



Keells signs partnership agreement with USAID

[Read story on page 10](#)



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



Union Assurance, was ranked among the top three most loved Life Insurance brands in Sri Lanka on 8th March 2022. This recognition was from the business magazine LMD in association with the world's leading brand valuation consultancy Brand Finance.



Union Assurance won four renowned global awards on 18th March, 2022. These accolades which were presented by the Global Business Magazine recognize the company's industry-leading achievements in innovation and digitisation. The awards won by Union Assurance were 'Best Digitizing Life Insurance Sri Lanka 2022', 'Best New Insurance Product Sri Lanka 2022', 'Most Innovative Education Insurance Plan in Sri Lanka 2022', and 'Best CSR Insurance Company Sri Lanka 2022.'



In a historic achievement for the company, Keells was ranked the 'Strongest Brand' in Sri Lanka with a Brand Strength score of 89.3 and AAA rating according to Brand Finance Lanka for the year 2022 on 29th April 2022. Furthermore, Keells is also the 6th Most valuable Sri Lankan brand and the 'Most Valuable Supermarket Brand' for the 4th consecutive year.

This recognition would not have been possible without the efforts and contributions of each and everyone of Keells' 5000+ team members both at stores and at the Head Office, on their journey towards improving the quality of life for the nation.

CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Extracted from John Keells Holdings PLC Annual Report 2021/22 released on 23rd May 2022.



Krishan Balendra
Chairperson

- ◆ The Group witnessed a strong recovery momentum during the year under review with the recurring performance of most of our businesses reaching pre-COVID-19 levels.
- ◆ The Leisure industry group, in particular, recorded a significant turnaround in performance with a recurring EBITDA of Rs.3.78 billion compared to the negative recurring EBITDA of Rs.3.59 billion in the corresponding year.
- ◆ A private placement of JKH shares of the LKR equivalent of USD 80 million to Asian Development Bank (ADB) was approved by the shareholders in December 2021. The first phase of the transaction amounting to the LKR equivalent of USD 50 million was concluded on 19th January 2022.
- ◆ The USD 395 million loan at 'Cinnamon Life', which was due for repayment by July 2022, was refinanced in December 2021 through a syndicated facility. The new facility comprises of a USD 225 million term loan and a USD 100 million bridging facility for a six-month period to align with the maturity date of July 2022 under the original facility.
- ◆ The conditions precedent stipulated in the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) agreement of the WCT-1 project at the Port of Colombo, including work towards project design and costs and other structuring arrangements were met, and the site was handed over to the project company in February 2022 for the commencement of construction.
- ◆ OCTAVE, the Group's Data and Advanced Analytics Centre of Excellence, worked on several 'use cases' in the Retail and Consumer Foods industry groups which were successfully piloted, scaled and deployed, with initial pilot projects indicating signs of significant value that can be unlocked from translating advanced analytics insights into business interventions and transformation.
- ◆ The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) programme, under the brand 'ONE JKH', rolled-out many initiatives with the aim of increasing women participation in our workforce, providing career opportunities to persons with disabilities and being inclusive of the LGBTIQ+ community.
- ◆ The Group's carbon footprint per million rupees of revenue decreased by 18 per cent and water withdrawn per million rupees of revenue decreased by 19 per cent.

Rs.'000	Recurring EBITDA*		
	2021/22	2020/21	Variance
Transportation	6,140,923	3,610,416	2,530,507
Consumer Foods	3,484,778	3,317,535	167,243
Retail	7,549,338	5,522,678	2,026,660
Leisure	3,784,901	(3,588,464)	7,373,364
Property	7,867,199	(17,348)	7,884,546
Financial Services	5,023,608	3,644,923	1,378,685
Other, including Information Technology and Plantation Services	5,407,909	3,081,916	2,325,993
Group	39,258,655	15,571,656	23,686,999

*EBITDA includes interest income and the share of results of equity accounted investees which is based on the share of profit after tax but excludes all impacts from foreign currency exchange gains and losses, to demonstrate the underlying cash operational performance of businesses.

John Keells Foundation enhances strategic partnerships with Police Station in Habarana



As part of its collaboration with the Women & Children's Bureau of the Sri Lanka Police, John Keells Foundation (JKF) donated an e-studio photocopier and water dispenser to the Women & Children's Desk at the Habarana Police Station at its request for essential support. The initiative was carried out in partnership with Cinnamon Lodge Habarana and Habarana Village by Cinnamon on 27th April 2022 as an initiative under Project WAVE and an entry level engagement under John Keells *Praja Shakthi* – Habarana.

A handover ceremony took place with the participation of the representatives from the two Cinnamon Hotels in Habarana along with Police officers from the Habarana Police Station. Representatives from the Hotel complex included Murfad Shariff, General Manager – Habarana Complex, Fowme Ibrahim, Assistant Manager – Habarana Village by Cinnamon, Ivan Perera – Complex Security Manager, Vijitha Kumara – Assistant Security Manager and Gayan Pradeep, Naturalist – CNT. Representatives from the Police Station included ASP Habarana, Officer Abeyasinghe, OIC Habarana Police Station, Officer Jayalath and Admin OIC, Officer Bandula.

Ongoing capacity development and market access for Hikka Batik Artisans



John Keells Foundation (JKF) has been providing ongoing support for 13 women operating under the Hikka Batiks brand since project inception in 2020 under John Keells *Praja Shakthi* – Hikkaduwa through various initiatives including trainings, new product development and design workshops, linkages to markets and pilot sales.

JKF has also facilitated registration of Hikka Batiks as a business and on creating new market linkages with Artravale (luxury brand of Walkers Tours) and Hikka Tranz by Cinnamon, who is the Group project partner.

In April and May, the Batik Artisans have been going through a few intensive design thinking workshops with 2 graduates from the University of Moratuwa which has also helped to increase the level of confidence of the women significantly.

