To mark the global 65th Anniversary Of IOM, IOM Sri Lanka organized an exhibition of photographs, drawings, stories and short films to celebrate the lives of Sri Lankan migrants.

The Exhibition took place at the JDA Perera Gallery in Colombo and will travel to the field offices in Kilinochchi, Jaffna, and Batticaloa.

Prize Giving to Winners of the Migration+ Video and Story Competition

IOM Director General, Amb. William Lacy Swing and Mrs. Swing presented prizes to the winners of the Migration+ Video and Story competition which was launched earlier in the year.


Migration Projects is a collection of photographs presenting IOM’s key areas of cooperation through activities across the country.

IOM Sri Lanka’s areas of intervention include: support for vulnerable migrants, immigration and border management, labour migration and human development, migration health, community livelihood development, disaster risk reduction, climate change and migration.

Migration Portraits is a tribute to the individuals participating in IOM’s projects. Coming from all parts of Sri Lanka, they include men, women and children from all major ethnic groups and religions.

The portraits serve to personalize the results of the work reminding us that the aim of each action is to bring change to and through these individuals, thereby improving not only their own lives but also to their families and larger communities.

Several portraits present Sri Lankan returnees who were assisted by IOM to voluntarily return to the country receiving IOM support for livelihood development and reintegration. Others portraits are of individuals striving to recover from conflict or natural disaster. Be they farmers, fishermen, mothers, labourers, teachers, students or government officers, their participation and partnership with IOM contributes to stronger independent lives and community development.
Migration Reflections are word clouds which present images and ideas drawn from the winning entries to IOM’s MigrationPlus+ short story competition. Held as part of IOM’s global 65th Anniversary celebrations, the competition invited youth from 15 to 29 years to express their ideas on migration through the written word. The selected stories and one poem are written by young writers from across the island. They tell tales of struggle, confusion, sacrifice, and loss, but also of new friends, rich experiences and success. Each captures a unique and personal view of the complexity of the migration experience. Humour and suspense, but overall honesty feature highly in these works from the talented youth of Sri Lanka.

Migration Colours are a vibrant collection of pastel drawings which were created by school children during IOM’s safe migration campaigns. Sri Lanka, like many other countries, suffers from human smuggling, human trafficking and irregular migration with journeys made by those taking desperate or misguided attempts to travel overseas.

While migrants’ hopes can be initially high, for some the consequences can be devastating and sometimes life threatening. Hence many of the children’s pictures show stories of boat journeys with passengers in dire difficulties.

Migration Clips demonstrate the complexity of migration in the world today and highlight the urgent need for focused attention to help better manage migration for the benefit of us all. Two films which were shown were the winning entries to IOM Sri Lanka’s MigrationPlus+ video competition which drew entries from youth from Colombo to Jaffna.
Migration Testimonials tell the stories of Shanika, Harinda, Rohan, Asoka, Dilu and Anton. Their stories contribute to the IOM global #iamamigrant campaign. The campaign provides a platform for migrants to share experiences, challenge racism and xenophobia while also celebrating the lives of migrants from around the world.

These stories hail from Sri Lankans who have made their lives in Kuwait, Jordan, the United Kingdom, the United States and even back here again in Sri Lanka. They tell of their reasons to migrate ranging from employment education, conflict, children and love.

They speak of why they stay overseas and why they return and how for some ‘home’ is now more than one place.

**Director General’s Reception**

On the occasion of the visit of the Director General, IOM Sri Lanka took the opportunity to celebrate IOM’s 65th anniversary with government, donors, UN agencies, NGOs, and other partner organizations. The event in Colombo was the commencement of the Travelling Exhibition which visited the IOM field offices in Kilinochchi, Jaffna, and Batticaloa.

*The Migration Plus + exhibition, which is presented to you today, celebrates the lives of Sri Lankan migrants, the creative ideas of youth, and the stories of those whose lives have been changed through IOM work. —Amb. William Lacy Swing*
The Migration Plus Travelling Exhibition visited Kilinochchi, Jaffna, and Batticaloa after the commencement of the exhibition in Colombo. Over 300 people came to experience the showcase of migration and IOM Sri Lanka's work. Over 300 people came to experience this unique showcase of migration IOM Sri Lanka’s work.

Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/1561580440816687/
IOM Sri Lanka: http://srilanka.iom.int