

PACKAGING NEWS

SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF PACKAGING





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Editors:
Chanaka Karunaratne
Johann Tranchell

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Mr. Thusith Wijesinghe
SLIP President

I am delighted to share some thoughts in the October Edition of the Newsletter. As we look back on the year and ahead to new opportunities, I'm delighted to report that the Sri Lankan packaging industry is poised for steady, sustainable growth. Driven by advancing technologies—automation, smart packaging and digital printing.

Despite the positive outlook, challenges such as intense competition, changing consumer expectations, fluctuating material costs, Exchange rate volatility, and tightening environmental regulations continue to pose risks. Additionally, poor waste management and enforcement of single-use plastics, as well as supply chain disruptions from global economic conditions, present significant hurdles. To thrive, we must innovate relentlessly, optimize processes, and uphold exceptional service standards.

One of the key areas we need to focus this year will be the new regulation -Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). It mandates producers to manage product lifecycles including waste. There is a speculation that, by the year-end, the EPR law will be gazetted, initially covering PET, HIPS, aseptic cartons, and aluminum cans. Under this framework, every producer must register, report production volumes, and meet collection and recycling targets. An online reporting portal is already operational as a key element of the process. After a two-year grace period, manufacturers falling short of their targets will face penalties. EPR will reshape our business models and underscore the importance of eco-design, take-back schemes, and public-private partnerships.

I also would like to highlight some key events lined up in our calendar. World Packaging Organization (WPO) endorsed Diploma in Packaging Technology, proceeding with over 30 participants at the Ministry of Industries Auditorium is scheduled to commence on 18th October 2025. Few Council of Management Members have volunteered to deliver certain sessions to reduce costs and I am really grateful to them. We have started marketing and secured a formal endorsement from the Ministry of Industries to enhance the program's credibility, although no funding is expected from the Ministry.

The much awaited, The Global Packaging Forum along with the 114th WPO Board meeting would take place from 27th – 30th October 2025 , and will include eight foreign speakers, with two panel discussions, and four local presentations. Confirmed speakers include the WPO President, Vice President for Sustainability, and the General Secretary. The program will cover key topics such as the local packaging landscape, regulatory frameworks, recycling, food waste, and innovation. Panel discussions will focus on regulatory preparedness and global packaging trends. The event will conclude with a motivational address by the WPO President, aimed at inspiring participants from across the packaging industry. I am thankful to all the overseas delegates for choosing and opting to come down to Sri Lanka amidst their busy schedule. These events will bring a huge recognition to Sri Lanka globally and will bring together policy makers, entrepreneurs, Universities and Packaging designers, internationally and locally. I take this opportunity to thank the Chair of the Organizing Committee and the Co Chair for their commitment and also for all our valued sponsors who have sponsored the Packaging week.

The Packaging Forum is scheduled to take place at BMICH, and the WPO events will be hosted at the Cinnamon Grand. As a concurrent event Sri Lanka Packaging Awards is scheduled to be held on the 30th October at Cinnamon Grand Hotel - recognizing innovation and best practices across our industry. I wish to thank the panel of judges who have done a wonderful job in selecting the winners.

The annual key event in our calendar - Lanka Pack will showcase from 23rd to 25th of October, which will bring together suppliers, manufacturers, and end-users under one roof. I wish to request each of the members to book these dates, and lend your support to make every event a resounding success.

On same note I wish to report that the AGM is tentatively scheduled to be held on the 11th of November. The Council Members have approved the amended resolution in the Articles which recognizes Certified Packaging Professionals as a new membership category & the required endorsement will be obtained during the AGM.

Finally, I would like to thank the Deputy President, Committee Members and SLIP staff for their efforts and hard work in organizing these events. As you are aware so much of planning, coordination and energy is needed when organizing events of this magnitude.

Further I am thankful to the Editor and the subcommittee for releasing an exceptional Newsletter.

SLIP EVENT CALENDAR

No	Event	Quarter	Month	Location
1	Lanka Star Judging	Q3	August	Ramada Wyndham Hotel Colombo
2	Lanka Pak Exhibition-Launch	Q3	August	Hilton Residencies
3	Lanka Pak Exhibition	Q4	23rd - 25th October	BMICH
4	WPO Board Meeting in Sri Lanka	Q4	27th - 30th October	Cinnamon Grand
	Executive meeting		27th October	
	Working Group meetings (Sustainability, Education & Marketing)		28th October	
	114th Board meeting		29th October	
	Global Packaging Forum " Packaged to Perfection"		30th October	
5	Global Packaging Forum	Q4	30th October	Jasmin Room, BMICH
6	Packaging Awards Night / Packaging Ball	Q4	30th October	Cinnamon Grand
7	SLIP Annual General Meeting	Q4	November	-
8	CSR Activities	Q4	November	-

WPO BOARD MEETING

Sri Lanka to Host the 114th WPO Board Meeting in October 2025

“This isn’t just a meeting, it’s a turning point.”

From October 27–31, 2025, Sri Lanka will host the 114th World Packaging Organisation (WPO) Board Meeting, marking a pivotal moment for both the country and the global packaging community. As sustainability becomes the new standard, this event positions Sri Lanka at the heart of the global conversation, where urgent challenges meet grounded, homegrown solutions.

