

MAY NEWSLETTER 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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WASTE MANAGEMENT



Successful ToT Program Energizes Galle City Dwellers for a Cleaner Community



Under the auspices of the Clean Cities Blue Ocean Program, funded by the United States Development Assistance, the initiative "Let Galle be a clean city" has made significant progress through the Garbage Management Cooperation Project. A noteworthy milestone was achieved with the recent organization of a Training of Trainers program for officers of the Galle Karapitiya Teaching Hospital, spearheaded by the HELP-O in collaboration with various key stakeholders.

Held on May 3rd, 2024, at Hotel Hasara, the program saw active participation from prominent figures within the hospital and the municipal council. The event was graced by Dr. Udesch Ranga, Director of Karapitiya Teaching Hospital, along with representatives from the hospital's Health Promotion Unit, Health Education Unit, Garbage Management Unit, Planning Division, Condition Management Unit, Public Health Inspector, and ward nurses.

From the municipal council and HELP-O, significant contributions came from Mr. Chatura Welivitiya, Chief Executive Officer of HELP-O, Mr. M. Deshapriya, HELP-O Vice Chairman, Dr. Ashoka Siriwardena and Mr. Padmasiri Moonamale, Project Consultants, and Mr. Chinthaka Sanath, Professor of the Science Department at Ruhunu University, who served as resource persons. Additionally, Mr. Premaratne, Deputy Director of the Southern Province Central Environment Authority, and officers from the HELP-O task force lent their expertise to ensure the program's success.



The primary objective of the Training of Trainers program was to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively manage garbage within the Galle District. The event provided a valuable platform for collaborative learning and the exchange of ideas, fostering a deeper understanding of waste management practices and their critical role in public health and environmental sustainability.

Participants engaged in comprehensive sessions that highlighted best practices in waste management, innovative solutions for reducing waste, and strategies for promoting public awareness and involvement. The program emphasized the importance of a systematic approach to garbage management, integrating efforts across various hospital units and the municipal council.

The engagement and commitment demonstrated by all stakeholders underscored a shared dedication to transforming Galle into a cleaner and healthier city. This initiative not only contributes significantly to the well-being of the community but also serves as a prime example of the power of partnerships in driving positive change.



As the program concluded, the collective sentiment was one of optimism and resolve. The successful execution of the Training of Trainers program is a testament to the collaborative spirit and unwavering commitment to sustainable development. Moving forward, the knowledge and skills imparted during this training will play a crucial role in enhancing the effectiveness of waste management efforts in Galle, setting a precedent for other regions to follow.

In essence, the "Let Galle be a clean city" initiative represents a beacon of hope and a blueprint for achieving environmental sustainability through concerted community effort and international support.

Written by - Yasitha Iresha

(Project Officer - HELP-O)



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR EFFECTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT



Galle, Sri Lanka – In a remarkable stride towards sustainable urban living, the "Let's Make Galle a Clean City" waste management cooperation project, funded by the Clean Cities Blue Ocean Program under the United States Development Assistance, has successfully conducted a Training of Trainers Program on May 7, 2024. This initiative focuses on enhancing waste management practices within the Galle Municipal Council area, targeting three sensitive community estates: Bombay Castle, Mohideen Estate, and Salamia Estate.

The program, held at Hotel Hasara, saw active participation from representatives of all three community estates, alongside officials from the Municipal Council. The event underscored the importance of community involvement and collective action in addressing waste management challenges.

Mr. Chatura Welivitiya, Chief Executive Director of HELP-O, and Mr. M. Deshapriya, Vice President of HELP-O and former Ministry Secretary, graced the occasion with their presence. Their participation highlighted the commitment of HELP-O, a leading organization in environmental sustainability and community empowerment, to the success of the initiative.

Esteemed experts, including Project Consultant Dr. Ashoka Siriwardena from the Right to Voice Project, Project Consultant Mr. Padmasiri Moonamale, Galle District Environment Officer Mr. Janitha Sameera, and the Southern Province Agriculture Department's Galle District Agriculture Consultant, along with officials from the HELP-O Task Force, served as resource persons. Their combined expertise provided invaluable insights into effective waste management strategies and practices.

Dr. Siriwardena emphasized the significance of local community engagement, stating, "Empowering local communities with the knowledge and skills to manage their waste effectively is crucial for the sustainability of our urban environments. This program is a vital step in that direction."

