



**Thushara Agus**  
Executive Director

**Dear Reader,**

I am writing this message from the ED's desk for the last time as I have decided to step down from my position due to retirement, effective 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. My tenure at FPA Sri Lanka has been over 12 years and it seems surreal that I have spent so much of my working life here. Even more surreal for me is a life without FPA Sri Lanka, but I keep reminding myself of the new chapter and possible developments, I am about to face.

There have been so many happy encounters at FPA Sri Lanka during my two stints in 1986 and 2011 respectively. I got married and became a mother in my first and in my second stint, older and wiser and more attuned to the SRH needs of the new generation. Both have proved to be mutually beneficial, and I leave on a high note, having achieved a lot for FPA Sri Lanka and me, during a total of 16 years spent together.

This newsletter itself took a long time to materialize in a timely and effective manner. Though it seems such a simple task, we ran into numerous challenges and it got stalled many times. Thanks to the perseverance of Natasha, it now comes on time and is attractively designed, giving the stakeholders vital information of the quarter under review.

I am very proud of my association with FPA Sri Lanka. I am so blessed to have been connected to each and every one of you. The opportunity to stay at the helm for so long is something that humbles me. It's like my career going full circle and ending at the same point.

I have so many people to thank for giving me great opportunities, encouragement, support and care that I will run out of space for this edition if I start. For now, I say Good-bye and a big Thank you to all of you.

My heartiest wishes to my successor Dr. Ruchitha Perera and the very best to FPA Sri Lanka under his stewardship.

## IPPF Accreditation Team Visit to FPA

FPA Sri Lanka has been a Member Association of IPPF since 1954 and was last accredited in 2017. In 2023, we are entering our 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of accreditation.

IPPF's accreditation system requires all MAs to meet 10 fundamental principles and 33 separate standards as a condition for accredited membership.

What is accreditation? At its simplest level, IPPF's accreditation system is a formalized peer review that aims to ensure that all the Federation's Member Associations meet and comply with essential membership standards. The review visit took place from the 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of July.

The review consisted of meetings with the Board of Directors, Senior Management, key staff members, the Association's main partner organisations and field visits to a few of our Service Delivery Points and clinics.

The team comprised Mr. Ashish Kumar (Senior Technical Advisor - Institutional Development & Governance Support, IPPF SARO) Garima Sharma (SARO) Dr. Manisha Bhise (Director Advocacy & Resource Mobilization - FPA India), Mr. Hussain Haleem (Chairperson - SHE Maldives), Dr. Nabaraj Dhakal (Director of Finance - FPA Nepal).



# FPA Sri Lanka at the IPPF South Asia Regional Meeting

IPPF's Regional Meeting for the rollout of the new Strategy "Come Together" took place in Delhi from the 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of August 2023. Representatives of all Member Associations met in Delhi to discuss and deliberate so the Federation is aligned in its approach to advancing SRHR in South Asia.



The FPA delegation from left to right:

Kritaanjali Ratnasabapathy, Youth Member, Anuki Premachandra (General Secretary, Board of Directors), Dr. Ruchitha Perera (Executive Director Designate), Suchira Suranga (Director - Organizational learning & Evaluation), Sonal Mehta (Regional Director - IPPF, South Asia Region) and Shehara De Silva-Chairperson MarCom Committee, Board of Directors.

'I attended as the newly appointed Executive Director (Designate) of FPA Sri Lanka, mainly to meet the key stakeholders, the IPPF regional community and the SARO MA's. I was also keen to learn about the new strategic direction of IPPF and its commitments. I learnt about SARYN initiatives, Strategy and value alignment, rebranding and a deep dive towards the Strategy's 4 pillars. I think IPPF understands that more changes are inevitable, not limiting its efforts to family planning to serve our communities. Traditional values such as respect for individual autonomy, access to information and services, gender equality, inclusivity and diversity, quality of care, advocacy and human rights, partnership and collaboration and the sustainability principles have been integrated when developing the 4 pillar strategy.

