

Lions International President's visit an honour to Sri Lanka

Text and pictures by BEVERLEY JANSZ

The International President of Lions Clubs International, Lion Eberhard J. Wirfs and Lion Lady Margit from USA arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday on a three day visit.

The International President and Lion Lady Gargit were accorded a red carpet welcome at the BIA, by Lion Dr. M.H.C.J. Ian, Multiple Council Chairman (Sri Lanka) and Ambassador General to United Cultural Convention - USA and Lion Lady Jayantha.

The visit of the Lions International President is not only a great honour to Sri Lanka but a boost to Sri Lanka Lions to carry out more service projects for the upliftment of the underprivileged.

Lions International has been named as the world's number one service organization, spread in over 205 countries with a membership of over 1.3 million including Sri Lanka.

In Sri Lanka there are six Lions International Dis-



Lions International President Lion Eberhard J. Wirfs (Second from left) with (from left) Lions Multiple Council Chairman and Ambassador General to United Cultural Convention, USA, Lion Dr. M.H.C.J. Ian, Lion Lady Margit and Lion Lady Jayantha.



At the welcome ceremony at the BIA, from left are Past International Director Lion Aaska de Z. Gunasekera, Lion Lady Kushlani Amarasinghe, MCC (SL) and Ambassador General to United Cultural Convention USA, Lion Dr. M.H.C.J. Ian, Lions International President Lion Eberhard J. Wirfs, Lion Lady Margit, Past International President, Lion Mahendra Amarasinghe Past Council Chairman, Lion Sunil Watawala and Lion Lady Manel Watandura.

tricts with over 15,000 members, carrying out enormous services to the needy.

Million of Sri Lankans have benefited by free services rendered by Sri Lankan Lions, Lion Dr. Ian said.

He said that millions of US dollars have been channelled to Sri Lanka through the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) which is the funding arm of the Lions Clubs International, led by International President, Lion Eberhard J. Wirfs.

Multiple Council Chairman and Ambassador General to United Cultural Convention, USA, Dr. M.H.C.J. Ian said that the visit of Lions International President to Sri Lanka was more significant as he has visited Sri Lanka when peace has been ushered in by President Mahinda Rajapaksa, after a lapse of 30 years.

Undoubtedly, Lions International President will take the message to USA that Sri Lanka is once again a peaceful country, MCC Lion Dr. Ian said.

Rotarians in Jaffna

SARATH MALALASEKERA

A delegation of Rotarians from Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur and Colombo West visited the IDP Camps in Jaffna recently.

The Rotarian distributed several computers to the

schools in which displaced children are attending classes, said the Legal Aid Commission Chairman (LAC) and a member of the Colombo West Rotarian club Rtn. S.S. Wijeratne, who participated with the local delegates. The Rotarians from Malaysia spoke to

the children in Tamil languages and inquired from them about the facilities they received at the IDP camps. The children were very happy to say that the facilities at the camps are very good and happy to leave for their permanent residences.



The children at the displaced centres with the Malaysian and Colombo West Rotarian at the Jaffna IDP Camps.

Kuliyapitiya Lions donate white cane

H.M. ABEYSINGHE
Kuliyapitiya group correspondent

Lions spend their own resources for the benefit of the poor, said former SSP Police Media Spokesman and Polgahawela SLFP Chief Organizer Ranjith Gunasekera.

He was speaking at the ceremony held to mark the donation of white canes to 500 visually handicapped in Kurumegala District. The ceremony organised by the Wayamba Branch of Sri Lanka National Council of Visually Handicapped, was held in Kuliyapitiya Town Hall. White canes were donated by Kuliyapitiya Lions Club.

Ranjith Gunasekera added that he would extend his fullest support to the Lions Club for their performances.

The President Kuliyapitiya Lions Club Lion Keerthi Jayasinghe said



President, Kuliyapitiya Lions Club Lion Keerthi Jayasinghe donates a white cane

that according to Hellen Killer International Lions Club is knight to the blinds. The motto of Lions is 'Sight First'. Honouring that motto we, Kuliyapitiya Lions Club conducted a large number of eye clinics and lens transplanting clinics in Kuliyapitiya.

The Chairman Wayamba Branch of SLNCVH of 306 B2 Lion S.B. Abeykoon said that Lions Club do not have any personal agenda in performing their services. We perform our services for the needy without any bias.

The Zonal Chairperson Kurumegala-Negombo Zone

Arurudra Dr. Edmond Welagedara and Secretary M. Jayasundara also spoke.



Lions Club of Colombo Royalty donated electrically operated ICU beds to Colombo South Teaching Hospital. In the picture from left: Director Dr. Anil Jayasinghe, President Lion Shereen Fonseka, Sharmalika Fonseka and District Governor 306C1 Lion Eng. Saliya Kaluarachchi.

Lions district 306C1 commemorates 64th U.N. day

The 64th U.N. day commemorative meeting organized by the Lions District 306C1 and the Lions Club of Wickramasinghepura was held at the Kotte Ananda Sastratalaya Hall with District Governor Lion Eng. Saliya Kaluarachchi as the Chief Guest.

H.M.G.S. Palihakkara, Senior Diplomat and former Foreign Secretary and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York was the Guest of Honour at this meeting. He delivered the keynote speech on this occasion. Simultaneously with this meeting, there was an oratorical contest among the school children of 10 schools in the Sri Jayawardenepura Educational Zone and the winners were pre-



Winners of the oratorical contest with District Governor Lion Saliya Kaluarachchi (2nd from right) and District Governor's Program Coordinator Lion Vincent Kumarapelle.

sent certificates and prizes. Publications from the U.N. and other U.N. Agencies were exhibited and a folder with such publications was also distributed to the participants. A distinguished gathering of senior Lions and Lion Ladies together with teachers, parents and school children attended these celebrations, which were organized by District Governor's Senior Program Coordinator Lion Vincent Kumarapelle.