With over 300,000 metric tons of virgin plastic imported annually and recycling rates still below 25%, the urgency for systemic change is undeniable. But Sri Lanka is not standing still. From CocoWrap, a biodegradable film crafted from coconut husk, to label-free, laser-etched tea tins, innovation is emerging from the intersection of tradition, necessity, and modern design.

WPO 2025 will spotlight this momentum. It will bring together leaders, policymakers, designers, entrepreneurs, and educators from across the world to explore how packaging can become more than just a container, but a solution.



What to Expect: A Week of Vision and Action

This global gathering will be anchored by a dynamic programme, including:

Executive & Working Group Meetings

Focused sessions on circular systems, digital traceability, EPR governance, and regenerative materials.

Global Packaging forum

Exploring packaging's evolving role in climate action, food security, and frontier technologies such as AI, blockchain, and smart labelling.

Sri Lanka Packaging Awards

Honouring excellence in sustainable design, youth-led innovation, women in packaging, and inclusive packaging systems.

LANKA PAK Exhibition (Oct 23–25)

South Asia's leading platform for packaging, printing, and plastics innovation — tailored to the realities and opportunities of the Global South.

Local Innovation Tours

Guided visits to community-led PET collection hubs, the Material Recovery & Redesign Lab (MRRL), student-founded packaging startups, and rural SME bootcamps, showcasing how design and sustainability are being reimagined on the ground.

Networking & Matchmaking Forums

Curated opportunities to connect global experts with local innovators, recyclers, and manufacturers — paving the way for future-ready partnerships and scalable impact.

ORGANISED BY

 Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging

COLLABORATION WITH

SUPPORTED BY


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CDC EVENTS
 & Travels (Pvt) Ltd



THE GLOBAL PACKAGING FORUM

30TH OCTOBER 2025
9AM - 4PM
Jasmine Room, BMICH
Rs 10,000/- Per Head

Resource Panel

			
MS LUCIANA PELLEGRINO PRESIDENT, WPO	MS. NERIDA KEATON VP, SUSTAINABILITY	DR. JOHANNES BERGMAIER GS, WPO	MR. ANTRIO SALSA CEO, FINISH PACKAGING ASSOCIATION
			
MS. SHIRA ROSEN GREAT PACKAGING ASSOCIATION	MR. ALI BADARNEH DIVISION CHIEF, UNIDO	DR. JAIRO VILAMIL DIAZ HEAD OF COUNTRY, UNIDO	MR. SUNIL JAIN PRESIDENT, RAJOO ENGINEERS / RP
			
MR. DILHAN C. FERNANDO CO-CHAIRMAN, SELMAN	DR. SUDITHA SUGATHAPALA SILVAKA INSTITUTE SRI LANKA	DR. SUMARTHANA SAMARAWICKRAMA UNIVERSITY OF MORATOTA	MR. THUSHANTHA KARUNARATNE DIRECTOR, PCL SOLUTIONS (PVT) LTD, MOP GROUP
			
MR. KAPILA BAJAPAKSE IG, CEA	MR. LAHIRU WIJERATHNE CEO, MODERN PACK LTD	MR. LAKSHMAN MAZARASINGHE CEO, SOLUTIONS GROUND	MR. JOHANN TRANCHELL DIRECTOR, POLYDIME PLASTICS
			
MR. AMILA DE SAMANIEGO, SENIOR MANAGER, REGULATORY AFFAIRS CEYLON GOLD STONES PLC	MR. MALANA BANDARANAYAKE, CEO - ECO SPINOLICS (PVT) LTD	MR. FARISHEH MALEKI CEO, MESTHNE PAPERS (PVT) LTD	MS. ANUSH DHARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PHOENIX INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD

SUSTAINABILITY
 The global lens of sustainability with the gap between what is and what should be

REGULATIONS
 Panel discussion on Plastic Waste Regulations globally and locally together with its effects on the industry

INNOVATION
 Constant innovation in design and functionality is a must to avoid stagnation.

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CONTACT US

Janiru: 077 298 6899
 Sania: 076 825 5590
 conference@cdcevents.net

Deadline for Registrations
15th October 2025

Updated on
7th October 2025

REGISTRATION



Why It Matters and Why Now

For the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging (SLIP), WPO 2025 is not just an honour, it's a strategic milestone. It's a rare opportunity to:

Share practical innovations grounded in local wisdom and climate realities

Build bridges between national priorities and global best practices

Inspire new thinking and realign packaging with human and environmental needs

As the world shifts from linear consumption to circular economies, Sri Lanka is offering a new model, one that blends resilience, inclusion, and innovation into every layer of the packaging value chain.

WPO 2025 will be more than a summit. It will be an immersive experience, a showcase of how packaging can be transformed when vision is matched with collaboration and action.

Join Us — Let's Redesign the Future of Packaging

As industries, communities, and ecosystems rethink the role of packaging, this is the time to connect, contribute, and lead.

Whether you're a policymaker, entrepreneur, designer, student, or sustainability champion, WPO 2025 invites you to be part of the conversation that reshapes our global packaging future. Let's turn ideas into measurable progress. Let's create packaging that protects more than products, it protects people, ecosystems, and opportunity.



