

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **The American Chamber of Commerce, Teejay Lanka PLC and Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka join hands to uplift sanitation facilities at local schools**

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**COLOMBO, 04<sup>th</sup> July 2022:** The Helping Hands project, a three-year partnership between the American Chamber of Commerce in Sri Lanka and Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka, recently completed its first phase with the support of Teejay Lanka PLC, our reputed corporate partner.

Positively impacting over 3000 students, the project involved the provision of three (03) toilet units each to three (03) government schools in Yatiyantota and Dehiowita in the Sabaragamuwa Province, and Homagama in the Western Province. Management representatives of Teejay Lanka PLC, AmCham Sri Lanka and Habitat Sri Lanka were present at the handover ceremonies, together with the students and faculty members of the respective schools, held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2022. Several hygiene awareness sessions on a range of topics, from food safety to appropriate sanitation practices, were also conducted by local public health inspectors (PHIs).

Ms. Samadhi Weerakoon, Senior General Manager – Corporate Communication and CSR of Teejay Lanka PLC, expressing her thoughts on the Helping Hands project, stated “Providing school children with proper sanitation facilities and hygiene awareness programs will pave the way for the students to have a clean, healthy, and happy childhood. We look forward to continuing these efforts in line with our corporate CSR footprint of improving sanitation in rural communities and driving change that will impact generations to come.”

Ms. Vrai Raymond, Chief Executive Officer of the American Chamber of Commerce in Sri Lanka, emphasizing the importance of sanitation, said “Understanding the importance of sanitation has been key in ensuring that we work towards mitigating the adverse impacts of the lack of thereof, such as the risk of diseases & infections, absenteeism in schools, and an unclean environment. We look forward to implementing a long-term plan with Habitat Sri Lanka, to ensure that the students are provided with proper sanitation facilities, in line with UN SDG #6 – Clean Water and Sanitation, promoting a better world for all”.

Partnerships such as the ‘Helping Hands Project’, with a Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WaSH) focus, have been integral in empowering all sectors to explore avenues to ensure a better tomorrow for the next generation of the nation.

### **About Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka**

Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka is an international housing and shelter non-profit organization and is a member of the Habitat for Humanity international network operating in Sri Lanka for over 27 years, committed to fighting global poverty housing and homelessness through affordable housing and sanitation facilities all around the country. To learn more about Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka's work in communities across communities, to donate or to volunteer, please visit [www.habitatsrilanka.org](http://www.habitatsrilanka.org) or follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/habitatsrilanka](https://www.facebook.com/habitatsrilanka).

### **About AMCHAM Sri Lanka**

The American Chamber of Commerce in Sri Lanka (AmCham SL), is one of the most influential and prestigious business chambers in the island, recognized as the leading forum for the facilitation and development of trade, investment and business relations between Sri Lanka and the United States. AmCham SL is an Association whose stakeholders are its near 400 members, made up of top blue-chip organizations in the island and provides its members a multi-dimensional resource network that delivers information, tools and knowledge they need to succeed in bilateral business relations between the two Nations through information share, LQAs, Seminars, Workshops, B2G and B2B networking and exclusive connect & advisory services.

### **Photo Captions**

**Image 1:** *The second-grade students of Sumedha Maha Vidyalaya in Kosgama, stand proudly outside their brand-new toilet units, along with the school's faculty members and AmCham, Teejay and Habitat Sri Lanka's senior management staff.*

**Image 2:** *A young student of the Maniyangama Maha Vidyalaya in Dehiowita, setting an example as she demonstrates the steps of handwashing as she is earnestly observed by her classmates.*

**Image 3:** *The three (03) newly completed toilet units at the Dr. N. M. Perera Central College in Yatiyantota.*

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