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**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**



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**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**2018**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SRI LANKA**

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT  
2018**



## MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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## **Vision**

To be a responsible nation within the international community and to maintain friendly relations with all countries.

## **Mission**

The Promotion, Projection and Protection of Sri Lanka's national interests internationally, in accordance with the foreign policy of the Government and to advise the Government on managing foreign relations in keeping with Sri Lanka's national interests.

## **Subjects and Functions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Implementation of political plans and programmes in respect of Foreign Affairs;  
Representation of Sri Lanka abroad;  
International Agreements and Treaties;  
Foreign Government and international organization's representation in Sri Lanka;  
External publicity;  
Diplomatic immunities and privileges and  
Consular functions.



## **Executive Summary**

The Mission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to promote, project and protect Sri Lanka's national interests overseas, in accordance with the foreign policy of the Government of Sri Lanka. In 2018 it, has continued to enhance Sri Lanka's engagement in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres, strengthening the concept of 'friendship with all and enmity towards none.' Whilst ensuring its commitments to promote Democracy, Good Governance, Human Rights, the Rule of Law, and Sustainable Development, Sri Lanka has endeavoured to reaffirm its global position.

Sri Lanka's foreign policy, guided by the above principles, has been formulated by His Excellency the President, the Hon. Prime Minister, and the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Our engagement with regional and international fora, including the United Nations, the European Union, SAARC, BIMSTEC and ARF has demonstrated the transparent and constructive engagement of the Government through its foreign relations at all levels.

The continued strengthening of friendship with our closest neighbour, India, has been nurtured through various tracks of diplomatic engagement. Similar significant improvement can be seen in Sri Lanka's engagement with its South Asian friends of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan and the Maldives, ensuring mutual trust and cooperation in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), hosting High level meetings on a wide range of issues.

Our historical relations with China have been further consolidated with increased mutual cooperation in the political, economic and cultural spheres. Sri Lanka's engagement with Russia has further expanded with several projects initiated for economic cooperation. Sri Lanka obtained full membership of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in August 2018.

Sri Lanka - US relations have furthered with greater cooperation and understanding in many areas including reconciliation, peace and socio-economic relations through high level visits and dialogues.

President, H.E. Maithripala Sirisena undertook a State visit to Japan on the invitation of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in the first quarter of the year. Relations with Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Republic of Korea have continued to expand in various areas of interests.

The Ministry has been involved in the implementation and compliance process with regard to receiving EU GSP Plus Concession through the EU Sri Lanka Joint Commission, annual dialogue on the partnership process with the EU carried forward. Multifaceted partnership entails trade facilitation, development assistance apart from good governance, rule of law and human rights dialogues that have been initiated with the EU.

Sri Lanka has also engaged with the EU in maintaining the listing of the LTTE two consecutive years as a terrorist organization.

Sri Lanka continued its close collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat, and its member States, by its active engagement in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in London in April 2018. Sri Lanka has continued to expand her ties with many countries in the European region, especially with the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey and countries in the Eastern Europe. The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Cyprus was opened, further strengthening our engagement with Cyprus. Sri Lanka's outreach to its friends in Europe and Central Asia in promoting and diversifying political, economic, social, security and cultural cooperation, through high level visits and dialogue has witnessed an upward trend. Sri Lanka-German trade cooperation is expected to strengthen and further advance bilateral trade and investment. Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Germany to participate at the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue (BETD) held on 17 April 2018.

Sri Lanka's engagement with countries of the African continent continues to expand in many spheres, marking significant improvement in our bilateral interactions with South Africa and members of the African Union through our observer status at the African Union (AU). Sri Lanka has continued to reach out to Latin America and the Caribbean region through bilateral relations in the economic and cultural sphere.

Sri Lanka's relations with the Middle East witnessed significant progress during the year of 2018 with several high level visits, joint commissions and other engagements with many countries in the Middle East. We continue to expand our relations in all spheres with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, Iraq, and Iran. Sri Lanka continues to uphold its assistance and support for the people of Palestine through our Representative in Ramallah City. Sri Lanka has enhanced interactions with Israel in many areas of cooperation and relations with Israel have continued to grow over the years.

In line with the Government's policy of transparency and inclusivity, public consultations were held on the State party report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and on the implementation of the recommendations received at Sri Lanka's Universal Periodic Review at the Human Rights Council. The Ministry, in consultation with the line agencies, is closely following the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP).

Sri Lanka's commitments under the United Nations Treaty Bodies have been under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the line Ministries and agencies with regard to the implementation of Resolutions 30/1 and 34/1. H.E. the President's participation at the 73<sup>rd</sup> United Nations General Assembly emphasized Sri Lanka's engagement as a responsible actor in the international political system. Sri Lanka continues to mark its contribution to Peacekeeping, deploying military personnel at UN Peacekeeping Missions.

Under Sri Lanka's Presidency at the Conference of Disarmament (CD) in 2018, consensus was made to establish five subsidiary bodies related to the CD, breaking the stalemate and affirming Sri Lanka's commitment and efforts to enhance international security, the pace of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation.

The role of the Ministry in Sri Lanka's Economic Diplomacy Programme is to enhance Sri Lanka's global economic footprint by promoting bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation, coordinating trade, investment, technical cooperation, tourism, tea promotion and development assistance. The Economic Diplomacy Programme, comprises Economic Indicators and Performance Targets for Missions (EIPTM), economic promotion in selected markets, and the Sri Lanka Foreign Relations and Economic Diplomacy Dialogue. The Ministry has fostered bilateral and multilateral economic relations through the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Colombo Plan, Indian Oceans Rim Association (IORA), Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Abu Dhabi Dialogue and BIMSTEC of which the chairmanship was assumed by Sri Lanka at the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit held in Kathmandu in August 2018.

In consideration of the strategic importance of Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sri Lanka-Japan Dialogue on Maritime Security, Safety and Oceanic Issues was held in Colombo. With Sri Lanka's vision of promoting peaceful interactions in the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka hosted the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Maritime Safety and Security Workshop in September 2018 in Colombo and Track 1.5 dialogue in October 2018 under the theme 'The Indian Ocean: Defining Our Future.'

