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# Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - EDITION 05, MAY 2026

**Welcome to the latest edition of the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities (FSLGA) monthly newsletter. FSLGA is the National Association of Local Councils in Sri Lanka. Our work focuses on strengthening the capacities of elected councilors and administrators, providing technical assistance to councils to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery, strengthening the councils' legal and policy framework, and conducting research and studies to assess further improvements to local governance systems in Sri Lanka.**

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## Recent Programs

**Knowledge Building Workshop for the Assistant Commissioners of Local Government**



*FSLGA Academy* facilitated a two-day residential workshop to enhance the technical and legal capacities of the Assistant Commissioners of Local Government representing 25 districts, which was held in Colombo on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026. This workshop helped the officers keep pace with evolving trends and provide necessary guidance to the Local Councils under their purview. The program covered specific topics such as primary law, roles and responsibilities of the Assistant Commissioners, and revenue enhancement and management for local councils.

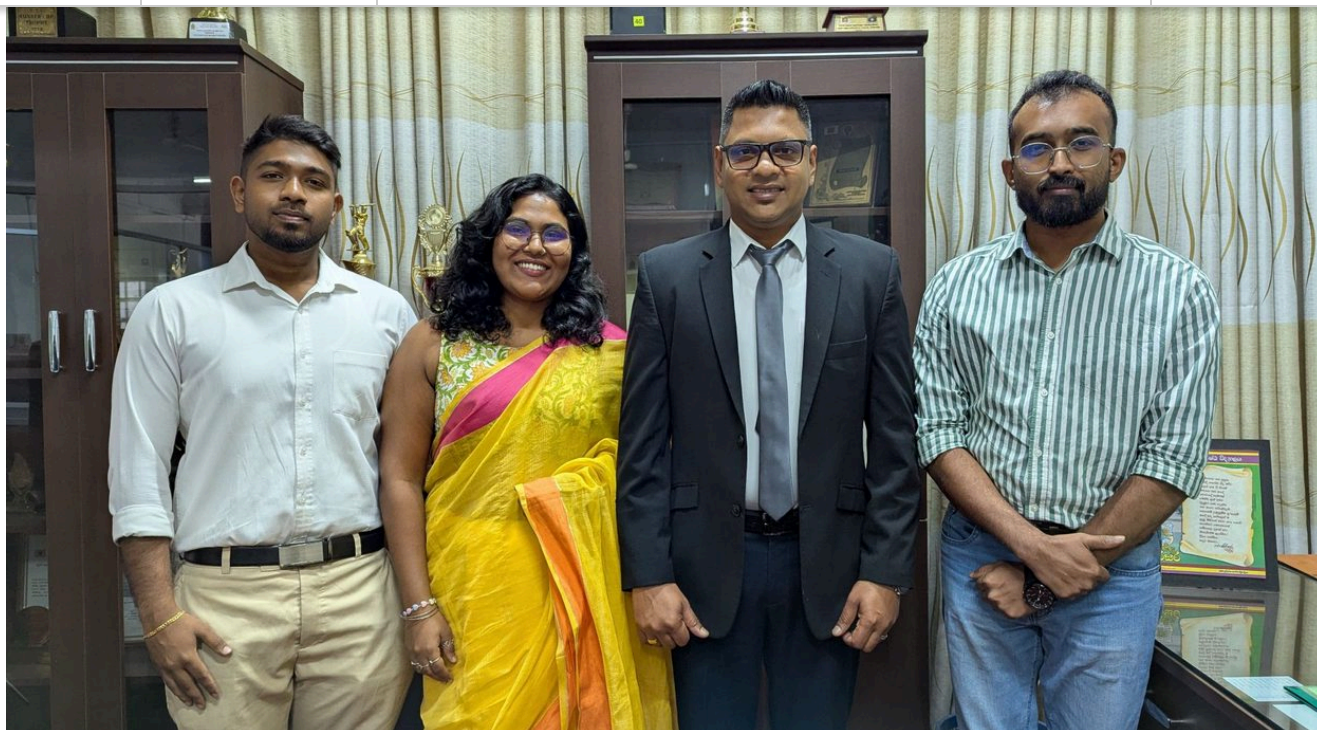
## Commencement of FSLGA's Inter-Council Debating Tournament



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FSLGA's Inter-Council Debating Tournament officially kicked off for the third year with the Tamil medium rounds last month. The preliminary rounds were held for the Nuwara Eliya district, where Norwood Pradeshiya Sabha emerged as the winner, qualifying for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the competition. This tournament is aimed at encouraging local government elected members to develop their capacities, critical thinking skills, as well as to promote inter-council interaction. While the debate topics vary with each round, they are based on themes such as local government law, politics, contemporary socio-political issues, etc. As the incumbent winner of this preliminary round, the Norwood Pradeshiya Sabha will represent the Central Province in the next stage of the tournament. FSLGA plans to host the final debating round for the Tamil medium and the preliminary rounds for the Sinhala medium in the upcoming weeks. *This initiative was done through the FSLGA Academy.*

## **Kick-starting the Youth Climate Action Fund 2.0 with the Gampola Urban Council**



Gampola was chosen among 300 cities worldwide to facilitate the provision of micro-grants to youth groups working to improve the city's environmental and climate resilience. FSLGA will work alongside the Gampola Urban Council in implementing activities within the council's jurisdiction as expected by the grant. To kickstart this project, FSLGA visited the Gampola Urban Council to have a preliminary discussion with the Hon. Chairman and other council officials who will be part of the project team. *This initiative was supported under Bloomberg Philanthropies.*

## **Stakeholder Workshop to Review the Customized Scorecard for Local Governments to Evaluate City Resilience in Reducing the Urban Heat Island (UHI) Effect (UHI City Resilience) Project**



A stakeholder workshop headed by research leads from the *University of Huddersfield* was held recently to enhance UHI City Resilience. This project aims to develop a customized scorecard for local councils to evaluate how effectively their cities reduce the impacts of the UHI Effect. Accordingly, FSLGA staff, along with engineers from local councils, policymakers, private sector representatives, academics, etc. from the urban governance and climate resilience space joined to share their insights. The session allowed participants to share and validate the project's key findings and scorecard, while strengthening the stakeholder's capacities to apply the tool in evaluating and improving urban heat resilience.

