education and the DG of the NIE at Meepe on 9 October 2012.

© GOSL, President's Secretariat



Welcoming of the international guests and representatives at Meepe on 9 October 2012.

© GOSL, President's Secretariat



Mr. R.P. Perera, Secretary General of SLNCU, at the Ministerial Symposium on 9 October 2012.

© SLNCU / A. Kähler

logical framework. A national level workshop to consolidate and finalize the action plans and logical framework are to be held in the first half of 2013.

Further information:  
[www.epsd.gov.lk](http://www.epsd.gov.lk)

### South Asian Centre for Teacher Development (SACTD)

The proposal to establish a UNESCO Category II South Asian Centre for Teacher Development in Meepe, Sri Lanka, was approved by the UNESCO Executive Board during its 189th session in March 2012.

On 9 October 2012, the Ministry of Education and SLNCU hosted the Education Ministers and Government Officials from the South Asian region for the first "South Asian Ministerial Level Symposium on Teacher Development", to discuss the needs of the countries in the

field of teacher development, as well as the future collaboration in the framework of the SACTD.

Hon. Nurul Islam Nahid, Minister of Education of Bangladesh, Hon. Imad Sohli, State Minister of Education of the Maldives, Hon. Dinanath Sharma, Minister of Education of Nepal, Sh. Dinesh K. Bhawsar, Deputy Education Adviser, India, Sh. Gulab Singh, Ministry of Education of India, Mr. Adam Shareef, Centre for Continuing Education of the Maldives, Mr. Suresh Man Shrestha, Secretary, Ministry of Education of Nepal, Prof. Samina Amin Qadir, Vice Chancellor, Fatima Jinnah University for Women, Pakistan, Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, UNESCO Office New Delhi, and Mr. Shailendra Sigdel, UNESCO Office New Delhi, attended the meeting.

They all expressed their support for the establishment of the Centre and emphasized the need for improvements of the structures for Teacher



Development in their respective countries and the region.

The Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Sri Lanka was drafted and awaits approval by the UNESCO Executive Board. Further, the terms of reference for a consultancy to conduct an in-depth needs assessment and the development of a strategic plan for the Centre in 2013, has been prepared.

### Education for All Programme 10<sup>th</sup> Global Monitoring Report

The UN General Assembly has mandated UNESCO with the coordination of the Education for All (EFA) Programme.

In 2012, UNESCO published the 10<sup>th</sup> Global Monitoring Report of the Education For All Programme on the topic of “Youth and Skills - Putting education to work”, placing a special emphasis on the importance of transferable skills to equip youths for the labour market.

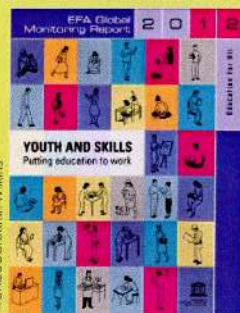
In Sri Lanka, the report was launched on 16 October 2012 at the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development. The event was organized by SLNCU in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development as well as the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF and UNDP.

Key findings from the report include:

- » EFA progress is stagnating
- » Aid flows for education have slowed down



Global Monitoring Report Launch on 16 Oct. 2012 at the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development.



Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2012

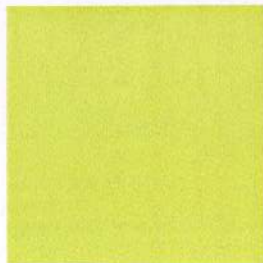
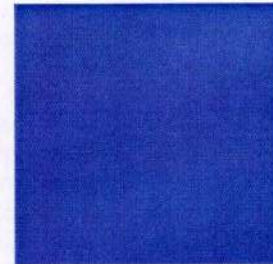


- » Skills deficit among young people
- » Urgent need to support poor urban and rural youth, especially women

To enhance the delivery of skills through secondary education, the report recommends to:

- » remove barriers to secondary education,
- » make secondary school relevant to the world of work,
- » provide alternative routes to early school leavers,
- » target unemployed youth,
- » support training through traditional apprenticeships,
- » make foundation skills part of entrepreneurial skills training,
- » provide second chance programmes,
- » combine skills training with assets, and
- » provide training via ICTs to reach youth in remote areas.

Further information:  
[www.efareport.unesco.org](http://www.efareport.unesco.org)



## National Forum on Education for Disaster Risk Reduction and in Emergencies

In cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok and the Ministry of Education in Sri Lanka, as part of the UNESCO-Japan Funds in Trust Cooperation “Education in Emergencies for Sustainable Development”, SLNCU organized the first National Forum on Education for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and in Emergencies (EiE), from 15-17 November 2012 in Colombo.

The objective of the National Forum was to take stock of the activities in the area of Disaster Safety Education in Sri Lanka since the Tsunami in 2004. Participants included representatives of all main stakeholders in the field, including the national, provincial, district and zonal levels.

