



AdoptSriLanka TWINS Program

Mission Statement

To develop sustainable relationships between Sri Lankan and overseas schools stimulating cultural awareness, educational and sporting development.

ASL Twins Vision

- Promoting global and cultural understanding and awareness
- Recognising and respecting all cultural, ethnic and religious differences
- Engaging and working with local communities
- Discouraging a culture of dependency
- Encouraging mutual benefits for all through long term friendship

Objectives

- Cultural and educational exchange through global links
- Child participation through sport and arts events
- The development of rural under-resourced schools through financial assistance



Background

The ASL TWINS Program was set up in January 2005 in direct response to the 2005 Asian tsunami from which 182 schools in Sri Lanka were damaged and a total of 200,000 children were affected. By linking schools in Sri Lanka with schools overseas, ASL TWINS enabled financial assistance to reach schools at a time when it was most needed as well as establishing long-term educational links for the future.

The response has been phenomenal and we now have had over 200 schools benefit from this long-term program. Having been on the ground in Sri Lanka for approximately three years, we have evolved from relying on volunteer support to employing a full-time team of skilled local and overseas staff.

The program has developed to match the changing needs of a post-disaster environment. Our work has extended further inland, identifying poorly resourced rural schools that would really benefit from a helping hand and linking them with an overseas school.

The Role of a Field Officer

ASL employs four local Field Officers. Each Field Officer manages the school link for around 20 schools. The role of the Field Officer includes:

- Visiting the Sri Lankan school on a regular basis
- Communicating regularly with the overseas twin school
- Supporting teaching staff to develop meaningful educational projects to be exchanged with their Twin school
- Conducting needs assessments of schools and utilising any available funds to develop the school
- Coordinating inter-school events that aim to increase child participation



Cultural and Educational Exchange

Our Field Officers work hard to develop educational and cultural exchange and build strong partnerships between Sri Lankan schools and their TWIN schools around the world. We are constantly re-evaluating this aspect of the program to ensure that it remains manageable and meaningful for both schools. Letters, photos and collaborative educational projects focusing on key topic areas have been exchanged between schools.

Our aim is to support English language learning in Sri Lankan schools through educational project exchange where students will have an increased global awareness and cultural understanding. Many teachers, parents and pupils have come to Sri Lanka to visit their TWIN school. Many schools have brought teams of students to spend extended time at their TWIN school to do hands-on projects and English language activities. By creating equitable TWINS partnerships all students and staff involved benefit in many ways.

Child participation through TWINS Events

ASL TWINS is committed to running events for students to support their personal development and develop their sports, arts and creative talents. To date ASL TWINS has organised:

- Southern Province Debating Tournament for Provincial Schools
- Debating Workshops
- Musical Events and Arts Workshops
- Inter-School Cricket Tournament in Galle zone
- Cricket Coaching for schools in the Galle, Matara and Tangalle zones
- An Inter-school Art competition in the Tangalle and Weligama districts
- Creative Writing Competitions in the Galle zone
- 'Young Journalists' initiative



Development of Rural Schools through Financial Assistance

On occasions overseas schools on the Program may hold fundraising activities to support their Sri Lankan TWIN School. ASL's policy is that these funds are to be used to directly benefit children's education.

Some recent highlights in TWINS Schools include:

- Developed 16 English Activity Rooms
- Equipped a further 17 English Activity Rooms with new resources
- Constructed 4 School Libraries
- Equipped 41 School Libraries with new books
- Constructed 4 new classroom buildings
- Structural improvements to 28 classrooms
- Installed Security Grilling to 9 School Buildings
- Improved the Water and Sanitation of 15 schools
- Enabled 8 schools to travel on Educational Tours
- Equipped 36 classrooms with new teaching resources and furniture
- Fully equipped 3 School Science Labs
- Purchased Sports equipment for 22 schools
- Equipped 12 Schools with new Musical instruments for school bands
- Purchased Dance, Sports or Swimming Uniforms for 8 schools
- Equipped 6 School Bands with new costumes
- Fitted out 10 school computer labs with new computers
- Connected 10 schools to electricity
- Connected 2 schools to the mains water line
- Fully equipped 10 Home Science rooms with equipment
- Provided 6 schools with Agriculture Equipment



ASL TWINS Skills Development for Teachers

The ASL TWINS Program is now also focusing on developing the skills and confidence of Sri Lankan teachers. This ensures the sustainability of our program while improving the quality of education in Sri Lankan schools.



TWINS skills development opportunities for teachers include:

- The introduction of the TWINS English Activity Handbook for Teachers
- Skills development workshops for English teachers
- Linking teachers from abroad to teaching mentoring placements in Sri Lanka
- Encouraging information and lesson plan exchanges between teachers
- Linking teachers to funding opportunities for teacher exchanges between Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom

Summary

ASL TWINS is an innovative twinning program that provides schools in Sri Lanka and abroad with the unique opportunity to add a global dimension to their curriculum. The program focuses on developing equitable partnerships between TWIN schools. Sri Lankan students also benefit through the enhancement of facilities and resources as well as improvements to the standard of teaching through various skills development and information sharing opportunities for teachers.

Want more information?

Visit www.adoptsrilanka.com for further information about the TWINS program. You can also download these useful support documents:

- TWINS Partnership Agreement Guide
- TWINS Newsletter
- TWINS Project Plans
- Schools Expression of Interest Form

How do we get involved?

Schools can express their interest in the ASL TWINS program by emailing adoptssrilanka@gmail.com