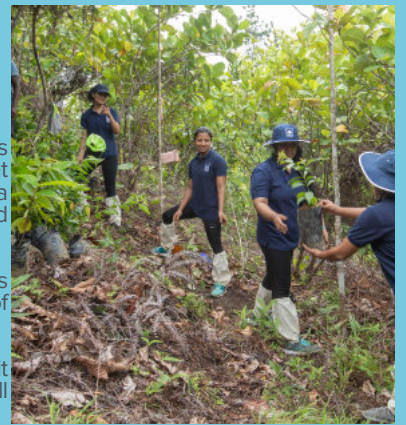
Under the guidance of Lankesh Ponnampereuma the General Manager of Hikka Tranz by Cinnamon and his team, the hotel has also been working with the Hikka Batik artisans on many sustainable initiatives such as upcycling discarded linen to be used in staff quarters and producing kitchen towels towards enhancing the income of the artisans in these challenging times while also enabling cost savings for the business.

John Keells Foundation mobilizes volunteers for forest restoration at Suduwelipotha

In commemoration of the World Environment Day 2022, John Keells Foundation mobilized the first two batches of the Group's staff volunteers on 21st May and 11th June 2022 respectively in a phased tree planting initiative at the 'Cinnamon Rainforest Restoration Project' site at Suduwelipotha, Kalawana in proximity to the Sinharaja Forest Reserve, under the guidance of Vimukthi Weeratunga, Senior Biologist at Cinnamon Nature Trails and Dushy Perera, President of Ruk Rakaganno.

A total of 69 volunteers took part in the two initiatives involving the conveyance of saplings from the nurseries to the top of the ridge forming a human chain which was no easy task considering the distance and nature of the hike. The volunteers got the opportunity to plant some of the saplings at the site as well.

"It was an exhausting task but the unique experience that we gained through the project was definitely worth it all. The bigger cause that we were working towards kept us going even during the few showers of rain that fell upon us during the hike", said Janith Perera, a volunteer from John Keells Property explaining his experience.



John Keells Foundation Creates awareness on Child Protection among English Language Scholarship Programme Beneficiaries

JKF launched a series of sessions to create awareness on children protection and the vulnerabilities of children on online platforms under Project WAVE (Working Against Violence through Education) in collaboration with LEADS.

The first four sessions were carried out on the 25th and 26th of April, 24th May and 3rd June with the participation of 298 students aged between 12 to 14, from various locations of the country which included Colombo 02, Ranala, Kandy, Jaffna, Trincomalee, Hikkaduwa, Sooryawewa, Neluwa, and Habarana.

The sessions were conducted by Dilrukshi Illangakoon and Krishanthini Kumarawel from LEADS Sri Lanka who focused on the various challenges faced by adolescents who are heavily reliant on online platforms and the importance of focusing on the positive aspects of technology which can help them overcome these challenges. The sessions were highly interactive and ended with positive feedback from the participants.

Sandula Sulakkana, a student from Ratmalana said "I found this session very useful because for the first time in my life I learned how to protect myself and how to be safe on cyber spaces. This was a good experience for me, and I would like to request John Keells Foundation to continue doing this program for other students as well."

These sessions are conducted for the beneficiaries of the John Keells English Language Scholarship Programme (ELSP) as an instance of bundling of benefits under multiple projects – in this case ELSP and WAVE.

GROUP DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION ACTIVITIES

oneJKH

MENSTRUATION SHOULDN'T BE TABOO. PERIOD.

'Fems Aya' sanitary napkins, are now available **free-of-charge** for all women at John Keells through the Group's SanNap programme.

Amplifying the Group's emphasis on creating an inclusive, diverse and equitable work environment, the Group rolled out the first phase of the SanNap programme on 13th June 2022. Under the first phase, sanitary napkins are provided free-of-charge to all female employees of the John Keells Group. The second phase envisages to extend this endeavor to the wider family, where the Group hopes to provide this facility to all employees who wish to offer their allotment to a female family member, thereby further increasing awareness and supporting the extended John Keells family.

As a part of the SanNap programme, the Group will also organize a series of awareness sessions on menstrual health for Group employees in collaboration with Hemas with the aim of reducing health risks and anxiety related to menstruation.

Please contact your BU HR Head for more details!

oneJKH

Further to the LGBTQ+ inclusivity awareness sessions conducted by EQUAL GROUNDS, a tri-lingual interactive e-module is now available through **BRIDGE** which will help us better understand gender identity, sexual orientation and the LGBTQ+ community

FORWARDS: A MORE INCLUSIVE, ENLIGHTENED, AND RESPECTFUL WORKSPACE FOR LGBTQ+ EMPLOYEES

Commencing in June 2022, this course will be a mandatory annual refresher for all staff and will be a part of the Group induction

ALSO AVAILABLE ON

Keells CCA

#LIFEATJKH #PWR2022

The John Keells Group launched a tri-lingual e-module on our e-learning platforms, which is accessible to everyone on 6th June 2022. Through this the Group aims to enhance awareness on gender identity, sexual orientation, being inclusive towards the LGBTQ+ community and becoming an informed ally. Commencing from June 2022, this course will not only be a part of the Group induction programme but will also be a mandatory annual refresher for everyone at John Keells.

WOICE

PRESENTS

EMPOWERING BALANCE

A discussion on managing commitments as professionals, young parents and dual-career couples.

Speakers

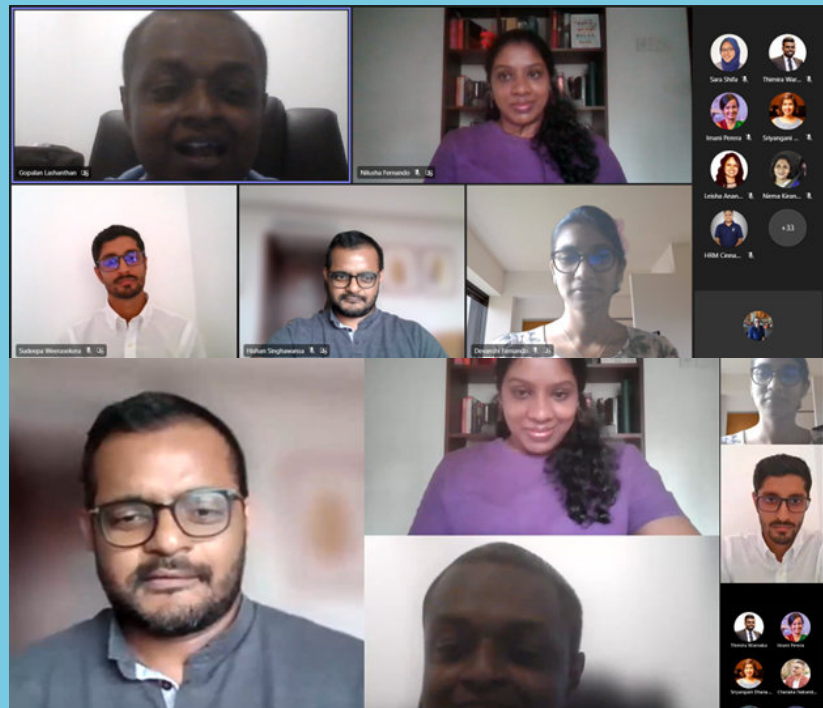
- Hishan Singhawansa**
Deputy CEO and Chief Operating Officer
Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts
- Nilusha Fernando**
Head of Marketing
Jaykay Marketing Services (Pvt) Limited
- Sudeepa Weerasekera**
Marketing Manager - Beverages
Ceylon Cold Stores
- Devanshi Fernando**
Manager
John Keells Foundation