As part of the preparation for the workshop, a mapping of past and current activities was conducted through a consultancy. The findings of the mapping exercise as well as the outcomes of the National Fo-

rum can be accessed on the SLNCU website.

The final report of the outcomes and recommendations of the National Forum were shared with the Minister of Education and the Secretary, Ministry of Education and will be translated into all three languages and published in 2013.



Working group at the National Forum on Education for DRR and EiE in Colombo, from 15-17 Nov. 2012.



Destruction in Arugam Bay following the Indian Ocean Tsunami, which hit Sri Lanka on 26 December 2004.



Theatre performance by students from Garnunu M.V. Passara at the National Forum on 15 November 2012.





© SLINTEC  
Concept image of the Nanotechnology Park.



© SLINTEC  
Laying of the foundation stone for the Nanotechnology Park in Homagama on 28 June



© David Cook  
Biodiversity preservation in the Sinharaja Rainforest, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

## SCIENCE

In the Science Sector, SLNCU's main focus lay on the promotion of chemistry in Sri Lanka, as well as the further consolidation of the Global Forum of Sri Lankan Scientists that was founded in 2011.

### Establishment of a Sri Lankan Nanotechnology Park

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.  
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

The foundation stone for the Nanotechnology Park was laid on 28 June 2012 in Homagama, Sri Lanka. The initiative is supported by the National Science Foundation, Ministry of Technology and Research, SLNCU as well as the companies MAS Holdings, Brandix, Hayleys, Dialog and Loadstar.

The laying of the foundation stone marked a significant step towards the future development of Nanotechnology and Nano science in Sri Lanka. The Nanotechnology Park is expected to build on the

success of SLINTEC, the Sri Lanka Institute for Nanotechnology, which has made great progress over the past years. Thereby it will make a valuable contribution to the industrial and scientific development in Sri Lanka.

### Promotion of Chemistry

Following the International Year of Chemistry which took place in 2011, SLNCU took further actions to promote chemistry in Sri Lanka in 2012. Consultations were held with the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon, the Chemical Society of the University of Colombo and the National Science Foundation.

Secretary General of SLNCU, Mr. R.P. Perera, participated in a workshop on Chemistry and Chemical Industry for the Well-being of Society in Sri Lanka, which was held by the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon in June 2012. SLNCU further promoted Chemistry Education within the Ministry of Education.



## Global Forum of Sri Lankan Scientists

The Global Forum of Sri Lankan Scientists, which was established in 2011 upon the initiative of Mr. Shehan Ratnavale, former Focal Point of UNESCO in Sri Lanka and SLNCU, made significant progress in 2012. The objective of the Global Forum of Sri Lankan Scientists is to promote and facilitate the collaboration between Sri Lankan scientists in Sri Lanka and abroad in all fields of science and technology. Through this initiative, new research initiatives and industrial projects, including support in the form of funding and technological equipment will be established in Sri Lanka.

Several of the initially proposed research collaborations between scientists in Sri Lanka and abroad were developed further throughout the year 2012. The most significant progress was made in projects in

the following fields of research:

- Biotechnology,
- Natural Products,
- Advanced Design & Manufacture,
- Information & Communication Technologies, and
- Green Energy Technologies, especially Solar Technologies.

A Global Forum Cell has been established by the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka to coordinate the ongoing activities of the Global Forum and provide support and information to Sri Lankan scientists looking for collaborators in Sri Lanka or abroad.

Further information:  
<http://www.scitechforum.lk/>

## UNESCO Chair for Bioethics

A UNESCO Chair for Bioethics was established at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) in Angoda, Sri Lanka, under the leadership of Dr. Harischandra Gambheera in 2012, to promote bioethics in men-

tal health in Sri Lanka.

The inauguration of the Chair on Bioethics took place on 22 June 2012 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, with the participation of Hon. Maithripala Sirisena, Minister of Health, Prof. Carlo Fonseka, President of the Sri Lanka Medical Council, Prof. Russell D'Souza, Chief of the Asia Pacific Ethics Desk of UNESCO, Mr. R.P. Perera, Secretary General of the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO and Dr. Harischandra Gambheera, UNESCO Chair for Bioethics.

*UNESCO Chairs assist UNESCO in the implementation of its program.*

*A Chair may be developed within a university department by reinforcing an existing teaching/research programme in the field of bioethics or ethics of science and technology and giving it an international dimension.*

*From the UNESCO Website  
[www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)*

## CULTURE

### Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)

A workshop on the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH, organized by the UNESCO Office in New Delhi, in collaboration with SLNCU and the Ministry of Culture and the Arts, was held from 25-29 June 2012. The workshop focused on the concepts, criteria and guidelines set forth in the convention and their practical implementation, including a field trip to Kelaniya to apply the gained knowledge to the traditional practice of clay crafting.

