



# MARGA INSTITUTE

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ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020



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## *Message from the Chair*



The Institute continued to build on the critical transitioning in its engagement in development policy initiated during the past year. Significant progress was recorded during the year under review in contributing to dialogue on development policy and practice through varied activities. Such activities extending from consultancy engagements for donor funded project interventions, transfer of knowledge and understanding on development practice, to discussion and dialogue on emergent political, social and economic issues. The academic engagement with the Open University of Sri Lanka in conducting the program for the Master of Arts in Development Studies and Public Policy was successfully carried through. The year closed with the onset of the pandemic, raising fundamental questions regarding extant system practices of delivering governance and development.

The Institute can with satisfaction reflect on its achievements. The team will be called upon to build on lessons learnt in adapting to a challenging development context ahead. Significantly the achievements include the team of professionals brought together around its varied activities as well as the support provided by the back-up operations that worked under pressure and delivered creditably. The guidance and support provided by the Board of Governors is sincerely placed on record.

Good wishes to all at this time of reflection.

Asoka Gunawardena



## *Year under review*

### **Financial Status**

The income from projects and other sources increased from Rs. 14.1 million in the previous year to Rs. 19.8 million in the year under review.

Investments of the Institute are as follows:-

- Rs. 15 Million at Central Finance - (1 year on monthly interest @ 10.75%)
- Rs. 10 Million at Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC - (1 year on monthly interest @ 11.05%)
- Rs. 5 Million at Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka & Finance PLC - (1 year on monthly interest @ 8.21%)
- Rs. 5 Million at Bank of Ceylon (at 3 months maturity @ 5.25% interest) – The Institute has an overdraft facility of Rs. 2.5 Million

It is also noted that interest income has decreased from Rs.4.5 million to Rs. 3.7 million, due to a drop in interest rates while rental income too decreased from Rs. 1.8 million to Rs. 1.6 million.

Statement of the Income from key sources

<b>Item</b>	<b>2018/2019</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>
Project Income	6,350,195	12,792,736
Net income from projects	2,911,465	1,267,152
Office Rent Income	1,860,000	1,680,000
Net Rent Income (Less WHT)	1,674,000	1,593,000
Hire of Auditorium	6,500	66,877
Hire of Class Room	313,016	92,867
MA Programme	1,108,320	1,521,500
MA Net Income	(18,984)	



During the year under review, the Institute was engaged in the following projects and activities.

## ***Projects***

### **1. Survey to Ascertain Perception of Court Users for Chemonics International**

The Institute partnered with Survey Research Lanka and completed the public opinion survey on court experiences for Chemonics International which implements part of the USAID CORE Justice Programme. The objectives of the survey were:

- a) To understand the perceptions, issues, problems and difficulties of the general public who have interacted or who are currently interacting with courts in Sri Lanka concerning legal cases
- b) To study the attitudes, and perceptions of lawyers and public officials concerning the current legal system.

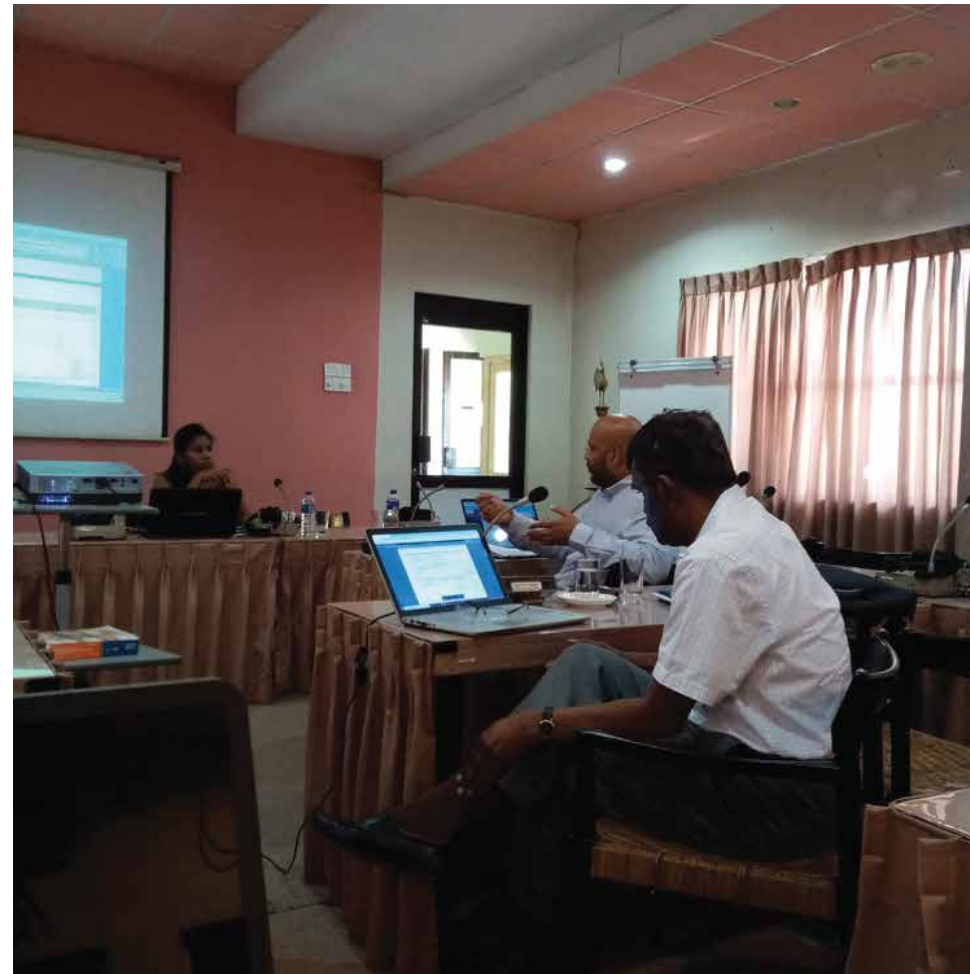
The Field Work was carried out by Survey Research Lanka and a sample of 400 members of the public who have had a recent experience with courts, 100 lawyers and 100 police officers (Court Sergeants) were interviewed for this survey. The survey was carried out in all nine provinces of Sri Lanka. The Research work commenced early 2019 (During the previous financial year) but due to April Easter Bombings got delayed and the Institute concluded the survey in July 2019. The Institute recognizes the support and contribution of Mr Neel de Silva, Member of Marga Institute, and Managing Director of Survey Research Lanka (PVT) Limited in connection with the survey.