Moderator

- Gopalan Lashanathan**
Assistant Manager - Operations
Cinnamon Bey Beruwala

JUNE 30th | **4pm to 5pm**
[Click Here To Register](#)

oneJKH



The 4th installment of WOICE, the Group's women-centric learning initiatives to inspire and educate female team members was held on 30th June 2022. This session was conducted with the theme of "Empowering Balance" and featured Hishan Singhawansa - Deputy CEO and Chief Operating Officer of Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts, Nilusha Fernando - Head of Marketing - Jaykay Marketing Services, Sudeepa Weerasekera - Marketing Manager - Ceylon Cold Stores and Devanshi Fernando - Manager- John Keells Foundation and it was moderated by Lashanathan Gopalan - Assistant Manager Operations – Cinnamon Bey Benthota.

GROUPNEWS

Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts



Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts continues to extend 'Meals that Heal' - its food donation initiative to neighboring communities, daily wage earners and the less fortunate, as a means of supporting livelihoods amidst the ongoing economic crisis. The initiative, which was first introduced in June 2021, was relaunched on 1st June 2022 and is a part of the brand's delivery platform; Flavours by Cinnamon – which allows for customers to be a part of the brand's drive to provide communities with meals.

In commemoration of World Oceans Day on 8th June 2022, Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts implemented a variety of projects.

Ellaidhoo Maldives by Cinnamon strategically placed artificial reef structures in areas where no fish movement was seen, using reef cubes manufactured in-house consisting of cement, sand, aggregate and crushed glass, thus preventing crushed glass from polluting the sea.



Cinnamon Dhoneveli Maldives embarked on a coral propagation project in 2018 and has placed 24 coral frames around the lagoon as of date, whose growth and maintenance are closely monitored.

Cinnamon Hakuraa Huraa Maldives conducted a Coral Propagation project where the Engineering Team will fabricate approximately 10 steel frames. Live corals will be delicately taken from the ocean and tied to the frames by the Marine Biologist and Dive School team and placed in the lagoon to encourage the growth of corals in the lagoon.

In Sri Lanka, Hikka Tranz by Cinnamon initiated a beach and marine life conservation project and caution notices have been placed to protect turtles and newly forming coral reefs. Trinco Blu by Cinnamon also assists the Wildlife Department in finding and rehabilitating injured sea turtles and protecting their nesting ground which is in front of the resort.



Cinnamon Lakeside



Colombo's iconic and stylish destination bar, ColomBar, was re-located to its original, revamped location on 4th May 2022. Conceptualized to showcase the city and the island's vibrant culture and heritage in one place, ColomBar is now back at its original location, by the restaurants at Cinnamon Lakeside Colombo. ColomBar distinguishes itself from others by offering an authentic experience unique from any other bar experience in the city.

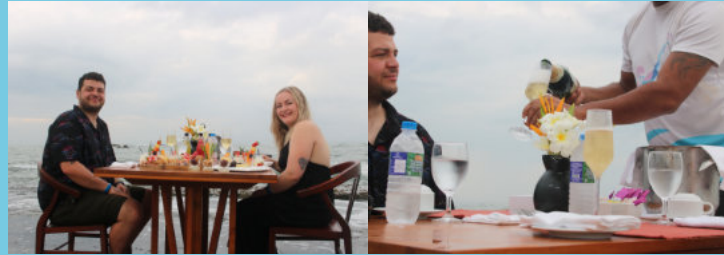
Cinnamon Dhoneveli Maldives



To commemorate World Earth Day on 5th June 2022, a tree planting campaign was carried out to improve the greenery in the island with the participation of in-house guests and our Cinnamon ambassadors. Subsequently a quiz competition was also held with the active participation of the audience which everyone well engaged and enjoyed.

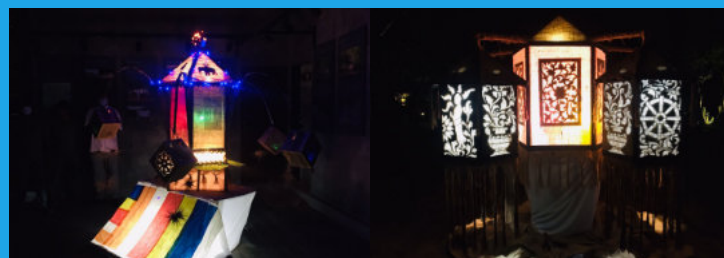
Cinnamon Bey Beruwala

Cinnamon Bey Beruwala developed an introduced a series of unique destination dining options on 21st April 2022. The series of dining experiences kicked off with the 'Breakfast on the Reef' where a couple is given a romantic experience to have their breakfast on the reef of the sea.



Cinnamon Wild Yala

A Vesak lantern competition was held on 15th May 2022 at the Cinnamon Wild Yala Hotel premises with the participation of all departments. Kitchen Department won the 1st place, while the first & second runner up places were won by the F&B Department and the Finance & Human Resources Department respectively. Creative and attractive lanterns were made by all departments for the competition.





GROUPNEWS

Cinnamon Benthota Beach

Cinnamon Benthota Beach celebrated "Soorya Mangalya" on 14th April 2022 as one of the most decorated traditional events which gathered attention and participation of local as well as foreign guests.