The Training of Trainers Program aimed to equip community representatives with the necessary skills and knowledge to educate their peers on sustainable waste management practices. Through hands-on training sessions and interactive workshops, participants learned about waste segregation, recycling, composting, and the broader implications of waste management on public health and the environment.

Mr. Deshapriya highlighted the project's broader vision, saying, "Our goal is to create a ripple effect within these communities, where trained individuals will act as catalysts for change, promoting a cleaner and healthier living environment."

The successful completion of this program marks a significant milestone in the "Let's Make Galle a Clean City" initiative. By fostering community engagement and equipping residents with practical waste management skills, the project aims to create a lasting impact on the cleanliness and sustainability of the Galle Municipal Council area.

The commitment and collaboration demonstrated by all stakeholders – from community members and municipal officials to environmental experts and agricultural consultants – underscore the project's potential to transform Galle into a model city for sustainable waste management practices.

As the program moves forward, continuous support and monitoring will be essential to ensure the sustained effectiveness of the waste management practices introduced. The "Let's Make Galle a Clean City" project stands as a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives in achieving environmental sustainability and urban resilience.

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



HELP-O Organization Promotes Sustainable Gardening in Galle with Vegetable Plant Distribution



In a commendable effort to foster sustainable living and environmental stewardship, HELP-O Organization, in partnership with the "Let's Make Galle a Clean City" Waste Management Collaborative Project, launched an eco-friendly gardening initiative in Galle. This project, generously funded by the Clean Cities Blue Ocean Program under United States Development Assistance, aims to promote waste reduction, recycling, and environmental beautification through community engagement.

On the morning of May 4, 2024, the initiative took a significant step forward with a vegetable plant distribution program. Held in the local settlement, the event saw enthusiastic participation from residents who received three types of vegetable plants: eggplant, chillies, and green chillies. This distribution not only provided the community with the means to cultivate their own gardens but also reinforced the principles of sustainable living.

The event was graced by several prominent officials, including the Chief Executive Officer of HELP-O, the Agriculture Consultant of the Southern Provincial Department of Agriculture, and other distinguished dignitaries from the Galle District. Their presence highlighted the crucial role of sustainable gardening in enhancing environmental health and community well-being.

In his address, the CEO of HELP-O emphasized the dual benefits of the initiative: "By encouraging residents to grow their own vegetables, we aim to reduce organic waste and promote recycling. This not only helps in creating a cleaner environment but also empowers the community to take an active role in environmental conservation."

The Agriculture Consultant echoed these sentiments, noting the positive impact of such initiatives on local food security and sustainable agricultural practices. "Gardening is a practical step towards a greener future. It enables residents to produce fresh, organic vegetables, thereby reducing dependency on market produce and minimizing the carbon footprint associated with food transportation."



Residents expressed their appreciation for the program, recognizing its potential to transform their living spaces and promote a healthier lifestyle. The initiative also provided an opportunity for community members to engage with each other, fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility towards maintaining a clean and green environment.

Through this vegetable plant distribution program, HELP-O Organization aims to create a ripple effect, inspiring more residents to adopt sustainable gardening practices. This initiative aligns seamlessly with the broader objectives of the Waste Management Collaborative Project, which seeks to enhance environmental sustainability through innovative and community-driven solutions.

The event concluded with a commitment from both officials and residents to continue supporting and participating in activities that promote waste reduction and environmental conservation. As Galle moves towards becoming a cleaner and greener city, initiatives like these are crucial in building a sustainable future for all.

HELP-O Organization remains dedicated to empowering communities through sustainable practices, ensuring that Galle not only thrives today but also sets a positive example for future generations.

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



Successful Finalization of Solid Waste Management By-law for Galle



Galle, Sri Lanka – On April 30, 2024, the Labuduwa Dakshinapaya Precinct auditorium witnessed a significant milestone in the journey towards a cleaner Galle. A program to discuss and finalize the solid waste management by-law, meticulously drafted by the HELP-O organization, was successfully executed with the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders. This initiative is part of the "Let's make Galle a clean city" waste management cooperation project, generously supported by the Clean Cities Blue Ocean Program under the United States Development Assistance.