Two follow up workshops will be held in 2013 and 2014.

### Heritage of Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka

The Ministry of National Heritage and SLNCU developed a proposal

for the nomination of a cluster of ancient Buddhist Temples, Hindu Kovils, Ports and Forts in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka for inscription into the World Heritage List of UNESCO.

The proposal, which was examined by a group of experts, awaits final approval by the Cabinet of Ministers.

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.  
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

### 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention

2012 was the 40th Anniversary of the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which was celebrated around the world.

The Ministry of National Heritage held a seminar on "Heritage and Sustainable Development with a Special Focus on Community Participation" on 3 August 2012 to commemorate the Anniversary



© SLNCU / A. Kōhler

The historic Dutch Fort in Galle, inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1988.



© SLNCU / A. Kōhler

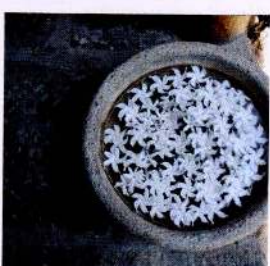
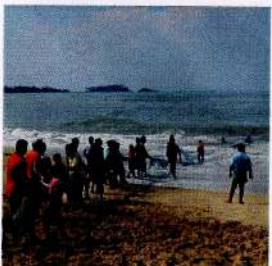
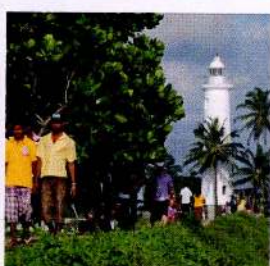
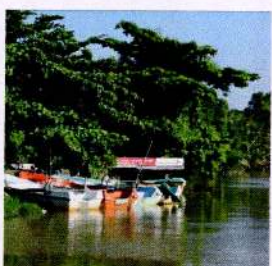
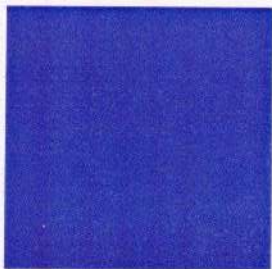
Traditional mask painting.



© SLNCU / A. Kōhler

An oil lamp in the shape of the Dharmachakra in a Buddhist temple.







## ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS (ASPnet)

The Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) of UNESCO is a network of committed schools that are engaged in fostering and delivering quality education and promote peace, liberty, justice and human development.

In Sri Lanka, 125 schools are members of the ASP network. SLNCU

*Founded in 1953, the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) is a global net-work of more than 9000 educational institutions in 180 countries.*

works together with these schools to promote UNESCO's objectives in Sri Lanka, in particular in the field of Education for Sustainable Development and for International Understanding.

### 9<sup>th</sup> APCEIU Photo Class for International Understanding

26 November - 01 December 2012  
The Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), located in Seoul, Korea, held its 9th Photo Class in Sri Lanka with the support of SLNCU. The theme of the photo class was *"Finding Diverse Colors of Sri Lanka"*.

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation  
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

Three professional photographers from Korea, Mr. LEE Sung Man, Mr. LEE Chong Keun and Mr. OH Jin Woong, taught photography skills to a group of twenty Sri Lankan and three Korean high school students from ASPnet schools. As part of the week-long workshop, the group visited the UNESCO heritage sites in Galle and Kandy and prepared a photo exhibition with photos from their site visits for the last day.

The Korean delegation further included three officials from APCEIU:

Mr. KIM Jong-Hun, Head of Office of Planning and Administration, Ms. CHUNG Kyung-Hwa, Chief, External Relations Unit and Ms. KIM Ji-Eun, Junior Programme Specialist, External Relations Unit.

On 1 December 2012, Mr. KIM Jong-Hun, APCEIU, Mr. Thushara Gunathilake, Director, Aesthetics Education, Ministry of Education, and Mr. Prithi Perera, Secretary General, SLNCU, opened the Photo Class Exhibition at Hektor Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

To further promote the use of photography in Sri Lankan schools, APCEIU donated the 24 cameras that had been used by the students during the workshop to SLNCU, to be distributed to Sri Lankan ASPnet schools.

Further information:  
[www.unescoapceiu.org](http://www.unescoapceiu.org)

## PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

As main UNESCO focal point in Sri Lanka, SLNCU's support is a prerequisite for the consideration of Participation Programme proposals from Sri Lanka. In 2012, 7 proposals were submitted to UNESCO Headquarters.

In the first stage of the selection process for the biennium 2012-2013, the following three proposals from Sri Lanka were approved by UNESCO:

### **Empowering Women through Education for Health, Equality and Sustainable Development**

The goal of this proposal, which was submitted by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, is to improve the health status, behavior and care seeking in the war-affected Northern Province of Sri Lanka through community based empowerment of women in the Province.

UNESCO has approved the proposal and will provide funding of USD 26,000 for the implementation of the project.

