

Activity Report of Japan Sri Lanka Technical & Cultural Association (JASTECA)

On behalf of the President and the Executive Committee of Japan Sri Lanka Technical & Cultural Association (JASTECA) I am pleased to present the activity report for the period from September 2022 onwards. During this period, there have been many activities done including Technical and , Management Webinars, scholarship programs both locally and overseas. The Executive Committee has met on 11 occasions so far to ensure the activities are being done regularly.

Finances

JASTECA has progressed positively after the period under review. The financial position of the association has been strengthened further, as a result of the progress it has impacted to increase the investment portfolio. Currently, the finances of the association are handled by the Treasurer in consultation with the Finance Committee.

36th Annual General Meeting

The 36th Annual General Meeting was held on Friday the 16th of September 2022. A new Executive Committee was inducted at the Event. The Chief Guest was HE Mizukoshi Hideaki Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka. The event was concluded successfully followed by the fellowship and dinner reuniting our members.

The inducted Executive Committee for the period of 2022 - 2024



Seated Left to Right

Ms. Gayani Punchihewa (General Secretary), Mr. Tyrell Roche (Treasurer), Mr. Gamini Marambe (Immediate Past President), Mr. Chandana Amaratunga (President), H E Mizukoshi Hideaki (JASTECA Patron, Ambassador for Japan), Mr. Dayasiri Warnakulasooriya (Vice Patron), Mr. Nirosh De Silva (Vice President), Mr. Anuruddha Gamage (Vice President)

Standing Left to Right

Mr. Parakrama B. Jayatissa (Editor), Dr. Sarath Buddhadasa (Committee Member), Ms. Chethana Liyanage (Committee Member), Dr. Neil Bogahalande (Committee Member), Mr. Dulanjana Silva (Asst. General Secretary), Mr. Priyantha Herath (Assistant Treasurer), Mr. Lasantha Wickremesooriya (Committee Member)

AOTS Scholarship programs

Despite the current challenges in the country, JASTECA successfully adapted to move forward and initiate many activities in addition to the regular programs. JASTECA facilitated five subsidized AOTS scholarship programs from January 2023 to uplift the corporate by promoting the Japanese concepts & knowledge in Sri Lanka. We were successful in sending 14 selected participants from diversified corporates for these AOTS Programs.

All programs are listed below,

1. Business Innovation & Organization Development [BIOD] I & II
2. Program for Japanese Corporate Management [PJCM]
3. Training Program on Organizational Revitalization [TPOR]
4. Program on ICT Utilization to overcome DX-related Strategic Management Challenges [PICT]
5. Training Program on Program & Project Management [PPTP]
6. Business Innovation & Organization Development [BIOD] III
7. The Executive Program on Corporate Management [EPCM] 2023

BIOD – I



BIOD - II



PJCM



TPOR



PPTP



PICT



Moreover, JASTECA facilitated the opportunity to Sri Lankan corporate to enhance essential corporate knowledge via the webinars conducted by AOTS such as,

1. Introduction to Digital Marketing
2. Webinar 1: For continuous 5S and Kaizen you can successively develop Challenge to Kaizen Marathon

Japanese Language Education Association (JLEA)

Japanese Language Education Association conducted the General Japanese Language Courses and Fast Track courses efficiently offering a range of options such as onsite classes, online classes and hybrid classes to meet the diverse need of Japanese language seekers in the given period. This adaptable approach has allowed us to expand our reach and provide accessible learning to students all over the island. There were 550 students enrolled for General Japanese Language Courses and 375 students enrolled for Fast Track Language courses.

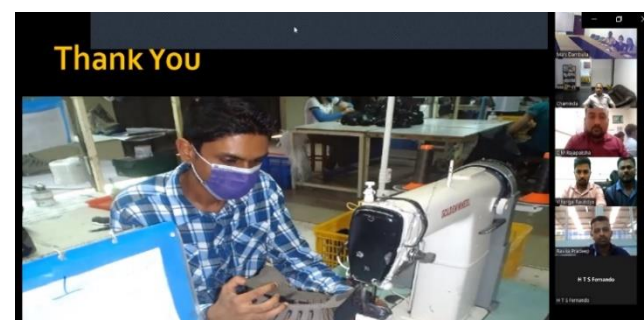
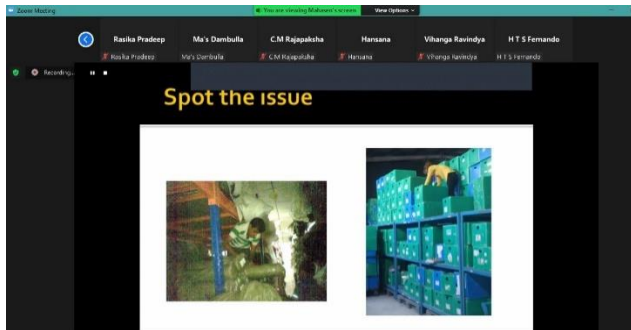
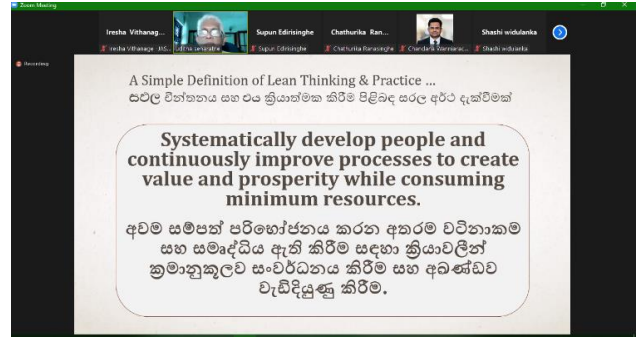
Furthermore, The Japanese Language Proficiency Test was held in December 2022 for 17,100 candidates and July 2023 for 12,910 candidates. In addition, we organized the Nihongo Aptitude Test (NAT) & Examination for Japanese University Admission (EJU) successfully held for certain number of Examinees.

