

## **Profile - Mr. Sanath Ukwatte – President, The Hotels Association of Sri Lanka (THASL)**

**Mr. Sanath Ukwatte** is the present President of The Hotels Association of Sri Lanka. Mr. Ukwatte is also the Chairman and Managing Director of the Mount Lavinia Hotel (Pvt) Ltd., and Ceylon Hotels Ltd., He also serves as the Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia in Sri Lanka.

Mr Ukwatte is internationally known in the tourism and hotel industry for nearly three decades. He is the **Founder and Chairman of the International Hotel School in Mount Lavinia** providing practical training in hotel management and operation.

Mr. Ukwatte has led a variety of community development programs, among them building playgrounds and libraries, provided assistance to institutions such as the Deaf and Blind Society, Cancer Society of Sri Lanka as well as sports societies and religious foundations.

His recent initiative was a joint venture between International Hotel School of Mount Lavinia Hotel and Corporate Social Responsibility arm of NDB Bank named Jeevana Livelihood Program where over 160 war effected children in Eastern Province and economically undeveloped areas in the south of Sri Lanka were given training in the Hotel Industry and after 6 months of such training they are now employed in various hotels in the country and overseas.

He has been recognized both nationally and internationally for his contribution to the betterment of the Sri Lankan business community. He is a recipient of the Sri Lankan Sikhamani, one of the nation's most prestigious awards presented by the President of Sri Lanka to individuals making significant contributions to the nation's business community. In 1996 the Rotary Club also presented him the Rotary International Award for Vocational Excellence and High Ethical Standards, recognizing his contribution to provide service within the workplace and to Sri Lanka.

Mr Ukwatte attended the Alliant International University, formally known as United States International University, in San Diego, California. This university conferred an Honorary Doctorate to Mr Ukwatte and appointed him as an Executive Director of the University's center for International families in Business.