### **Follow up of the National Action Plans on Education for Peace and Sustainable Development**

UNESCO approved the proposal submitted by the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO for funds of USD 25,000 for the planned follow up activities for the National Action Plans on Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, including a national level workshop to take place in 2013.

### **Awareness and Participation of Stakeholders in the Practice of Integrated Water Resources Management**

The proposal submitted by the National Science Foundation (NSF), to promote awareness and participation of stakeholders in the practice of integrated water resources

management with a particular reference to the farming community, was approved by UNESCO and will receive USD 20,000 in funding.

Further information:  
[www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

#### *The Objectives of UNESCO's Participation Programme:*

- » *To achieve UNESCO's objectives by participating in the regional, sub- and inter-regional projects, led by its Member States and directly related to the activities of the Organization;*
- » *To strengthen the partnership between UNESCO and its Member States as well as International NGOs;*
- » *To boost the actions of Member States' National Commissions;*
- » *To achieve better visibility of UNESCO's actions.*



## VISITS OF UNESCO DELEGATIONS

### Launch of the National Action Plans on Education for Peace and Sustainable Development

Dr. Qian Tang, Asst. Director General for Education, UNESCO, and Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director UNESCO Office New Delhi and UNESCO Representative to India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka, attended the launch of the National Action Plans on EPSD at Temple Trees, Colombo on 30 Jan. 2012.



Dr. Tang, Mr. Aoyagi and Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa at the EPSD Launch in Colombo, 30 January 2012.

### Workshop on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)

Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director UNESCO Office New Delhi and UNESCO Representative to India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka and Mr. Takahiko Makino, Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO Office New Delhi, attended a workshop on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Sri Lanka, which took place in Colombo from 25-29 June 2012.

### South Asian Ministerial Level Symposium on Teacher Development

Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director, UNESCO Office New Delhi and UNESCO Representative to India, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka and Mr. Shailendra Sigdel, Statistical Cluster Advisor, UNESCO Office New Delhi, attended the South Asian Ministerial Level Symposium on Teacher Development, together

with the Hon. Ministers of Education of Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives and Bangladesh, which took place in Sri Lanka on 9 October 2012.

### National Forum on Education for Disaster Risk Reduction and in Emergencies

Ms. Katie Vanhala, Associate Expert, ESD, UNESCO Office Bangkok, attended the National Forum on Education for DRR and EIE that took place from 15-17 Nov. 2012.

### Intercultural and Interfaith Peace Dialogue: Overcoming Crises through Education

The President of the UNESCO General Conference, Dr. Katalin Bogyay and 25 UNESCO Ambassadors participated in the event in Colombo, from 2-10 November 2012, which was organized by the Secretariat of His Excellency the President and the Ministry of External Affairs.

## TRAINING SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

### EDUCATION

**Asia-Pacific Forum for Open Education Resources**, organized by UNESCO Bangkok, took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 23-24 April 2012. Mr. S. Dunaisingh, Assistant Project Officer, Open School Unit of the National Institute of Education participated.

*UNESCO organizes training workshops and seminars in all its fields of competence to promote capacity building worldwide.*

**Changwon-UNESCO International Education Symposium “Cities, Education and Sustainable Development for All”**, organized by Changwon Korea and the Korean National Commission

for UNESCO, took place in Changwon, Korea from 25-29 April 2012. Dr. (Mrs.) T.A.R.J. Gunasekera, Assistant Director General, National Institute of Education, participated in the symposium.

**Regional Workshop on Education Data and Indicators in South and West Asia**, organized by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 30 April - 3 May 2012. Ms. W.J.L.A. Damayanthi, Statistician, University Grants Commission, and Mr. W.S. Perera, Director, Data Management, Ministry of Education, participated.

**Regional High-Level Expert Meeting on ‘Towards EFA 2015 and Beyond - Shaping a new Vision of Education’**, organized by UNESCO Bangkok, took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 9-11 May 2012. Dr. G.B. Gunawardena, Chairman, National Committee for Formulating the New Education Act of Sri Lanka, participated.

**UNESCO-UNEVOC Special Session at the 3<sup>rd</sup> TVET Congress**, organized by UNESCO, took place in Shanghai, the People’s Republic of China from 13-16 May 2012. Hon. Bandula Gunawardhana, Minister of Education and Chairman, Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO, and Mr. P.H.A. Wimalaweera, Add. Secretary, Ministry of Education, participated.

**Regional Seminar on Public-Private Partnerships in Higher Education, TVET and Youth Employment**, organized by UNESCO Bangkok, took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 30-31 July 2012. Dr. G.B. Gunawardena, Chairman, National Committee for Formulating the New Education Act of Sri Lanka, participated.

**12<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Training Workshop on Education for International Understanding (EIU)**, organized by the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), took place



in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 29 Aug. - 7 Sep. 2012. Mr. Shajehan Shifaan, Project Officer, Dept. of Teacher Education, National Institute of Education, participated.