Event Highlights

The event brought together a diverse group of public officials and experts, each contributing their unique perspectives and expertise to the discussion. Key representatives from the Galle Municipal Council, including the Municipal Commissioner, Deputy Municipal Commissioner, and the council's legal advisor Mr. Sampath Ratnapura, played pivotal roles in the deliberations. Additionally, the program benefitted from the insights of project advisors Dr. Rohana Ratnayake and Mr. Padmasiri Moonamale, whose guidance was invaluable in refining the by-law.

HELP-O, the organization spearheading the drafting process, was represented by its CEO, Mr. Chatura Welivitiya, and other HELP-O officials. Their dedication and hard work in developing a comprehensive and effective by-law were evident throughout the program.

Collaborative Efforts for a Cleaner Galle

The primary goal of this program was to ensure that the proposed solid waste management by-law aligns with the needs of the Galle community while adhering to international standards of waste management. The collaborative effort involved thorough discussions, critical evaluations, and constructive feedback from all participants. This holistic approach ensures that the by-law is not only effective but also sustainable in the long run.



A Step Towards Sustainable Development

The finalized by-law marks a significant step towards sustainable waste management practices in Galle. It emphasizes the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling waste, thereby minimizing the environmental impact and promoting a cleaner, healthier city. The support from the Clean Cities Blue Ocean Program highlights the global recognition of Galle's efforts to tackle waste management challenges and the importance of international cooperation in achieving environmental sustainability.

Looking Ahead

With the successful finalization of the by-law, the Galle Municipal Council is now poised to implement these regulations, ensuring compliance and encouraging active participation from the community. The ongoing support from HELP-O and other stakeholders will be crucial in the effective enforcement and continuous improvement of waste management practices in Galle.

This event signifies more than just the adoption of a new by-law; it represents a collective commitment to environmental stewardship and the well-being of future generations in Galle. The proactive involvement of local officials, legal experts, and environmental advocates sets a positive precedent for other municipalities in Sri Lanka and beyond.

In conclusion, the successful execution of this program is a testament to what can be achieved through collaboration, dedication, and a shared vision for a cleaner and more sustainable future.



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Successful Completion of the "Collaborative Action for Clean City of Galle Project " at Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel

In May 2024, the historic city of Galle witnessed a remarkable initiative aimed at enhancing its environmental sustainability and cleanliness. The "Collaboration Project for a Clean Galle City," implemented by the HELP-O Institute under the supervision of the Galle Municipal Council and funded by the United States Agency for International Development's Clean City Blue Ocean (CCBO) Program, was successfully completed on the 30th of May at the Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel.

The project, a collective effort involving numerous stakeholders, culminated in a grand event that saw the participation of a diverse group of dignitaries, officials, and community members. The ceremony was graced by Southern Province Chief Ministry Secretary Mr. Krishantha Mahendra, Southern Province Agriculture Ministry Secretary Mr. A.U. Velaratne, Southern Province Deputy Chief Secretary Mr. Ranil Wickramasekera, Southern Province Local Government Commissioner Ms. Umanga Mendis, and Southern Province Deputy Local Government Commissioner Ms. Dilini Sumali. Key officials from the Local Government Department, including Galle Municipal Commissioner Mrs. Thushara Rasnayake, along with Galle City Council officials, former Mayor Mr. Priyantha Sahabandu, and former Deputy Mayor Mr. Fausul Nias, also attended.



Representatives from USAID CCBO Sri Lanka and Maldives, including former Director Mrs. Nilanka Vijenayaka and Solid Waste Management Specialist Mr. U.B. Ekanayaka, were present to witness the fruition of their support. The event also saw participation from hospital officials such as Deputy Director of Karapitiya Teaching Hospital Mrs. Harshanee Obeysekera, officials of the Central Environment Authority, and Southern Provincial Education Department Deputy Provincial Director Mrs. Bamunusinghe.

The collaborative spirit was further emphasized by the involvement of Hon. Chairman of the Galle District Chamber of Industry and Commerce Mr. Saman Wevelwala, alongside representatives from the Galle Environmental Police, Navy and Army officers, Galle District NGO coordinator, government officials from partner institutions, private sector representatives, and villagers from three community estates.

