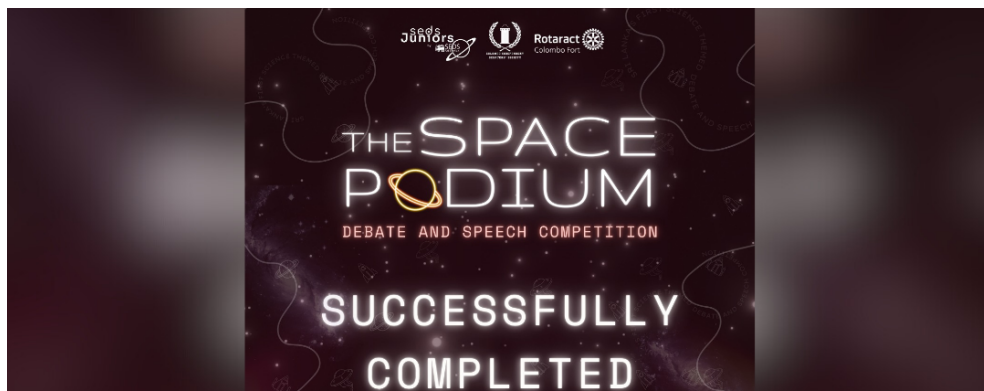




Space Podium

Professional Development



Submitted by
Rtr. Kaumini Mapa (Secretary)
from the
Rotaract Club of Colombo Fort
Sponsored By
Rotary Club of Colombo Fort
Held on
March 22nd, 2025
at the
Zoom Meetings

Secondary Avenues

- Membership Development and Retention

Description

The Space Podium was conceptualised as an innovative educational initiative aimed at empowering school students to explore and articulate ideas related to space, science, and innovation through the powerful platforms of debate and public speaking. Recognising the growing interest in space sciences and the importance of communication skills in youth development, the Rotaract Club of Colombo Fort joined hands with SEDS Sri Lanka and SEDS Juniors to organise a first-of-its-kind **trilingual debate and speech competition**.

The name “*The Space Podium*” was chosen to represent a platform for young voices to speak on universal issues, particularly those relating to outer space, innovation, and sustainability, in **Sinhala, Tamil, and English** – breaking language barriers and promoting inclusivity.

What started as a small brainstorming session between RACCF and SEDS turned into a massive, island-wide event that brought together **over 300 students from more than 50 schools**, making it one of the largest youth-led space awareness campaigns in Sri Lanka’s educational sphere.

Objectives

- **Promote STEM Awareness:** To educate and engage students with space science, astronomy, and related global challenges.
- **Develop Communication Skills:** To empower students in articulating complex ideas through structured debate and persuasive speech.
- **Celebrate Linguistic Diversity:** To offer equal opportunity to students of all backgrounds by facilitating the competition in Sinhala, Tamil, and English.
- **Foster Critical Thinking:** To encourage informed discussion and research-driven arguments on futuristic themes.
- **Build National Networks:** To connect schools, students, and educators around a common educational cause.

Goals

SDG Goals

- 4 - Quality Education
 - 4.4 Increase the number of people with relevant skills for financial success.
- 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
 - 9.5 Enhance research and upgrade industrial technologies.
- 10 - Reduced Inequality
 - 10.2 Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion.

Rotary Area of Focus

- Economic and Community Development
- Basic Education and Literacy

Other focus Areas

- Youth Development (under Supporting Education)

Project Chair

Name	Volunteer Hours
Ahmadh Booso	360 Hours (Appox.)

Project Committee

Name	Volunteer Hours	Committee Role
Kaumini Mapa	240 Hours (Appox.)	Project Secretary
Yazeed Ahamed	320 Hours (Appox.)	Project Coordinator
Maleesha Gunasekara	120 Hours (Appox.)	Visual Content Creator
Mahdi Namiz	40 Hours (Appox.)	Visual Content Review
Sabrin Cader	120 Hours (Appox.)	Admin Staff
	Total Hours	1200 Hours

Club Participation

Club Name	Count
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Other Organization Participation

Organization Name	Organization Type	Count
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SEDS Sri Lanka	other	25
SEDS Juniors	other	34
CIDS	other	27
Royal College Colombo	other	24
Zahira College Colombo	other	12
Sujatha Vidyalaya	other	10
St. Lawrence's Convent	other	23
St. Benedicts College	other	12
St. Peters College	other	25
Ladies College Colombo	other	14
Muslim Ladies College	other	12
Wesley College	other	13
Methodist College	other	22
Holy Family Convent	other	12
Ananda College	other	14
St. Joseph's College	other	12
St. Bridget's College	other	10