The event started with hoisting of the flags and lighting the traditional oil lamp. Sack race, breaking the pots, keeping an eye to Elephant, tug of war, kotta poraya, banis kaama were some of the games which had huge participation from the guests and winners were rewarded with exciting gifts.



Coffee with GM - a platform for team members to join with General Manager and the Management to have a simple conversation over a coffee and few snacks was held on 3rd May 2022. Coffee is served to team members in a specially designed mug.

For team members, this was one precious moment to sit together with the Management and openly have a simple conversation and enjoy some snacks over a coffee.



Cinnamon Red

Cinnamon Red Colombo held a Pop-up sale on 27th May 2022 at the hotel premises to encourage employee engagement as well as enhance the camaraderie within the Cinnamon Red family. It was encouraging to see staff utilize this opportunity to showcase their hidden talents. A variety of items were sold at the pop-up sale including food items, handmade items, beauty products, toys etc.



Cinnamon Red Colombo initiated a Tea making competition on 31st May 2022 which was open for all associates. This provided the opportunity for staff across all departments to break away from the usual challenges at work and deliver their best homemade cup of tea with a competitive spirit. The competition was divided in to two categories as "Classic" and "Innovative". Ravin Vannitamby - Head of Operations, John Keells Holdings PLC, was invited to judge our participants along with two judges from Basilur Tea Exports (Pvt) Ltd. Immense talent was displayed in both categories and awards were presented to the winner and the runner up in both categories.





GROUPNEWS

Cinnamon Grand

Cinnamon Grand held its long service awards for the years 2020 & 2021 on 31st March 2022. Long service awards were presented to 126 Associates for the year 2020 and 65 Associates for the year 2021 at a ceremony held at the Oak Room.

The annual event serves as a symbol of recognition for the associates, their achievements, dedication and loyalty throughout their tenure with the hotel. Awardees who celebrated career milestones, received gold sovereigns based on their years of service. Combining both years, 37 Associates were recognized for five years of service, 68 for ten years, 45 for fifteen years, 21 for twenty years, 11 for twenty-five years and 9 for thirty years of service.



Cinnamon Grand's Associates' Quarterly Meeting (AQM) for the fourth quarter of the 2021/22 financial year was held on 7th April 2022 at the Oak Room.

General Manager Kamal Munasinghe welcomed and addressed the associates and shared insights on the hotel's performance during the past financial year. He also went on to explain the future plans for the hotel and thanked all the Associates for their hard work and commitment towards the hotel, during these very challenging times. Despite the situation he expressed his gratitude to everyone for working hard.

The Cinnamon Brand Ambassador programme was also Launched during this meeting, and associates were briefed about the EmpowHer Network Programme which is another new initiative which was launched for all female associates, after which the newly appointed hotel manager - Darshana Gallage shared his views on making Cinnamon Grand truly grand.



A multi religious ceremony was held on the 21st April 2022 and many associates gathered to pay tribute to their much loved and remembered late colleagues, Nimal Shantha, Disna Sanjeevani, Arshad Yaheya, Imran Ibrahim and Naleer Nisthar and 16 Guests who lost their lives during the tragic Easter Sunday Attacks.

Religious observances were followed not only to reflect on the lives of these beautiful souls who were a part of the Cinnamon Grand journey, but to also offer prayers of comfort and strength to their beloved families, as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

To support the ongoing efforts of Pearl Protectors Sri Lanka, to clear nurdles from the beaches following the X-Press Pearl disaster, volunteers from Cinnamon Grand participated for a nurdle clean-up campaign at the Mt. Lavinia Beach on the 30th April 2022. With the support of all the participants including 16 associates from Cinnamon Grand, 10kgs of nurdles were collected.



GROUP NEWS

Walkers Tours



Walkers Tours together with Emirates and Cinnamon Resorts hosted 8 travel agents from Hungary, from the 27th April to 1st May 2022.

During their visit to Sri Lanka, they explored the diversified offerings of Sri Lanka which also included a few important sites such as Sigiriya Rock Fortress, Kandy Temple, and Galle Fort. Despite the challenges faced by the country, the feedback received from these travel agents puts Sri Lanka back on the travel map in the near future, opening up new markets and travel segments from Hungary.



Walkers Tours became a partner of the Flockeo network which is a global marketplace for B2C and B2B tourism providers focusing on sustainable and eco-responsible business approach. Walkers Tours together with 3 other local DMCs and Sri Lankan airlines hosted a familiarization tour for the Flockeo membership (the Francophone agents who focus on Sustainable tourism), from 2nd to 10th May 2022 as a collective effort to promote Sri Lanka as a sustainable destination. The group consisted of 10 travel agents from France and Belgium and 2 directors of Flockeo.

The tour focused on showcasing the authenticity of the destination while highlighting the local lifestyle and nature and stays at unique accommodation with a sustainable approach for 9 days across Sri Lanka. Highlighting our efforts to compensate carbon emission through our carbon neutral vehicle fleet, the transportation services along with the national tour guide service was provided by Walkers Tours. Moreover, Walkers Tours worked closely with its trustworthy supplier network (accommodation & experience providers) to deliver a responsible and rich experience to the clients.

John Keells Properties

Construction is progressing steadily following the topping off ceremony held in January this year, which celebrated the completion of the structural work for all three towers at TRI-ZEN. Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing work has progressed up to the 40th floor while finishing work has been completed up to the 20th floor of all three towers as at 6th June 2022. With TRI-ZEN moving into the final phases of construction, we are looking forward to handing over the apartments to customers in 2023.



Ceylon Cold Stores

Ceylon Cold Stores launched a series of programmes to empower the employees of the company to face the current economic crisis and the anticipated food scarcity on 12th May 2022. As one of the major initiatives, the "Home Gardening for Households" initiative was introduced to all employees to develop basic skills of home gardening and this programme was conducted by Subhash Jayanetti - Agricultural Instructor of Kalutara district. Furthermore, several training programmes and advisory services related to home gardening will also be provided in future.

In line with the Home Gardening initiative, seeds and compost fertilizer will be provided to employees at concessionary rates. Model home gardens will also be established at CCS factory premises to encourage our employees. To make this an opportunity to change the lives and vision of all of us, those who create successful home gardens will be rewarded and encouraged to make them more sustainable for the future.





