

PROFILES

Board of Directors
Group Executive Committee
Group Operating Committee



Board of Directors

Krishan Balendra

Chairman-CEO



Krishan Balendra is the Chairman-CEO of John Keells Holdings PLC. He is the Deputy Vice Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the Hon. Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Sri Lanka. He is a former Chairman of Nations Trust Bank and the Colombo Stock Exchange. Krishan started his career at UBS Warburg, Hong Kong, in investment banking, focusing primarily on equity capital markets. He joined JKH in 2002. Krishan holds a law degree (LLB) from the University of London and an MBA from INSEAD.

Gihan Cooray

Deputy Chairman/Group Finance Director



Gihan Cooray is the Deputy Chairman/Group Finance Director and has overall responsibility for the Group's Finance and Accounting, Taxation, Corporate Finance and Strategy, Treasury, Information Technology function and Corporate Communications. He is the Chairman of Nations Trust Bank PLC. Gihan holds an MBA from the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management at Rice University, Houston, Texas. He is a Fellow member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK, a certified management accountant of the Institute of Certified Management Accountants, Australia and has a Diploma in Marketing from the Chartered Institute of Marketing, UK. He serves as a committee member of The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.

Nihal Fonseka

Non-Executive Director



Nihal Fonseka is a career banker and served as the Chief Executive Officer of DFCC Bank from 2000 until his retirement in 2013. He is currently the Chairman of Phoenix Industries Ltd, Non-Executive Director and Chairman of the Investment Committee of Phoenix Ventures Ltd and Non-Executive Director and Chairman of the Group Audit Committee of Brandix Lanka Limited. He was a member of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka from 2016 to 2020 and the President of the Sri Lanka National Advisory Council of the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investments, UK from 2011 to 2021. Prior to joining the DFCC Bank, he was the Deputy Chief Executive of HSBC Sri Lanka. He is a past Chairman of the Colombo Stock Exchange and the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP). He has also served as a Director of the Employees' Trust Fund Board and as a member of the Presidential Commission on Taxation (2009), National Procurement Commission and Strategic Enterprise Management Agency (SEMA). He holds a B.Sc. from the University of Ceylon, Colombo, is a Fellow of the Institute of Financial Studies, (FIB) UK and is an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investments, FCSI(Hon), UK.

Ashroff Omar

Non-Executive Director



Group Chief Executive Officer of Brandix Apparel Limited, Ashroff Omar, has been instrumental in redefining the Sri Lankan Apparel industry for over four decades. He spearheads a company that develops, manufactures and markets end to end apparel solutions for world renowned brands. With a purpose to deliver Inspired Solutions through Inspired People, he is credited with pivoting Brandix into a globally recognised company with operational presence across nine countries including India, Bangladesh, Haiti and the United Kingdom. On a journey to be the most sustainable apparel manufacturer in the region, Ashroff ensures that real change is embedded across every point of the operation at Brandix, to truly care for the planet and the communities in which the company serves. This feat has been recognised in several ways, including the company's plant in Batticaloa being certified as the world's first Net Zero Carbon Apparel Manufacturing facility in 2019. In Sri Lanka, his direction has led Brandix to be adjudged 'Exporter of the Year' for the 7th consecutive time at the Presidential Export Awards 2020/21. He is also the Founder Chair of the Joint Apparel Association Forum (JAAF), the apex body of the Sri Lanka Apparel industry and sits on the Boards of some of Sri Lanka's most respected corporates.

- Audit Committee
- Human Resources and Compensation Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Related Party Transactions Review Committee
- Project Risk Assessment Committee
- Refer Group Directory for directorships held by Executive Directors in other Group companies
- Senior Independent Director

Amal Cabraal

Non-Executive Director



Amal Cabraal is presently the Chairman of Ceylon Beverage Holdings PLC, Lion Brewery (Ceylon) PLC, Sunshine Holdings PLC, Silvermill Investment Holdings and CIC Feeds Group of Companies. He is a former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Unilever Sri Lanka and has over 4 decades of wide ranging local and international business experience. He is also a Non-Executive Director of Hatton National Bank PLC and serves as a business advisor to a number of companies. He is a member of the Board of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Management Committee of the Mercantile Services Provident Society. A Marketer by profession and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing - UK, he holds an MBA from the University of Colombo and is an executive education alumnus of INSEAD - France.

