

# NEWSLETTER

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2024



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HELP-O  
SRI LANKA

# EDITORIAL

HELP-O is a Non-governmental Organization (NGO) established in 1992 by a team of professionals with commitment to making Sri Lanka a better, happier place to live in harmony with nature.

HELP-O has the following vision: "Equitable Economic Development, Social Justice, and a Safer Environment for All

Its mission is "To identify the need of risks confronted by Sri Lankan communities and implement effective solutions through proven integrated approaches with the participation of stakeholders". The five strategies HELP-O adopts in achieving its mission include, empowering the marginalized community socially and economically, accepting the importance of community participation and leadership, dedicating for protect the environment through an integrated process, protecting human rights and justice, and ensuring sustainable development.

Mission related programs and projects launched by HELP-O focus on the following spheres:


They are Community empowerment, rehabilitation, relief assistance, and protecting human rights, community participation in local governance, community financing, livelihood development, economic resource mobilization, nurturing biodiversity, mitigating the impact of climate change, pollution prevention, waste management, and optimal utilization of marine resources and optimal utilization of forest products.

Overall, HELP-O is an organization dedicated to bringing about a sustainable positive impact on the environment and the lives of people in Sri Lanka through a series of interdependent activities.





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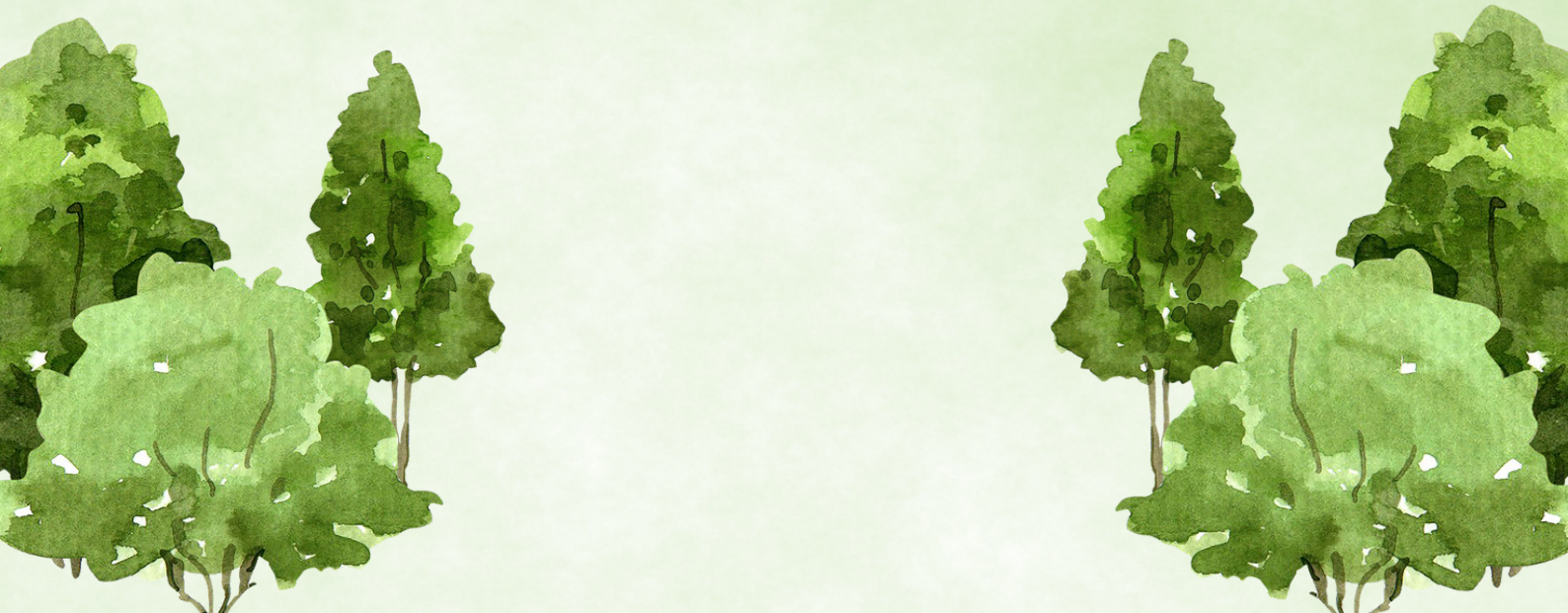
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# WASTE MANAGEMENT



# Advancing Clean Cities: Workshop Unveils Integrated Solid Waste Management Action Plan for Galle



In a concerted effort to bolster Galle's environmental sustainability and foster community well-being, a pivotal workshop was convened on February 6th, 2024, under the auspices of the Clean Cities Blue Ocean Program (CCBO) initiated by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The workshop was hosted at the Aradhana Hotel, and organized by HELP-O, successfully convened key stakeholders, including municipal officials, legal experts, and representatives from various departments.

