We will not forget the Tsunami
- JICA Volunteer raises people’s awareness -

It was eleven years ago that the Indian Ocean Tsunami hit the island of Sri Lanka. Commemorating this event on the 26th of December, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Volunteer, Ayumi Honda conducted a memorial event in cooperation with the local community at Buona Vista College in Galle.

This event was held to offer condolences to the victims of the Tsunami and to raise people’s awareness of disasters, particularly of tsunamis. Japanese and Sri Lankan Buddhist priests joined hands to mourn and offer prayers for those who lost their lives in the disaster. All the participants carried traditional Japanese “Tourou” lanterns in a small procession.

Ms. Honda spoke about the Japanese experiences of earthquakes and tsunamis, sharing a wealth of information with the participants. The school children performed a play based on a Japanese true story of an escape from a devastating tsunami.

Ms. Honda works with the Education Office of the Southern Provincial Council to promote disaster prevention and conducts educational programs. “It was a great opportunity for all the participants including people from the local community, the Japanese and even some tourists from European countries to remember the Tsunami and to be reminded of the importance of preparedness of disasters,” commented Mr. Kiyoshi Amada, Chief Representative of JICA Sri Lanka office.

JICA is an active development partner in the field of disaster management and prevention in Sri Lanka. These activities include landslide prevention and meteorological information services as well as disaster prevention education and trauma counseling.
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the executing agency of Japan’s Bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA). JICA, the world biggest bilateral aid agency, works in over 150 countries and regions. In accordance with its vision of “Inclusive and Dynamic Development,” JICA supports the resolution of development issues in developing countries. In Sri Lanka, Japan has been providing financial and technical assistance since 1954 and is one of the largest donors to the country. On behalf of the people and the Government of Japan, JICA contributes to improve the lives of people in Sri Lanka.