



Planet Green Force

Volume 1, Issue February 2024

Ananda Sows "Seeds of Security" as Green Education Leader



Principal Mr. D.M. L.P. Dissanayake

From the Principal

It is more important than ever for communities to put food security first in the modern world. To be food secure is to always have consistent access to reasonably priced, wholesome food. It's a problem that affects our local communities as well as the entire world.

First of all, a community that has enough food guarantees that none of its members will go to bed hungry at night. It entails providing enough food for everyone, irrespective of their financial situation. Access to wholesome meals has a beneficial effect on people's health and wellbeing.



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CIC "Nurtures Life" at Ananda College

CIC Holdings PLC, one of the most respected conglomerates in Sri Lanka, is collaborating on the Planet Green Force/UNESCO "Seeds of Security" education program at Ananda College.

This is in keeping with CIC's stated vision: "to be the most respected and admired corporate [citizen] for the positive impact we make on society by nurturing the lives of those we touch," demonstrating that CIC truly puts their words into action. "We are grateful to CIC Holdings for their partnership on Seeds of Security, which advances food security education and can serve as a model to replicated at other schools," said Mr. Lal Dissanayake, Principal of Ananda College. "In addition to students, it is our hope that millions of others will benefit from the science and technology curated by CIC in the future."



(L to R) Mr. Lal Dissanayake welcomes Dr. Benno Boer, UNESCO, along with Yohan De Silva and Harith Wickrema of PGF

Planet Green Force & UNESCO Partner at Ananda

Ananda College is the very first school in the world to launch Planet Green Force (PGF).

PGF, in partnership with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), is envisioned as a worldwide league for children from grades 1-13 with the mission to educate, ignite passion, build awareness and mount meaningful change in eliminating hunger (food security), battling global warming and embracing green initiatives.



The objective is to inspire students to become leaders, advocates, producers and innovators embracing the UNESCO Green Academies' pillars of water security, waste management, clean energy, and biomass production as well as Climate Science Literacy.

In addition many of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) will be embraced. Highlights include:

- Initial focus on hunger through an agricultural "Seeds of Security" program that addresses the importance of food security by having students grow their own container gardens at home as well as aquaponics and traditional gardening at school.

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Principal's Message

In addition to adults being more productive at work, children may concentrate better in school, and life quality generally rises.

Secondly, a stable economy and food security go hand in hand. A community is less dependent on outside sources when its members are able to generate their own food or have reliable access to it. The local economy is thereby strengthened as a result. Farmers, for instance, are essential to maintaining food security because they raise cattle and cultivate crops. Encouraging local agriculture maintains the economic base of the community and contributes to employment creation.

Thirdly, changes in the global climate have an impact on food production everywhere. Communities can more resiliently face the difficulties presented by climate change when local food security is guaranteed. Resilience in the face of environmental uncertainty can be increased by using sustainable farming practices and diversifying one's food sources.

In conclusion, it is therefore imperative that every community take the goal of achieving food security seriously and take proactive steps to make it a reality. It's important to lay the groundwork for a healthier, more secure tomorrow in addition to ensuring that everybody has enough food for the day. Communities may avoid hunger, boost their economy, and adjust to a changing environment by putting an emphasis on local food production, assisting farmers, and implementing sustainable methods. It's a group endeavor that begins at home and has a beneficial influence well beyond our immediate surroundings.

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Planet Green Force & UNESCO

Thank you CIC Holdings for leadership in spearheading the pilot project. They will learn how to grow, compost, develop nutritious menu items incorporating what is grown, sell excess crops through school marketplaces and examine key scientific, nutritional and mathematical results

- **Green Word of the Day:** learn a new environmental term daily
- Take on **global issues** while applying them to local issues. Share what is learned with family and the community
- Teamwork and a sense of green fun incorporating **green words across all subjects and activities**
- Explore "Four Rs": **Rethink**, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle hand-on
- Introduction to "**AI for Good**" technology and the importance of artificial intelligence advancements to sustainability goals
- **School competitions** and prizes with the possibility of best entries presented at international forums such as World Economic Forum, UN General Assembly, COP, etc.
- The ultimate goal would be to have PGF in every community globally, with Ananda College students and teachers once again creating history. This will build a generation of eco-minded, environmental **green LEADERS** around the world.



Mr. Aroshan Seresinhe, Group CEO of CIC holdings PLC with (L to R) Mr. Roshan Premasiri, Mr. Jayantha Rajapaksa, Mr. Waruna Madawanarachchi, Mr. Yohan De Silva, Mr. Harith Wickrema



(L to R)- Anura Pathmasiri taking a selfie with Sandya Madagammana madam, Dr. Benno, Mr.Harith, Architect Muditha Jayakody, Mr. Yohan De Silva and the students

Ananda Made Me

I am who I am today because of Ananda. During my Ananda days, the teachers and principal guided students to learn English in addition to pursuing academic excellence, Buddhist and Sinhala values. They encouraged speaking in English, starting or joining clubs that were conducted in the language. Reading aloud “English news and announcements read by ___” daily propelled us to learn and emulate new English words.