The primary focus of the workshop was to engage in thoughtful deliberations on the draft Integrated Solid Waste Management Action Plan (ISWMAP) for the city of Galle.

The collaborative efforts of all participants and HELP-O contributed significantly to the success of this workshop. It served as an invaluable platform for fostering meaningful discussions and forging connections among diverse stakeholders.

Led by Galle Municipal Commissioner Mrs. Thushara Rasnayake and Deputy Municipal Commissioner Ms. Dilini Sumali, the workshop saw active participation from officials representing the Engineering, Health, Accounts, and Mechanical Engineering departments, alongside the Community Development Division.

Additionally, esteemed individuals such as Lawyer Mr. Sampath Pushpakumara, U.G Ekanayake from CCBO, and HELP-O's Chief Executive Officer Mr. Chatura Welivitiya, along with its dedicated staff members, contributed their insights and expertise to the discussion.

Central to the workshop's agenda was the comprehensive review and refinement of the draft Integrated Solid Waste Management Action Plan. Participants engaged in meticulous discussions to outline the overarching goals and objectives, assigning responsible persons to each objective to ensure accountability and effective implementation. The emphasis was placed on devising strategies that not only address immediate waste management challenges but also lay the groundwork for long-term sustainability and resilience.

Crucially, the workshop deliberated on key components to be incorporated into the by-laws for Collaborative Action for a Clean City of Galle. Recognizing the importance of legal frameworks in guiding and regulating waste management practices, participants underscored the need for robust provisions that promote collaboration among stakeholders, enforce compliance with waste management standards, and facilitate community engagement initiatives. Moreover, considerations were made to ensure inclusivity and equity in waste management practices, catering to the diverse needs and priorities of Galle's populace.

Throughout the proceedings, an atmosphere of collaboration and synergy prevailed, reflecting a shared commitment to realizing the vision of a cleaner, healthier Galle. Beyond the confines of the workshop, participants expressed a collective determination to translate deliberations into concrete actions, leveraging partnerships and resources to drive impactful change at the grassroots level.

As Galle marches towards a future marked by environmental stewardship and sustainable development, the outcomes of this workshop serve as a testament to the power of collective action and collaboration. With a robust Integrated Solid Waste Management Action Plan in place and a supportive legal framework to guide its implementation, Galle is poised to emerge as a shining example of urban resilience and environmental harmony, enriching the lives of its residents and safeguarding its natural heritage for generations to come.

**Written by - Chathura Rajitha**  
( Project Officer - HELP-O )



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# Collaborative Efforts Lead to Effective Waste Management at Galle Fishery Harbor

In a concerted effort to address the pressing issue of waste management at the Galle Fishery Harbor, the Galle District Environmental Committee convened a crucial meeting chaired by Mr. Shanta Weerasinghe, the esteemed Galle District Secretary. This pivotal gathering brought together key stakeholders, including officials from the HELP-O organization, the Galle Municipal Council, and representatives from various government bodies.

The urgency of the matter was underscored by the mounting challenges posed by unmanaged waste within the Harbor premises. Recognizing the need for immediate action, the attendees collectively devised a comprehensive waste management action plan, leveraging the expertise and resources of all involved parties.

Central to the action plan was the collaborative effort between the HELP-O organization and the officials of the Galle Municipal Council, who spearheaded the implementation of waste Segregation and disposal procedures. This strategic partnership allowed for the efficient sorting and disposal of accumulated garbage, addressing both environmental concerns and public health hazards.

Mr. Chathura Welivitiya, CEO of HELP-O, emphasized the importance of community involvement in waste Segregation endeavors. Acknowledging the vital role of garbage collectors in this process, he advocated for their inclusion, underscoring the significance of leveraging local knowledge and resources for effective waste management solutions.

The active participation of key figures such as Galle Municipal Commissioner Thushara Rasanayake and Galle Additional District Secretary Ms. Ayesha Kariyawasam further exemplified the commitment of government officials towards mitigating environmental challenges. Their presence underscored the collaborative spirit driving this initiative, wherein governmental bodies and non-profit organizations worked hand in hand to achieve a common goal.

The success of the waste management action plan at the Galle Fishery Harbor serves as a testament to the power of collective action and collaboration. By pooling together resources, expertise, and community engagement, stakeholders were able to implement practical solutions to a complex environmental issue.

Moving forward, sustained efforts will be required to ensure the continuity and effectiveness of waste management practices at the Harbor. This necessitates ongoing cooperation between relevant stakeholders, proactive measures to raise awareness about waste reduction and recycling, as well as continued support from governmental bodies and community members alike.

In conclusion, the concerted efforts witnessed at the Galle Fishery Harbor exemplify the transformative potential of collaborative action in addressing environmental challenges. By working together towards sustainable solutions, we can pave the way for a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient future for all.