Premila Perera

Non-Executive Director



Premila Perera was appointed to the Board of the Company with effect from 1 July 2014 as an Independent Non-Executive Director. Premila Perera, formerly a Partner, KPMG in Sri Lanka, also served as the Global Firms Regional Tax Director for ASPAC in 2000/01, as a member of the Global Task force commissioned in 1998, to advise the International Board of KPMG on future directions in determining long-term strategic plans, and faculty of the KPMG International Tax Business School. She also served a period of secondment with the US Firm's National Tax Office in Washington DC, and was a participant at the KPMG-INSEAD International Banking School programme. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka. She served as an Independent Director and Chairperson of the Audit and Related Party Transaction Committees of Ceylon Tobacco Company PLC until October 2017 and as a Non-Executive Director of Holcim (Lanka) Limited until August 2016.

Dr. Hans Wijayasuriya

Non-Executive Director



In his role as the Chief Executive Officer – Telecommunications Business, Dr. Hans Wijayasuriya heads the pan-region Telecommunications Operations of the Axiata Group Bhd., spanning the markets of Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Cambodia. Axiata is Asia's second largest Telecommunications Group. Up to the year 2016, Dr. Wijayasuriya functioned as the Group Chief Executive of Dialog Axiata PLC (Dialog), Sri Lanka's leading multi-play connectivity provider, and one of the highest valued companies on the Colombo Stock Exchange. In the year 2016, Dr. Wijayasuriya was honoured by the GSM Association as the first recipient of the 'Outstanding Contribution to the Asian Mobile Industry' Award. Dr. Wijayasuriya is a past Chairman of GSM Asia Pacific – the regional interest group of the GSM Association. He was also named 'Sri Lankan of the Year' by Sri Lanka's premier business journal, LMD in 2008. Dr. Wijayasuriya is the immediate past Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Sri Lanka's premier business chamber. During the period 2012-14, Dr. Wijayasuriya also functioned as the founding CEO of Axiata Digital Services – the Group-wide Digital Services Business of the Axiata Group. Dr. Wijayasuriya is an alumnus of the University of Cambridge UK, and obtained his PhD from the University of Bristol UK. A Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institute of Engineering Technology UK, Dr. Wijayasuriya also holds an MBA from the University of Warwick.

Group Executive Committee

Daminda Gamlath

President

Daminda Gamlath is the President of the Consumer Foods industry group and has been with the John Keells Group since 2002. He was the Sector Financial Controller for the Information Technology sector and then the Consumer Foods sector before he was appointed as the Head of Beverages in 2013 and the Sector Head in 2017. Prior to joining the John Keells Group, he worked at the Hayleys Group. Daminda holds a B.Sc. in Engineering from the University of Moratuwa, an MBA from the University of Colombo and is a passed finalist of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (UK).

Charitha Subasinghe

President

Charitha Subasinghe is responsible for the Retail industry group of the Group. He has been with the John Keells Group since 2003. He was the Sector Financial Controller of the Supermarket business, before being appointed as the Chief Executive Officer in 2005. He was also employed at Aitken Spence Hotel Management as the Sector Financial Controller before moving over to John Keells. He is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (UK) as well as a Diploma Holder of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (UK). He also holds an MBA from the University of Colombo.

Nayana Mawilmada

President

Nayana Mawilmada is the Sector Head of the Property industry group at JKH. With extensive international experience in planning, facilitating, and managing large scale urban development and infrastructure projects across 15 countries, and working within both the private and public domains, Nayana brings a unique perspective to property sector endeavours. He is widely seen as a key advocate and spokesperson for sound urban development policy and planning in the country. Among his previous roles, Nayana has served as the Director General of the Urban Development Authority of Sri Lanka, Managing Director of York Street Partners (Pvt) Ltd a boutique investment bank in Colombo, and as an Urban Development Specialist for the Asian Development Bank based in Manila, Philippines. His academic training includes an MBA from Harvard Business School, a Master of City Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and a Bachelor of Architecture from Hampton University in the USA. In recognition of his leadership in Sri Lanka's urban development space, he was also awarded an Eisenhower Fellowship in 2017.

Nadija Tambiah

President

Nadija Tambiah is a law graduate from the University of Manchester, UK, a Barrister at Law (Middle Temple), UK and an Attorney at Law in Sri Lanka. She heads the Legal and Company Secretarial functions of the John Keells Group where she has worked for 26 years. She is also President of the John Keells Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of John Keells Holdings PLC and is part of the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative of the Group. She is a Trustee of the George Keyt Foundation, Geoffrey Bawa Trust, Lunuganga Trust, a member of the Executive Committee of the Colombo Museum of Modern Art and sits on the Council of the Sri Lankan Institute of Directors.

