

Seylan wins Gold Award for ‘Emerging Entity of the Year’ at SLIBFI Awards

Seylan Bank has won the coveted Gold Award for “Emerging Entity of the Year” at the Sri Lanka Islamic Banking and Finance Industry (SLIBFI) Awards 2020.

The SLIBFI Awards are the premium awards for Islamic Finance in Sri Lanka, setting the competitive benchmark for the industry.

Seylan Bank’s Islamic Banking Unit commenced operations in 2018 under the Bank’s strategic vision to cater for the niche market segment of clients, looking for Islamic bank-



M. Z. Sameer Mohamed

ing solutions and services. The unit has achieved significant growth in income level, and assets and lia-

bilities base. During the year 2020, the Islamic Banking unit achieved over 100% growth in the top line, while the assets and liability books grew by a similar level for the same period.

Seylan Bank M. Z. Sameer Mohamed, Head of Islamic Banking Unit said, “Islamic Banking is an alternative banking system practiced around the world alongside conventional banking and has a growing clientele in Sri Lanka. This system is not confined or available only to a particular faith or eth-

nic group, rather, it is available for anyone wishing to embrace the alternative system. To be part of a Bank loved by customers for decades and be recognized as “Emerging Entity of the Year” at the SLIBFI Awards is a true testament of our efforts and the seamless integration of the Islamic Banking Unit into the Banking industry.”

In a year with unprecedented challenges posed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Islamic Banking unit was able to proceed in a stead-

fast manner. Seylan Islamic Banking Unit offers all types of Islamic Banking Products and Services to meet the needs of its diversified client base. Diminishing Musharakah, Wakalah Financing, Murabaha are few to name on the financing side while deposit products are structured under Mudarabah and Wakalah deposit principles.

The SLIBFI Awards are presented in conjunction with KPMG which ensures an impartial evaluation process of the submissions.

Q&E and LSEG feted at Global Marketing Awards 2021

Q&E Advertising and LSEG Sri Lanka were together named the winner for their ‘#Stay Home Stay Safe Campaign’ in the Global Crisis Management Campaign category at the recently concluded Global Marketing Awards.

The campaign was conceptualized and executed by Q&E during the initial island-wide lockdown in 2020 in order to support the continued growth of LSEG Sri Lanka in the industry and promote that they firm remained unshaken as a result of the pandemic.

Nishan de Silva Wijeyeratne, Director Brand Management at Q&E Sri Lanka said “Considering this was at the start of the global lockdown, and we were going through unprecedented changes to our daily routines, we were limited in terms of what we could do. But we ensured that it would not become a barrier for us in our communications”.

The rollout of the campaign consisted of two phases, a recruitment drive of LSEG Sri Lanka and the promoting of Work-From-Home, together with the safety measures against COVID-19. A key compo-



Nishande Silva Wijeyeratne, Sherangi J. Seneviratne and Shanaka Abeywickrama

nent of the rollout was the development of a video that used current events for positive change and reassurance in contrast to the fear and caution prevalent in that time. Sherangi J. Seneviratne, Chief Executive Officer of Q&E Sri Lanka, said.

Shanaka Abeywickrama, Head of Internal and Site Communications APAC, LSEG said “We recognised the challenges our audiences and stakeholders were going through, and we wanted to reassure our audiences that our growth continued apace and that we should all rally together as one community. We also recognized the need to share important safety related information. I was extremely hearted by the execution and performance of this campaign, and the

collaborative nature in which we were able to work with Q&E during this challenging time to produce world-class content.”

Q&E is an all-inclusive, independent, holistic communications consultant. Working as Knowledge Marketers, their strategic campaigns have brought positive outcomes to Sri Lanka’s biggest brands for close to three decades. Q&E’s communication solutions encompass all areas of communication and reflect brand values while educating people and enriching Sri Lankan culture. Q&E has extensive experience in working with clients on the ground level of Sri Lankan society and have partnered with some of the country’s most influential organizations.

ComBank partners Doconomy to drive carbon footprint reduction

The Commercial Bank of Ceylon has announced a partnership with Doconomy of Sweden, a global leader in impact-tech solutions, to further develop the effectiveness of the Carbon Footprint Calculator in the ‘Flash’ Digital Banking app developed and deployed in Sri Lanka by the Bank.

Doconomy owns the Åland Index, the world’s first e-Environmental Impact Report originally developed by Finland’s Åland Bank. Version 1 of the Åland Index powers the existing ‘Save the Environment’ feature on Flash, and the Bank said its partnership with the index’s new owner would enable the Flash app to upgrade to the latest version, and expand its scope.

