

# SLIFA Magazine

SRI LANKA



INDONESIA

FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Vol. 18 No. 01 - July 2022

## SLIFA REACHES A MILESTONE



By  
**M. D. (Tony) Saldin  
and Fathima Razik Cader**



On the initiative of His Excellency (the late H. Suprpto, the then Ambassador for Indonesia in Sri Lanka), the Sri Lanka Indonesia Friendship Association (SLIFA) was established in June 1992. Close social, cultural and business relations were promoted with the incorporation of this association, bringing citizens of both Indonesia and Sri Lanka together in a spirit of camaraderie and friendship.

The first President of SLIFA was (the late) Joe Karunaratne, who with his team, worked tirelessly to formulate the constitution and the objectives of the association.

From the inception to date, 15 presidents have steered the association, ably supported by the executive committees as well as the ambassadors, diplomatic officers and the embassy staff.

They were Joe Karunaratne, J. P. Pathirana, Eric Gunasekera, B. D. K. Saldin, Hamilton S. Amarasinghe, Brig. T. S. B. Sally, I. P. C. Mendis, Nihal Gooneratne, Dr. Dudley Thambinayagam, M. D. (Tony) Saldin, Patrick Rodrigo, Bahrain Haleed, Iqram Cuttilan, Felicia Sallay and A. M. M. Amir.

Felicia Sallay was the first lady president of SLIFA, and Marleena Laxana will take over the presidency this year making her the second lady to steer SLIFA.

Cultural shows, food fiestas, picnics, fund raising projects, quiz nites, members get-togethers, charity bazaars, medical camps, aid for the needy, and documentaries on

Indonesia and Sri Lanka, were some of the projects organized by SLIFA throughout the years under the leadership of different presidents. The arts, culture, music and dance were also promoted by the Indonesian Embassy to help bring the peoples of both Indonesia and Sri Lanka, together.

A newsletter was also published regularly outlining the activities of the association. The first SLIFA newsletter was published in February 1995. A membership directory which was published in 2014 also helped members to interact and network with each other.



Over the years, successive presidents and the executive committees have worked diligently to keep the friendship between the two countries and the members of SLIFA strong, and in an atmosphere of

cordiality.

Unfortunately, since March 2020, due to the worldwide Covid 19 pandemic and other related issues, SLIFA was compelled to curtail many activities that the presidents and the executive committees during this period had planned to hold for the members, families and guests. However, plans are being made to mark important events such as the 30th anniversary of SLIFA in the foreseeable future.

More importantly, Sri Lanka and Indonesia have notched 70 years of diplomatic relations, and the Indonesian Embassy is making arrangements to mark this significant achievement in the year ahead.

Congratulations to SLIFA as the association celebrates its Pearl Anniversary.

## President's Message...

As the President of the Sri Lanka Indonesia Friendship Association (SLIFA), it gives me great pleasure to pen a message for this issue of the Newsletter.

First and foremost, I wish to extend a warm welcome to Her Excellency, Madam Dewi Gustina Tobing, the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia in Sri Lanka. All of us at SLIFA look forward to working closely with Your Excellency during your tenure in our beautiful island, Sri Lanka.

The past few years have been very challenging to everyone due to the COVID 19 pandemic and consequently, the economic crisis our country had to face which was no different to the rest of the world. Our association, however, had to exist amidst these challenges and the Executive Committee had a mix of physical and virtual meetings during this period. The 29th AGM in September 2021 was a virtual meeting with the participation of our Patron, His Excellency I Gusti Ngurah Ardiyasa, who was the Ambassador of Indonesia at the time. It had limited participation due to the pandemic in addition to the official lockdowns and restrictions that were imposed from time to time. My sincere thanks to all the members of the Executive Committee for their active participation at the meetings. This has been very encouraging despite the restrictions and the limited activities.

Our Fund-Raising Committee headed by Vice President, Marleena Laxana, had organized a raffle, the draw of which was held after the 29th AGM. This was a huge success.