HELP-O Chief Executive Officer Mr. Chathura Weliwitiya, HELP-O Vice Chairman Mr. Sirisena Deshapriya, and Project Advisor (Right to Voice) and Former Ministry Secretary Dr. Ashoka Siriwardena were pivotal in steering the project. The project benefited from the expert advice of Dr. Rohana Ratnayake and Mr. Pathmasiri Moonamale, who provided valuable insights as Project Advisors. Their combined efforts, alongside HELP-O officials, ensured the project's success.

The "Collaboration Project for a Clean Galle City" represents a significant step towards a cleaner, greener, and more beautiful Galle. The project not only aimed at improving waste management and environmental practices but also at fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility among residents and officials alike. The collective efforts and unwavering support from all participants and contributors have paved the way for a sustainable future for Galle.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who participated and contributed to making this project a grand success. Together, we have demonstrated that through collaboration and dedication, we can achieve remarkable outcomes for our communities and environment.

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





We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the National Secretariat for Non-Governmental Organizations for this meaningful recognition.



National Secretariat for Non-Governmental Organizations
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Congratulations to Helpo-Sri Lanka on the successful completion of the project.

Helpo-Sri Lanka is at L... • Follow
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Collaborative Action for Clean City of Galle

Integrated Solid Waste Management Action Plan
Galle Municipal Council, Sri Lanka (2024 -2030)

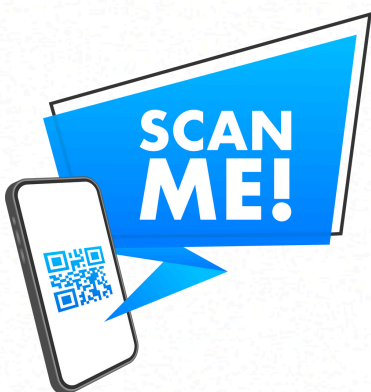
Sinhala



Tamil



English



Technical assistance and
financial support



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Collaborative Action for Clean City of Galle

WASTE AUDIT AND CHARACTERIZATION STUDY (WACS) GALLE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Sinhala



Tamil



English



Technical assistance and financial support



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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

Sinhala



Tamil



English



Technical assistance and financial support



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NATIONAL

NEWSPAPER

ARTICLES

English summary of the above newspaper article

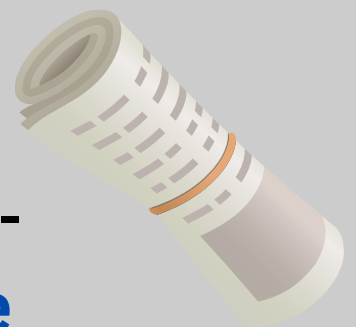
In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and supported by the Basel-Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, several impactful environmental conservation projects are underway in Sri Lanka. Notably, the "Galle is a plastic waste-free city" initiative, conducted in partnership with Japan's Goliya Environmental Strategy Institute (IGES) and funded by the Basel Rotterdam Secretariat (BRS), is progressing well. Launched in 2023 and set to conclude this year, the project is focused on reducing plastic waste through various measures such as school programs, video competitions, promoting alternative products, and monitoring recycling industries.

Additionally, the e-Sabha program has emerged as a highly effective tool for community engagement and governance. Developed as a mobile phone application, e-Sabha allows citizens to submit complaints and feedback to local authorities quickly and conveniently, saving time and resources. This initiative, initially piloted in the Galle district, has expanded to include numerous local government bodies across Southern and Northwestern provinces, facilitating efficient communication between citizens and decision-makers.

The success of these projects underscores the importance of leveraging technology and community participation in addressing environmental and governance challenges. As Sri Lanka moves towards embracing digital advancements and the concept of Smart Cities, initiatives like e-Sabha play a crucial role in fostering sustainable development and enhancing the quality of life for its citizens.



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Thank You

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Swarnawahini Media for inviting us to the Mehewara Program to discuss the e-Sabha App. It was a wonderful opportunity to introduce our app and share its benefits with a wider audience.

Watch Program - [Click Here](#)



Southern Province Officials Collaborate for Local Government Digitization



In a concerted effort to usher local government institutions into the digital age, a crucial discussion took place on the morning of May 28, 2024. Facilitated by the Chief Secretary of the Southern Province, Mr. Sumit Alahakon, and the Deputy Chief Secretary (Administration), Mr. Ranil Wickramasekara, the meeting laid the groundwork for a comprehensive digitization initiative.



