

**INAUGURAL MEETING OF  
NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL ORGANISATION  
UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH**

*Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February  
from 3-6pm*

**Venue:  
Vale Farm Sports Centre  
Watford Rd  
North Wembley  
London  
HA0 3HG**

Main Speech:

**DR. ANIL JAYANTHA FERNANDO**  
Senior lecturer (management faculty) Sri Jayawardanapura University  
(via Internet)

*Invitation to All Sri Lankan Intellectuals*

Enquiries

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National Intellectuals Organization  
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United Kingdom

Dear Partners and Stakeholders

### **The invitation to the National Intellectual Organisation (NIO) - UK Inauguration meeting**

For the last 70 year of post-colonial period in Sri Lanka, there was no national discussion about any national goals with short term and long-term plans to address the issues that Sri Lankans face. There were no clear national policies, strategic plans or processes to solve social problems such as poverty unemployment, rising crimes, drug addiction, economic disasters and environmental destruction. There was no effective management and utilization of natural resources, infrastructure or workforce as a resource and to establish a safe life and a sustainable development in the country. The major political parties who came into power alternatively, so far in Sri Lanka, never showed any intension or dedication to have a consultation with the Sri Lankan citizens and intellectuals about the national, provincial or local problems and potential solutions. However, most of the developed countries have been using an evidence driven, system based, risk focused, tiered processes and strategic plans in achieving their national goals. Many countries in the world who got freedom at the same time or after we got, have successfully achieved a significant socio-economic and environmental development through dedicated. Therefore an attempt must be made by these governments to communicate and consult the Sri Lankan intellectuals living in abroad about tools, techniques and guidance to progress our Sri Lankan socio-economic and environmental status. Instead, those governments play party politics and have been using short-sighted haphazard agenda only during election campaigns.

Therefore, the Sri Lankan intellectuals have come forward to fill this gap and are attempting to formulate evidence based, risk focused policies and system based but a tiered national strategic plan for the country without any political bias or influence which are customized to fit the short term and long term national requirements. This is the first time in the Sri Lankan history the intellectuals and academics came out from their individual professional bodies, got together in a common platform "The National Intellectual Organization Sri Lanka (NIO)", irrespective of their individual political 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. NIO - Sri Lanka have already formulated final draft of such national goals and principles after studying background situation of the country and similar policies in other countries covering 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 these national goals can be translated as policies and strategic plans based on suggestions and processes produced by a non-political way, it will change the current devastating trend.

NIO - Sri Lanka believe that not only Sri Lankan intellectuals in our home country but also Sri Lankan intellectuals living abroad also have a huge responsibility and have invited all of us to join with them in this mighty task. The intellectuals in few countries such as Australia have already started branches of NIO-Sri Lanka in their countries. Similarly we are initiating NIO-UK to strengthen and help them by providing 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 and future situation in the country can participate irrespective of their party politics, ethnic, religious or regional backgrounds or sexual orientation. We expect that this would be a good platform for all of us to contribute for the betterment of the country, as a good starting point for discussion of various risks and options for further developments. So, we have a preliminary discussion within the organising committee and with the NIO-Sri Lanka that we, the Sri Lankan Intellectuals in the UK got many things to offer to cater the needs of Sri Lanka without any political deadlock and the economic standstill.

One of the important aspects of it is to contribute to NIO-Sri Lanka, by sharing the evidence, innovations, best practise on international policies, processes, operations as well as science and technologies. At the same time, we also have a huge responsibility in conveying the message to the other UK based and rest of the Sri Lankan intellectuals. It is a harsh truth that such suggestions for national goals will only be an imaginations, until we change the unacceptable political systems and 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 sustainable development.

We, the **Organising Committee NIO-UK suggests or proposes the following as our 10 national goals or theme** for further intellectuals' discussion in our consultation workshops as a starting point.

No	Sri Lankan National Goals for Sustainable Development
1	<b>End poverty</b> in all its forms & <b>zero Hunger</b> – Agriculture, life stock & fisheries
2	Ensure <b>good health, well-being, clean water, sanitation, hygiene</b> & exercise/sports
3	Ensure inclusive, equitable <b>quality education</b> , training & <b>partnerships for the goals</b>
4	Achieve <b>gender equality</b> and <b>reduce inequality</b> within the country/among provinces
5	<b>Affordable clean energy</b> Take urgent action to combat <b>climate change</b> / impacts
6	Sustain <b>economic growth, decent work, industry, innovation &amp; infrastructure</b>
7	Encourage safe, resilient <b>sustainable cities, communities</b> , art & all cultural activities
8	<b>Responsible consumption</b> of natural resources, <b>production</b> & protected environment
9	Conserve, restore, sustainable-use of ecosystem / <b>life below water &amp; on land</b>
10	Promote <b>peaceful, just</b> , inclusive societies, <b>strong institution</b> & nationality building

Therefore, we are expecting to have the experts, professionals, academics and intellectuals on the above proposed 10 national Goals/Themes especially the areas highlighted in **BOLD RAD** fonts. We are cordially inviting these Sri Lankan intellectuals in the UK to participate and contribute to the formation of NIO-UK as well as to provide your knowledge, skills and experiences to assess and identify the risks based priorities (National Goals for Sustainable Development) and to appraise options for delivering these priorities in the form of a strategic planning framework.

During the Consultation Workshop, the Invited Intellectuals will be joined in one of the following **THREE discussion forums**, to contribute to the above Strategic Planning Process:

- **Social, Health, Food & Legal Forum (Soc)** - To advice as an Intellectuals stakeholder consultee on the social issues & solutions
- **Economic, Business & Industrial Form (Eco)** - To advice as an Intellectuals stakeholder consultee on the economic issues & solutions
- **Environmental, Engineering & Education Form (Env)** - To advice as an intellectuals stakeholder consultee on the environmental issues & solutions

**As such, could you please let us know your and also other the intellectuals' name, e-mail and in which Theme/Goal he/she has expertise and which discussion forums they would like to participate/lead?**

Thank you and Kind Regards

Organising Committee National Intellectual Organisation (NIO) – UK

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- <http://www.lankatruth.com/en/2019/02/lets-build-sri-lanka-special-media-conference-of-nio/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/niosrilanka/>



# Sustainable democracy, peace, harmony and prosperity of Sri Lankan society.

intellectuals movement for people's governance

## 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 civilized 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 a civil group of concerned 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. We believe further that a broad peoples' movement is essential to achieve these objectives and NIO is ready to play the nucleolus role for the formation of such peoples' alliance.

Our Values and Principles	Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equality and equity</li> <li>• Accountability, responsibility &amp; transparency</li> <li>• Respect and tolerance and nonviolence</li> <li>• Self-reliance and solidarity</li> <li>• Fairness and Justice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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 &amp; Technology, while promoting cultural values of Sri Lanka communities.</li> </ul>