JASTECA Institute of Management (JIM)

JASTECA Institute of Management (JIM), the training and development arm of JASTECA, has contributed to enhance knowledge and skills in multidisciplinary arenas of the corporate world. Understanding the vital need for continuous guidance and knowledge sharing for growth in Sri Lankan corporates and business entities at the given situation, JASTECA continued its 5S awareness programs and the newest client was Hela Clothing Pvt (Ltd). JIM ensured that Sri Lankan corporate face the challenges with confidence converting their challenges into opportunities in the difficult time. There are continuous corporate inquiries are being made for the guidance of JASTECA in order to implement 5S in their respective organizations.

JIM conducted web-based programs:

1. Role of Lean in Human and Environment Aspects
2. Health & Safety at Work



We are pleased to launch the first two on-site programs which were held respectively in May & June. The programs are:

1. Leadership : An art of possibility
2. Transforming Challenges into Opportunities (TCIO)

LADERSHIP: an Art of Possibility, organized by JASTECA Institute of Management, wrapped up as a tremendous success on the 18th May 2023. The seminar was aimed at developing leadership skills of the corporate sector managers. The Program assisted those who were ready to level up their leadership role by gaining exposure to a wide range of up-to-date knowledge and practical tools. The

programme was facilitated by Dr. Sarath Buddhadasa, a life member of JASTECA, a business consultant, academic adviser, researcher and a writer. The seminar was graced by the participation of over 70 representatives from 23 leading organizations.



The seminar, titled "Transforming Challenges into Opportunities", organized by JASTECA Institute of Management, wrapped up as a fruitful knowledge sharing session on the 21st of June 2023. The seminar was aimed at developing skills and competencies through a real-life case study on how a company showcasing stellar performance during a challenging period. The programme was facilitated by Mr. Mahinda Saranapala, a life member & a past president of JASTECA, Managing Director of Kelani Cables PLC. It was truly a knowledge sharing session for those who had the keen interest in leveling up their own organization or the organization they work for. The seminar was graced by the participation of over 45 representatives from 20 leading organizations in Sri Lankan corporate sector.



Madam Kiyoko Ogawa Scholarship Program

On 5th May 1999, the Madam Kiyoko Ogawa Scholarship Fund was officially launched. At the inception, a sum of Rs. 6.0 Mn was donated by Madam Kiyoko Ogawa, and an agreement was signed between the Madam Ogawa advisory member and nominees of JASTECA to implement this scholarship fund. The main objectives of this project are to award scholarships for a period of 24 months for the talented students of underprivileged parents living in remote areas of Sri Lanka. These students who performed well in GCE O/L examination are granted financial scholarships to pursue their studies in the GEC Advance Level examination. After a temporary pause of two years due to the pandemic, the latest project is in progress to be initiated in Deraniyagala situated in Sabaragamuwa Province. The district and the number of scholarship holders are as below.

Year	Area	No. of Students	Year	Area	No. of Students
2000	Embilipitiya	16	2006	Bibile	25
2001	Hingurakgoda	20	2007	Hanguranketha	30
2002	Hambnhotota	26	2008	Akuressa	30
2003	Mahiyanganaya	25	2009	Puttalam	30
2004	Monaragala	25	2010	Anuradhapura	30
2005	Monaragla	25	2011	Batticaloa	25
Year	Area	No. of Students	Year	Area	No. of Students
2012	Mulativu	25	2017	Wiyaluwa, Badulla	25
2013	Dimbulagala	25	2018	Udugama, Galle	27
2014	Madhu-Manar	25	2019	Bakmitiyawa, Ampara	25
2015	Walapane	25	2020	Monaragala	27
2016	Gomarankadawela	26	2021	Mullaitivu	20

Quarterly Newsletter , Member Database Development

The quarterly newsletters were circulated after sorting the technical issues we had. JASTECA website www.jasteca.net had been successfully updated with post event publicity at the 36th AGM, the official JASTECA website is also updated with all AOTS Webinars and local webinars scheduled using the pop-up notification and seminar calendar as well as latest news bulletins of activities. JASTECA contributed to a special newspaper supplement on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of Japan and Sri Lanka Diplomatic relationship which was published on 1st January 2022 in the Daily Mirror, Daily FT, the leading local News publications.

