

# GENESIS

MAY 2021



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# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

## **ROTARACT CLUB OF UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA**

Dear Rotaractors,

It is with great pleasure that I write these words on our very first joint bulletin between Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa and Rotaract Club of Nicosia Cyprus. Ever since the beginning of our very valuable friendship, the two clubs have worked side by side in bringing notable projects to life and I believe this joint bulletin will be a great testimony to the relationship the two clubs have.

Rotaract has changed the lives of many people around the world, including you and me. Its ability to influence people to become better people and leaders while serving the community is nothing short of inspiring. We have seen how the movement can transform the lives of many communities around the world.

Rotaract Mora as a club has always believed in the power of sustainable, high impact projects and we are delighted to see our partnership bringing life to projects that are similar. Projects catering to the educational requirements of the community have a larger meaning and an impact when they are done connecting two countries through the International Service avenue of Rotaract.

We believe the partnership between the two clubs can bring more meaningful projects in future. We hope to have a wonderful time with you in the years to come.

Thank you  
Rtr. Samila Imbulana  
PRESIDENT  
Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa





# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

## **ROTARACT CLUB OF NICOSIA**

Dear Fellow Rotaractors,

I am truly delighted and honoured, to have experienced but also to have maintained the great friendship between The Rotaract Club of Nicosia and The Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa. Despite the difficult time due to the pandemic, the two Rotaract Clubs have managed to get coordinated and maintain the Rotaract spirit overseas. Of course, this year has been the starting point and I am confident that the great work and cooperation will continue throughout our two-year Twinning Agreement!

The Rotaract Club of Nicosia, has always held a firm stance in expanding it's worldwide friendships and collaborations, and it is with great pleasure to say that these values are equally reflected in the people's dynamic of the The Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa, that is, reflecting Rotaract values in the best and utmost manner. Rotaract stands for influencing and enhancing people's leadership capabilities, equipping them with the knowledge of learning how to be active citizens and serving the community, while also becoming better people.

As for this year, it is safe to say that even-though movement was restricted to mostly digital channels of communication, due to the pandemic, we are confident that the partnership of The Rotaract Club of Nicosia and The Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa will continue to grow and expand in the years to come, and I rest assured that exciting projects, initiatives and collaborations lie ahead in the future.

Rotaractly yours,  
Rtr. Ioanna Gregoriades  
PRESIDENT  
Rotaract Club of Nicosia, 2020-2021





# EDITORIAL



The Rotaract movement initiated in 1968 and has ever been flourishing under the banner of Service Through Fellowship. Thus, Rotaract strives to create opportunities for members to not only serve the community at large but also create new friendships and extend helping hands to their brethren beyond geographical borders. It is indeed our great pleasure to pen these words for the Joint Bulletin between Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa and Rotaract Club of Nicosia, Cyprus for the Rotaract year 2020/21.

Since our Twin Club Agreement, the understanding and bond between our clubs has exponentially evolved and strengthened. It goes without saying that the journey we have embarked upon surely holds promise for many new experiences to obtain and novel opportunities to explore. Sharing similarities and celebrating differences, we have succeeded in pulling off exciting and novel ventures under the International Service Avenue despite the pandemic running amok.

So let's dive in and witness the start of a story of two twin clubs trying to do their part for the world whilst making long-lasting memories together and discovering fellowship through service. So buckle up! Be prepared for an exciting rollercoaster as you take this journey with us!

Happy Reading!

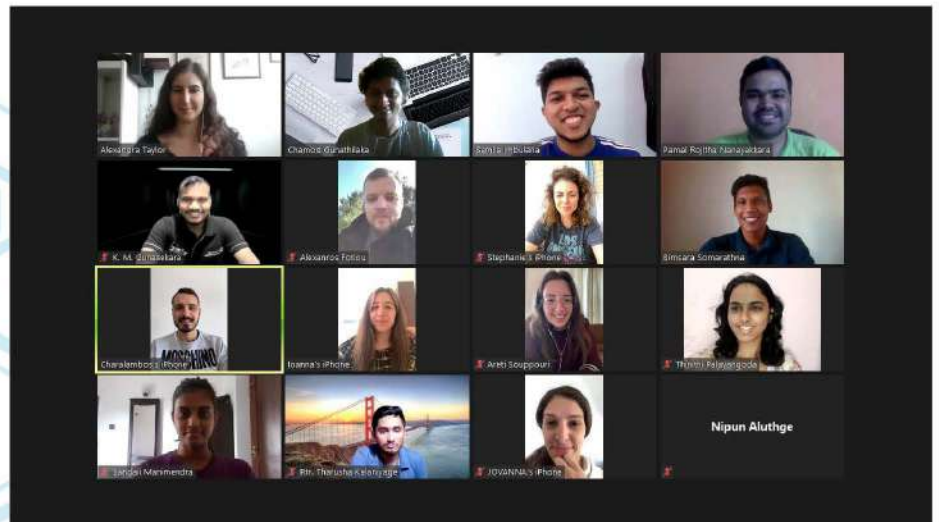
Rtr. Ishaq Ahamed  
Rtr. Kavishka Gunarathne  
Rtr. Romasha Guruge  
Rotaract Club of University  
of Moratuwa

Rtr. Areti Souppouri  
Rotaract Club of Nicosia

# FIRST JOINT MEETING AND TWIN CLUB AGREEMENT SIGNING

2021-01-01

- The first joint meeting between the Rotaract club of University of Moratuwa and Rotaract Club of Nicosia was held as an online conference via Zoom.

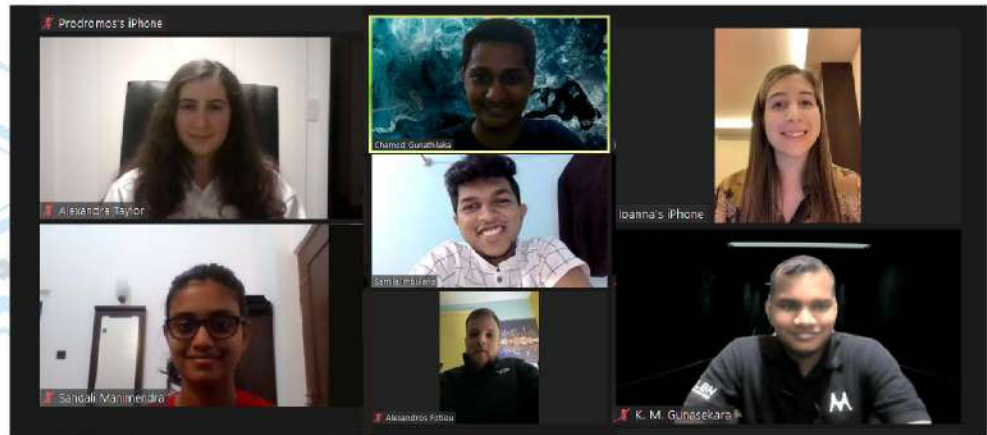


- President, Rotaract Club of Nicosia - Rtr Ioanna Gregoriades commenced the meeting by giving the welcome speech. She shared her gratitude and was glad to continue the four-year relationship between the two clubs by re-signing the twin club agreement.
- The two clubs then introduced themselves to each other and reminisced the memories of the four-year relationship between the two clubs.
- Re-signing of the twin club agreement was done next by sharing the related documents virtually and placing the signature by both the Presidents.
- The two clubs, followed by a friendly talk, discussed plans for a joint project and a cultural exchange and expressed their thoughts regarding the future of the two clubs.
- The meeting ended with a friendly discussion recalling the memories of how the two clubs have met together through one of the signature projects organized by Rotaract Mora; Ceylon Safari 2017.