**Regional Conference on Community Learning Centres**, organized by UNESCO Bangkok, took place in Bangkok, Thailand from 26-28 Sep. 2012. Mr. K.A.P. Ranjith Samarasinghe, Vice President, Sevanatha Urban Resource Centre, participated.

**IIEP/UNESCO Advanced Training Programme in Educational Planning in Management**, organized by the International Institute for Educational Planning of UNESCO, for the period from 3 Sep. 2012 - 28 June 2013, selected Mr. Thilak Watthuhewa, Asst. Director of Education, Department of Education, Southern Province.

**3<sup>rd</sup> RICE Regional Training Workshop**, organized by the Asian

Regional Initiative for Climate Change Education (RICE), took place in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 15-20 Oct. 2012. Ms. S.L.D.K. Wijayasinghe, Deputy Secretary General, SLNCU, and Ms. H.M.C.B. Menike, Assistant Teacher, Maliyadewa College Kurunegala, participated in the workshop.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Pacific Leadership Academy for School Principals on Education Diversity**, organized by the Asia-Pacific Centre of

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.  
noolaham.org | www.noolaham.org



Ms. S.L.D.K. Wijayasinghe, and Ms. H.M.C.B. Menike (left) at the 3<sup>rd</sup> RICE Regional Training Workshop in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 30 Oct. - 7 Nov. 2012. Mr. U.N.A. Gaffoor, Principal, Al Hilal Central College, Mutur, participated.

## SCIENCES

**3<sup>rd</sup> In-Region Capacity Building Workshop of the Data Buoy Cooperation Panel for the Western Indian Ocean**, organized by the World Meteorological Organization and the Intergovernmental



Participants of the Training Workshop of the Regional Initiative for Climate Change Education (RICE) in Chiang Mai, Thailand.



Oceanographic Commission, took place in Mombasa, Kenya, from 16-20 April 2012. Mr. H.D.P. Thisera, Snr. Radio Officer, Dept. of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Dr. K. Arulananthan, Research Officer, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency and Mrs. U.P.I.G. Uggaldeniya, Assistant Director, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Development, participated.

**Training Workshop on Maintenance of Infrastructure**, organized by the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the Auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) and the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI), took place in Hyderabad, India, from 10-14 Sep. 2012. Ms. I.M. Fernando, Director (School Works), Ministry of Education, participated in the workshop.

**FY2012 Fellowship Programme of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO** took place

in Tokyo, Japan, from 19-28 November 2012. Mrs. A.V.K.S. Karunapala, Document Assistant, SLNCU, participated in the workshop, which focused on the Associated Schools Project Network.

**Professional Development Training Course on 'Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation'**, organized by the Asian Institute of Technology, took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from 26 Nov. - 14 Dec. 2012. Mr. J.K.N.S. Perera, Accountant, Ministry of Education, participated in this training course.

**Network Meeting of UNESCO Category II Centres in the Asia-Pacific Region**, organized by the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 13-15 December 2012. Ms. S.L.D.K. Wijayasinghe, Deputy Secretary General, SLNCU, Mr. I.M.K.B. Ilangasinghe, Asst. Director General, NIE, and Dr. Amarasinhm Sivaneasha-

rajah, Director, Curriculum Dev., NIE.

## CULTURE

**Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage**, organized by UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts of Cambodia, took place in Koh Kong, Cambodia, from 14-15 May 2012. Mrs. Kanthi Wijetunge, Secretary, Ministry of National Heritage, Mr. Palitha Weerasinghe, Regional Officer for Excavation and Museums, Western Province, and Mr. Rasika Muthukumarana, Underwater Archaeologist, participated.

**Training Course on Cultural Heritage Protection in the Asia-Pacific Region 2012** on *Research, Analysis and Preservation of Archaeological Sites and Remains*, organized by the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), took place in Nara, Japan, from 4 Sep. - 4 Oct. 2012. Mr. P.P. Saminda Kumara, Regional Maintenance Manager, Department of



Archaeology, participated.

**The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Mayors' Forum for World Heritage Cities**, organized by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, took place in Gyeongju, Korea, from 29-30 Aug. 2012. Mr. Thushantha Mahindra Ratwatte, Mayor of Kandy, Kandy Municipal Council, participated in the forum.

**International Workshop on Space Technologies for World Heritage**, organized by the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage under the auspices of UNESCO, took place in Beijing, China, from 9-28 Oct. 2012. Mr. B.R.M.M. Prasanna Bandara Ratnayake, Director (Architectural Conservation), Department of Archaeology, participated in this workshop.