The JASTECA official database has now been successfully updated and processed. During the last 6 months with the input of our staff members and with the available information we were able to secure approximately 1500 email addresses of our Life Members. The first news update was circulated in mid-August, November and, April 2023.

Digital Presence of JASTECA

The Digital media of JASTECA was strengthened by establishing a vibrant social media presence. There had been multiple social media accounts operated under JASTECA previously, which has now been cleansed and merged. Regular updates are published on Facebook and LinkedIn Pages of JASTECA. Announcements on program updates are published timely at regular intervals. Instagram and Twitter pages are currently under review.

- Official Facebook : JASTECA Sri Lanka & Japan Sri Lanka Technical & Cultural Association
- Official LinkedIn & Official Twitter : JASTECA Sri Lanka



Ambassador's visits coordinated by JASTECA

JASTECA facilitated the Japanese Ambassador H E Mizukoshi Hideaki's visit to MAS Kreeda Vaanavil on the 28th June 2022 during his recent visit to the Northern Province. Further, Japanese Ambassador H E Mizukoshi Hideaki and Madam Hideaki visited Pedro Estate during recent visit to Nuwara Eliya. During the visit, the Ambassador met Managing Director Kelani Valley Plantations and other officials of the company. JASTECA facilitated the visit in partnership with the Hayleys Group Plantation Sector.



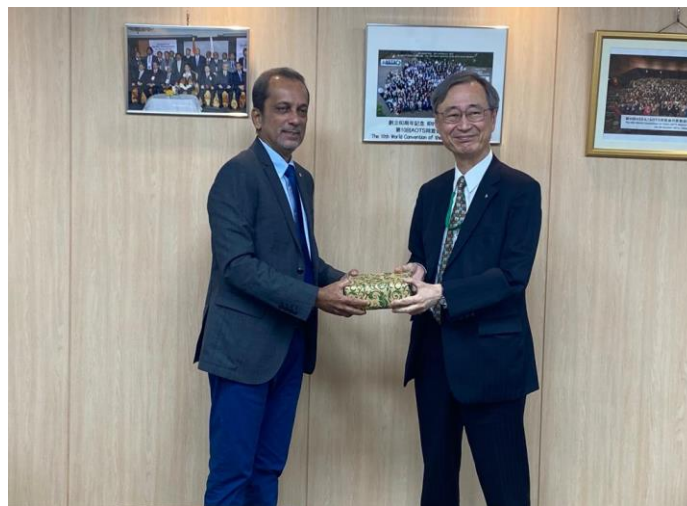
JASTECA officials paid a courtesy call to the H.E Ambassador

On 9th February 2023, JASTECA President Chandana Amaratunga, Senior Vice President Mangala Samarajeewa and General Secretary Gayani Punchihewa paid a courtesy call to H E Mizukoshi Hideaki Ambassador and officials of Japanese Embassy. The discussion was made about the progress so far of JASTECA at the forum and to identify mutually beneficial collaborations for future. Mr. Katsuki Kotaro - Minister , Ms. Anna Suzuki - 2nd Secretary , Public Relations & Cultural Exchange Affairs , Mr. Takafumi Nakanishi - 1st Secretary representing the embassy were present as well.



JASTECA President's Visit to AOTS

On 14th March 2023, President Chandana Amaratunga and Senior Vice President Mangala Samarajeewa visited the AOTS Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan. AOTS Board of Management, led by President Shinya Kuwayama, was impressed with the progress of activities and achievements of JASTECA at this forum. Detailed discussions were also carried out to identify how AOTS could offer customized training experiences to deserving Sri Lankan corporates and candidates in future scholarship programs. Also, they attended a meeting with Global Connectivity Department of AOTS Research Institute, a subcommittee of AOTS. A proposal was made by Mr. Hisashi Kanda regarding a Japanese Education Program for primary schools on life skill conduct by Japanese experts.



Our association with other Japanese Organizations

JASTECA continues to maintain close and cordial relationships and friendly ties with JETRO, JICA, Sasakawa Trust and Japanese Associations. Management of JASTECA visited Japan External Trade Organization a.k.a JETRO. JETRO is one of the main collaborative organizations JASTECA deals with. At the gathering, both parties recalled how the friendship between JASTECA & JETRO came to being and evolved over time to the unwavering relationship of today. Furthermore, the two parties keenly discussed about the future collaborations that can be initiated, to the betterment of all stakeholders concerned.

Our Thanks

It is with great pleasure we place on record our sincere thanks and appreciation for the invaluable advice, guidance and cooperation extended to us by the following:

- His Excellency the Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka and the Patron of JASTECA
- The members of SAFAAS
- The Executive Committees of AOTS Alumni Associations

Thank you!

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