# THE JOINT PROJECT

2021-03-14



- The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have caused massive changes to our daily lives, changes that have often happened rapidly and abruptly. A year after the COVID-19 pandemic has emerged, we have suddenly been forced to adapt to the 'new norm'.
- The members of both clubs came together to discuss how COVID-19 has affected their lives, their usual routine, and how they have overcome the challenges.
- To start the discussion both clubs went on with a brief explanation of how the pandemic has affected both countries, by a presentation depiction with statistics.
- The members then started discussing how the pandemic has changed their usual routine and explained the good and bad impacts, practices they learned and experienced during the lockdown.
- Physical distancing due to the COVID-19 outbreak can have drastic negative effects on mental health. Members discussed the things that we can do to look after our own mental health and to help others who may need some extra support and care.
- The meeting was successfully concluded after sharing insightful and inspiring personal stories of hope, resilience, and inspiration during this COVID-19 pandemic time.



# The Cultural Exchange Project

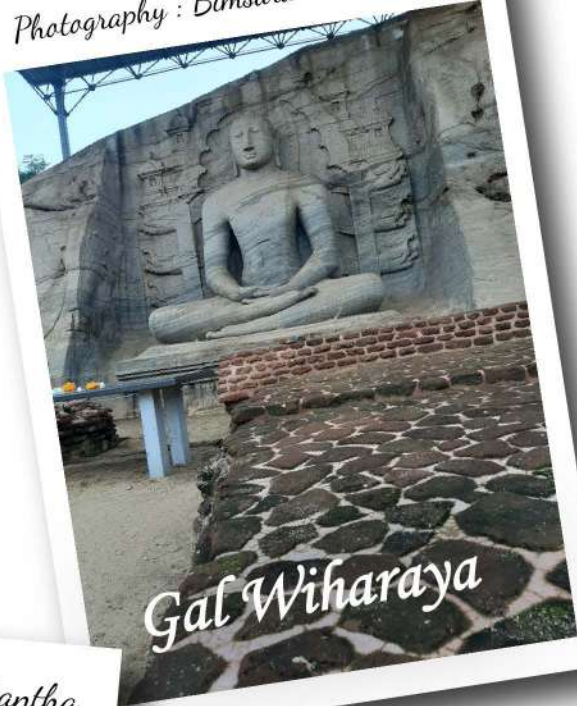
- 
- The image shows the national flags of Sri Lanka and India crossed at their flagpoles. The Sri Lankan flag, on the right, features a maroon field with a golden lion holding a sword, and a green, white, and orange horizontal stripe. The Indian flag, on the left, is white with a saffron Ashoka Lion Capital in the center and a green border. The background is a collage of images related to the 2009 military operations in Sri Lanka, including soldiers, military equipment, and the aftermath of conflict.