The intention will be to align the IPPF strategy with ours. FPA's Strategy is aimed at being sustainable and self-sufficient whilst being relevant. The challenge in Sri Lanka would be integrating our history and cultural values and blending core elements of the 'Come Together' Strategy. Not forgetting the youth of our nation who will play a pivotal role in implementing the IPPF and FPA strategy'.

**Dr. Ruchitha Perera**  
Executive Director Designate



'The experience was truly remarkable, as it brought together representatives from all South Asian Member Associations (MA). During the workshop, each MA candidly shared their visionary insights regarding the new strategy, its harmonization with the IPPF global strategy, and its distinct challenges.

The sessions dedicated to rebranding, anti-racism, and intersectionality were enlightening, fostering a fresh perspective and encouraging innovative thinking. This event not only allowed me to represent FPA Sri Lanka proudly but also provided a profound glimpse

into a significant milestone. It served as an eye-opening experience, shaping my outlook for future involvements, given the forward-looking nature of the strategies discussed'

**Suchira Suranga**  
Director  
Organizational Learning & Evaluation

'The programme was quite enlightening. We met many warm and inspiring people from across the region, from the IPPF main board and South Asia regional counterparts. The interaction was good as a networking and contacts exercise, especially as I am new to the board and FPA Sri Lanka. The strategy sessions were useful to get a sense of the regional priorities and points of view as to the growth priorities and challenges within the region. The branding exercise and discussions around the future identity of IPPF were exploratory'.

**Shehara De Silva**  
Chairperson  
MarCom Committee, Board of Directors



'I learned a lot during the 3 days of sessions I attended. I met so many people from around South Asia in different areas of expertise. The value alignment sessions that we had as SARYN were very helpful. There was also a session to assess our values and mindset regarding the LGBTIQ community, which I found incredibly insightful. The strategy sessions helped us to identify our national priorities as youth'.

**Kritaanjali Ratnasabapathy**  
Youth Member

'We've been diving headfirst into shaping the fantastic foundation of the South Asia Regional Youth Network (SARYN) of IPPF, South Asia Region. Picture this: a bunch of us coming together, brainstorming like mad, and setting the stage for something truly amazing.

We really believe that SARYN can help kick-start big changes.

We want to speak up for young people's rights about their bodies and health and make sure everyone gets good healthcare, no matter where they're from. And we're all about treating everyone fairly, no picking favorites!'

**Anuki Premachandra**

Youth Representative and General Secretary - Board of Directors



**Launch of CAAPP Project by The French Embassy in partnership with FPA Sri Lanka**



French Development Agency, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, UNICEF, UNFPA and the EU delegation. The selection committee then chose the top 13 applicants, with preference given to projects that showed innovative and sustainable avenues to combat period poverty. We are excited to finally have 13 chosen NGOs from across the island. A start up meeting and capacity building workshop was conducted for the chosen NGOs, and they will commence their projects in October'.

**Dr Rashmira Balasuriya**

Technical Advisor - CAAPP Project



The French Embassy in Sri Lanka and FPA Sri Lanka officially launched the Collective Action Against Period Poverty Project - CAAPP on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September with the signing of 13 NGOs who will work to combat period poverty in Sri Lanka.

The project aims to make a significant impact on all menstruating individuals by:

- Improving menstrual health and hygiene.
- Ending menstrual stigma and discrimination.
- Realizing human rights to water and sanitation.
- Addressing the lack of adequate WASH facilities in schools.
- Changing societal perceptions of menstruation and womanhood.

'The CAAPP project is an important and much-needed initiative to combat a long-standing issue in Sri Lanka that affects more than 50% of the population. It was a highly competitive application process, with a total of 126 applications received and we were thrilled that so many organizations understood the importance of working on period poverty.