MEDIA LAUNCH HELD FOR LANKAPAK 2025 – SRI LANKA'S PREMIER PACKAGING EXHIBITION

The Media Launch of Lankapak 2025 took place on 2nd September at the Hilton Residencies Union Ballroom, Colombo. The event was graced by SLIP President Mr. Thusith Wijesinghe, Deputy President Mr. Nishan Perera, members of the SLIP Council of Management, and representatives from the Ministry of Industries and Entrepreneurship Development, led by Mrs. Nalini Balasubramaniam, Director – Development I Division, alongside key media personnel.

The launch provided a preview of South Asia's premier packaging, printing, plastics, and related industries, in anticipation of the main exhibition scheduled from 23–25 October 2025 at SBMEC, BMICH. The upcoming event is set to feature over 100 companies, including international exhibitors, and will offer daily presentations and expert-led Packaging Clinics to provide insights, foster networking, and create business opportunities for attendees.

The event enjoys strong industry support, with a robust sponsorship base comprising Polydime Plastics (Pvt.) Ltd as the Principal Sponsor, Packwell Lanka (Private) Limited as the Platinum Sponsor, PCL Solutions (Pvt.) Ltd as the Gold Sponsor, and FMJ Holdings, PGP Glass Ceylon PLC, and Hayleys Aventura (Private) Limited as Silver Sponsors.



With its reputation as South Asia's flagship platform for innovation, growth, and collaboration, Lankapak 2025 promises to be a landmark event for the packaging industry, connecting industry leaders, innovators, and stakeholders from across the region.



LANKASTAR JUDGING SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

The LankaStar Judging was successfully conducted at the Ramada Wyndham Hotel, Colombo, on 23rd and 24th August 2025. The judging panel comprised industry leaders in packaging, as well as experts from marketing, the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI), Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI), and Regulatory Advisory Services.

The judges brought their expertise in regulatory affairs, nutrition business compliance, new product initiatives, and technical knowledge from departments such as Food Science and Technology and Chemical and Process Engineering.

The competition attracted around 40 participating companies with multiple entries, alongside more than 20 student entries from Moratuwa and Wayamba Universities, showcasing emerging talent in the packaging industry.

The Sri Lanka Packaging Awards 2025 judging concluded successfully, guided by this elite panel of Sri Lankan professionals, ensuring a fair, comprehensive, and high-standard evaluation process for all entries.



LANKAPAK & SRI LANKA PACKAGING AWARDS - 2025

A Landmark October for Sri Lanka's Packaging Industry

This October, the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging (SLIP) is set to transform Colombo into the heart of South Asia's packaging conversation with three major events that bring together innovation, sustainability, and design excellence: World Packaging Forum, LankaPak 2025 and the Sri Lanka Packaging Awards – Lanka Star Awards 2025.

LankaPak 2025 – Showcasing the Future of Packaging

23 – 25 October 2025 | BMICH, Colombo

For over two decades, LankaPak has been the premier stage for packaging, processing, printing, and plastics in Sri Lanka. The 26th edition promises to be its most dynamic yet, featuring more than 150 exhibitors from across the globe. Attendees can expect to discover the latest breakthroughs in sustainable packaging solutions, advanced printing technologies, flexible and rigid packaging, and smart labeling innovations.

Running parallel to the exhibition is the Annual Packaging Congress, a thought-leadership forum where experts will unpack global trends and ESG-driven strategies reshaping the industry. This congress provides valuable insights for businesses striving to meet new environmental standards and consumer expectations while staying competitive in global markets.



For professionals, innovators, and entrepreneurs, LankaPak 2025 is more than an exhibition, it's where connections are forged and the future of packaging takes shape.

Explore the full exhibition and congress details here:

<https://srilankapackaging.com/lankapak-2025/>

Sri Lanka Packaging Awards – Celebrating Design and Innovation

30 October 2025 | Cinnamon Grand Colombo

Culminating the month's events, the Sri Lanka Packaging Awards (Lanka Star Awards) will honor the best packaging designs and innovations in the country. Recognized as the highest accolade in the local packaging industry, the awards celebrate creativity, functionality, and sustainability across multiple categories, from consumer packaging to POP displays.



What makes the Lanka Star Awards especially significant is their gateway to international recognition. Winners are automatically qualified to compete in the prestigious AsiaStar and WorldStar Awards, giving Sri Lankan packaging designers and manufacturers a platform to shine globally. This year's ceremony also includes the Student Star Contest, spotlighting young talent and fostering the next generation of packaging professionals.

It's an evening that not only celebrates achievement but also inspires the future of packaging design in Sri Lanka.

Discover award categories and how you can be part of this celebration:

<https://srilankapackaging.com/events/lankastar-awards-packaging-ball/>

Why These Events Matter

Together, LankaPak 2025 and the Lanka Star Awards represent the pulse of Sri Lanka's packaging sector, bridging business opportunities, global trends, and creative breakthroughs. Whether you're a manufacturer, designer, student, or industry stakeholder, October is your moment to witness and participate in the growth story of Sri Lanka's packaging industry.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM DONE FROM APRIL TO JULY

Upskilling for Impact: SLIP Empowers SPMC's Packaging Team Through Focused Training

April–July 2025

In the world of pharmaceuticals, packaging is far more than just a container, it's a critical safeguard that protects product integrity, patient safety, and public trust. But how often do we stop to consider the people behind the packaging? What knowledge and skills ensure that every package truly meets the highest standards?