PGF concerns such as global warming, hunger, food security, etc. are world issues and not just limited to Sri Lanka. Hence the next generation of change makers and world leaders combating these issues must be able to communicate in the global language of English.

This newsletter is primarily in English to help launch readers to the next level.

My Ananda experience earned me the opportunity for admission to an American university. I excelled there and in my professional pursuits due to the academic and leadership traits ingrained by Ananda. I am now “paying it forward” by offering today’s Anandains the opportunity to be PGF leaders.

Collaborations with UNESCO and other organizations coupled with your passion and commitment will ensure Ananda makes a difference in food security and sustainability.

The author was the Head Prefect in 1975, Philanthropist Harith Wickrema who is the founder of Planet Green Force.

Message from UNESCO

It was a pleasure to visit Ananda College on September 24, 2023. It was nice to listen to you and discuss aspects of humanity's ability to survive, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Ananda, together with Ananda alumnus Harith Wickrema, is committed to making your school a model for practical activities related to water, food and energy security in times of triple planetary syndrome.

Mother Earth's ecosystems provide air to breathe, water to drink and food to eat. We must do our part to ensure that this relationship continues by learning to live in harmony with nature again. UNESCO would be happy to be your partner.

Dr. Benno Boer, Chief of Sector, Natural Sciences, UNESCO

Pictured is a partial representation of the Ananda PGF Teacher Committee



Left to Right (Seated) J.A.K.Janakantha, Ajith Susantha,E.G.S.Dabare, D.L.S.K.Maduranga, D.M.L.P Dissanayake, Sandamali Thennakoon, Harith Wickrema, Yohan De Silva, Anil Cooray, Jayampathy Sumithrarachchi

Left to Right (Top Row) Samitha Peiris, Viraj De Silva, W.P.S.N.Wijesinghe, K.K.D.S.K. Madagammana, Nishadi Senadhira, Ranjani De Silva, K.M.C.M.M.P. Mahadiulwewa, Sanath Illeperuma, Niranjali Satgurunathan, K.T.V.P.K.Karunarathne, Indika Wasantha, B.V.C.Nishanth, Dr. Amal Withanage and Dr. Susith Athukorala



Some of Our Thoughts



Dinara Hettiarachchi Grade 10

Human development should be a never-ending process, yet have minimal harm on the lush green earth we proudly call home.

Understanding this, the United Nations, the world's largest international organisation, has put forward seventeen objectives linked with each other, describing them as "a shared blueprint" to ensure that by 2030 all of humanity can enjoy what they inherit universally; peace and prosperity. When looking at our

shared aim of leaving behind a pure world for the future generations inheriting Earth after us, several important SDGs can be considered as milestones we have yet to achieve in our path towards Planet Green.

UN's SDGs Helping Achieve a Green Planet

One such example is Goal 6 of 17 - "Clean Water and Sanitation". Safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires we invest in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems is essential - for this, Improving water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals is essential. Actions taken to fulfil Goal 13, another important landmark which addresses "Climate Action" must also go hand in hand with efforts to integrate disaster risk measures, sustainable natural resource management, and human security into national development strategies. Through implementing such action plans, we as responsible citizens can help save the planet from another step towards an impending climate crisis.

Shaping Ambitions to Make a Greener World



Vihas Rupasinghe Grade 8

From the farmer working hard to sustain his family, to the engineer trying to make life for all more convenient, there are numerous number of jobs available. You too most probably have an ambition. Yet, did you ever stop to think how, after succeeding

in your ambition, to help Mother Nature? How you might be helping the destruction of Earth... Many jobs contribute to destroy the earth itself. It is less known because as we students think of our ambition, it is more common to think about ourselves than anything else.

One examples for how your job might be contributing to the destruction of earth, the innocent farmer destroys much forest area to plant their crops, their chemical fertilizer pollutes the soil. An aircraft engineer creates aircrafts that produce many pollutant gases, and may even create destructive military aircrafts contributing to pollution even more. The factory owner might be the main polluter of the river next to his factory. In this manner, many jobs manage to destroy earth, yet is it still not too late to end this?

Though pollution has been increasing rapidly, I believe we can still save our planet. But how can we, when we do a job and focus on saving the planet, when we are already destroying it? Well, when looking at it,

“Col. Henry Steel Olcott founded Ananda College to provide a modern education in English within a Buddhist environment, so that the students could develop patriotic sentiments while being able to compete with the best in the external world.”

Yohan de Silva
Head Prefect 1974

it is understandable that even most destructive jobs can help in saving the plane. The owner of a timber foundation can replace every tree that is cut down by a few trees of the same type. An aircraft engineer or an automotive engineer can design vehicles with no carbon emissions. Even the farmer can restrict himself to just two forest areas and can use organic fertilizer, and even encourage other farmers to do so. In this manner, many jobs manage to destroy earth, yet is it still not too late to end this? Destructive Jobs to Jobs for Saving the Planet Though pollution has been increasing rapidly, I believe we can still save our planet. But how can we, when we do a job at Nature too.