From the applications received, the donor requested that only Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) who were able to submit their NGO Registration certificate, audit reports for 3 fiscal years and Constitution/ Articles of association, were eligible. This further narrowed down the pool to 50 applications.

A selection committee was formed comprising of representatives from the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka, the Health Promotion Bureau of Sri Lanka, the French Embassy, the

The first capacity-building workshop was held for the selected NGOs on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. Sessions carried out were:

- Menstruation, Menstrual health and hygiene by Dr. Sathyani Wevita, The Arka Initiative
- Reusable and Eco-friendly Menstrual Products by Selyna Peries, Selyn
- The Statistics and Studies on Period Poverty in Sri Lanka by Lakmini Jayathilake

During the project period, a series of similar workshops are planned to assist and guide them in further developing their initiatives.

## FPA Sri Lanka's SEAP Project wins at the National Project Management Excellence Awards!



Awards event Attendees:

Dr. Ruchitha Perera, Executive Director Designate, receiving the award. Far left, Amila Gunasekara - Deputy Director Brands and far right, Suhail Junaid - Director Marketing.

In 2015, IPPF established a Social Enterprise Acceleration Program (SEAP) that aimed to strengthen Member Associations' (MA) capacity to apply entrepreneurial best practices in the health sector whilst delivering social value and improving lives. Its purpose is to support the establishment and growth of social enterprises to increase and diversify their funding base and provide greater sustainability.

FPA Sri Lanka, since 2018, functions as the SE Hub and ensures the successful implementation of SEAP. The programme also fosters an environment of 'community of practice' by providing opportunities for MAs to share best practices and lessons learned with other Associations.

At the National Project Management Excellence Awards 2023, 'Best Managed Project in Social Enterprise Sector (Local and International) category, the SEAP Project emerged as the Gold Award winner for initiatives in 2021/2022.

The Project Management Institute (PMI) Sri Lanka Chapter organised the aforementioned annual awards. It is the official Charter of the Global Project Management Institute, USA. PMI is the world's leading professional association for the Project, Programme and Portfolio management profession.

As the Hub celebrates this achievement and recognition, it serves as a catalyst for motivating and driving the team to strengthen social enterprising across the Federation further.



IPPF Social Enterprise Hub core team:

From left to right, Rishikeshan Thiyagaraja - Assistant Director, IPPF Social Enterprise Hub, Thushara Agus - Executive Director, Natasha de Rosayro - Assistant Director Communications and Manjula Liyanage - Technical Advisor, IPPF Social Enterprise Hub.

## Social Marketing Programme (SMP) Updates

### Dealer Meetings

FPA's SMP markets contraceptives and lubricants through its island-wide dealer network, which comprises pharmacies, medical clinics, hospitals, groceries, etc. This comprehensive coverage reduces the barriers and improves access to contraceptives throughout the country.

Several dealer meetings took place in the months of August and September. Participants' knowledge of products, effects, and benefits is reinforced at these meetings so as to better serve the community.

FPA's Social Marketing Programme is solely responsible for the organisation to be self-sufficient, independent and

sustainable. Its wide range of products are sourced from accredited suppliers and offered at an affordable price.

### Workshop on 'Effective Selling and Collections' for FPA's Marketing Team

The session educated the team on effective selling techniques to achieve targets and practical skills on better debt collection.



### Training on Contraceptive Security

A one-day session led by Mr. Ranjith Thennakoon was carried out for select staff from Head Office and the Service Delivery Points. Contraceptive security addresses the need of ensuring that proper storage standards of contraceptives are met and the strict regulation guidelines are implemented by FPA staff.





*In conversation with*  
**Saman Ekanayake**  
Assistant Director - Sales

**Tell us about yourself.**

I'm Saman Ekanayake, and I currently work as the Assistant Director of Sales in the Social Marketing Programme Unit and oversee the Central, North, North Central, East, Sabaragamuwa and Wayamba provinces.

