

THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA
407, BAUDDHALOKA MAWATHA,
COLOMBO 7
TEL : 2682730; 3091275



18.01.2011

TO : All Trustees and Members

Dear Sir/Madam,

**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA
THURSDAY, 31ST MARCH 2011**

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting** of The National Trust - Sri Lanka, will be held at **6.00 p.m.** on Thursday, 31st March 2011, at the Auditorium of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, 80 Galle Road, Colombo 3.

AGENDA

1. Welcome Address by the President;
2. Presentation of the Annual Report of the Secretary General;
3. Presentation of Annual Accounts of the National Trust by the Treasurer;
4. Presentation of the Possible Prospects of The National Trust by Dr. Roland Silva;
5. Announcement of Office Bearers for the forthcoming year 2011-2012;
6. Comments of the General Membership;
7. Any other Business;
8. Vote of Thanks;

**Launch of the Book "Coral Reefs of Sri Lanka" –
Nishan Perera – 6.30 p.m.**

**Monthly Lecture "Art of the Last Decade of the 20th Century"-
Prof. Jagath Weerasinghe- 6.40p.m.**

By Order of the Trustees.

Secretary General.

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Annual General Meeting, 2010

Report of the Secretary General

Trustees, Members and Well-wishers,

The National Trust –Sri Lanka, has reached the sixth year of activity since its establishment in May 2005. At the beginning it was a small gathering of eminent personalities belonging to a number of professions such as Archaeology, Architecture, Conservation, Legal, Banking, Finance, Administration, Business and Heritage Management that constituted this body. Though it had a modest beginning during its first few years, the National Trust has now grown into a strong and a well accepted non-governmental national institution with more than twenty Trustees and two hundred or more general Members of heritage conscious citizens of Sri Lanka. As reported previously the Trust conducted its monthly affairs with an average of ten to twenty persons, but within the past four years, the numbers have increased to the hundreds. Throughout 2010, the monthly activities recorded more than sixty percent participation in terms of the Trustees and an average of more than 150 general Members. The expansion of the heritage related activities during the year was also remarkable. The National Trust gained its present momentum of progress through the realization of its objectives during that period. This aspect is best reflected by its achievements gained through the successful implementation of the many heritage related activities which benefited both its members and the country at large.

Some of the major achievements and activities conducted during the period under review could be listed as follows;

Regular Monthly Meetings of the Board of Trustees:

Regular Monthly Meetings of the Board of Trustees was planned to be conducted on an average of 12 monthly meetings a year, excluding the last month reserved for its annual dinner. The Trust managed to conduct the full number of meetings in 2010 with the required quorum. Even the annual dinner in December 2010 turned out to be a fruit full meeting cum discussion of heritage importance with a gathering of invitees and even special personalities from the national and international arena. The total number of trustees meetings held from the inception to date has been 55 and out of this 12 Board meetings were held during the period under review. As we all know, the Trustees meetings are important as they create an opportunity for the relevant experts to work-out the plans of the Trust and evolve the strategies for implementation in an effective way. At the same time it had been helpful to review the progress of activities undertaken and to keep the organization live and active all the time. In the year 2010 the monthly meetings and affairs of the Trust became more efficient after the establishment of the **“Management Committee”** which meets regularly mid-monthly before the Trustees meetings. This committee works out the minute details of plans and strategies of the Trust to achieve better results. For the information of the general Membership I wish to record that, at present the Management Committee has become the main driving force behind all affairs of the Trust. On behalf of the general Membership, let me take this opportunity to extend the due gratitude, to the Members of

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the Management Committee and its coordinating secretary Ms. Marina Perera for working selflessly and with much dedication to make efforts of the Trust a success.

Monthly meetings of the Scientific Sub-committees of the National Trust:

There are six Scientific Sub-committees namely, Monuments and Sites, Moveable Artifacts, Natural Heritage, Intangible Heritage, Paintings Sculpture and Visual Arts and Architectural Conservation. During the year, the six Scientific sub-committees comprised of experts in the relevant areas of heritage studies conducted regular monthly meetings and discussions to formulate and carryout plans covering the respective specialized subjects and supported the main body. Each committee was chaired by an Anchor Person who is always a senior professional assisted by a team of other specialists. Due appreciation goes to Prof. Nimal de Silva for keeping these meetings going and to Mr. Nilan Coorey, the Assistant Secretary General for coordinating the Scientific Sub-committee meetings.

