

- **Organizer/Organization's name**

Biodiversity Secretariat (BDS), Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Institute of National Tourist Guide Lecturers and the Friends of Biodiversity Runakanda Conservation Centre.

- **Celebration title, Date and Venue**

National Celebrations on International Biodiversity Day- "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism"

2nd- 3rd June 2017 .

The Friends of Biodiversity Runakanda Conservation Centre, Kalutara District, Sri Lanka.

- **Short description of the celebration in one of the 6 UN languages and if possible in your country's official language**

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has announced the theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) for year 2017 as "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism". A well-managed tourist sector can contribute significantly to reducing threats to, and maintain or increase, biodiversity values through tourism revenue. Tourism relates too many of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Celebration of the IDB under this theme provides an opportunity to raise awareness and action towards the important contribution of sustainable tourism both to economic growth and to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. As the focal point to CBD, Biodiversity Secretariat of Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment has been organized a training workshop regarding promote responsible sustainable eco-tourism while conserving our countries rich biodiversity. Two organizations are giving their fullest collaboration to BDS for this commemoration of International day for Biological Diversity 2017. To make tour guides and some people who are responsible for tourism will be awaked on responsible nature tourism, conservation rich biodiversity and contribution for sustainable eco-tourism and take actions for ethical use of biodiversity which is supporting livelihood.

The Friends of Biodiversity Runakanda Conservation Centre is an Environmental Conservation Organization is situated in Runakanda rainforest reserve, Kalutara District, Western Province in Sri Lanka. Runakanda rainforest is a lowland rainforest located at the adjoining to the World Heritage Sinharaja Rainforest. This forest is comprising high biodiversity and shared many common featured with Sinharaja Rain Forest. This forest and surrounding villages are having much potential for nature based and community based ecotourism. The Friends of Biodiversity Runakanda is having well experienced knowledge and capacity regarding of conducting Eco tourism based programmes, Environmental Workshops, Environmental Awareness Programmes, visitor accommodation facilities, Research work and Research camps for appropriate local and foreign participants. Also reforestation programmes are take in place with community participation in Runakanda for protect water resources and where water springs are born. In this Biodiversity day celebration Runakanda Biodiversity center is providing lecture hall, food and accommodations and field guidance with the assistance of adjacent communities. Biodiversity Secretariat is providing financial allocations for above expenditures.

Nature of the Training Programme:

- No of Participants: 40

- Participants will represent from Sri Lanka Institute of National Tourist Guide Lecturers,
- Environmental Journalists and officers of the Biodiversity Secretariat.
- Two day Programme with one night stay, with guest lecture series (first day - evening) conducted by invited resource people and full day Field based training programme with the participation of community people and field experts regarding the sustainable eco-tourism practices in Runakanda Forest Reserve (Second day).

Resource Persons are Senior Lecturers of universities, policy makers and tourism planners with specialize areas in Ecotourism, sustainable tourism, Tourism Economics and Hotel Management and Environmental and Natural resource economics. Also some are eminent experts of Biodiversity, Environment Consultants, Conservation Specialists, environmental lawyers, environmentalists, researchers and naturalists.

- **Include any relevant web links and/or attachments**

<http://www.environmentmin.gov.lk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/slntgl/>

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Friends-of-Biodiversity-Runakanda-Rain-Forest-Conservation-Center-1505836976312526/>

- **Include a small logo or image if applicable**