Attended by key stakeholders including HELP-O's Chief Executive Director Mr. Chatura Welivitiya, esteemed Project Consultant and former Ministry Secretary, Mr. Ashoka Siriwardena, as well as Project Manager Mr. Lahiru Udumalagala, the discussion underscored the importance of modernizing local governance for enhanced efficiency and service delivery.

The participants deliberated on various aspects essential to the successful implementation of the digitization project. From streamlining administrative processes to improving citizen engagement, the overarching goal was to leverage technology to catalyze progress within the region's local government bodies.

Mr. Alahakon emphasized the significance of embracing digital transformation to address longstanding challenges and adapt to evolving societal needs. He stressed the need for synergy among stakeholders to ensure the smooth execution of the digitization roadmap.

Echoing his sentiments, Mr. Wickramasekara highlighted the potential of digital solutions to optimize resource utilization and foster transparency in governance. He reiterated the commitment of the Southern Province administration to spearhead initiatives that empower local communities and foster inclusive development.



Mr. Welivitiya commended the proactive approach of the provincial authorities and pledged HELP-O's full support in realizing the digitization objectives. Drawing from his extensive experience, Mr. Siriwardena offered valuable insights into best practices and strategic frameworks to guide the implementation process.



As the discussion concluded, Mr. Udumalagala outlined the next steps, including comprehensive needs assessments and stakeholder consultations, to inform the development of tailored digital solutions for each local government institution.



The collaborative effort showcased a shared vision for harnessing technology to propel the Southern Province towards a future of efficient, accountable, and citizen-centric governance. With concerted efforts and strategic partnerships, the journey towards digitized local governance promises to unlock new opportunities and pave the way for sustainable development.

Written by - Lahiru Madhuranga

(Project Manager - HELP-O)



Weligama Municipal Council Hosts Community Training on Local Governance and e-Sabha Application

On June 1, 2024, the Weligama Municipal Council conducted a comprehensive training session aimed at educating community members on essential aspects of local government participation, planning, and budgeting. The event also served to introduce and familiarize attendees with the innovative e-Sabha mobile application, designed to enhance civic engagement and streamline local government processes.

The training session featured insights from several key officials. Administrative officers from the council provided foundational knowledge on the workings of local government. They were joined by Mr. Ashoka Siriwardena, the project's consultant, who offered expert guidance on effective community involvement in governmental processes. The former Deputy Local Government Commissioner, Mr. N.A. Dharmasiri, shared his extensive experience and perspectives on local governance, while Mr. Chathura Welivitiya, Chief Executive Officer of HELP-O, emphasized the role of modern technology in facilitating transparent and efficient government operations.

Various staff members also participated, serving as official resources to answer questions and provide detailed explanations on the discussed topics. Their presence underscored the council's commitment to fostering an informed and engaged community.

In the evening, a specialized technical training session was held exclusively for council staff. This session focused on the practical application of the e-Sabha mobile app, ensuring that the staff could adeptly utilize the tool to benefit the community.

The hands-on training was crucial in equipping the council's personnel with the necessary skills to support and guide residents in using the app effectively.

The introduction of the e-Sabha mobile application marks a significant step towards enhancing civic engagement in Weligama. The app is designed to facilitate direct communication between residents and their local government, making it easier for citizens to participate in decision-making processes, access municipal services, and stay informed about local government activities.

Overall, the training session was a notable success, reflecting the Weligama Municipal Council's dedication to promoting active community participation and leveraging technology to improve governance. Attendees left the event better informed and equipped to contribute to the development and betterment of their local community.

Written by - Lahiru Madhuranga

(Project Manager - HELP-O)



Akuressa Pradeshiya Sabha Community Members Empowered on Local Governance and using e-Sabha Mobile App

Akuressa, May 28, 2024 – A significant step towards enhancing community involvement in local governance was taken today with the successful completion of a training session aimed at educating community members on legal participation in local government planning and budgeting. The event, held at the Akuressa Pradeshiya Sabha council premises, also introduced the innovative e-Council mobile phone application to attendees, marking a milestone in the digital transformation of local government processes.

The training session witnessed active participation from various dignitaries, including the Secretary of the Council, the administrative officers, and Mr. Asoka Siriwardena, the advisor of the project. Mr. Siriwardena, known for his expertise and dedication to local government initiatives, played a pivotal role in facilitating the training. The event also saw the presence of former Deputy Local Government Commissioner Mr. N.A. Dharmasiri, who shared valuable insights drawn from his extensive experience in the field.