**Written by - Chathura Rajitha**  
( Project Officer - HELP-O )





# Monitoring the Progress of Bokashi Compost Bins at Bombay Castle: Site Visit to Assess Progress

In the ongoing endeavor to foster a clean and sustainable environment, the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders have emerged as a beacon of hope. One such initiative, the "Collaborative Action for Clean City Galle" waste management cooperation project, spearheaded by HELP-O with the financial backing of the Clean Cities Blue Ocean Program under United States Development Assistance, has set its sights on revolutionizing waste management practices in the Karapitiya Bombay Castle settlement.

On the auspicious date of January 19, 2024, the first phase of this ambitious project marked a significant milestone as 15 households were selected to partake in a revolutionary waste management scheme. Armed with the vision of instilling sustainable habits within the community, HELP-O distributed home compost bins alongside plastic bins to facilitate efficient waste segregation.



Recently, a crucial step in monitoring the progress of this initiative was undertaken. Project Officers from HELP-O, alongside the Community Development Officer of the Galle Municipal Council, convened in the settlement's garden to assess the utilization of the provided compost and plastic bins. This evaluation aimed to glean insights into the community's adaptation to the new waste management system and to identify areas necessitating further attention for its seamless integration.



Several noteworthy observations emerged from this monitoring exercise, shedding light on the community's engagement with the waste management infrastructure:

**Utilization of Compost Bins:** The utilization of the home compost bins showcased promising signs of acceptance within the community. Residents were observed diligently segregating organic waste, demonstrating a commendable commitment to composting. This shift towards organic waste management not only reduces the burden on landfills but also presents an opportunity to harness nutrient-rich compost for local agricultural endeavors.

**Plastic Bin Usage:** The provision of plastic bins for non-organic waste disposal was met with varying degrees of compliance. While some households exhibited exemplary adherence to segregating recyclables from general waste, others showed a need for further education on proper waste sorting practices. Initiatives aimed at raising awareness about the significance of recycling and the detrimental effects of improper waste disposal are crucial to fostering a culture of environmental stewardship.

**Community Engagement:** Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of the monitoring exercise was the palpable sense of community engagement. Residents expressed eagerness to embrace sustainable waste management practices, highlighting the potential for long-term behavioral change. Leveraging this community spirit through continued education and outreach initiatives will be pivotal in sustaining the momentum of the project.

Moving forward, the insights gleaned from this monitoring exercise will serve as a compass guiding the refinement and expansion of the waste management initiative in Karapitiya Bombay Castle Settlement. Collaborative efforts between stakeholders, bolstered by the unwavering commitment of the community, hold the key to realizing a cleaner, greener future for Galle.

In conclusion, the journey towards sustainable waste management is one fraught with challenges, yet replete with opportunities for transformative change. Through concerted action and steadfast dedication, initiatives like the "Collaborative Action for Clean City of Galle" project stand as testaments to the power of collective endeavor in safeguarding our planet for generations to come.

**Written by - Yasitha Iresha**  
(Project Officer - HELP-O)



# Implementing Sustainable Waste Management Practices: Distribution of Plastic Waste Bins and Steel Waste Segregation Center Opening at Karapitiya Teaching Hospital



Karapitiya Teaching Hospital has taken a significant stride towards enhancing waste management practices, thanks to a collaborative effort spearheaded by HELP-O under the "Let's Make Galle a Clean City" initiative. The project received crucial financial backing from the Clean Cities Blue Ocean Program, facilitated by the United States Development Assistance.

In a recent program held within the hospital premises, marked by enthusiasm and dedication, pivotal advancements were made. Notably, 40 new plastic waste bins were distributed across 10 wards specifically selected for waste management initiatives. This strategic allocation underscores the hospital's commitment to fostering a cleaner and safer environment for patients, staff, and visitors alike.

Central to the program's success was the provision of stickers for waste bins across 100 wards, a measure aimed at promoting awareness and proper waste disposal practices among the hospital community. Furthermore, the inauguration of the newly constructed waste sorting and temporary storage center marks a crucial milestone in the hospital's waste management infrastructure. This facility is poised to streamline waste segregation processes, ensuring efficient and environmentally responsible disposal methods.



The event saw the active participation of esteemed figures, including the Director of Karapitiya Teaching Hospital, Dr. Udesh Ranga, and Deputy Director Dr. Harshani Ubsekara. Their unwavering support and leadership have been instrumental in driving forward the hospital's waste management agenda. Additionally, the presence of former Secretary to the State Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Asoka Siriwardena, underscored the broader governmental commitment to sustainable development initiatives.