Leos to be life time leaders - P.D.G. Lasantha Goonewardena

BEVERLEY JANSZ

When you start a Leo club, young people in your community have a unique opportunity to develop themselves into leaders. Leo clubs encourage young people to develop valuable skills and to serve others in their neighbourhood and around the world. Today's educational seminar was a classic example for this because all efforts to organize this event were made by Leos themselves.

PDG 306 C2 Lion Lasantha Goonewardena said this delivering the keynote address at the Educational seminar for GCE (O/L) students organized by the Leo club of Kottawa Central.

PDG Lasantha further said that through Leo clubs, you will have a positive influence on today's youth to become better citizens and leaders. Leo clubs provide the young people an opportunity for development and contribution individually and collectively - as responsible members of their local, national and international communities.

The Leo club motto - Leadership, Experience, Opportunity - says it all. Leo members acquire skills as project organizers and motivators.

Youth who join Leo clubs have fun, make new friends and experience the rewards of serving others. This gives young people a strong foundation as they learn the meaning of leadership and



PDG Lion Lasantha Goonewardena presenting a award of appreciation to Leo President Sadun Ranasinghe, President Kottawa Central Lions Club Lion Thushan Chaminda is also in the picture



PDG Lion Lasantha Goonewardena addressing the seminar

service. Members develop their leadership skills and prepare them for a life time of community involvement and contribution to society. Leo learns valuable lessons and make connections that can help them succeed for the rest of their lives.

As a result of the project

several of students who are preparing for GCE (O/L) exams have gone through the valuable revision sessions of subjects, and past question papers related to exams conducted by Rajeeva Adhikari of Sri Jayawardenepura University.

President of the Leo Club of Kottawa Central Leo Sadun Ranasinghe delivered the welcome address and Leo Savindu Premaratne delivered the vote of thanks.

Principal of Kottawa Dhamapala Vidyalaya Y. Yasaratne, President Kottawa Central Lions Club Lion Thushan Chaminda and DGPC Lion Dr. Col Thustith Liyanarachchi were among the distinguished participants at the event.

Lions Club of Nuwara Eliya tree planting campaign

A tree planting campaign organised by the Lions Club of Nuwara Eliya, was held at Good Shepherd Convent, Nuwara Eliya.

It was organised by the President of the Club Lion Ganeshan Vijayasagarana. A large number of plants were presented to the Convent by the club.



Principal of Good Shepherd Convent, Nuwara Eliya Rev. Sister Mary Irene planting a tree. Others in the picture are President of Lions Club of Nuwara Eliya, Lion Ganeshan Vijayasagarana, Region Chairperson, Lion N. Chandross, Past President, Lion M. Visvanathan and the staff of the convent.



'Diriyata Saviya' Scholarships program initiated by Rotary Club of Kelaniya was held at Wedamulla Maha Vidyalaya, Kelaniya recently. 'Diriyata Saviya' aims at providing financial assistance to needy schoolchildren mainly in Kelaniya area who are unable to meet expenses connected with furthering their education due to financial constraints. Here President of Kelaniya Rotary Club Rtn. Ravi Abeythya handing over a scholarship to one of the distinguished Rotarian Amitha Mallawarachchi, Project Director of 'Diriyata Saviya' is also seen here. Picture by Edward Weerasinghe, Kelaniya group corr.

Rotary Medical Camp at Katugastota

The Rotary Club of Katugastota conducted a successful Medical Camp project organized by Rtn. Dr. K. Aymugan with the cooperation of the Inner Wheel Club of Katugastota.

The aim of the project was to help and examine the health of poverty stricken people in remote areas. The club planned to conduct two more medical camps for the rotar year 2009-2010. We initiated the first medical camp at the Bogahawatte Tea Estate with the help of Mohan Rajendram who is the man-

ager planter of the area, said President, Rotary Club of Katugastota Rtn. M. J. M. Jesly.

"We brought four MOH, two Medical Practitioners, one ENT, one Eye Specialist and three pharmacists. A total of 400 patients were examined and given appropriate medicine."

There were 12 cataract patients who need to undergo urgent surgery. With the generous help from some of the Rotarians and Inner Wheelers, arrangements have been made to assist the cataract patients financially to undergo surgery.



Doctors examining patients at the Medical Camp

Chester Rotarians join Lankan counterparts renovate tank



Panduwasnuwara, Colombo Central and Chester, England Rotarians at the handing over of the renovated tank.

Rotary Club of Panduwasnuwara jointly with Rotary Club of Colombo Central and Rotary Club of Chester-England renovated Munihirigama Tank, and handed it over to farmers and villagers at a ceremony held at Munihirigama.

As a result farmers and villagers of the Munihirigama can harvest both seasons of the year. Farmers say that they could return more water after harvesting both seasons, due to the renovation. Using soil from the tank, a play ground too for Munihirigama Presidents College has been made by the Rotarians. Rotarians also sponsored the purchase of seeds for farmers which will help them to have a good harvest.

Villagers appreciated the service rendered by Rotary Club of Panduwasnuwara jointly with Rotary Club of Colombo Central and Rotary Club of Chester-England.