EDITORIAL

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for your incessant understanding and cooperation with HELP-O activities. It is our great pleasure to present to you February Newsletter 2012 issue of HELP-O.

HELP-O has identified the present need of environment conservation, waste management & energy conservation. According to that requirements we have focus our activities towards the eco friendly path. In that process there are many waste management & cultivation projects have been started at various places in Sri Lanka.

Within these months we have implemented many biogas plants in many places such as Maharagama National Youth Council, Gampola hospital & market & Puttlum-Palavi area. In addition to that we will start the home gardening programme to find a sustainable solution for food crises & malnutrition in selected areas. HELP-O has provided scholarships to the children’s of prisoners who need to develop their lifestyle & it was evaluate with award by Prisoner’s Welfare Association-Galle.

We believe that you will find best lessons from Korien experiences for the transformation towards a green economy. It is clearly explain the need of changes of the technology to create green world. Green steps are more important to achieve the balance environment by preventing harm to it.

Housing & Livelihood Development women’s Co-operative society (HOLDE Women’s Co-op). They are organizing new activities focusing community development in both physically & mentally. Community leaders actively participate for these all activities & they are in new mile stone at present.
Felicific Respect from Galle Prison

With the sense of pride HELP-O participates to the annual meeting of the Prisoner’s Welfare Association in Galle was held on 31st January 2012 at 3.00 p.m. in the Galle town hall. Honorable guests were Southern Province chief minister Mr. Shan Wijayalal De Silva, Minister (Senior) for National Resources-Sri Lanka Mr.Piyasena Gamage and many other guests etc.

Main objective of this association is to prevention the conventional concepts of punishment, retribution, reformation and as a new paradigm to others. But these rather outdated concepts have yielded a place of prominence to making prisoners useful to society, able to earn a decent living, and above all, law abiding decent human beings.

HELP-O has continuously provided scholarship for prisoner’s children once three months in every year and distributes eight scholarships at that meeting. HELP-O chairman/chief executive Mr.Chathura was done a presentation about the action plan of sub committee in Galle division and explained future plans of the committee. All the participants were highly appreciate the presentation as good indicator & evidence to identify the value of the Prisoner’s Welfare Association in Galle.

At finally there was held award ceremony by evaluating the great service for the prison & present special awarded to HELP-O chairman/chief executive Mr.Chathura Welivitiya.
Independence Day Celebration with High Dignity

64th Independence Day was celebrated with high dignity at last 4th of February 2012. Independence Day is a very valuable and important for a country. It is the day for gathering all nations under one flag as one nation in the country.

HELP-O office premises also prepared to celebrate Independence Day in very proudly by hoisting national flag and singing the national anthem. At the end of the programme one minute keep the silence to remember our national heroes.

Ready to Handover Gampola Biogas Unit

HELP-O has completed the construction work of Gampola hospital & market with financial support of Gampola Urban Council through Ministry of Local Government. These couple of biogas units will handover to them end of this month.

Gampola hospital was in critical situation with waste problem due the way of disposing waste in open manner. Entire situation will change with the biogas plants in waste management of Gampola hospital.

Gampola market is the other place with waste problem & slaughter house is the main component in there. Gampola Urban Council decides to implement biogas plant & request to HELP-O.

Biogas technology will more valuable for Gampola hospital & market to solve the waste problem while providing energy. This is more environment friendly solution for the waste management with number of benefits.
CITYNET Contribution & its success in different projects

CITYNET (The Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements) is a Network committed to helping local authorities improve the lives of its citizens and create the urban sustainability across Asia-Pacific and beyond.

The partnership with CITYNET is much valuable for HELP-O organization. Through this we constructed community centers, construct toilets and community biogas programs are few of major programs we implemented.

Katugoda Community Center was one of the major projects under the funding of CITYNET. Galle Municipal Council didn’t have a proper place to carry on the maternity clinic and pregnant women had to face many difficulties. After the construction of community center situation has been changed the community centre has both preschool and maternity clinic.

