



Our Identity shines at grassroots level: Deputy Minister applauds Fonterra initiative to uplift lives of village communities



- Last Thursday we opened a water and sanitation facility at Akaravita Maha Vidyalaya, Hanwella.
- The opening is a joint initiative between Fonterra Brands Sri Lanka and the Kansarmen Sri Lanka Foundation to provide the 170 school children access to clean running water, sanitation facilities, and a newly renovated school hall.
- Kansarmen Sri Lanka Foundation is a Dutch volunteer organisation that is specialized in providing sustainable solutions regarding water and sanitation.
- We also announced the launch of the Grass Roots Fund to community projects that will have a positive social, economic or environmental impact on local communities in Hanwella and Homagama Districts.
- Our Managing Director - Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Africa, Pascal De Petrini, joined our team at the school and engaged the community leaders on site.
- Congratulations to the team responsible for making this launch happen, and a special thanks to the Fonterra Operations Task Team for their volunteer efforts at the school!



Top Left: Schoolchildren utilise one of the newly constructed sets of Sinks.
Top Right: Hon. Geethanjana Gunawardena unveils the plaque at the school's new Overhead Water Tank.
Bottom right: Members of FOTT distribute schoolbooks and fresh milk to the children of Akaravita Maha Vidyalaya.



Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation and MP Hon. Geethanjana Gunawardena, who also heads the Divisional Coordinating Committee of the Divisional Secretariat as Chairman, welcomed the initiative, adding: *"Through their CSR initiative, Fonterra reaches out to village communities and uplifts the lives of the villagers. We are grateful to them for having extended their support to this village school by coming forward to help complete the water and sanitation project. There are over 400 dairy farmers living in our village. The majority of these farmers supply milk to the Fonterra factory in Biyagama to make a living. Throughout the years Fonterra has enriched their lives by supporting with technical know-how and helping them to increase their production."*

Sisira de Silva, a dairy farmer supplying to Fonterra said that he was happy that his children attending the Akaravita Maha Vidyalaya, would now have easy access to clean water.

"Sanitary facilities and water is a basic necessity for children attending a school. We are very grateful to Fonterra for setting up these facilities, because it is our own children who will benefit. The clean water, the sanitary facilities and the school hall is all for the use of our children", he said.

Commenting on closely working with Fonterra, Ms. Piyangani, a farmer supplier for over a decade and a member of Fonterra's Farmer Education and Training Programme (FETP) said:

"My family and I have been Fonterra dairy farmers for over fourteen years and there is a vast difference in our farm's productivity between then and now because of the expertise Fonterra has brought into our farming practices within this period. Fonterra experts play a very hands-on role at our farms providing us with training in cattle rearing. We are taught about everything, from how to feed the cows to what illnesses they are prone to, how they contract those illnesses and how to treat them."

"Working with Fonterra has been all about personal development for my family. When we got started, we owned only about 2 or 3 cows. However, we have now expanded that number to 15 to 20. In addition we produce up to 4 or 5 times more milk than we used to," she added.

Pictures of the event:

Top row: Completed Well with pump and Sanitation Facilities.

Second Row: Reconstructed Main Hall - Pascal De Petrini and the Principal unveil the plaque

Third Row: Pascal De Petrini, Leon Clement and Dr. Athula Kahandaliyanage speak to the Principal, Fonterra FETP Farmer Piyangani speaks of Fonterra's support to the community and her dairy development story.