Most of our other activities which are a regular feature in SLIFA's annual calendar had to be put on hold. Our Activities and Projects Committee headed by Iqram Cuttilan had planned a visit to the Caffres Village in Sirambiady, Puttalam. However, such outings and events had to be postponed due to Covid restrictions and the subsequent fuel shortages, *et al.* With the postponement of our annual trip, the Executive Committee decided to distribute Relief Food Packs to needy recipients and to the Pathum Uyana Project of the Mother Charitable Foundation in Moratuwa.

We greatly appreciate the support extended by Her Excellency for granting permission and providing the necessary facilities to hold our Ex-Co meetings and the AGM at the Embassy premises. I also wish to extend my special thanks to Bapak Boyke Nurdin, Bapak Lufti Andaru and Bapak Febrian Rochmadhoni for all the support and help extended towards SLIFA, especially with regard to conducting Anklung classes for the Ex-Co members.

The year 2022 is significant and important to all of us because the Sri Lanka Indonesia Friendship Association celebrates its 30th anniversary while at the same time, Sri Lanka and Indonesia mark 70 years of diplomatic relations – a remarkable milestone. I am sure that the strong and friendly relations between the two countries will play a great role in fostering better understanding and cooperation in areas of trade and other related activities.

As I complete my tenure as the President of SLIFA, I would like to thank all the Vice Patrons, the two Vice Presidents - Boyke Nurdin and Marleena Laxana, the Immediate Past President - Felicia Salley, the Hony Secretary - Fairly Thamel, Hony Treasurer - Nihal Jayasuriya and all the Executive Committee members for their support. I also thank the Publications Chairperson - Fathima Razik Cader for the effort put in to get the newsletter published. Special thanks also to our sponsors whose assistance has contributed to make this newsletter a reality.

Best wishes to the members of SLIFA. Happy reading!

**A. M. M. Amir**



### *Sincere thanks to:*

A. M. M. Amir (President), Boyke Nurdin (Vice President), Fairly Thamel (Hony Secretary), Tony Saldin (Vice Patron and Past President), Iqram Cuttilan (Past President), Dedek Dharmawan Tanjung (Consular Division), Hiran Muthukuda, Mallika Edema, Najmudeen Samman and Febrian Rochmadhoni (Ex-Co Members) and Lutfi Andaru (Photo Credits) for every assistance and cooperation extended to publish the newsletter.

***Fathima Razik Cader***  
***Chair - Publications***





## Message from Her Excellency, the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Sri Lanka and Maldives

It is a great pleasure for me as the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Sri Lanka and Maldives to deliver my first message to the SLIFA Magazine. I would like to express my gratitude and sincere thanks to the President of SLIFA, A. M. M. Amir and the SLIFA Executive Committee for all the efforts made during the last two years to further strengthen the friendship between Indonesia and Sri Lanka. On this occasion, I would also like to congratulate the new President of SLIFA who will be elected at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

I am delighted that the year 2022 marks the 30th Anniversary of SLIFA and the 70th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Sri Lanka. I convey my congratulation to SLIFA on completing 30 years since the year 1992. The 70th Anniversary of diplomatic relations also symbolizes the strong bonds between the two nations. I request SLIFA to cooperate with the Embassy in the events and activities organized to mark these milestones.

I am glad to know that SLIFA is organizing a Bazaar as well as social and cultural activities this year to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of SLIFA, and look forward to the participation to mark the 70th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between both countries.

During this economic crisis in Sri Lanka, the long-standing and strong friendship between Indonesia and Sri Lanka has been continuously maintained, and Indonesia is delighted to have supported Sri Lanka by providing humanitarian aid in April and May 2022 on essential medicines and medical equipment to value of US\$ 1.6 million in total, to the people of Sri Lanka.

Finally, it is my fervent hope that the newsletter will be a medium to bring a message of togetherness and friendship for unity among the members of SLIFA, and as well as between the peoples of Indonesia and Sri Lanka. My sincere thanks to the SLIFA newsletter team for the hard work put in which contributes significantly to the progress of SLIFA.

Wishing SLIFA all the very best in the years to come!