Other one is biogas project in Dehiwala Badovita area with the financial contribution from CITYNET. The program we have implemented as a model program and that is very success & people are getting the benefits of the biogas. We get the community support of the program in success way. Dehiwala municipal council & community of Badovita area were highly appreciate this kind of programs for organic waste management.

Negombo city has high waste amount and handling that amount is huge challenge for the Municipal Council. They are implementing many programs to provide the best service for the people of Negombo. HELP-O, CITYNET and Negombo Municipal Council were joining to implement various kinds of program locally and internationally very successfully.

All the beneficiaries are appreciating the each of their projects as importance to solve their problems & get more benefits with the contribution of CITYNET.
Maharagama National Youth Service Council (NYSC)

National Youth Services Council (NYSC) is the pioneer public sector organization working towards the development of the youth in Sri Lanka to become well functioning, independent and valuable citizens to contribute to the national development. The NYSC is more focusing on their personal development with creating conducive environment to become youth leaders at the grass root level.

NYSC was not having proper mechanism to dispose their waste & only method was to follow the Maharagama Urban Council waste collection way. It was not a sustainable & effective mechanism to solve waste problem of them. This difficulty was identified by Waste Management Authority & invite to HELP-O solve this problem using biogas technology. Waste Management Authority was fund for this project.

Now there was constructed a biogas plant with the capacity of 22m³ in NYSC. With the construction finish it was held on 2nd of February 2012 awareness programme on how to maintain & manage the biogas plant in proper manner.

Programme was done by Mr.Chathura Welivitiya Chairman/Chief Executive of HELP-O with the participation of officers from waste management authority & NYSC participants. After the program all participants were highly appreciate it & the knowledge that they gain from it for the sustainable waste management.
On site visit of post Tsunami development

Japanese Housing Association is one of the key donor organizations who visited Sri Lanka during the huge disaster time of Tsunami & they worked together with our community network by providing assistance. After identifying the situation they financed to build a community center as well as to improve the sanitary facility of the refugees in Galle district. It was much important support at that time & during this month a representative from JHA visited our organization to have a look on rehabilitation process of the effected community.

Firstly she visited the community center which was financed by them & she consider about the pre-school & small meetings which is conducting in the center still. She discussed with the community & about the facilities which should improved more in the center as it’s running by the Galle Municipal Council with the guidance of HELP-O.

One HOLDE women’s Co-Op branch also visited & she could get an idea about the development of them by utilizing the financial assistance which received on that disaster situation. Micro level business also observed carefully by the representative & specially she was wonder how these courage woman try to financed their family some who lost they husband’s as well as all properties from that bad disaster time.

During the visit she was much happy to have a discussion with former mayor of Galle district Mr.Methsiri de Silva about the present & post situation of Galle district. He explain how they used the tsunami funds for the betterment of Galle people & finally he said “every nation should have courage with their own techniques to faced any disaster & should get others assistance when they fail to do something alone only.”

The representative was much happy about the present situation of the victims as this is the visit of her after 8year time period of tsunami. She finally explained people can do some for themselves to recover in any situations if they believe about their power & ability to do all alone with unity. This community net work is one of the best examples for it.”
Transformation towards a green economy

Expansion of green R&D investment
Korea recognizes the importance of green technology, and is expanding its R&D investment in green sectors in order to lay the foundation for sustainable growth. The government is making a special effort to facilitate investment in green technology to develop clean energy sources. In particular, the Korean government has identified 10 key green technologies for R&D support.

10 key green technologies
Rechargeable batteries, LEDs, green IT, high-efficiency photovoltaic cells, green cars, smart grid, advanced nuclear power, fuel cells, carbon capture and storage, CCS and water treatment.

