

FIVE SRI LANKAN ARTISTS HONOURED
WITH BUNKA (CULTURAL) AWARDS



Photo Caption: (L to R) Dr. Thamothersampillai Sanathanan, Mr. Saman Panapitiya, Mr. Tharupathi Munasinghe, Mr. Namal Jayasinghe, Mr. Wasantha Ekanyake, Secretary, Ministry of Culture and the Arts, H.E. Mr. Nobuhito Hobo, Ambassador of Japan and Mr. Naoto Honda, President of Japanese Solidarity Association of Sri Lanka.
(Absent-Mrs. Madavi Malwattage)

The 21st Bunka (Cultural) Awards ceremony organized by the Japan Sri Lanka Friendship Cultural Fund was held on Saturday 1st November at the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, Colombo 07. The Bunka Awards are presented annually by the Fund, which was established in 1993, on the initiative of the Japanese Solidarity Association and the Japanese Commerce and Industry Association in Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan. For the past twenty years, 113 such awards have been presented to mid-career individuals and organizations on the basis of their creative activities in culture and the arts, in order to encourage and promote individual and collective talent in these fields in Sri Lanka. These awards have been presented to artistes in the fields of drama, theatre, dance, music, painting, sculpture and pottery, photography, lyric writing, literature, video animation and visual arts to name a few.

This year the following five Sri Lankan artists received the prestigious Bunka (Cultural) Awards.

- Mr. Namal Jayasinghe - Theatre
- Mrs. Madani Malwattege - Acting
- Mr. Tharupathi Munasinghe - Music
- Mr. Saman Panapitiya - Folk Music
- Dr. Thamothersampillai Sanathanan - Painting

Mr. Wasantha Ekanayake, Secretary, Ministry of Culture and the Arts graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while H.E. Mr. Nobuhito Hobo, Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Naoto Honda, President of the Japanese Solidarity Association of Sri Lanka and a distinguished gathering of invitees including several renowned Sri Lankan cultural artistes were also present on this occasion. The highlight of the ceremony was the cultural performances by the award winners displaying their versatile talents which merited their selection.