

## **EFIC General Assembly**

**8 October 2025**

The first General Assembly of the 2025–2026 school year brought together parents, staff, and representatives of the French Embassy to review the school's progress, discuss ongoing challenges, and elect new members of the *Comité de gestion (CG)*.

### **Remarks by H.E. Mr. Rémi Lambert, Ambassador of France**

H.E. Mr. Rémi Lambert, Ambassador of France to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, opened the session by reaffirming the Embassy's strong support for EFIC, its Director, and the Management Committee. He emphasized the key role EFIC plays in promoting French education and culture in Sri Lanka, and commended the school's remarkable growth, from 46 students in 2023 to over 100 this year.

The Ambassador noted that EFIC is in a major transition period, calling for strong administrative capacity and continued collaboration among all stakeholders. He encouraged parents to support the work of the CG and the school and make use of representative's elections, school councils and general assembly meetings. He reaffirmed the Embassy's commitment to assisting with legal registration, safety matters, and open communication within the school community.

### **Remarks by Olivia Bellemère, Counsellor for Culture and Cooperation, French Embassy**

Ms. Bellemère informed that as representative of the Embassy, she is invited as a non-voting member to CG meetings and school councils.

## **Presentation by Ms. Reguina Trezeux, School Director**

Ms. Trezeux reviewed the main achievements of the past year:

- A 60% increase in enrolment between 2023 and 2024, and a further 17.5% increase this year.
- Two new classrooms built, and new *maternelle* and *6ème* classes opened.
- Launch of the English International Section and a support system for non-French-speaking students.
- Adoption of the STAFE-funded music project, progress toward the EFE3D label, and excellent exam results in DNB and Baccalauréat.
- Introduction of a new logo and visual identity to strengthen EFIC's brand and visibility.

She also highlighted EFIC's growing reputation within Colombo's educational landscape and the commitment of the teaching and administrative teams to maintaining high standards of bilingual education.

## **Priorities and Financial Outlook for 2025–2026**

The school's five main priorities were presented as follows by the CG:

1. Register EFIC as a local legal entity with the help of a legal firm.
2. Reinforce the administrative and HR structure, with recruitment of a Senior Operations & HR Manager and an Accounting Assistant. Process is supported by a headhunter.
3. Renovate and open the new campus at 100 Park Road, with Phase 1 works (October–January) and the transfer of CNED and *6ème* classes in early 2026. An architectural firm (DG5) is contracted to support this effort.
4. Implement EDUKA, a new school communication and management platform.
5. Strengthen financial governance and maintain reserves above three months of expenditures.

The 2025–2026 budget, presented by *ad interim* Treasurer Mr. Jairo Villamil, outlined a 5% adjustment in school fees and operating costs to account for inflation, as well as key investments in infrastructure and staffing related to the new campus. An independent external audit and a new financial reporting cycle aligned with the school year were also announced. The projections reflect a sound financial position ensuring EFIC's sustainability while enabling strategic growth. The budget was unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

### **Remarks by the President of the Management Committee**

Before the election of new members, the President of the Management Committee, Mr. Chamika Kathri Arachchige, addressed the Assembly.

He announced that the current Committee had collectively decided to resign to make way for a new team, marking a responsible transition rather than a rupture. The outgoing

Committee will ensure a smooth handover and the completion of ongoing projects, including the new campus, the EDUKA platform, and the legal structuring of the school.

Mr. Kathri Arachchige also addressed the recent anonymous letter calling for his resignation, emphasizing that EFIC's progress has always been the result of collective effort, not individual action. He reaffirmed the Committee's unity and commitment, noting that constructive engagement and responsibility are far more valuable than anonymous criticism.

He thanked the outgoing members for their dedication and volunteer service, and encouraged new parents to step forward to continue building on the school's progress.

### **Elections**

Four new members were elected to the *Comité de gestion*:

- **Ms. Katie Jacobs**
- **Ms. Shallu Sharma**
- **Mr. Shehan Suwandarathna**
- **Mr. Sathi Yendrah**

During the Q&A, parents raised questions about:

- The legal registration of the school.
- Teacher recruitment processes and visa issues.



# EFIC

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- The resignation of the current CG and the need for a transition period between committees.
- The use of the STAFE music project funds.
- The importance of constructive support to the CG and the School management during this transition phase. In this regard, some parents volunteered to offer their services and support outside of the CG.
- The need for improved communication and trust between CG, the school administration and the parents.
- The school's policy regarding harassment and children's safety.

## **Conclusion**

The Assembly concluded on a positive and collaborative note, reaffirming the community's commitment to maintaining EFIC's growth, educational quality, and family spirit, while supporting the smooth transition to a new Management Committee.