



# LKI UPDATE

programmes@lki.lk

January-March 2026

<https://lki.lk/>

## LKI EVENTS AND COLLABORATIONS



- **16/02/2026:** LKI held a public discussion with Dr. Hiran Jayewardene titled 'UNCLOS: The Past and the Future'.
- **06/03/2026:** LKI Panel Discussion – LKI brought together experts for a session open to members of the public titled ' - **Where the Compass Points in 2026** (Prof. Maneesha Wanasinghe-Pasqual of the International Relations Department at the University of Colombo, Omar Rajarathnam, Executive Director of Factum, economist Talal Rafi, and Kavindu Ediriweera of Slycan Trust Global. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Nishara Mendis, Executive Director of the LKIIRS)
- **12/03/2026:** LKI in collaboration with the British High Commission hosted a closed-door roundtable discussion with the British High Commissioner, H.E. Andrew Patrick on '**British-Sri Lanka Relations: Current Trends and Shared Futures**'.



## RESEARCH

**March 2026: Beyond Biodiversity, but not Beyond Responsibility - The role of the BBNJ Agreement in the Sri Lankan Context:** LKI Research Intern **Aakil Riyaz** examines the strategic implementation of the BBNJ Agreement within Sri Lanka's maritime policy framework, focusing on inter-institutional coordination and stakeholder synergy.

- **March 2026: Freedom of Association and its Effective Implementation under the EU GSP+ Scheme: Assessing Sri Lanka's Compliance with ILO Convention No. 87:** LKI Research Intern **Vinura Gamage** evaluates Sri Lanka's fulfilment of the EU GSP+ trade preferences due to the EU's monitoring framework shifting from formal ratification to effective implementation. It highlights institutional persistence, the disconnect between freedom of association and the administrative barriers faced by workers, as well as EU eligibility of Sri Lanka for tariff preferences as key areas.

## STAFF WORKSHOP (RESEARCH)

- **08/01/2026:** LKIIRSS Staff Workshop on Research Methodology was conducted by LKI Executive Director, Dr. Nishara Mendis for members of LKI's research staff and interns.



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## ENGAGEMENTS

- **26/01/2026:** LKI Representative attends 35<sup>th</sup> Guest Lecture hosted by the Centre for Poverty Analysis titled 'Facing the Future: Environmental Disaster and Poverty in Sri Lanka'
- **03/02/2026:** LKI representatives attend the virtual discussion themed; 'Origin of Air Power in Sri Lanka and its continuing relevance in Today's context', organized by the Institute of National Security Studies.
- **04/03/2026:** LKI Board Member, Mr. Imran Furkan represented LKI at the Institute of National Security Studies Security Salon.
- **13/02/2026:** LKI Board Member, Mr. Imran Furkan represented the Institute at the expert meeting on the macroeconomic outlook at the 'Awareness Sessions on the Monetary Policy Report 2026', event hosted by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
- **23/02/2026:** Executive LKI Board Member Mr. S. Nimal Kumar represented the Institute at an international webinar jointly organized with the 'Asians Speak Forum on "Justice in Disaster Relief"', co-organized by the Driyarkara School of Philosophy, Duay Jai Association and Human Initiative
- **26/02/2026 - 28/02/2026:** The Executive Director of LKI, Dr. Nishara Mendis, was invited to speak at a panel titled economy at the Asian Economic Dialogue 2026 held in Pune, organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, India
- **11/03/2026:** Executive Director of LKI, Dr. Nishara Mendis, attended the 'IORA day 2026', event at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- **13/03/2026:** LKI Representatives participated in the 'International Mother Language Day 2026' organized by the Bangladeshi High Commission.

## VISITS

- **12/01/2026:** High Commissioner of the United Kingdom, H.E. Andrew Patrick visited LKI
- **17/02/2026:** Representative of the World Bank, Mr. Nathaniel Buffenoir visited LKI
- **09/03/2026:** Ambassador of Cuba to Sri Lanka, Ms. Patricia Pego Guerra's visit to LKI
- **17/03/2026:** Ambassador of South Korea to Sri Lanka, Ms. Miyon Lee, visited LKI



## OUR EVOLVING TEAM

### Fond Farewells

- Sulochana Wijayasinghe  
**30/01/2026**
- Madhuka Rukmalgama  
**30/01/2026**
- Yeshiah Peries  
**08/01/2026**
- Pawani Harshika  
**16/01/2026**
- Aakil Riyaz  
**13/03/2026**
- Vinura Gamage  
**13/03/2026**

### Warm Welcomes

- Nabeela Jabir  
**13/01/2026**
- Adhil Fareed  
**19/01/2026**
- Tharushi Rathnayake  
**02/02/2026**
- Thevni Sendanayake  
**02/02/2026**
- Venura Jayaratne  
**16/03/2026**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **24/10/2025:** LKI Communications intern, Yeshiah Peiris launched the LKI Instagram page @the.lki