

## **HSBC TO PARTNER THREE LOCAL CHARITIES MARKING ITS 150 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

HSBC Sri Lanka is partnering with Sarvodaya-Fusion, The Schools Relief Initiative (SRI) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to further its community support towards Education and Environment Conservation through a grant funded by the HSBC Group's 150 year community fund of US\$ 150 million, over the next three years (2015-2017).

HSBC will work with Sarvodaya-Fusion and the Schools Relief Initiative to carry out its education efforts, while partnering with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to complete its environment conservation programmes.

Patrick Gallagher, CEO of HSBC Sri Lanka and Maldives said "How we do business is as important as what we do. Every year, thousands of HSBC employees around the world give their time and skills to local projects. We are delighted to build on this long standing commitment by partnering with Sarvodaya-Fusion, The Schools Relief Initiative and the International Union for Conservation of Nature who share a common vision to promote Education through IT and English language skills among youth as well as protect the Environment through conservation programmes that benefits society at large."

### **Sarvodaya-Fusion**

HSBC's joint partnership with Sarvodaya-Fusion will aim to enhance the information and communication skills and English knowledge of over 1500 youth aged 16 to 18 years, throughout the country with a Diploma course in Computer Application (DICA) and subsequent certificate courses in English language. On completion students will have the option to follow Microsoft's Office Specialist (MOS) course, Linux Essentials or to complete an entrepreneurship programme.

This project will be undertaken through a series of educational programmes conducted by Fusion – Education in association with Microsoft and CISCO.

## **School Relief Initiative (SRI)**

Simultaneously, HSBC will partner with The Schools Relief Initiative to provide 120 students in the Hambantota district with monthly payments to fund their education. In total forty five students aged 8 to 11 years, fifty students aged 12 to 13 years and ninety undergraduates will stand to receive scholarships to fund their education for the next four years.

## **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**

In terms of environment conservation, HSBC's partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature will seek to develop a visitor management plan with interpretation materials (descriptive guides, tour guides and nature trails, posters and brochures) targeting local visitors, international visitors and other stakeholders of the three components of the World Heritage serial property Central Highlands in Sri Lanka namely Horton Plains National Park (HPNP) and Peak Wilderness Protected Area and Knuckles Conservation Forest.

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*Notes to editors:*

### **1. About Sarvodaya Fusion**

*Is the ICT for Development (ICT4D) arm of Sarvodaya movement with a mission "e- empowerment of rural and semi urban communities". In its scope of social engagement it has successfully developed and deployed projects on ICT Education, Technology stimulation and Capacity Building.*

### **About SRI**

*SRI was founded after the Tsunami of December 2004 and is registered as a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) in Sri Lanka, a Charitable Trust in Hong Kong and a Charity in the UK.*

*Our initial mission was to dispense aid to Tsunami-affected areas, but over time this has evolved into the provision of long-term educational resources and opportunities for disadvantaged children*

### **About IUCN**

*IUCN in Sri Lanka has been conceptualized within the overall context of the Union's mission and the environmental concerns identified in the successive National Environmental Action Plans (NEAP) of the Government of Sri Lanka*

### **2. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited**

*The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited is the founding member of the HSBC Group, which serves around 48 million customers through four global businesses: Retail Banking and Wealth Management, Commercial Banking, Global Banking and Markets, and Global Private Banking. The Group serves customers worldwide from over 6,100 offices in 72 countries and territories in Asia, Europe, North and Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa. With assets of US\$2,572bn at 30 June 2015, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.*

### **3. HSBC's US\$150m community fund**

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*HSBC marks its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. As part of this, HSBC has made a US\$150m fund available to community projects over three years (2015-2017). More than 140 charities worldwide have been selected by HSBC's management team, based on votes from HSBC employees, to receive funds. The US\$150m fund is in addition to the US\$114m HSBC makes available to community investment programmes globally each year. Further details: <http://www.hsbc.com/citizenship/sustainability>*