

Sri Lanka is second at Berlin Carnival of Cultures

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The Sri Lankan Association in Berlin has achieved one of the most prestigious places among the nations in the international city of Berlin by achieving the Second Place at the Carnival of Cultures, which was held on the 8th June 2014 in the streets of Berlin.

This prestigious award to the Sri Lankan Association Berlin was presented for the total performance, the carnival motto, the performance of the dance troupe, the decor and the design of the peacock float, the music and the formation of the group parade, says the Sri Lankan embassy in a statement.

The motto of Sri Lanka's presentation "Cultures Connect – Dance Drum – Rhythm for a better Understanding and Confidence Building" was well received by the Spectators. The peacock float and the peacock dance represented all ethnic communities as a symbol of peaceful co-existence in Sri Lanka.

The Carnival of Cultures in Berlin is viewed every year by hundred-thousands alongside the route of the procession and also by millions of Europeans over live-telecast by leading German channels. The Sri Lankan Association was greatly assisted by the Sri Lankan Mission in Berlin with the generous contribution from the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau and the Sri Lanka Tea Board.

In the year 2012, Sri Lanka had been awarded the first place among the 99 countries with a pageant led by the Channa Upuli Cultural Troop. After a lapse of one year, the association, which is the oldest Sri Lankan association in Germany, again represented the country's culture and its heritage at the pageant, which is admired by millions of people watching alongside the route. The First Place went to the country presentation by Colombia.

The members of the Sri Lankan community participating in the event were able to project its low-country and up-country dancing representing various ethnicities among the Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim and Malay Burger communities of Sri Lanka. The final dancing presentation was to the tune of "Mayura Wannama" with an improvised music melody to suite the occasion, backed by Kandyan Drummers among the Sri Lankan youths living in Berlin. The Mayura Wannama was performed by female dancers effectively trained by Ms. Anjali

Dissanayake. Sri Lankan flags were carried during the entire procession to several kilometers taking about eight hours

All ethnic Sri Lankan communities living in Germany participated in the parade showing the true ethnic harmony between all communities of Sri Lanka living in Germany. Sinhala and Tamil songs were sung throughout the procession and it was new encouraging development that many Tamils joined with the procession and danced to the Sinhala and Tamil songs.

Another attractive feature was the displaying of the "Thumpath Rena" sculpture creation of father, mother, child elephants taken around on the structure of a float sponsored by the Sri Lankan Embassy in Berlin, which attracted huge enthusiasm among the gathered onlookers because of its unique feature connected to Sri Lanka, which no country had depicted in this procession. The Sri Lankan group began with the attractive float designed by the Sri Lankan Association depicting a large image of a peacock, which won the admiration of the Jury deciding in favor of Sri Lanka in this event.

According to the jury, Sri Lanka was awarded the second place for its message of harmony among the community through culture, which was the theme of the Sri Lanka Association for this parade. In this closely competitive jury decision, Sri Lanka won 104 points behind Colombia's 108 points, and the group from Palestine won 96 points.

Mr. Sarrath Kongahage, Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Germany, congratulates the Sri Lanka Association for the great contribution they have done to achieve this for our country and also thanked Kawshal Huladduwa and Roy Pathirana for design and decoration, Aruna Lian for composing the Music and DJ Prabath and Anusha Weeratunge for training the youth and children dance group and others, who had actively contributed to the success of this event. He further thanked the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau and Sri Lanka Tea Board for their contribution for make this success.

He also requests all sponsors to keep the annual Carnival of Cultures in Berlin in mind, as the appearance of the Sri Lanka Association was again a great contribution towards a positive image of Sri Lanka in Germany, says the embassy statement.