Recognizing this vital link, the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging (SLIP) launched a targeted training initiative to elevate the capabilities of the Packaging Department employees at the State Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC).

Held in three intensive phases between April and July 2025, the program is designed to deepen understanding of pharmaceutical packaging, from material science and barrier properties to regulatory compliance and quality control. How can better packaging design reduce waste and improve shelf life? What role does packaging play in navigating evolving global regulations?



Each four-day course, limited to 15–20 participants, allows for hands-on learning, real-world case studies, and peer collaboration, all led by industry expert Mr. Abhaya Seneviratne, whose experience brings theory into practice. How can these learnings be applied immediately to enhance operational efficiency and product safety?

The first course has been successfully completed, with participants receiving certificates marking their progress.

The second course concluded successfully, with the final session taking place on 19th July 2025.

Beyond technical skills, this program encourages a mindset shift:

What does it mean to take shared ownership over packaging quality?

How does empowering frontline employees strengthen the entire pharmaceutical supply chain?

As regulatory demands grow and patient expectations rise, SLIP's initiative represents a strategic investment in human capital, ensuring that Sri Lanka's pharmaceutical packaging is not just compliant but also innovative and resilient.

By connecting knowledge to purpose, SLIP continues to champion a future where packaging professionals are leaders in quality, safety, and sustainability.

Are we ready to rethink packaging as a powerful force for health and well-being?

Sri Lanka Institute of packaging will commence the diploma course in Packaging Technology on 18th October which is endorsed by the Ministry of Industries and the World Packaging Organization.

Approved & Endorsed by:



Ministry of Industries
&
Entrepreneurship Development



Sri Lanka Institute
of Packaging



2025 Diploma Course in Packaging Technology

Designed for professionals aspiring to become packaging specialists and Provides formal recognition in the field of packaging

Enhance your expertise and advance your career in packaging !

Candidates must meet one of the following requirements:

- GCE A/L qualification with a minimum of three years' experience in packaging or a related industry or,
- Successful completion of the Certificate in Packaging Technology course or,
- A minimum of five years' experience in packaging or a related industry or,
- A bachelor's degree or diploma, where packaging is required as a supplementary course.

Venue

Ministry of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development,
73/1, Galle Road, Colombo 03

The Diploma will cover:

- Unit 1: Packaging for Global Society and Markets
- Unit 2: Packaging Materials, Ancillary Materials, and Components
- Unit 3: Packaging Manufacturing and Application Processes
- Unit 4: Packaging Related Research and/or Development Project
- New Technologies and Future Trends
- Managing Adverse Environmental and Social Impacts

Important

The maximum number of participants will be limited to 30

Medium:

English

Course Fee :

Rs. 150,000/=

Contact Us:

Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging

No. 290, D.R.Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10

Tel: 011 473 4351, 011207 5986 | Email: slip.operation@gmail.com, slip@sltnet.lk

Website: srilankapackaging.com

24
Saturdays
from
18th
October
2025
(Inclusive of 3
Industry Visits)



A TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS ECO PACKAGING

Where Innovation Meets Global Demand



By Deshantha Silva
CEO/Director AitkenSpence Printing

The global packaging industry is undergoing a transformation, and Sri Lanka is poised to play a key role. As demand for sustainable, technologically advanced, and export-ready packaging grows, industry stakeholders must adapt or risk being left behind.

Here are the insights that matter most to packaging professionals today.

A Trillion-Dollar Transformation

The global printing and packaging industry, valued at USD 1.14 trillion in 2024, is projected to surpass USD 1.4 trillion by 2029. Sri Lanka mirrors this growth, with its sector expected to expand at a 6.5% CAGR between 2025 and 2031, driven by the food, beverage, apparel, and pharmaceutical sectors.

From flexible packaging to folding cartons, labels, and digital printing, packaging is no longer just about protection, it's about performance, compliance, and sustainability.

Sustainability at the Core

With rising pressure from regulations and environmentally conscious consumers, Sri Lankan packaging manufacturers are pivoting toward:

Recycled and biodegradable materials

Paper-based alternatives (e.g., single-layer paper with barrier coatings)

Energy-efficient processes like LED UV printing
Waste reduction and circular design models

Going paperless is also helping reduce costs, conserve water, and cut emissions, all while meeting ESG goals.



Key Materials on the Rise:

Recycled paper, uncoated cardboard, compostables, biodegradable plastics, aluminium, and glass, all valued for their durability and recyclability.



Packaged Printing, Corrugated, Flexible, Folding Cartons, Labels, Tags, Etc. is expected to reach approx. USD 700 billion by 2029, growing of 7 – 8 % CAGR



Smart, Personalised & E-Commerce Ready

The rise of e-commerce is reshaping packaging expectations. Today's packaging must be:



Durable and protective



Visually engaging
Traceable and intelligent

From smart packaging technologies with anti-counterfeit features to custom AR-powered designs, brands are now leveraging packaging as an extension of their marketing and consumer experience.

Facing the Challenges

While opportunities are abundant, the road is not without obstacles:

- Rising material and operational costs
- Currency volatility and import dependency
- Skills shortages due to brain drain
- Tightened global environmental regulations

Sri Lanka's institutions, including SLIP, SLAP, and the Ingrin Institute, are working to bridge the skill gap, but more coordinated upskilling is urgently needed.

The Regulatory Wave: Are You Ready?

