

## **Mr. Parakrama Dahanayake, Former City Councilor, Galle Municipal Council, Sri Lanka**



Functioned as a senior elected Member of the Galle Municipal Council and Chairman of the Standing Committee on the Environment, until the dissolution of local councils in Sri Lanka on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.

Prior to entering local governance, Mr. Dahanayake served as a simultaneous interpreter in the Parliament of Sri Lanka. Rising to the highest rung in this field, Mr. Dahanayake accompanied the present President of Sri Lanka Mr. Maithripala Sirisena on state visits to a number of countries. Mr. Dahanayake interpreted the speech of the President, which was delivered in the native Sinhala language, into English at the 70<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.

Mr. Dahanayake also served for a number of years as the Chairman of the Galle Heritage Foundation, which is the body looking after the heritage site of Galle Fort, which has been inscribed in the list of World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

Mr. Dahanayake has attended a number of International Forums on Heritage Management and Local Governance and presented Papers. He attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation held in Melaka, Malaysia, in March 2016.

As Chairman of the Committee on the Environment, he has been actively involved in Galle City Council's initiatives of making the City a Clean, Green and Sustainable City, with the help of cities in other countries.

Galle is currently actively exploring the possibility of using cyber linkages with other cities which are more advanced technologically, to get their support and replicate best practices of those cities, to make the City of Galle a "Smart City".

Mr. Dahanayake is attending this Forum, representing the last immediate Mayor of Galle Mr. Kelum Senevirathna, who is unable to attend due to important local commitments.