



Sri Lanka National Chapter of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing world (SLNC/ OWSD) 2023/25

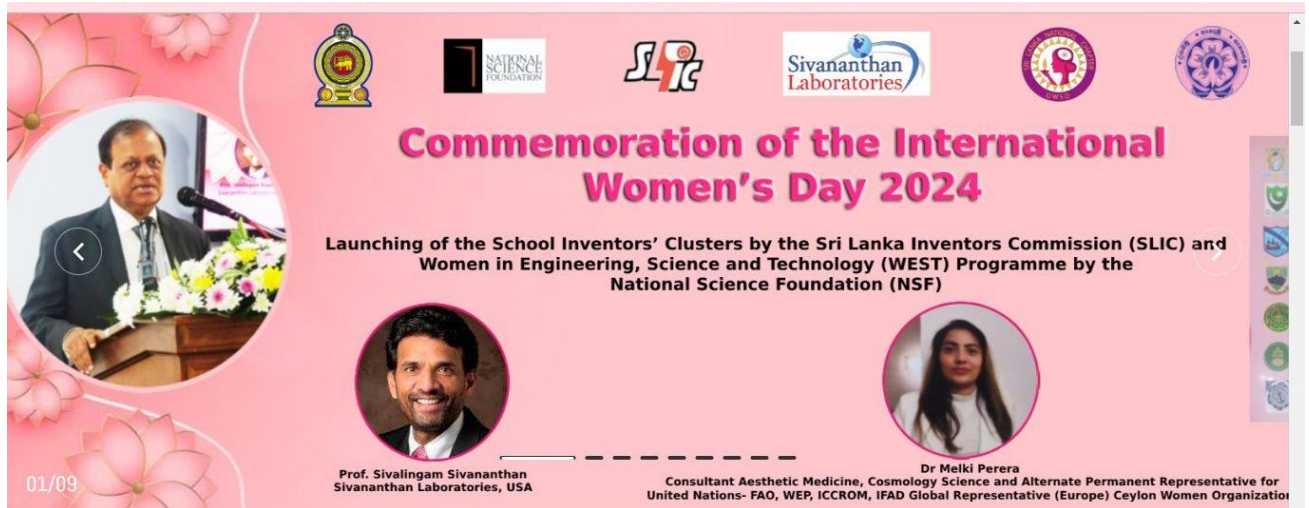
Summary of the Activities Conducted in March to September 2024

Activities done from March to September 2024

1.1 Promoting WEST (Women of Engineering, Science and Technology) in the Schools

SLNC/OWSD had the privilege in partnering the WEST (Women for Engineering, Science and Technology) program launched within the schools of the entire country, commemorating the International Women's Day in the year 2024, hosted by the Sirimavo Balika Vidyalaya (Leading girls school), Colombo -7 on the **18th of March 2024**. It was a joint collaboration of the Ministry of Education, the National Science Foundation (NSF) of Sri Lanka and the SLNC/OWSD. Sri Lanka National Chapter OWSD was much grateful to the Hon. Minister of Education Dr. Susil Premajayantha and the Director General of NSF, Dr. Sepalika Sudasinghe, for this joint initiative.

This was partnered internationally with Sivanathan Laboratories, USA, Ceylon Women Association, Australia and Nationally the Inventers Commission of Sri Lanka. The goal of this program is promoting science education and innovation in schools targeting the girl children. Expected outcome is the economic prosperity through science education and more women involvement in entrepreneurship through technology integration.



Activity poster displayed



Hon. Minister's Address



DG- NSF, Secretary /Ministry of Education and Principal / Sirimavo



Prof. Sivanathan, Founder / Sivanathan Labs



Dr. Melky Perera, Ceylon Women



Ministry Representatives, Inventors commission, President SLNC/ OWSD & ExCom Members



Schools that joined online

1.2

Women Empowerment through the WEST integration

WEST program is also focused on empowering the unemployed women in the community through strategized interventions to achieve the social development. As per the Central Bank of Sri Lanka predictions women unemployment is one of the major limitation for the economic development. Out of unemployed women, 45 – 50 % are educated women unemployed due to various social reasons including family commitment. Therefore most of them directed to self employment, which even not sustained due to poor marketing strategies and substandard products. Grass root level women entrepreneurs were facing multiple issues with poor integration of technology and scientific knowledge. These barriers may limit them in competing with the market trends. This may be further leading to poor social and legal protection, difficulties in entering new and lucrative markets to expand their businesses. Therefore SLNC/ OWSD in collaboration with the NSF, embarked on the project on ‘Empowering the Grassroots level Women Entrepreneurs’ under the WEST program on the **5th of April 2024** at the NSF Auditorium.