Change in green business investment
Korean companies are expanding their investment in green businesses in order to secure their place in the world’s green markets. Korea’s 30 business groups have already invested more than 15.1 trillion won in the green sector, starting with 2.4 trillion in 2008, 5.4 trillion in 2009 and 7.3 trillion in 2010. These figures represent an increased investment of 74.5% annually over the period. Looking forward, these companies are projected to invest another 22.4 trillion won from 2011 to 2013, an increase of 48.2% compared to the previous three years.

Development of new and renewable energies
Since 2008, Korean companies with technologies in the new and renewable energy sector have grown a remarkable 2.2 times in terms of their total number, 3.6 times in the size of employment, 6.5 times in sales, 5.9 times in exports and 5 times in terms of private-sector investment. Korea plans to nurture photovoltaic and wind power as the iconic green industries of the country by investing a total of 40 trillion won.
**Bio energy village will realize in Puttlam**

HELP-O & Lanka Orix Leasing Company (LOLC) combines to create a bio energy village in Puttalam – Palavi area. As west coast in Sri Lanka most of the people are doing animal husbandry activities. In the initiation stage we have started to construct five 8m² biogas units.

Biogas technology can be considered as one of the best solution for waste management with more environmental benefits. At present price of energy sources are increasing in very high rate in Sri Lanka. In addition to that generation of solid waste also increase in considerable amount day by day. These all are very critical problems we are facing today. By considering that situations we suppose to expand the concept of bio energy villages in every where & Palavi area in Puttlam is model for others.

**Solution for Waste Management in Hillgarden Tea Factory**

Hillgarden tea factory is located in Baddegama – Galle. As a large scale tea factory there are over 200 labours for the factory work & it cause to high waste generation. They need to find a sustainable solution by using biogas technology for waste management & energy requirement.

According to their need we have plan & constructed 35m² by converting both kitchen waste & toilet waste. Many industries are coming forward to find the solution for their waste through biogas technology. It can be consider as better indicator to expand the environment friendly industries.
Ayurveda Medical Awareness Program in Aththiligoda & Siyambalagahawaththe

Ayurveda Department in Southern Province Ayurveda Community Health Unit has conducted third & forth ayurveda awareness programme at Aththiligoda & Siyambalagahawaththe.

HOLDE women’s co-members were participated for this event as previous two times. Two ayurvedic doctors were participated for this program and specially discussed about food nutrition.

This meeting was very special opportunity for the participants to understand how to take food in correct way. Doctor explained about what are Ayurvedaya and value of ayurveda medicine and how to balance our daily food. Also she explained attitude how to spread the diseases and how to recognize illnesses.

It was one of the successful awareness program conducts to healthy life. The participants satisfied this program with they said learned lot of things about ayurveda methods.
**Sustainable solution for food crises & malnutrition**

With the objective of providing a sustainable solution for food crises & malnutrition in village level and increase the good and quality food production of the grass root level and encourage the people for cultivation by using bio fertilizer home gardening & livelihood activity project is going to implement within this month with the collaboration of Food & Agricultural Organization (FAO). This project will carried out among the members of HOLDE Women’s Co-Op by HELP-O.

Major income of the people in this area is doing day base works with very low earnings. This is one of the courses for malnutrition as they haven’t much income to buy nutrition foods for the family. But many women are house wife & they are limited to home with house hold works. We are going to take great contribution of them for income generating activities by providing them financial & technical assistance.

Under this program we have selected six HOLDE co-op women’s branches to implement this program. First half of the year project activities are planned with few steps as follows,

- Select the beneficiaries for the project
- Construct 06 poultry farms as income generating activities
- Establish 50 home gardens to encourage for organic farming to get pure nutrition foods
- Construct a biogas unit to provide energy for income generating activities
- Construct a nursery to disbursed the plants for members as well as to sell plants for outsides

We are expecting to increase essential nutrition states by implementing such project among marginalize community. Through that biogas community can get organic fertilizer with energy source & benefits for environment also. The strong network of community in village level will sustain the program in long term. Project evaluation will carry on by FAO & HELP-O to guidance the success the project.