**Dewi Gustina Tobing**

## Executive Committee 2021 - 2022

### Patron

H.E. I Gusti Ngurah Ardiyasa  
Dewi Gustina Tobing  
(from November 2021)

### Vice Patrons

Hamilton Amarasinghe  
I. P. C. Mendis  
Dr. Dudley Thambinayagam  
Nihal Gooneratne  
Patrick Rodrigo  
Tony Saldin

### President

A. M. M. Amir

### Immediate Past President

Felicia Sallay

### Vice Presidents

Marleena Laxana (Chair - Fundraising)  
Boyke Nurdin

### Hony Secretary

Fairly Thamel

### Hony Treasurer

Nihal Jayasuriya

### Hony Assistant Secretary

Fathima Razik Cader

### (Chair - Publications)

### Hony Assistant Treasurer

Lutfi Andaru

### Chair - Projects and Activities, and Website

Iqram Cuttilan

### Chair - Constitutional Affairs

Asha Hannan

### Chair - Membership

Faiq Doole

### Committee Members

Febrian Rochmadhoni  
Mallika Edema  
Hiranth Muthukuda  
Nihal Ratnayake  
Farida Saldin  
Sha Zameen Razzak  
Najmudeen Samman  
Errol Smith  
Prasanna Samarasinghe  
N. S. Dayananda  
Roshan Fernando

### Auditor

Kasun De Zoysa

### Photo Credit

Lutfi Andaru





## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2021 - 2022



**Seated from Left:** Patrick Rodrigo and Hamilton Amarasinghe (Vice Patrons), Fairly Thamel (Hony Secretary), Boyke Nurdin (Vice President), A.M. M. Amir (President), Her Excellency Dewi Gustina Tobing (Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia - Patron), Marleena Laxana (Vice President), Nihal Jayasuriya (Hony Treasurer), Felicia Sallay (Immediate Past President) and Tony Saldin (Vice Patron)

**Standing from Left:** N. S. Dayanandan, Nihal Ratnayake, Hirantha Muthukuda, Roshan Fernando, Sha Zameen Razzak, Fathima Razik Cader, Farida Saldin, Asha Hannan, Iqram Cuttilan, Prasanna Samarasinghe, Najmudeen Samman and Febrian Rochmadhoni

**Not in the picture:** Lutfi Andaru (Hony Asst Treasurer), Faiq Doole (Chair - Membership), Mallika Edema and Errol Smith



## A COURTESY CALL!

The President - A. M. M. Amir, Immediate Past President - Felicia Sallay, Vice President - Marleena Laxana, Hony Secretary - Fairly Thamel, Hony Treasurer - Nihal Jayasuriya and Activities and Projects Chairman - Iqram Cuttilan paid a courtesy call on Her Excellency Dewi Gustina Tobing.

Counsellor and Head of the Chancery, and Vice President (SLIFA) - Boyke Nurdin was also present on the occasion.

While apprising the new Ambassador on the activities of SLIFA, a fruitful discussion ensued on the need to hold a range of activities, many of which had been put on hold due to the Covid pandemic and other attendant issues. Her Excellency assured SLIFA of her cooperation and assistance to conduct future activities. A booklet on the activities of SLIFA was presented to the Ambassador.



Pics above: The SLIFA delegation engaging with the Ambassador, and pic below, the delegation with Her Excellency and Boyke Nurdin - Counsellor and Head of the Chancery, and Vice President SLIFA





## Welcome dinner to the new Ambassador

The new Ambassador, Her Excellency Dewi Gustina Tobing assumed duties in December 2021. SLIFA organised a welcome dinner to formally welcome Her Excellency at Hotel Galadari on 12 January, 2022. Members of the Executive Committee, as well as members of the association and spouses attended the event. The President, A. M. M. Amir, extending a warm welcome to the new Ambassador, assured her of SLIFA's continued and unstinted cooperation to further strengthen the good relations that have existed between the Diplomatic Corp and the members of SLIFA. He wished Her Excellency a fruitful stay in Sri Lanka.

Responding, Ambassador Dewi Gustina Tobing said she was happy to be in Sri Lanka and also looked forward to working in close collaboration with SLIFA and supporting the activities of the association.