A key highlight of the event was the presence and involvement of HELP-O's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Chatura Welivitiya, and its dedicated staff. HELP-O's invaluable contributions and expertise have significantly bolstered the implementation of effective waste management strategies within the hospital premises.

The collaborative efforts witnessed at Karapitiya Teaching Hospital exemplify the power of partnerships in addressing pressing environmental challenges. By harnessing the collective expertise and resources of governmental bodies, non-profit organizations, and healthcare institutions, tangible progress can be achieved towards building cleaner, healthier communities.

Looking ahead, Karapitiya Teaching Hospital remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding stringent waste management standards and embracing sustainable practices. Through continued collaboration and community engagement, the hospital endeavors to set a precedent for environmentally conscious healthcare facilities nationwide.

In conclusion, the recent program signifies not only a milestone achievement for Karapitiya Teaching Hospital but also a testament to the transformative potential of collaborative action in creating cleaner and more resilient societies.

**Written by - Chathura Rajitha**  
( Project Officer - HELP-O )



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# HELP-O Introduces the Bokashi Composting System to Katugoda Salamia Settlement



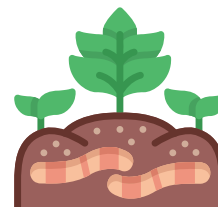
In a bid to revolutionize waste management practices and promote sustainable living, the Katugoda Salamia settlement witnessed a groundbreaking initiative on February 13, 2024. Spearheaded by the HELP-O organization under the "Let's Make Galle a Clean City" waste management cooperation project, in collaboration with the Clean Cities Blue Ocean Program funded by the United States Development Assistance, the introduction of Bokashi indoor compost bins marked the beginning of a transformative journey towards a cleaner and greener environment.

The Bokashi indoor compost bins distribution program, aimed at 70 houses in the settlement, was not just a mere distribution of bins but a comprehensive endeavor to instill a culture of responsible waste management within the community. recycling.



With the enthusiastic participation of esteemed dignitaries including Mrs. Thushara Rasnayake, Commissioner of Galle Municipal Council, Mr. Sawmer Adhili, Chief Community Development Officer of Galle Municipal Council, and Community Development Officers of Galle Municipal Council, the event showcased a collaborative effort towards a common goal.

At the heart of this initiative lies the innovative Bokashi composting system, introduced by the Japanese technology company, Biokings. Unlike traditional composting methods, Bokashi composting is a fermentation process that efficiently breaks down organic waste, including kitchen scraps and leftovers, into nutrient-rich compost. What sets Bokashi apart is its ability to handle a wide range of organic waste, including meat, dairy, and citrus fruits, without producing foul odors or attracting pests, making it ideal for indoor use.



Mr. Chatura Welivitiya, Chief Executive Officer of HELP-O organization, emphasized the significance of integrating Bokashi composting into household waste management practices. He highlighted the potential of Bokashi not only in reducing organic waste sent to landfills but also in producing high-quality compost that can enrich soil health and support urban agriculture initiatives.

Furthermore, Biokings envisions expanding beyond composting to incorporate urban agriculture initiatives and establish markets for non-biodegradable waste such as plastic, glass, and tin. This forward-thinking approach not only addresses the immediate issue of waste management but also paves the way for sustainable livelihood opportunities within the community.

The collaboration between government bodies, non-profit organizations, and private entities underscores the importance of collective action in tackling environmental challenges. By harnessing the power of innovation and technology, the Katugoda Salamia settlement is poised to become a model for sustainable waste management practices, inspiring neighboring communities and cities to follow suit.

As the Bokashi compost bins find their place in households across the settlement, they symbolize more than just a means to manage waste—they represent a commitment to preserving the environment, nurturing community resilience, and building a brighter future for generations to come. With determination and collective effort, Katugoda Salamia is on its way to making Galle not only a clean city but also a beacon of sustainability and resilience.

**Written by - Yasitha Iresha**  
( Project Officer - HELP-O )



# Community Sustainability Initiatives: Compost Bin and Plastic Bin Distribution at Bombay Castle Settlement



In a concerted effort to combat waste management challenges and foster environmental sustainability, the HELP-O organization has embarked on the second phase of its waste management project in Bombay Castle Settlement. Under the banner of the "Let's Make Galle a Clean City" waste management cooperation project, this endeavor has received crucial financial support from the Clean Cities Blue Ocean Program under United States Development Assistance.

The cornerstone of this initiative is the introduction of Bokashi indoor compost bins and plastic bins, which represent innovative solutions to address the pressing issue of waste accumulation in the settlement. On February 14, 2024, the community witnessed the successful implementation of a Compost Bin distribution program, with the active participation of HELP-O Organization Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Chatura Welivitiya, alongside dedicated officials from the organization.