GROUP NEWS

John Keells Logistics



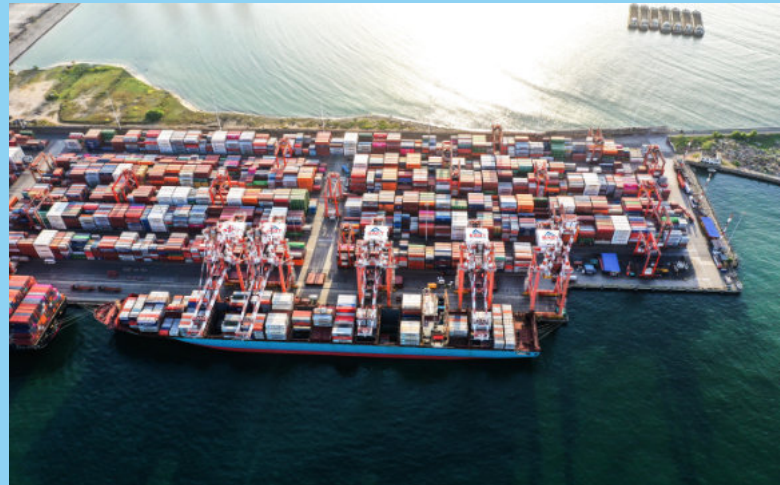
Across all the distribution centres and at the head office, the JKLL team held Avurudu celebrations from the 18th to 20th April 2022, following the traditions of the festive season, which included colourful costumes and fun activities.



The JKLL team celebrated Vesak with colourful decorations at the distribution centres across the country on 16th May 2022, reflecting the tranquility of the festival.

South Asia Gateway Terminals

SAGT commissioned 2 Ship-to-Shore (STS) quay cranes (QC) to enhance its operational efficiencies at the quay side. Manufactured by ZPMC, the cranes arrived at SAGT on 17th April 2022. Equipped with twin lift capabilities of up to 65 tons per lift, advanced technology across its operating spectrum particularly on brakes, high tech siemens drives and controls, unbalanced load handling, crane to ship anti-collision system, crane to crane anti-collision system, crane overload, over speed, snag load protection systems, full function CCTV and operator conveniences further enhances overall safe operations. These combined features will provide high-productivity scale aligned with SAGT's relentless focus on safety integrated performance.



With a commitment to further enhance services to the customers, SAGT launched the first self-service online e-DA facility for the Port of Colombo on 1st June 2022. This facility empowers the customer to a user-friendly process to obtain the import container e-Delivery Advice (e-DA) at convenience. Much like an air traveler generating their own boarding-pass.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, SAGT introduced an emailed based e-DA process in compliance with the social distancing directives at the time. The process allowed customers the opportunity to transact clearances without the need for face-to-face interaction. This revolutionized a decades long paper-based process with a week.

To further enhance the "ease of doing business" customer experience, the company then introduced the secure online payment gateway via the SAGT e-Port platform. The enhanced process allowed for automated reconciliation, hassle-free online transactions and faster processing times of e-DA requests to under 30 minutes compared to several hours under the manual process.

GROUP NEWS

Keells



In light of the challenging circumstances faced by our nation and the direct impact on our communities, Keells decided to facilitate this charitable campaign namely, "Together for a better Tomorrow", with the sole intention of helping individuals and communities who are in need of essential food products on 6th May 2022. Despite not being a registered charity, Keells will work with their charity partners to assist and support individuals and communities in Sri Lanka. Keells is reaching out to customers and stakeholders as well as team members to contribute towards this campaign through the purchase of a 'Donation Card/s' to lend a hand to support communities in great need. Every rupee collected through this campaign will be dedicated towards ensuring that deserving communities across the country, will now have access to much needed essentials.



John Keells Holdings PLC together with Keells signed a partnership agreement with USAID to empower communities and extend our efforts through livelihood development by supporting Sri Lanka's Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) on 4th May 2022. This project will benefit MSMEs within the nation and approximately 120 large and small scale suppliers who work with over 128 Keells outlets.



CSA and Cashier forums were conducted to understand the challenges Keells' outlet team members face every day on 27th April and 4th May 2022. This forum provided great insight for the JMSL HR team to help in serving internal team members better. It was also a great opportunity for both the HR team and store team members to get to know each other.



A training focusing on digitizing learning content was held on 4th, 5th and 6th May 2022. The programme focused on providing a stepwise guide on how to develop and structure e-learning content.

The programme was conducted by the Keells Retail Academy from JMSL in collaboration with the Group L&D team to L & D representatives of Union Assurance, Ceylon Cold Stores and JKLL. It was a 3-day programme which concluded with an on-site video development exercise to create content where participants tested their knowledge gained at the workshop by handling a real production scenario.

John Keells Office Automation

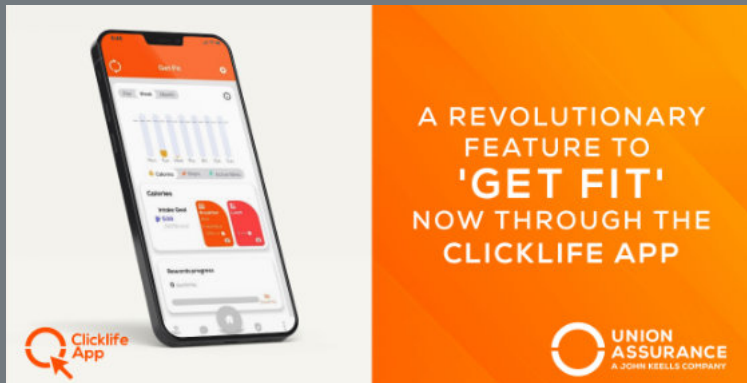
The John Keells Office Automation team received the opportunity to partner with Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and Channel Eye; an official broadcasting partner in Sri Lanka for the Australia tour of Sri Lanka for their pre match analysis programme on 6th June 2022. JKOA contributed an LED panel to be used during the programme to display relevant data and statistics.

This partnership enabled JKOA to gain brand visibility across a wider audience, as a leading supplier of internationally acclaimed brands for office automation solutions.



GROUP NEWS

Union Assurance



The Clicklife App, an industry first comprehensive digital solution from Union Assurance that empowers customers to manage their policies, goes a step further by enabling customers to live a healthy lifestyle. This innovative App, which was launched on 24th May 2022 comes with exciting fitness features, offers customers valuable lifestyle rewards based on loyalty points earned.



