



NEWS RELEASE

Date: December 24, 2020

A LONG-AWAITED DREAM COMES TRUE

MOTHER LAND LANKA (MLL) BEGIN PLANTING INDIGENOUS HERBAL PLANTS WITH THE COOPERATION OF LOCAL PEOPLE IN VAVUNIYA

On October 29, Mr. Neil De Alwis, president of MLL, and Mr. Hansa Jayarathne, administrative manager, visited Malmaduwa village, Vavuniya South Divisional Secretariat Division, Vavuniya District. ALBION Co. Ltd provided indigenous herbal plants to MLL to be distributed to local people for starting the “Home Garden Project.” The thirty participating families for this project were previously selected by MLL, the local villagers and the local government.

Distribution of plant seedlings by MLL

On October 29, MLL distributed the herbal plants provided by ALBION to the families designated as collaborators in the project in Malmaduwa village. The distribution took place during an inaugural ceremony on the same day. Mr. M.S. Janaka, Divisional Secretary of Vavuniya South and an important supporter of the project, delivered a motivating speech, explaining to the audience the significance of the project and its social and economic impacts. Finally, the Divisional Secretary, on behalf of MLL, handed over the plants to each family. With untold happiness and expectation the families received the plants.



Mr. Janaka distributing plants



Mr. Janaka during his inaugural speech

Since ALBION provided the plants for MLL on October 2, we have been eagerly waiting for about a month for the start of the seasonal rain in the area. Because the targeted village is located in a dry zone, the rainy season is a key factor for the project. This delay was because of a petition of the representatives of the village to MLL. Fortunately, the rainy season started at the end of October. Therefore, MLL visited the village to distribute the plants to the

collaborators, with high hope and expectation for the success of the project.

Visit of MLL to the home gardens of the participating families

On November 21, MLL visited all of the participating families' home gardens to confirm if the plants received were appropriately planted. MLL confirmed the proper use of the seedlings, which were carefully managed and cultivated. Currently the weather is favorable for the herbal plants' cultivation, and the families happily informed us that the farming process is progressing as expected. MLL plans to regularly visit the village to observe the cultivation management and promote cooperation among the participating families.



The families gathering for the meeting



Example of cultivation of the seedlings

In all the villages of that region, it is well known that MLL herbal plant cultivation project started in Malmaduwa, and that local people are cultivating many varieties of Sri Lankan indigenous herbal plants. When MLL visited the villages, many people approached us to express their wish to join this project.

Given the positive results obtained in Malmaduwa, we are actively searching for local or international companies willing to support MLL peacebuilding activities through herbal plant cultivation.

【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: Huli 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)