



Chairman, Multiple Council District 306, Lion Mahesh Pasqual (third from left) delivers the welcome address. Looking on from left are First Lady Kushlani Amarasuriya, Immediate Past International President, Mahendra Amarasuriya, Lion Lady Dr. Manali Pasqual, Past International Director, Asoka Gunasekera and DG 306C2, Buddhini Gunasekera.



Mahendra Amarasuriya addressing Lions. From left - Lion Lady Manali Pasqual, Immediate Past International President, PCC Lion Sunil Watawala, Lion Lady Chandima, DG, Deshabandura, Dires Hettiarachchi, Lion Lady Geetha and DG Nimal Rajapaksa.



Immediate Past Multiple Council Chairman Sarath Fonseka presents a token of appreciation to Mahendra Amarasuriya. Looking on from left are First Lady, Kushlani and Multi Council District Chairman, Lion Mahesh Pasqual.

Mahendra felicitated for bringing fame to Lanka

Text & Pix
Beverly Jansz

The Year 2007/08 will go down in history as a landmark year when the son of the nation Mahendra Amarasuriya was elected the 90th President of the International Association of Lions Clubs, the largest global volunteer service organisation in the world, with a global network of over 1.3 million fellow Lions in 202 countries. President Mahendra Amarasuriya's ascent into the topmost echelon of the organisation, in July 2007, was more significant because it happened in the golden jubilee year of Lionism in Sri Lanka.

At the end of a successful year under his presidency, the Lions family of Multiple District 306 Sri Lanka felicitated Mahendra on his unprecedented achievements at a fitting felicitation ceremony chaired by Multiple Council Chairperson Mahesh Pasqual at the grand ball room of the 'Waters Edge' on Wednesday, amidst a gathering of over 350 Lions.

Born to a distinguished family in Galle, son of late Thomas Amarasuriya the President of the senate of Sri Lanka, he joined the Organisation in 1967 as a Charter Member of the Lions Club of Galle.

Mahendra was elected unanimously as the District Governor in 1978/79 and Multiple Council Chairperson in 1979/80 and as International Director for the Constitutional Area Africa, and South West Asia in 1991.

After 40 years of membership in the Association he received the mantle of office of International President, the first Sri Lankan to be elected to this prestigious post bringing great fame to Sri Lanka.

Today Lionism in Sri Lanka has grown from one club since its inception in 1958 to 472 clubs with nearly 13,500 in the membership with a growth of over 5000 members since his election as 2nd Vice President three years back purely through motivation of his election to the topmost office of the Association.

Mahendra has placed our tiny island firmly in the map of Lionism. World leaders in Lionism have agreed that Lion Mahendra is a leader par excellence, and the best International President in recent times.

A Banker and a corporate Leader who strides tall in Sri Lanka's corporate corridors, 'Change' was all what his presidency was about. The Lions clubs, whilst maintaining the fundamental values of Lionism, brought in relevant changes in keeping with his theme 'Challenge to Change'.

Lions had the greatest year under his presidency in the recent history of the Association specially for club and membership growth recording a net growth of over 15,000 members after 12 years with the exception of one year. Over 1785 new chartered clubs were extended. His vision was extension of new clubs with a mixture of 25-30% younger members and forming of new concept Lions Clubs. Granting incentives, he encouraged student enrolment into the organization.

Corporate clubs in the corporate sector and a larger number of women into the organisation through the global women's membership initiative programme are but a few other achievements in this year.

In Sri Lanka too they recorded over 850 new women members in to the organisation this year.

This year the Lions Clubs International officially signed on with the United Nations to achieve its Millennium Goals, in partnership with them enabling Lions to help eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and to assist universal primary education and to reach out to six other ambitious goals.

Lions Clubs International Foundation was ranked best among non-governmental organisations worldwide, according to the London-based Financial Times last summer amongst 34 global organisations.

Besides Mahendra's Lionistic Accolades, he in his occupational career has climbed equally fast up the

ladder of success. He began his commercial career at a blue chip conglomerate, Hayleys Group rising to the Office of Deputy Chairman and he retired in 2001 after a long career of 36 years. He was invited to join the Board of Commercial Bank of Ceylon Ltd in 1986 and became its Chairman in 1995.

Through his vast experience in the corporate world Mahendra was able to give exceptional leadership to the 'Lions of World' which brought honour not only to the International Association of Lions Clubs and the 'Lions of Multiple District' but also to Sri Lanka.

This year Mahendra serves as the Chairperson of the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

Mahendra has placed our tiny island firmly in the map

Highest ranked Leo Ricky Simms new Multiple President

The Leo Multiple District Council 306 installation ceremony for the year 2008/09 was held at Lions Activity Center Colombo. The event was graced by Chief Guest Lion Multiple Council Chairman, Lion Mahesh Pasqual MJE, Leo Ricky Simms was installed to office as the Multiple President for the upcoming year while Leo Chathura Deshapriya was inducted as Vice President, Leo Pabudu Perera as Secretary and Leo Mohamed Fazlan as Treasurer.

The current six District Presidents were installed as Directors of the Board. The Board will be guided by Multiple Council Chairman for Leos, PCC Lion Mohan De Silva, who is also past President of Sri Lankan Cricket.

