



## National Symposium

### Catalyzing Change: Making Local Governance Future Fit

10 & 11 June 2024, Galadari Hotel, Colombo

#### Session Structure

Day 1  
10<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Monday

<b>Main Hall</b>	
Opening Session, 09.00 AM -10.30 AM	
<b>Session 1: (Common Session)</b> Exploring Anticipatory, Agile and Adaptive Governance- CDLG's Dynamics in Local Governments, with Q&A 10.30 AM - 12.00 PM	
Visiting Stalls 12.00 PM -12.45 PM  Lunch and Networking 12.45 PM -13.45 PM	
<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>Hall 2 (Parallel Session)</b>
<b>Session 2: Local Governance for Better Performance and Revenue Generation with Q &amp;A</b> 02.00 PM - 04.30 PM	<b>Session 3: Empowered Communities for Enhanced Social Accountability with Q&amp;A</b> 02.00 PM - 04.30 PM

**Day 2**

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Tuesday**

<b>Main Hall</b>	<b>Hall 2 (Parallel Session)</b>
<p><b>Session 4: Local Governance: Digitalization Perspective with Q&amp;A 09.30 AM -11.30 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Session 5: Greening Local Governance: Best Practices, Challenges and Way Forward with Q&amp;A 09.30 AM -11.30 AM</b></p>
<p>Visiting Stalls and Networking 11.00 AM –12.00 PM</p>	
<p><b>Main Hall</b></p>	
<p><b>Closing Session: Recommendation and Closing Remarks 12.00 PM - 01.00 PM</b></p> <p>Followed by Lunch and Networking</p>	



## Session Plans

**Day 1**  
**10<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Monday**

**8.30 - 9.00 AM:** Registration, Arrival of Guests & Refreshments

**9.00 - 10.30 AM:** Opening of the Symposium

### Session Objectives

- Provide an overview of the symposium's objectives and themes to frame the overall symposium.
- Introduce the "Anticipatory, Agile, and Adaptive Governance" (AAAG) concept.
- Set expectations for the symposium and its outcomes.

### Speakers

- Welcome Remarks by Ms. Azusa Kubota, UNDP Resident Representative
- Remarks by Mrs. Dishna Dharmasekera - Additional Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government.
- Keynote Address, Lauren Kahn, Director of Strategy & Research, Public Digital UK
- Remarks by Mr. Nagarasa Manivannan, Commissioner of Local Government, Eastern Province
- Edoardo Spacca, Deputy Head of Cooperation, The EU Delegation to Sri Lanka

## SESSION 1

10.30 AM – 12.00 PM

Plenary Session @ Main Hall

### Exploring Anticipatory, Agile and Adaptive Governance (AAAG): CDLG's Dynamics in Local Governments

This session aims to highlight the AAAG approaches adopted by CDLG during the project implementation, times of Covid 19 pandemic and the economic crisis. By sharing best practices, opportunities for scaling up, challenges and case studies, this session further aims to provide practical insights into embedding innovation in local governance practices.

#### Session Objectives:

- Highlight the AAAG approach as adopted by CDLG project and the need to scale up.
- Highlight interventions that enabled enhanced the accountability and transparency aspects at Sub-national and grass root level in becoming institutions future fit.

#### Practitioners' Presentation (30 min)

1. Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Chief Innovation Officer, National Innovation Agency
2. Ms. Rifka Rafeek, Secretary, Urban Council, Kanthakudy, Batticaloa District

#### Panel Discussion

Moderator: Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Chief Innovation Officer, National Innovation Agency

#### Panelists:

1. Ms. Lauren Kahn, Director of Strategy & Research, Public Digital UK
2. Ms. Gayani Premathilake, Chief Legal Officer, Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Council and Local Government
3. Dr. Gopa Kumar K. Thampi, Senior Governance Advisor, Asia Foundation

