

Youth *on the* **Move**

VOLUME 01 | ISSUE 01

OCTOBER 2022

Retail Price 500.00

@ All rights reserved



Spinning His Magic with *Absolute Happiness*

- *Kasun Sigera*

Reaching the stars beyond the conventional

- *Malinda Perera*

Passionate community worker that go beyond volunteerism

- *Rihan Saleen*



2579-1818



Over the past 38 years, we have had the privilege of lighting up your life.

Bearing this trust you kept in us throughout this unforgettable journey,
presenting you with our range of Soorya products.

Safety Wax Matches | Incense Sticks | Dripleless Candles



Sun Match Company (Pvt) Ltd.

Bamunupolawatta, Kundasale, Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Tel: +94 81 4472555, +94 81 2420057, +94 81 2420225 Fax: +94 81 2420435 E-mail: soorya@slt.lk



Content

Page
04

Message from
Chair WIM NG
Awards 2022

Page
05

Message from
the Director
General and
Chairman of the
National Youth
Services Council

Page
06

Be Self-Made and
Unleash Your
Potential

Page
07

New Generation
Awards Panel of
Judges - 2022

Page
09

New
Generation
Committee 2022

Page
12

Aiming to
redefine
'Sri Lankan'
culture in the
global arena.

Page
13

Spinning
His Magic with
Absolute
Happiness

Page
17

Highlights
of the Youth
Mentoring
Program

Page
19

I want to be a
successful
entrepreneur

Page
22

Reaching the
stars
beyond the
conventional

Page
24

Passionate
community worker
that go beyond
volunteerism

Page
25

Opportunity
can't be
quantified



Message from Chair WIM NG Awards 2022

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to pen a few words to the publication issued to mark the 3rd Annual “New Generation Awards 2022” organised by the Women in Management and New Generation Chapter in collaboration with the National Youth Services Council. The event will be held on the 29th October, 2022 at the Galadari Hotel, Colombo.

The theme of the this year’s New Generation Awards “WIN-Spiration a play on “Inspiration” is very timely considering the brain drain leading to the frustration of the youth in Sri Lanka due to the current economic, political and social instability. A country that has seen many youth unrests over the years losing lives at the tender age in big numbers either misguided or dragged in due to frustration of the youth, cannot afford another loss of talent from the X,Y and Z generation.

The country is dependent on this young new generation, highly skilful, with a very high literacy rate, exposed to the world with a touch of a button. They are very much driven to achieving their goals and objectives considering the global opportunities available. Their aims are above the sky, ready to take challenges all the time but the country as a whole has failed to set the stage for the budding youth in the country to reach the global levels of immense opportunities. It is correct to say that the youth of Sri Lanka has performed in many ways in the international arena in the top global cooperates, academic institutions, government and non-governmental organizations.

With this in mind, Women in Management successfully conducted two NG award ceremonies and gave wide publicity and awareness to this year’s ceremony enabling many youth in the country to apply making the event very competitive.

The panel of judges lead by Prof. (Dr.) Ravi Dissanayake had a huge task after long listing and shortlisting and finally

selecting young stars to the grand finale of the new generation awards 2022.

I take this opportunity to thank, Dr. Sulochana Seger, Chairperson of WIM, the Executive Committee, the Organizing Committee of new generation awards, Chairman NYSC Dr. Thiran De Silva and all the others from NYSC, all the sponsors who contributed to make this event an ultimate success. I also wish to thank the youth of Sri Lanka who took an interest and applied for the NG awards. Finally I congratulate all the award winners and hope that the others too should be hopeful that this NG awards will continue to identify and reward youth in Sri Lanka as they are the future not only in Sri Lanka but in the whole world.

**Dr. Thushari
Koralage**

Chair WIM NG Awards 2022
WIM EXCO Member



Message from the Director General and Chairman of the National Youth Services Council

With great pleasure, I write my message to mark the occasion of the New Generation Awards 2022. This initiative, organized by Women in Management and the WIM New Generation Chapter, is a unique endeavor that recognizes, uplifts, and nurtures Sri Lankan youth to take major strides in various disciplines in building pathways to success.

