



Project Newsletter FOUR

WORLD WATER DAY

POWERED BY YOUTH, INSPIRED BY WATER



Date: 24th March 2025
Location: Board Room, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo

Objective: To commemorate World Water Day 2025 under the theme of glacial preservation aligning with the international agenda for water conservation, preservation, and protection while collaborating with national agencies of National Environmental Pioneer Forum, Central Environmental Authority (CEA), Sri Lanka & UN waters by the United Nations.

Our Partnership: To make this event successful, the programme was a partnership among five collaborators.

Introduction: Water is the essence of life, shaping our environment, communities, and future. As the world faces growing challenges related to water conservation and sustainability, it is essential to raise awareness and take action to protect this invaluable resource. Recognizing this urgency, the Young Geographers Association, in collaboration with the National Educational Pioneer Forum under the Central Environmental Authority of Sri Lanka, proudly organized a special initiative to commemorate World Water Day 2025.

This event served as a platform to highlight the critical role of water in our ecosystems, the impact of climate change on water resources, and the importance of responsible water management. By engaging students, educators, and environmental advocates, the project aimed to inspire meaningful discussions and proactive measures toward a water-secure future. Commemorating World Water Day not only fosters awareness but also reinforces our collective responsibility to safeguard water for generations to come.



National Environmental Pioneer Programme is an Environment Education & Awareness programme conducted by the CEA with the co-operation of the Ministry of Education since 1984.



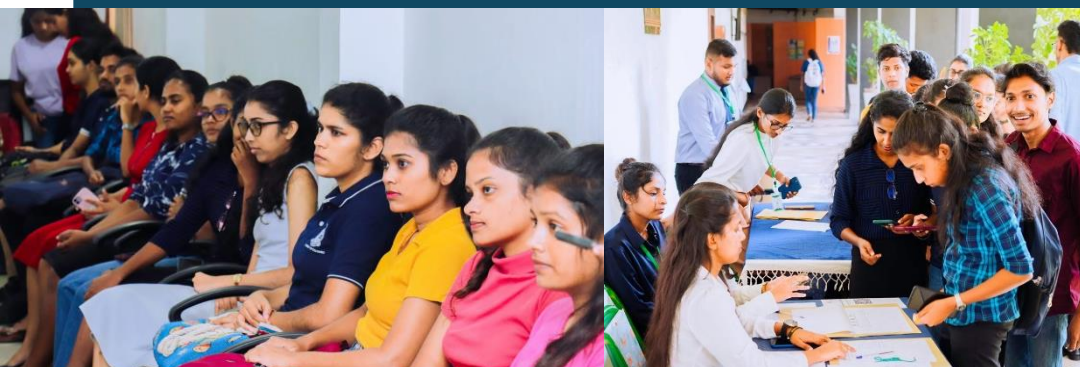
The Central Environmental Authority (CEA) was established in August 1981 under the provision of the National Environmental Act No:47 of 1980.



The Young Geographers Society was established in 2023 and attached to the Department of Geography, University of Colombo.



The Department of Geography at the University of Ceylon in Colombo in 1942.



UN-Water coordinates the UN's work on water and sanitation, and in Sri Lanka, UN agencies like UNDP, FAO, and UN-Habitat focus on improving water access, sanitation, and sustainable water management, especially for vulnerable populations.