### **2. Consultancy Contract of Agriculture Sector Modernization Project (Ministry of Agriculture)**

The Institute continued with its work on the above consultancy during the year under review. Dr Wasanthi Wickremasinghe, Member of the Marga Institute led the research and consultancy assignment.

### **3. Streamlining of indicators of the UNDP SGD 16 Results Framework and verification of baseline data**

Marga Institute was assigned the task of streamlining the indicators of UNDP Sustainable Development Goal 16 Results Framework, collect data to establish and verify baselines. The Marga Consulting Team consisted of Asoka Gunawardena (Team Leader), Myrtle Perera, Asanga Ranasinghe, Nelum Gamage, and Nishandeny Ratnam (Pillar Leaders) Thiwankee Wickremasinghe, and Indrasiri Wijetunge and Amar Gunatilleke (Research Team).



Marga Consulting Team working on SDG 16 Results Framework indicators. Asoka Gunawardena, Myrtle Perera, Asanga Ranasinghe, Nelum Gamage, and Nishandeny Ratnam



Marga Team (Nelum Gamage, Asanga Ranasinghe and Amar Gunatilleke) Working on the SDG 16 Results Framework project at the Parliament speaking with the Communications Team of the Parliament.



Chief Executive Officer of Marga Institute, Amar Gunatilleke with Mr Don Brownell, Director, National Languages Equality Advancement Project (NLEAP) signing an agreement to provide technical assistance to Official Languages Commission.

4. The Marga Institute signed an agreement with National Languages Equality Advancement Project (NLEAP) to provide technical assistance to Official Languages Commission to conduct thematic surveys in connection with effective monitoring of the implementation of official languages policy. Marga will train OLC staff on research methodologies and how to conduct periodic surveys to identify issues and problems at public institutions that constrain the implementation of the national languages policy.





5. Language Audit of Public Institutions in Sri Lanka (pilot project)- The Official Languages Commission (OLC) of Sri Lanka, in partnership with the Ministry of National Integration, Official Languages, Social Progress and Hindu Religious Affairs and supported by the United Nations in Sri Lanka, commissioned an Official Languages Service Delivery Pilot Survey in mid-2019. Marga Institute was given the task of designing a simple and easy to replicate research methodology with UNDP technical support to measure the level of compliance by public institutions of the official language policy; which requires all state offices and government departments to offer services in English, Sinhala and Tamil. The Institute carried out a pilot survey at three Government Institutions (Department of Immigration & Emigration, Department of Registration of Persons and Registrar General's Department) to assess the compliance of Official Languages Policy.