The EU's Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), taking effect in August 2026, demands major change. It promotes reduced packaging waste, minimal material usage, and higher recyclability. Sri Lankan exporters must begin adapting their packaging strategies today.

There's a strong shift away from plastic with paper and biodegradable materials gaining ground.

Additionally, the rise of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), where producers are responsible for waste management throughout the product life cycle, is being echoed in Sri Lanka with draft regulations under review by the Ministry of Environment, CEA, and SLIP.

Compliance isn't optional, it's a new global standard.

What This Means for You

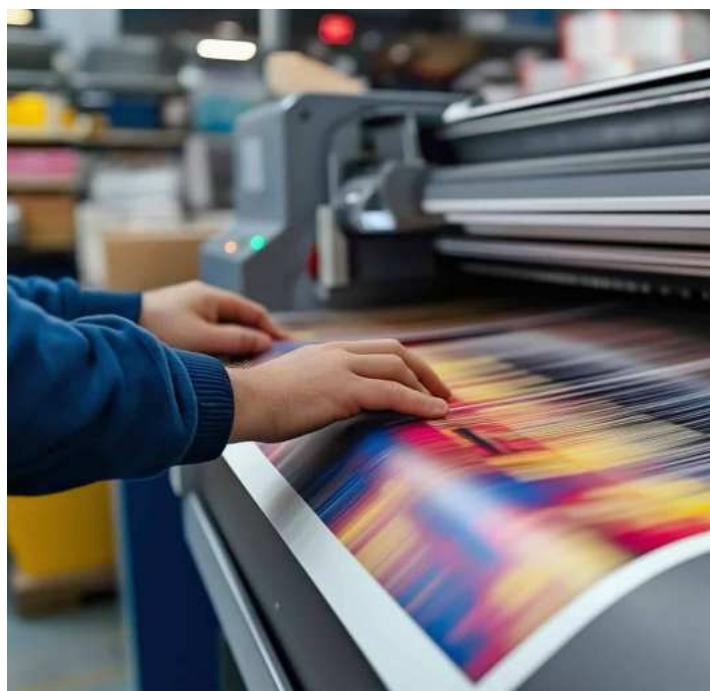
For packaging professionals, this moment calls for:

- Embracing eco-conscious design and materials
- Investing in digital and automated production technologies
- Monitoring regulatory shifts closely
- Building export-compliant solutions
- Fostering innovation through collaboration and upskilling
- The packaging industry isn't just changing, it's evolving to meet the future



This article has been extracted from an interview by LMD with Deshantha Silva. Our thanks to LMD for their continued support in highlighting industry insights.

Digital printing, AI, and automation will streamline production and deliver actionable insights.



CHINAPLAS 2025



CHINAPLAS 2025 – A Gateway to Global Innovation

CHINAPLAS 2025 emerged as far more than a trade exhibition, it was a powerful convergence of global innovation, insight, and opportunity. Held in Shenzhen, China, from April 14–18, the event showcased cutting-edge technologies that are shaping the future of packaging and beyond.

This year's exhibition featured a strong emphasis on advanced, eco-friendly plastics and fibers for electric vehicles (EVs), highlighting significant strides in efficiency and sustainability. While the promise of these innovations is immense, the discussions also acknowledged ongoing challenges such as cost barriers and recycling complexities, underlining the need for balanced, scalable solutions.

Sri Lanka's Participation – A Milestone for the Industry

A delegation of 21 industry members, including representatives of the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging (SLIP), attended CHINAPLAS 2025. The visit followed an introductory presentation by the CHINAPLAS organizers at the APF meeting in Bali, which sparked strong interest among Sri Lankan packaging professionals.

Participants benefited from complimentary accommodation, transportation, and access to concurrent events, making it an invaluable experience for learning, networking, and forging global connections. Notices were sent to all SLIP members in advance, ensuring a wide opportunity for participation.

A Firsthand Account – President's Perspective

"CHINAPLAS 2025 was overwhelming in scale yet incredibly rewarding in value. With 21 exhibition halls covering the full plastics value chain, it lived up to its reputation as a one-stop shop for innovation. For Sri Lanka's packaging industry, it provided an unparalleled platform to witness sustainable materials, intelligent manufacturing, and next-generation automation technologies firsthand."

Mr. Thusith Wijesinghe, President, SLIP

Mr. Wijesinghe emphasized that CHINAPLAS aligns closely with Sri Lanka's preferences, it's not about "window shopping" for unattainable technologies but discovering affordable, practical solutions suited to local industry needs. He noted the strong presence of manufacturers from regions like the former USSR, drawn by China's accessibility and advancements amid ongoing sanctions.

Looking Ahead

The insights and connections gained from CHINAPLAS 2025 will inform Sri Lanka's strategic direction in packaging, particularly in areas of sustainability and modernization. There is growing enthusiasm within SLIP to deepen collaboration with CHINAPLAS, ensuring Sri Lankan enterprises remain competitive on the global stage.

The event reaffirmed a shared commitment: to not only keep pace with global trends but to shape them, responsibly, sustainably, and affordably.

PROPACK ASIA

ProPak Asia 2025 – SLIP Delegation Explores Global Packaging Innovation

"Nine members, four days, one vision, shaping the future of sustainable packaging for Sri Lanka."

