

# DFCC Bank's 'Samata English' Enters Third Year



(l-r): Buddhika Srikantha, Assistant Channels Marketing Manager, DFCC Bank; Thanusshi Dissanayake, Legal Officer, DFCC Bank; Nilmini Gunaratne, Vice President - Marketing, DFCC Bank; Thimal Perera Deputy CEO, DFCC Bank; Lakshman Silva, CEO, DFCC Bank exchanges the agreement with Dr Harsha Alles, Chairman, Gateway Group; Ramantha Alles, Director, Gateway Group and Wathsala Dissanayake, Manager, Gateway Language Centre.

DFCC Bank signed an agreement with Gateway Language Centre to conduct the 'Samata English' classes for the third consecutive year in the cities of Jaffna, Ampara, Rathnapura and Polonnaruwa. Conceptualized to enhance spoken English skills DFCC Bank's 'Samata English' enters third year amongst students poised to enter the workforce, the program aims to enhance employment opportunities and instill confidence amongst youth.

As the program enters the third year, Lakshman Silva, CEO, DFCC Bank said, "It gives us immense pride and joy to see that our CSR initiative is fulfilling a long-felt gap where youth from economically underprivileged communities entering the workforce lacked the required spoken English skills. Thus, the course is designed to develop spoken English skills, boost the confidence of youth and improve their access to more opportunities on the account of better spoken English skills. Education is a critical component of our CSR strategy and the Bank is committed to foster a value and knowledge-based culture in the nation."

The students sit for an initial assessment prior to starting the three-month course. The final assessment is conducted by Gateway Language Centre and a CALSDA Certification is awarded to students who have completed the course. DFCC Bank recognizes the students scoring the highest marks for an intensive internship at the DFCC Bank. Selected students from Jaffna, Ampara, Rathnapura and Polonnaruwa will avail of this opportunity in 2019.