# Cultural Sights in Sri Lanka

Photography : Bimsara Somarathna



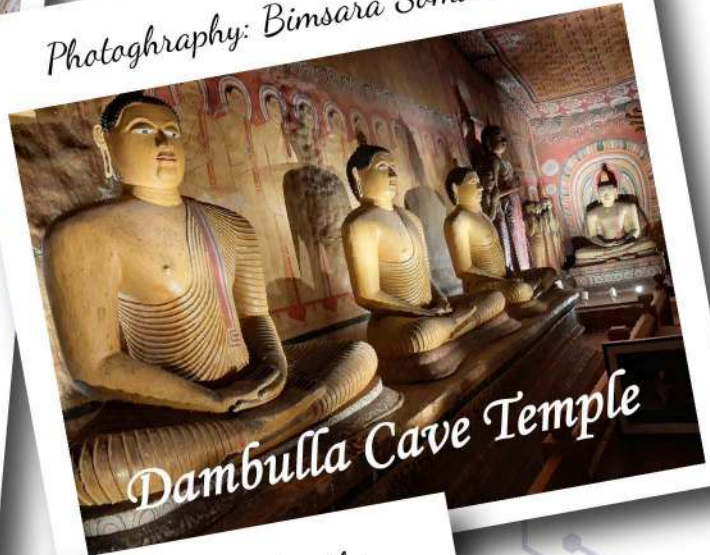
Gal Wiharaya

Photography : Chamod Gihantha



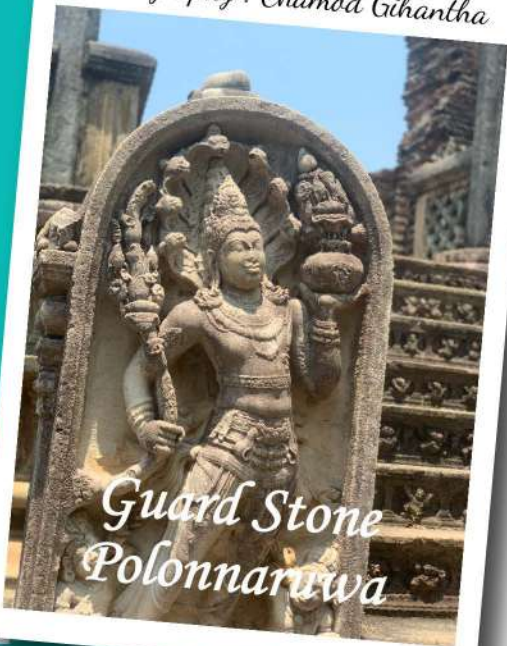
St. Mary's Church

Photography: Bimsara Somarathna



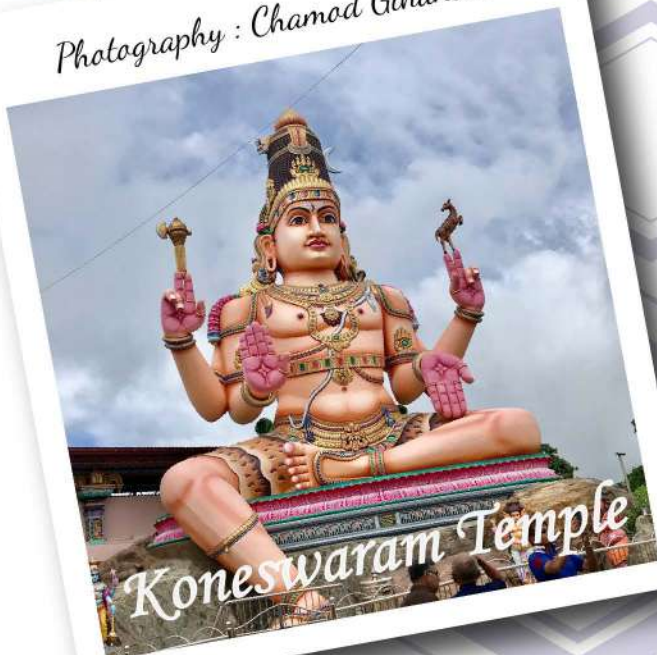
Dambulla Cave Temple

Photography : Chamod Gihantha



Guard Stone  
Polonnaruwa

Photography : Chamod Gihantha

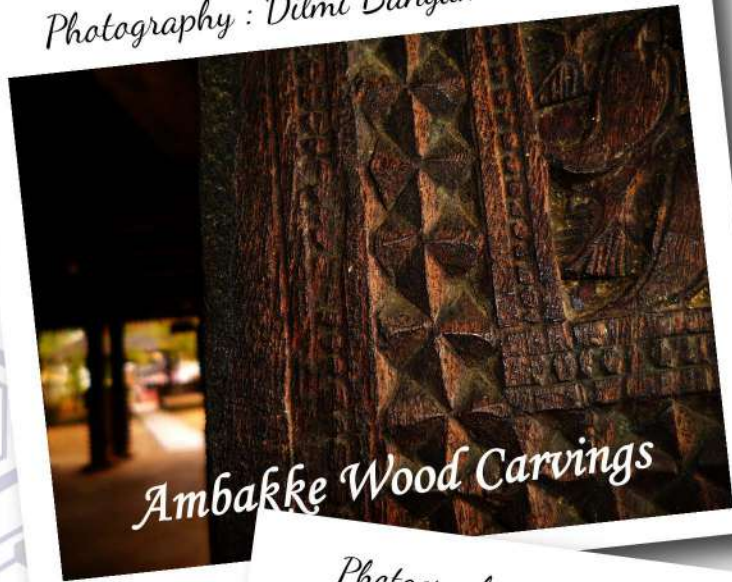


Koneswaram Temple



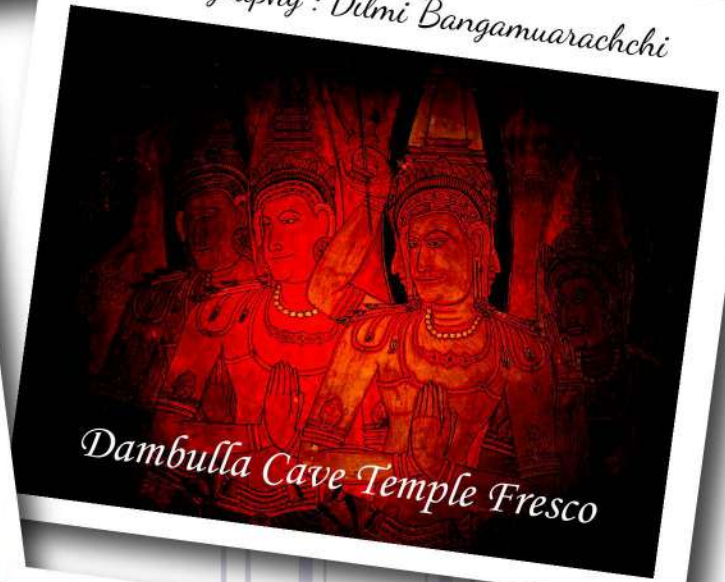
# Cultural Sights in Sri Lanka

Photography : Dilmi Bangamuarachchi



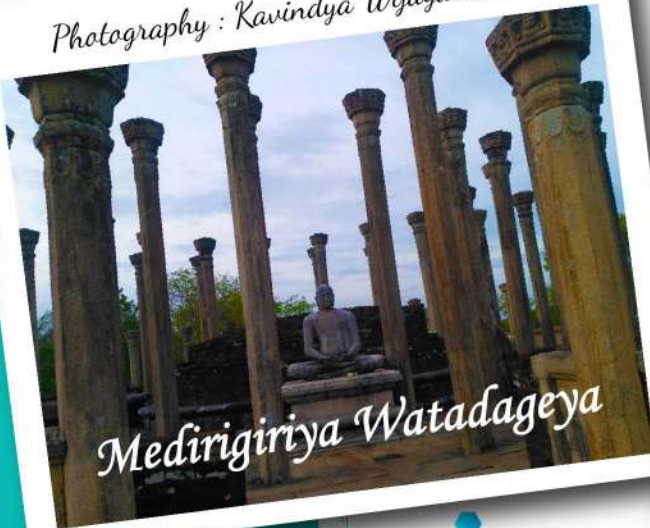