In a historic move, branches of the Consular Affairs Division of the Ministry were established in the Northern province and arrangements are already been finalized to open a branch in Matara by first quarter of 2019 covering the Southern province. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has extended its Consular Services in an efficient manner, in coordination with its Regional Office in Jaffna, conducting Integrated Consular Mobile Services (ICMS) in Kilinochchi and Mannar. The signing of a MOU with the

Ministry of Internal Affairs on 16 August 2018, has decentralized the document attestation process offering this service at Divisional Secretariats. Approximately, Sri Lanka Rupees 420 Million has been recovered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to distribute among family members or victims as compensation and other dues during the year of 2018. In cases of death of Sri Lankans in foreign countries, who are neither registered with the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) nor in a position to bear the cost of repatriation of human remains/funeral arrangements overseas, the Ministry has incurred a sum of approximately Sri Lanka Rupees 577,975 for 12 Sri Lankan nationals.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to maintain relations with external parties, disseminating timely information and projecting Sri Lanka's image abroad. The new trilingual interface of the Ministry website was launched in 2018. The Ministry issued 452 Media Releases, facilitated and coordinated VVIP/VIP visits and media activities and assisted foreign media covering Sri Lanka. Further, the Ministry has consolidated the facilitation of interaction and engagement assisting Overseas Sri Lankans to visit Sri Lanka and to reconnect, and facilitating Overseas Sri Lankan organizations to operate in Sri Lanka. Enabling Overseas Sri Lankans to retain cultural connectivity with Sri Lanka, Rupavahini's 'Ethera Methera' programme was facilitated in Italy, the UK and the Republic of Korea.

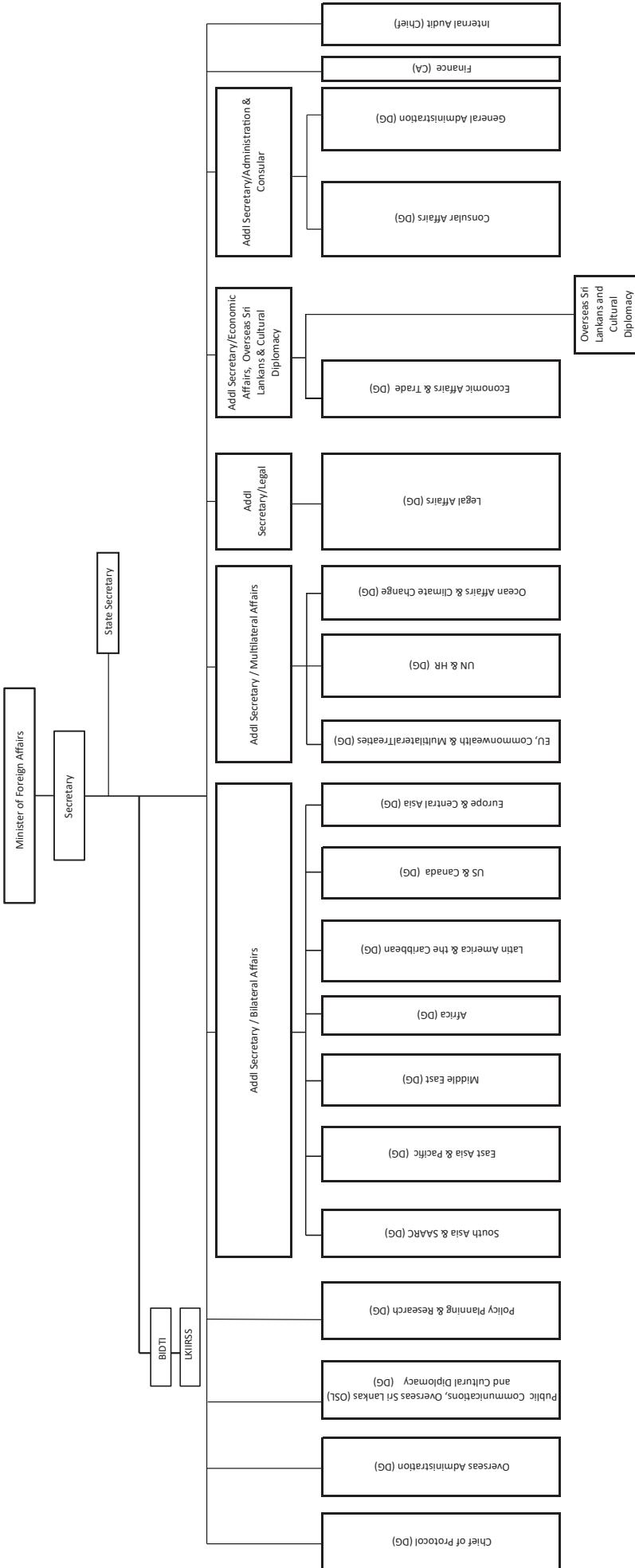
The administrative structure of the Ministry was reformed in 2018 to reflect the current requirements of the country's Foreign Policy. An evaluation of the overall performance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its Missions Overseas was conducted. Keeping the Ministry staffed with competent human resources, recruitment was done in a transparent and fair manner. The 2018 Intake of Officers of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service (SLFS) consisting of 20 Officers assumed duty at the Ministry on 2 May 2018. These Officers underwent a comprehensive training programme designed by the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI).