It was initiated with a workshop on capacity building on leadership, coaching and mentoring for the scientists in SLNC/OWS and NSF who supposed to be guiding and mentoring the grass root level women entrepreneurs. Ms Kanthi Basnayake, Director, Asia Pacific Management Institute (APMI) and Eng. Sithila Dassanayake, Deputy Innovation Officer, MAS Holdings PLC were the resource persons that conducted the workshop.



Dr. Sepalika Sudasinghe (DG/NSF) delivering her speech



Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera (President SLNC/ OWSD) and the Team Participated



During the Workshop and interactive discussion

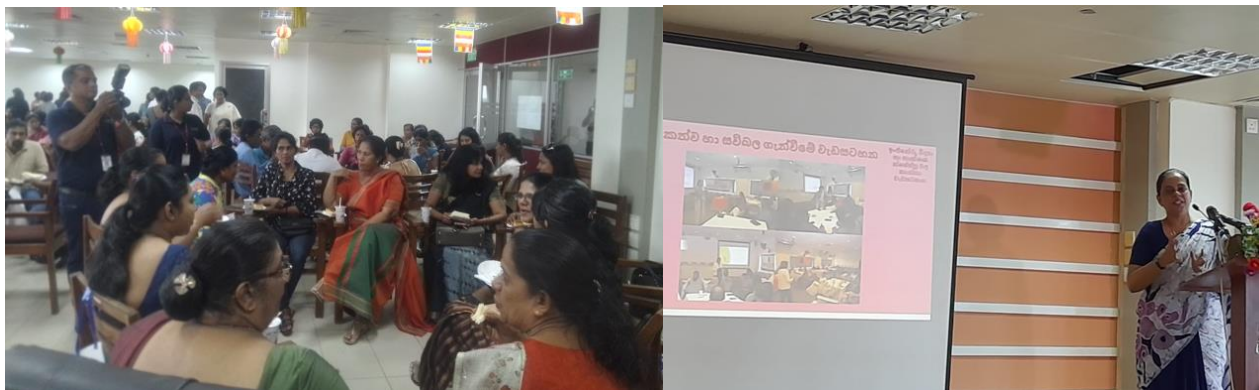
Expected outcome of the program is supporting the women through coaching and guiding them for the sustainable growth in their businesses.

1.3 Meet the Leaders forum through the WEST Program

'Entrepreneurial Excellence Forum: **Meet the Leaders**' was organized by the SLNC/OWSD in collaboration with the NSF, the Ministry of Education, Divisional Secretariat of Thimbirigasyaya(Colombo). This initiative was held on the **11th June 2024** at the Auditorium of the Thimbirigasyaya divisional secretariat. The main objective was the engagement of scientific community with 29 grass root level women entrepreneurs at Thimbirigasyaya divisional secretariat.



Hon. Minister of Education was discussing the future interventions to promote the entrepreneurship at school levels



The Women met their leaders in the Industry



SLNC / OWSD team whom connected with the Women entrepreneurs at the Grass root level



Discussing the Future interventions with different agencies joined

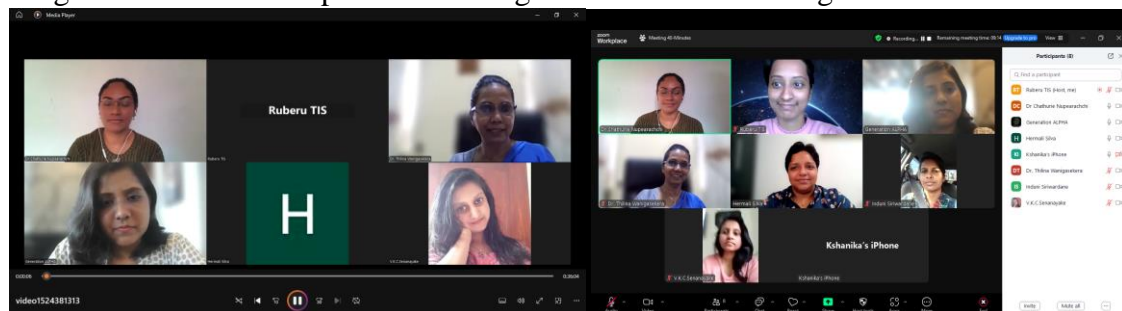
1.4 BizBox (2nd) Initiative with Founder /CEO of Generation Alpha – Get Scientist into sustainable Businesses / Start Ups and SMEs- (Get to know the Lake before you Swim) on 26th of September 2024

