



Newsletter

Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration

April - May



Story of SLIDA

The Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration is a cornerstone in Public Administration and Management education, serving as the premier public sector training hub in Sri Lanka. We are committed to fostering leadership and innovation, offering programs that blend knowledge with practical skills. Our faculty consists of industry veterans, guiding students to become future change-makers. SLIDA alumni contribute significantly across various sectors, embodying our mission to advance governance and public service standards.

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Celebrating the 44th Anniversary of SLIDA

The 44th anniversary of the establishment of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration was celebrated ceremoniously at the institute premises under the patronage of the Director General. In parallel, an entertaining program and a number of recreational activities were organized for the officers. The Welfare Association of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration presented commemorative plaques to the officers who had completed more than 25 years of service and worked for the betterment of the institution, in appreciation of their service. Gifts were also presented to the children of the officers of the SLIDA staff.



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Editorial Note

Forty-four years ago, SLIDA was founded with a singular vision: to shape the leaders who build our nation. Every year on the 2nd of May, we pause to honor that legacy. This year, we marked our 44th SLIDA Day on May 16, 2026, in a beautifully unique way by blending our institutional milestone with the vibrant cultural traditions of our annual Sinhala and Tamil New Year celebrations. This joint festival brought together our SLIDA Family, allowing us to honor more than four decades of heritage while collectively renewing our vows to public service excellence.

Our primary focus during April and May was defined by high-impact management consultancies and structural interventions designed to reshape vital sectors of the national economy. True to our mission, SLIDA's expert faculty successfully delivered a comprehensive organizational restructuring blueprint to the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority advancing national tourism policy goals. Simultaneously, our consultancy arm extended its reach into public health and consumer welfare. By spearheading the Corporate Plan Finalization Workshop for the National Eye Bank Trust of Sri Lanka and officially handing over a cutting-edge Performance-Based Incentive Scheme to the Consumer Affairs Authority, SLIDA is actively embedding accountability directly into state infrastructure. This drive toward systemic modernization was mirrored internally with the successful digitization of the Dr. H. S. Wanasinghe Library via the KOHA Integrated Library Management System.

Furthermore, our commitment to societal governance was reflected in crucial inter-ministerial partnerships. Our specialized, field-based training on the Effective Management of Environment Sensitive Areas with the Ministry of Environment, alongside a landmark training program inaugurated for the senior command of the Department of Prisons, underscore SLIDA's unique capability to bridge macro policy with execution on the ground.

While these corporate consultancies took center stage, SLIDA maintained its rigorous academic momentum across our foundational induction and capacity-building programs for the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, Planning Service, Scientific Service, and Accountants' Service. From exploring how AI is transforming Human Resources to engaging in intensive field leadership exercises at the Ritigala Nature Reserve and celebrating our Speechcraft Batch 03 graduates, these programs continue to cultivate an ethical, digitally empowered, and forward-thinking executive leadership. As we look past our 44th year, the achievements captured in this issue demonstrate that SLIDA remains uniquely positioned to transform public sector capacity into tangible national development.

Editor
M.M.Halida
Senior Consultant

Performance-Based Incentive Scheme Development for the Consumer Affairs Authority

SLIDA successfully marked another important milestone today with the official handover of the management consultancy assignment for the preparation of a performance-based incentive scheme to the Consumer Affairs Authority. The event was graced by the Chairman of the Consumer Affairs Authority, Mr. Hemantha Samarakoon, along with Mr. W. G. Susantha, Executive Director, Mr. Kumara Bandaranayake, Executive Director, Ms. M. M. S. K. Karunaratne, Director General, and the staff of the CAA Head Office. Representing SLIDA, Dr. Sepali Sudasinghe, Additional Director General (OD), and Mr. Sampath Mallawaarachchi, Senior Consultant and Team Leader of the Consultancy, participated in this significant occasion on behalf of the Director General.

With this draft incentive scheme, it is envisaged to further elevate and sustain exemplary service delivery standards within the Consumer Affairs Authority for the benefit of the wider economy. It also reinforces SLIDA's pivotal role in strengthening state sector capacity and performance to enhance public service delivery.



A New Chapter in Library Excellence at SLIDA

The Dr. H. S. Wanasinghe Library of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration proudly marks a significant milestone with the successful commencement of library operations using the KOHA Integrated Library Management System.