Members and guests interacted with the newly appointed Ambassador. A Calypso band was in attendance, providing scintillating local music to keep those present entertained throughout the event. The highlight of the evening was the new Ambassador taking the microphone and singing a melodious song which came as a very pleasant surprise to everyone present on the occasion.



Ex-Co members welcoming Her Excellency



Madam Dewi Gustina Tobing addressing the gathering



Her Excellency and the Office Bearers engaging in conversation



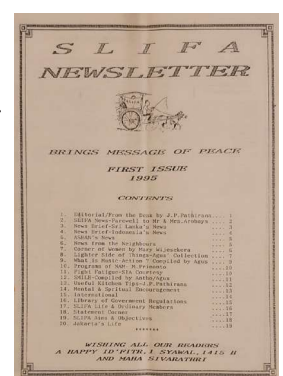
Participants at the dinner

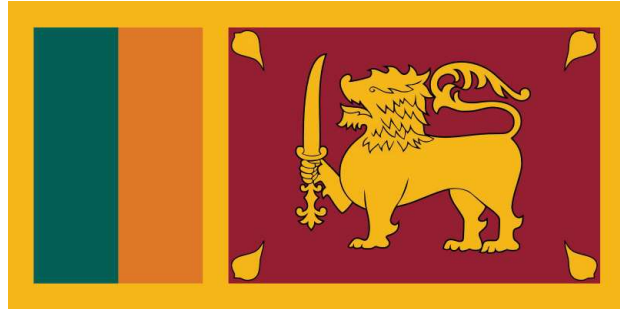
## A treasurer unearthed!

The President, A. M. M. Amir, has been able to locate the first Newsletter of SLIFA published in February 1995 during the presidency of J. P. Pathirana.

The newsletter, which is now faded, contains 20 pages of news and views from both Sri Lanka and Indonesia, snippets of information and fun posts, quotations, plus a list of all the members of SLIFA at the time.

**Certainly a publication to be treasured for all time!**





## INDONESIAN HUMANITARIAN AID TO SRI LANKA ON ESSENTIAL MEDICINES AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT VALUED AT LKR 517.5 MILLION (US \$1.6 MILLION)



**H.E. Dewi Gustina Tobing**

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia, through the Embassy of Indonesia in Colombo, provided much needed humanitarian aid on essential medicines and medical equipment to Sri Lanka this year as the country faced a severe shortage due to the economic crisis. The value of the donation was LKR 517.5 million (around US \$1.6 million).

The total volume of the aid that was sent from Jakarta to Colombo was 3.1 tons, and was airlifted by Sri Lankan Airlines in two dispatchments on 28 April and 08 May, 2022, respectively.

Upon receiving the request for the essential requirements from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia immediately coordinated with the relevant Indonesian Ministries and Indonesian pharmaceutical manufactures to facilitate the dispatch of the same.

The prompt response from all stakeholders in Indonesia personified how thoughtful and concerned Indonesia was towards Sri Lanka, and their understanding of the urgent need of the said essential medicines and medical equipment for the people of Sri Lanka.

The long-standing, strong bonds and relations between Indonesia and Sri Lanka have been proved throughout their long history since many centuries ago, and such relationships have become stronger with the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in the year 1952.

The two nations' important roles have also been well-known during the Asia-Africa Conference and also as the initiators of the Non-Aligned Movement. Through the years, both countries have had strong partnerships in bilateral, regional and multilateral spheres.

The tsunami that hit Indonesia and Sri Lanka in 2004 reflected the endurance of the peoples of both countries, and the friendship that had borne the test of time, which has been amplified through the support that each has extended to the other at all times.

As both countries commemorate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year, it further signifies the strong friendship that exists between the two countries. Indonesia is delighted to support Sri Lanka during these difficult times.

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia collaborated with the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka through the Ministry of Health (of Sri Lanka) and related authorities, as well as the Representative Office of the World Health Organisation in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, to facilitate this vital humanitarian aid for the people of Sri Lanka.



