

History of World Environment Day

World Environment Day is an annual event that aims at being the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. Each day is an environmental day but particularly United Nations marked every year June 5th as World Environment Day to influence everyone to think about the environment that they live and protect it.

World Environment Day celebration began in 1972 and has become main vehicles through which the UN worldwide awareness of the environment and encourages political attention and action. Every year around 100 countries celebrate world environment day including Sri Lanka.

Each year, Sri Lanka celebrates world environment day according to United Nations themes. There have been different themes related to environment depending on the time period and this year (2016) the theme is **“join the race to make the world a better place.”**



Climate change is a burning phenomenon in the world. Though people talked about global warming a long time back, now only they actually experience it. So, it is the perfect time to talk about environmental friendly behaviours by taking actions to make the world a better place. Few decades ago, Sri Lanka's forest cover was more than 30% excluding forest plantations and home gardening. Now the forest cover is around 29% including forest plantations and home gardening. Climate change is real. Sri Lankans started to feel climate change. Rain patterns, weather patterns, everything has changed. So, it is time for us to also look back and change. That change should be a positive change. Changes should make the world a better place, a greener place, a cleaner place. As a result, this year, Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ) also aims to bring changes in people's life in Thanamalwila DS division while inviting them to join our race to make this world a better place.

People would wonder when we ask them to change and follow environmental friendly behaviours but actually it could make a huge difference. Once UN Secretary, General Ban Ki-Moon said that "Although individual decisions may seem small in the face of global threats and trends, when billions of people join forces in common purpose, we can make a tremendous difference."