Today's youth are privileged to have a world of opportunities outside standard accepted professions. You can be anyone you choose to be. The sky's the limit if you have the drive, passion, skill, and discipline to strive for excellence in your chosen field.

The National Youth Services Council takes pride in joining the WIM New Generation Chapter to recognize

youth who have taken the initiative to be positive changemakers in society in various spheres from entrepreneurship, sports, arts, politics, and media to positive activism.

It is timely and noteworthy that a group of professional women has identified our youth's needs and developed programs to upskill their talents and master the soft skills that would enable them to achieve milestones on a global scale. After all, no one multitasks and is more adaptive to change than women who play so many different roles in their daily lives. In that context, both WIM and NYSC share a common objective, which is to provide youth with the necessary armor to achieve Sri Lanka's ambitious development goals which are currently of monumental importance. It is heartening to note that WIM has also taken steps to create a youth chapter that no doubt will create the pathway to bridge the generation gap allowing us to learn from each other and work towards achieving the country's social and economic goals.

Congratulations to all the winners. Remember that with this award you take on more responsibility to sharpen your craft and deliver noteworthy results to inspire other youth. To the other nominees, continue your journey to create change and work harder towards your objectives and rest assured victory will not be too far away.

Finally, while wishing the New Generation Chapter and WIM the very best in all your future endeavors, I as chairman of NYSC pledge our utmost support and look forward to many more partnerships of this nature moving forward. It is only by unifying our strengths and resources that we can achieve what seems to be the impossible which I have no doubt we can ultimately achieve.

Dr. Thiran De Silva
Director General & Chairman
National Youth Service Council

Be Self-Made and Unleash Your Potential

Youth are a reflection of the future of a nation. The New Generation Awards-2022 is an apt platform recognizing and endorsing Sri Lanka's future. I extend my best wishes to the youth of Sri Lanka who are privileged to have a platform allowing them to showcase their potential, thereby giving future leaders a fillip. It was a privilege to chair the panel of judges of the third New Generation Awards organized by WIM which was based on the fitting theme "inspirational". I believe youth must unleash their "self-made" potential where they find the stimulant within.

This country and the world desperately lack transformational personalities in many aspects. For instance, one could find multitudes of ways to define development which is being argued from many perspectives right now. An outcome-based development assures transparency and sustainability to all stakeholders of development. Youth have a wider view of looking at a development trajectory that makes

a meaningful impact. I invite youth to bring their newness and quality to redirect society for a better outcome.

I share my personal views on contemporary youth and their responsibility to their country. Remember, you are expected to be the masters of action over thinkers, of whom there are many today. You must transform your energy into synergy to act and show results regardless of criticism. You have

the strength to respond to any criticism. You can overcome people's shortsighted views as long as your objective is to impact others. I believe intelligence is paramount over archaic systems of education to connect to the world while adopting a collaborative attitude over a competitive one to make the holistic change we all long to see. It is your era, and your leadership should roar louder to raise this nation's heartbeat. Be the change and not expect and wait for others to bring the change you desire. We as a nation desperately require your proactiveness to lead this great island to unleash its potential.

The WIM New Generation Awards-2022 is a timely wake-up call to our youth to take the first step toward change. The rest will follow. My heartiest congratulations to all the winners. Remember that you have won deservedly. What you need is to push ahead by believing in your dreams. Let's bring out our best for Sri Lanka.



Professor Ravi Dissanayake

Chairman of the Panel of Judges
New Generation Awards 2022
Department of Marketing Management
University of Kelaniya

New Generation Awards Panel of Judges - 2022



Prof (Dr). Ravi Dissanayake

- Chairman of the Panel of Judges
Head - Department of Marketing Management
Faculty of Commerce & Management Studies (FCMS)
University of Kelaniya



Sandra De Zoysa

Group Chief Customer Officer
Dialog Axiata, PLC
Chairperson Emeritus - SLASSCOM



Mr. Rashitha Delapola

Director
Technical & Vocational Training
National Youth Services Council



Ms. Zahara Ansary

Country Manager
CIMA Sri Lanka



Ms. Lihini Fernando

Co-Founder/ Partner Velox Legal, Attorney-at-law,
Council Member
Moratuwa Municipal Council



Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera

Director/Organizational Development
Ministry of Health



Dr. Nirmal De Silva

- Strategy Consultant, Entrepreneur, Youth Empowerment
Advocate & Associate Professor in
Business Management

New Generation Committee 2022



**Kavindra
Kasun Sigera**
Chairman



Tamara Perera
Vice Chairperson



Thimethma Algama
Secretary



Shehan Jayasuriya
Treasurer



Dilmika Srimal
Joint Chair - Fellowship & Networking



Vihani Tennakoon
Joint Chair - Fellowship & Networking



Sayumi Jayawardene
Chair - Global Outreach



Dinasha Kariyapperuma
Chair - CSR



Piyumakshi Weerasooriya
Chair - Membership



Malinda Perera
Joint Chair - Professional Development



K.W. Yashika Nipuni
Joint Chair - Professional Development



Sajjad Ahamed
Chair - Public Relations & Partnerships



Aiming to redefine

‘Sri Lankan’ culture in the global arena.

Chithuni Harinya Wanasinghe is best defined as the girl with spectacles and long hair, ‘always busy’ with something and also a bit of a perfectionist. Chithuni introduces herself as a very creative yet ambitious individual “ I am a 19-year old studying for my A/L exams and I am a professional compere. I love reading, writing and music and I find peace in nature. I am also very passionate about learning foreign languages and new cultures.”

Chithuni’s ambition is to make a career out of the fields of international relations, economics, foreign languages and cultures as a diplomat representing Sri Lanka and one day be affiliated to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. She would also like to pursue a career as a professional compere.

“The most prominent of the challenges is the current situation of the country. I wish to pursue my higher studies outside of Sri Lanka, I truly believe that I can reach my aspirations of representing Sri Lanka that way, by making the most out of my time.

I believe that I can contribute to my country, especially in terms of culture, by taking Sri Lankan culture to new heights. I think that by doing so, I will be able to convince others from foreign nations to take a second and have a much closer and better look at our country’s potential.”

Chithuni credits her parents for her achievements so far saying they continue to make the biggest impact in her life

“The two achievements that mean the most to me are being awarded an honorary title from my school, for the first time in my school’s history and the opportunity I had in taking part in the Asia Kakehashi Program from 2021 to 2022, which is a cultural exchange program scholarship to Japan. Both of these massive opportunities truly altered my life and I will forever be grateful for it.”

The two main role models of my life are my parents - my father because of his amazing work ethics and leadership and my mother for her resilience and the way she skillfully cruises through life. They’ve shown me that life is made out of continuous efforts, a strong mind and a stronger heart. “

Chithuni
Harinya
Wanasinghe

Chithuni’s message to the youth is to never feel overwhelmed by the responsibility to change the world.

“I think the youth feels too pressured when people say things like “It’s all in your hands” and “It’s up to you to do better than us”. But you don’t have to change the whole world at once. Rather, start with changing one person’s life for the better. It will mean the world to them.”

A portrait of a man with short, dark hair, wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a blue and white striped tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is black.

Spinning His Magic

with Absolute Happiness

Kasun Sigera

Kasun Sigera, an International Business Developer and winner of the WIM New Generation Award seems unstoppable. Oozing confidence and drive, Kasun is a young man on the move, agile and ready to embrace the opportunities of the present and ready for the opportunities of the future. He has honed his skills to offer his talents anywhere in the world and is mentoring young Sri Lankans to look beyond the periphery into the global landscape of opportunities. In a somewhat mired local milieu, Kasun is looking positively at the bigger picture, rooting for a Sri Lanka led by visionary leadership and individuals who ascend to power on meritocracy, capable of harnessing the potency of the country. It's time, says Kasun to look for the best, and turn away from settling for less, and the lesser evils. Now is the moment for Sri Lanka to rise to its feet and it's up to its citizens to drive change in every sphere of life.