Successful launching of a Membership Drive programme:

A Membership programme was launched, during this year targeting to have a fair number of new Members and to form a strong body of more than 200 Members. The National Trust achieved this target even beyond what was expected and now we have a membership of near 250 as of today, due mainly to the untiring efforts taken by the Members of the Management Committee.

Rising of Funds for the National Trust:

Sufficient funding recourses were raised to implement the planned activities for the year 2010. This was possible due to the efficiency of the Management Committee which took the initiative to have a more effective management of the income received and expenditure incurred. The Trust received funds from various sources through its campaigns among local and international Donors, Sponsors, General Membership and Well-wishers. The Management Committee was successful in getting a contribution from the Hatton National Bank to meet the expenditure of its day to day affairs. The Trust also received the final instalment of the contribution of the Nations Trust Bank to launch the DVD on the "Heritage of Sinhala Music". The Chairman Finance and the Treasurer General will enlighten the Trustees and the Members more on this subject when presenting the Statement of Accounts for the year 2010.

Publication of a series of ten Special Volumes on Cultural and Natural Heritage:

This was another important activity carried-out during the period under review. Out of a total of ten volumes planned, five books, namely, "**Birds of Sri Lanka**" authored by Mr. Gihan de Silva Wijeyaratne, "**Heritage Buildings of Sri Lanka**" authored by Prof Nimal de Silva and Archt. D.P. Chandrasekera, "**20th Century Painters of Sri Lanka**" by Prof. Seneka Bandaranayake and Prof. Albert Dharmasiri, "**Heritage Photographs of Sri Lanka**" by Archt. Ismeth Raheem, "**Coral Reefs of Sri Lanka**" by Mr. Nishan Perera are already published. There are several other books written and ready for sending to the printer once the required funds are raised. The fifth publication, "**Coral Reefs of Sri Lanka**" is scheduled to be launched at the March 2011 meeting. On behalf of the Trust one takes the opportunity to extend the gratitude to

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the Authors, the Designer and the Copy Editor for devoting their valuable time in writing and designing these handsome volumes and so making their contributions to the Nation. The National Trust is indebted to the Sponsors who extended their generous financial contribution to meet the cost of printing thus promoting the heritage of our country.

Conducting of the Quarterly Heritage Tours:

Quarterly Heritage Tours for the Members, their families and friends to visit more than 50 large and small ancient monuments and sites of heritage importance was conducted. This activity initiated by the National Trust continued during the year 2010 by conducting four quarterly tours successfully. Heritage sites in the Kurunegala and Gampaha Districts, Mural Painting sites in the western province, and the Muturajawela Nature site, were some of the venues selected for the year. A series of Tour Guide Books were also published along with the tours which are now available for the members and the general public. The services extended by some Trustees and Members voluntarily to guide the participants to various sites, and the Tour Committee under Quickshaws headed by the Trustee Ms. Nirmala de Mel organizing and providing the participants with suitable transport and other facilities and Mr Nilan Coorey in preparing the guide books are deeply appreciated.

Conducting of a series of special Lectures Monthly:

This Monthly Lecture series continued during the year 2010, as one of the major activities of the National Trust without any interruption. From the inception to date 26 Special Lectures have been conducted and out of this total, 10 were carried out during the period under review. “ **Heritage Photographs of Sri Lanka**” by Archt. Ismeth Raheem, “ **Dances of Sri Lanka**” by Prof. Tissa Kariyawasam, “ **Water Falls of Sri Lanka**” by Mr. Costa, “**Ancient Watercrafts of Sri Lanka**” by Prof. Vinie Vitharana, “**Early Settlements of Sri Lanka**” by Dr. Siran Deraniyagala, “**Heritage Asset Management**” by Archt. Pali Wijeratne, “ **Megalithic Cemeteries of Sri Lanka**” by Prof. Sudarshan Seneviratne, “ **Hindu Art and Architecture of Sri Lanka**” by Prof. Nagraj Rao of India, “**Traditional Jewellery of Sri Lanka**” by Dr. Hiranthi Pathirana “**Coral Reefs of Sri Lanka**” by Mr. Nishantha Perera, were such special lecture presentations conducted during the year which attracted large audience including the interested public. The programme as a whole was a great success with an attendance of more than 150 to 300 participants at each lecture. In addition to the educational and academic value to the participants, the special monthly lectures brought in much publicity to the National Trust and its activities providing a big boost to the membership drive and its fundraising efforts. The results have been immensely gratifying as shown by the response made by the relevant scholars and in delivering the special lectures in an honorary capacity along with the distinguished personalities who chaired the lecture series. We wish to record our deep appreciation again to the Members of the Management Committee for assisting in the coordination of the lectures, and the owners of the venues such as the Auditorium of the PGIAR, Barefoot Gallery Café, Galle Face Hotel, the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority for providing these facilities. We are especially grateful to the Sri Lanka Tourist Board as they have promised to provide this facility throughout and even the publicity to these lectures. We also record our special thanks to Major General Lohan Gunawardena and the team from F.J. and G. de Saram including the volunteer Members assisting the Trust during the lecture sessions.

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Other Institutions dealing with the subject of Heritage Preservation and in International Cooperation with the National Trust:

As another activity of the National Trust was the extraordinary work of collaboration with international institutions such as the Prince Claus Fund (PCF) of the Netherlands and the International National Trust Organization (INTO). The conservation of the Malwana Ancient Fort was selected to be implemented by the National Trust with the collaboration of the PCF under their international programme of intervention to rescue the heritage sites in danger. In this context the National Trust took the initiative to raise funds to conserve the Fort of Malwana and thus assisted the Department of Archaeology to conduct an emergency conservation programme. During the year 2010 the project achieved considerable progress by completing the conservation of the inner ramparts and thereby, in preventing the site from further deterioration. At present the activity No 2 of the conservation plan, which is the construction of a gabion wall to protect the site during river flooding is in progress. It is expected to complete the full programme by April 2011, as agreed with the PCF. We thank the Sponsor for providing time extensions to continue this project. With regard to the INTO the National Trust –Sri Lanka has already become a Member with a view to have more international and regional cooperation with other National Trusts.

Launching of the DVD covering the presentation of the Late Dr. Tissa Abeysekere on “Heritage of Sinhala Music”:

The project which commenced in 2009 to produce the DVD and the Booklet on the “Heritage of Sinhala Music” was completed during the year 2010 and the two products were launched successfully at the Galle Face Hotel with the participation of the full Membership, Eminent Personalities, Family Members of the Late Dr. Tissa Abeysekera and the interested general public. The Trust wishes to extend its appreciation to the Nations Trust Bank for their valuable financial contribution towards this project and to thank our Trustee, Mr. U.L.Kadurugamuwa who played a keyrole in getting this project going and the artists and musicians who contributed their services throughout its implementation period. Arrangements are being made by the Fund Raising Committee to sell the copies of the DVD to raise funds to meet its cost and even contribute to any specific intentions of Dr. Tissa Abeysekere.

Other Projects:

Preparation of the **WEBSITE of the Trust** which started in 2009 continued to be developed further by the team of volunteer Members. A provisional launching of the WESITE took place in the month of October 2010 and the scope of the project is being expanded.

A new project to publish another series of books titled “**Seven Arts of Sri Lanka - Outstanding International Artists of an Era, at the end of the 20th Century**” was also initiated by the Trust during 2010, in addition to the ongoing 10 special publications, with a view to honour the outstanding Sri Lankan Artists and Writers who contributed immensely to the country in the fields of sculpture, Painting, Architecture, Dance, Music, Literature, Drama, etc.

The National Trust hopes to continue these programmes and activities in the future along with the introduction of new activities under its projected plans for the year 2011 and onwards.

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As was in the past, the achievements of National Trust during the year 2010, was mainly due to the team spirit and the strong commitment and the dedication of the Trustees, Members of the sub-committees especially of the Management Committee and the general membership. The commitment and the enthusiasm exhibited by the team of volunteer Members was, indeed, the main reason for the success, which is highly commendable.