Ambakke Wood Carvings

Photography : Dilmi Bangamuarachchi



Dambulla Cave Temple Fresco

Photography : Kavindya Wijayarathna



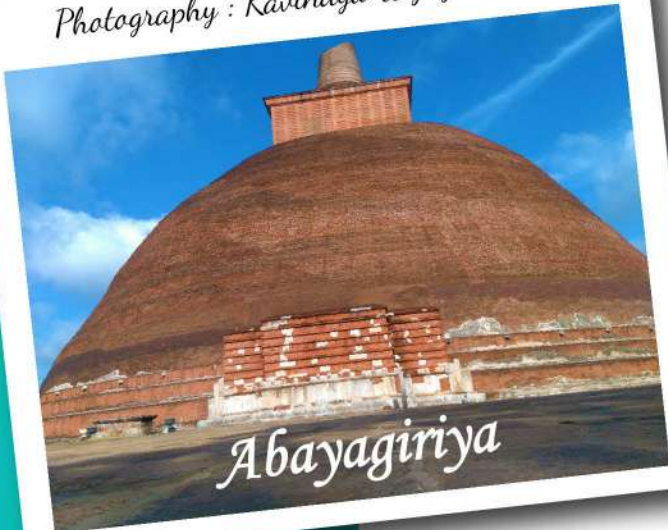
Medirigiriya Watadageya

Photography : Kavindya Wijayarathna



Thuparama Seya

Photography : Kavindya Wijayarathna

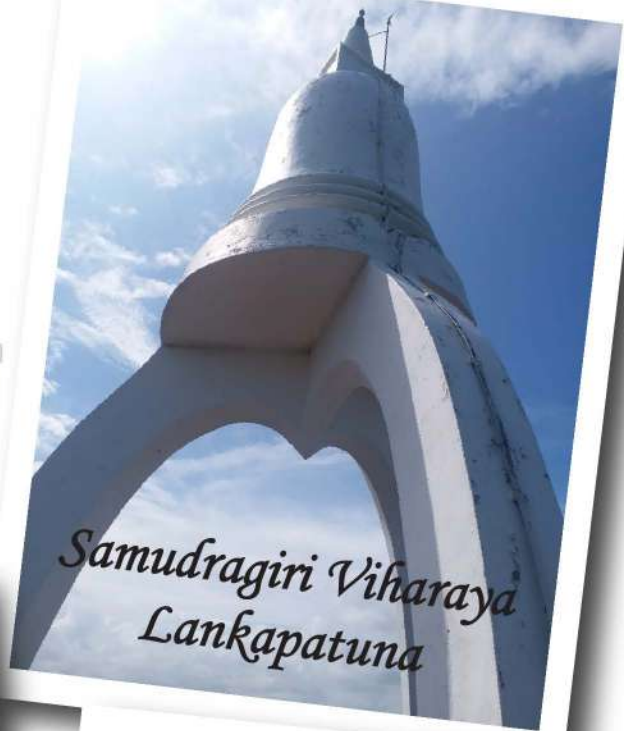


Abayagiriya



# Cultural Sights in Sri Lanka

Photography : Nethma Mettananda



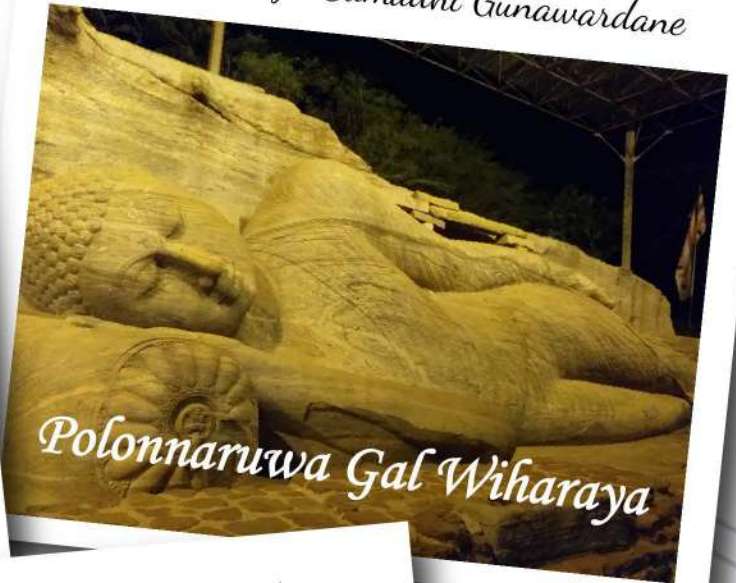
*Samudragiri Viharaya  
Lankapatuna*

Photography : Samadhi Gunawardane



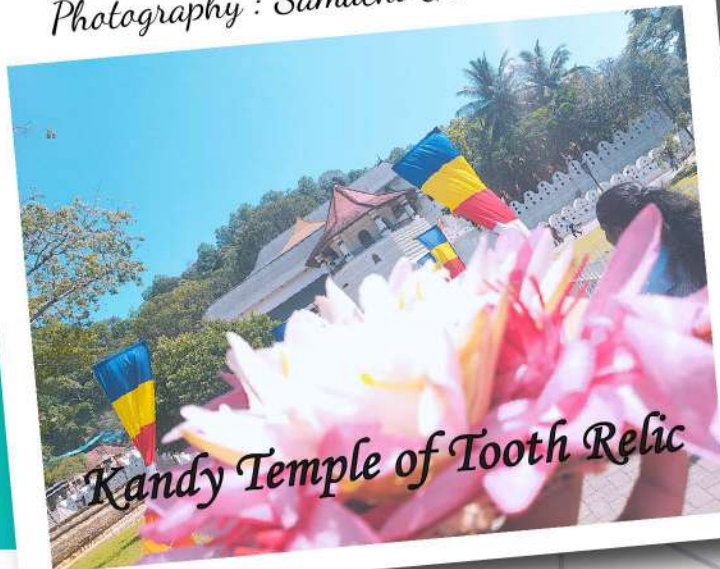
*Nelligala International  
Buddhist Center*

