

A BALPP NEWSLETTER

# ECHOES



## Editorial

### 2025 : A Year of Change

Some years mark a turning point in the life of an institution. Not because its purpose changes, but because its work begins to operate at a different scale. For the Bandaranaike Academy for Leadership and Public Policy, 2025 was such a year.

Alongside its core teaching and research activities, the Academy crossed several institutional thresholds. BALPP convened its first international conference in collaboration with Sciences Po- France, bringing international academic exchange into its public policy work. It held its first Awards Ceremony, recognising academic excellence and contribution within its growing community. The Academy also entered into direct collaboration with the Parliament of Sri Lanka, extending its engagement from classrooms and publications into the formal structures of governance.

These moments did not stand apart from the rest of the year. They emerged from work already underway. Programs were delivered, policy writing expanded its reach, and public conversations continued to test ideas against experience. What changed was not direction, but depth. The Academy's work began to connect more visibly across institutions, disciplines, and audiences.

This newsletter offers a selective account of that year. It traces how BALPP's activities in 2025 moved between education, research, and public engagement, and how those strands increasingly reinforced one another. The intention is not to catalogue everything that occurred, but to reflect a year in which the Academy's role became clearer through action rather than assertion.

## ● BALPP Promise for 2026

In 2026, the Bandaranaike Academy for Leadership and Public Policy will build on the institutional ground secured over the past year. The focus will be on deepening the quality of its programs, strengthening its research and publications, and expanding collaboration with public institutions and international partners.

The promise for 2026 is therefore a simple one. **To extend BALPP's reach while preserving the intellectual standards and public responsibility that define its work.**



Bandaranaike Academy  
for Leadership & Public Policy

# AT A GLANCE

ECHOES : A BALPP NEWSLETTER



## Bandaranaike Academy for Leadership and Public Policy

THE FIRST AND PREMIER INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP & PUBLIC POLICY  
EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA



## COURSES CONDUCTED IN 2025

**1. Postgraduate Diplomas (PgD) in Leadership & Public Policy**  
– One year programs

**2. BALPP Executive Certificates** - 14 week programs

- Politics & Governance
- Economic Policy
- Education Policy
- Health Policy
- AI & Cybersecurity Policy
- Power & Energy Policy

**3. Executive Certificate in Parliamentary Governance** – 16 Week program

**4. Advanced Certificate in Intelligence Studies & Public Policy (ISPP)** – 12 week program

**5. Micro credential in Public Policy – “Making Policy Work”** – 6 Week program

**6. Micro credential – Women in Leadership** – 12 week program

**7. Micro credential - Navigating AI Transformation** – 8 week program

BALPP has engaged **over 100 practitioners and academic experts** as resource persons across the subject areas it teaches, forming a strong and credible resource panel with substantial practical and academic depth aligned to its programmes.

## HIGHLIGHTS



**Inside Edge: Adaptive Leadership for Parliamentary Executives**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
THE PARLIAMENT OF SRI LANKA

This high-level training initiative was designed specifically for the senior executive staff of Parliament, reflecting BALPP's ongoing commitment to strengthening institutional leadership and ethical governance within Sri Lanka's key democratic institutions.



**Open Forum on Current Education Reforms 2025**

featured Dr. Dharshana Samaraweera, Deputy Director General of the National Institute of Education (NIE)

An open discussion on Sri Lanka's ongoing education reforms on November 4th at the BMICH. The event brought together educators, academics, administrators, and professionals from government, corporate, and non-governmental sectors to engage in a constructive and evidence-based dialogue on the future of education in the country.

FIRST AND PREMIER IN LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION IN  
SRI LANKA





# SCALES OF GOVERNANCE 2025



SciencesPo

Scales of Governance was Sri Lanka's largest international academic and public conference in 2025, bringing together global and local experts to engage on governance, leadership, and public policy. It took place on 22–23 July 2025 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) in Colombo, Sri Lanka. **The event was jointly organised by the BALPP and Sciences Po of France, and it convened scholars, analysts, and practitioners from across the region to examine evolving governance dynamics, democratic processes, decentralisation, and local government challenges in South Asian contexts.**



The conference addressed a defining challenge confronting contemporary democracies in South Asia – the growing strain between decision making at the centre and governance outcomes at provincial, municipal, and community levels.



Scales of Governance 2025 created a rare space to examine how authority and accountability interact across different layers of the state, moving beyond abstract theory to institutional realities. In doing so, it contributed to a clearer understanding of why governance systems succeed or fail, offering insights of direct relevance to policymakers and scholars.