Central to this phase is the partnership with the Japanese technology company, Biokings, renowned for its expertise in sustainable waste management solutions. Biokings aims to revolutionize waste management practices in Katugoda Salamia settlement by introducing the Bokashi indoor composting system. This cutting-edge technology enables households to efficiently recycle organic waste, thereby reducing landfill pressure and promoting a circular economy model within the community.



Moreover, the long-term vision of Biokings extends beyond composting solutions. Plans are underway to introduce urban agriculture initiatives, leveraging vacant spaces within the settlement to cultivate fresh produce. This not only fosters food security but also enhances community resilience and promotes a healthier lifestyle among residents.

Additionally, Biokings is committed to establishing a market for non-biodegradable waste, including plastic, glass, and tin. By incentivizing the collection and recycling of these materials, the initiative aims to minimize environmental pollution and create economic opportunities within the community.

The collaborative efforts between HELP-O organization, Biokings, and local stakeholders underscore a shared commitment to transforming Katugoda Salamia settlement into a model of sustainable waste management. Through education, community engagement, and technological innovation, this initiative seeks to empower residents to take ownership of their environmental footprint and contribute towards a cleaner, greener future.

As the project progresses, it is anticipated that Bombay Castle settlement will serve as a beacon of inspiration for other settlements, demonstrating the tangible benefits of sustainable waste management practices in fostering community well-being and environmental stewardship.

**Written by - Chathura Rajitha**

( Project Officer - HELP-O )





# Environmental Conservation Efforts: Compost and Plastic Bin Distribution in Mohideen Settlement



In a landmark initiative aimed at tackling waste management challenges in Galle, a significant step forward was taken on February 15, 2024. As part of the "Let's Make Galle a Clean City" waste management cooperation project, spearheaded by HELP-O with financial support from the Clean Cities Blue Ocean Program under the United States Development Assistance, a distribution program was successfully executed. The endeavor focused on providing Bokashi indoor compost bins and plastic bins to 70 households in the Mohideen settlement, marking the second phase of waste management efforts in the area.

The event was marked by the presence of key stakeholders, including HELP-O Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Chathura Welivitiya, and Mr. Faisal, the Community Development Officer from the Galle Municipal Council, alongside officials from HELP-O. Mr. Chathura Welivitiya elucidated the purpose behind the initiative, emphasizing the importance of community engagement and sustainable practices in waste management. Meanwhile, Mr. Faisal, representing the Galle Municipal Council, extended gratitude for the collaborative efforts and underscored the significance of such partnerships in fostering a cleaner environment for all residents.

Central to the program was the introduction of Bokashi indoor composting systems, a cutting-edge technology provided by the company Biokings. This innovative approach not only addresses organic waste but also presents an opportunity for urban agriculture. By harnessing the potential of Bokashi composting, residents can now effectively manage their kitchen waste while producing nutrient-rich compost for home gardening.

Moreover, the initiative doesn't stop at organic waste management. Biokings aims to revolutionize waste management further by creating avenues for recycling non-biodegradable materials such as plastic, glass, and tin. Through the establishment of markets for these recyclables, the project envisages a comprehensive waste management system that mitigates environmental pollution while promoting economic opportunities.

During the distribution program, Mr. Gunathilaka from Biokings provided insightful guidance on the proper utilization of Bokashi compost bins, addressing queries and concerns from the community. This hands-on approach ensures that residents are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to maximize the benefits of the composting system.

As we look towards the future, initiatives like these serve as shining examples of sustainable development and collaborative action. By harnessing innovative technologies and fostering partnerships between government, NGOs, and private entities, we pave the way for a cleaner, greener, and more resilient future for Galle and its inhabitants. The journey towards a clean city may be challenging, but with concerted efforts and unwavering commitment, it is indeed achievable.

**Written by - Yasitha Iresha**  
( Project Officer - HELP-O )





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# Advancing Sustainable Urban Development: Insights from the 5<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Forum in Galle



The dynamic coastal city of Galle, nestled in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka, has long been a beacon of cultural heritage and economic vitality. However, like many urban centers worldwide, Galle faces the pressing challenge of managing its solid waste effectively while safeguarding its natural environment. In a concerted effort to address these issues, the fifth stakeholder forum of the Cooperation Project for Collaborative Action for a Clean City of Galle was convened on February 29, 2024.

This pivotal event, organized under the auspices of the Clean Cities Blue Ocean Program of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID, CCBO) and supervised by the Galle Municipal Council (GMC), showcased a remarkable display of multisectoral collaboration and commitment to sustainable urban development.

Key stakeholders from various spheres including government bodies, military officials, hospital administrators, environmental police, private institutions, and community representatives gathered at the prestigious Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel in Galle. Among the notable attendees were Mr. Krishantha Mahendra, Secretary to the Southern Province Chief Ministry, Mr. Vidura Kariyawasam, Secretary to the Southern Province Ministry of Environment, Municipal Commissioner Mrs. Thushara Rasnayake and representatives from CCBO.