## THE YEAR 2022 MARKS 70 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN INDONESIA AND SRI LANKA



by  
**Iqram  
Cuttilan**

Indonesia and Sri Lanka established diplomatic relations in 1952, and the culture of both nations is underscored by many similarities. Indonesia and Sri Lanka are members of the World Trade Organization. Notably, they were founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The relationship between the two nations began earlier in the 5th century CE, marked by the coming of Hinduism and Buddhism from the Indian subcontinent, and the Sri Lankan to Indonesian archipelago. The Hindu-Buddhist kingdoms of ancient Indonesia and Sri Lanka nurtured contacts in the 9th to 12th century CE, during the era of the Sri Vijaya Empire. During this time, Bud-

dhism was the principal religion of both nations. According to the Sri Lankan Ambassador to Indonesia, an Indonesian king visited Sri Lanka and had gifted a baby elephant.

Interactions between the two countries grew in the 17th and 18th centuries, as both nations fell under the control of the Dutch East India Company (VOC). Sri Lanka was part of the VOC during the Dutch period in Ceylon from 1656 to 1796. In the 17th century, Indonesia was under the control of



the Dutch East India Company as well as housing the headquarters for the VOC. It later became a Dutch colony in the Dutch East Indies until World War II. During the 18th century, multiple kings, princes and warriors from the Javanese, Mataram, Madura and Sulawesi communities, who were opposed to the Dutch rule of the Indonesian archipelago were exiled, and came to Ceylon as Sri Lanka was then known. The descendants of the exiled Indonesians had led to the creation of the Indonesian-Malay community in Sri Lanka that can trace their ancestry to Java, Madura and Sulawesi. Interestingly, a warrior who fought for the Kandy Kingdom named Karaeng Sangunglo was a Bugis nobleman.

Indonesia and Sri Lanka officially established diplomatic relations on 02 August 1952. The relations grew further in 1955, when Indonesia and Sri Lanka, together with India, Pakistan and Burma initiated the Bandung Conference. Since 1962, the status of the Indonesian Consulate office in Colombo had been upgraded to an embassy. The office has also served as the Indonesian representative office for Maldives since 02 September, 1975.

The Sri Lanka-Indonesia Business Council was established on 30 August, 1991 with the main objectives being the promotion of bilateral trade, investment and tourism.

The Sri Lanka Indonesia Friendship Association (SLIFA) was established in June 1992 with the main objectives being promoting closer cultural, social and trade relations between the two countries, assisting Sri Lanka citizens visiting Indonesia and vice versa, assisting social organizations, and as well as the under-privileged sections of the community in both countries.

Since 2012, both nations had agreed on increasing bilateral cooperation in many sectors including defense, culture, agriculture and aquaculture.

In April 2013, Indonesia and Sri Lanka commemorated the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations in Merdeka Building, Bandung to recall the Asian-African Conference - the historic event that brought the two nations closer. This event was also marked with cultural collaboration through traditional puppet performance - Indonesian *wayang golek* with Sri Lankan *ruukada*. The two countries maintain a warm and close relationship to date.

## Her Excellency - the genial host!

### KARAOKE WAS AT ITS BEST!

Madam Dewi Gustina Tobing, the Ambassador, hosted the members of the Executive Committee to dinner at her official residence in March 2022.

After welcoming everyone, Her Excellency led the way to an enjoyable evening which was full of music and fun, by singing a delightful song. Much to the delight of the Ex-Co, singing was thereafter the order of the evening with many members taking the cue from the friendly host who made sure that in the midst of the fun and frolic, there was ample food and drinks to keep everyone going.



Vice President, Boyke Nurdin was the Master of Ceremonies and was presuasive in his own inimitable style to coax everyone to take the microphone and sing their favourite song. Indonesian, Western and Sri Lankan hits rent the air and those who rose to the occasion sang their hearts out while the rest kept up with the beat, clapping and tapping their toes to encourage the singers to keep going.

The evening drew to a close but not before everyone present as well as the officials of the mission tripped the light fantastic toe to the well loved Sri Lankan hit, the lyrics of which were descriptive of the Portuguese rule in the then Ceylon, sung by Vice Patron, Tony Saldin.

### THE YEAR 2022 MARKS . . .

The former President of Sri Lanka, H.E. Maithripala Sirisena undertook a state visit on 08 March, 2017 to the Republic of Indonesia on an invitation extended by the President of Indonesia H.E. Joko Widodo.