We take this opportunity to salute them all, and to extend our gratitude to others who served as Anchor Persons, Authors and Designers and Members of Scientific Sub-committees for sparing their valuable time and in making major contributions to the Trust.

With the firm hope of seeing another successful year of operations let me conclude my report for the year 2010.

H.D.S.Hettipathirana,
Secretary General,
31st March 2011



President's Report for 2010

by
Dr. Roland Silva

Fellow Members of the National Trust,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Secretary General has recorded extensively the events that have been carried out during 2010. My task is to thank the Office Bearers who had so generously and with utmost dedication attended to the tasks undertaken by each, both voluntarily and have executed these with deep commitment. The Management Committee has guided us through vast strides during the year towards stability both financially and in terms of a firm home. In this regard the Secretary's note to thank the Hatton National Bank, the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology and the Ceylon Tourist Board needs to be underlined. It is well to record our debt of gratitude to Mr. S. Samarasinghe in finding accommodation for the Trust office, during most of 2010. The Scientific Committees chaired by Professor Nimal de Silva, with many Organizations have carried out the frontline activities of the Trust by setting out their targets and the fruits of such labour are due in the years to come. The Monthly Lectures that have been held without a break and at the highest levels of interest to the Members, have been fully backed by the F. J. and G. de Saram's outfit throughout, for which we extend our heartfelt gratitude. The popular publications on cultural themes await a link up with the Central Cultural Fund, to ease the cost price on these. The down to earth explorations of the untrodden sites of heritage value, have indeed been the hallmark of Trustee Nirmala and that of the script writer Nilan, in programming the quarterly tours. The excavation and conservation at the Malvana Fort, with financial backing from the Prince Clouse Foundation, is truly a worthy memorial for this enterprising International Agency. We are also grateful to Her Excellency Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the Former President of the National Trust – India, who graced the annual dinner and shared their thoughts on the work of the Trust. Finally, let us warmly thank the Secretary General, the Treasurer General, the Assistant Secretary General and the Administrative Secretary for the untiring efforts extended to the Trust in a selfless way. We are also grateful to the auditors Ernst and Whitney, for their honorary services.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of all of you, let me as the President extend our best greetings and grateful thanks to our partners in progress and indeed, to our dear Members of the Trust in reaching out to attain the objectives of the National Trust.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is also appropriate at this annual gathering to think ahead in terms of what we can do in the future in consolidating our strengths and in correcting our weaknesses. In this regard the following thoughts are placed before the Members and Trustees.

- Consider the prudence of establishing branch organizations of the Trust in the Provincial Capitals starting with Kandy.

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- Consider expanding the Quarterly Tours to these being held once every other month by repeating the earlier tours on every alternate month.
- Consider assisting the Universities in publishing appropriate theses now stacked at these institutions in order to make such research material available to the public.
- Consider attracting foreign funding, as with the Prince Clouse Foundation for the Dutch Monuments and Gulbenken money for the Portuguese Monuments. Along with this, to harness the voluntary services of retired Archaeological Offices to supervise such work on a relay system as offered by them.
- With the publication of the first Corpus of 500 Monuments, speak to the owners of these cultural properties and arrange for the Trust Members and friends to visit these over the weekends at given visiting hours. These could also have the National Trust Crest fixed on them and request the owners to have a contribution box for those who may wish to subscribe to the upkeep of such cultural property.
- With the publication of the first Corpus of 500 artifacts the Trust may advise the relevant temples or owners to make these available for public viewing either by encouraging the allocation of a room in the premises for their display and in enabling such objects with appropriate showcases.
- The books being prepared by the Intangible Heritage Scientific Committee on Traditional Food Items, Folk Music, Textile Designs and Masks to be printed and made available for sale to the public.
- It will, indeed, be a happy day when the trees choppers of Colombo will be coached by Tree Surgeons from Australia and the Dying Parks of Colombo will have development proposals from Kew Gardens as envisaged by the Natural Heritage Scientific Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The above are a few thoughts that the Trustees may consider for action in the succeeding years. In the meanwhile, let us be content that we have moved, at least a few steps towards the intended goals for a Trust that is still only a few years old. Finally, let us repeat to our Trustees and Members the old slogan of such Trusts: “We do not forget old friends”.

Thank You.

31st March, 2011.

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