Further information:  
[www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

## FELLOWSHIPS

### UNESCO/Poland Co-sponsored Fellowships Programme Engineering Cycle 2012

Digitized by Noglham Foundation  
Mr. R.M. Weerasinghe, Research Engineer from Sri Lanka, received the UNESCO/Poland co-sponsored Fellowship. In 2012, 21 fellowships of six months duration were awarded by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair for Science, Technology and Engineering at the University of Science and Technology in Krakow, with the goal of promoting human resource capacities in developing countries as well as international understanding among nations and the people of Poland.

### UNESCO/Peoples Republic of China, The Great Wall Fellowships Programme 2012-2013

Ms. M.M.L. Priyadarshanee, Environmental Science Student, was awarded the Great Wall Fellowship in 2012, provided by the Peoples Republic of China. 25 fellowships for advanced under- or postgraduate level studies at select Chinese universities were awarded to promote international exchanges in the fields of education, culture, communication, science and technology, and to enhance friendship among peoples of the world.

### UNESCO/KEIZO OBUCHI Research Fellowships Programme, Japan Funds-in-Trust Project

Ms. A.L. Ranawake, Environmental Scientist, was awarded this fellowship by UNESCO. Reinforcing its belief in "people building the next era", the Government of Japan provided 20 fellowships in 2012 for deserving candidates from developing countries, to undertake innovative and imaginative postgraduate research in the areas of

## COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

### Annual Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enikki Festa Competition

The Mitsubishi Public Affairs Committee, the Asian Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations, and the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan have sponsored this Children's Arts Festival since 1990, with the objective of promoting cultural exchange and literacy education. Children from 25 Asian countries participate in the competition and the winners' paintings will be exhibited in Japan.

300 school children from Sri Lanka, were selected for the second round and awarded certificates for their drawings by the Minister of Education, Hon. Bandula Gunawardhana, in a ceremony on 10 Dec. 2012.

Further information:  
<http://enikki.mitsubishi.or.jp>

### 17th Kanagawa Biannual World Children's Art Exhibition

The Kanagawa Biennial World Children's Art Exhibition has been held every two years since 1981. Held in Kanagawa Prefecture to the south of Tokyo, this event exhibits children's art from all over the world, and is intended to use the power of painting to foster the dreams and creativity of today's young children who will become the leaders of tomorrow. The exhibition is also intended to further understanding of the world's diverse cultures and differences in global lifestyles.

The Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO is the focal point for the exhibition in Sri Lanka. In 2012, more than 10,000 children submitted their artwork for consideration for being displayed as part of the exhibition, which will take place in Japan in July 2013.

Further information:  
<http://earthplaza.jp/>



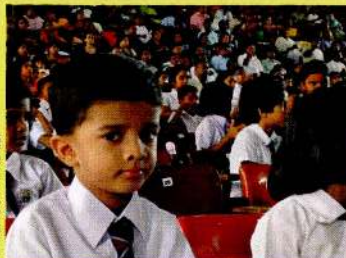
© SLNCU / A. Köhler

The Hon. Minister of Education handing out Enikki Festa Awards to school children.



© SLNCU / A. Köhler

Opening of the Enikki Festa Award Giving Ceremony on 10 December 2012.



© SLNCU / A. Köhler

One of the 300 school children who were awarded for their paintings.



## UNCT AND UNDAF

The presence of a UNESCO Focal Point in the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Sri Lanka, funded by the UNESCO Office in New Delhi, has notably strengthened the UNESCO presence in the UNCT and greatly improved the tripartite collaboration between the UNESCO New Delhi Office, the SLNCU and the UNCT.

Established in 2009 to enhance UNESCO's presence in post conflict and post disaster situations, the Focal Point's work has been greatly appreciated by the SLNCU and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office.

Initiatives of the first Focal Point, Mr. Shehan Ratnavale, including the development of a Nano Science Park, a Global Forum of Sri Lankan Scientists, and the distribution of books for conflict affected schools in the North East in collaboration with UNICEF and the Asia Foundation are ongoing and progressing well.

Since August 2011, Ms. Himali Jinadasa, new Focal Point and former Director of the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP), has notably initiated the Sri Lanka Peace Collection, a collaborative livelihood pilot project of UNIDO, OHRD, UNESCO and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for war widows in northeastern Sri Lanka, coordinated a joint UNCT launch of the Global Monitoring Report on Education for All on 16 October 2012, and an interview by Young Asia Television on the topic of education with Mr. Aoyagi the UNESCO Representative to Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka.



Mr. Aoyagi, UNESCO Representative to Sri Lanka, and Mr. Nandy, UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka, signing the UNDAF document.

### United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Sri Lanka 2013-2017

Ms. Jinadasa has also coordinated UNESCO's contribution to the UNDAF for the five year period 2013-2017, which has been agreed upon and signed by the UNCT and the Government of Sri Lanka. It comprises the following focus areas:

1. Equitable economic growth and sustainable livelihoods;
2. Disparity reduction, equitable and quality social services;
3. Governance, human rights, social integration and protection;
4. Environment sustainability, climate change and disaster risk reduction.