Mr. Chathura Welivitiya, the Chief Executive Officer of HELP-O, an organization committed to promoting sustainable development and local governance, also attended the session along with his team. Their involvement underscored the collaborative effort between government bodies and non-governmental organizations in driving community-focused initiatives.

The session provided a comprehensive overview of the legal frameworks governing local government operations, emphasizing the importance of community participation in planning and budgeting processes. Attendees were educated on how they can effectively engage with their local government to influence decisions and ensure transparency and accountability.

A highlight of the event was the introduction of the e-Council mobile phone application, a cutting-edge tool designed to facilitate seamless communication between community members and the council. The app aims to streamline various administrative processes, allowing residents to access information, submit requests, and receive updates in real-time. This digital innovation is expected to significantly enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of the Akuressa Pradeshiya Sabha.

Later in the evening, a technical training session was held specifically for the council staff, focusing on the practical aspects of using the e-Sabha mobile phone application. This session equipped the staff with the necessary skills to effectively operate the app, ensuring they are well-prepared to assist community members in utilizing this new technology.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Siriwardena expressed his enthusiasm for the project, stating, "The introduction of the e-Council mobile phone application marks a new era in local governance. By empowering community members with knowledge and digital tools, we are fostering a more inclusive and participatory governance model."

Mr. Dharmasiri echoed these sentiments, highlighting the transformative potential of the initiative. "This training session is a testament to our commitment to transparency and community engagement. The e-Council app will bridge the gap between the council and the community, making governance more accessible and efficient."

Written by - Lahiru Madhuranga

(Project Manager - HELP-O)





Connecting SDG Cluster Lead & Co-Leads



The CityNet Secretariat recently coordinated a pivotal SDG Cluster Meeting, aimed at fostering collaboration between the SDG Lead Cities and Co-Lead Organizations to strategize for the SDG Cluster's activities this year.

The SDG Lead Cities, comprising Seoul, Yokohama, and Kuala Lumpur, alongside Co-Lead Organizations such as the Human and Environment Link Progressive Organization (HELP-O) based in Sri Lanka and the All-India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIIISG), participated in the meeting.

Two major events discussed within the SDG Cluster program activities this year include the Seoul City SDG Benchmarking Workshop and the SDG Cluster Seminar. These events provide platforms for knowledge exchange and collaborative problem-solving among stakeholders committed to the SDGs.

The meeting served as a forum to share experiences among different cities, facilitating the sharing of best practices and lessons learned. HELP-O got the opportunity to highlight its areas of focus and initiatives aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL RESILIENCE: INSIGHTS FROM THE SRI LANKA PREPAREDNESS PARTNERSHIP'S 2024 COUNTRY CONSULTATION WORKSHOP



On May 9–10, 2024, the Sri Lanka Preparedness Partnership (SLPP) held a Country Consultation Workshop. More than fifty people who represent national, international, and local organizations involved in disaster risk reduction in the nation attended.

Dr. Sisira Madurapperuma (Director, Preparedness for Response and Recovery Department, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center), emphasized that despite commitments from the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit and the Grand Bargain, direct international funding to local actors remains challenging, and the SLPP can help foster multi-sectoral collaboration for resilience building. Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Udaya Herath, Director General of the Disaster Management Center in Sri Lanka and Co-Chair of SLPP, emphasized the need to expand the partnership to the subnational level for equal and active local actor engagement. He highlighted that enhanced cooperation within SLPP will benefit the Sri Lankan people by building resilient communities, aligning with national sustainable development goals, and complementing government development efforts.

By means of interactive dialogues and exchange of knowledge, the attendees discerned tactics for anticipatory disaster readiness, with the objective of optimizing coordination among relevant parties, augmenting community involvement, and effectively utilizing assets to alleviate hazards and foster resilient communities throughout Sri Lanka.