I joined FPA Sri Lanka in 2007 as a Marketing Officer. I completed my Postgraduate Marketing Diploma at the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM). I'm humbled to say that I secured 2 National awards for FPA by winning the SLIM NASCO Gold Award in 2014 for Best Sales Executive and in 2013 as the Front-liner of the Year. I was also awarded the Best Salesperson award at FPA from 2009 - 2014.

**What does your role as Assistant Director - Sales at the Social Marketing Programme entail? What are your responsibilities and activities?**

My primary role is being responsible for marketing development and implementation of the organization's plan and goals. I work closely with the Marketing Director and Deputy Director, coordinating

daily operations. Managing the area team, monitoring objectives (sales + collection), providing monthly performance reports to the Marketing Director and communicating and problem-solving with the pharmacies/dealers are some of the day-to-day activities I am involved with.

Formulating realistic monthly sales targets for each team member is essential. Thereafter, I develop marketing strategies and coach and motivate my area sales team to achieve forecasted sales targets.

**You oversee the Northern, Eastern and Central provinces. Do you see any consumption trends within these territories? If yes, what are they, and why do they exist?**

Yes. Condoms, Mithuri and Jadelle are popular products.

Especially due to the economic situation in the country, many families use family planning methods to space pregnancies. The majority use condoms to prevent/avoid pregnancy and for protection from sexually transmitted diseases. People are more knowledgeable than before regarding contraceptives due to technological developments, easy access to information, and our organisation's education/awareness programmes across the country. People have trust in products marketed by FPA Sri Lanka.

Due to the many awareness sessions held in the Central province estate sector community, I see an increase in the use of Mithuri oral contraceptive pills and condoms.

In the Northern and Eastern areas, the sales of Postinor are lower compared to other places. The main factor is religion. There is a good demand for condoms daily in these areas.

**Contraceptives are not a product discussed openly or advertised on mainstream media often. It has not affected the steady performance of sales at FPA. In your opinion, why is that?**

FPA Sri Lanka has a proud history of 70 years. Within this period we have been associating and collaborating with many government divisions and other key stakeholders for SRH related programmes across the country. However, such topics

are not discussed or shared widely in traditional media channels. Grassroots-level awareness programmes have been the bridge to connect with people in hard-to-reach and rural areas, increasing sales.

A few more reasons are listed below:

- \* The new generation is much more internet and social media savvy and they search for contraceptive options and are open to trying.
- \* Consumers have the ability to use different online sales platforms to search for products and make purchases.
- \* Product branding and advertising is done via posters, stickers, display materials and advertising boards at pharmacies and groceries to raise awareness.
- \* 10-12 dealer meetings are held across the country every year as a mechanism to build a good rapport and relationship with the pharmacists, main dealers and distributors of FPA products.

**You have been associated with FPA products since 2007. Which are the most popular and why?**

Stamina, Mithuri, Postinor One, Preethi.

Stamina - Premature ejaculation has been a long-term issue in Sri Lanka. The answer to having 'long, extended love time' was Stamina. The numbers clearly depict how the product has captured the market.

Mithuri - As an oral contraceptive 'Mithuri' is the most trusted in Sri Lanka. Due to the reasonable price and availability in the market, it has been difficult for competitors to capture our market share.

Postinor One - This is the first, single dose pill introduced to the market to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Postinor One became the fastest growing pill in the market in a short period.

Preethi - For over 5 decades, the majority has used this brand of condoms. Preethi is the most trusted and well-known condom and is currently being sold at the lowest price in the market. We have been able to maintain our market share. We offer special

**FPA being a not-for-profit organization, what are the strategies you adapt in the field to compete with multinational competitors?**

Firstly, the Association is a trusted and accepted brand in Sri Lanka, and having a quality product portfolio makes a significant impact in being able to continue being competitive and relevant.

