

ONE WORLD FOUNDATION SRI LANKA

A social initiative funded by Hilti employees



The «one world foundation» supports targeted educational projects in Ahungalla and offers cost-free education for children, young people and adults. The school is mainly financed by the income of the guesthouse next door and its art & literature program. The school does important peace-building work through its Tamil language classes and the diverse cultural education program.

Another focus is environmental education: For example, in garbage collection, waste separation

and topic specifications for exams and essays. In addition, the school's education system is inspired by the so-called «social sculpture» of the artist Joseph Beuys. Beuys advocated a broader concept of art which, in addition to the materially tangible work, also includes human, socially transformative action.

The Free Education School is supported by Hilti. To date, this EBB initiative has been financed exclusively by Hilti employees.



Locally grounded and backed

Due to its long existence and local management, the school has developed into an initiative supported by the region. Most of the students come from very simple backgrounds such as workers, tuk tuk drivers and fishermen or from families without a stable income. There is often not enough money for state schools in rural areas, with corresponding consequences for the quality of education.

This is where «one world foundation» comes in: Through its early childhood education program, the school promotes social equality of opportunity in the state school system. The language, computer and photography courses strengthen the employability of young people. The further education courses of the Women's Cooperation open real opportunities for young mothers to re-enter the labor market and thus contribute to the development of a slowly growing middle class and the future of the country.

Support opportunities

There are various ways to support this initiative. For example, interested Hilti team members can simply

transfer monetary donations. However, they can also run their own fundraising campaigns at their workplaces and then donate the campaign proceeds. What such a fundraising campaign looks like in detail is left solely to the creativity of the organizers: Ideas range from fundraising runs or sales campaigns to paid training courses. The proceeds of the donation then only have to be transferred to the headquarters in Schaan and will then benefit directly the «one world foundation» in Sri Lanka.

Facts & Figures

The annual budget enables the education of over 1,100 students. The School is run by local education experts and offers 11 full-time and 26 part-time positions. Since 2019, around 215,000 EUR has been donated by Hilti employees – of which 50'000 EUR was collected in 2024.

ART & LITERATURE

GUESTHOUSE

EDUCATION



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History of origins and philosophy of the foundation

When founders Kathrin Messner and Josef Ortner visited Sri Lanka in 1983, they were looking for a location where they could gain experience and exchange ideas. By chance they found a plot of land and without further ado built a house that was to function as a meeting place for artists and friends.

Over the years, this basic idea gave rise to the guesthouse, the art and literature program and the Free Education School. In this way, the «one world foundation» supports tourism based on mutual understanding: It promotes exchange and dialog between locals and guests. Through close

cooperation a solidarity is created that transcends ethnic and religious boundaries.

As the proceeds from the guesthouse benefit the Free Education School, it can of course also be supported through vacation bookings at the resort.

Do you have any questions? You can reach us by e-mail: foundation-ebb.hiltiteam@hilti.com