The Disaster Management Center, Janathakshan GTE LTD (civil society), and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (private sector) co-chair the SLPP, the national chapter of the Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP) in Sri Lanka. APP was established in 2017 with funding from USAID BHA, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center. Its mission is to lessen the effects of disasters on at-risk communities in Asia by promoting locally-led disaster risk management initiatives that create safer, better-prepared communities.



e-Sabha

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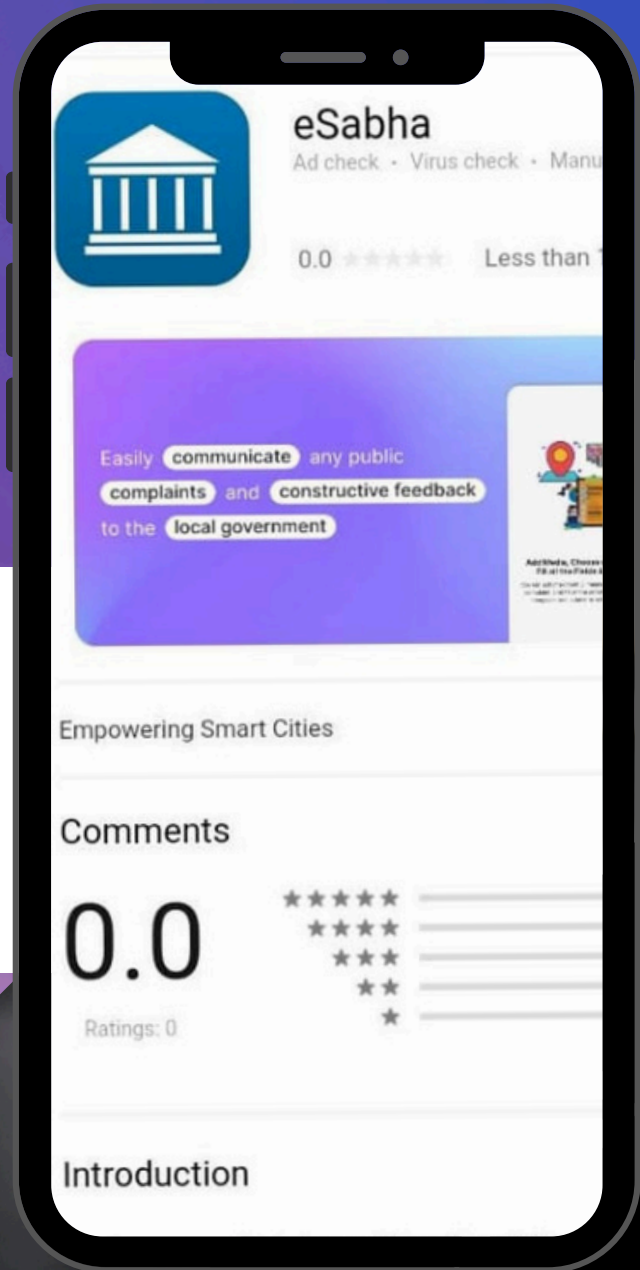
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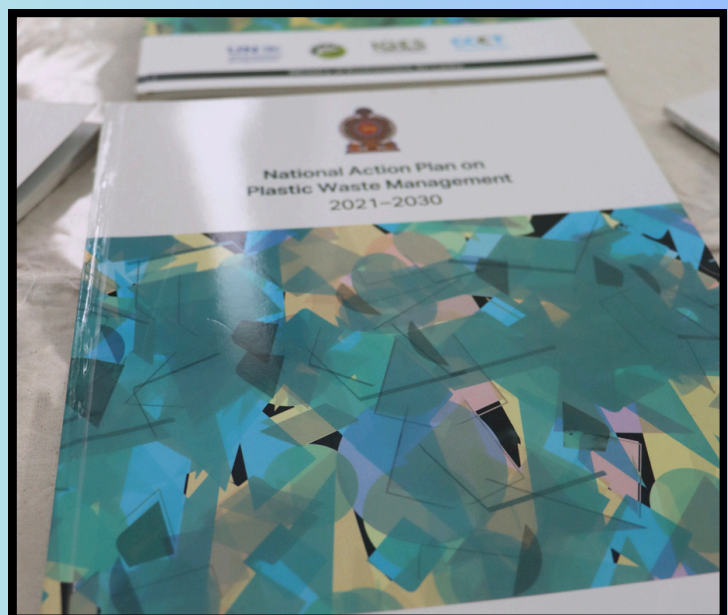


National Action Plan on Plastic Waste Management 2021-2030

Sinhala Version - [Click Here](#)

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