On 07th April 2025, this important initiative was officially inaugurated by Mr. A. V. Janadara, Director General of SLIDA, reaffirming our institution's commitment to modernization, efficiency, and improved access to knowledge resources. The event symbolized a major step forward in transforming library services through technology-driven solutions.

The photograph captures this memorable moment with the Director General together with the dedicated library staff, whose collective efforts made this achievement possible. With the introduction of KOHA, the library now offers enhanced services including streamlined cataloguing, circulation, and improved access to information for our academic and professional community.

We look forward to delivering a more user-friendly, efficient, and digitally empowered library experience in support of learning, research, and public sector capacity building.



Induction Training Program for SLPS 2021 (2024) Open Batch - Group B

As a part of the Induction Training Program for the Sri Lanka Planning Service Open Batch 2021(2024) Group B, a thought-provoking session was held under the Module "Gender, Inclusion and Equity in Development".

The session on "Understanding Gender in Development " was conducted by Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage, Additional Director General (Learning and Development), SLIDA. Participants explored to develop the knowledge, skills, and sensitivity to recognize gender issues in development and to integrate gender perspectives into planning, project management, and institutional practice. The module is coordinated by Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage, Additional Director General (Learning and Development).

The sessions provided valuable insights into strengthening leadership effectiveness and enhancing strategic thinking among senior officers of the Sri Lanka Planning Service.



The Grand Finale of the Speechcraft Program - Batch 03

The Grand Finale of the Speechcraft Program – Batch 03, was successfully held on 9th April, marking another important step in SLIDA’s ongoing commitment to developing effective communicators in the public sector.

The event celebrated the progress and achievements of the participants as they showcased their public speaking and communication skills with confidence and clarity.

The occasion was graced by Mr. A. V. Janadara, Director General of SLIDA, Dr. Sepali Sudasinghe, Additional Director General – Organizational Development; and Ms. Anusha Batawalagamage, Additional Director General – Learning and Development. The program was coordinated by Ms. Sachithra Jayavindi, Associate Consultant at SLIDA.

The Speechcraft Program continues to nurture confident speakers and emerging leaders in the public service.



Induction Training Program - Sri Lanka Scientific Service Open Batch - Group B

As part of the ongoing Induction Training Program for the Sri Lanka Scientific Service (Open Batch - Group B), participants recently completed a vital session focused on "Administrative Procedures & Communication." The session was expertly delivered by Ms. Yashica Shashi Prabha Weerasinghe, Senior Consultant at SLIDA. This specialized module is designed to bridge foundational knowledge with practical execution. Through comprehensive training on the Establishments Code, participants gained the insights necessary to seamlessly apply administrative provisions, rules, and procedures in their daily roles.

The successful delivery of this module was coordinated by Ms. M.M. Halida, Senior Consultant at SLIDA, ensuring a seamless and high-impact learning experience for all attendees.



Effective Management of Identified Environment Sensitive Areas in Sri Lanka

SLIDA and the Ministry of Environment recently hosted a successful three-day residential workshop on the Effective Management of Identified Environment Sensitive Areas in Sri Lanka for Divisional Level Officers.

Coordinated by SLIDA's Additional Director General (Learning and Development), Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage, the program aims to build stronger local frameworks for environmental conservation.

We extend our gratitude to our distinguished guests who graced the occasion: Mr. A. V. Janadara (Director General, SLIDA), Mrs. R. H. M. P. Abeykoon (Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment), and Ms. Kumudini Vidyalankara (Director of Policy & Planning, Ministry of Environment) for their invaluable support in advancing national sustainability goals.



Effective Management of Identified Environment Sensitive Areas in Sri Lanka

The SLIDA recently concluded its Training Consultancy Program: Workshop on Effective Management of Identified Environment Sensitive Areas (ESAs) in Sri Lanka – III. The program successfully deepened participants' understanding of ecological sensitivity, biodiversity value, and the critical management frameworks required for designated ESA regions.

A major highlight of the workshop was an immersive field visit to the Diyagama forest area. Guided by Prof. Sewwandi Jayakodi of Wayamba University, alongside flora and fauna specialists and members of the Young Zoologists' Association (YZA), participants received hands-on exposure to the forest's rich biodiversity. The field activities allowed attendees to observe, identify, and analyze diverse plant, bird, amphibian, reptile, insect, and freshwater species in their natural habitats.