Union Assurance held the Agency Annual Awards 2021 to honour its top achievers for their exemplary performance. The ceremony was held at the Monarch Imperial on 8th May 2022, under the theme 'Crowning Excellence'. This event, which crowned the champions, was graced by a distinguished leadership team that included Krishan Balendra - Chairperson of John Keells Group and Jude Gomes - Chief Executive Officer of Union Assurance.

The awards ceremony recognised the exceptional performance of over 670 award winners, making it the highest number of annual award winners in the company's history, a feat driven by a record-breaking performance in 2021. The winners comprised advisors, agency leaders, regional managers, and zonal managers from the island-wide.



Union Assurance held the Bancassurance Annual Awards 2021 to honour its top achievers for their exemplary performance. The ceremony was held at the Monarch Imperial on 21st May 2022, under the theme 'First-class Excellence'. This event, which crowned the exceptional performers, was graced by a distinguished leadership team that included Suresh Rajendra - President, Lesiure at John Keells Group and Jude Gomes - Chief Executive Officer of Union Assurance.



In a move that promises to expand the bancassurance footprint in Sri Lanka, Union Assurance and Union Bank have extended their alliance for 7 years. The renewal of the exclusive partnership agreement on 19th May 2022, is a milestone that reinforces a very successful relationship.

John Keells PLC



Hingalgoda Tea Factory managed by Tea Smallholder Factories PLC, renowned for constantly producing high quality teas, established all-time record prices during the auctions which were concluded between 20th April and 31st May 2022. This is the sixth instance in which Hingalgoda Tea Factory achieved an all-time record price for a PF grade during the 1st quarter of the year. These top priced teas were marketed and sold by John Keells PLC.

John Keells PLC celebrated Sinhala & Tamil New Year on 22nd April 2022. The event included many traditional games followed by a Kottu Night.

GROUP NEWS

Center Functions

The Center Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) team commenced a series of roadshows to raise awareness on DE&I and the “ONEJKH” initiative to bring meaningful change across Center functions. Five roadshows were planned during the month of June, where the first two roadshows took place on 1st June featuring Group Finance and JK Research. The DE&I presentations were conducted by the respective head of departments, Mohan Thanthirige for Group Finance and Muditha Senarath-Yapa for JK Research. On 9th and 10th June, JKF, GBPR, Legal, Corporate Communications and Group HR and OCTAVE, respectively conducted their roadshows with Carmeline Jayasuriya and Hisham Nazeem from JKF/GBPR and Yolana Seimon from OCTAVE enlightening their departments on DE&I initiatives. On 16th June, the final roadshow was conducted for NBD, Sustainability, Corporate Finance, Group Treasury, SGIT and JKX, where the presentation was conducted by Vidhumin Grero from NBD.

Insightful presentations on Gender Based Violence was also conducted by trainers from the John Keells Foundation. A quiz was hosted at all events, where, Surani Hewage, Roshani Edirisinghe, Pasan Senadheera, Sajani Mayadunne and Shanya Fernando emerged as winners from Group Finance, JK Research, Plasticcycle, OCTAVE and Group HR divisions respectively. Thereafter, all participants received a token of appreciation, followed by refreshments.



John Keells Holdings PLC participated at “WHAT NEXT? THE CAREER EXPO 2022” organized by the University of Colombo (Faculty of Management & Finance) on 27th May 2022. This Career Fair was organized at the UOC premises and 85- 90 students visited the John Keells Group stall to meet and discuss their career prospects with the representatives from Group HR.



John Keells Holdings PLC participated at the Career Fair and Panel Discussion hosted by UCL (Universal College Lanka) on 9th June 2022, at the University premises. Students in their second year at UCL took part in the Career Fair and Thimira Warnaka- Assistant Manager- Group Human Resources was also a member of the panel discussion which discussed the importance of internships and how to maximize an internship experience.



John Keells Holdings PLC was invited by Royal Institute for the Official launch of their MSc. Data Science Programme which is Awarded by the University of London with Academic Direction from Goldsmiths University of London on 9th June 2022.

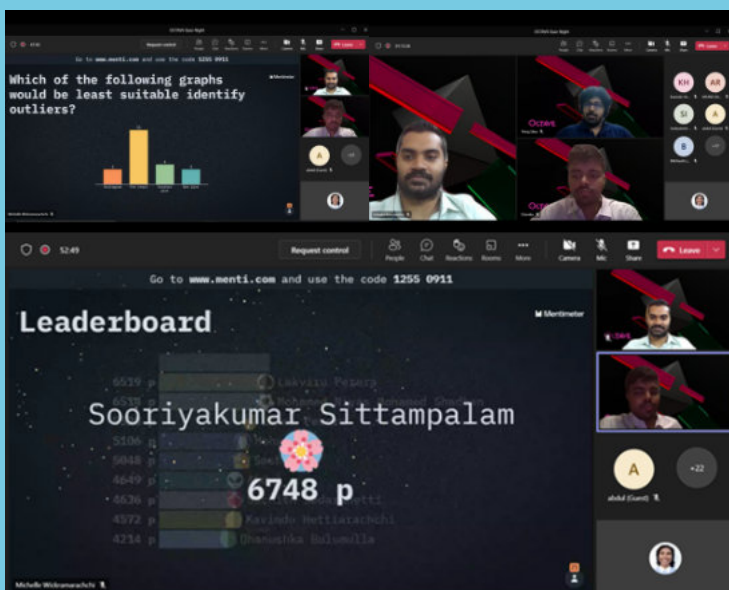
Applications for the John Keells Management Trainee Programme 2022 was opened from the 1st to 15th of June 2022 with the theme of ‘To the Top’ and a total of 652 applicants applied. As part of the application process, the applicants were also required to upload a video submission.