Mr. Gamini Jayaratne and Mr. Sarath Alahakoon discussing PGF with Dr Benno Boer of UNESCO



Mr. D. M. L.P. Dissanayaka presented the ISO certificate along with Mr. Kamal Janakantha, Mr. Ruwan Pushpakumara and Mr. Roshan Premasiri. Proudly sharing the good news with head prefect, 1976 Jayampathy Sumithrarachchi and Harith Wickrema



Dr Anil Jasinghe, Secretary of Environment presenting ISO certification to the Principal



Ambassador Ravinatha Ariyasingha and Dr. Aruna Kulatunga at PGF inception dinner

PLANET GREEN FORCE NEEDS YOU

This is an open invitation for students, teachers and parents to join the inaugural Planet Green Force team. Be a GREEN LEADER Your ideas, willingness to brainstorm concepts, share expertise, leadership role in organizing events, writing of articles, etc. will help Planet Green Force to flourish.

Seeking writers, editors, educators, business managers, etc.

Please email us at:

planetgreenforce2024@gmail.com





Some of our Thoughts

Importance of going green; Can we lead the change?



Neth Wijesooriya

“With global temperatures on the rise, the year 2023 was the warmest year recorded, globally” according to the World meteorological organization

The Earth as of now paints a concerning picture; rising temperatures, deteriorating resources, ecosystems on the verge of collapse. Amidst this urgency, environmental sustainability or “going green” strikes hope.

The transition to renewable energy sources, adapting to sustainable agricultural practices and reducing carbon emissions are of importance. Contrary to the opinion of the majority, the effects of climate change can be marginally reversed. With the reduction of the emission of ozone depleting chemicals, the recovery of the ozone hole in Antarctica, portrays Earth’s ability to heal, offering a glimpse of hope. Hence it is important that we impart “green education” in schools. Going green simply means, becoming more environmentally aware.

In a school environment implementing recycling programs, conserving energy by turning off unnecessary lights and electronics, initiating composting mechanisms, integrating green education to the curriculum will guarantee change.

Thereby, through this small but collective effort, we can lead the change to create a generation of eco-conscious citizens, to have a better tomorrow with food security, a stable climate and pollution free future. It is time for us to lead the change.

“The Earth does not belong to us :We belong to the Earth” ~Chief Seattle

Paper, plastic or cotton?

by

Supun Aryasingha Grade 8

At the supermarket, what type of bag should you use to bring your groceries home? After being used once or twice, the plastic bags which are generously provided by the stores will be discarded, most probably, into the environment or landfills. These bags then clog up our oceans and decimate coastal and marine ecosystems. In contrast, paper and cotton bags quickly biodegrade in the environment. However, considering the production process of these bags turns the tables: producing a plastic bag emits very little carbon dioxide to the atmosphere whereas the production of a paper bag emits triple that and a cotton bag emits over 100 times that. Out of these three, paper bags and plastic bags are the least likely to be reused, whereas cotton bags are likely to, being immensely more durable.

So, which one is better? The answer is... neither. Buy a strong bag that will last you many years and keep reusing it, when it breaks mend it and continue using it. The best option would be traditional Sri Lankan reed bags that have next to no carbon footprint. All in all, next time you go to a grocery store kindly refuse the plastic bags they offer and take your groceries in your own reusable bag.



Thankful to Photography Club members

- Sasindu Menuja Liyanage
- Jeran Amrith Gamage
- Disala Thevmith Attalapitiya
- Vishwa Divanka Samaraweera





Methul Hettiarachchi
Grade:12BE

Let's Greenify Mother Ananda

In an era where the Earth's plea for sustainability echoes louder than ever, it's imperative for institutions worldwide to embrace the green revolution. As we witness alarming environmental degradation and climate crises on a global scale, the urgency to adopt eco-conscious practices becomes undeniable. Yet, amidst these challenges, there emerges a beacon of hope, a testament to proactive change—Ananda College. Mr. Harith Wickrama, an esteemed alumnus and former Head Prefect, embodies this spirit of change. With unwavering dedication,

he spearheads a transformative project to infuse green principles into the very heart of Ananda. This initiative doesn't merely aim to cultivate lush gardens or recycle waste; it aspires to instill a profound environmental ethos within the school community. Imagine the verdant revival of Sinharaja, the school's forestry haven, thriving once again as a sanctuary for biodiversity. Picture students, impassioned and empowered, leading recycling initiatives, championing sustainability campaigns, and delving into sustainable food practices and production. Envision them exploring modern agricultural methods and harnessing the power of AI to predict climate change impacts.

The ripple effects of this green wave extend far beyond the school gates, shaping conscientious citizens poised to tackle global challenges. Parents, envision your sons not just as scholars but as stewards of the planet, nurtured within the hallowed halls of Ananda College. With Mr. Harith's visionary leadership, we embark on a journey to redefine education, intertwining academic excellence with environmental stewardship. Let us heed the call to greenify Mother Ananda, igniting a beacon of sustainability for generations to come.