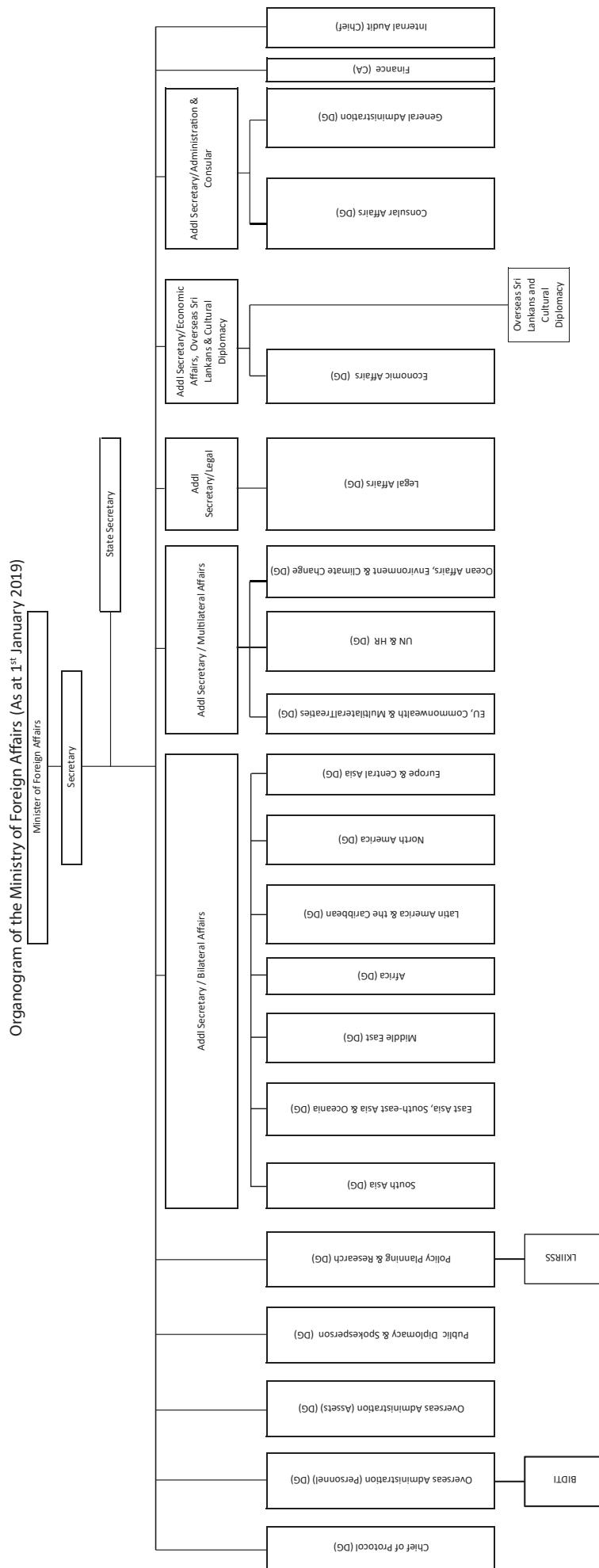
Further, the Ministry provided legal advice on legal aspects of all foreign policy decisions, including on international aspects of Shipping, Civil Aviation, International Trade, Investment Protection and Promotion, Migration and Combating Terrorism.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is committed to increase its diplomatic engagement, promote Economic Diplomacy and maintain the Foreign Policy of friendship with all, whilst promoting and safeguarding Sri Lanka's interests overseas, taking into account its sovereignty, interests, identity and the needs of its people.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Republic Building  
Colombo 01

**Organogram of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs -2018**







# Africa Affairs Division



## **Africa Affairs Division**

### **Activities of the Division**

1. Coordination of Sri Lanka's bilateral relations with Africa.
2. Co-ordination of bilateral visits of H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Foreign Minister and other Cabinet Ministers, MPs and Senior Officials, including preparation of Speaking Notes and Country Briefs for high-level visits and credential ceremonies.
3. Preparatory arrangements for inward and outward visits for VVIPs and VIPs. (*Details indicated under respective Missions*)
4. Follow up for the early conclusion of pending MoUs / Agreements.
5. Preparation of Cabinet papers and obtaining Cabinet approval for MoUs / Agreements.
6. Preparation of Condolence Messages, National Day Messages, Toasts and Felicitation Messages etc. from H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Foreign Minister.
7. Coordination of internal meetings and Courtesy Calls by African Ambassadors / High Commissioners based in Colombo.
8. Preparation of Action Plan, Performance and Budget Reports etc. for the African region.
9. Coordination with Sri Lanka Missions abroad, Overseas Missions in Colombo from the African Region and line Ministries/Departments and other agencies on day to day activities.

### **Territorial Coverage**

- a. 54 Countries – South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Libya, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, South Sudan, Republic of Sudan, Somalia, Ghana, Senegal, Gabon, Cape Verde, Sao Tome & Principe, Equatorial Guinea, Burundi, Niger, Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Liberia, Mauritania, Chad, Cameroon, Togo, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius, Comoros, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic.

Out of 54 independent states in the African continent, Sri Lanka has established formal Diplomatic relations with 44 countries to-date.

The Division is following up on establishing relations with the remaining 10 countries.

- b. There are six Resident Diplomatic Missions in the African Continent:
  - Sri Lanka High Commission in Pretoria/South Africa
  - Sri Lanka High Commission in Nairobi/Kenya
  - Sri Lanka High Commission in Abuja/Nigeria
  - Sri Lanka High Commission in Victoria/Seychelles
  - Sri Lanka Embassy in Addis Ababa/Ethiopia
  - Sri Lanka Embassy in Cairo/Egypt

c. There are four Diplomatic representations from the African Continent in Colombo:

- High Commission of the Republic of South Africa
- Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
- High Commission of the Republic of Seychelles
- Embassy of the State of Libya

d. Concurrent Accreditations :

- Sri Lanka High Commission in **South Africa**(8)– Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Sri Lanka Embassy in **Egypt** (3) – Libya, Eritrea, Republic of Sudan
- Sri Lanka Embassy in **Ethiopia** (3) - South Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti
- Sri Lanka High Commission in **Nigeria** (11) - Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia\*, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Mauritania, Mali
- Sri Lanka High Commission in **Kenya** (5) – Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania
- Sri Lanka High Commission in **Seychelles** (1) – Madagascar

\*No records were found to date on the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Gambia. However, the Gambia has granted agreement for Sri Lanka High Commissioner in Nigeria.

e. Countries without Accreditation

- Niger
- Central African Republic
- Equatorial Guinea
- Gabon
- Sao Tome & Principe
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde
- Chad
- Comoros

f. Countries that are to be appointed with Non Resident Ambassadors

- Mauritius (Earlier accredited to Seychelles)
- Ghana (Earlier accredited to Uganda)
- Senegal (Earlier accredited to Uganda)
- Botswana (Earlier accredited to South Africa)
- Algeria (Earlier accredited to Egypt)
- Morocco (Earlier accredited to Egypt)
- Tunisia (Earlier accredited to Egypt)

Sri Lanka obtained Accreditation Status of the **African Union** as a non-African State with effect from April 2014, with prospects of further strengthening Sri Lanka's relations with African countries.

g. Honorary Consul Representation

Sri Lanka has Honorary Consul Representations in Malawi, Mauritius, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa (Durban and Cape Town) Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Zambia.