The Indonesian President Joko Widodo visited Sri Lanka on 24 January, 2018 on a two-day state visit on the invitation of his Sri Lankan counterpart, H.E. Maithripala Sirisena.

May the strong, cordial and long-standing relationship between Sri Lanka and Indonesia continue to thrive.



## Ambassador and Madam host office-bearers

His Excellency I Gusti Ngurah Ardiyasa (the former Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Sri Lanka), and Madam Desak Tirtasari Ardiyasa were gracious hosts to the office bearers who were invited to dinner at their beautiful home.

There was active interaction and camaraderie among those present during the pre-dinner cocktails and the formal dinner that followed.

Pictures (below) depict the the evening as it unfolded.



*Marking International Women's Day*



## "Breaking the Bias"

Nine female Chiefs of Mission representing foreign missions to Sri Lanka came together with a high-level delegation of Sri Lankan female government officials for an afternoon aimed at "Breaking the Bias" to mark International Women's Day. Hosted by Ambassador Dewi Gustina Tobing of Indonesia, the Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and other government officials met as a group for the first time with the aim of meeting potential new partners and exploring innovative programmes that can advance the role of women in Sri Lanka.

Participants from the diplomatic and multilateral community included Ambassador Julie Chung of the United States, Ambassador Trine Joranli Eskedal of Norway, Ambassador Tanja Gonggrijp of the Netherlands, High Commissioner Sarah Hulton of the United Kingdom, Ambassador Rita Manella of Italy, Ambassador Demet Sekercioglu of Turkey, Ambassador Ho Thi Thanh Truc of Vietnam, ILO Country Director Simrin Singh and former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, MPs Diana Gamage, Dr. Harini Amarasuriya and Thalatha Atukorale.



## SLIFA reaches out to the needy

Executive Committee member, Hirantha Muthukuda's suggestion to support the less fortunate people in whatever way possible during this time of economic crisis was readily accepted by the Ex-Co. Thereafter, Vice President and Chair - Fund Raising Committee, Marleena Laxana, took on the responsibility of collecting voluntary contributions towards this worthy cause.

The total collection was utilised to purchase essential dry rations, and the packs (each worth Rs 5000) were donated to identified members of the underprivileged community. The distribution took place at the Riptoloka hall of the Indonesian Embassy. Sincere thanks to the Ex-Co members who rose to the occasion with their spontaneous contribution.

Pics below show some of the needy recipients accepting the relief packs.





## Annual General Meeting 2021

The 29th Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Indonesia Friendship Association was held on 25 September, 2021 under the patronage of the then Patron, H. E. I Gusti Ngurah Ardiyasa.

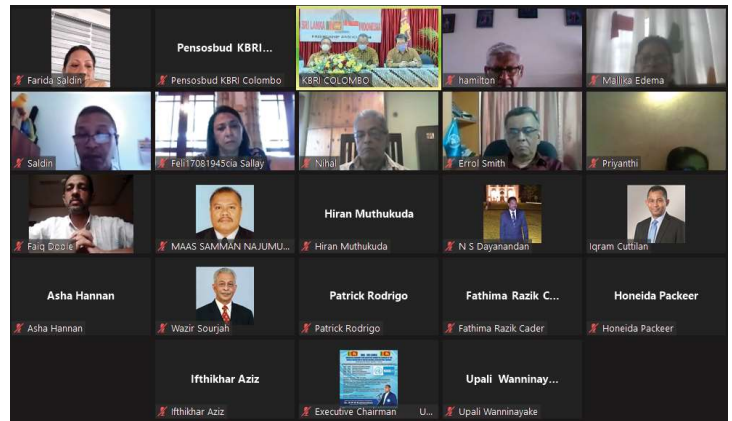
In view of the conditions prevailing at the time due to the COVID 19 pandemic, it was a virtual meeting with the participation of 33 members.

The meeting commenced with the National Anthem of both countries being played. The AGM was held thereafter.

As it was the end of his term, the Ambassador was presented with a farewell gift by the President, A. M. M. Amir, on behalf of SLIFA.