Suresh Rajendra

President

Suresh Rajendra has over 30 years of experience in the fields of finance, travel & tourism, hotel management, property development and real estate management and business development acquired both in Sri Lanka and overseas. Prior to joining the JKH Group, he was the Head of Commercial and Business Development for NRMA Motoring and Services in Sydney, Australia and Director/General Manager of Aitken Spence Hotel Managements (Private) Limited, Sri Lanka. He is a Fellow member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK. He is also the President of the Leisure Group and responsible for Union Assurance PLC, John Keells Information Technology (Private) Limited, and John Keells Stockbrokers.

Group Operating Committee

Sherin Cader

Executive Vice President

Sherin Cader is the Chief Financial Officer of the Financial Services industry group of John Keells Holdings PLC (JKH). She has been with the JKH Group since 1998, serving in many capacities across multiple sectors. She has played diverse roles across finance and operations in Financial Services, the IT Enabled Services sector and JKH Centre functions. She functioned as the Financial Controller at John Keells Holdings PLC from 2009 till 2012. Subsequently she took on the role of General Manager - Finance and Planning at Union Assurance PLC until her current role within the Financial Services industry group of JKH. Sherin also serves on the Board of Nations Trust Bank PLC as a Non-Executive Director. She is a Fellow Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants UK, and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants of UK and is also a Chartered Global Management Accountant. She is also SAP Certified in Managerial and Financial Accounting.

Changa Gunawardane

Executive Vice President

Presently acting as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Leisure industry group and currently serves as a Non-Executive Director on the Board of Asian Hotels & Properties PLC and Trans Asia Hotels PLC. Changa has been with John Keells Holdings PLC (JKH) for over 16 years. He previously held the position of Chief Financial Officer of the Information Technology sector, as well as the Sector Financial Controller of the Airlines and Logistics SBU within the Transportation sector. With over 27 years of experience as a finance professional in varying industries including Pharmaceutical, Manufacturing, Management Services, Electrical Engineering and Construction. Changa is also a Fellow member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants UK and holds an MBA from the Postgraduate Institute of Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Nelindra Fernando

Executive Vice President

Nelindra Fernando is the Chief Financial Officer for the Consumer Foods industry group. Nelindra joined the John Keells Group in 2013 as the Sector Financial Controller of the Consumer Foods Industry Group. Prior to joining the Group, she worked at the MAS group and Ernst & Young, Chartered Accountants. Nelindra serves on the Board of Ceylon Cold Stores PLC as an Executive Director and at Keells Food Products PLC as a Non-Executive Director. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants of UK and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka.

Zafir Hashim

Executive Vice President

Zafir Hashim is the Head of the Transportation industry group and the Plantation sector and has been with the Group for 19 years. He joined the Group in 2003, seconded to Lanka Marine Services where he served as CEO from 2005-2015. He has also served as a member of the Transportation Sector Committee from 2005. During the last 19 years he has held the position of CEO at John Keells Logistics Lanka Ltd. for a short time, and Mackinnons Mackenzie Shipping Co. Ltd., Mack International Freight Ltd and Mackinnons Travels Ltd. He has an MSc in Chemical Engineering from the University of Birmingham (UK).

Isuru Gunasekara

Executive Vice President

Isuru Gunasekera is the Chief People Officer of the Group, whilst also overseeing Group Sustainability, Enterprise Risk Management and Group Initiatives. He joined the Group in 2001 into the New Business Development Division and thereafter headed Group Initiatives and also new projects for the Transportation sector. He was the CEO of John Keells Logistics for 10 years and CEO of Mackinnons Travels for a short period. Prior to joining the Group, he was attached to J P Morgan Chase. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Loyola Marymount University, USA.

Nisreen Rehmanjee

Executive Vice President

Nisreen Rehmanjee is the Head of Corporate Finance, Group Tax & Social Entrepreneurship of the John Keells Group. Starting her career as an accounts trainee with KPMG in 1995, she rose to the position of Director Tax in 2001. She then joined the John Keells Group as Head of Tax Strategy in 2005. Her overseas experience includes a stint with the Global Tax Solutions team in London during her tenure with KPMG and a 3-year secondment to India with the John Keells IT/ITES cluster as Head of Corporate Functions. She was instrumental in conceptualising and launching the 'Plasticcycle' initiative of the John Keells Group, which is focused towards reducing plastic pollution across Sri Lanka. Nisreen is a Fellow member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, UK and an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK. Additionally, she is a member of the Tax Sub-committee of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, a past President of ACCA Sri Lanka and serves on the ACCA Sri Lanka member network panel.