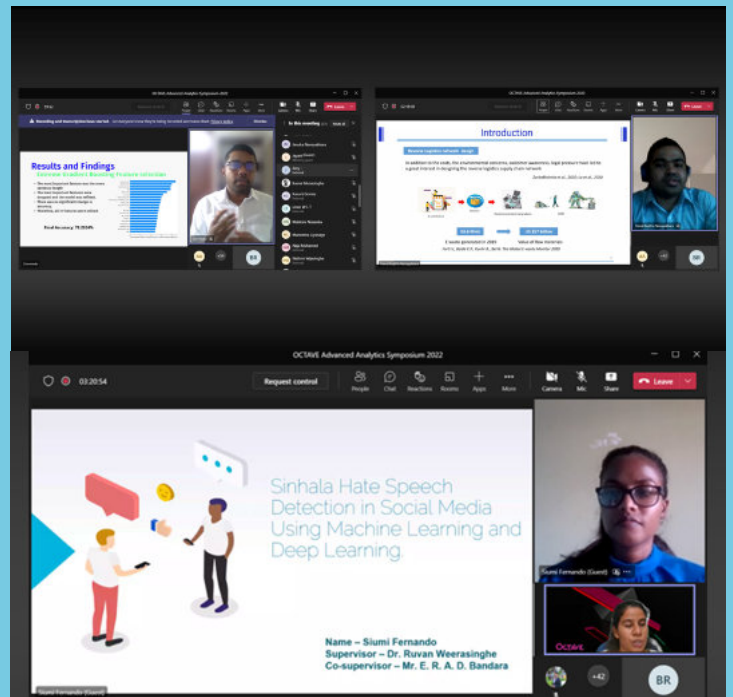
GROUP NEWS

OCTAVE

Data Storm 3.0 - an Advanced Analytics Competition for the youth of Sri Lanka organised by the Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa and the Rotaract Club of Faculty of Science at the University of Colombo included an 'Introductory webinar series of Data Storm 3.0' held in three installments on 'Data Science and Career Opportunities in Advanced Analytics', 'Data Cleaning, Pre-Processing and Machine Learning Practices' and 'Algorithm Selection and Machine Learning Practices' respectively. 182 teams registered for the competition in which 5 teams qualified for the finals. The finale of Data Storm 3.0 was held on the 9th April 2022 at the DHPL Auditorium. Throughout the event, competitors received masterclasses and mentoring by the Data Science professionals from OCTAVE.



An 'OCTAVE Quiz Night' under the theme of 'Let's Talk Data' was conducted for undergraduates from 6.00 PM to 7.00 PM on 1st April 2022 via Microsoft Teams. It was conducted by Leshaka Karunaratne - Data Scientist, Thiraj Silva - Data Scientist, and Charaka Abeywickrama - Data Science and Engineering Associate. This fun and informative session was aimed at teaching how to solve a real-life Data and Advanced Analytics use case under the guidance of our Data Science Team.



The OCTAVE Advanced Analytics Symposium 2022 was conducted on 20th May 2022 virtually. This is a platform for final-year university students and graduates to present the findings of their thesis/research project related to Data and Advanced Analytics. The ten finalists presented their thesis to a wider audience of data enthusiasts and industry experts. The judges were Dr.Rajitha Navarathna - Principal Data Scientist, Asanga Gunawardena - Senior Data Scientist, Sarmilan Sivanesasuntharam - Senior Data Scientist, Dinusha Dissanayake - Data Scientist, Thiraj Silva - Data Scientist, Praveen Ekanayake - Data Scientist, Vithushan Vijayanathan - Data Science and Engineering Associate and was moderated by Laksrini Akshila Anurangi - Data Science and Engineering Associate.



OCTAVE Virtual Experience Day was held on the 3rd June 2022 from 9 AM to 2 PM via Microsoft Teams. The event was aimed at providing an experience and a clear understanding of how Advanced Analytics practices have been leveraged in the Retail Industry group and beverages and ice cream business units of Ceylon Cold Stores. The demonstration included presentations on OCTAVE use cases and live Q&A with the presenters and was exclusively for the employees of John Keells Group.

The retail workstream session included an interactive panel discussion on 'Analytics in Retail'. The members in the panel were Nilusha Fernando - Head of Marketing, JMSL, Duminda Jayathilake - Analytics Delivery Lead, Siddarth Shrotyia - Principal Consultant, McKinsey & Co, Mifrah Ismail - Head of Fresh Produce, JMSL and was moderated by Rohan Jayaweera - Analytics Delivery Lead.

GROUP NEWS

John Keells X

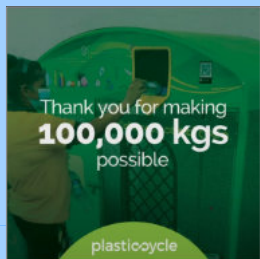


Subsequent to applications opening in December 2021, John Keells X has started the programmes for its 3 tracks, Jkx Accelerate – Startup Accelerator, Jkx Innovate – Open Innovation Platform and Jkx Elevate – investments for scaleups.

The launch event for 'Jkx Accelerate' was held on 7th April 2022, and hosted the shortlisted startups, Jkx alumni, distinguished partners and representation from the senior leadership of John Keells Group. The startups this year are from various domains - AgriTech, E-Commerce enablers, EdTech, FinTech, Logistics/Mobility, HR/Recruitment Tech, HealthTech & Wellness etc. The programme has carried out workshops and meetups on vital areas for startup growth. Webinars were also conducted on 'Disciplined Entrepreneurship' by Marius Ursache (JKX lead trainer). The close of July will feature Demo Day, where the teams will get the opportunity to pitch their businesses to a panel of judges in order to win seed funding, mentoring and ongoing support.

The startups selected for 'Jkx Innovate' have now progressed to having active engagements with the problem owners in order to fine tune their POC's. The problem statements were submitted by Union Assurance, Keells, Group Legal, JKSB and JKIT. The problem owners have also undergone coaching on understanding the differences between startups and corporates and how leveraging unique strengths can lead to mutually beneficial partnerships.

Plasticcycle



Since the inception of Plasticcycle in July 2017, with the growth of its bin network across Sri Lanka marks a significant milestone by collecting 100,000kg worth of plastic waste as at 31st April 2022.