By partnering with Doconomy and gaining access to the upgraded API of the index, Commercial Bank has joined the company of pioneering banks in the world to drive carbon footprint reduction among its customers. Furthermore, the integration of the updated index enables the Flash app to capture not just the carbon footprint of immediate service providers, but also of the entire value chain of the goods or services purchased by its users.

Commenting on the partnership with Doconomy,

Commercial Bank Managing Director S. Renganaathan said, “As Sri Lanka’s first carbon neutral bank, the Commercial Bank has assumed a leadership role in increasing consciousness of the need, not just for organizations but individuals, to be concerned about the environmental impact of their consumption. With the ‘Save the Environment’ feature in the Flash app, we invited our customers to join in our mission to reduce their carbon footprint and contribute towards a greener future.”

“Doconomy’s endorsement of the Flash app’s efficient use of the Åland Index is a great achievement, more so because it tells us that we are on the right track in helping to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis. The partnership holds us to industry benchmark standards of carbon footprint calculations and positions the Flash app’s ‘Save the Environment’ feature among the global leaders in this aspect.”

The Åland Index is a cloud-based service for climate impact calculations and is the leading index solution for CO2 emission calculations for payments and financial transactions. The Commercial Bank of Ceylon was the first and only bank in Sri



Lanka to adopt this free source index version 1.0 when it upgraded the Flash app last year with the ‘Save the Environment’ feature.

Doconomy entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Commercial Bank of Ceylon to offer the latest version of the index. To fulfill the objectives of the MoU, the two parties intend mutual collaboration on CO2 footprint follow-up of customer transactions, tracking of trends, educational initiatives and communication.

SyTrans Global opens office in Trinco

SyTrans Global opened its first branch office in Trincomalee on September 1. The opening of this new office coincides with SyTrans’ latest project to transport Prima Ceylon’s wheat by-product range from Trincomalee to the Prima warehouse in Colombo.

SyTrans Global which was established in November 2019, signed with Ceylon Grain Elevators PLC (Prima) for a period of four years as the primary transport provider for the WBP range.

In order to maintain a secure and sustainable process with Prima, SyTrans recently also partnered with ProCare Insurance Brokers, which provides insurance cover for all requirements pertaining to SyTrans’ business activities and its extended operations with its customers. Procare Insurance Brokers is one of the



Sushani Jayakody, SyTrans Global COO and Rukshan Gunasekera, Procare Insurance MD

leading brokering firms in operation since 2002 and is managed by Rukshan Gunasekera who was appointed by the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka as the

Samaposha partners Ministry of Environment, launches ‘Surakimu Ganga’ project

CBL Samaposha partnered with the Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Authority in delivering the ‘Surakimu Ganga’ national project which aspires to minimize the impact that human interventions impose on the environment.

The project was launched under the patronage of the President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the sacred site of Ruhunu Kataragama by the banks of the Menik River.

As a sub initiative of the ‘Surakimu Ganga’ national project, Samaposha launched an environmentally friendly ecological bag which aims to effectively reduce the use of polythene and plastic bags within various sacred sites across the country. The eco-friendly bag donated by Samaposha to the public was launched at the sacred Pillava Bodhiraja Mahaviharaya in Boralesgamuwa recently, in the presence of the Minister for Environment, Mahinda Amaraweera who was presented with the inaugural eco-friendly bag by CBL Group Director Nishka



CBL Group Director, Nishka Wickramasingha hands the eco-friendly bag presented by Samaposha to the Minister for Environment, Mahinda Amaraweera

Wickramasingha, CEO of the CBL Food Cluster Thilanka De Zoysa and General Manager Marketing Food Cluster of CBL Jayanga Perera.

Minister for Environment, Mahinda Amaraweera said, “Up to 50 Tonnes of plastic and polythene waste are collected at the Kataragama sacred site alone, annually. It is also reported that a considerable amount of polythene waste is generated from shops surrounding the sacred site. The Minister

added that with government regulations seeking to limit and regulate the use of polythene bags, this ecofriendly bag has the potential to serve as a viable substitute.”

Highlighting the strategic impact that environmentally friendly, people-oriented business approaches could have on Sri Lanka’s long term Green vision, General Manager Marketing Food Cluster of CBL Jayanga Perera said, “Samaposha is committed to preserving the environment whilst nourishing the future generation of Sri Lanka with good nutrition and good values. As such environment conservation becomes a key aspect in building good values, where we believe that children are the key driving force for this change for the country and the world. Therefore, big and small initiatives would help to change mindsets towards reducing non decomposable plastics in some way.”

Samaposha is the flagship brand of CBL Plenty Foods, a fully owned subsidiary of the CBL Group.

Samsung strengthens promise with galaxy 5G ready smartphones

Samsung has announced a Galaxy 5G campaign and strengthened its 5G promise in Sri Lanka with a large portfolio of 5G products for the festive season.

The latest line-up of Galaxy 5G smartphones have been launched to make powerful innovations accessible to a broader audience.

“Samsung brings meaningful innovation to consumers and the newly-launched Galaxy 5G smartphones open up endless possibilities allowing our consumers to BeFutureReady. The recently-launched Galaxy Z Fold3 5G, Z Flip3 5G, A52s 5G, Galaxy M52 5G and Galaxy F42 5G are testament to Samsung’s commitment towards bringing meaningful technology and products. Our aim is to let our consumers be the first to benefit from 5G once commercialized, so that they can experience superfast speeds, ultra-low latency and smooth streaming,” said Kevin Sungsu YOU, Managing Director, Samsung Sri Lanka.

Samsung has pioneered 5G technology development since 2009 and took the leading role in standardizing 5G technology. Having launched the world’s first 5G smartphone Galaxy S10 in 2019,



Samsung has the widest portfolio of 5G devices globally and has pioneered the successful delivery of end-to-end 5G solutions including chipsets, radios and core.

With Galaxy 5G, our users will get assured 5G connectivity no matter what the 5G band in Sri Lanka is and will get access to uninterrupted nationwide access to any 5G network (subject to operator network availability). The seamless 5G support will help download, share and stream content at blazing fast speeds.

Samsung promises regular Operating System (OS) upgrades for up to three years, so that you remain miles ahead in the game.

Samsung’s broad range of 5G Ready devices are not just powerful but also lets

our consumers be future-ready. With the current smartphone replacement cycles ranging anywhere between 2 to 3 years, it has become increasingly important to provide devices that work seamlessly today and continue to remain performance powerhouses in the future.

With popular innovations like 120Hz refresh rate, Infinity-O display and quad rear camera, Galaxy A52s 5G is future ready with up to 12 band-5G support.

Galaxy M52 5G is the leanest and most powerful M Series smartphone yet with 7.4mm sleek design with support of up to 11 5G bands.

Consumers in Sri Lanka can purchase their Galaxy 5G smartphone range at island-wide authorized dealers of John Keells Office Automation and Softlogic Mobile Distribution which can be easily identified by the Samsung logo placed outside the shop. It is also available at authorized partners; Softlogic Max and Softlogic Retail, Singer, Singhagiri and Damro, Network Partners Dialog and Mobitel, and via the online portals; Samsung EStore (samsungsrilanka.lk), MySoftlogic.lk, Keellsuper.com and Kapruka.com.

Kotmale introduces paper spoons with yoghurt range

Kotmale, one of the private sector collectors of fresh milk in Sri Lanka has introduced a paper spoon to their yoghurt range replacing the plastic spoon, which is a first in the Dairy industry.

These spoons are made of biodegradable material, significantly reducing the amount of plastic usage in the manufacturing process and taking Kotmale a step further in their endeavors to safeguard the environment.

Waste plastic has become one of the most pressing

environmental issues in Sri Lanka as businesses and factories have increased the production and usage of plastic over the last few years.

Recognizing this situation and falling in line with the Cargills Group’s commitment in terms of sustainability, Kotmale took up a challenge to redirect their operations and value chain by integrating sustainability to their manufacturing process through the introduction of new plastic free initiatives. This initiative of replacing

the plastic spoon with paper acts as a catalyst in reducing plastic pollution.

Kotmale has become one of Sri Lanka’s national dairy brands contributing to the nourishment of the country and strengthening the local dairy farming community. Today Kotmale has established itself as one of the largest private sector collector of fresh milk, collecting over 180,000 litres on a daily basis, working with over 17,000 small-scale dairy farmers’ islandwide and gen-

erating over Rs.5.2 billion of direct income annually for the Sri Lankan dairy farming community.

Kotmale is a fully owned subsidiary of Cargills (Ceylon) PLC and it saves foreign exchange by sourcing and locally manufacturing value added dairy products.

Kotmale products offer round the clock nutrition for the family with the largest portfolio of dairy products in Sri Lanka.

Kotmale fresh milk comes in different options packaged

in environmentally friendly tetra packs which are recyclable, meeting the needs of a range of customers across different demographic profiles.

The processing facility in Banduragoda is an integrated dairy facility in Sri Lanka and has been approved for international-grade manufacturing. This manufacturing facility has also introduced key initiatives namely installation of solar panels to generate clean energy, rain water harvesting, reusing treated waste

water for factory gardening and waste recycling, integrating sustainability initiatives within their business operations.

Kotmale is stepping up their actions towards introducing new, innovative and sustainable features to their product line. They have also embarked on the journey towards achieving net zero in the future, by obtaining the Carbon Footprint assessment certification, making Cargills one of the first leading food manufacturing companies in Sri Lanka to obtain same.