In addition, my field working experience in sales of 16 years, coupled with the personal relationships I have built and cultivated with the product dealers, have helped me earn their trust.

Other strategies I use are:

- \* Positioning our products in the right place at the right time in pharmacies
- \* Focusing on quality customer service
- \* Building brand awareness with the dealers and highlighting what differentiates us from others
- \* Highlighting the product cost and profit to dealers
- \* Operational effectiveness
- \* Raising awareness of other information platforms we offer and advising them to seek our services. i.e. the Happy Life Call Centre and Service Delivery Points

**Outreach Unit Highlights**

FPA has partnered with UNFPA Sri Lanka (REACH Project) to conduct a series of 27 activity-based **youth camps**, engaging approximately 4050 young persons in the districts of Mullativu, Batticaloa, Nuwara Eliya, Kandy, Puttalam, Galle, Ampara, Colombo, Gampaha and Anuradhapura. The camps have been designed to engage young people in skills training on SRH, bodily autonomy, puberty, gender-based violence and related information and services while dispelling SRH myths and misconceptions. Sports and recreational activities and quiz competitions for knowledge sharing related to SRH are also organized.

This innovative and interactive approach aims to create an environment where youth can freely engage in conversations surrounding sexual and reproductive health and seek essential SRH services when needed.



Youth camp held in Meegoda for the National Youth Services Council - Colombo District Youth Clubs Federation.



At the Urban Council Park in Ampara.



At the Nuwara Eliya municipal grounds

**Awareness sessions**



Our Koggala Service Delivery Point conducted an awareness session on SRH and Menstrual Hygiene, for students attached to the National Vocational Training Institute.



Our Wathupitiwala Service Delivery Point conducted an SRH awareness programme for adolescent girls attached to the Mirigama Youth Centre. Such SRH awareness sessions aim to equip young people with knowledge, skills, attitudes and values needed for a healthy life

**Mobile Clinics**



Kunle Adeniyi, the UNFPA country representative and team visited mobile clinics conducted by the Batticaloa and Nuwara Eliya Service Delivery Points.

A mobile clinic is an alternative and fast way to bring health services to people in remote areas. FPA considers health and well-being an important need that must be fulfilled to achieve the dignity of life. Everyone is entitled to visit the clinic, avoiding transportation costs and mobility complications.

The services provided are:

- General health services
- Sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, maternal health, and sexually transmitted infections prevention
- Gender-based violence detection and referral, including for sexual violence
- Gynaecological services

## Safe Motherhood



FPA works to ensure that women go through pregnancy and childbirth safely and give birth to healthy children. Safe motherhood begins before conception with proper nutrition and a healthy lifestyle. Planned pregnancy, appropriate prenatal care, prevention of complications when possible, and early and effective treatment of complications are all essential to maternal care.

Awareness programmes were carried out by our Batticaloa and Seethawaka SDPs.

## PHM Trainings – Building capacity!



A Public Health Midwife - PHM is the key healthcare provider at the domiciliary level in the Sri Lankan healthcare system.

FPA's Seethawaka Service Delivery Point conducted a capacity-building programme for 45 PHMs representing the MOH areas of Hanwella, Homagama and Padukka.

Session topics addressed sexual and reproductive health, HIV/STI syndromic management (Syndromic case management enables all trained first-line service providers to diagnose an STI syndrome and treat patients on the patient's first visit, helping to prevent the further spread of STIs) and sexual health.

Such trainings improve the quality of care that benefits the community at large.

## RFSU Project - Partner meeting



Through the RFSU grant (Riksförbundet för Sexuell Upplysning – IPPF Sweden), FPA Sri Lanka's Advocacy Unit aims to strengthen the policy and advocacy efforts on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Key focus areas include sexual and gender-based violence, menstruation/menstrual hygiene management, sexual and reproductive health and rights in the online space, LGBTIQ+ rights and early and forced child marriage.