It will be the goal of all UN agencies in Sri Lanka, to focus on these issues during the next five years.

Further information:  
[www.un.lk](http://www.un.lk)

## SLNCU FACTS AND INFORMATION

The Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO (SLNCU) was established in 1949. It is currently hosted by the Ministry of Education in Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.

### Regular Meeting of the General Assembly of the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO on 4 January 2012

The regular meeting of the National Commission's General Assembly was reestablished in 2012. The meeting took place on 4 January 2012 at the Ministry of Education. It was chaired by Hon. Bandula Gunawardhana, Minister of Education and Chairperson of the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO.

In his opening remarks, the Hon. Minister stressed the importance of cohesion and collaboration amongst ministries to overcome the

numerous challenges Sri Lanka faces today and explained the efforts being made to establish a new Category 2 UNESCO South Asian Centre for Teacher Development in Meepe, Sri Lanka. He further expressed his appreciation for the efforts being made by the Ministry of Technology and Research to establish a Nano Science Park in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the private technology sector.

Mr. R.P. Perera, Secretary General of the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO, briefed the meeting on the ongoing initiatives and efforts of SLNCU, including the following:

» The proposal for the Constitutional Act, establishing the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO as an independent institution, which pursues the objective of obtaining legal status and more autonomy for the SLNCU awaits approval from the Parliament.

- » The National Action Plans on Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (EPSD) are to be launched by HE the President, Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, on 30 January 2012.
- » The proposal that has been submitted to UNESCO to establish a South Asian Centre for Teacher Development in Meepe, Sri Lanka as a UNESCO Category 2 Institute is to be approved by the UNESCO Executive Board in March 2012.
- » The proposal for the operationalizing of a UNESCO Scholarship Fund, with the objective of advancing education of disabled and displaced children, needs to be activated.

The presentations were followed by a lively discussion, in which the members of the National Commission mandated the Secretariat to move forward with the ongoing initiatives.



## Members of the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO

Minister of Education,  
Chairman, SLNCU

Secretary, Ministry of Education,  
Vice-Chairman, SLNCU

Secretary General, SLNCU

Secretary, Ministry of Economic  
Development

Secretary, Ministry of External  
Affairs

Secretary, Ministry of Public  
Administration

Secretary, Ministry of Higher  
Education

Secretary, Ministry of Mass Media  
and Information

Secretary, Ministry of National  
Heritage

Secretary, Ministry of Culture  
and the Arts

Secretary, Ministry of Environment

Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs  
and Skills Development

Secretary, Ministry of Technology  
and Research

Secretary, Ministry of Social  
Services

Chairman, Finance Commission

Chairman, University Grants  
Commission

Chairperson, National Science  
Foundation

Director General, National Institute  
of Education

President, National Authority on  
Tobacco and Alcohol

Chancellor, University of Moratuwa

Chairperson, Committee for the  
Establishment of a New Education  
Act

## Organizational Structure

The current structure of the SLNCU organs, commissions and committees is shown on page 29. A Draft Act of Parliament to establish SLNCU as an independent body with a new organizational structure Act awaits approval.