#### Q & A

**12.00PM-01.45PM: Explore the Stalls, Lunch & Networking**

## SESSION 2

2.00 PM - 4.30 PM

### Parallel Session 1 @ Main Hall

#### Local Governance for Better Performance and Revenue Generation

The topic of Revenue Collection and Revenue Management systems of Local Governments remains prudent and important, not just in the context of Sri Lanka and her decentralization but in making said systems future fit. While local authorities generate endogenous revenue from over 40 sources mandated under the existing legal framework, fiscal and capability constraints exist. By 2027, Local Authorities are expected to meet their recurrence expenditure their own revenue, as per the budget proposal presented in 2023, requiring Local Authorities to be more efficient. The Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Council and Local Government, in collaboration with the European Union and the World Bank introduced a performance-based grant as part of the STRIDE programme to incentivize LAs in improving their institutional performance and service delivery outcomes. Catalyzing the process of making Local Governments future-fit, through data driven planning and inclusive data collection methods and translating data statistics into compelling narratives, policymakers gain a clear understanding of the community's needs, and are able to make informed decisions. Recently introduced Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) by Citra Social Innovation Lab equip policy makers, development practitioner and local Government experts a better understanding of the socioeconomic situations across Sri Lanka.

#### Session Objectives:

- Highlight the significance of revenue management with regard to sustainable business continuity and decentralization of local Governments.
- Discuss and highlight the significance of, and examples related to SDG localization for effective planning and financing.
- Share UNDP's experience related to introducing MVI and its use for local level planning and budgeting.
- Showcase successful examples of data-driven initiatives that led to meaningful policy changes or improvements within local Governments.

#### Practitioners' Presentation (30 min)

1. Prof. Navaratnarajah Sathiparan, Faculty of Engineering, University of Jaffna
2. Mr. M. A. Dhammika Wijesinghe, Accounts Assistant, Galnewa Pradeshiya Sabha, North Central Province

#### Panel Discussion

Moderator – Ms. Maheshi Herath, Technical Specialist, UNDP

#### Panelists:

1. Ms. Sarika Warusavitharana, Sociologist & Solutions Mapping Lead, CITRA Innovation Lab
2. Mr. Dammika Mahendra, Senior Technical Advisor, The Asia Foundation
3. Dr. Kanishka Balasuriya, Senior Consultant, The World Bank
4. Dr. Maringa Sumanadasa, General Secretary, Sri Lanka Economic Association / Former Secretary, Ministry of Child Development and Women Empowerment

#### Q & A

## SESSION 3

2.00 PM - 4.30 PM

### Parallel Session 2 @ Breakout Hall (Bougainvillea)

#### Empowered Communities for Enhanced Social Accountability

In the realm of local governance, the CDLG project acts to magnify the voices and expectations of communities in the targeted areas, through innovative approaches, enabling a landscape of participatory governance, and meaningful change at the community level. CDLG champions the empowerment of women, youth, and marginalized groups, elevating their voices not only at the community forums but the sub-national levels.

#### Session Objectives:

- Highlight the importance of multi-pronged and multi-tiered approaches aimed at enhancing social accountability aspects at the sub national and grass root level.
- Discuss the importance of ensuring inclusivity by engaging women, youth, persons with disabilities, gender minorities and other marginalized communities in the participatory decision-making processes to build empowered communities including:
  - o The use of e-CRC in the SDG driven LAPDP development
  - o Transparent resource allocation Vs social cohesion at the local government level planning and budgeting process
  - o Community mediation leading to reduced community tension.
- Discusses various challenges faced by the citizens including women & youth in advancing participatory governance.

#### Practitioners' Presentation (30 Min)

1. Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, President, Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement/ STRIDE Steering Committee Member
2. Ms. Stella Kaalirasa, Youth Shadow Council member, Vaharai, Batticaloa District

#### Panel Discussion:

Moderator: Mr. Dhaanish Hanifa, Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist, CDLG, UNDP

#### Panelists:

1. Mr. Indika Perera, Key Expert, Alternative Dispute Resolution, SEDR, British Council
2. Ms. Sulakshana de Mel, Gender Consultant, CDLG
3. Ms. Tawfik Sarifa, Arafah Nagar Community Center, Vavuniya
4. Ms. Sinnathamby Sooriyakumari, President, OfERR Ceylon

#### Q & A Followed by Evening Tea

**Day 2**  
**11<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**8.30AM- 9.30AM: Arrival of Guests, Registration & Refreshments**

**SESSION 4**

**9.30AM-11.30AM**

**Parallel Session @ Main Hall**

**Local Governance: Digitalization Perspective**

This session focuses on advancing digital transformation to establish a citizen-centric digital governance system, allowing enhanced public service delivery efficiency and strengthened public participation. In a transition catalyzed by the COVID-19 pandemic, e-Government and ICT serve as pivotal tools in revolutionizing communication, citizen service delivery and public administration, culminating in making local governance systems future-ready. However, a significant digital divide exists between national and subnational levels, with the former facing challenges such as inadequate infrastructure and digital literacy. The CDLG project has prescriptively implemented various digital solutions for office automation, public grievances, data management, alongside local authority websites and social media platforms.

