



INVITATION

For the last 70 year of post-colonial period in Sri Lanka, there was no clear national policies, strategic plans or processes to defeat poverty and economic backwardness or to establish a safe life and a comparable overall development in the country. So far, there was no discussion about any national goals, any short term or long-term plans to address any of the issues Sri Lankans face such as poverty, unemployment, rising crimes, environmental destruction, drug addiction etc. There was no effective management and utilization of natural resources, infrastructure or workforce as a resource for the sustainable development of the country.

Therefore, the Sri Lankan intellectuals have come forward to fill this gap and are attempting to formulate evidence based national strategic plan for the country without any political bias or influence.

We believe that not only Sri Lankan intellectuals in our home country but also Sri Lankan intellectuals living abroad also have a huge responsibility and the NIO- Sri Lanka have invited intellectuals residing in other countries to join with them in this mighty task.

Therefore, as the initial group of people in UK who are interested in starting NIO-UK, we cordially invite Sri Lankan intellectuals in UK to participate in and contribute to the formation of NIO-UK to help our country move towards a better developmental stage.

Date: Sunday 24th of February

Time: 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Venue: Vale Farm Sports Centre Watford Rd

London

HA0 3HG

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National Intellectuals Organization

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United Kingdom

Dear Partners and Stakeholders

Most of the developed countries have been following internationally system based, risk focused tiered processes and strategic plans in achieving their national goals. There are many countries in the world who got independent at the time we did and successfully achieved a significant socioeconomic and environmental development through dedicated and genuine leaderships.

However, the major political parties who came into power alternatively (can remove this) so far in Sri Lanka never showed any intension or dedication to do so and repeatedly have proven their inability thus far. There was no consultation with the Sri Lankan citizens and intellectuals about the national, provincial or local problems and potential solutions. No attempt has been made by these governments to communicate and consult the Sri Lankan intellectuals living Sri Lanka or abroad about tools, techniques and guidance to progress our Sri Lankan socio-economic and environmental status. Instead, those parties have been using short-sighted haphazard agendas only during election campaigns for personal gain only.

As such, this is the first time in the Sri Lankan history the intellectuals, professionals and academics come out of their individual professional bodies, got together in a common platform “The National Intellectual Organization Sri Lanka (NIO)” irrespective of their individual party interests and arranged a national level discussion to establish and grab the attention of the general public for national goals and principles of the development of Sri Lanka. Interestingly, they have already formulated final draft of such national goals and principles after studying background situation of the country and similar plans in other countries. They have already covered ten fields including agriculture/ livestock/fisheries, art/culture, economy, environmental management, health, education, transport, technological development, sports and so on. The intellectuals in NIO believes that if we can establish these national goals and suggestions produced by experts among the general public, it will be very important to change the current devastating trend, which should be customised to fit the short term and long term national requirements.

The intellectuals and experts in few countries such as Australia have already started branches of NIO-Sri Lanka in their countries and working in close collaboration with the parental organization at the moment. Therefore, we are also planning to initiate NIO-UK to strengthen and help them giving our experience, knowledge, evidence and skills to navigate our country in the correct pathway. This is not a political organization so any intellectual willing to do some degree of dedication to uplift the current situation in the country can participate irrespective of their party politics, ethnic or religious backgrounds.

We expect that this would be a good platform for us to contribute for the betterment of the country and a good starting point for discussion and further developments too. So, we have identified in our preliminary discussion with the NIO-Sri Lanka that the NIO- UK also has got many things that we can contribute to the Sri Lankans to escape from the political deadlock and the economic standstill. One of the important aspects of it is to contribute NIO-Sri Lanka by sharing the evidence, innovating best practise on fields such as international policies, processes, operations as well as science and technologies etc. to the Sri Lankan intellectuals. At the same time, we also have a huge responsibility in conveying the message to the other UK intellectuals and rest of the Sri Lankans. It is a harsh truth that such suggestions for national goals will only be an imaginations until we change the unacceptable political culture. So, we should actively participate in educating the general public about the concepts of national goals, raising the awareness of these proposals and enabling Sri Lankan general public to make wise decisions in political activities.

Thank you and Kind Regards

Dr Indunil Wijenayake, Dr Suresh Surendran, and Dr Kiringodage Ajith Kumara
National Intellectual Organisation (NIO) – UK



Our Mission

NIO mission is to defend and promote the citizens' rights; social, economic and environmental justice; and sustainable development principles-as well as the linkages between them-are at the heart of global and national policies; programs and practices; science, technology, advance democratic change; rule of law; and constitutionalism in Sri Lanka with the ultimate aim of building a society in which citizens exercise their basic rights and live in peace; dignity and prosperity in a civilize manner. Also NIO bridges the worlds of ideas and action among the citizens of Sri Lanka to deal effectively with the richness of its astonishing diversity and focused research and the best ideas of scholars and leaders from all parts of the country to make a decisive contribution to a renewal of the society.

About us

National Intellectuals Organization (NIO) is civil group of concern intellectuals, professionals, civil and political activists and citizens committed to change in Sri Lanka society to ensure the citizens' social, economic, political and environmental rights. NIO believes that a drastic change in the current socio-economic structure is necessary and hence we are committed to supporting active citizens, and engaged civil society and political organizations to achieve a more peaceful, democratic society equipped with collectiveness, humanity and rule of law. By developing and using new knowledge, tools, and approaches, we change people's lives and improve development assistance in fundamental ways. To achieve this, NIO works in core practice areas: sustainable development, politics, governance, Peace & resilience and Learning. Be believe further that a broad peoples' movement is essential to achieve these objectives and NIO is ready play the nucleolus role for the formation of such peoples' alliance.

Our Values and Principles	Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality and equity • Accountability, responsibility & transparency • Respect and tolerance and nonviolence • Self-reliance and solidarity • Fairness and Justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize Sri Lankans living in and outside to Initiate and conduct public dialogues, discussions and debates on relevant issues to Sustainable Development, advance public education, health as well as all socio economic and environmental aspects including system change, democracy and human rights with the aim of promoting peace and reconciliation in Sri Lanka. • Support policy and process development as well as advice on strategic planning and implementation or operation based on international best practices, research, innovation and development in Science & Technology, while promoting cultural values of Sri Lanka communities.