The second meeting of the partner organizations/individuals involved in the project took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August at the FPA Head Office. The attendees included representatives of the organizations being funded this year, including Women In Need (WIN), The Grassrooted Trust, Hashtag Generation, Équité Sri Lanka Trust and Ermiza Tegal, an independent researcher.

During the interim meeting, all representatives were given a chance to provide an update on the progress of the planned work for the year and to discuss lessons learnt and challenges faced during the implementation of the activities.

## Global Fund Project - Performance Indicator review meeting by The Global Fund in-country mission team to Sri Lanka.



Ms. Sylwia Murray, Fund Portfolio Manager and Dr. Vladimir Mikic, Public Health and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist of The Global Fund visited FPA on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September during their country visit.

Dr Janaki Vidanapathirana/Director NSACP, Dr K. A. M. Ariyaratne from NSACP, Dr Kanthi Ariyaratne/ CCM Executive Secretary, Pubudu De Soysa/ Project Director Global Fund and the team, officials from Local Funding

Agent/PWC, Thushara Agus, Executive Director, FPA, Dr Ruchitha Perera, FPA Executive Director Designate and the GFATM Project Team attended the Key Performance Indicator review meeting.

FPA works as the HIV Sub Recipient under the National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP) to implement HIV prevention activities in Colombo and Gampaha with 11 partner organizations.

# Welcome to the Team



Dr. Ruchitha Perera  
Executive Director  
(Designate)



Nadaraja Jeyanthi  
Programme Coordinator



Oshada Imalka  
IT Assistant



Asha Gunawardana  
Finance Manager - GFATM



Shalintha Fernando  
Manager - Internal Audit



Supun Sankha  
Accounts Assistant



Sumudu Perera  
Programme Coordinator



Dulangi Theekshana  
HR - Intern



Delusha Perera  
Community-led Monitoring  
(CLM) Coordinator



Amith Nishshanka  
Driver



Harini Fernando  
Senior Manager - Advocacy



Lasantha Edirisooriya  
Accounts Assistant

## Workshop on IPPF's new strategy results framework at FPA Head Office

Dr. Arpita Das - Senior Technical Advisor, and Sylvester Merchant - Community Engagement Lead from IPPF's South Asia Regional Office met with the M&E unit, other Unit Heads and project focal points for this session.



The **Youth Services Committee** of FPA met to discuss plans and activities for the ensuing months after a very successful SRHR workshop the YTAC completed in collaboration with the Rotaract Club of KDU. The Youth Chair and the members also discussed the upcoming YTAC orientation programme that is planned to be held at the end of September. The brainstorming session also included deliberating how they can collaborate with youth organizations outside metropolitan cities to carry out outreach at the grassroots level.







## Social Media Campaigns



“Youth advocates are actively championing changes in policies and laws related to sexual and reproductive health. Through petitions, rallies, and lobbying efforts, they are ensuring that young people have confidential access to reproductive health services, contraception, and unbiased information, promoting reproductive justice for all.”

Malith Madurandika  
Member  
Youth Technical Advisory Committee  
FPA Sri Lanka



FPA strongly believes that youth peer educators can be agents of change!

Peer education is a popular and versatile approach to promoting good health. Well-designed and well-implemented programmes can improve young people's health-related knowledge, attitudes, skills, and access to health services.

Video messages ([Click to view](#)) were shared on the day featuring our passionate youth project staff.

**Pathini Anuththara**, Project Officer of FPA's CAAPP Project, called for an end to period stigma and encouraged youth to help eradicate the taboos surrounding menstruation.

**Desaree Soysa**, Project Consultant - RFSU encouraged all youth with knowledge of sexual and reproductive health to share their learnings and build the capacity of others.

**Saymini Perera**, Chairperson of FPA's Youth Services Committee, said, 'I am celebrating the incredible ways youth drive change as agents of progress! Their passion and innovation inspire us all. To further their impact, let's provide mentorship, amplify and strengthen their voices and the message, offer resources and foster collaboration on a global scale to reach a multi-generational audience. Together, we can shape a better tomorrow by improving the leaders of the future.'