Central to the discussions at the forum were the aims and objectives of the draft integrated solid waste action plan, a comprehensive framework designed to tackle Galle's waste management challenges holistically.

Participants engaged in robust dialogues, sharing insights and best practices to enhance waste collection, segregation, recycling, and disposal processes.

“A significant highlight of the forum was the unveiling of the Waste Assessment Report and Waste Audit and Characterization Study Report. These insightful documents provide a detailed analysis of Galle's waste generation patterns, composition, and management practices. Importantly, participants were granted easy access to these reports through QR codes, ensuring widespread dissemination and fostering informed decision-making among stakeholders.

The forum also underscored the crucial role of public-private partnerships in driving sustainable urban development initiatives. Representatives from HELP-O, a leading nonprofit organization, played a pivotal role in facilitating the event and advocating for community engagement and environmental stewardship.

Looking ahead, the outcomes of the fifth stakeholder forum are poised to catalyze transformative action towards a cleaner, greener Galle. By fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing, stakeholders reaffirmed their collective commitment to building resilient and inclusive urban communities.

In conclusion, the 5th Stakeholder Forum in Galle served as a testament to the power of collective action in addressing complex urban challenges. As Galle charts its course towards a sustainable future, it stands as a shining example of how collaboration and partnership can pave the way for lasting positive change.

**Written by - Chathura Rajitha**  
( Project Officer - HELP-O )



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# Collaborative Action for Clean City of Galle

Waste Audit and Characterization  
Study (WACS) Galle Municipal  
Council

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# Collaborative Action for Clean City of Galle

Report of the City of Galle Baseline Assessment of  
Waste Segregation Practices by Sectors and  
Assessment of Waste Management Services

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# Galle Jetwing Lighthouse Micro Plastic Filter Initiative: A Step Towards a Plastic Waste-Free Future

In the relentless battle against plastic pollution, concerted efforts at various levels are crucial for achieving tangible results. The city of Galle in Sri Lanka stands as a beacon of hope in this global endeavor, with the initiation of the 'Plastic Waste Free Galle City' Project. This collaborative effort, led jointly by Sri Lanka's Ministry of Environment, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP - BRS), the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), and HELP-O, aims to combat plastic waste, particularly in the hotel sector.



One significant milestone under this initiative is the installation of Microplastic Filters for washing machines at prominent establishments like the Lighthouse Hotel and Sunset Hotels. The successful installation at the Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel premises on 2nd February 2024 marks a pivotal moment in Galle's journey towards sustainability.

The Microplastic Filter technology offers a proactive solution to a pervasive problem. Microplastics, tiny plastic particles often invisible to the naked eye, pose a severe threat to marine ecosystems and human health. These minuscule pollutants enter water bodies through various sources, including laundry wastewater. By integrating Microplastic Filters into washing machines, the project aims to intercept these particles before they can contaminate the environment.

The participation of HELP-O Chief Executive Officer Mr. Chatura Welivitiya, underscores the significance of collective action in addressing environmental challenges. HELP-O, with its commitment to humanitarian and environmental causes, brings invaluable expertise and resources to the table. Their involvement in this initiative amplifies its impact and fosters greater awareness within the community.



The deployment of Microplastic Filters at the Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel exemplifies the feasibility and efficacy of innovative solutions in waste management. This proactive measure not only reduces the hotel's environmental footprint but also sets a precedent for sustainable practices within the hospitality industry.



Furthermore, the success of this pilot project paves the way for broader adoption across Galle's hotel sector and beyond. By embracing technologies that mitigate plastic pollution at its source, businesses can align their operations with environmental stewardship principles while contributing to the broader goal of a plastic waste-free future.

However, the installation of Microplastic Filters represents just one facet of Galle's comprehensive strategy to tackle plastic pollution. Education, community engagement, and policy initiatives are equally vital components of the overarching framework. Through continuous collaboration and innovation, Galle aims to serve as a model for sustainable urban development, inspiring similar initiatives worldwide.

As the world grapples with the consequences of plastic pollution, initiatives like the 'Plastic Waste Free Galle City' Project offer a glimmer of hope. By harnessing collective expertise and commitment, we can forge a path towards a cleaner, healthier planet for current and future generations. The installation of Microplastic Filters at the Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel serves as a testament to what is achievable when communities, governments, and organizations unite in pursuit of a common goal.

**Written by - Supun Suranjith**  
( Project Officer - HELP-O )





# Making Galle City Plastic Waste-Free: A Collaborative Effort Towards Sustainable Hospitality



Galle, Sri Lanka, recently hosted a pivotal workshop at the Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel, marking a significant stride in the battle against plastic pollution. The event, under the banner of the "Making Galle City Plastic Waste Free" Project, brought together key stakeholders from various sectors to devise an action plan aimed at eliminating plastic waste from the local hotel industry.