# BALPP RESEARCH WING - A YEAR OF PUBLICATIONS



## POLICY TRIBUNE

Shaping Change  
Where it Counts the Most

Vol. 1 - Issue 1 - January 2025 - The Bandaranaike Academy for Leadership & Public Policy



## POLICY TRIBUNE

Shaping Change  
Where it Counts the Most

Vol. 1 - Issue 2 - April 2025 - The Bandaranaike Academy for Leadership & Public Policy



## BALPP Second-anniversary Commemorative Volume POLICY TRIBUNE

Shaping Change  
Where it Counts the Most

Vol. 2 - Issue 1 - October 2025 - The Bandaranaike Academy for Leadership & Public Policy

The **BALPP Policy Tribune** is a digital e-journal published by the BALPP. It serves as a platform for in-depth analysis and thought leadership on public policy, governance, and socio-economic development.

The Bandaranaike Academy  
for Leadership & Public Policy

ISSN 3093-5334  
2025 November

## RESEARCH MONOGRAPH



Urban Development in Sri Lanka: Past Perspectives and Future Directions  
By Dr Sarath Mataraarachchi

The Bandaranaike Academy  
for Leadership & Public Policy

ISSN 3093-5334  
2025 July

## RESEARCH MONOGRAPH



Sri Lanka's Climate Resilience and Urban Adaptation in Colombo  
By Rivi Wijesekera

The Bandaranaike Academy  
for Leadership & Public Policy

ISSN 3093-5328  
2025 February

## RESEARCH MONOGRAPH



National Examination Systems in Sri Lanka: Current Practices and Future Policy Perspectives  
By Dr. Jayantha Balasooriya

The **BALPP Monograph Series** offers a comprehensive exploration of critical issues in public policy, governance, and socio-economic development.

## HIGHLIGHT - RESEARCH

### Workshop - **Research Methodology for Public Policy**



The Research Wing conducted this one-day workshop on the 26th of September 2025, bringing together participants seeking to strengthen their understanding of evidence-based policy development. The workshop was designed to introduce the fundamentals of policy research, equipping participants with the analytical and methodological tools necessary to inform effective policymaking.

# Looking Forward

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## COURSES TO BE CONDUCTED IN 2026

- **Workshop – Assessments, Examinations and Capstones**
- **Policy Dialogue – Policy Innovations in Education**
- **Micro-credential – Leadership in the Arts**
- **Masterclass Series – Leading for Impact**
- **Micro-credential – Leading Change in Education**
- **Micro-credential - Leadership in National Security Policy**
- **Micro-credential – Climate Resilience Policy**
- **Micro-credential – Research for Public Policy**
- **Micro-credential – Mindful Leadership with Emotional Intelligence**
- **Workshop – Leadership during Crises**
- **Micro-credential – Psychology of Leadership**

### **Executive Certificate Programs**

**Economic Policy / Education Policy / Emerging Technologies & AI/  
Climate & Sustainable Development Policy**

- **Micro-credential - The Economics of Polycrises in South Asia**
- **Executive Credential in Leadership & Strategy (ECLS)**
- **Micro-credential – Migration & Leadership: Steering Political & Societal Change**
- **Micro-credential – Navigating Artificial Intelligence**
- **Advanced Certificate in Intelligence Studies & Public Policy**

### **Looking to build leadership and policy capacity in your field?**

BALPP partners with institutes and organizations to design short courses and training programs that connect leadership and public policy with your specific area of work. Programs are co-created, practical, and tailored to your institutional needs, whether for senior leaders, professionals, or emerging talent. Courses can be delivered in person, online, or in hybrid formats, with a strong focus on real-world decision-making and policy challenges.



# OUR INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATIONS IN 2025

Throughout 2025, BALPP worked with institutions that influence policy, leadership, and public life. These collaborations reflected a shared commitment to practical learning, institutional capacity building, and informed decision-making across sectors.



Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies



SciencesPo



ADVOCATA



## Why Partner with BALPP?

Your go-to partner for research and training excellence – choosing BALPP means working with an institution that understands both the theory and the practice of public leadership. We bring an academic backbone to every project, but our focus is always on outcomes and policies that work, programs that deliver, and institutions that grow stronger.

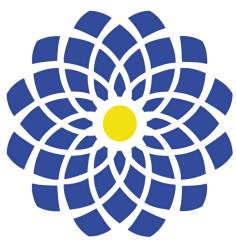


# The BALPP Experience

Learning beyond the classroom through site visits and institutional exposure, connecting leadership and public policy to real-world systems and decision-making.







Bandaranaike Academy  
for Leadership & Public Policy

# Any Questions? Contact us.



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