The new Multiple President Leo Ricky Simms has been an active Leo for the past five years, and has won many awards locally as well as from Lions International, notably the 100% Club President's award and the International President's Certificate of appreciation. He has held all offices on his way to become the highest ranked Leo in the



Multiple President, Leo Ricky Simms

JCISL Kollupitiya joins Chennai Royal of JCI India



From left Chapter President - Jc. Alpeesh Tapira, JCI Chennai Royals, National President - JCI India - Jc. Anthony Noronha, Chapter President JCISL, Kollupitiya Jc. Jc. Samedha Alahakoon, Chapter Secretary JCISL Kollupitiya Jc. Mohamed Fiazal and Chapter Vice President JCISL Kollupitiya Jc. Mohamed Rizk

Jc. Samedha Alahakoon, President of the Junior Chamber International Sri Lanka Kollupitiya chapter, signed a twinning agreement with Jc. Alpeesh Tapira, President of Chennai Royal of JCI India, in Koduakkana in India. The JCI twinning programme is a voluntary and reciprocal agreement between national organisations in different countries, regions and cities. The objective is to exchange personal visits, ideas, projects and culture.

The agreement was witnessed by Jc. Anthony Noronha, the National President of JCI India, and the Immediate Past National President of India JCI Sen. Purushotham Modi along with JCI Sen. G Balachandran.

Jc. HGF Sunil Sothi, JCI Sen. K. Vallabhadras, JCI Sarabjit Singh - National Trainer, Jc. Nirmal Parekh - National Trainer and over 130 Jaycees and senators were present at the event.

Raigamapurawaraya Lions Health Camp

Raigamapurawaraya Lions Club conducted a Health Camp last week at Raigampura. Both western and Ayurveda health camps were conducted, and a large number of patients were treated free.

Dental camps, for both adults and children, general health camps, testing of eyes and distribution of spectacles, blood and sugar testing, were conducted and free medicines provided.

Doctors Lion Deepal Fernando Upul Wickramasinghe, L.M. Wijesuriya and Ayurveda Dr. Lion Dhammika Jayawardene from Lunawa Ayurveda Hospital, rendered



A doctor examines a patient. Looking on are President, Lions Club of Raigamapurawaraya, Lion Wasantha Jayawardene, Secretary, Indrakumara Jayawardene, Cabinet Officer, Lion Ananda Perera, Cabinet Officer, Lion Piyatilleke Dandaniya, Cabinet Officer, Lion Deepani Kandanaarachchi, Region Chairperson, Region Five, Lion Palliha Wijegoonewardene, Lion Sisira Kumara, Lion Laptha Gunasinghe, Lion K. Jayasinghe, Lion Nardana Rathuwantha, Lion M.D.C. Gunatilleke and Lion Chinthana Amarantunge. Pic: BU

Metro Lions donate house

Text & Pix
Wehella Piyathilaka
Maharagama Spl. Corr.

A house built at a cost of Rs. 8 lakhs by Metro Lions Club, Pannipitiya, in the Lions District 306C2, was handed over to a homeless family at Mahulgoda in the Homagama Secretariat Division, by District Governor, 306C2, Lion Buddhini Gunasekera.

This family had lived for over 15 years in temporary sheds. The Grama Niladhari of the area, Prasad Perera had proposed to the Metro Lions Club, Pannipitiya to donate a house for this homeless family of three children.

A social worker Piyasena Wickremasinghe had donated six perches of land to build the house, on an appeal made by the Grama Niladhari, and the President of the Metro Lions Club, Wickum Weerakody.

With the personal supervision of Lion Wickum Weerakody, the house was built within a short period of 45 days, with the assistance of the villagers.



District Governor, 306C2, Lion Buddhini Gunasekera hands over the keys of the house to the family. Looking on are President, Metro Lions Club, Pannipitiya, Lion Wickum Weerakody and the donor of the land Piyasena Wickremasinghe.



District Governor, 306C2, Lion Buddhini Gunasekera, with Lions and Lion Ladies of Metro Lions Club, Pannipitiya, the donor of the land, Piyasena Wickremasinghe and the recipient family, opposite the house.

Vemban Ramanathan - new President Batticaloa Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Batticaloa installed Vemban Ramanathan as its 49th president on 16th August with pomp and ceremony being held at the house, on an appeal made by the Grama Niladhari, and the President of the Metro Lions Club, Wickum Weerakody.

With the personal supervision of Lion Wickum Weerakody, the house was built within a short period of 45 days, with the assistance of the villagers.

The Rotary Club of Batticaloa installed Vemban Ramanathan as its 49th president on 16th August with pomp and ceremony being held at the house, on an appeal made by the Grama Niladhari, and the President of the Metro Lions Club, Wickum Weerakody.

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Chief Guest Rtn. Suri Rajan delivers his keynote address. At centre is the new President, Rtn. Vemban Ramanathan.

Rotarian, marketing executive, and leader who knows Batticaloa and her people well.

In his inaugural address, Club President Ramanathan highlighted Rotary International's objective of reducing child mortality worldwide and pledged his club's support to eliminate the causes contributing to child mortality in Sri Lanka.

Rotarians are business and professional leaders intent worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help to build goodwill and peace in the world.

There are over 1.2 million Rotarians in more than 32,000 Rotary Clubs in 169 countries worldwide with motto "Service above Self".