The practical experience challenged participants to identify real-world conservation issues and brainstorm sustainable management strategies, including eco-friendly livelihoods and resource-use alternatives tailored for ESA contexts.

The program was coordinated by Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage, Additional Director General (Learning and Development) at SLIDA. Special appreciation is extended to Mr. Chamal Thenuwara, Assistant Divisional Secretary, and the Divisional Secretary of Homagama for their vital logistical support and commitment to facilitating this field-based learning experience.



SLPS Grade I Capacity Building Program 2009 Batch – Group A

As part of the ongoing SLPS Grade 1 Capacity Building Program for 2009 Batch - Group A, participants engaged in an enriching session on Bridging Research to Policies under the Module on “Development Oriented Research and Policy Formulation”.

The session was led by Dr. S.R.S.N. Sudasinghe - Additional Director General (OD) - SLIDA who shared her invaluable insights, practical experiences and expertise to strengthen the capacity of officers to effectively design, interpret and apply development-oriented research for evidence-based policy formulation, enabling them to contribute more strategically to national development planning and decision-making processes.



Certificate Awarding Ceremony on Training Program on Effective Management of Identified Environment Sensitive Areas in Sri Lanka

The Certificate Awarding Ceremony on Training Program on Effective Management of Identified Environment Sensitive Areas for Ministry of Environment was held at SLIDA. The event recognized to create an enable and conducive environment for effective conservation and management of Environment Sensitive Areas in Sri Lanka.

The certificate awarding ceremony was graced by Mr. Sudheera Jayarathna, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Dr. Gamini Batuwitige, Freelance Consultant - Planning and Resource Management and Prof. Sewwandi Jayakody, Professor, University of Wayamba.

The program was coordinated by Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage - Additional Director General (Learning and Development)-SLIDA.



Induction Training Program for SLPS 2021 (2024) Open Batch - Group E1

As part of the ongoing Induction Training Program for SLPS 2021(2024) open batch - Group E1 participants engaged in an enriching session on “E-code Volume II” under the Module on “Procedural Rules and Establishment Code”.

The session was led by Mr. Ruwan Bandara Navarathne - Senior Consultant; SLIDA who shared his invaluable perceptions, practical experiences and expertise to develop knowledge and critical competencies in the Establishment Code, Public Service Procedures, and the role of the Public Service Commission, enhancing participants' knowledge to apply rules, analyze workplace situations, and make ethical and legally sound decisions in public service delivery.



Induction Training Programme for Sri Lanka Accountants' Service 2021 (2024) Open Batch - Group E3

The Induction Training Programme for the Sri Lanka Accountants' Service (SLAS) Open Batch 2021 (2024) – Group E3 is currently underway at SLIDA. The program is specifically designed to equip newly recruited financial officers with the critical knowledge, practical skills, and professional mindset necessary to spearhead modern public financial management.

As part of their specialized module, "Internal Controls, Internal Audit, and Managing External Audit Observations," participants recently attended an impactful session titled "Regulatory Framework of Public Financial Management Oversight." Delivered by Ms. Thayalini Thavamannan (Senior Consultant, SLIDA), the session focused heavily on strengthening internal controls, supporting institutional audit functions, and championing the core values of accountability, transparency, and sound financial governance across the public sector.



Induction Training Programme – Sri Lanka Scientific Service (Open) Batch - Group B

The Sri Lanka Scientific Service Open Batch (Group B) recently marked a key milestone in their Induction Training Programme during the "Office Management and Public Administration" module. A foundational session on "Good Governance and Public Administration" was expertly delivered by Dr. A.M.P. Arandara, Senior Consultant at SLIDA.

The session was strategically designed to give incoming scientific officers an introductory awareness of the prevailing legal and procedural guidelines that govern public service administration. By translating complex frameworks into practical implications for day-to-day office duties, the module has equipped these new professionals to perform their administrative functions with a strong commitment to transparency, ethical alignment, and systematic compliance.



Capacity Building Programme of SLPS Grade II (2013) -Group C

As part of the ongoing Capacity Building Programme for the Sri Lanka Planning Service (SLPS) Grade II (2013) – Group C, an innovative session was recently hosted under the module "HR Management in Development and Planning."

The session, titled "How AI is Transforming Human Resources," was delivered by Mr. Srikanth Jayarajah, Project Manager, Innovation Lead, and Operations Manager at RR Donnelley Global Outsourcing.