The workshop was led by esteemed figures such as Mr. Vidura Kariyawasam, Secretary to the Southern Province Environment Ministry, and Mr. S.M. Werahera, Director of the Environmental Pollution Control Unit of the Central Government Ministry of Environment, and participants from a diverse range of entities.

Representatives from the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Galle Municipal Council, Central Environment Authority, National Crafts Council, and numerous tourist hotels congregated to contribute their insights and commitments to the cause.

Hospitality champions of the initiative were individuals like Mr. Chathura Welivitiya, Chief Executive Officer of HELP-O, and Ms. Dilini Sumali, Deputy Municipal Commissioner of Galle, who understood the importance of collaborative efforts in achieving sustainability goals. Additionally, Mr. Joss, representing the Basel-Rotdam Secretariat from Geneva, and Mr. Mathew from the IGES Institute in Japan, provided valuable insights on international best practices and strategies.



One of the highlights of the workshop was the presentation by Dr. Yohan from the Open University of Sri Lanka, who shed light on the efficacy of a microplastic filter implemented at the Jetwing Light House Hotel. This innovative solution showcased a practical approach to tackling plastic pollution at the source, serving as a model for other establishments to emulate. The event also witnessed speeches from industry experts such as Mr. Upali Ratnayake, Deputy Director General of the Sri Lanka Tourism Board, who emphasized the importance of sustainable tourism practices in preserving the pristine beauty of Galle's surroundings.



As discussions unfolded, it became evident that concerted efforts are required not only from government bodies and businesses but also from civil society organizations and academia to address the multifaceted challenges posed by plastic waste.



One of the highlights of the workshop was the presentation by Dr. Yohan from the Open University of Sri Lanka, who shed light on the efficacy of a microplastic filter implemented at the Jetwing Light House Hotel. This innovative solution showcased a practical approach to tackling plastic pollution at the source, serving as a model for other establishments to emulate. The event also witnessed speeches from industry experts such as Mr. Upali Ratnayake, Deputy Director General of the Sri Lanka Tourism Board, who emphasized the importance of sustainable tourism practices in preserving the pristine beauty of Galle's surroundings.



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**Written by - Supun Suranjith**  
( Project Officer - HELP-O )



# GREENING HOSPITALITY

A GUIDE TO MANAGE PLASTIC WASTE AT SMALL AND MEDIUM HOTELS IN SRI LANKA

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# Revolutionizing Waste Management: Galle City's Bold Step Towards a Plastic-Free Future

Under the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Environment, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP - BRS), the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), and the HELP-O Institute, Galle City is witnessing a groundbreaking initiative aimed at eliminating plastic waste from its hospitality sector.

Dubbed 'A Galle City without Plastic Waste,' this project marks a significant stride towards sustainable waste management, with a focus on the bustling hospitality industry. The installation of "microplastic filters" within washing machines at prominent establishments like the Galle Jetwin Lighthouse Hotel and Sunset Hotel signifies a paradigm shift in combating plastic pollution at its source

On the 17th of February 2024, a pivotal moment was captured at the Jetwin Lighthouse Hotel in Galle, where water sampling for laboratory analysis was conducted to validate the quality and efficacy of these innovative filters. Spearheading this crucial research endeavor are Dr. Yohan Perera from the Sri Lanka Open University and Mr. Chathura Welivitiya, the CEO of HELP-O. Their expertise and dedication have been instrumental in driving this initiative forward.



The utilization of microplastic filters represents a proactive approach to address the pervasive issue of plastic contamination in water bodies. By intercepting microplastics released during laundry cycles, these filters not only prevent further pollution but also safeguard the ecological integrity of Galle's coastal environment.

This collaborative effort underscores the importance of partnerships in achieving sustainable development goals. With the support of governmental agencies, international organizations, and local stakeholders, Galle City is poised to set a precedent for other coastal communities grappling with plastic waste management challenges.



As we embark on this journey towards a cleaner, greener future for Galle City, it is imperative to recognize the collective responsibility we bear in safeguarding our environment. Through innovation, research, and concerted action, we can pave the way for a more sustainable tomorrow—one where plastic pollution is but a distant memory and our natural ecosystems thrive once more.

Stay tuned for more updates as we navigate this transformative path towards a plastic-free Galle City, setting an inspiring example for communities worldwide. Together, let us embrace the opportunity to enact positive change and ensure a brighter, healthier future for generations to come.