Photography : Samadhi Gunawardane



*Polonnaruwa Gal Wiharaya*

Photography : Samadhi Gunawardane

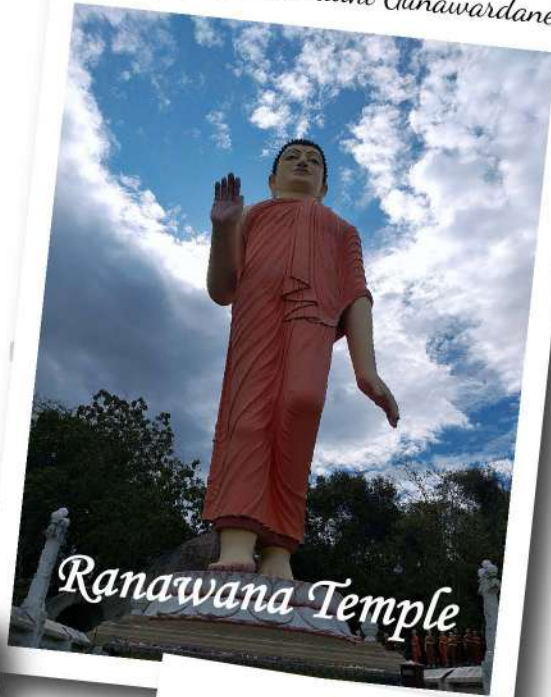


*Kandy Temple of Tooth Relic*



# Cultural Sights in Sri Lanka

Photography : Samadhi Gunawardane



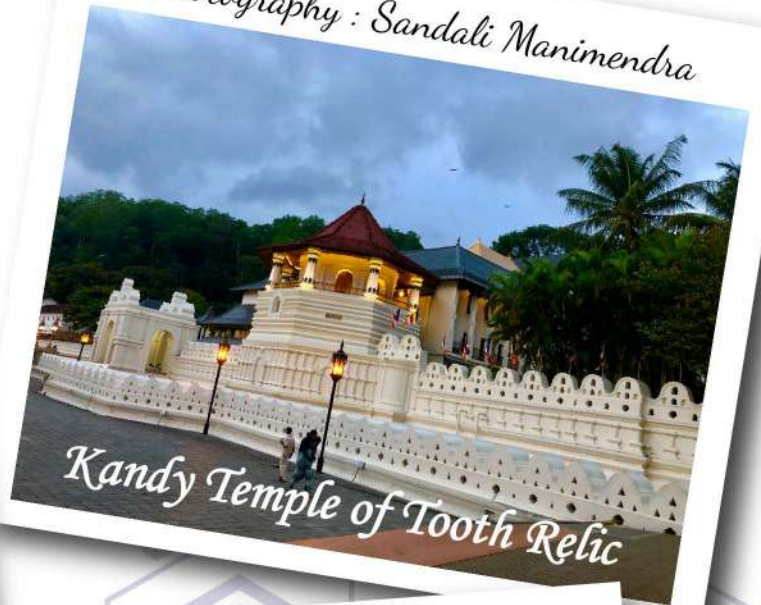
*Ranawana Temple*

Photography : Sandali Manimendra



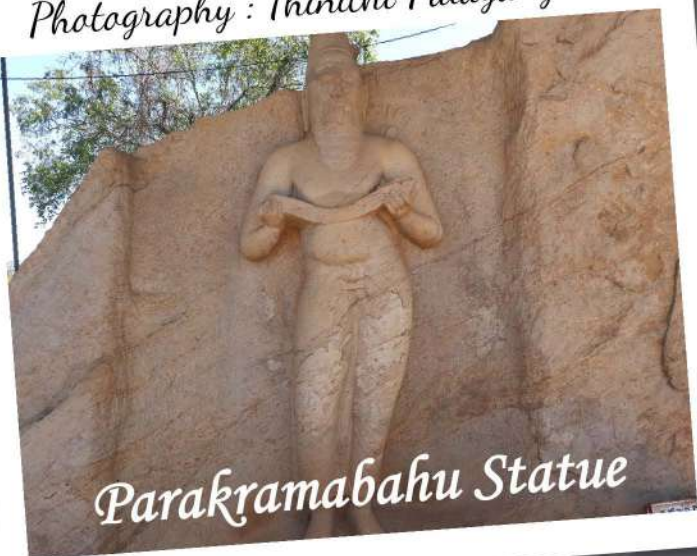
*Mihintale*

Photography : Sandali Manimendra



*Kandy Temple of Tooth Relic*