ProPak Asia 2025, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from June 12–15, reaffirmed its position as one of Asia's premier trade events for processing and packaging technologies. The exhibition served as a dynamic meeting point for global industry leaders, manufacturers, and solution providers, spotlighting innovations shaping the future of packaging.

Sri Lanka's Participation – Focused Delegation, Big Impact

A delegation of nine SLIP members represented Sri Lanka at the event, immersing themselves in the latest developments in automation, sustainable materials, and advanced supply chain solutions. Despite being a compact group, the delegation maximized the opportunity to engage with technology providers and thought leaders from across the globe.

"Walking through the expansive halls of ProPak Asia, you realize just how rapidly the industry is evolving, from smart packaging lines to biodegradable materials, every innovation feels like a glimpse into the future."

Key Takeaways – Innovation and Networking

For SLIP members, ProPak Asia 2025 offered:

Exposure to next-generation packaging solutions tailored to evolving consumer and regulatory demands. Insights into sustainable processing technologies and practical applications for regional markets. Networking opportunities with international stakeholders to foster collaborations and partnerships.

Looking Ahead

The visit underscored the importance of continuous global engagement for Sri Lanka's packaging sector. Events like ProPak Asia provide invaluable platforms for knowledge exchange, capability building, and alignment with international best practices, essential for driving local industry forward.

SLIP remains committed to facilitating access to global forums, ensuring members stay informed, competitive, and future-ready.



SUSTAINABLE OR GREEN WASHED?



By Johann Tranchell

In the context of the use of Recycled Plastic particularly in flexible film-based packaging.

The packaging world is rapidly moving towards sustainability. Smithers estimates that the GreenPackaging Industry globally is estimated at around US\$ 330B, which would reach US\$ 550B within the next decade. New laws such Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is being rolled out in many nations where packaging value chains are racing to ensure they get sustainable with circularity in mind. There is no easy way out even though there are some who would make claims on sustainability irresponsibly with no formal backing nor understanding. This is termed "Green Washing" which is defined as, when a sustainability claim is made, but it's merely only a claim printed on a package and has not been substantiated with proper evidence, nor has the technical aspects been looked at. Why would a manufacturer do this? Sadly the copy culture continues to intensify and those who would take short cuts won't hesitate to get into the space of a genuine sustainable packaging organisation just to say "we can do that product too". What should an end user look for to ensure that his product is genuine and contains Recycled Plastic?

The following 3 points are the most fundamental.

1) Know the source of Waste Plastic

When a product that contains recycled plastic is purchased, make sure you know the source of waste plastic. Does the company produce its own waste plastic from post consumer or industrial waste or does it purchase it from a third party? It is important to ask the hard questions and understand that the waste is certified and comes from a responsible environmental licenced authority. You have the right to ask for certification as if you have not done your home work there is a good chance you may be caught unaware.



2) Certification confirming the use of recycled plastic

Many certification bodies issue authentic certificates of conformity on the level of recycled plastic that is used in a product. Global Recycle Standards (RCS) is one such certificate that confirms this and even demands that companies use their logo, content of recycle material in the product and also a unique company registration number that goes on the packaging. Further on the request of any customer a transaction certificate is issued to confirm conformity. Such certification comes with much scrutiny and a logo of this nature gives confidence to the customer to make a purchase.

3) Confirmation of product stability

Products that contain recycled plastic tend to be relatively unstable as the polymer bonds have been stressed during the recycle process and there is a good chance if material blends are not engineered carefully it may affect critical stability characteristics. This is important specially in the area of agriculture products that are exposed to heavy UV where rapid depolymerisation can take place and it could mean crop destruction in many forms.

As such going into the detail of product spec and ensuring the manufacturer can give sufficient data on accelerated and real time shelf life studies is vital. The results of Green Washing can be detrimental. It includes reputational damage, legal and financial repercussions, and market access restrictions for companies found to be non-compliant with new regulations. Consumers lose trust in case false environmental claims are made, hindering genuinely sustainable businesses from doing their part for sustainability - <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/>

The internet explosion has made data easily available to a consumer who is becoming seriously environmentally friendly. Data is available at their fingertips. As such it is fair to say that "If you hide it, you would be found out".

WORLD STAR AWARDS NIGHT

Sri Lanka Triumphs at WorldStar Global Packaging Awards 2025

Modern Pack Lanka & SLINTEC Redefine Sustainable Packaging

Sri Lanka has proudly taken center stage at the prestigious WorldStar Awards 2025, celebrating ground-breaking innovation in packaging on a global scale. In a fiercely competitive segment with over 550 entries from more than 100 countries, Modern Pack Lanka Pvt. Ltd., in collaboration with SLINTEC, won the coveted WorldStar Award in the Sustainable Innovations Category, judged by a panel of 51 international experts.

Award-Winning Innovation

The winning solution transforms agricultural waste (such as corn husk and rice straw) into fully compostable, food-safe packaging. Developed through SLINTEC's research and scaled by Modern Pack Lanka, the product significantly reduces resource usage, plastic, paper, water, and chemicals—while delivering commercial viability. Earlier awarded Gold at LankaStar 2024, this innovation sets a new benchmark in eco-packaging.

"This is more than an award - it's proof of Sri Lankan companies' commitment to leading the world in sustainable technology."