Group Operating Committee

Ramesh Shanmuganathan

Executive Vice President

Ramesh Shanmuganathan is the Group's Chief Information Officer, a member of the Group Management Committee for the Information Technology sector, as well as Chief Executive of John Keells IT and John Keells X. Ramesh is also an Executive Director at John Keells IT, Infomate as well as John Keells Lanka BPO Services in addition to being a Non-Executive Director at Nations Trust Bank. He has over 25 years of experience in the ICT industry in Sri Lanka and the USA, with over 20+ years in C-level management. Ramesh is a Hayes-Fulbright Scholar and holds to his credit a Doctor of Philosophy (Technology Management) from Keisei International University (Seoul, South Korea), Master of Science (Information Technology and Computer Science) with Phi Kappa Phi Honours from Rochester Institute of Technology (New York, USA), Master of Business Administration from Postgraduate Institute of Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering with First Class Honours from the University of Moratuwa. He is at present reading for his Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) at the International School of Management, Paris. He is a Chartered Engineer, Chartered IT Professional and a Fellow of the British Computer Society and Institute of Engineers, UK. He has active memberships in several other professional institutions and is a visiting faculty member for several post-graduate programmes. He is an active advocate of Digital Transformation and Open Innovation and speaks in many international events and forums in this regard.

Hishan Singhawansa

Executive Vice President

Hishan Singhawansa is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer at Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts, part of the Leisure industry group of John Keells Holdings PLC (JKH). He overlooks Cinnamon's entire portfolio of hotels and resorts in Sri Lanka and the Maldives including the development of the much-anticipated mixed development project Cinnamon Life Integrated Resort. He joined the JKH in 2008 and started his career at the Retail sector of the group, where he headed Category Management and Supply Chain before moving into the Leisure industry group in 2017. He holds a BSc in Engineering (Hons) Degree from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka; and a MBA from the University of Wales.

Mikael Svensson

Executive Vice President

Mikael Svensson is the Chief Executive Officer at Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts, part of the Leisure industry group of John Keells Holdings PLC (JKH). He overlooks Cinnamon's entire portfolio of hotels and resorts in Sri Lanka and the Maldives including the development of the much-anticipated mixed development project Cinnamon Life Integrated Resort. Mikael brings with him extensive international senior leadership experience in managing and operating large scale luxury hotels across Asia, the Middle East and Australia, of which over 20 years was with the Hyatt Group. He was the opening General Manager of the landmark luxury hotel on the trunk of the Palm Jumeirah, the Viceroy Palm Jumeirah, Dubai and the Grand Hyatt Mumbai, India. He was also the General Manager of the Park Hyatt Canberra, Australia and Hyatt Regency Hua Hin, Thailand. Prior to joining the John Keells Group, he was the Senior Vice President of Louis T Collection, a Singapore based hospitality management and building solutions company which owns a portfolio of hotels across Asia and Australia.

Aravinda Wanniarachchi

Executive Vice President

Aravinda Wanniarachchi is the Chief Financial Officer of Retail. He joined the John Keells Group in 2007 and was attached to the Corporate Finance and Strategy team prior to joining the Retail industry group. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst, an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants UK and holds a BBA Marketing (Sp.) degree from the University of Colombo.

Devika Weerasinghe

Executive Vice President

Devika Weerasinghe is the Chief Financial Officer of the Transportation industry group, Plantation Services sector and Information Technology sector. She previously held the position of Sector Financial Controller of the Transportation sector. She also served as the Sector Financial Controller of the Airlines SBU of the Transportation sector during the period 1998-2004. An Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants UK, Devika also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Ravi Wijewantha

Executive Vice President

Ravi Wijewantha joined the Group in September 2003 and was appointed as Sector Financial Controller of the Property industry group in July 2006 and Chief Financial Officer of the same Industry Group in July 2017. He has over 24 years of experience in the fields of auditing and accounting. He is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants UK and holds an MBA from ICFAI University Dehradun India.



www.keells.com