## **1. NIGERIA**

### **i. Bilateral Relations**

The High Commission facilitated:

- The visit of Prof. Maithree Wickramasinghe to Nigeria in March 2018.
- The UNICEF to organize the visit of UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youths Miss Jayathma Wickramanayake to Nigeria in February 2018.
- The visit of former Navy Commander to deliver a public lecture at Abuja and in Lagos in March 2018 on tackling terrorism.
- Participation of a Senior Naval Officer from Sri Lanka in a Naval Conference in Lagos in May 2018.
- Hon. Hisbulla the State Minister for Highways & Road Development to visit Ivory Coast in June 2018.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Colombo to accredit its High Commissioner to ECOWAS. The High Commissioner presented Credentials in October 2018.

### **ii. Multilateral Relations**

- Nigeria and Sri Lanka are members in several International Organizations including the United Nations and World Trade Organization. Both countries work together to ensure global peace & security and also free and fair trade for the benefit of all countries. Both contribute significantly to U.N peace keeping operations to help countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace.

### **iii. Economic Relations & Foreign Investment**

- Bilateral Economic relations expanded steadily ever since resident Missions were established in each other's capitals in 2013. (*However, Nigeria High Commission in Colombo was closed down with effect from 31.12.2017 due to financial difficulties in Nigeria.*)
- The High Commission ensured participation of Nigerian businessmen in most of the trade business and investment conclaves in Sri Lanka.
- The High Commission serviced a large number of trade inquiries. This resulted in increasing import of tea, garments and rubber products from Sri Lanka to Nigeria.

### **iv. Cultural Relations**

- Mission is following up on getting observations from Nigerian authorities for the pending Cultural Agreement. The High Commission assisted a film producer from Nigeria to make a film in Sri Lanka with Nigerian and Sri Lankan Artists. The producer is due to visit Sri Lanka soon.

### **v. Labour Welfare**

- Most of the Sri Lankan expatriates in Nigeria are professionals particularly engineers working in the construction sector. Most others are in the hospitality industry. They visit the High Commission seeking assistance and the Mission provides required assistance on time.

## **vi. Other Activities**

- The Mission worked closely with the IOM and facilitated in deporting a large number of stranded illegal Sri Lankan immigrants from Mauritania, Benin, Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon to Sri Lanka. They were stranded in inhospitable lands in their attempt to reach Europe with a view to have better prospects. The Mission also assisted a few seamen to return to the country.

## **2. SOUTH AFRICA**

### **i. Bilateral Relations**

- The High Commissioner presented Credentials to the President of South Africa on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018.
- Officers of the High Commission in Pretoria met with the officers of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) several times and had discussions on ways and means of enhancing bilateral relations especially focusing on the Seventh Session of the Sri Lanka – South Africa Partnership Forum.
- MoU on Science and Technology between Sri Lanka and South Africa was signed in January 2018 during the visit of Mr. Udaya R. Senevirathne former Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology to Pretoria.
- The High Commission attended several events organized by the South African Authorities, including the luncheon hosted by H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa the President, and had a meeting with the President to brief on the progress the Sri Lankan Government has made on good governance and reconciliation during the last few years.

### **Concurrently accredited countries from Pretoria**

The High Commissioner attended:

- The annual Diplomatic briefing by the President of **Botswana** on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- Traditional Ceremony of Presentation of Compliments by the members of the Diplomatic Corps to H.E. the President of **Mozambique**
- The **Namibian** President's Annual New Year Greetings Ceremony held in the President's Palace.
- The High Commissioner had discussions with the Heads of Mission of **Mozambique**, **Namibia**, **Malawi**, **Kindom of Eswatini**, **Zambia** and **Zimbabwe** persuading their support to Sri Lanka for its candidature for a seat in Group IV in ICH of UNESCO for the term 2018 – 2022. Sri Lanka was successful in getting elected.

### **ii. Multilateral Relations**

The High Commission attended the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) and Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) in Durban from 29<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and IORA Working Group Meeting on the Blue Economy from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in Port Elizabeth.

### **iii. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- Bilateral trade between Sri Lanka and South Africa for the year 2018 has been USD 316.46 where total exports from Sri Lanka was USD 60.68 Mn. 7416 tourist arrivals have been recorded from South Africa to Sri Lanka during the year 2018.
- The Mission facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at main International Trade fairs including SAITEX, GTS, COMPLAST 2018 and Eid Shopping Festival.
- The High Commission arranged tourism promotion campaigns with Synergy travel Pty Ltd and Manta Travel services.
- The Mission coordinated Sri Lanka's participation at "Workshop on sharing of best tourism practices" organized by Department of Tourism of South Africa.
- High Commissioner held several meetings and discussions with Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and other trade institutions and business societies in promoting trade with Sri Lanka.
- The High Commission participated in a B2B Networking Session at Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry, when "Sri Lanka – South Africa Business Forum" was organized.
- The High Commission participated in the International Apparel, Textile and Footwear Import Trade Exhibition of Southern Africa (ATF Trade Fair) held in Cape Town from 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 under the Economic Diplomacy Programme, where five Sri Lankan exporters exhibited their products.
- The High Commission organized the Sri Lankan Pavilion at Annual Diplomatic Fun Fair 2018 conducted by the DIRCO on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018, by showcasing and disseminating information about Sri Lanka's Tourism and Ceylon Tea.