District Steering Committee Participation

Name	Designation
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Budget

Income

Description		Amount
Sponsorships		120000 LKR
	Total Income	120000 LKR

Expenses

Description		Amount
Venue		-30000 LKR
Trophy & Certificates		-40000 LKR
Refreshments		-40000 LKR
Stationery & Printing		-10000 LKR
	Total Expense	120000 LKR
	Total	0 LKR

Project Planning

Planning Timeline:

- **Mid December:** Project ideation and collaboration initiation with SEDS Sri Lanka
- **Late December:** Partner confirmations, school outreach, and launch of participant registration
- **January – February:** Preliminary rounds, mentorship programs, and speech/debate coaching
- **Final Week (February or March):** Grand finale conducted with live judging panels

Team Division:

- **RACCF:** Oversaw overall project management, hosting, coordination with judges, and speech training
- **SEDS Juniors:** Handled school outreach, speaker mentorship, and scientific content verification
- **CIDS:** Coordinated logistics, digital promotion, and language translation/interpretation support
- **Media and PR Team:** Managed visuals, livestreaming (if online), digital promotions, and post-event publishing
- **Judging Panel Coordination:** Experts from academia, astronomy clubs, and speech coaches formed the adjudicator body

Public Relations Plan

Pre-Event:

- Engaging flyers shared on social media (Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn)
- School outreach kits with registration links and information booklets
-

Press releases sent to education blogs and local media

During the Event:

- Livestreams (or stories/highlights) shared in real-time
- Featured interviews with mentors, students, and judges
- Multilingual story highlights using Instagram templates

Post-Event:

- Carousel posts showcasing winners, best moments, and behind-the-scenes
- Testimonial quotes from participants and partners
- Thank-you posts tagging all collaborators and schools

PR links

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AZJm9otLw/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DMuSpVoAK/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DJA73K3lXKB/?igsh=NTFzZzA3NHZ4d2c1>

https://www.instagram.com/p/DJA7_7lIdJW/?igsh=Y3MwOTI1MWFqYnk0

https://www.instagram.com/p/DJA8Gwrl_nY/?igsh=MW1lbWRlR4YTh5aQ==

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/rotaract-club-of-colombo-fort_thespacepodium-leadingprofessionals-professionaldevelopment-activity-7283092735706705920-Fnjf?utm_source=social_share_send&utm_medium=android_app&rcm=ACoAACTGkZ8BOH8t_o0gVVAnfOr8FCUPdXleKFo&utm_campaign=copy_link

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/rotaract-club-of-colombo-fort_thespacepodium-rotaract-rid3220-activity-7288404449826390017-mK74?utm_source=social_share_send&utm_medium=android_app&rcm=ACoAACTGkZ8BOH8t_o0gVVAnfOr8FCUPdXleKFo&utm_campaign=copy_link

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/rotaract-club-of-colombo-fort_thespacepodium-rotaract-rid3220-activity-7288405623862439944-uVbA?utm_source=social_share_send&utm_medium=android_app&rcm=ACoAACTGkZ8BOH8t_o0gVVAnfOr8FCUPdXleKFo&utm_campaign=copy_link

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/rotaract-club-of-colombo-fort_thespacepodium-rotaract-rid3220-activity-7288407194914500608-zt_9?utm_source=social_share_send&utm_medium=android_app&rcm=ACoAACTGkZ8BOH8t_o0gVVAnfOr8FCUPdXleKFo&utm_campaign=copy_link

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/rotaract-club-of-colombo-fort_thespacepodium-sedsjuniors-cids-activity-7322608102489411585-20lm?utm_source=social_share_send&utm_medium=android_app&rcm=ACoAACTGkZ8BOH8t_o0gVVAnfOr8FCUPdXleKFo&utm_campaign=copy_link

Beneficiaries

- 300+ participating students from diverse socioeconomic and linguistic backgrounds
- School debating societies and speech clubs
- Academic professionals from speech and space science domains

Partners

- SEDS Sri Lanka
- SEDS Juniors
- CIDS

Outcomes

Short-Term Impact:

- Provided a high-quality debate and speech platform that enhanced students' communication and presentation skills
- Introduced new audiences to space science, sustainability, and global issues
- Celebrated Sri Lanka's linguistic diversity through an inclusive program design

Long-Term Impact:

- Inspired continued engagement in STEM subjects and public discourse
- Laid the foundation for future inter-school collaborations under RACCF and SEDS
- Boosted institutional credibility for all organising bodies among schools and youth stakeholders

Areas of Improvements

- Future editions could offer personalised feedback to participants post-performance
- Improve logistical tracking of participant data for more targeted follow-ups
- Expand to include workshop components or regional preliminary rounds
- Develop an alumni network of Space Podium participants for continuous engagement

Gallery