Who is Kasun Sigera? Tell us about yourself, the work you do, and more.

I am an International Business Developer by profession. I've been a news anchor and a TV presenter on National Television. As part of my volunteering journey, I led Rotaract in Sri Lanka and the Maldives as the District Rotaract Representative in 2020-21.

Ever since I was a child, I've been passionate about traveling and exploring countries and new cultures while always being lured to try new things.

I'm an extremely assertive patriot who loves taking the best of Sri Lanka to the world, may it be our products, the talents of the youth, or the potential of our beautiful country.

I love adventures, doing new things, and dreaming big in life while foreseeing and preparing for the challenges and opportunities of the future. I've always loved learning from everyone around me while being a big fan of positivity and good vibes.

All in all, I think I'm a very simple person who enjoys almost every moment in life, choosing to enjoy the little moments of joy. I'm an individual with big aspirations who refuses to settle for less and who always chooses peace of mind and freedom as a priority in life.

In this current milieu when a lot of young people are disillusioned about their future in Sri Lanka what would be your advice to them?

As a youth who started life from scratch, I've always believed that if you truly want something and have the right intentions and energy, the universe will find its way to bring those dreams closer to you.

So, my message for the youth is very simple. Identify what you love in life and do what makes you happy. Always believe that you are unique and your story is different from others. Your biggest competition is you and no one else. Never judge others, for all of us are fighting a battle of our own. Keep

your life as simple as possible. Learn to live every moment of your life happily, while realizing that there will always be times that will test your character and caliber. Simply, dream big, live happily, love unconditionally, and let others also live happily.

Given your experience what sort of mentoring do young Sri Lankans need in this current situation that Sri Lanka is grappling with?

We should invest in inculcating the values of a balanced lifestyle. I feel mentoring the young by sharing life experiences and lessons will add value to them over any classroom lesson. We should mentor youth to approach life with a growth mindset, to think globally, and prepare them to predict, foresee and face the challenges of the future. Our mentoring should inspire the youth to better themselves every day in every aspect, acquire new skills, and enhance their knowledge while remaining happy and healthy.

Many young people are unhappy with our education system beginning with schooling and are even reluctant to pursue higher education in a local university. Is there anything wrong with our education system? What needs to be changed?

As comprehensive as our education system is and as privileged as we are to receive free education, I believe that we should upgrade our education to suit the opportunities of the future. Our education system should convert from knowledge-centric to one that develops balanced individuals with a growth mindset; individuals who are equipped with skills, knowledge, and the agility to be a part of a solution than a problem in any situation.

Recent surveys have shown that increasing numbers of Sri Lankans are wanting to leave the country, especially young people are dashing for the exit. Is it justifiable? What is your message to them?

I believe that Sri Lankans can contribute to the development of the country whether they remain in Sri Lanka or not. The world is much more connected



I don't agree with or promote leaving the country to run away from the problems it's facing currently, I encourage the youth to grow their foreign networks, their globally recognized skills, and capabilities to become true global ambassadors for Sri Lanka's growth by attracting investments, NRFC remittances, and tourists. There is so much we can do for the country, irrespective of our location.

and therefore individuals who seek foreign opportunities outside Sri Lanka can contribute to the country through their professional expertise, the inflow of foreign currency, and promoting Sri Lanka among foreigners, to name a few. We must look at the bigger picture and the long term, where internationally-equipped talents can contribute to building a better country and who could inspire youth to look at global opportunities.

While I don't agree with or promote leaving the country to run away from the problems it's facing currently, I encourage the youth to grow their foreign networks, their globally recognized skills, and capabilities to become true global ambassadors for Sri Lanka's growth by attracting investments, NRFC remittances, and tourists. There is so much we can do for the country, irrespective of our location.

On a positive note, do you see a change for the better in Sri Lanka?