## World Humanitarian Day - 19<sup>th</sup> August



WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY



A crisis does not discriminate, nor should our response!

Healthcare providers in crisis settings should be trained to provide high-quality, rights-based SRH services to all who are in need.

FPA Sri Lanka has an ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Disaster Management Centre and the district

MoHs to continuously work to strengthen the protection and promotion of rights of all children, women and marginalized communities at all levels when implementing response activities.

To commemorate Humanitarian Day, we shared messages on the need for sexual and reproductive health in times of crisis. [Click to view](#).



Under the SPRINT IV Project, a **Policy Brief** was developed which highlights the gaps and provides recommendations for the existing policies on SRH in Emergencies in the Health, Disaster Management and Social Services sectors.

## World Suicide Prevention Day

10<sup>th</sup> September



Suicide is a major public health problem with far-reaching social, emotional and economic consequences. “Creating Hope Through Action”, the 2023 theme, served as a powerful call to action and reminder that there is an alternative to suicide and that through our actions, we can encourage hope and strengthen prevention. Hema Ranawake, Assistant Director of FPA's Alokaya Counselling Centre, had this to say.

'Suicide is a duel between life and death. Reaching out to someone who struggles can help them know that someone cares, that they are valued, and access the support they need. World Suicide Prevention Day gives us all a role to play in promoting awareness of suicide, suicide-related mental illnesses as well as suicide prevention. Together, we can rise to a brighter future where mental health is prioritized, and suicide is prevented'.

FPA's SRH Institute also carried out a workshop on 'Suicide Prevention - Creative Therapy Tools to Support Survivors' on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September.



## 'Let's Come Together' Q&A Series - Get to know your board!



### Emphasizing Transparency and Engagement: 'Let's Come Together' Q&A Series - Coordinated by the Social Enterprise Hub

'At IPPF, transparency, accountability, and effective communication stand as pillars of our approach. As vital as these principles are in our external interactions with stakeholders, partners, and the communities we serve, they are equally significant within our internal operations. I firmly believe that the Board and I must maintain visibility and approachability in all our engagements and endeavors with member associations. This not only showcases our dedication but also nurtures a sense of unity, fostering meaningful interactions.

With great pleasure, I introduce the 'Let's Come Together' Q&A series, featuring our Board of Trustees. This initiative embodies our commitment to open dialogue and offers each trustee an authentic platform to share their professional journey, aspirations for their tenure, global perspectives on pertinent issues, and insights into our Federation's direction. Simultaneously, this series invites readers to engage with the trustees, discussing member association related insights, concerns, and innovative ideas.

As we embark on this journey together, we are poised to achieve the ambitions outlined in our Strategy 2028. I trust you'll find these interviews enlightening and discover a deeper connection with the dedicated individuals who make up our Board of Trustees.'

Alvaro Bermejo  
Director General

Click the picture to read the interviews



Kate Gilmore  
Chair, Board of Trustees



Ulukbek Batyrgaliev  
Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

# FPA bids farewell to Executive Director Thushara Agus

Thushara Agus retires after completing a successful 12-year stint at the Association.

During her tenure, some of the key milestones and achievements of sexual and reproductive health programme expansion are initiating projects with The Global Fund's national scale HIV programme since 2013 in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the government of Sri Lanka, opening of clinics in Industrial Zones to reach out to young, under-served groups and the expansion of the Social Marketing Programme to the North and East and growing the revenue significantly. On the international front, winning the IPPF tender in 2015 to host the global "Social Enterprise Knowledge Hub" at FPA Sri Lanka and winning the Best Member Association Award in 2019 stand out. Constructing a purpose-driven Head Office building for FPA Sri Lanka in Colombo 5 and increasing the local income generation with multiple income streams are sustainability efforts that will hold the Association in good stead.