**Written by - Supun Suranjith**

( Project Officer - HELP-O )





# e-Sabha



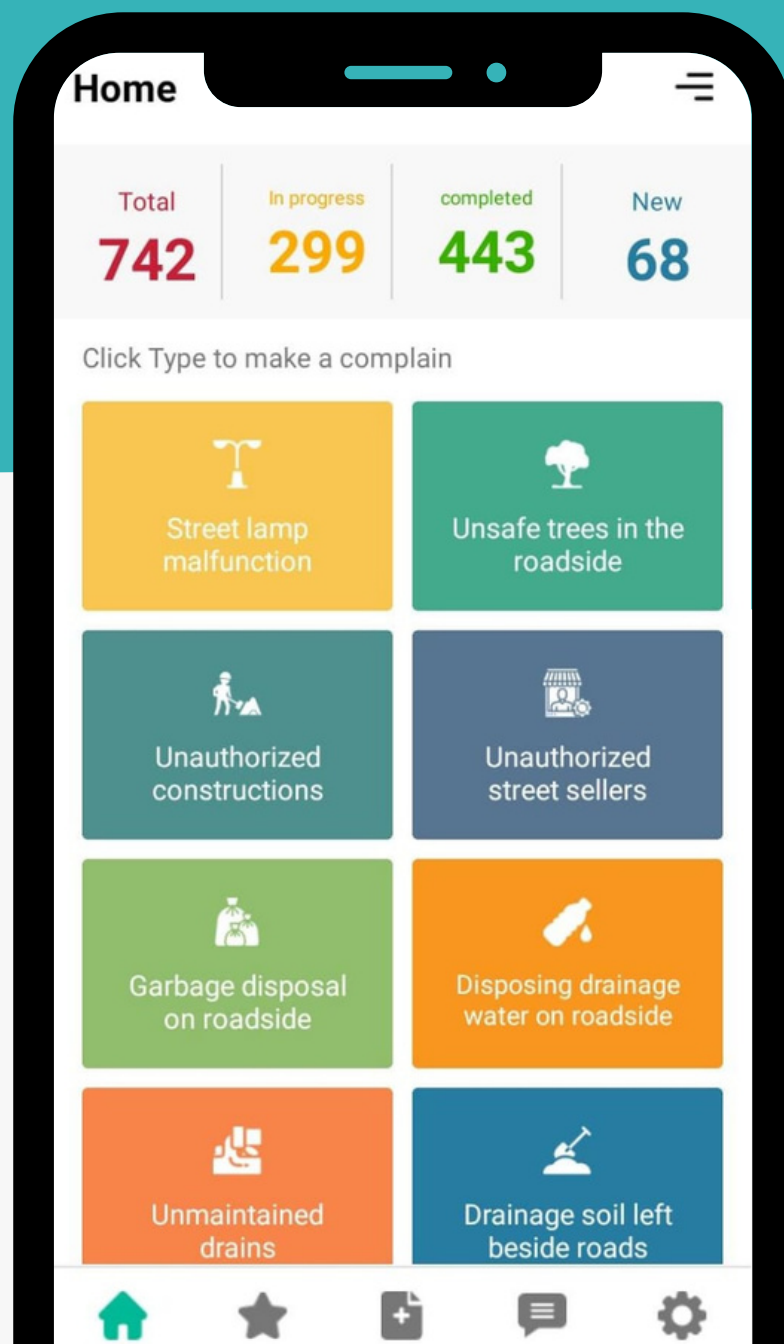
With feedback from our stakeholders, further improvements were made to the e-Sabha mobile app.

Now you can go to play store and update e-sabha mobile app.

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# Recognizing Dedication: Volunteer Contributions to the HELP-O Initiative

## Caterina Frau

"Hello everyone! I am Caterina Frau, I am from Italy and I recently graduated in Energy Engineering at the University of Bologna. I decided to take part in a volunteering project called Aquatica through the AIESEC organization and I was able to spend 6 weeks at the HELP-O office.

During this period I had the opportunity to delve deeper into the vision of the company and further understand the duties of an NGO focused on environmental sustainability.



In the office, I helped with my knowledge to build some interesting project proposals for international programmes, and I also took part in some of the projects they are carrying out, such as providing local communities with composting bins, as well as supplying hotels with micro-plastic filters, which allowed me to see different aspects of the country's society.

By volunteering here I was also able to explore the beauty of Sri Lanka, travelling around on the weekends, and experiencing the warmth of its people, which definitely enhanced my whole experience in this country! "



### **Caterina Frau (Volunteer of HELP-O)**

A student from the Energy Engineering at the University of Bologna

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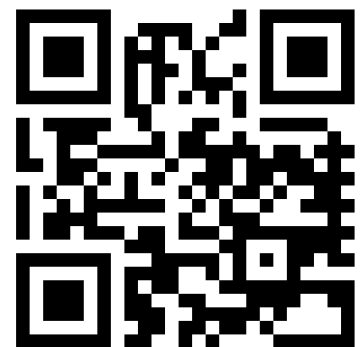
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