At the head table from left - Nihal Jayasuriya (Hony Treasurer), Marleena Laxana (Vice President), His Excellency I Gusti Ngurah Ardiyasa (Patron), A. M. M. Amir (President), Counsellor Boyke Nurdin (Vice President) and Fairly Thamel (Hony Secretary)



The President, A. M. M. Amir presenting the gift to the former Ambassador. Also in the picture is Vice President, Boyke Nurdin, and right, a view of the virtual participants

Special thanks to Counsellor and Head of the Chancery, Boyke Nurdin, Febrian Rochmadhoni and Lutfi Andaru for all the assistance and cooperation extended to facilitate the virtual AGM

### A warm welcome

SLIFA is happy to have on board new members T. W. Savanghan and Brincely Peter Rodrigo.

May you have a fruitful and pleasant stint in SLIFA.

**SLIFA Website - [www.lankaindonesiaaafa.com](http://www.lankaindonesiaaafa.com)** reflects all activities of SLIFA and is updated by Iqram Cuttilan and the Hony Secretary.



**SLIFA FB page** carries all current activities and news of SLIFA. The Administrator is Iqram Cuttilan. Members are encouraged to actively contribute to the page.



## Raffle Draw - a Fund Raiser for SLIFA



Marleena Laxana

Vice President and Chair - Fund Raising, Marleena Laxana successfully completed the sale of Raffle tickets followed by the draw at the end of the 29th Annual General Meeting held on 25 September 2021, under the patronage of the former Ambassador, H. E. I Gusti Ngurah Ardiyasa.

The proceeds, amounting to Rs 84,201 would be channelled towards SLIFA projects.

A total of 773 tickets were sold. Donations in cash and kind were made by the Executive Committee members and well-wishers towards the prizes for the lucky winners.

Sincere thanks to Marleena Laxana for successfully conducting the Raffle, and to Ex-Co member, Errol Smith, for distributing the Raffle tickets to facilitate the sale.



Raffle Draw - His Excellency drawing the winners of the Raffle ticket draw. Also in the picture are A. M. M. Amir (President) and Boyke Nurdin (Vice President)

## SLIFA supports the Mother Charitable Foundation

Yet another outreach programme by SLIFA was the donation of necessary educational material and essential food items to the Mother Charitable Foundation (MCF) in Moratuwa.

Pathum Uyana is one of the key educational projects of MCF catering to children with special needs through economic, social and attitudinal development.

Executive Committee member, Najmudeen Samman, undertook this humanitarian task on behalf of SLIFA, and we placed on record our grateful thanks to him for volunteering to do the needful in the midst of fuel crisis in the country.

The donation had been greatly accepted by MCF and a letter of thanks had been received by SLIFA.



### In Memorium...

The following members passed from our midst, and SLIFA extends deepest condolences to the families of the dear departed.

G. Aliba, Kartini Mohamed, Dane Eileen and Fareeda Meedin.

**May their souls Rest in Peace!**





## Cultural activities in the forefront!

Through the kind courtesies of the Indonesian Embassy, Officers Lutfi Andaru and Febrian Rochmadhoni have been diligently promoting Indonesian cultural activities such as Bahasa (language), Angklung (music) and traditional dance by conducting classes for those interested in mastering the same.

The members of the Executive Committee were privileged to follow Angklung lessons, and the sessions that were conducted were interactive while also drawing much enthusiasm amongst the participants. Undoubtedly, the lessons were interesting and enjoyable while at the same time, concentration was key to keep the momentum going.

Due to the prevailing situation in the country, classes were temporarily suspended although Angklung classes were held after the Ex-Co meetings, with popular local and western songs being featured.

Some meetings were also followed by a training session on Pocho Pocho dancing. It is expected to roll out these sessions to SLIFA members as well when the climate is more conducive to do so.



Angklung lessons in progress

### Bahasa and Dance Classes

The Embassy commenced both Bahasa Indonesia (language) and Dance classes for those who had expressed an interest in learning the language and dance.

While the lessons got off the ground with much enthusiasm, unfortunately, due to the prevailing conditions at the time with a hike in the number of COVID cases, the embassy was forced to stop the classes as the health guidelines did not permit such activities. The Bahasa classes, however, are being conducted online.