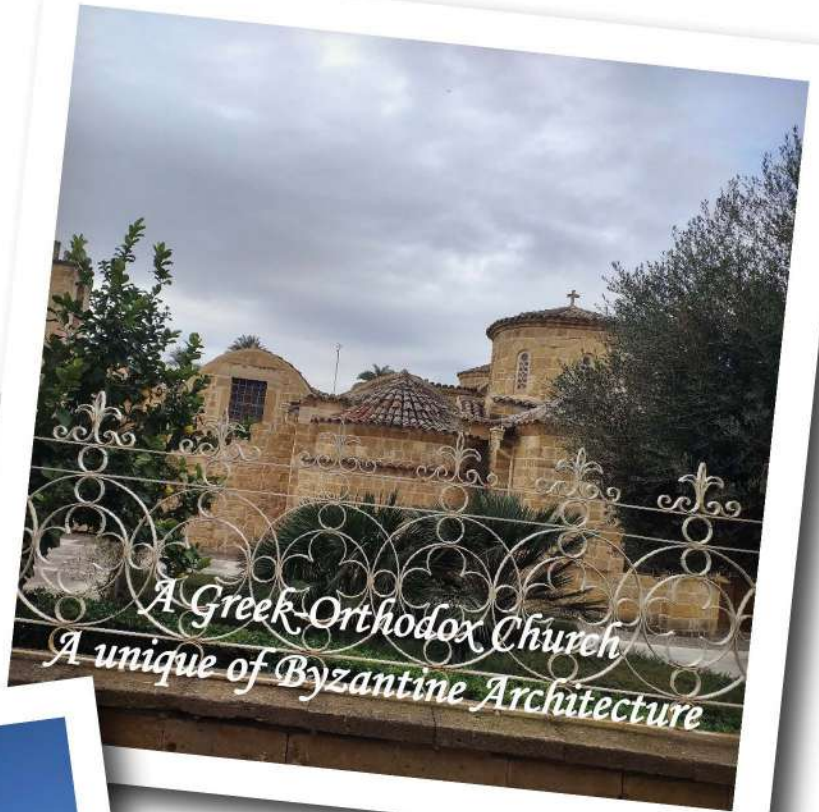
Photography : Thinithi Palayangoda



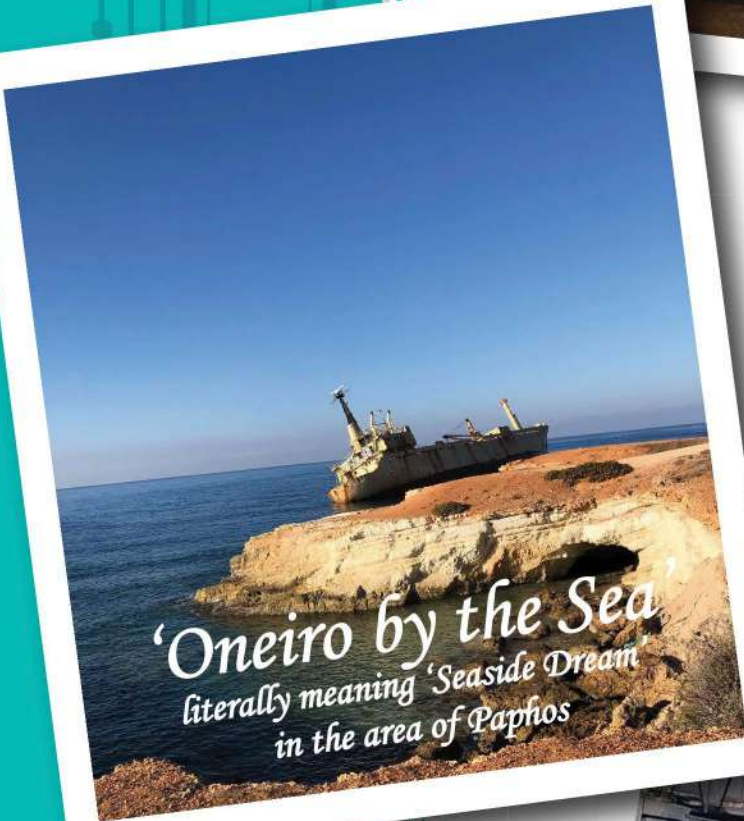
*Parakramabahu Statue*



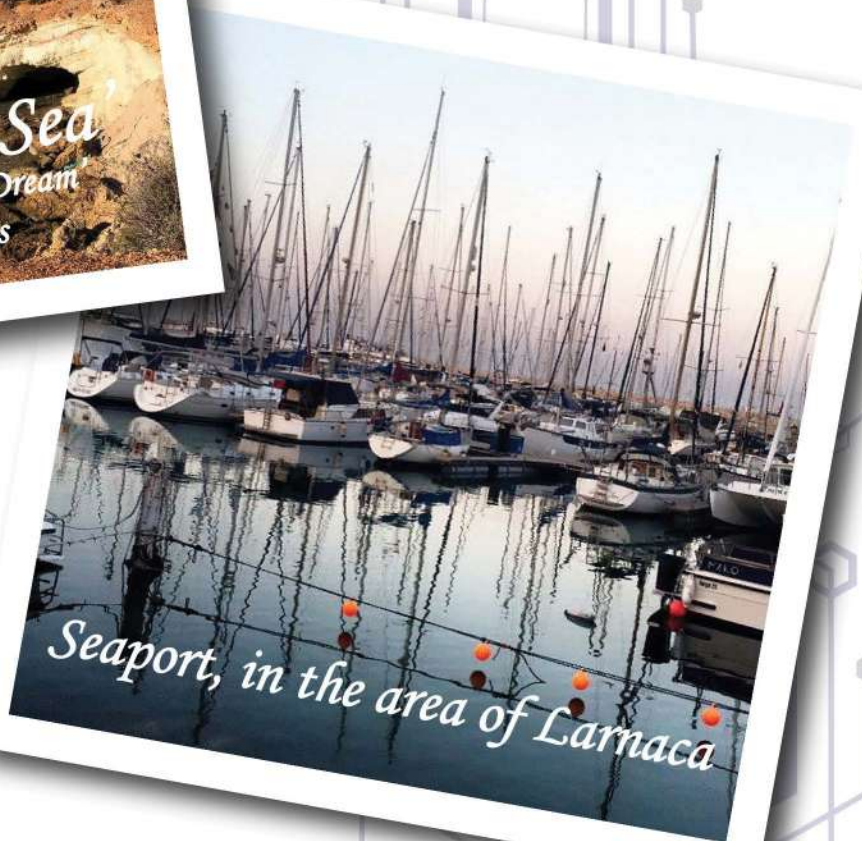
# Cultural Sights in Cyprus



*A Greek Orthodox Church  
A unique of Byzantine Architecture*



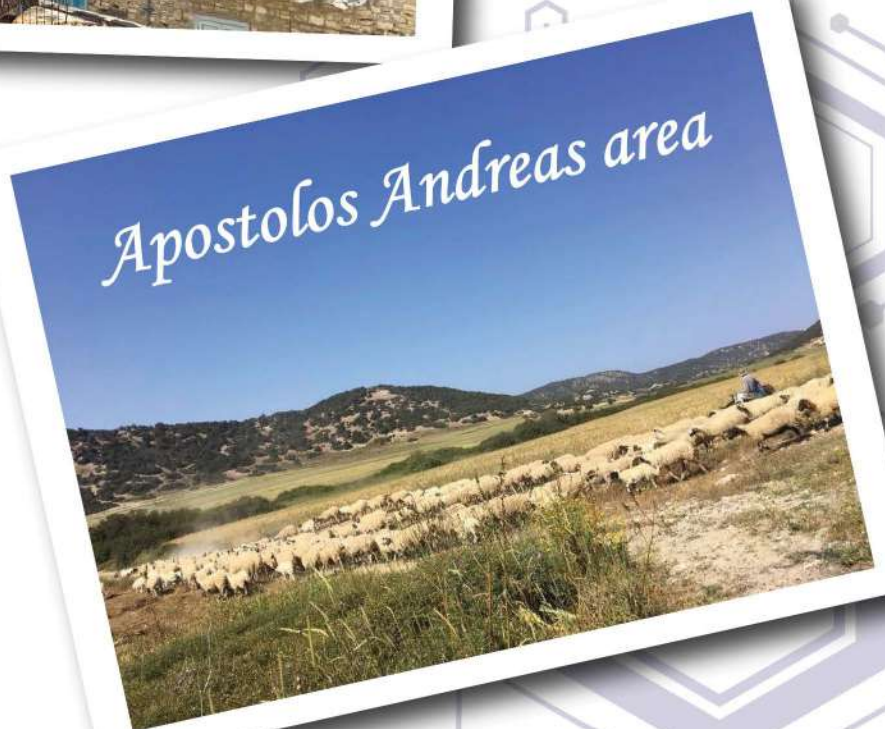
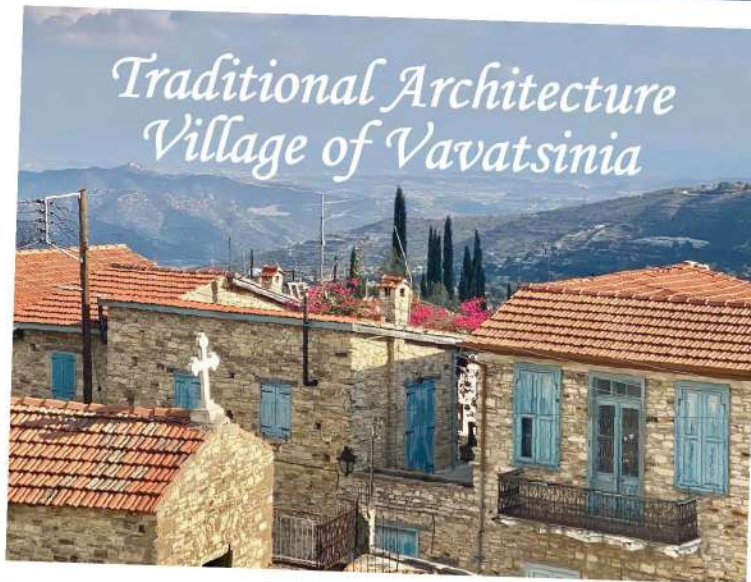
*'Oneiro by the Sea'  
literally meaning 'Seaside Dream'  
in the area of Paphos*