Startups often prioritize market share over profitability in the early stages as their main objective is to scale quickly. SMEs generally focus on sustainable growth rather than rapid expansion and prioritize profitability and operational efficiency. **Miuli Kalubowila** our guest Speaker kept us in an extremely wonderful edge at the 2nd BizBox, which opened virtually on the **26th September 2024**.

Miuli is the founder/ CEO of the Generation Alpha, consultant/ cooperate trainer and the echo system builder.

She explained how SMEs focus their products or services in limited geographical jurisdiction and cater to a very specific public. Startups, on the other hand, are global from day one, and their objective is to expand across borders in a limited amount of time in order to offer their services or products indiscriminately to customers.

As we have discussed, startups and SMEs have different needs, capabilities, and challenges. They both bring enormous social and economic advantages to societies and each has a role to play in building economic prosperity. However, each should be treated as separate entities by policymakers, taking care to tailor policies that benefit them individually, so that communities can reap the benefits of both types of these entrepreneurial ventures. The Scientists role is one of the best energy booster with the technology inclusion, so we hope to open a platform for the women scientists to move their wings to startups focusing on the global market opportunities.



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE OPENING OF THE
Biz-BOX in September 2024
 The difference between SMEs and Start-ups and the steps to make your business scalable

With
Miuli Kalubowila
 Founder & CEO | Generation ALPHA
 Cooperate Trainer/
 Eco-system Builder

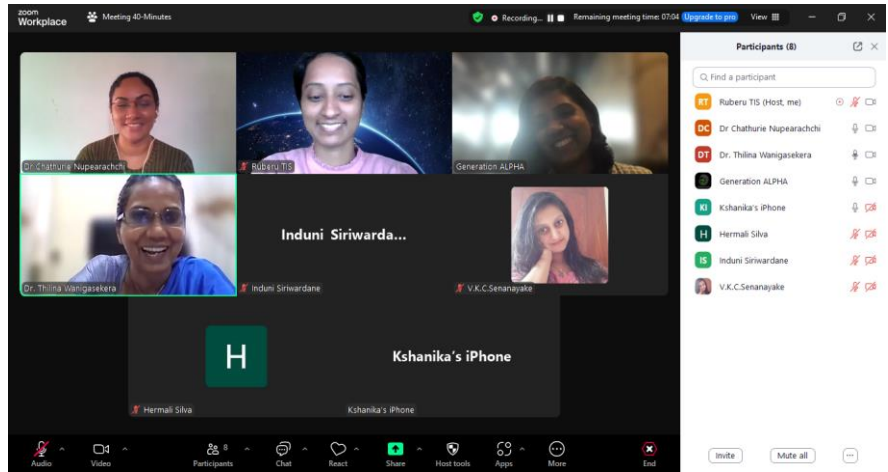
Organised by
 SLNC/OWSD

I believe that discovering one's purpose is essential for making life meaningful. Identifying your passions, upskilling accordingly, and building your personal brand can help you become the best version of yourself, whether you choose a corporate career or aim to start your own startup.

Moderator: Dr. Chathurie Nupearachchi
 (Secretary, SLNC/OWSD)
 Save the date

THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER
 4.00 P.M.
 Via ZOOM

Meeting Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77149372059?pwd=b3kwfF6u0joPldksUr0LRjJoi42Xk.1>



Flyer Circulated within the SLNC/OWSD ExCom, all the Members, non Member scientist and the interested parties to get maximum interactive participation. The session was informative and successful.

4 Monthly ExCom Meetings

Since March 2024 to September 2024 we have conducted 7 regular meetings to design our activities.

5 Proposed activities for October 2024

Another phase of grass root women entrepreneurs program will be held in mid October 2024 with NSF.

C.N. Nupearachchi

Signature
Name of the Secretary for 2023/2025:
Dr Chathurie Nupearachchi
Date: 30/09/2024

Thilina

Signature
Name of the President for 2023/ 2025:
Dr Thilina Wanigasekera
Date: 30/09/2024

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