

Sari Connection

Progress Report of Sari Recycle Project by **PARCIC**

<http://www.parcic.org>

Volume **4**

March 31,

2015

- ❖ We had a series of training in Thumpulai, Jaffna with Textile Artist and Writer, Mrs. Andrea, to improve our skills and to add value to our handwork products. Also, we are developing a new range of products with her great support. Mrs. Andrea sent us an article about her work with our women, please check below.
- ❖ Now we have three outlets where you can purchase our products! Details are given in this volume.

Training with women from Thumpulai

The women who attended the training sessions were very enthusiastic and receptive to new knowledge and skills. They were extremely resourceful and took great pleasure in discovering their creative skills. Using donated sarees we produced a variety of items such as beautiful dresses, jackets, skirts and blouses as well as accessories such as tote and carry bags.

However the talents of the women were very evident in the home textile products we created. We produced items such as pillow covers, table runners and bedspreads. To add value to these products we added an element of hand work.

I noticed that the women were very excited about doing intricate hand embroidery and other techniques. For some, it was a meditative exercise as they could escape into their own creative world.



Mrs. Andrea (left) checking Ms. S.Nishanthini's work



Ms.V.Viyaluxmy showing her work

What I also noticed is the resourcefulness of the group. Although I taught them basics, many of the items were produced using their own creativity combined with basics. As a result, no two products were the same. These skills will help them throughout their lives as it teaches them self-sufficiency.

The ladies in these areas totally amazed me with their love of knowledge and desire to learn. Often I only had to teach them a product on one occasion and they would grasp the skills with no effort. They have now learned the value of upcycling sarees and have new respect for the craft. They take a lot of pride in their work and despite circumstances they are always full of joy and laughter. I am planning to teach them many new techniques and skills and through them, I am also learning to manage difficult circumstances and to be more adaptable.

I derive immense pleasure and great fulfillment from imparting my skills to these courageous women and I have great confidence that the products we create will be well received by all who see it.

I have nothing but respect for these wonderful people.

(Andrea Boekel)

FROM South

Christmas Bazaar at DBU

We attended the Dutch Burgher Union's Christmas Bazaar, which was held on November 30th in Colombo, for the second time following last year, with thanks to their generous cooperation. As being part of many stalls selling attractive Christmas goods, we sold our Sari Connection products. The products had a positive reputation from visitors, and we also received their feedback. The bazaar was very fascinating with a lot of interesting and beautiful goods and tasty foods. We are hoping to participate in this bazaar regularly so that we could meet the returning customers at the event. Thank you everyone for coming to see and shop our products.



Japanese staff at DBU Bazaar

FROM Japan

Sales in PARCIC Tokyo Shop

In Tokyo, we are selling our sari products at our shop located right next to our office. The PARCIC shop sells local organic vegetables, fair-traded coffee, tea and chocolates, and many other products grown / produced carefully by various producers in the world. Organic tea from Deniyaya, Matara, is also one of the products from our project sites. In addition to the sales at our shop, we also promoted our sari products in various events held in Tokyo. "Sri Lanka Festival" was one of the events, and it was a very good opportunity for us to present our Sari Recycle Project in Japan, especially to those who are interested in Sri Lanka.



Customers at Tokyo PARCIC office

Products available

Do you know where you can see our products you support? Now we have three outlets for our women's products.

1. Thusare (Clothes, Bags, and Accessories are available)

Tel 0779-896183/0114-369967, No.103/12 Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo07

2. Barefoot in Galle Fort (Bags are available)

Tel 091-2-226299, No.41 Pedlar Street Galle Fort, Galle

3. Eske Cordova (Clothes are available)

Tel 011-5-882388 No. 218, Kaduwela Road, Battaramulla

PARCIC is a Japanese NGO working in Sri Lanka since April 2004 to support people in North and South. Please contact us or visit our web site for more information.

CONTACT: Fumi Ito: fumi.ito@parcic.org / 0772462808

Chisato Takahashi: slproject7@parcic.org / 0775199700

Special Thanks to

Amana Takaful PLC
Ananda Balika Vidyalaya
Bishop's College
CARE Colombo Office
Coca-Cola Beverages Sri Lanka Ltd
Eswaran Brothers Exports (Pvt) Ltd
Galadari Hotel
Holy Family Convent
J/Chundukuli Girls School
J/Vigneswara School
Kathiresan Central College
Ladies College
Musaesu College
Saga Academy Handana
Singer (Sri Lanka) PLC
SJMS Associates
St. Joseph's Barika
St.Thomas College (alumni)
The Colombo Centre for Special Education
UN Habitat Sri Lanka office
VSO Colombo office
YKK Sri Lanka (Pvt) Ltd
and All Individual Big-Hearted Supporters