

SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION BERLIN E.V.



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A PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION BERLIN FOR THE SECOND TIME AT THE LARGEST CULTURAL PARADE IN EUROPE, CARNIVAL OF CULTURES BERLIN

The Sri Lanka Association Berlin e.V was successful by winning the award for the second time after 2012, at this largest cultural festive parade of Europe, the Carnival of Cultures (Karnival der Kulturen), with over 5000 artistes and participants in the most exotic and colourful costumes from nearly 100 countries, earning much honour, pride and recognition for Sri Lanka.

“Karnival der Kulturen” is one of the significant and spectacular cultural events in Europe with number of dance and musical groups participating from all around the world. On these four days of celebration, the streets of Berlin is converted to a mega-stage where not only the 5300 official participants present their performances, but the over a million spectators enjoy by dancing and singing in celebrating the manifold cultures of the world. The Parade of Floats in conclusion is the highlight of the festival where the best three presentations are awarded as winners by a high ranking Jury of the organisers.

The Sri Lankan contingent consisting of Singhalese, Tamils, Muslims, and Burghers, led by the “Berlin Sri-Dance Troupe” with an excellent performance in colourful costumes were able to fascinate the spectators of over 750,000 visiting the parade. The entourage of the Sri Lanka Association Berlin received much praise and was fascinated by the costume of the Peacock design, adorned by the main dance group, the Youth Dance Troupe dressed as farmers, a children’s group as Tea Pluckers, an almost true-to-life replica of Elephants with Mahouts followed by the community clad in typical Sri Lankan dresses.

The motto of Sri Lanka’s presentation, “Cultures Connect – Dance and Drum-Rhythm for a better Understanding and Confidence Building” was well received by the spectators. The Peacock, as God’s mode of transport and much revered by all ethnic communities as a symbol of peaceful co-existence in Sri Lanka, was the motif of the float and the presentation of the dance performance. The carnival parade was an ideal opportunity to present Sri Lanka as a land of rich culture along with the famous smile of a friendly

Nation to the keen German public perfectly, live and on several Television broadcasts. Brochures supplied by the Sri Lanka Tourist Promotion Board and Sri Lanka Tea Board along with Tea sachets, were distributed along the parade route to the spectators.

This prestigious award presented to the Sri Lanka Association Berlin e.V. was for the total performance, viz., for the Carnival motto, for the performance of the dance troupe, décor and design of the Monara Float, for the music and the formation of the group parade.

The Sri Lanka Association Berlin e.V. is overwhelmed with this award, received at a time that is very important for the image of Sri Lanka. To promote Our Motherland Sri Lanka, especially by presenting of our cultural heritage in Germany, is the core mission of the Sri Lanka Association Berlin e.V. Therefore, we as an Association with a tradition of over 36 years, is proud to mention that this victory have been achieved exclusively by the talents of the Sri Lankan community in Berlin. This victory was possible only due to the unstinted efforts contributed by the whole team of the Sri Lanka Association Berlin; the Dance Group coached by Choreograph Anjali Dissanayake, construction, design & decoration of Monara Float by Kawshal Huladduwa and Roy Pathirana, music for the dance groups composed by the famous musician Aruna Lian and played by DJ Prabath, the Youth Group trained by Anusha Weeratunga and not failing to mention the active support of several members and friends of the Association. Therefore we thank every member who contributed towards achieving this victory. Finally, the Sri Lanka Association Berlin wish to thank by all means the sponsors, the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Board, Sri Lanka Tea Board, ERGO Insurance Agency Helm and the Embassy of Sri Lanka, Berlin for their continuous contribution, without which the Association would not have achieved this success.

Berlin, 10th June 2014
General Secretary
Sri Lanka Association Berlin e.V.