**Session Objectives:**

- Share information on various digital transformation initiatives, at the national and sub-national levels.
- Highlight the outcomes of digital transformation initiatives undertaken by CDLG project by showcasing CDLG best practices and initiatives on Digital Transformation for LA (E-System Mapping Study (2022), CAT 2020, Koha for Library Automation, Man-Kiwwa/Tell-It, E-Citizen report card, Citizen Charter QR code etc)

**Practitioners' Presentation (30 Min)**

1. Mr. D. C. Dissanayaka, Former Secretary, Ministry of Digital Infrastructure and Information Technology of Sri Lanka
2. Mr. Krishna Yogendran, IT officer and System Analyst, Point Pedro Urban Council

**Panel Discussion:**

Moderator – Mr. N. Manivannan, Commissioner of Local Governance, Eastern Province

**Panelists:**

1. Mr. Dharshana Samarakone, Director General Planning, Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government
2. Mr. Sameera Jayawardena, Associate Chief Digital Economy Officer, ICTA
3. Mr. Saman Athukorala, Deputy Commissioner of Local Government, Uva Province
4. Ms. S. D. P. U. Dharmarani, Secretary, Nochiagama Pradesiya Saba, North Central Province

**Q&A**

## SESSION 5

9.30AM-11.30AM

### Parallel Session@ Breakout Hall (Bougainvillea)

#### Greening Local Governance: Best Practices, Challenges and Way Forward

As people and the planet enter a new geological epoch, the Anthropocene, marked by accelerated environmental degradation, climate change impacts, and escalating energy demands, the imperative for transitioning towards renewable energy sources and effective solid waste management practices has never been more urgent.

Local Governments, positioned to implement context-specific localized solutions play a pivotal role in driving this transition. In this context, the CDLG project has spearheaded various efforts to promote sustainable and resilient development, including climate vulnerability assessments, climate-related planning, green city master plans, disaster risk reduction plans, and technical assessments on solid waste management. By empowering Local Governments and their constituents, CDLG aims to promote their crucial role in sustainable development, to ensure the prescriptions are responsive to the unique needs and priorities of communities, and thus, future fit.

#### Session Objectives:

- Highlight the innovative strategies and best practices adopted by STRIDE with special reference to renewable energy, Green city planning, sustainable waste management.
- Focus on the scalability of tested solutions to challenges faced by local governments in waste management and environmental sustainability.

#### Practitioners' Presentation (30 Min)

1. Dr. R.D.S.Jayathunga, Additional Secretary, Environment Development
2. Mr. Zihan Zarouk, Project Coordinator, CDLG, United Nations Development Programme

#### Panel Discussion:

Moderator: Dr. Buddhika Hapuarachchi, Policy Specialist & Team Lead, Climate & Environment, United Nations Development Programme

#### Panelists

1. Mr. Ajith Buwanayaka, Technical Officer, Wellawaya Pradeshiya Sabha
2. Mr. T. Gajendrakumar, Commissioner, Bandarawela Municipal Council
3. Prof. Jagath Munasinghe, HOD, Town and Country Planning, University of Moratuwa
4. Prof. B.F.A. Basnayake, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya

#### Q & A

## **Closing Session**

### **12.00 - 01.00 PM**

- Summation of Symposium Findings and Next Steps by Chandrika Karunaratna, Policy Specialist & Team Lead, Inclusive Governance, United Nations Development Programme
- Virtual Address by Dr. Aaron Maniam, Fellow of Practice and Director, Digital Transformation Education, University of Oxford
- Remarks by Ms. Azusa Kubota, Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme
- Address by Hon. Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena/ Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government
- Address by Excellency Carmen Moreno, Ambassador, The EU Delegation to Sri Lanka

### **01.00 PM - 02.00 PM: Lunch & Networking**