*Seaport, in the area of Larnaca*



# Cultural Sights in Cyprus





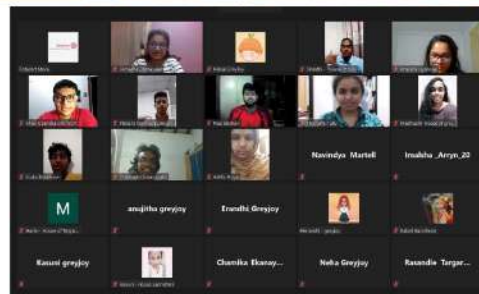
# SIGNATURE PROJECTS

Rotaract Club of  
University of Moratuwa



## SRI LANKA MODEL UNITED NATIONS

3<sup>RD</sup> OF APRIL 2021

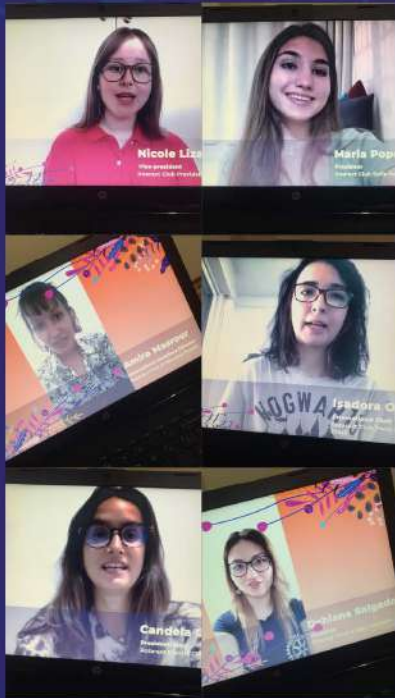


- The idea of the Sri Lanka Rotaract Model United Nations Conference was born after the successful completion of projects "Colloquy", "Covenant", and "RMMUN conference", which is the first-ever MUN Conference hosted by a University-based Rotaract club.
- The conference was held via Zoom, with over 35 delegates taking part under 3 committees.
  - United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
  - United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
  - Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM) or the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee (GA3)
- The goal was to provide a forum for young people to express their opinions and promote productive conversation to find a viable solution to complex international issues.
- Ultimately, through SLRMUN, we were able to successfully mould our delegates into caring and insightful young leaders who will lead Sri Lanka into a brighter future.



# SIGNATURE PROJECTS

Rotaract Club of  
University of Moratuwa



## UNITED HYPE

1<sup>ST</sup> OF MAY 2021

United Hype: Rotaract Interact International Youth Conference was initiated intending to bring young Interactors and Rotractors around the world to one exceptional stage to share their cultures, bringings, and their services towards society.

The project was conducted in collaboration with the Interact Club of Nalanda College, Colombo which proved to be a great partnership throughout the project.

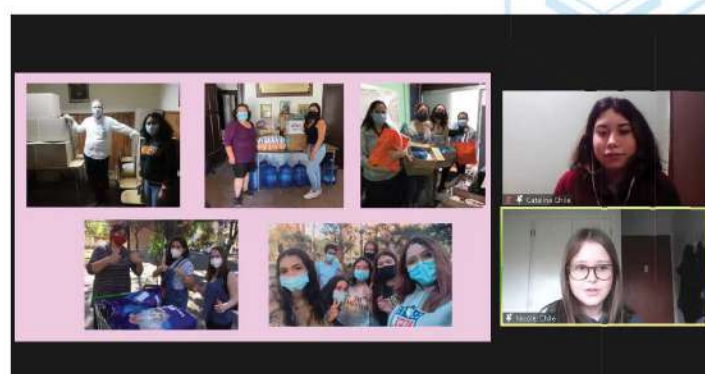
- 11 Rotaract and Interact Clubs from 9 countries across the globe joined with United Hype to bring out their voices and share their stories.
- Rotaract Club of Pune Pristine ( Pune - India)  
Rtr. Shantanu Arvindekar - President  
Rtr. Samrudhi Lokhande - International Services Director
- Rotaract e-club of Revolutionaries ( New Delhi - India)  
Rtr. Akash Gera - President
- Interact Club of Providencia ( Chile )  
Catalina Pereira  
Nicole Lizana Wilson
- Rotaract Tuluá El Lago (Colombia)  
Rtr. Dahiana Porras Salgado  
Rtr. Alvaro Javier Londoño  
Rtr. Diana Navia Acosta  
Rtr. Santiago Padilla
- Rotaract Club Plovdiv (Bulgaria)  
Anna Atanasova  
Chavdar Todorov  
Radostina Emilova



- Interact Club Sofia - Center (Bulgaria)  
Maria Popova
- Rotaract Club of Kingston- Canada  
Mustafa Ansari  
Jenna Smallegange
- Rotaract Club of Clark International University - Uganda  
Odongo Joshua  
Nyachwo Leah Lucky
- Rotaract Club Porto Alegre Sao Joao - Brazil  
Augusto Rocha  
Isadora Oliveira  
Mathias Gheno  
Victor Sbardelotto  
Ana Letícia
- Rotaract District 2201 Spain  
Candela González Medina
- Rotaract Club Mourouj - Tunisia  
Amira Masrour



- The project consisted of two main activities: a video submission competition and the main conference in the end.
- In the video submission round, the clubs were tasked to share a video clip that highlighted the beauty and culture of their country and ensued a voting round via Facebook to choose the most popular video of them all. According to the votes, Bulgaria won the challenge.
- The main conference commenced on the 1st of May 2021, which successfully marked its end with numerous fun activities and mini-game sessions.





# SIGNATURE PROJECTS

Rotaract Club of  
Nicosia Cyprus

## ROTARACT CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN IN RESPONSE TO THE EXPLOSION IN BEIRUT

*Beirut* **STAY STRONG**



- On August 4, 2020, filling thousands of people with grief and shock, a massive explosion took place at Beirut's port, Lebanon.
- With the incident Beirut was crashed in a matter of seconds leaving loved ones under the ruins, people hurt, homes destroyed and leaving 30,000 people homeless.
- In association with the Rotaract District 2452, Rotaract Club of Nicosia Cyprus took part in a crowdfunding campaign counting on its members and friends generosity. Almost a total of €27,000 was raised to help Beirut families rebuilt their houses and their lives.



# SIGNATURE PROJECTS

Rotaract Club of  
Nicosia Cyprus

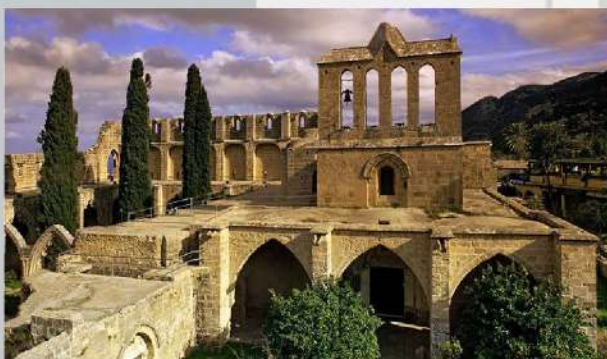
## A WARM CHRISTMAS MEAL (CHRISTMAS INITIATIVE)



- Rotaract Club of Nicosia and Rotaract Club of Lefkothea joined forces to support Rotary Nicosia's effort, in collaboration with the Nicosia Municipality Multifunctional Foundation, aiming to raise money for supplying warm Christmas Meals to Families in need, during the Christmas Holidays in 2020.
- The two Rotaract Clubs, via their social media campaign, managed to raise a total of €1,820 while the total amount that was raised by the collaboration of the three clubs, Rotary Club of Nicosia, Rotaract Club of Nicosia and Rotaract Club of Lefkothea was a total of over €4,000.
- This amount was an impactful contribution to Rotary Nicosia's efforts, for feeding a total of 42 Families on Christmas Eve 2020. The Christmas Meal baskets were filled with food supplies, such as pasta and juice, toys and supermarket gift vouchers. The baskets were delivered to the Nicosia Municipality Multifunctional Foundation in the presence of the Mayor of Nicosia.