I believe that Sri Lanka can turn around from this crisis and Sri Lanka will, of course, with the right policies, discipline, and visionary leadership. However, it will push all of us off our comfort zones and require us to make sacrifices. The role of the youth in this recovery path is massive. We need a complete attitudinal change to be a part of the solution than

being a part of the problem. We must look at the opportunities of the future and find solutions to cater to them. For instance, as a majority of the world prepares for a global food crisis within the next decade, we must choose stronger investments in sustainable, modern, and more efficient agricultural methods where we could cater to the export market as well. Let's not forget our fantastic tourist attractions, world-class hospitality, virgin beaches, fauna and flora, multicultural and rich heritage, strategic location in terms of naval transportation, and so on. As a country, we can gradually recover and probably become even stronger, with the huge potential and our resources to cater to some of the opportunities of the future. So, considering all of those, my question is if Sri Lanka can't recover, who else could?

As Sri Lanka just experienced a public uprising against corruption and inefficient leadership, as a young person, what sort of a country do you envisage in the future?

I envision a country where the people take ownership of building their community. A country where visionary leaders drive the country toward its true potential while ensuring accountability, transparency, and responsibility. I believe a new Sri Lanka must be built on the bases of mutual respect, trust, national unity, and strength

in diversity. I envision a future where Sri Lankan talent is provided with equal opportunities to reach the best global opportunities without discrimination. A future, where the leaders of this country should be chosen on merit where each of them has a proven record of their areas of leadership, and a legal system that practices transparency, and impartiality.

There is talent spotting in the corporates and sports and many other areas. But there's hardly any talent in individuals who decide to lead us and whom we elect to lead us. Do you agree?

We as a nation have always settled for less than we deserve and the lesser evils. That is exactly what is wrong with our system. Some talented young individuals can add more value to policymaking, governance, and rebuilding the country. As a nation, we have been very forgiving towards leaders who have taken the innocence of people and the potential of the country for granted and who have led the country from bad to worse. We should work towards a future where people can choose leaders for demonstrating capability, proven track record, transparency, and accountability. We deserve much better. We should fight for better leaders who don't take the people and their strength for granted.

I understood that there is a lot more I can do to give back to the deserving youth of Sri Lanka who might be inspired by my story. By sharing bits and pieces of my journey, I'm spreading positivity every day, listening to those who need support, and even helping many young people figure out their careers. After all, as humans, the best we can do is to help and learn from one another. The world is a blank canvas. Paint your drawing and do it with absolute happiness and love.

As a winner of the WIM New Generation Award, what has it done to your image and your work?

Being a winner at WIM New Generation

Awards helped me take my capabilities and talents as a youth to a greater audience both locally and internationally. That I believe helped me develop self-confidence, enhance my brand as an achiever, and in developing my network with many corporate leaders and inspiring personalities across the world. It also helped me expand my growth-mindedness and my ability to dream bigger in life. However, while acknowledging the opportunities it provided, the award gave me a push to rethink endless possibilities to develop myself even further.

But the most important value addition through the award came from self-reflection which made me realize that there is a bigger purpose in life than just growing in my career. I understood that there is a lot more I can do to give back to the deserving youth of Sri Lanka who might be inspired by my story. By sharing bits and pieces of my journey, I'm spreading positivity every day, listening to those who need support, and even helping many young people figure out their careers. After all, as humans, the best we can do is to help and learn from one another. The world is a blank canvas. Paint your drawing and do it with absolute happiness and love.



Highlights of the Youth Mentoring Program

organized by WIM New Generation Chapter





A woman with dark hair styled in a high bun is sitting on a stone wall. She is wearing a bright yellow dress with a white floral pattern. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a building with a brown wall and some greenery.

Upeka
Premathilaka

“I want to be
a successful entrepreneur
contributing to the economy of
Sri Lanka
and impacting humans in the best
positive way.”

Upeka Premathilaka identifies herself as a highly enthusiastic and self motivated individual who loves to explore new ventures and aspires to highly contribute and make an impact as an entrepreneur.

Upeka is a graduate chemist who decided to utilize her artistic abilities in order to make an impact by starting her own clothing brand ‘Ample’. She aims to make it a global brand that will eventually bring foreign revenue to the country.