### **iv. Cultural Relations**

- The Mission celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Sri Lanka with the participation of Sri Lankan community and a Diplomatic reception.
- The Vesak Day was celebrated by the High Commission on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018 including a Pirith Chanting, Meditation, Lighting Oil Lamps and Vesak Lanterns and singing of devotional songs with the participation of the Sri Lankan Buddhist community in South Africa. Thai devotees including a Thai chief priest in South Africa also attended the celebrations.
- The High Commission regularly participates in the religious and cultural events organised by the Johannesburg Meditation Centre (Thai Temple) to promote relations between the two countries.
- Sri Lankan culture, food, photos and traditional costumes were showcased at the Diplomatic Fair organised by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO).
- Sri Lanka High Commission hosted Dipawali reception for the Tamil Community at the official residence on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

- The High Commissioner and the Staff of the Mission attended the Kathina Robe Offering festival of the Theravada Buddhists held at the Abbot of the Johannesburg Meditation Center at the invitation of Ven. Kitsakol Phaenoi.

### 3. ETHIOPIA

#### i. Bilateral Relations

Being the only Sri Lankan representation in the East African region, the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Addis Ababa is committed to promote Sri Lanka's political and economic interests within Ethiopia and other countries concurrently accredited to the Mission with a view to exploring avenues to enhance Sri Lanka's trade and economic relations in the region.

Accordingly, the Mission had successful meetings with the following dignitaries /agencies:

- Regular interactions with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia.
- Regular meetings with the opinion makers, think tanks, media personnel and political leaders to brief them on socio political developments in Sri Lanka.
- Visit of Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs to Ethiopia from 13th - 17th September, 2018 and meetings with the following dignitaries/ organizations.
  - a. H.E. the President of Ethiopia
  - b. Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs / Ethiopia
  - c. Senior officials of MFA/ Ethiopia
  - d. Ethiopian Investment Commission
  - e. Acting Chairperson of the African Union Commission
  - f. Executive Director of UNESCO
  - g. Ethiopian Chambers of Commerce
- During the period under review, the Ambassador/PRAU held number of meetings with African Ambassadors based in Addis Ababa with a view to further consolidating Sri Lanka's bilateral relations with African countries considering the fact that Sri Lanka is at present not adequately represented in the African continent as the country has only 6 DPL Missions in the African region which consists of 55 countries.*(54 UN recognized states)*
- Five applications for the Presidential scholarships to Ethiopian students received through the Ethiopian M/FA were forwarded to the Ministry for appropriate action.
- Sri Lanka Ambassador to Ethiopia gave a number of interviews to African National Newspapers, radio and TV stations to promote Sri Lanka's interests in the African region covering many areas including Sri Lanka's relations with Africa, Sri Lanka's high potential in tourism, trade, investment spheres and availability of Sri Lankan skilled people for foreign employment etc.

#### **Concurrently accredited countries from Addis Ababa**

- The Embassy had regular discussions with the Ambassadors of **Djibouti, Somalia, Republic of Sudan and South Sudan.***(Republic of Sudan is now accredited to the Sri Lanka Embassy in Egypt)*

- The Ambassador presented credentials to H.E. Mr. Ismail Omar Guelleh, President of **Djibouti** on 05<sup>th</sup> November 2018 as Sri Lanka's first concurrently accredited Ambassador to Djibouti.
- The Ambassador had meetings with Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf , Minister of Foreign Affairs and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Djibouti** (DG/UN, DG Asia, C/Prot) during his visit to Djibouti on 05-06<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.
- The Mission coordinated the Visit of the First Vice President of Burundi to Sri Lanka from 25th- 28th October, 2018. [Sri Lanka does not have diplomatic relations with Burundi at present.]

## **ii. Multilateral Relations**

- As Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the African Union Commission (AUC), the Mission maintains close and cordial relations with the AUC.
- Mission held meetings periodically with the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and the Commissioners of the AUC to brief them on socio- political developments in Sri Lanka with a view to have a broader engagement with the AUC.
- The Ambassador represented Sri Lanka at the Opening & Closing Ceremonies of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of 30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union held in Addis Ababa in January 2018.
- This Mission represented Sri Lanka at the Association of Non- AU Member States (Informal Group) accredited to AUC providing assistance to organize round table discussions, seminars, workshops etc.
- Mission is actively involved with the meetings/workshops of **South Sudan** Ambassador's Group (Informal Group of Ambassadors accredited to South Sudan).
- Ambassador had a meeting with the Director/ UNESCO for Africa to explore the possibility of signing an Agreement on Cooperation on Tourism and Culture between Sri Lanka and AU under the auspices of UNESCO.
- The Ambassador of Sri Lanka attended the Pan-African International Conference held in Adwa, Northern Ethiopia as Sri Lanka's representative from 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- The Ambassador held meetings with **34 Heads of Missions of African countries** and with DG/ International Organizations of the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to seek support for Sri Lanka's candidature to Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) for the term 2018/2022. Majority of the African countries including Ethiopia extended support to Sri Lanka and, as a result, Sri Lanka was elected to the Committee with 122 votes.
- The Embassy coordinated a delegation led by Hon. H.M. Abdul Haleem, Minister of Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs of Sri Lanka to attend the Extraordinary Congress of the Universal Postal Union held in Addis Ababa from 03rd -07th September 2018 at the African Union Headquarters.
- The Embassy also participated in the UNDP Mandela Policy Forum on ratification and domestication of AU Treaties held in Addis Ababa on 11.05.2018 :
- Mission represented Sri Lanka at the Africa Day Celebrations held at the AUC.