Lahiru Wijerathna, CEO, Modern Pack Lanka

Mr. Wijerathna expressed gratitude to all stakeholders involved, from SLINTEC scientists and the SLIP leadership to the dedicated team at Modern Pack Lanka who brought the innovation to output.

Significance for Sri Lanka's Packaging Industry



Global Recognition:

Elevates Sri Lanka as a leader in sustainable packaging innovation.



Research & Industry Synergy:

Showcases the power of collaboration between SLINTEC, Modern Pack Lanka, and SLIP.



Scaling Sustainability:

Demonstrates that eco-packaging can be economically viable, scalable, and circular.

Sri Lanka's success at both LankaStar 2024 and now WorldStar 2025 reflects its path from regional player to global sustainability champion.

Looking Forward with Confidence

This global achievement is more than an accolade, it's momentum. SLIP and its partners are building on this success to:

- Empower the next generation of Sri Lankan innovators.
- Deepen international collaboration in sustainable packaging.
- Feature Sri Lankan solutions at upcoming events like WPO 2025 in Colombo.

With every recognized innovation, Sri Lanka strengthens its position in global sustainable packaging, proving that local ingenuity can lead worldwide impact.





ASIA STAR AWARD - POLYDIME

Recycled Power, Reinvented Performance:

Polydime's Certified Grow Bag Is Changing the Game in Sustainable Agriculture. What if a grow bag could last through multiple crop cycles, resist the harshest elements, and still be made from waste?

Polydime Plastic Packaging Ltd, a leading innovator in Sri Lanka's packaging sector, has done just that, introducing a durable, high-performance Grow Bag made with 55% post-consumer recycled plastic, certified under the globally recognized Recycle Claims Standard (RCS).

This isn't just eco-friendly packaging, it's next-generation agricultural infrastructure, designed for commercial growers, exporters, and sustainable farms who want to reduce their footprint without compromising performance.

Built for Harsh Conditions. Designed to Last.

The Grow Bag is manufactured with a specialized polymer blend that can withstand:



Prolonged
UV exposure



High moisture
and humidity



Oxygen
infiltration



Pesticide
interaction

These conditions normally accelerate the breakdown of conventional plastic. But Polydime's formula is engineered for durability across multiple crop cycles, meaning growers can reduce both replacement costs and plastic waste.

Sustainability, Verified.

At the heart of this innovation is recycled plastic sourced from post-consumer waste that undergoes a multi-stage purification process, removing impurities while retaining material strength and safety.

RCS-Certified:

Ensures the recycled content is traceable and meets strict environmental and quality standards. Each bag repurposes approx. 0.6–0.8 kg of plastic waste that would otherwise end up in landfills or oceans.

Supporting Scalable, Sustainable Agriculture

Inside each bag lies Cocopeat, a high-yield growing medium trusted worldwide for its water retention, aeration, and root support, making this product ideal for:



Commercial greenhouses and hydroponics



Urban farming initiatives



Export horticulture



Organic and regenerative agriculture projects

A Sri Lankan Innovation with Global Potential

Polydime's Grow Bag is a proud contribution to Sri Lanka's growing reputation in sustainable packaging and agricultural solutions. With scalable production capabilities and a strong commitment to circular design, this innovation is well-positioned for both local deployment and international export.

Current market fries boxes are inconvenient—separate sauce packets, lack of structure, and quick loss of crispiness. This design fixes those issues with

- Easy assembly
- Reclosability
- A pierceable block circle for the cup
- Cost reduction
- Eco-friendly materials
- Versatile usage

Certified. Recycled. Reliable.

From verified recycled content to field-tested durability, this Grow Bag represents the future of responsible agriculture, where innovation meets intention.

Interested in learning more or partnering with Polydime?

Contact: info@polydime.com | Visit: www.polydime.com



ASIA STAR AWARD - WAYAMBA UNIVERSITY

Award-Winning Innovation: Dual Compartment French Fries Box by Wayamba University

We are proud to highlight the outstanding achievement of Wayamba University of Sri Lanka for their innovative Dual Compartment French Fries Box, which recently won a Gold Award at LankaStar, a prestigious recognition in the packaging industry.

This thoughtfully designed box addresses common pain points in fast-food packaging with a clever, user-friendly approach. Featuring two distinct compartments, one dedicated to crispy fries and another to securely hold a sauce cup, the box also includes a handy side pocket for tissues. Both the box and the sauce cup are reclosable and can stand upright, providing stability and convenience, especially for customers on the go.

Crafted from paperboard or recycled pulp paper, the box delivers strength, crispness, and sustainability. The sauce cup is available in plastic or eco-friendly sugarcane-based materials, with transparent double tape edges ensuring easy assembly. The design's foldable nature reduces shipping volume and is easily customizable for other food products, making it a versatile solution for the food packaging sector.

This innovation effectively solves issues found in conventional fry boxes, such as messy separate sauce packets, lack of structural support, and rapid loss of crispiness, through features like:

- Simple and quick assembly
- Reclosability for freshness
- A pierceable block circle to secure the sauce cup
- Cost-effective materials and manufacturing
- Environmentally friendly components
- Broad applicability beyond fries

The success of this project not only demonstrates the power of creative packaging solutions but also highlights the potential of Sri Lanka's emerging talent. We encourage our junior batches and future packaging innovators to take inspiration and seize opportunities offered by organizations like the Sri Lanka Institute of Packaging (SLIP).

