

# Sampath Bank Introduces Cycling Club

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*The Colombo team comprises Tharaka Ranwala, Senior Deputy General Manager/Group Marketing, Deposit Mobilization and Digitalization, Sampath Bank, and Lalith Weragoda, Group Chief Human Resource Officer Sampath Bank, setting off on the inaugural 'Cycle to Work' initiative.*

Sampath Bank introduced 'Cycle to Work,' a program promoting an eco-friendly, healthy, and economical mode of transportation for all employees.

The Cycle to Work initiative was launched at Diyatha Uyana with the participation of nearly 100 cyclists, signalling an auspicious beginning to this program.

Sampath Bank employees, not just in Colombo but at all 229 branches islandwide are being encouraged and incentivized to adopt this alternative mode of transportation and ride to work. Riders who join will receive a complimentary cycling kit and special training for safer riding on city streets. Safe parking spaces in security-patrolled areas, as are facilities for showering and changing,

are being provided.

Bank employees who would like to invest in a bicycle can purchase one through a six-month zero percent installment plan for those holding a Sampath Mastercard, Visa, or American Express credit card. As an added incentive, the Bank has authorized flexible working hours for all cyclists to avoid riding during peak traffic.

“This is another example of a simple intervention that has the potential to pay huge environmental dividends and is part of the Bank’s ongoing commitment to reduce its carbon footprint. It’s the first of many initiatives the Bank has planned,” said Nanda Fernando, Managing Director, Sampath Bank. “The more people who ride bicycles to work, the fewer cars, trucks, buses, and three-wheelers there will be to clog traffic. And fewer vehicles mean safer roads for all. We all need to rethink our approach to our daily commute. The Sampath Bank Cycle to Work program grew out of that realization.”

“Our employees might even find themselves getting to work sooner. It’s easier to get from one place to another on a bicycle, and it’s arguably a far better use of your time than sitting helplessly in traffic jams,” pointed out Lalith Weragoda, Group Chief Human Resource Officer, Sampath Bank. “And besides all the social and economic benefits of cycling to work, let’s not forget the enormous health advantages. Cycling is the ultimate aerobic exercise, causing less strain than most other forms of working out. By using all of your major muscle groups as you pedal, cycling increases your strength and stamina and improves your cardiovascular fitness. In addition, you will arrive at work feeling invigorated after a pleasant workout because cycling is a fun way to stay in shape. The bottom line is that whatever else happens, thanks to our cycling club, Sampath Bank is going to have a fitter, healthier workforce going forward.”