## “The Beauty of the World Lies in the Diversity of its People”

The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, which is commemorated on May 21st, embraces not only the richness of the world's cultures but also the critical role of intercultural communication in achieving peace and sustainable growth in a country. ([www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org), 2020)

Cyprus and Sri Lanka both being renowned islands in the world, both known for their attributes of surreal natural beauty and rich cultures. Cyprus is an island in the eastern Mediterranean Sea while Sri Lanka is located in the Indian Ocean.

Cyprus and Sri Lanka own an abundant cultural heritage and they are becoming increasingly popular with travelers, and tourists. The fusion of cultures, traditions and natural beauty has moulded these countries into intriguing places to visit. Art and crafts, architecture, sculptures, and especially food frequently reflect the cultures of these exquisite islands. The Cypriot way of life is very simple and filled with happiness while Sri Lanka also appreciates ecstasy, hospitality and humility at its best.

That is why Cyprus and Sri Lanka are countries that best suits UNESCO's adoption of the 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, recognizing the need to “enhance the potential of culture as a means of achieving prosperity, sustainable development and global peaceful coexistence.”

COMMEMORATING  
WORLD DAY FOR  
CULTURAL DIVERSITY





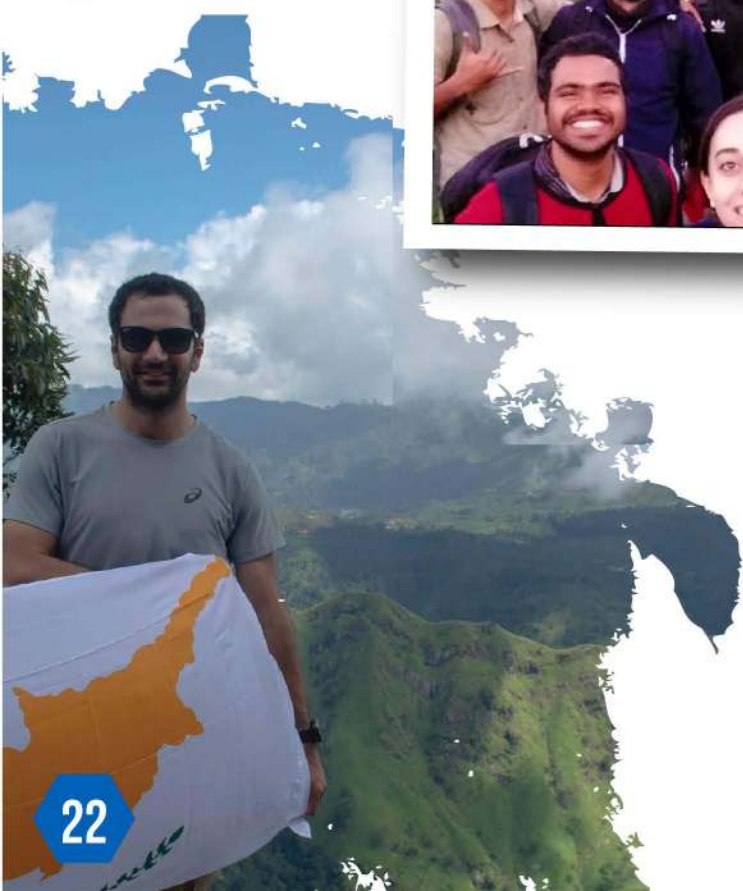
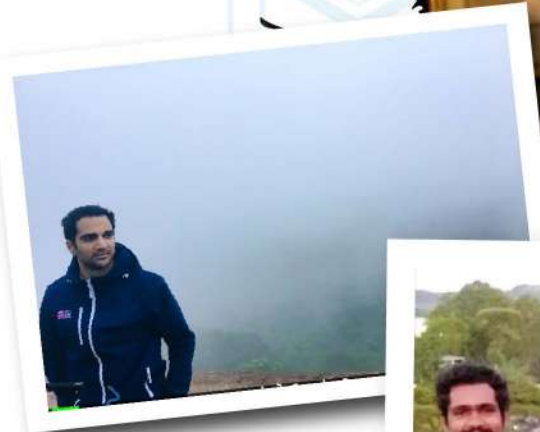
## OUR MEMORIES

*Rtr. Harry Charalambous  
from Rotaract Club of Nicosia participated in  
Ceylon Safari 2017 organised by Rotaract Club  
of University of Moratuwa.*





## OUR MEMORIES



*Rtr. Constantinos Kotsios  
from Rotaract Club of Nicosia participated in  
Ceylon Safari 2018 organised by Rotaract Club  
of University of Moratuwa.*



# OUR TEAM



**Rtr. Ioanna Gregoriades**  
President 2020/2021  
Rotaract Club of Nicosia



**Rtr. Samila Imbulana**  
President 2020/2021  
Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa



**Rtr. Areti Souppouri**  
Secretary 2020/2021  
Rotaract Club of Nicosia



**Rtr. Leesha Samadhi**  
Secretary 2020/2021  
Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa



**Rtr. Jeannie Kyprianou**  
Past President  
Rotaract Club of Nicosia



**Rtr. Pamal Rajitha**  
Vice-President International Service Avenue 2020/2021  
Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa



**Rtr. Prodromos Epifaniou**  
Vice President 2020/2021  
Rotaract Club of Nicosia





**Rtr. Bimsara Somarathna**

International Service Co-Director 2020/2021  
Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa



**Rtr. Chamod Gihantha**

International Service Co-Director 2020/2021  
Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa



**Rtr. Alexandros Fotiou**

Treasurer 2020/2021  
Rotaract Club of Nicosia



**Rtr. Kavindya Wijayarathna**

Chairperson/ Designer  
Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa



**Rtr. Sandali Pamoda Manimendra**

Chairperson/ Writer  
Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa



**Rtr. Samadhi Gunawardane**

Chairperson/ Writer  
Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa



**Rtr. Upeksha Erandi**

Designer  
Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa



