

## JAPANESE CULTURAL EXHIBITION – 2017



The Japanese Cultural Exhibition for 2017 was held at Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management (Hotel School), Colombo 3 on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of September. It was organized by the Embassy of Japan in collaboration with Japanese Language Teachers' Association of Sri Lanka (JALTAS).

All the displayed items and conducted demonstrations were done by local Japanese culture lovers, namely Shi-En Ikebana and Floral Art Society of Sri Lanka, Ikebana International Sri Lanka Chapter 262, Sri Lanka Bonsai Association and the Origami Folders Association of Sri Lanka, except the Tea ceremony, which was conducted by a Japanese Tea master from Japan who visited Sri Lanka for this event.

On the display there were skillfully arranged Ikebana (floral arrangements) using locally available flowers and materials, well nurtured Bonsai plants (miniature tree planting) and numerous complicated crafts of Origami (paper folding) as well as colourful Kimono (Japanese traditional dresses), Japanese dolls etc.. Visitors enjoyed rare opportunities such as participating in the Tea ceremony, trying-out the colourful Kimono, attending the lecture on Ikebana, Bonsai and Origami.

His Excellency Mr. Kenichi Sugamuna, Ambassador of Japan in Sri Lanka and Madam Akiko Suganuma graced the opening ceremony with the participation of distinguished guests including members of the diplomatic corps, the representative of participating organizations, member of Japan related organizations and the media representatives.

This Exhibition, which was open to public free of charge was designed to display Japan's culture and thereby to further enhance the friendly relations between the peoples of Japan and Sri Lanka. A large number of visitors over 1300 showed up during the two days of the event.