



NEWS RELEASE

Date: October 20, 2020

ALBION PROVIDED MOTHER LAND LANKA WITH THOUSANDS OF INDIGENOUS HERBAL PLANTS SEEDLINGS

From 1st to 3rd of October, Mr. Neil de Alwis (President), Mr. Hansa Jayarathne (Administrative Manager), Ms. Irangi Samarakoon (Lecturer), and some students of the University of Colombo visited Malmaduwa Division. We received the indigenous herbal plants, which ALBION Co., Ltd. provided for the Mother Land Lanka (MLL) Home Garden Project. We also conducted a survey to collect information and opinions of those who were willing to participate in the project and those who reside near Malmaduwa village.

MLL received herbal plant seedlings from ALBION

On the 2nd of October, ALBION delivered certain kinds of indigenous herbal plants cultivated in the Home Garden Project in Malmaduwa village. In total, the number of delivered plants was more than 3,000. MLL members and the villagers cooperated and unloaded the plants from the truck. The villagers delightedly unloaded and carried the plants with much enthusiasm. While one person handed the plants to another with care, we completed unloading all plants delivered by ALBION with the villagers' help.

After unloading the plants, we had a small meeting with the villagers. MLL has a policy in which we consider our project's participants as our partners and respect their local initiatives. In the last field visit (September 18th, 2020), MLL collected their opinions about the conditions where the rainy season has not started yet in their regions. Thus, we discussed together again when we start cultivating the plants around in the 3rd week of October. Until the rainy season starts, the unloaded plants will be kept at the space available in the garden of a villager (Mr. Sarath). The plants will be distributed to 30 families who participate in the Home Garden Project once the rainy season starts.



Malmaduwa villagers were helping with unloading plants



Meeting with the villagers



MLL conducted opinion survey of villagers

On the 2nd and 3rd of October, we engaged in an opinion survey with the assistance of the Grama Niladhari (hereafter, GN) (i.e., village officer) of the Malmaduwa GN Division and the Development Officers. We aimed to have a proper understanding about the demographic and socio-economic backgrounds of those in Malmaduwa village and other surrounding villages. Therefore, we visited five villages: Malmaduwa, Atambagaskada, Agbopura, Kokvelliya, and Kiriwehera to collect their information and opinion about our activities.

The questionnaire survey was carried out by final-year undergraduate students of the University of Colombo. We mainly collected the demographic and socio-economic backgrounds of the villagers residing in those villages. We also asked the villagers about their opinion: For example, what do they think of harmony among the different ethnic and religious groups in communities? Thanks to the students' dedicated support, we concluded the survey on the 3rd day of this field visit and covered more than 150 households.

Finally, as a result of this field visit, we had a proper understanding that the villagers will become more motivated and prouder in cultivating the indigenous herbal plants and providing a Japanese company's products. The villagers were more enlivened by carrying the delivered plants by their own hands, and simultaneously were thankful to the company.



Explaining the survey to students



Meeting with Development Officers



Interviewing the villagers



【Sri Lanka Basic Data】

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Population: Approx. 21,030,000 (2016)

Ethnicity : Sinhalese (74.9%), Tamil (15.3%), Sri Lankan Moor (9.3%)

Religion: Buddhist (70.1%), Hindu (12.6%), Muslim (9.7%), Christian (7.6%)

【Vavuniya District Basic Data】

Population: Approx.172,115 (2012)

Ethnicity: Sinhalese (10.0%), Tamil (83.2%), Sri Lankan Moor (6.8%)

Religion: Buddhist (9.8%), Hindu (69.4%), Muslim (7.0%), Christian (13.8%)

【ALBION Co., Ltd.】

Address: Hulic Ginza bldg., 7-10, Ginza 1-chome, Chuo-Ku, Tokyo 104-0061

Establishment: March 2, 1956

The President and Chief Executive Officer: Shoichi Kobayashi

【MOTHER LAND LANKA】

Address: 8/20, Pandiwatta Road, Nattaranpotha, Kandy, Sri Lanka

Establishment: June 15, 2020

Website: <https://motherlandlanka.org/>

【Director, President】

Neil De Alwis (Former Ministry's Secretary)

【Director, Chief Project Manager】

Ryo Uchida (International Peace and Co-Existence Program Hiroshima University)

【Director, Administrative Manager】

Hansa Jayarathne (Lecturer, University of Colombo)

【Treasurer, Financial Manager】

Thilaka Piyaseeli (Businesswoman)

【Strategy Manager】

Yoshinari Kajishita (International Economic Development Program Hiroshima University)

【Company Secretary】

Bashini Gunarathne (Attorney-at-law)

【Senior Advisor】

Yuichiro Yoshida (Professor, International Economic Development Program Hiroshima University)