### **iii. Economic Relations and Foreign Investment**

- With a view to further enhance Sri Lanka’s Trade and Investment relations with Ethiopia, the Sri Lanka Embassy in Addis Ababa conducted regular meetings with following officials/agencies in Ethiopia.
  - a. Commissioner of Trade & Industries of AUC
  - b. CEO and Senior officials of the Ethiopian Investment Commission
  - c. Addis Ababa Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Association
  - d. Pan African Chambers of Commerce
  - e. Ethiopian Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Association
  - f. Ambassadors and Trade officers of the Embassies of Djibouti, Republic of Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia
  - g. During his visit to Djibouti in November, 2018, the Ambassador had a meeting with President of Djibouti Chamber of Commerce with a view to expand Sri Lanka’s trade activities.
- During the visit of Hon. V. Senanayake, SMFA, in September 2018, the Mission arranged meetings with the senior officials of Ethiopian Investment Commission and Trade Chambers to exchange information for promoting bilateral trade and economic relations.
- On 02nd July 2018, Agreement for the establishment of a joint business venture between Ogabo Global Perfumeries (Pvt.) Ltd, & KMB Textile Consultant Management (Pvt.) Ltd of Sri Lanka and Aleta Land Group, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was signed with coordination of the Embassy, for setting up a cosmetics and perfume manufacturing plant in Ethiopia.
- The Mission had successful meetings with the following business delegations who visited Ethiopia in 2018.
  - a. Orange Electricals (Pvt.) Ltd.
  - b. Sierra Constructions (Pvt.) Ltd.
  - c. Ogabu Global Perfumeries (Pvt.) Ltd.
  - d. Informatics Computer Solutions
  - e. Wilkins Sri Lanka Company Ltd.
  - f. Smart Shirts (Pvt.) Ltd.
  - g. S & D Chemicals (Pvt.) Ltd.
  - h. Econo Packs (Pvt.) Ltd.
  - i. KMB Textiles Management Consultants
  - j. 20 Cube Logistics (Pvt.) Ltd.
  - k. Mihraj International (Pvt.) Ltd.
- Venora Lanka Power Panels (Pvt.) Ltd, manufacturer of power panels launched their products in Ethiopia with the assistance of Sri Lanka Embassy on 05th October 2018.
- Major Constructors of Sri Lanka representing Sanken Overseas (Pvt.) Ltd., Saw Engineering (Pvt.) Ltd, Vee Power (Pvt.) Ltd., and ELS Construction (Pvt.) Ltd. had a business promotion mission to Ethiopia on 01st November 2018 held at the Embassy premises.

### **iv. Cultural Relations**

- The Sri Lankan expatriate community living in Ethiopia under the guidance of the Embassy organized an event to celebrate Sinhala- Tamil New Year at Hawassa Industrial Park, Ethiopia in April, 2018.

## v. Labour Welfare

- At present about 500 Sri Lankans are working in Ethiopia. The Embassy had a number of discussions with the Ethiopian Investment Commission and other concerned authorities to improve welfare facilities of Sri Lankans and other issues related to the Sri Lankan expatriate community.
- The Embassy with the assistance of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Office for Drugs & Crime (UNODC)] repatriated 12 Sri Lankan migrant workers who were under forced labour in Somaliland, on 31/05/2018
- Four (04) Sri Lankan nationals, who were under detention in Ethiopia since 2014 were released in March, 2018 and two of them were repatriated to Sri Lanka on 15/03/2018. The other two Sri Lankans are released on bail and the Mission is working with the law enforced authorities for early conclusion of the judicial case at the Supreme Court of Ethiopia.
- This Mission assisted to open NRFC bank accounts in Sri Lanka for 180 Sri Lankan migrant workers in August 2018.

## 4. KENYA

### i. Bilateral Relations

- Numbers of bilateral meetings were held with Kenyan officials in strengthening bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Kenya.
- The High Commission coordinated the following high level visits from Sri Lanka :
  - Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs visited **Kenya** (24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> June)  
*The Hon. M/FA met with the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs Dr. Monica Juma and Director General Tony Simon of World Agro Forestry on cooperation in environmental projects.*
  - Facilitated Sri Lanka delegation at 21st Plenary Session of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) (11-13th July), in Nairobi
  - Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade led a delegation to Kenya (3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> August)
  - Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Rwanda (21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> October)
  - A Sri Lankan delegation participated at the Blue Economy Conference organised in Kenya (26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> November)
  - Delegation from Sri Lanka participated at the Air Services negotiations in Kenya (10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> December)
- Six Kenyan students have applied for courses in Sri Lanka as a result of wide publicity given during bilateral discussions and at public forums on the Sri Lanka Presidential Scholarship.
- The Mission ensured the participation of the **Kenyan** officials at IOR Maritime Safety and Security Working Group Conference in Sri Lanka: (4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> September) and the Indian Ocean: Defining Our Future conference, hosted by Sri Lanka (11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October)

## **Concurrently accredited countries from Nairobi**

- The High Commission facilitated the visit of the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs to **Uganda** (20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>June)

*During the visit the Hon. M/FA paid a Courtesy Call on Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Prime Minister R T .Hon. Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, State Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Okello Oryem and Minister for Internal and Home Affairs General Odongo where he discussed defence cooperation, trade and investment.*

- The High Commission coordinated the visit of Hon. Ruwan Wijewardene, State Minister of Defence, from 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> May, to **Rwanda**. (*MoU on Defence and Security Cooperation between Sri Lanka and Rwanda was signed during the visit.*)
- Mission initiated signing of MoUs with **Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda** on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport holders.
- Initiated an MoU between Chambers of Commerce of Sri Lanka and **Rwanda**.
- The High Commission facilitated a 15 member Overseas Study Tour of Defence Services Command and Staff College of Sri Lanka to **Rwanda**. Two **Rwandan** officers are enrolled at Sir John Kottalawala Officer Cadet Programme and one is enrolled at Command and Staff Course.
- The visit of the Minister of Defence of **Rwanda** who participated as the special guest at the Defence Seminar in Colombo was also coordinated by the Mission.
- The High Commission facilitated the appointment of an Honorary Consul to **Tanzania** in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka
- The High Commission held meetings with Tanzanian High Commissioner on the ongoing visa issue for Sri Lankans.
- Meetings with Ugandan and Rwandan High Commissioners were held to discuss furthering trade relations.

## **ii. Multilateral Relations**

- The High Commission assured the Support of Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo for Sri Lanka's candidature to the ICH (2018-2022).
- Facilitated the participation of officials at the ad hoc, open-ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Micro plastics, Kenya.
- The High Commission attended 35UNEP and 51UN-Habitat meetings and liaised with focal points in Sri Lanka.