On the other hand this project directly effect for generate new jobs. Not even that through this, community income will increase and they will have good extra income for each family. Through this programme it will change entire situation of the area due to the reduction of expenses on food need & even farmers are not using the chemicals for the cultivation they use organic and environmental friendly manure for the cultivation.
**Experiences from Balavikasa Training Programme**

Bala Vikasa Social Service Society is a registered, non-profit, non-governmental community development organization, based at Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, India. People Development Training Center (PDTC) was initiated with an objective of sharing knowledge and experience of Bala Vikasa, in ‘Community Development’, to the likeminded NGOs, Individuals and Institutions through need based capacity building activities. Bala Vikasa PDTC has designed a number of training modules basing them on its own grass root experience and keeping them relevant to the needs of the development sector. The objective of training programs is mainly to provide knowledge, impart skills and change attitudes of the agents of change towards development.

HELP-O works as Sri Lankan representative for this programme & gave opportunity to participate for many people for the training programme in continuously. We try to share the experience of participants for the Balavikasa Training Programme from this newsletter.

Former Deputy Chief Secretary – Planning & Monitoring, Southern Province Mrs.Kumuduni Abeywickrama (BA.SL) (MSc.UK) was participate for this programme & you can find more valuable her own ideas on training programme.

“I was participating for Balavikasa Training Programme in year 2011 & programme was conduct under the topic of “Community Driven Development (CDD)”. This opportunity gave me by HELP-O & I would like to thank for the organization. There were about 26 groups of participants by representing 12 countries in the world.

This training was more relevant for my subject area as a planner & my experience of Sri Lanka was more compatible with their training. At the begging of the programme I said that I want to learn new strategies in addition to my experiences. They also request to share the experience with different countries people.

Through this training I have gather more new concepts related to the development. One of those concepts was 05 pillars of sustainable development as follows

- Environment
- Economic
- Good Governance
- Social
- Cultural

Other one was about the ABCD approach (Assets Based Community Development) & 04 D model such as

**Discover** → **Dream** → **Design** → **Delivery**
They were explaining about the 10 rules of Bala Vikasa related to the development. You can find what those rules are,

- Development is people
- Development is women
- Development is change of attitude
- Development is solidarity within the groups & community
- Development is iterative
- Development is participatory
- Development is intra cultural
- Development is long term
- Development is not free
- Development is builds on results & credibility

At last I would like to say about the benefits of the programmes for me. I have share my leaning experience among officers & community leaders. Have done number of presentations & try to write report using the training knowledge.

After the training programme, I understand NGOs are best equipped to bridge the gap between the government & community. I hope to participate for this type of programmes in future as well & share my experience to strength the officers & community. I really appreciate this programme & opportunity.”
Mr. Darshana Maduranga Welivitigoda resigns from HELP-O

Mr. Darshana Maduranga Welivitigoda resign from HELP-O after 04 year service as project manager and as chief editor of HELP-O Newsletter. HELP-O chairman/chief executive & staff would like to wish him from the bottom of the heart.

COMING NEWS .................

People’s movement is working with marginalize community in different areas of southern part of the country. This community organization will officially open as HOLDE Women’s Co-Operative on 08th of March 2012.

From next edition we expected to add a new page for newsletter with success stories from community voices. It will very useful for everyone to study the way of their achievements as community group or individually.

Bala Vikasa People Development Training Center, India is extremely happy to announce Three day Training program on “Leadership Skills and Personality Development” from 29 –31st March, 2012 at Bala Vikasa PDTC premises. HELP-O work as Sri Lankan representative to participate relevant participants for this training & you can contact for further details.

WE LIKE TO SEE YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS .........

Editor,
HELP-O News Letter,
No. 364/18 A, Samagi Mawatha,
Dangedara, Galle.
Sri Lanka.
T.P / Fax - +94-91-4380121 / 222-6818
E-mail – helpogn@wow lk
Web – www.helpo-srilanka.org