When asked where she envisages to see herself within the next 5 years, she is very precise in her answer. “ ”

Upeka through her academic knowledge also want to bring forth sustainability to her products

“Developing sustainable products as an entrepreneur is important to solve problems faced by our customers. The reason I have chosen this path is simply because it makes me happy and content all the time and my soul vibes so much with positive energy when I am engaged in what I do in this work. I have basically coupled by passion to a business. In the near future I hope to establish my brand

‘Ample’ as a Global brand which will gain international recognition and sales eventually it will contribute to the economy and foreign currency reserve in Sri Lanka at this critical juncture of the country.”

Upeka says her role model is her mother and that the lessons she learned from her mother is invaluable.

“My role model is my mother, she is the closet person to my heart who also has the greatest credit of molding me to the person I am today. Her authentic and virtuous life style influenced me and I believe they are the foundation for me to build myself.”

“Never get diluted in the illusion and lust of world full of drama. Find genuine aspiration and like minded humans who will help you to make a positive impact. Trust your intuition it will guide your soul to the right direction always.” Says Upeka looking forward to her future.



Youth
ON THE MOVE

CHALLENGE THE NORMS
WITH
NEW GENERATION SRI LANKA

*Self Development
Professional Networking
Global Outreach
Sustainable Service
Peer Learning*

#NGSL

ngyouthsl@gmail.com



Women in Management
Dedicated to the Success of Women

women top50

GEA global equality standard

WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
IN DUBAI & NORTHERN EMIRATES

Sri Lankan Business Council
IN DUBAI & NORTHERN EMIRATES

Women in Management
Dedicated to the Success of Women

women top50

GEA global equality standard

women top50 TM

Sri Lankan Business Council
IN DUBAI & NORTHERN EMIRATES

Women in Management
Dedicated to the Success of Women

GEA global equality standard

GEA global equality standard

Sri Lankan Business Council
IN DUBAI & NORTHERN EMIRATES

women top50

women top50

GEA global equality standard

Sri Lankan Business Council
IN DUBAI & NORTHERN EMIRATES

Women in Management
Dedicated to the Success of Women

Reaching the stars beyond the conventional

Malinda Perera is one of country's youngest graduates to have obtained an LLB at the very young age of 20. An alumnus of St. Benedict's College and A graduate from Staffordshire University, Malinda believe in outclassing his creative abilities to help many a Sri Lankan artists to be recognized and have a stable financial streams.

When asked where he sees himself in the near future Malinda confidently says that he recognizes that his dreams are not very farfetched. "In 5-10 years, I see myself as one of Sri Lanka's best journalists and lyricists and that is not too far away. I also see myself as one of the best screenwriters and to produce Sri Lanka's first ever English Musical as a movie. Ever since I could remember, I wanted to be a journalist and follow in the footsteps of my late grandfather who was a journalist himself. Apart from that, I really want to help the upcoming artists in Sri Lanka regardless of any age or race since

I am also trying to keep my head above the water "

Although Malinda's mother and grandfather are well celebrated individuals in Sri Lanka, he firmly believes treading on his own road making an impact in the country unique to his own, appreciating and learning from both his mother and grandfather.

" Looking at the youth of today, they don't see a future since their future is already written for them by their family. I say that to contribute to our country, I propose that the youth should write their own futures instead of having it written for them. A lot of youth look up to their fictional characters, but I personally see my mother as my inspiration and role model. This may sound cliché, but I have seen what she sacrificed for me and my sister but never received any gratitude and she never asked for anything in return. Words can't describe how much I adore her."

Malinda also is confident that despite the challenges Sri Lanka is faced currently he can reach his goals strategically.

" The current situation of the country is one major challenge but finding the right mentor and the right team will help me to reach my goals. Another challenge is that journalism is quite common but to do something different is harder than it seems, hence why I plan to make a difference by creating something unique. My message for not just the youth but for everyone is, don't wait for the right moment. Grab it while you can or else, you'll keep waiting and miss the bus. Never let anyone dictate your life. Mold yourself into the person you see in your mirror. You and you alone can change the world! "

Malinda currently works as a Legal & Administrative Assistant at Kerry Logistics Lanka, also is the Director & Co-Founder of Safe in Thy Hands Chorale..

say that to contribute to our country, I propose that the youth should write their own futures instead of having it written for them. A lot of youth look up to their fictional characters, but I personally see my mother as my inspiration and role model. This may sound cliché, but I have seen what she sacrificed for me and my sister but never received any gratitude and she never asked for anything in return. Words can't describe how much I adore her."