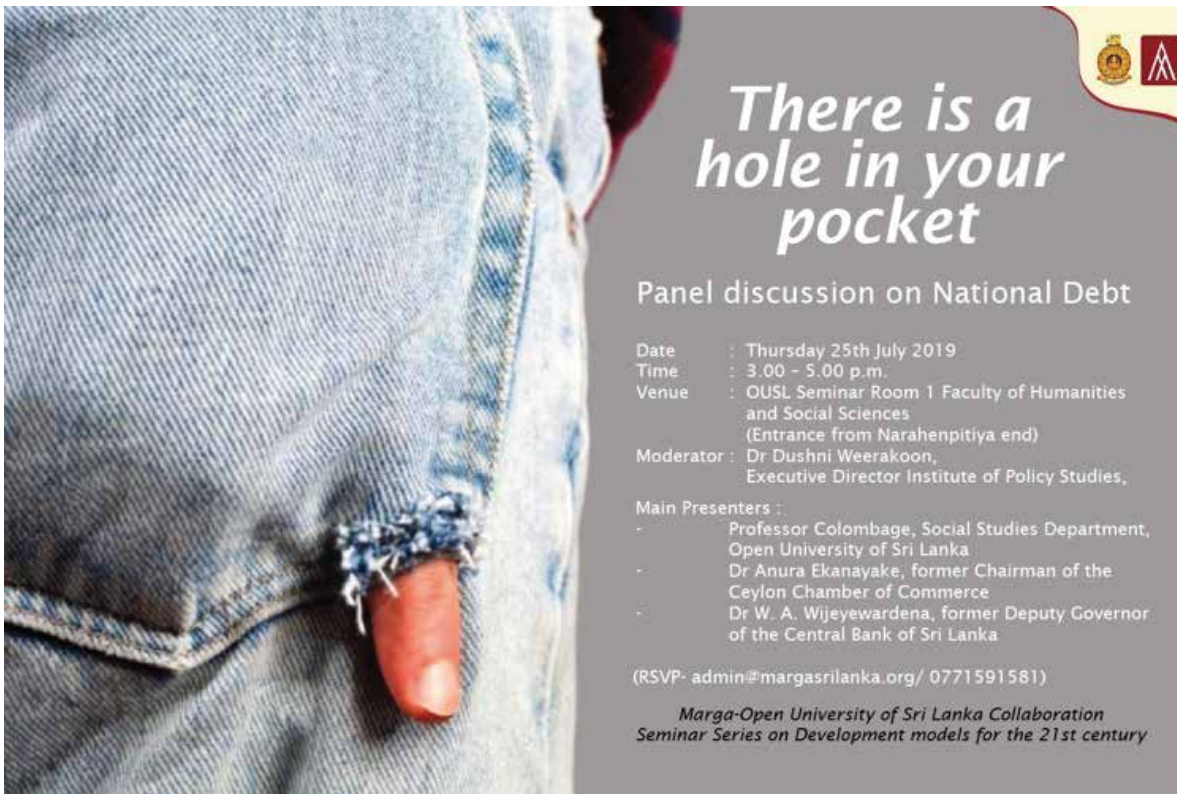


6. Unlocking the Roots of Religious Violence in Sri Lanka-The Institute signed an agreement with the Dutch Embassy to carry out desk research on the roots of religious violence with a special emphasis of ethnoreligious violence against Muslims dating back to 1915. The research project was managed by the Marga Institute, and Shamara Wettimuny a DPhil candidate in History at the University of Oxford, and graduate tutor in Nationalism and Conflict in the Twentieth Century, at Worcester College, Oxford was the Lead Researcher of this research project. The picture shows Deputy Ambassador of the Embassy of Netherlands Eva van Woersem, signing the agreement with Chief Executive Officer of Marga Institute.



## *Marga Activities*

### 1. Panel Discussion on National Debt



***There is a hole in your pocket***

Panel discussion on National Debt

Date : Thursday 25th July 2019  
Time : 3.00 - 5.00 p.m.  
Venue : OUSL Seminar Room 1 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Entrance from Narahenpitiya end)  
Moderator : Dr Dushni Weerakoon, Executive Director Institute of Policy Studies,

Main Presenters :

- Professor Colombage, Social Studies Department, Open University of Sri Lanka
- Dr Anura Ekanayake, former Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce
- Dr W. A. Wijewardena, former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka

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*Marga-Open University of Sri Lanka Collaboration Seminar Series on Development models for the 21st century*

A panel discussion was jointly organized by Marga Institute and the Open University of Sri Lanka at OUSL Seminar room on the 25th of July 2019. The main presentators were Professor Colombage, Social Studies Department Open University of Sri Lanka, Dr Anura Ekanayake, Former Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and Dr. W.A. Wijewardena, Former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Dr Dushni Weerakoon, Executive Director of Institute of Policy Studies, moderated the discussion.





2. **A public lecture on 1915 anti-Muslim riots (roots of anti-Muslim Riots in Sri Lanka)**

A public lecture was organized by Marga Institute on the 23rd of September at the Marga Auditorium. The Lecture was delivered by Shamara Wettimuny a doctoral student from Oxford University. Lectures were also delivered at Eastern University and Jaffna University.



Shamara Weetimuny at Jaffna University



Researcher Shamara Wettimuny at Eastern University Ampara delivering her lecture on British colonial state response to the 1915 anti-Muslim pogrom



### **3. Training Course in Research Methodologies for the National Police Commission**

The Marga Institute was assigned to design, develop and deliver a customized training programme on research methodology for senior staff of the National Police Commission.

The Training faculty consisted of the following members:-

- Professor Tilak Abeysinghe
- Mrs Myrtle Perera
- Mr Indrasiri Wijeytunge
- Dr Seneviratne Somaratne
- Mr Amar Gunatilleke

#### **The training programme consisted of the following broad areas**

- Overview of a research project
- Understanding the research problem and research questions
- Conceptual framework and operationalizing the conceptual framework
- Research Design
- Qualitative and Quantitative research
- Sampling
- How to prepare a research proposal
- How to write a research report
- How to present research findings

The Training Programme was held on the 22nd and 23rd of November at Hotel Renuka and 29th, 30th of November and 1st December at Jie Jie Hotel in Panadura. Ten Senior Staff Members of the National Police Commission completed the training programme. The Training Programme was sponsored by United Nations Development Programme.



Developing the lecture schedule for the research methodology course that was designed for National Police Commission. Left to right - Indrasiri Wijetunge, Dr Somaratne (partly covered) Professor Tilak Abeysinghe, Anjali Wickremasinghe, Myrtle Perera and Amar Gunatilleke



1st day of the training programme at Renuka Hotel Colombo



National Police Commission staff carrying out their group work at the training programme





Marga Team with the participants of the research methodology course conducted for the National Police Commission at the final session at Golden Pond, Taj Samudra Hotel.



4. **1 day Boot Camp (Refresher Course) on Research Methodology for NPC staff at Marga Institute**  
The Institute had a 1 day refresher course on Research Methodology for the staff of Police Commission on the 24th of January 2020.



5. Panel Discussion on “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”, the national policy Framework of Sri Lanka was organised by the Marga Institute at BMICH Committee Room D on the 20th of February. The Main Speakers were Indrajith Aponso, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo, Professor Rohan Samarajiva, founding Chair of LIRNEasia, Former Chairman of ICTA and Former Director General of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka, Dr Vidhura Ralapanawa, sustainability specialist and an energy analyst, Dr.Sepalika Sudasinghe, Additional Director General for Postgraduate Studies, Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) and Mr Asoka Gunawardena, Chairman Marga Institute and Former, Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Home Affairs, Former Director of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) and Former Chairman of the Finance Commission. Professor Susirith Mendis, Governor of Marga Institute, Senior Professor of Physiology at the Kottalawala Defence University and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna moderated the discussion. The complete video of the panel discussion is uploaded in the Marga website.



6. Seminar on “Sri Lankan Welfare State and Fiscal Sustainability” was jointly organized by Marga Institute and Gamani Corea Foundation at Centre for Banking Studies, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Rajagiriya on the 11th of March 2020. The main speaker was Professor Thilak Abeysinghe, Member of the Marga Institute and Research Director of Gamani Corea Foundation.

**7. Colombo International Book Fair -20th September to 29th September**

The Institute participated at the Annual Book fair for the 11th time. Details of Book Sales are included in the publication section.

Month	Cash Sales Income	Consignment Basis Sales Income	Total Income
April	-	-	-
May	150.00	-	150.00
June	2,150.00	-	2,150.00
July	7,200.00	11,161.50	18,361.50
August	2,500.00	32,897.00	35,397.00
September	3,50,740.00	-	3,50,740.00
October	500.00	-	500.00
November	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
December	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
January	7,000.00	-	7,000.00
February	3,745.00	-	3,745.00
March	1,200.00	-	200.00
Total Income	3,77,185.00	44,058.50	421,243.50

The Institute reprinted two Sinhala translations Dolphin Doopatha & Mata Kiyanu Mena during the year under review.





### **Refurbishment of Marga Building**

The Institute refurbished the Stores area by constructing two washrooms, tiled the floor, erected the ceiling, fixed three new air conditioners and made it available for lease to Regent Estates.

New Air conditioners were also bought and fixed at the Library and 2nd Floor.

### **Other Improvements**

- The Institute purchased a new multimedia projector and upgraded the system at the Auditorium
- A new desktop computer was purchased for the Vice Chairperson
- Three Computer Monitors were purchased for Marga Staff
- The auto backup system of data was upgraded

### **Masters in Development Studies and Public Policy**

The Innauguration of the Masters programme for 2019/2020 was held on the 7th of December 2019. Ten new students enrolled for the Masters Pogramme this year.

### **We regret to inform**

It is with great sorrow that we wish to inform all our Members that two of our members passed away during the year under review

We will miss Ms Nimal Breckenridge and Dr Ranjith Senaratne. May their souls rest in peace.



# Marga Institute

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