The training introduced participants to the practical applications of Artificial Intelligence within Human Resource Management, demonstrating how automated tools can streamline and elevate core HR functions. A central theme of the session was the strategic harmony between technological capability and human insight. Rather than positioning AI as a replacement for human staff, Mr. Jayarajah emphasized a collaborative ecosystem where technology automates routine tasks, allowing HR professionals to focus on more responsive, high-value human interactions within the workplace.



Field visit of SLPS Grade II (2013) - Group C under Capacity Building Programme

The In-Service Capacity Building Programme for the Sri Lanka Planning Service Grade II (2013 Intake) – Group C recently achieved a key milestone within its "HR Management in Development and Planning" module. Moving beyond the traditional classroom, the cohort participated in a dedicated field visit and overnight stay at the Ritigala Nature Reserve.

The off-site program was strategically designed as an experiential learning laboratory, focusing heavily on practical team building, conflict resolution dynamics, and adaptive leadership development. By removing officers from their routine environments, the session successfully cultivated essential competencies in collaborative resource sharing, mutual accountability, and ethical compliance.

Coordinated by Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage, Additional Director General (Learning and Development) at SLIDA, this unique field experience directly reinforces the institution's commitment to fostering well-rounded professional excellence among development and planning executives.



SLIDA Provides Strategic Consultancy for National Eye Bank Trust Corporate Plan

On May 9, 2026, the Corporate Plan Finalization Workshop of the National Eye Bank Trust of Sri Lanka was successfully convened at the Galle Face Hotel. This high-profile, consultancy-driven session brought together distinguished healthcare professionals and key stakeholders to refine and finalize the strategic roadmap for the Trust.

The workshop was designed to align the corporate plan of NEBTSL with the National Eye Bank Trust Act No. 22 of 2023, modern public governance principles, and international eye banking standards. Highlighting the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration's ongoing commitment to boosting public sector institutional capacity, the technical sessions were led by Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage (Additional Director General – Learning and Development, SLIDA) and co-facilitated by Ms. Yohani Flesinger. The expert consultancy panel also included SLIDA Senior Consultant Dr. Mayura Arandara.

The prestigious event was graced by several eminent medical and administrative pioneers, including Special Guest Dr. Anil Jasinghe, the Chief Executive Director of NEBTSL Dr. Kusum Sri, senior ophthalmology experts, and members of the NEBT Board of Trustees. The successful program was jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and Mass Media alongside the National Eye Bank Trust of Sri Lanka.



SLIDA Launches Landmark Training Program for Senior Prison Executives

On May 8, 2026, the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration officially inaugurated a landmark training program designed specifically for Superintendents of Prisons, Assistant Superintendents and Rehabilitation SPs/ASPs. This high-level capacity-building initiative is engineered to equip senior correctional executives with advanced competencies in rehabilitation strategies, conflict resolution, team motivation, and strategic management, directly aligning with the modern vision of the Department of Prisons.

The prestigious inaugural ceremony was graced by SLIDA's executive leadership, including Mr. A. V. Janadara (Director General), Dr. S.R.S.N. Sudasinghe (Additional Director General – Organizational Development), and Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage (Additional Director General – Learning & Development), alongside distinguished SLIDA faculty members.

Coordinated by Dr. S.R.S.N. Sudasinghe, this strategic program aims to drive systemic reform across the correctional system by fostering safer institutional environments, lowering recidivism rates, and developing constructive, professional officer-inmate dynamics to support a more just society.



SLIDA Presents Strategic Organizational Restructuring Report to SLTDA

The Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration has successfully finalized a comprehensive work-study and organizational restructuring assignment for the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA). The final report, which offers critical institutional blueprints, has been officially handed over and presented to the SLTDA Board of Directors.

Conducted under the guidance of SLIDA Director General Mr. Vimukthi Janadara, this specialized study provides a strategic roadmap to align SLTDA's operational structure with the National Tourism Policy goals. We extend our immense gratitude to the consultancy team consisting of Ms. Neranjala Jayasundara, Dr. Mayura Arandara, Mr. Manoj Colombage, and the late Mr. Ranjan Samaraweera, whose dedicated efforts were instrumental in bringing this vital national project to fruition.



TIMELESS THOUGHT

“Believe nothing, no matter where you read it, or who said it, no matter if I have said it, unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense.”

Lord Buddha



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