Congratulations to the Wayamba University team on this well-deserved Gold Award! We look forward to seeing their and other creative new entries continue to shape the future of packaging innovation in Sri Lanka.



ASIA STAR AWARD - AITKEN SPENCE

Aitken Spence Printing began its business 70 years ago in Galle, largely to cater to its in-house stationery and other printing needs but had grown over the years to become a formidable printer servicing local and overseas clients in segments such as Tea, Apparel, FMCG, Pharmaceuticals, Food, Beverage & Tobacco, Publications, Consumer Durables & Protective Wear, Stationery and POSM etc. The modern printing plant located just outside of Colombo in Mawaramandiya is a 100,000 square foot facility.

Aitken Spence Printing is the first Carbon Neutral Printer in the South Asian region, with LEED Gold certification and certified for integrated management system (IMS) that encompasses ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001 :2015, ISO 45001: 2018, SMETA and FSC standards. The organization has consistently been committed to sustainable practices and this is exemplified through practices such as harvesting day lights, rooftop solar power generation, rainwater harvesting, waste-water purification and numerous other environmentally conscious initiatives.

Aitken Spence Printing is a subsidiary of the leading conglomerate Aitken Spence PLC that has been at the forefront of corporate sustainability for more than two decades and dedicated to contributing towards economic, ecological, and social development. Aitken Spence Printing continues to relish a leading market share in the printing and packaging industry of Sri Lanka.



CAN “CLEAN SRI LANKA” PROJECT BE USED TO REDUCE LEAKAGE OF PLASTIC WASTE TO THE ENVIRONMENT



By Kithsiri Wijesundera

Yes, the Clean Sri Lanka project can potentially play a significant role in reducing the leakage of plastic waste into the environment through a combination of strategies and initiatives. Here's how it can be leveraged effectively:

1. Awareness and Education

The Clean Sri Lanka project can spearhead large-scale awareness and education campaigns. By informing the public about the environmental impacts of plastic waste, the project can promote sustainable consumption patterns and encourage reductions in single-use plastics.

2. Community Engagement

Engaging communities is crucial for successful waste management. The project can work with local communities to organize clean-up drives, Plastic Packaging waste workshops, and training sessions. By involving local stakeholders, such projects can foster a sense of ownership and responsibility towards a cleaner environment, encouraging communities to actively participate in reducing plastic pollution.

3. Infrastructure Development

Improving waste management infrastructure is key. The project can advocate for and support the development of more efficient waste collection and recycling systems. This could include the establishment of additional recycling facilities or improving waste segregation processes at the source to ensure more plastic waste is collected and recycled, rather than leaking into the environment.

4. Public-Private Partnerships

Forming partnerships with businesses and NGOs involved in waste management can increase the project's impact. Collaborations can lead to innovative solutions such as developing biodegradable alternatives to plastic packaging or enhancing existing recycling technologies.



5. Policy Advocacy

The project can advocate for stronger regulatory frameworks that promote extended producer responsibility (EPR) and enforce bans on certain types of harmful plastic products. By influencing policy, the project can contribute to systematic changes that reduce plastic leakage.

6. Research and Innovation

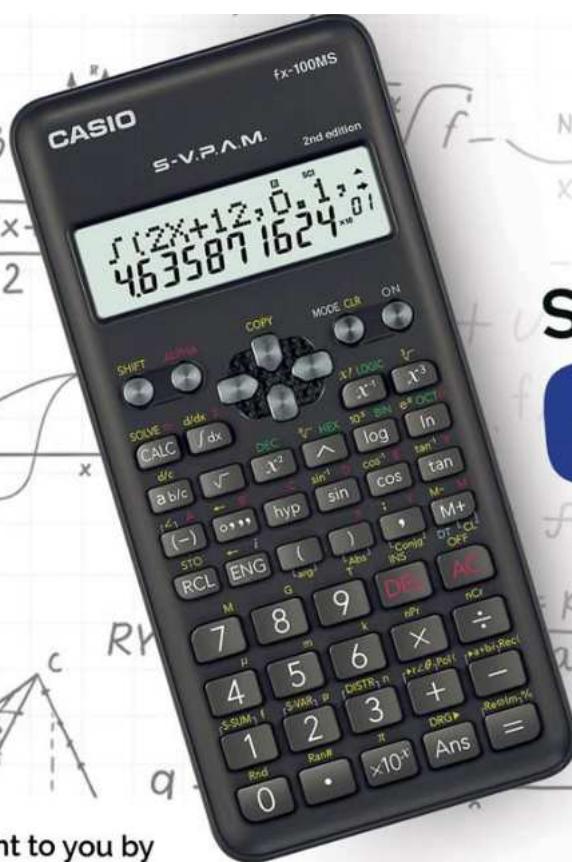
Investing in research and innovation is essential for creating alternative solutions to plastic packaging. The project can support initiatives that aim to develop new materials or methods that are environmentally friendly and financially viable.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

Lastly, by establishing systems to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of various waste management strategies, the Clean Sri Lanka project can identify areas for improvement and ensure that goals are being met efficiently.

Conclusion

By integrating these components, the Clean Sri Lanka project can effectively reduce plastic waste leakage into the environment. Through comprehensive efforts that combine community action, policy advocacy, technological advancements, and educational outreach, such projects can pave the way for a cleaner and more sustainable future.



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