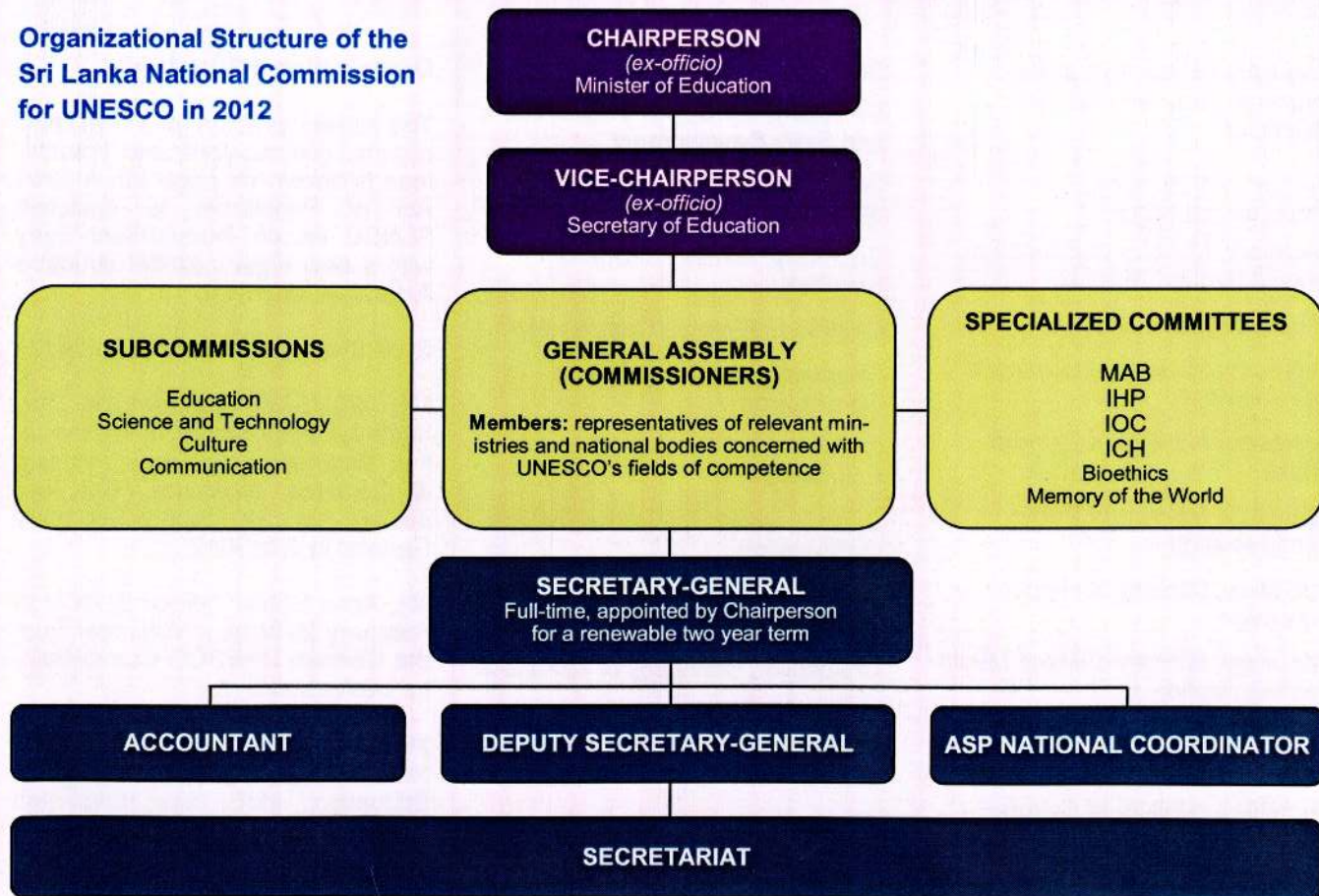
## Staff Changes of SLNCU in 2012

Ms. S.L.D.K. Wijayasinghe, formerly of the Ministry of Construction, Engineering Services, Housing & Common Amenities, was appointed as new Deputy Secretary General in July 2012.

Ms. Anna Köhler joined SLNCU in February 2012 as a Volunteer from the German UNESCO Commission for twelve months.

Mr. R.M.M. Rathnayaka, Director, National Language and Humanities Education, MoE, was appointed National ASPnet Coordinator for Sri Lanka in December 2012.

## Organizational Structure of the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO in 2012

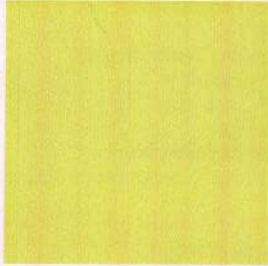
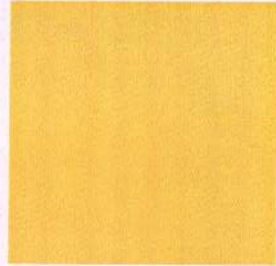




## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| ACCU    | Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO                           |
| APCEIU  | Asian-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding |
| ASPnet  | Associated School Project Network                                 |
| DRR     | Disaster Risk Reduction   |
| EFA     | Education for All   |
| EIE     | Education in Emergencies  |
| EPSD    | Education for Peace and Sustainable Development                   |
| ESD     | Education for Sustainable Development                             |
| IBSP    | International Basic Sciences Programme                            |
| ICH     | Intangible Cultural Heritage                                      |
| ICT     | Information and Communication Technologies                        |
| IGCP    | International Geoscience Programme                                |
| IHP     | International Hydrological Programme                              |
| ILO     | International Labor Organization                                  |
| IOC     | International Oceanographic Commission                            |
| IPDC    | International Programme for the Development of Communication      |
| MAB     | Man and Biosphere   |
| MoE     | Ministry of Education   |
| MOST    | Management of Social Transformation                               |
| NIE     | National Institute of Education                                   |
| NIMH    | National Institute of Mental Health                               |
| RICE    | Regional Initiative for Climate Change Education                  |
| SLINTEC | Sri Lanka Institute of Nano Technology                            |
| SACTD   | South Asian Centre for Teacher Development                        |
| UGC     | University Grants Commission                                      |
| SLNCU   | Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO                          |
| UNDAF   | United Nations Development Assistance Framework                   |
| UNDP    | United Nations Development Program                                |
| UNESCO  | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  |
| UNICEF  | United Nations Children's Fund                                    |

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.  
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org





Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.  
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org

© SLNCU 2012