Passionate community worker that go beyond volunteerism

**Rihan
Saleen**

Rihan Saleen, a well-known IT officer by profession is also a Youth Parliament Member of Sri Lanka since 2020. As the Deputy Minister of Ports & Shipping, he has had a fruitful journey so far liaising services to his community especially towards the youth of his district.

“I am a motivated individual with strong experience in youth empowerment, fundraising, and community organizing. I have demonstrated excellence in engaging with the general public around common causes while tactfully navigating cultural differences. I have been frequently praised as proactive by my peers,” says Rihan when asked to describe him.

My future plans are based on coexistence and drugs eradication among the youth through building social infrastructure. I intend to tie-up the perception of coexistence in the country especially within the Eastern province. I believe schools could play a major role in preparing the students to understand the perception of coexistence and its benefits. Ever since I was a young child, I have aimed to broaden my service to the community. During my

period in school, I was a member of the scout team, which motivated me to develop as a volunteer and become a service oriented person. Following my A-levels, I became drawn to join the clubs and organizations that were cultural, social and supporting in nature at the beginning my community service journey.

As a result of all the community work done by Rihan he became a member of the Youth Parliament in 2020, where he began his professional career. He believes learning from mistakes both at an individual and communal level is

the key to achieving set wellbeing and targets.

‘Making mistakes is an integral part of life. We learn from our mistakes. Mistakes are the best lessons of our lives. I have made a few decisions that have misled my plans.

Throughout my term, I had opportunities to put my ideas into practice. My sole objective has been to promote peace in our multicultural country. On the ground, I have devoted countless hours to promote the building of peace on the island with major organizations.’

Motivating youth through their passions connects diverse youth beyond discrimination. Rihan says that in our nation, the media and other forms of multi-media play a significant role in both fostering and undermining social cohesion. Rihan in his service and passion, at present uses and influences different forms of media towards a reconciled country with uplifted communal harmony.





Ramanan
Selvanathan

Opportunity can't be quantified

"Each opportunity is unique, you can't quantify it, and you don't know where it will end." Says Ramanan Selvanathan, an ambitious youth in his mid-twenties, IT professional that transitioned to become a trainer at a very young age. Becoming the youngest certified adult trainer in The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Sri Lanka is not an easy feat yet Ramanan believes where there is a will there is always a will.

Ramanan believes in making challenges the stepping stone to success and achievements.

"People laughed, criticized, and cornered me in 2018 because I wouldn't speak Sinhala. From the moment I accepted the challenge, I improved my language skills and am now able to conduct awareness workshops in Sinhala. In addition, I am doing professional Sinhala to Tamil

interpretation.

I transitioned from an IT professional to a service provider. Studying and gaining knowledge from person to person through knowledge exchange in order to gain real knowledge without being a paper-based influencer."

Ramanan has recognized that investing in one's self is a deposit made for the future and confidently says that he does not hesitate to do so.

"I was inspired to make a difference in society. Currently I am in my mid-twenties and I have always believed that the mid-twenties are an excellent time to invest in skill development to find what abilities and strengths we have to know who we are. I've already decided what I want to be, and in five years I'll be making a significant difference in the

lives of youngsters all over society.

Gaining experience is critical for any youth. Making a positive impact with my positive stories is one of the most important things I can do to help our young generation become a valuable asset to Sri Lanka."

Ramanan believes role models are important yet it should not be just one. He says that as life unfolds it is important for a youth to structure it by selecting different role models, and resources that will benefit the over all target that is set. However he believes that the ultimate goal should be making an impact by creating a brand for yourself.

"My life's most important goal is to make an impact. People should be proud to say, "I know him!" He is one-of-a-kind! Being a brand and maintaining a brand are more than just goals."