Plasticcycle held a webinar in commemoration of World Environment Day on 5th June 2022 at 4.00PM Live on Microsoft teams and Facebook live where three speakers from the area of sustainability were brought in to speak on the topic of "The impact of plastic pollution on our environment and its solutions." These three keynote speakers included Dr. Chamara De Zoysa - CEO of Enviro, Shanika Sandeepani - Manager at AGC innovate and Ovin De Silva - Production and Regulatory Manager at Ceylon Cold Stores. During this event Dr. De Zoysa being the first speaker gave a brief introduction to plastic pollution its causes and effects while elaborating on the 4R concept. Mrs. Sandeepani spoke about the reducing plastics in your household and workspace as well as the modern trends in plastic reduction. Lastly Mr. De Silva spoke about the initiatives taken by Ceylon Cold stores to address the problem while explaining the joint initiatives taken in partnership with Plasticcycle.

John Keells Research



The website of John Keells Research is now live! It is an informational website that focuses on the research areas of JKR, technologies on offer and the modes of engagement for research collaborations with JKR. The site also features a blog that publishes posts on novel research findings and the life of the team at JKR. The site was launched on 5th

April 2022 and the site can be accessed via <https://www.johnkeellsresearch.com>



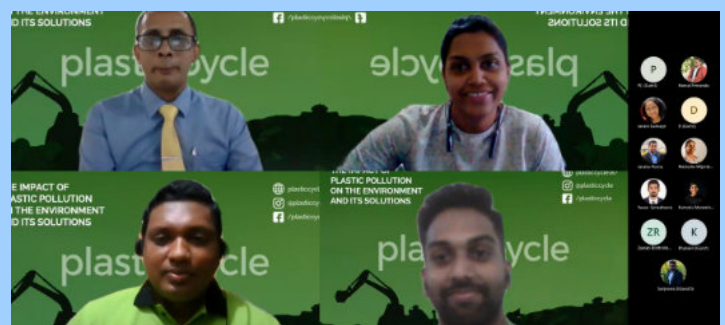
Thomas Junker, the Managing director / CEO of GRAPHIT KROPFMÜHL (GK) visited John Keells Research along with Amila Jayasinghe who is the CEO of Bogala Graphite Lanka PLC on 1st June 2022. He was given a brief introduction to the economic and environmentally friendly graphene oxide synthesis processes developed by JKR. Potential applications of graphene oxide includes its use in its use in energy storage and polymer composites were discussed.



JKR visited the factory of 4Ever Skin Naturals (PVT) Ltd on the 19th April 2022 and completed its technology transfer process by transferring JKR's proprietary Silmetic™ technology. 4Ever will be manufacturing a superior line of skin care products by incorporating JKR's Silmetic™ technology under their sub-brand Derma PRO.



On 1st June 2022, JKR team participated in its first DE&I Roadshow, an initiative to build and enhance awareness on the Group's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion commitments, goals, and interventions. A detailed presentation on DE&I was conducted by Dr. Muditha Senarath-Yapa, Head of JKR which was followed by an in-depth session on Gender Based Violence presented by GBV trainer Gnanasooriyam Dhuwaarathan.



SPORTS, CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Hockey



At the Mercantile Hockey League 2022 held at Colombo Astro Hockey Turf on 28th May, 04th June, 11th June & 15th June 2022, John Keells Group emerged as the C Division Runner-Up of the tournament after 16 long years.

1st row (Seated from Left to Right) - Clive Fernando, Thenuka Weerasinghe, Udesh Priyanka, Ganeshan Jeyaprakasam, Isuru Karunarathna
2nd row (Seated from Left to Right) - Sajeewa Hasantha, Sasanka Mahaarachchi, Harrisontine Francis, Dilan Niroshana, Godwin Solomons, Sheron Fabian (Captain), Bevan Gunawardena, Peshala Aravinda, Lakindu Wijesinghe
Absent - Gayan Jayasena, Gihan Asanka

The results of the matches are as follows:
28th May 2022 - JKH vs HNB (1-1 Draw) - Godwin Solomons scored for JKH
04th June 2022 - JKH vs Seylan (2-2 Draw) - Godwin Solomons and Harrisontine Francis scored for JKH
11th June 2022 - JKH vs Singer (1-3 Lost) - Dilan Niroshana scored for JKH
15th June 2022 - JKH vs Browns (2-1 Won) - Bevan Gunawardena and Clive Fernando scored for JKH

Cricket

At the MC Super Premier T20 Tournament's finals held at MCA Grounds on 25th June 2022 John Keells Group emerged as the winners by defeating MODE Engineering by 4 runs. The John Keells Group team struggled after being given the opportunity to bat first, losing 4 top-order batters for just 22 runs during the powerplay. However, the match-winning combination for the fifth wicket, which included 94 runs, was formed by number three batter Kavin Bandara and number six batter Sachitha Jayathilake. Bandara added 42 runs off 33 balls with two fours and two sixes, while Jayathilake scored 62 runs off 39 balls with seven sixes. Chasing a target of 157 for victory JKH prevailed in a thrilling final over win with Man of the Finals Sachitha Jayathilake coming out on top defending 12 runs. Skipper Ishan Jayaratne also shined with the ball taking 3 for 14 in his four overs.



John Keells Transportation Sector Premier League Cricket Tournament (TPL) was held on 28th May 2022 at Malay Cricket Ground, Colombo 02. The event was organized with the goal of strengthening employee engagement and enthusiasm and thereby enhancing motivation amongst the team.

MIF Rocks who represented Mack International Freight won the tournament and SAF Hawks who represented Cinnamon Air emerged as Runner-up.

It was mandatory to have female representation to a team and the Best Outstanding Female player of the tournament was also selected.



QUIZZES AND COMPETITIONS

Answer all 5 questions correctly and win fabulous prizes!

All you got to do is answer 5 simple questions based on the latest issue of JK Times! Send in your answers along with your name, BU and contact number to isuri.jkh@keells.com on or before the 19th August, 2022.

1. How many volunteers did John Keells Foundation mobilize for the phased tree planting initiative at the 'Cinnamon Rainforest Restoration Project' site at Suduwelipotha?
2. What does the first phase of the Group's SanNap programme aim at achieving ?
3. What is the name of the new initiative introduced for the employees of Ceylon Cold Stores?
4. What was the theme of the 'OCTAVE Quiz Night' ?
5. At the 29th SINGER MCA Super Premier League – who was awarded as the best bowler of the tournament ?

Winner of JK TIMES 1Q Quiz

Nirushi Nanayakkara
Relationship Executive
Union Assurance PLC

This newsletter is published by John Keells Holdings PLC for internal circulation only. For feedback, please contact;

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