



# THE COLOMBO PLAN

for Co-operative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific



## Message from the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

On the occasion of the 74th anniversary of the Colombo Plan, I wish to express my appreciation for the organization's invaluable contribution to the economic and social development of the Asia-Pacific region.

Since its establishment in 1951, the Colombo Plan has grown into a partnership of 28 member countries, united by a shared commitment to human resource development, good

governance, and regional cooperation. Rooted in the principles of self-help and mutual assistance, it has played a vital role in supporting nations as they navigate their development journeys.

I commend the Colombo Plan's ability to evolve in response to changing regional and global dynamics, ensuring its continued relevance in addressing contemporary challenges.

Sri Lanka is proud of its historic association with the Colombo Plan and remains committed to strengthening this longstanding partnership. As we advance our own national development agenda, I am confident that the Colombo Plan will continue to serve as a vital force for progress across the region.

I extend my best wishes to the Colombo Plan for its continued success and impact in the years ahead.

**Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasinghe**

Prime Minister

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



## Message from the President of The Colombo Plan Council

It is with great pride that I extend my congratulations to the Colombo Plan on its 74th anniversary. Since its establishment in 1951, the Colombo Plan, an esteemed inter governmental organization, has served as a vital platform for advancing regional cooperation, economic development, and long-term security.

Over the past seven decades, the Colombo Plan has adapted to the evolving needs of its members, delivering impactful programming that builds capacity, strengthens governance, and addresses shared regional challenges.

The United States has been a consistent and committed partner throughout this journey. Our collaboration has spanned a wide range of sectors including education, health, counternarcotics, and maritime security.

Our recent Memorandum of Cooperation between the Port of Colombo and Virginia Port Authority, with Colombo Plan support, will strengthen port security, enhance technical cooperation, and safeguard critical infrastructure, demonstrating once again that our cooperation translates into tangible benefits for regional safety and trade.

Programs like the Drug Advisory Program also underscore the Colombo Plan's value in addressing transnational threats. Through this initiative, member countries have worked together to combat drug trafficking, improve public health responses, and share best practices to protect communities.

As we mark this important milestone, we recognize that the continued success of the Colombo Plan relies on all member states sharing responsibility through active engagement, contributions of expertise, and sustained support.

The United States remains committed to this work. We will continue to support the Colombo Plan's mission of promoting prosperity, resilience, and cooperation across the Indo-Pacific.

I want to acknowledge the leadership of Secretary General Dr. Benjamin Reyes and the dedication of the Colombo Plan Secretariat. Your efforts have strengthened this organization's ability to meet the needs of today—and tomorrow.

Happy 74th anniversary to the Colombo Plan. We look forward to building on this legacy of partnership to ensure a more secure and prosperous future for all.

**H.E. U. S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie Chung**

President of The Colombo Plan Council



## Message from the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warm greetings to the Colombo Plan on the occasion of its 74th anniversary.

Established in 1951, the Colombo Plan emerged from a shared belief that countries in Asia and the Pacific could achieve more together than alone. This spirit of cooperation remains as vital today as it was then. Over the past seven

decades, the Colombo Plan has been a powerful symbol of regional partnership and progress. Through initiatives in capacity building, knowledge exchange, and technical cooperation, it has played a significant role in advancing the economic and social development of its member countries.

Sri Lanka takes pride in being a founding member of the Colombo Plan and in hosting its Secretariat. We remain committed to supporting its evolving vision, which has adapted over the years to meet new regional and global challenges. The Colombo Plan's key programs ranging from drug prevention and capacity building to gender affairs, environmental protection, and climate change continue to make meaningful contributions to the well-being of member states.

As the world faces increasingly complex challenges, the need for unity and coordinated action has never been greater. I urge all member countries to reaffirm their commitment to the founding principles of self-help and mutual support and to work together to develop solutions that serve our shared future.

On this important milestone, I wish to recognize the dedicated service of the Secretary-General and the staff of the Secretariat, and to convey my best wishes for the continued success of the Colombo Plan in the years ahead.

**Hon. Vijitha Herath, M.P.**

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



## Message from the Secretary-General of The Colombo Plan

This year, as we commemorate the 74th anniversary of the Colombo Plan, we proudly reflect on nearly three quarters of a century of dedicated service to our twenty-eight member countries. Rooted in the foundational principles of self-help and mutual help, the Colombo Plan continues to foster sustainable economic and social progress across Asia and the Pacific.

