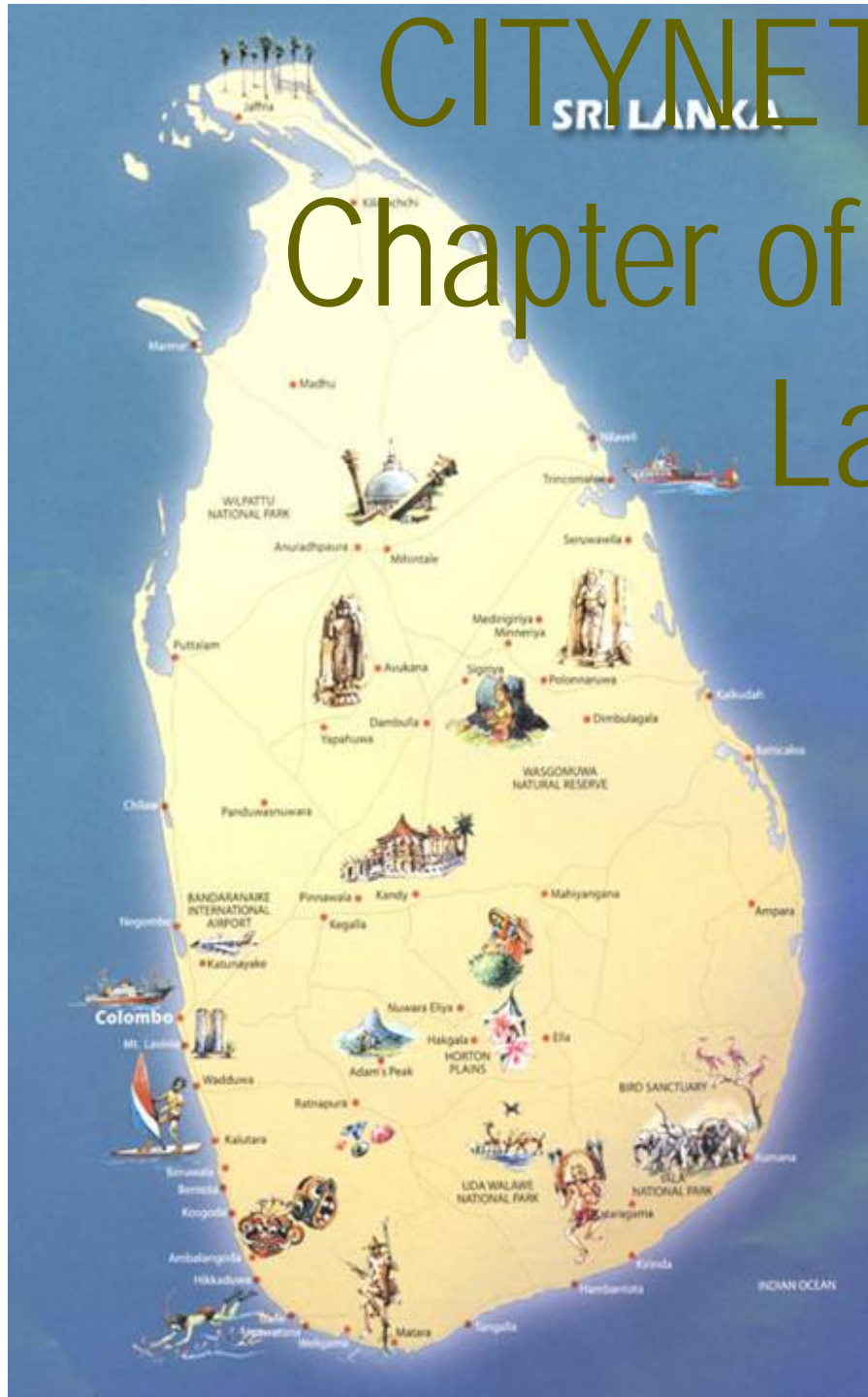


CITYNET – National Chapter of Mayors – Sri Lanka



By:
Sunethra Ranasinghe
Vice President



Sri Lanka

Indian Ocean

Current Situation of the National Chapter in Sri Lanka

- ❑ The National Chapter of Mayors – SL is an initiative of CITYNET and it is comprised of 18 member cities.
- ❑ Regular meetings of the Chapter are held with the participation of NGOs and officers of relevant ministries. These meetings are sponsored by Member Municipal Councils and held under the patronage of a Cabinet Minister or a Chief Minister.
- ❑ In addition, we are currently associated with the Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government to amend the Municipal Council Ordinance.

Activities in the years 2006 -2009

- ❑ Following Executive Committee meetings were held during the period from 2006 to 2009, under the patronage of either a Cabinet Minister or the Chief Minister of the respective province.
 - 1) North Western province in 2006
 - 2) Western Province in 2007
 - 3) Central Province in 2007
 - 4) Central Province in 2008
 - 5) Southern Province in 2009

- ❑ Next Executive Committee meeting will be held in the Eastern Province in the near future.

- ❑ Main objective of these meetings is to discuss common issues pertaining to cities and make representations to the provincial and central governments as a team to find short and long term solutions.

Contd.....

- ❑ Several meetings were held with Hon. Ministers of Local Government and Provincial Councils and Urban Development to find solutions for taking over of some of the responsibilities enjoyed by Municipal Councils such as Rest Houses.
- ❑ Several Meetings were held with the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities (FSLGA) to expedite the process of drafting amendments to the Municipal Council Ordinance.

Events attended by NCM

- ❑ Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities.
- ❑ National Seminar on Solid Waste Management, organised by JICA and the Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils in Sri Lanka.
- ❑ Forum on Local Government Policy and Preparation of a Local Government Policy Statement.
- ❑ Programme of Model Local Authorities on Implementation of Local Government Reforms.

Future Plans 2010 - 2013

- ❑ To work closely with CITYNET on activities related to CITYNET clusters.
- ❑ To promote City to City Cooperation, Networking and Euro Asian Partnerships through CITYNET.
- ❑ To initiate consultations with His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka and the Ministers concerned on common issues.
- ❑ To work closely with other Local Authorities through the Federation of Sri Lanka Local Government Authorities [FSLGA].
- ❑ Training of elected members both locally and internationally.
- ❑ Establish a Pool of Trainers at the Provincial Level.
- ❑ To obtain tax concessions (BOI status) for the projects implemented by Municipal Councils.
- ❑ To amend Municipal Councils Ordinance to suit the present situation.
- ❑ To exchange best practices with other National Chapters.

Achievements

- ❑ One of the Mayors was appointed to the Director Board of the Common Wealth Local Government Forum.
- ❑ An increase in salary reimbursements of Council Employees by the Central Government.
- ❑ Amendments to the Municipal Councils Ordinance.
- ❑ Re-vesting of Rest houses from the Central Government.

Main constraints NCM is now facing

- ❑ Most member cities lack funds to develop infrastructure facilities and seek CITYNET assistance to develop projects with donors
- ❑ Lack of funds for training of Staff and Municipal Councillors to Benchmark Good Practices in the Local Authorities of the other parts of the World.
- ❑ Limited Communication facilities such as e-mail/ internet in member cities etc.

Recommendations & Suggestions for future development

- ❑ Awards of Training and Study Tours to the members of the Chapter.
- ❑ Active participation in web conferences with other Chapters to exchange best practices.
- ❑ Obtain CITYNET assistance to non members of CITYNET through the Chapter.



Thank you