## **Collaborating with ICLEI South Asia for an International Training on 'Circular and Climate Resilient Municipal Solid Waste Management Planning'**



*Climate Resilient Circular Municipal Solid Waste Management* in Colombo. Assistant Director of ICLEI South Asia, along with other ICLEI SA officials and local government officials from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, participated in this residential conference. Some interactive sessions were conducted to share the best practices of waste management, providing space to learn from one another to build better systems. The conference provided technical insights and practical examples into efficient and sustainable waste management, especially in urban settings.

## Facilitating a Field Visit for the 'Circular and Climate Resilient Municipal Solid Waste Management Planning' Training



On the final day of the *Climate Resilient Circular Municipal Solid Waste Management* training program, all participants had a field trip aimed at observing the good practices of waste management in Sri Lanka. The visits included the Kerawalapitiya EnCare Clinical Waste Management Facility and the Cleantech Material Recovery and Recycling Facility (MRRF) in Wattala. This allowed officials from the *ICLEI* team and

Waste Management Authority of the Western Province (WMA-WP), while FSLGA facilitated technical requirements during the field study.

## **Engaging as a Regional Partner for the ‘Youth for Climate Hackathon 2.0’**

FSLGA was selected as a regional partner for the recently launched ‘*Youth for Climate Hackathon 2.0*’, an initiative by the Youth and Sustainability team at *ICLEI South Asia* aligned with the evolving priorities of COP31. It focuses on youth engagement in implementation, resilience, energy transition, and inclusive climate action and seeks to bridge bold ideas with on-ground action through ICLEI’s pathways for sustainable urban transitions.

## **Strengthening the Revenue Generation Capacities of Partner Councils for the “Preparing Sri Lanka’s Local Government for Fiscal Transition” Project Implemented in the Eastern Province**



The FSLGA team recently visited the Trincomalee and Batticaloa Districts of the Eastern Province and conducted capacity assessments. These were done to assess the status of revenue generation and management, institutional challenges, and opportunities for strengthening fiscal sustainability of the partner councils of SGA4 Project. The officials and elected members of Trincomalee Municipal Council, Trincomalee Town and Gravest, and Kinniya Urban Council for Trincomalee district and

assessment study. *This project is implemented in partnership with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), funded by the European Commission.*

## Reviving Local Level Disaster Preparedness Plans in Deraniyagala with Community Participation



An initiative to update the Disaster Preparedness Plans in high-risk Grama Niladhari divisions in Deraniyagala was held recently. As the first step, the existing Disaster Preparedness Plan of the Deraniyagala South Grama Niladhari Division, which was last updated in 2017, was reviewed and updated with the assistance of local government officials and community members. The revised plan included updated mapping, marking of safe zones, and identification of community leaders during disasters. Furthermore, the resource person for this was provided by the Kegalle branch of the District Disaster Management Coordinating Unit of the Disaster Management Centre. *This initiative was supported by the Direct Aid Program of the Australian High Commission in Sri Lanka.*

## Engaging the Youth through First-Aid Preparedness Workshops



A first-aid training program was held for youth in four disaster-vulnerable divisions within the jurisdiction of the Kalawana Pradeshiya Sabha area recently. This was organized by the Climate Change and Disaster Management Committee in the Kalawana Pradeshiya Sabha to strengthen the youth's practical knowledge on first-aid for victims during disasters. Resource persons from the Ratnapura branch of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society delivered the training. Following the full-day training, a certificate that will be valued in all Red Cross partner countries was issued to participants by the Red Cross Society of Sri Lanka. *This initiative was supported by the Direct Aid Program of the Australian High Commission in Sri Lanka.*

## Increasing Youth Participation and Awareness on Disaster Management through School-Level Awareness Programs



An interactive program on Child-Friendly Disaster Risk Reduction was recently held within the premises of a school in Deraniyagala. With leadership from the established Climate Change and Disaster Management Committee of the Deraniyagala Pradeshiya Sabha, this program was organized to improve youth awareness on disasters in a child-friendly manner, so that children at the school level will be more knowledgeable on the topic. Resource persons from the District Disaster Management Coordinating Unit of the Disaster Management Centre conducted the session. *This initiative was supported by the Direct Aid Program of the Australian High Commission in Sri Lanka.*

## Inclusive Future Fund Project – Nuwara Eliya Municipal Council

A discussion was held with the Mayor and Officials of Nuwara Eliya Municipal Council to review follow-up actions under the *Inclusive Future Funds (IFF)* initiative. It is intended to review and update public documents, forms, and notices to be trilingual with a view to aligning the official documents with the national language policy.

## Upcoming Events

### June

## Opening an Emergency Tools Storage Facility for the Deraniyagala Pradeshiya Sabha

FSLGA, under the funding support of the *DAP program of AusAid* is facilitating the building of an Emergency Tools Storage Facility for the Deraniyagala Pradeshiya Sabha. This is intended to strengthen the council's disaster

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## Thank you!

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