The Colombo Plan was conceived during the Commonwealth Conference on Foreign Affairs held in Colombo, Ceylon, in January 1950 and was officially established on 1 July 1951 by seven pioneering Commonwealth nations—Australia, Canada, India, Pakistan, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, and the United Kingdom. Over the decades, our membership has grown to include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Fiji, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, the United States of America, and Vietnam. Together, these countries uphold a shared vision of inclusive growth and regional cooperation.

In today's complex global economic environment, the Colombo Plan remains resilient and positive in its outlook. We have established the Colombo Plan Foundation to raise funding and enhance agility in our operations, enabling us to respond more effectively to emerging challenges and opportunities.

The Organisation advances its mission through four core programmes: the Drug Advisory Programme, Capacity Building Programme, Programme for Environment and Climate Change, and Maritime Advisory Programme. Building on these, we have recently launched innovative initiatives to strengthen digital skills development and expand climate resilience projects—areas of critical importance in our rapidly evolving world.

I extend heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Sri Lanka for its longstanding hospitality in hosting the Colombo Plan Secretariat and for its continued encouragement throughout our journey. Equally, I thank our member countries and donors—past and present—whose unwavering dedication and generous support have been integral to sustaining and advancing the Organisation's mission.

**H.E. Dr. Benjamin P. Reyes**

Secretary-General

The Colombo Plan





## 74<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

As we mark the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Colombo Plan, we reflect on a remarkable journey of shared commitment, cooperation, and progress across the Asia-Pacific and beyond. Founded in 1951 by seven Commonwealth countries—Australia, Canada, Sri Lanka (then Ceylon), India, New Zealand, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom—the Colombo Plan was established as a unique intergovernmental platform to foster economic and developmental opportunities in the region. Guided by the enduring partnership concept of self-help and mutual help, it continues to operate with the aim of enhancing human capital development and promoting South-South Cooperation.

Today, the Colombo Plan comprises 28 member countries, united in their commitment to human capital development, capacity building, and regional cooperation. Under the leadership of the current Council President, H.E. Julie J. Chung, the United States Ambassador to Sri Lanka, the Council continues to play a vital role in guiding the strategic direction of the Organisation.

As a reminder of our shared legacy, we wish to highlight the early development assistance that laid the groundwork for progress in many member countries. Colombo Plan aid from developed to developing nations included both physical capital and technological transfers, with a strong emphasis on skills development. Infrastructure such as airports, roads, railways, dams, hospitals, fertiliser plants, cement factories, universities, and steel mills were constructed. Complementing these efforts, comprehensive training programmes were introduced to empower local populations with the skills required to manage and sustain these critical assets, supporting long-term economic growth.

Remaining anchored in the principles of human capital development and South-South Cooperation the Colombo Plan has continuously adapted its programme content to reflect the evolving needs of its members in a dynamic global landscape.

This supplement aims to showcase the lasting impact of our collective efforts—strengthening human capital development, promoting institutional capacity, and addressing pressing challenges such as public health, drug demand reduction, environmental protection, and gender equality. It reflects the enduring spirit of collaboration that remains central to our work.

As we look ahead to our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2026—a landmark milestone—we do so with renewed purpose and commitment. We take pride in the legacy we have built together and look forward to continuing this journey hand-in-hand with our valued member countries and partners.

We would like to sincerely thank all past and present donors for their generous support, with special appreciation to the member countries that contributed directly to our infrastructure development projects in the formative years. Their commitment and collaboration have been fundamental to the Colombo Plan's continued success, and the ongoing generosity of our member countries and donors has been instrumental in shaping the journey of the Organisation.

## 73<sup>rd</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Colombo Plan celebrated its 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at the Sheraton Hotel, Colombo, with a focus on the launch of the Training of Trainers (ToT) activity on Dignified Menstruation. This week-long initiative was conducted to coincide with the anniversary celebrations.



During the event, the Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan, The ToT was conducted under the Gender Affairs Program in collaboration with the Global South Coalition for Dignified Menstruation. The program brought together 26 participants from 13 member countries, focusing on empowering women and advancing menstrual health advocacy.

This initiative reflects the Colombo Plan's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 5, emphasizing the elimination of discrimination and the promotion of women's rights in both private and public spheres.

The celebration underscored the Colombo Plan's ongoing mission to make meaningful contributions to global development and gender empowerment.