A farewell ceremony took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September at the Head Office in the presence of Board Members, Past Presidents, the Senior Management Team and staff. [Click to view staff tributes.](#)



Sucharitha Wijayagurusinghe -  
Assistant Director - Governance



Opening speech by the President,  
Board of Directors - Aruni Marcelline



Welcome address by Dr. Ruchitha  
Perera - FPA Sri Lanka's Executive  
Director Designate



Thakshila Gamage - Assistant Director  
Outreach and Thushara Agus





Token of Appreciation handed over by Melanie Kanaka - Audit Committee Chairperson and Amali David - Chairperson Treasury Management Committee



Appreciation note by Past President - Dr. Pramilla Senanayake



Token of Appreciation from staff



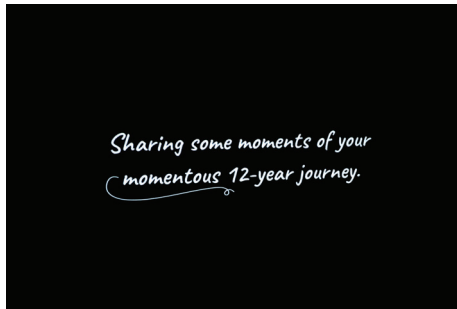
Appreciation note by Past President - Chandima Gunawardena



Staff tribute by Suhail Junaid - Director Marketing



Farewell speech by dynamic Executive Director Thushara Agus



Walk down memory lane video



12 Years of Excellence - Gold Coin Token



Staff tribute by Nadika Fernandopulle - Deputy Director HIV & GFATM Project Manager



## Felicitation Lunch by the National STD/AIDS Control Programme - NSACP

The Global Fund sponsored national scale HIV programme has been carried out by NSACP, the Ministry of Health, the government of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with FPA Sri Lanka since 2013.

This vital health initiative was spearheaded by Thushara Agus, FPA's Executive Director.

Under her leadership, key HIV prevention initiatives such as the Case-finding Model, community-based HIV testing, HIV Oral Self-testing and Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) demand generation community clinics and night clinics were initiated successfully.



The NSACP team organised a get-together on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September to bid farewell on her retirement and to applaud her leadership and contribution to the national programme.

It was an opportunity for them also to meet Dr. Ruchitha Perera, who will take over the role of Executive Director from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2023.

## New Executive Director at The Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka

**Dr. Ruchitha Perera** will be appointed as the Executive Director of The Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPA) with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2023.

Announcing his appointment, Mrs. Aruni Marcelline, President of the FPA, said, "He brings valuable leadership experience, deep passion for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and is hugely enthusiastic about leading the Association into our next chapter."

A marketing veteran with over 30 years of experience in corporate management, education, business consulting and training, Dr. Perera specialises in financial sustainability and digital transformation. Currently serving as a Board Director of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, UK, he has provided leadership to several global organisations.

"I am deeply committed to realising the FPA vision for a country where everyone's reproductive health and rights are fulfilled, without any stigma or discrimination", Dr. Perera said.

Addressing SRH challenges requires a multi-faceted approach involving collaboration between diverse stakeholders, both locally and internationally. Strategies should focus on expanding access to services, reducing stigma, securing sustainable funding, advocating for policy changes and investing in healthcare workforce development."

This year, FPA commemorates 70 years of dedicated service and is excited about this next phase of leadership, looking to achieve greater impact in the sphere of SRHR.



**We want to hear your views and suggestions! Please write to:** FPA Sri Lanka, 37/27, Bullers Lane, Colombo - 07, Sri Lanka.

E-mail : [fpa@fpasilanka.org](mailto:fpa@fpasilanka.org) Web : [www.fpasrilanka.org](http://www.fpasrilanka.org) Tel : +94 112 555 455 Fax : +94112 55 66 11