## **iii. Economic Relations and Foreign Investment**

The High Commission organised the following Economic related activities:

- A roundtable and B2B meetings between Kenyan Government, private sector officials for visiting Ceylon Leather Corporation delegation (21st-24th March) to Kenya.
- Promotion of Ceylon Tea among Diplomatic corps and visitors to Charity Bazaar (23<sup>rd</sup> April)
- A Business networking session with Sri Lankan businesses in Nairobi (7th July)
- B2B meetings and bilateral meetings for EDB officials, private sector delegation led by Hon. State Minister for International Trade on FMGs and Light Engineering sectors (3-10 September), to **Kenya**.

#### **iv. Cultural Relations**

The High Commission was involved in following Cultural activities in 2018:

- Invited as a panellist at Riara University First Annual Aspiring Innovator Inter University competition (22<sup>nd</sup> February)
- Participated in the AHOMs Charity Bazaar and donated proceeds to Kenyan identified charities (23 April)
- Hosted the Sri Lanka New Year Festival (29 April)
- Organised a Dansala at Community Vesak at Sri Lanka Temple (20 May)
- Mission hosted the UN Vesak Day Celebrations (21 May)
- Promoted Sri Lanka as a film destination among Kenyan film producers (May)
- Mission launched its web page [www.slhc.nairobi.org](http://www.slhc.nairobi.org) (4<sup>th</sup> September)
- Held an exhibition and information booth on Ceylon Tea at Asia Pacific BBAQ festival organised by the Foreign Ministry of Kenya (22 September)
- Hosted a Sri Lanka Night/Cultural Evening for Lady Asian Deputy Permanent Representatives (29<sup>th</sup> September)
- Celebrated Deepavali for the First time in Kenya with the participation of the Sri Lanka community (11<sup>th</sup> November )
- Celebrated for the first time a community Christmas function and donated food and medical items to the Mogra Children's Home (1<sup>st</sup> December)
- Sri Lanka culinary demonstration organised by the spouse of High Commissioner for Spouses of diplomatic Missions (24<sup>th</sup> December).

## **5. EGYPT**

#### **i. Bilateral Relations :**

The Embassy of Egypt facilitated the following visits to Egypt:

- Visit of Parliamentary delegation consisting of eleven MPs and three Officials led by the Speaker Hon. Karu Jayasuriya to Egypt in July 2018.

*The delegation held meetings with the Hon. Prime Minister of Egypt, the Speaker, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Tourism and Minister of Agriculture and Lands of Egypt. They also paid a courtesy call on the Pope of the oriental Orthodox Church (Coptic Church) and the Deputy Grand Imam of the Al Azhar University.*

- Under the scheme of South-South Cooperation between Egypt and Sri Lanka, ten (10) Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture attended three (03) months training programme at the Egyptian International Centre for Agriculture (EICA).
- Hon. A.H.M. Fowzie, State Minister of National Unity and Co-existence and Hon. M.H.A. Haleem, Minister of Post Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs attended the International conference on renewal of Fatwa between Theory and Practice in October and then had a meeting with the Al Azhar University.
- The Embassy attended the World Youth Forum in Sharm El-Sheik in Egypt, held from 03rd to 06th October, 2018, hosted by His Excellency Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The Embassy also coordinated the following visits from Egypt to Sri Lanka:

- A youth delegation comprising six (06) Egyptians from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports participated in the "Yowunpura Youth Festival" organized by the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs held in Nikaweratiya, Kurunegala in March 2018.
- An officer of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry participated in the Sri Lanka Foreign Policy and Economic Diplomacy Programme held in Colombo in October.

#### **Concurrently accredited countries from Cairo**

- The Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Cairo presented Credentials to His Excellency Omer Hassan Ahmed al Bashir, the President of the Republic of Sudan.

*During the visit to Sudan the Ambassador of Sri Lanka had a meeting with the Sri Lankan community in the Republic of Sudan and attended to their consular issues, met with the Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka, Mr. Saud Mamoun Mohamed Ahmed El Bereir and also had a meeting with the officials and members of Chambers of Commerce of the Republic of Sudan.*

#### **ii. Multilateral Relations :**

- The Embassy attended the United Nations Bio-Diversity Conference held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from 14th – 29th November, 2018. An officer from the Ministry of Mahaweli and Environment also attended the Conference.
- The Ambassador hosted the Monthly Meeting of the Asian Ambassadors' Group on 21st October, 2018.

#### **iii. Economic Relations & Foreign Investments :**

- The Embassy participated in the 51st Edition of the Cairo Fair where Sri Lanka was offered free stalls by the organizers.
- A delegation from the DSI Group of Companies visited Cairo and the Embassy facilitated business promotion activities.
- Promotion of Ceylon Tea was organized by the Embassy by serving complimentary tea at the ADSA bazaar. Tea donated by Dilmah was sold at the ADSA bazaar together with Sri Lanka hand woven Bobbin Lace.

- The Embassy facilitated the participation of M/s Stassen Exports (Pvt) Limited in the Food Africa exhibition held in Cairo from 08th to 10th December, 2018.
- A number of tourists visiting Sri Lanka from Egypt increased from 2981 in 2017 to 3854 in 2018. (an increase of 27.8 %). Tourism promotion campaigns were organized by the Embassy in the Pharoahnic Village, the British University in Egypt.
- The Embassy assisted several Sri Lankan Travel Agencies seeking the assistance of the Embassy in promoting Sri Lankans to visit Egypt particularly Nile Cruise and visiting of archaeological sites in Egypt.