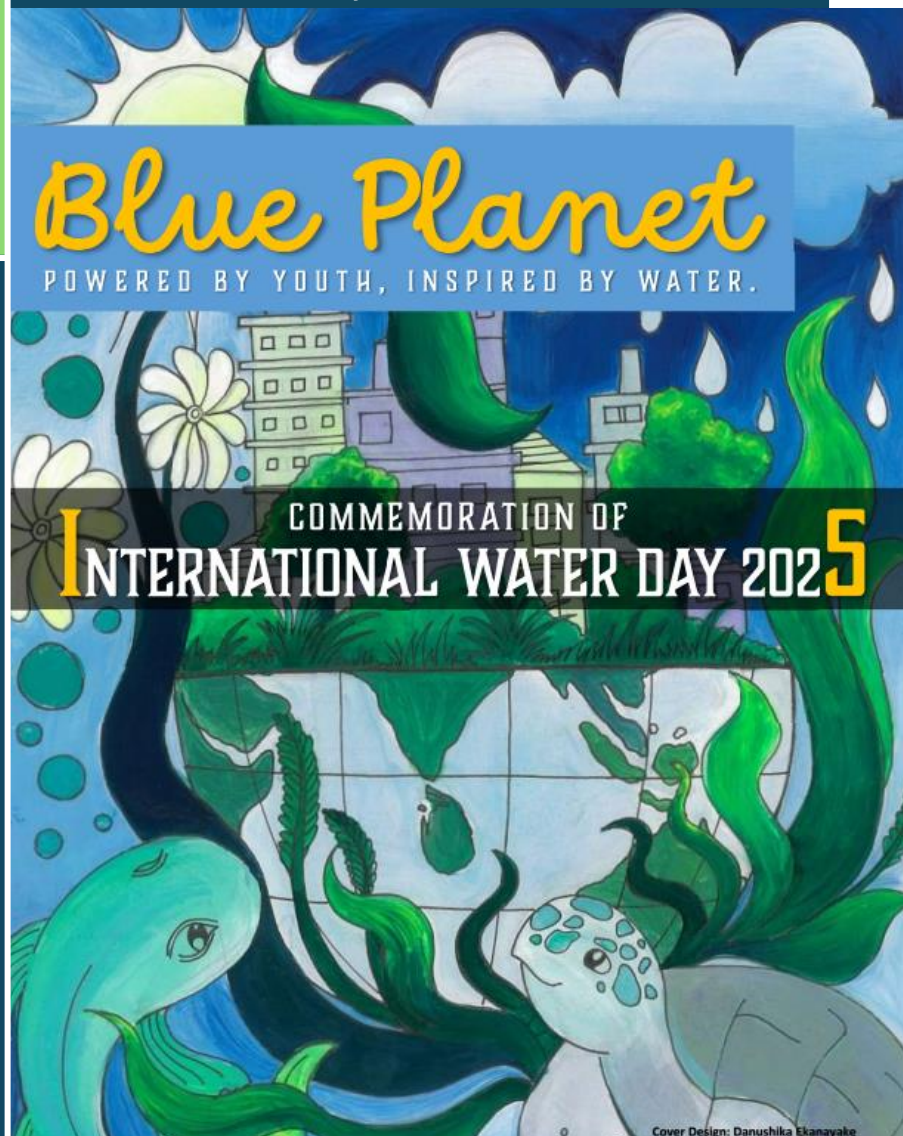


Panel Discussion: As part of the World Water Day 2025 celebrations, a thought-provoking panel discussion was held under the theme "Water for the Future: Conservation, Sustainability, and Resilience." This session brought together experts, academics, and environmental advocates to explore critical issues surrounding water security and the steps needed to ensure a sustainable future. The panel featured distinguished speakers:

- **Dr Ajith Gunawardena**, Director of Environmental Education, Central Environmental Authority (CEA)
- **Dr Lal Mutuwatta**, Deputy Country Manager, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- **Professor Lalith Rajapakse**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
- **Dr Ayomi Witharana**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Zoology and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo

"Water is the heartbeat of our planet, sustaining all life and shaping our future. To protect it is to safeguard humanity's well-being, resilience, and prosperity. Every drop we save today is a gift to the generations of tomorrow"

E-magazine: A key highlight of the World Water Day 2025 celebrations was the official launch of "**Blue Planet**," an e-magazine dedicated to exploring the significance of water conservation and sustainability. Created by students, this publication serves as a platform for young voices to share their insights, research, and creativity on the critical role of water in our lives. The magazine features a diverse collection of articles, essays, and visual content, all centred around themes such as water conservation strategies, the impact of climate change on water resources, and innovative solutions for a sustainable future. Through a space for an environmental dialogue, "Blue Planet" not only raises awareness but also empowers future generations to take action.





The Designer: The cover page of "Blue Planet" was beautifully designed by Dhanushika Ekanayake, a talented third-year student and the Secretary of the Young Geographers Association. Her artwork creatively captures the essence of water conservation, reflecting the magazine's core message of sustainability and resilience. Her design serves as a powerful visual reminder of our shared responsibility to protect this vital resource for future generations.

Success Story: The success of the World Water Day 2025 event was evident in the engaging and impactful panel discussion. The conversation, which focused on the pressing issues of climate change, water conservation policies in Sri Lanka, and the challenges of sustainable water management, resonated deeply with the audience. The panellists emphasized the critical need for collaboration across sectors, the importance of community engagement, and the role of raising awareness among both authorities and local communities. By highlighting these key points, the discussion underscored that lasting solutions to water scarcity and conservation can only be achieved through collective action and shared responsibility. This event not only sparked important dialogues but also inspired everyone involved to take proactive steps towards ensuring a sustainable water future.



The Story Continues: This event is set to continue annually, with the "Blue Planet" e-magazine being launched as an annual publication in collaboration with the Central Environmental Authority. The initiative aims to expand each year, providing a larger platform for students to contribute their ideas and research on water conservation. As a token of appreciation, all participating students were awarded certificates, with special certificates given to those who contributed articles for the magazine. Looking ahead, the goal for next year is to open the initiative to students from other universities across Sri Lanka, with plans to launch it on a national scale, encouraging even broader participation and engagement in water conservation and sustainable management of water resources.