## The Founding Fathers of The Colombo Plan



## MEMBER STATES OF THE COLOMBO PLAN

Member	Year of accession	Member	Year of accession
Afghanistan	1963	The Maldives	1963
Australia	1950	Mongolia	2004
Bangladesh	1972	Myanmar	1952
Bhutan	1962	Nepal	1952
Brunei Darussalam	2008	New Zealand	1950
Chile	2021	Pakistan	1950
Fiji	1972	Papua New Guinea	1973
India	1950	The Philippines	1954
Indonesia	1953	Saudi Arabia	2012
Iran	1966	Singapore	1966
Japan	1954	Sri Lanka	1950
Republic of Korea	1962	Thailand	1954
Lao PDR	1951	The United States	1951
Malaysia	1957	Vietnam	2004



## PROGRAMME FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Programme for Environment and Climate Change (ECC) is aimed at Environment preservation by addressing capacity building on various environment related topics such as waste management, renewable energy, eco-tourism, and climate change through training programmes, International conferences, and community awareness campaigns.

### Upcoming events:

PROGRAMME	DATE	LOCATION
Capacity Building Programme on Climate Services for Food, Energy, Water, and Health (FEWH) Sectors 2025	August 24-30, 2025	Tangerang, Banten, Indonesia,
Climate Resilience - Smart Land and Water Management: Solutions for Sustainable Agriculture and Environment	September 14-28, 2025	Thailand



## MARITIME ADVISORY PROGRAMME

*Strengthening Sri Lanka's maritime capacity through training, global exposure, and policy engagement*

The Maritime Advisory Programme (MAP), funded by the U.S. Embassy in Colombo and implemented by The Colombo Plan in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA), continues strengthening Sri Lanka's maritime capacity through professional development, international exposure, and policy engagement. MAP has supported key initiatives aligned with global standards and development goals, the programme focuses on enhancing skills in areas such as cybersecurity, international benchmarking, and institutional collaboration.

### Key Developments from June 2024 to June 2025

#### Skill Connect Training: Effective Negotiation for Maritime Professionals

In July 2024, MAP conducted a two-day training on "Effective Negotiation for Maritime Professionals" at the Courtyard by Marriott in Colombo. Facilitated by Mr. Tissa Dissanayake, the training was designed for SLPA personnel, it was mainly targeting practical negotiation strategies to improve communication and decision making skills in the maritime industry.

#### Cybersecurity Workshop: "Navigating Cyber Threats"

In November 2024, MAP hosted a two-day workshop titled "Navigating Cyber Threats," attended by 45 SLPA participants. Led by experts from Experion Global, the sessions focused on cybersecurity in port operations. The workshop focused on key areas such as the ISO 27001 framework, identifying cybersecurity risks, managing incident response included case studies and interactive group exercises to enhance practical understanding.

#### Sri Lanka Ports Authority Delegation Attends CIMC 2024

In the same month, a ten-member SLPA delegation participated in the Colombo International Maritime & Logistics Conference (CIMC) at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel. The event facilitated regional and global dialogue on container trade flows, port infrastructure, supply chain resilience, digitalisation, and sustainability in the maritime industry.

### Technical Visit and Participation at TOC Europe 2025 in Rotterdam

In June 2025, MAP supported another SLPA delegation to attend the Terminal Operator Conference in Rotterdam. This included a technical visit to the Port of Rotterdam, one of Europe's leading sustainable ports offering direct exposure to advanced port technologies.

The conference was based on trade, tariffs, its tensions, sustainable growth and investment in technology. Throughout the conference, SLPA officials engaged with global experts on container terminal innovation, digital transformation in port logistics, environmental practices, and evolving international trade dynamics. The insights gained are expected to cultivate and grow SLPA's continuing development initiatives including the Colombo East Container Terminal.

Delegates also met with suppliers from around the world, including eleven suppliers from the U.S., to explore potential partnerships and evaluate solutions applicable to SLPA operations in Sri Lanka.

### Peer Advisory Missions and Policy Collaboration

Looking ahead, MAP remains committed to supporting SLPA's continued growth through expert collaboration and policy engagement. Two upcoming Peer Advisory Missions will focus on advancing SLPA's operational modernization and cybersecurity preparedness, reinforcing Sri Lanka's maritime sector development in line with international best practices.



## CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

Human Resource Development (HRD) plays an essential role in the development process of a country. Therefore, the Colombo Plan endeavours to enhance Human Resource Development initiatives in the member countries through its Capacity Building Programmes. The Colombo Plan provides short-term training courses, workshops, scholarships and Master's degree programmes under the wings of its Capacity Building Programme. All activities are fully or partially funded on cost sharing basis by donors in the Colombo Plan member countries and other International Organizations.

Country	Year	Name of Programme	Implementing Agency	Number of Participants	Country of Participants
South Korea	2025	One-year master's scholarship programme offered by the KDI School of Public Policy and Management - Spring 2025	The Korean Development Institute (KDI)	1	Myanmar
Indonesia	2024	The Capacity Building Program on the Development of Climate Services for Sectors for 2024	Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics	16	Bhutan (1), Fiji (2), Laos (2), Indonesia (5), Iran (1), Malaysia (2), Maldives (2), Nepal (3), Pakistan (1), Philippines (1)
Indonesia	2024	The Knowledge Sharing Program on Library Transformation based on Social Inclusion for the 2024	The National Library of the Republic of Indonesia	20	Bangladesh (2), Bhutan (2), Laos (2), Malaysia (2), Maldives (1), Myanmar (2), Nepal (1), Sri Lanka (2), Philippines (2), Thailand (1), Vietnam (2)
Indonesia	2024	Capacity Building Programme on Enhancing the Development of Small and Medium Industry, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia	Ministry of Industry	19	Bhutan (4), Fiji (2), Iran (4), Laos (4), India (1), Indonesia (2), Saudi Arabia (2)
South Korea	2024	One-year master's scholarship programme offered by the KDI School of Public Policy and Management - Spring 2024	The Korean Development Institute (KDI)	3	Maldives (2), Sri Lanka (1)



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## DRUG ADVISORY PROGRAMME

Empowering a Global Response for Substance Use

### AT A GLANCE

The Drug Advisory Programme (DAP) of the Colombo Plan, established in 1973 during a consultative committee meeting held in Wellington, New Zealand, is a pioneering initiative dedicated to addressing global challenges related to drug concerns and related issues.

Today, DAP stands as the Colombo Plan's flagship programme, operating across over 80 countries, and playing a leading role in both drug demand and drug supply reduction.

DAP'S GLOBAL OUTREACH IN



The Drug Advisory Programme is primarily funded by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the U.S. Department of State. In addition to this core support, DAP receives voluntary contributions from several member countries, including India, Japan, Malaysia, the Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore, South Korea, and Thailand. DAP implements various initiatives on a cost-sharing basis in collaboration with partner countries around the world.

### DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION (DDR)

The Colombo Plan's Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) initiative focuses on preventing and reducing substance use through evidence-based strategies, capacity building, and international collaboration. It works with governments, civil societies, and professionals to develop comprehensive drug prevention, treatment, and recovery systems around the world. Key work of the DDR initiative involves:

#### Development of Evidence-based Curricula

Universal Treatment Curricula (UTC)	Basic UTC	For entry-level treatment professionals, and students beginning their engagement with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) care.
	Advanced UTC	For experienced clinicians and supervisors seeking advanced skills in managing complex SUD cases.
	Specialized UTC	CHILD - For professionals working with children focused on early intervention.
		WISE - For women-centered services, with a focus on gender-responsive and trauma-informed care.
		SDGI - For service providers working with LGBTQ+ populations, promoting inclusive and culturally competent care.
Universal Prevention Curricula (UPC)	UPC Managers and Supervisors Series (UPC M&S)	For prevention managers and policymakers overseeing implementation of prevention strategies.
	UPC Practitioner Series	For frontline workers delivering and evaluating prevention programmes in diverse settings.
Universal Recovery Curricula (URC)	PEER	For peer support workers using first-hand lived experience to support individuals in recovery.
	Recovery Allies	For those allies supporting recovery and reintegration.

**Online Access:** The UTC Basic Curricula are also available online; access the ISSUP Online Learning Hub via [www.issup.net](http://www.issup.net) and take up



### WOLF (Women Leadership Fellowship) Programme

The WOLF Programme empowers Afghanistan's next generation of female leaders by providing scholarships at Asian University for Women (Bangladesh), followed by fellowships. These graduates are considered to be placed in various International Agencies focusing on counternarcotics.

### Curriculum-based Capacity Building – Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery

DAP provides technical assistance in terms of trainings to empower substance use disorder professionals in government & non-government settings, enabling them to implement effective, evidence-based strategies.

**TOTAL TRAININGS: 32**  
July 2024 - June 2025



**TOTAL BENEFICIARIES: 175**  
July 2024 - June 2025



### New update on DDR Trainings

On 13 June 2025, DAP signed an agreement with the Government of Uruguay to strengthen the country's capacity in Drug Demand Reduction. The agreement focuses on delivering specialized training to professionalize the drug use workforce and build sustainable, in-country capacity.

### Support for Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation

In Afghanistan, DAP provides support to 24 treatment centers across six provinces, delivering inpatient, outpatient, and home-based treatment services to approximately 3,500 individuals each year.

### DAP approved Training Providers

The Colombo Plan recognizes and accredits key partner organizations from various countries as official Training Providers (TPs) for the dissemination of its Universal Curricula in their respective countries. As of now, DAP has 79 training providers from around the world.

### DRUG SUPPLY REDUCTION (DSR)

The Colombo Plan has emerged as a global leader in tackling the dangers posed by toxic adulterants and synthetic drugs. Through its Drug Supply Reduction (DSR) initiatives, the Colombo Plan is working with governments and top scientific agencies to detect, analyze, and prevent the spread of harmful substances hidden in illicit drugs.

The Supply Reduction Programme has pioneered:

- The world's first instant test kit for street-level drug adulterants,
- A portable drug testing device that detects multiple compounds in seconds,
- A Sentinel early warning system to issue alerts on newly emerging threats.

### Global Toxic Adulterants and Sentinel Projects

The Colombo Plan's Global Toxic Adulterant and Sentinel Projects focus on identifying and monitoring toxic adulterants and emerging synthetic substances in drug supplies. By utilizing advanced testing technologies, these initiatives aim to address the rising global threat of dangerous chemical additives in illicit drugs. The projects play a critical role in early warning, prevention, and public health protection.

More on Supply Reduction...

The DSR Programme launched a new project in 2024 for South Asia which focuses on upgrading forensic labs in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, and the Maldives with advanced equipment and training to better detect synthetic drugs.

The International Toxic Adulterant Database (ITAD) is a global platform developed by the Colombo Plan to track toxic adulterants and emerging drug combinations.

### Toxic Adulterant Alerts: Addressing Emerging Drug Threats

In collaboration with the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education (CFSRE), the Colombo Plan has issued a series of toxic adulterant alerts to raise global awareness about dangerous substances increasingly found in the illicit drug supply. Recent alerts include Nitazenes (January 2025), and BTMPS and Tetramethylfentanyl-related substances (May 2025), highlighting the evolving threats in the global drug landscape.



Scan the QR code, to read more on the public health Alerts.

### DDR HIGHLIGHTS



June 2025: The Universal Nurses Addiction Curriculum (UNAC) was launched in June 2025, marking the first globally standardized training resource designed specifically for nurses working in substance use disorder treatment settings.

May 2025: 'Managing Drug Use Disorder Treatment Services in Line with International Key Quality Standards: A Handbook for Managers.' Released in English and Spanish during a webinar on 21 May 2025, the handbook offers practical guidance to help treatment centres improve service quality and patient



April 2025: Asia Pacific Youth Forum with the participation of 35 youth leaders from 18 Colombo Plan member countries.

December 2024: Regional Meeting of the Global Coalition to address synthetic drug threats in Latin America held from 10-11 December 2024, brought together 15 countries and international experts to share good practices and explore joint strategies to address the rising challenge of synthetic drugs in the region.



October 2024: The Middle East Dialogue was held from 15-16 October 2024 in Budapest, Hungary. The event brought together 49 delegates from nine Middle Eastern countries, international agencies, and experts to address the rising threat of synthetic drugs such as Captagon and fentanyl.

September 2024: The 11th Asian Youth Forum was held in Kochi, India, from 18-20 September 2024, welcoming 150 youth leaders from 13 countries.



August 2024: The National Secretariats Meeting - 2024, took place in Thimphu, Bhutan from 6-8 August 2024, with the participation of representatives from 18 Colombo Plan member countries.

August 2024: Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Facilitation Tour for six professionals from Pereira and Dosquebradas, Colombia, held from 17-23 August, 2024.



### DSR HIGHLIGHTS



April 2025: The Colombo Plan proudly served as the Diamond Sponsor of the RX and Illicit Drug Summit held from 21-24 April in Nashville, Tennessee, USA. As the premier annual event on substance use prevention, treatment, and enforcement, the summit attracted nearly 3,000 participants from across all 50 U.S. states, territories, Canada, and beyond.

September 2024: The Colombo Plan sponsored 88 law enforcement officials from 77 countries at the 38th International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC XXXVIII), held from 24-26 September 2024 in Athens, Greece. The event brought together top drug enforcement officials from over 130 countries.



September 2024: The three-day forensic science meeting from 24-26 September 2024 in Athens, Greece, titled 'Sharing Science: The Changes to Forensic Science Presented by Novel Psychoactive Substances', addressing the challenges posed by synthetic and emerging drugs, equipping 22 delegates from over 15 countries with advanced tools and methodologies.

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