SLIFA members and their families are cordially invited to join the classes. Please check out the SLIFA FB/Web page for information in this regard.

## INDONESIAN VISA PROCEEDURE

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there are certain restrictions in place prior to obtaining the visa to enter Indonesia. To enter Indonesia, a person requires a valid visa or a stay permit. **Visa Free Entry or a Visa on arrival have been suspended until further notice.**

The Visa application is centrally managed by the Indonesian Immigration and is accessible at [visa-online.imigrasi.go.id](https://visa-online.imigrasi.go.id). Only the sponsor is allowed to apply for the visa on behalf of the visitor. Guidelines for the application are available at [bit.ly/bukumanualevisa](https://bit.ly/bukumanualevisa). Official information regarding e-Visa is available at <https://www.imigrasi.go.id/en/> > Immigration Information > Immigration Services > For foreign nationals > Apply for Indonesian Visa. To obtain e-Visa, you must have a local sponsor. The local sponsor must either be an individual, a company or an institution that resides in Indonesia, that is relevant to your visit and will take full responsibility for a person's stay in Indonesia. If the application is approved, the person will receive an e-Visa by email. Please print the e-Visa prior to your departure. You do not need to submit any documents to the Indonesian Embassy.

The Visa is applicable to the following Airports:

- (a) Soekarno Hatta, Jakarta,
- (b) Ngurah Rai, Denpasar, Bali,
- (c) Kualanamu, Medan, North Sumatera,
- (d) Juanda, Surabaya, East Java,
- (e) Hasanuddin, Makassar, South Sulawesi,
- (f) Sam Ratulangi, Manado, North Sulawesi
- (g) Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta,
- (h) Hang Nadim, Riau, Kepulauan Riau, and
- (i) Zainuddin Abdul Majid, Lombok, Nusa Tenggara Barat



**Indonesia applies the following health protocols for visitors since 18 July, 2022 until further notice.**

1. PCR test is no longer required to enter Indonesia if the traveller is fully vaccinated. Note: Airlines/carriers may have different requirements regarding PCR test;
2. Showing insurance coverage for Covid-19 treatment in Indonesia is no longer required;
3. A traveller who has not been vaccinated will be vaccinated at the entry point;
4. Download an Indonesian mobile application PeduliLindungi (available on Google Play; App Store, App Gallery);
5. A traveller should register his/her Covid-19 vaccine certificate at PeduliLindungi app (see attachment) for access to indoor public places in Indonesia;
6. Show printed or digital proof that you are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 at least 14 days prior to your departure (exemptions apply to visitors under 18 years old, diplomatic/official government visit, and medically certified persons). Indonesian citizen who are not fully vaccinated will receive the vaccination after quarantine;
7. A traveller who has been Covid-19 infected is exempted from showing the Covid-19 vaccine certificate as long as the traveller can show a medical attestation from a doctor/hospital/ministry of health or a Covid-19 recovery certificate (in English) from the country of departure confirming that the traveller is no longer transmitting Covid-19;
8. Temperature check will be carried out upon arrival in Indonesia and if the traveller has fever and/or Covid-19 symptoms then a PCR test upon arrival must be done. If travellers are not required to do PCR test upon arrival, they may continue their journey;
9. (A) If travellers must do a PCR test upon arrival, then they need to wait for negative PCR test result at the hotel or place of accommodation.  
(B) If traveller's PCR test upon arrival is positive, then they need to quarantine or be treated in hospital as suggested by the Ministry of Health officials.
10. Quarantine duration 5 x 24 hours for those who have not been vaccinated or have received 1 dose of the vaccine due to medical reasons are required to show a medical certificate from the local hospital explaining the reason why they cannot complete/receive the vaccination, followed by another PCR test on the fourth day of arrival in Indonesia;
11. Domestic travel in Indonesia requires booster vaccination or antigen test (1x24 hours) /PCR test (3x24 hours) for travellers with full vaccination.
12. Domestic travel for 6-17 years old must have full vaccination.
13. An Indonesian citizen is required to have booster vaccination when they travel abroad from Indonesia.



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