



26th Year

# WCIC Newsletter



No. 09

May : 2011

**Women's Chamber of Industry and Commerce**

380/7, Sarana Road, Buddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07.

Tel.2671762, Tel/Fax 2669074,

Email [wci11@sltnet.lk](mailto:wci11@sltnet.lk) Website [www.wci11.lk](http://www.wci11.lk)

## Message from the Chairperson



The WCIC celebrated the 100th International Women's Day at the Galadari Hotel Colombo on March 31, 2011. The Chief Guest was Veena Sikri, Professor Ford Foundation and Founder Chairperson of Bangladesh Studies Programme Academy of Third World Studies Jamia Islamia. She addressed the gathering on empowerment of Women in the South Asian region.

Members Day was held at Galadari Hotel on May 11, 2011. Guest Speaker was ILO Consultant Ms Ramani Gunatilake, who spoke on Micro Finance and empowerment of women in Sri Lanka. High Tea was served and the Members were entertained by Menaka de Fonseka – vocalist and Ramya de Livera Perera on Piano. It was a very pleasant evening.

The WCIC sponsored a seminar on problems encountered by women entrepreneurs in small and medium businesses in the Kandy district on May 26, 2011. Over hundred women participated in this programme.

In keeping with the current project of promoting home gardens scheme, affiliation with NCED Womens Cluster we are planing to distribute two coconut plants to five thousand households, starting from July.

With regard to on going projects of the Chamber, three students from Nuffield School Jaffna have successfully completed the NBQ level 3. Under the Micro Credit project, we have already financed twelve women entrepreneurs from Manner Women's Development Foundation. They have benefited by this funding and twelve more women will be given micro credit facilities within the next few months. The Chick farming project in Batticaloa is successfully underway and the beneficiaries are already receiving income.

We are at the initial stage of another project of chick farming in the Mullaitivu district with the Women's Development Foundation in Mullaitivu.

I look forward to your ideas, suggestions and advise on taking the Chamber forward in the coming months.

Vidyani Hettigoda

## Zonta Woman of Achievement award for Entrepreneurship

Ms. Kumari Hapugalle Perera, Directress, CEO and Coordinating Principal of Alethea International School (pvt) Ltd., is the main figurehead who is driven to achieve the best under any circumstances.

She is the winner of the Zonta Woman of Achievement for industry and entrepreneurship award, 2010. She strongly believes that education is not a business, but for her it's her passion. It's not only passing examinations, she guides her students to be true to the word proud Sri Lankan with high moral values.

She worked her way up the ladder to where she is now with a very clear determination, strong confidence and assurance. She played a major role in the uphill battle to bring the school to where it is now. She didn't stop at that point she peruse her own education while working and being a devoted mother and a wife to her husband and her two daughters. She placed a MBA from the University of Wales, Diploma in Business Management and Early Childhood Education as well as her Diploma in Speech & Drama.

Alethea boasts 83 years of guiding generations of students into the competitive arena of the new millennia and offers two separate avenues of education. Alethea International School offers examinations in all subject streams for O/level and A/level in Cambridge and Edexcel Examinations. Alethea School (pvt) Ltd, which is a government registered school, offers all national examinations G.C.E. O/L and G.C.E. A/L in English Medium.

Alethea upholds religious beliefs and each religion is respected, taught and religious practices adhered to as an integral part of the school calendar. School actively encourages participation of sport, social awareness projects and co-curricular activities. Alethea believes in encouraging individual skills amongst groups to further enhance the multi cultural ethnicity of not just Sri Lanka but the world at large because Alethea strongly believes that the way forward lies in the core of each individual student and works towards identifying and developing that same core of leadership.

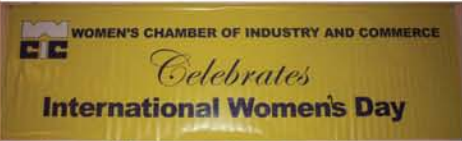
She also holds the chair as the Secretary of the Association of Principals and Heads of International Schools, and the Secretary of the Women's International Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Kumari Hapugalle Perera



## Past Events

### International Women's Day Celebrations



WCIC celebrated centenary year of International Women's Day on 31st March 2011.



The Guest Speaker was Prof. Veena Sikri from Bangladesh at Salon Anthurium, Galadari Hotel.



### Members Day 2011

Members day of WCIC was held on the 11th May 2011. Guest Speaker Ms. Ramani Gunatilaka delivered the key note on "Micro Credit and the Woman Entrepreneur" at Salon Jasmine, Hotel Galadari, Colombo.



### Problem Encountered by Women Entrepreneurs in the SME Sector Seminar – Kandy

WCIC joined with Central Province Women's Chamber in Kandy conducted a seminar on 26th May for 100 participants obtain by the Women's Chamber of small Industries & Commerce.



### Walk for Cancer

Chamber participated in the "Walk for Cancer" which held on 6th March 2011.



## Social Work

### Sukitha Home

Donation was given to Sukitha Home in February for construction of wall around the well out of the profit received from the WCIC Christmas Party.



## Current Projects

### Micro Credit Project – Funded by The Colombo Plan

Selected 12 women from Mannar District and transfer funds to Mannar Women's Development Federation Account. To distribute among the selected women to up grade their already existing small scale industry.

### Nuffield School Jaffna Beauty Culture Project

Chamber and Nuffield School for Deaf & Blind Kaithadi, Jaffna signed the agreement for a period of 12 months to train 4 students in Hair Dressing and Beauty Culture.

### Chick Farming Project Funded by German Embassy

600 chicks were distributed among 20 beneficiaries selected from Batticaloa and also compensate the flood damages caused to their chick cages.



## Up Coming Projects

- Chick Farming Project – Mullaitive
- Coconut Cluster Project

## Dates to Remember

13th or 22nd July - WCIC Member's Day

2nd September – Annual General Meeting at On Golden Pond - Hotel Galadari

August (date to be notified) - Open Training Program