#### **iv. Cultural Relations :**

The following cultural festivals were coordinated by the Embassy with the participation of the Sri Lankan Community in Egypt;

- Thai Pongal Festival with traditional Hindu decorations and rituals.
- The National Day of Sri Lanka was celebrated with the participation of Sri Lankan Community followed by lunch hosted by the Ambassador, a cultural show at the National Opera House in Cairo and a Diplomatic reception with the participation of the Diplomats, Government Representatives and the business community.
- The Embassy arranged cultural show with the participation of Sri Lanka Army Cultural Troupe during the National Day ceremony.
- New Year celebrations were organized by the Embassy with the participation of the Sri Lankan Community in Egypt including traditional games and competitions.
- Vesak festival was celebrated at the Embassy with the participation the Sri Lankan Community and Diplomats from other Buddhist Countries.
- Ifthar ceremony was hosted at the Embassy with the participation of both Shia and Sunni Muslim Communities of Sri Lanka. There were joint-religious sermons with the participation of two Preachers, one from Sri Lanka and another from Egypt.
- The Embassy facilitated a Cultural Troupe from the National Youth Services Council to participate in the Damanhur festival for Folk Dance and Arts. The troupe also participated at the National Festival for Drums and Traditional Arts in Cairo.
- The State Music and Dance Ensemble's participation in the 19th Round of Ismailia International Festival for Culture and Arts in Egypt was facilitated by the Embassy.
- The Embassy coordinated the Madihur Rasool Ensemble of Sri Lanka to participate in the 11th Round of the International Festival for Religious and Sufi Music "Samaa" in Egypt.
- Christmas was celebrated at the Embassy with a Christmas service with the participation of the Sri Lankan Community.

#### **v. Labour Welfare :**

- Only a few hundred Sri Lankan workers are employed in Egypt. The devaluation of the Egyptian Pound has reduced prospects for domestic workers. There is a demand for Garment workers who need a competency certificate. The Sri Lanka Institute of Textiles and Apparel

could facilitate more Garment workers with better salaries moving to Egypt by introducing a scheme of certifying their competency.

- The Embassy assisted some Sri Lankan expats to repatriate to Sri Lanka without punishment other than a consular fee.

## 6. SEYCHELLES

### i. Bilateral Relations:

- Sri Lanka High Commission/Victoria coordinated the State Visit of His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka to the Seychelles in October, 2018 coinciding with the commemoration of thirty years of diplomatic relations.

*During the State Visit, following two MoUs were signed:*

- *MoU between the University of Vocational Technology (UNIVOTEC) of Sri Lanka and the Seychelles Institute of Technology.*
- *MoU between the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka and the University of Seychelles*

- The High Commission coordinated the donation of two Wave Rider Inshore Patrol Crafts to the Government of Seychelles as agreed by H.E. the President during the bilateral meeting with the President of Seychelles. (*Patrol crafts were handed over on 01<sup>st</sup> February, 2019 to H.E. Vincent Meriton, Vice President of Seychelles*).
- High Commission coordinated the appointment of new Honorary Consuls representing Sri Lanka in the Republic of Madagascar and the Republic of Mauritius.

### ii. Multilateral Relations:

The High Commission:

- coordinated the establishment of the Secretariat of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) in Colombo.
- participated at the Plenary Sessions of the CGPCS and IOC bringing Sri Lanka closer to the African nations located in the western Indian Ocean and ensuring their support in international fora.
- coordinated the submission of an application for Sri Lanka to obtain membership at the Indian Ocean Commission as an Observer Member.
- represented Sri Lanka at the Conference of Blue Ocean Economy held in Seychelles
- visit by a delegation in the field of agriculture to Seychelles in October to conduct research relevant to Agricultural cooperation.

### iii. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

- The High Commission organized a Sri Lankan food festival in Coral Stand Hotel on 03rd February, 2018 in line with the National Day of Sri Lanka in 2018. Another Sri Lankan food festival was arranged during the State Visit of H.E. the President to the Seychelles.
- A branch of the Lanka Hospitals Limited was opened in Victoria in June 2018. (*it was officially declared open by H.E. the President of Sri Lanka during the State Visit.*)

- An “automated greenhouse” established in Seychelles by Agricultural experts from Sri Lanka.
- A small group of Seychellois farmers visited Sri Lanka on an educational tour.
- The High Commission coordinated the installation of cool rooms and provision of eco-friendly garbage bags by Sri Lankan entrepreneurs.
- Activities with regard to open an “Ayurvedic Panchakarma Hospital” in Victoria, Mahe was coordinated by the High Commission. (*This is expected to be in operation by 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2019*).
- Mission coordinated discussions with the Ministry of Health in the Seychelles for recruiting nurses to Hospitals in the Seychelles. *The First Group of Nurses have already arrived in the Seychelles.*
- The High Commissioner held discussions with prospective business people in Sri Lanka in initiating business in the Seychelles.
- The High Commission coordinated discussions for the Sri Lankan entrepreneurs who export natural coconut oil with the Vice President of Seychelles.

#### **Concurrently accredited countries from Victoria**

- The High Commission facilitated to open a subsidiary company of Sanken Overseas (Seychelles) Limited in **Madagascar**.
- The High Commission also facilitated to open subsidiary companies of Kelani Cables Limited in **Seychelles, Madagascar, Mauritius and Comoros**.

#### **iv. Cultural Relations**

- Coinciding with the 70<sup>th</sup> National Independence Day of Sri Lanka, the High Commission organized a cultural festival highlighting traditional Sri Lankan dancing and music items.
- With the blessing of the Buddhist Monks flown from Sri Lanka and in coordination with the Seychelles Buddhist Association, religious activities including meditation programmes were conducted during Vesak, Poson and Wap full moon Poya Days.
- Organized a Pirith Chanting ceremony at the Sri Lanka High Commission in collaboration with the Sri Lankan Buddhist Association.
- A Christmas programme was conducted at the High Commissioner’s Residence.
- Coordinated with the Government of the Seychelles on establishing a Buddhist temple in Seychelles.

#### **v. Labour Welfare**

- The High Commission works closely with the authorities in the Seychelles and in Sri Lanka to ensure welfare of the Sri Lankan expats in the Seychelles.
- An agreement was signed with a leading manpower recruitment company to recruit Sri Lankan employees to the Seychelles.

- The High Commission attended a number of labour related cases involving Sri Lankan employees in Seychelles and coordinated in obtaining compensation.
- Sri Lankan Vessels (Muthu Kumari and Subapathum) were intercepted on suspicious illegal fishing on Seychelles water and the High Commission coordinated in resolving the issue with the relevant authorities in the Seychelles.

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# Consular Affairs Division



## **Consular Affairs Division**

### **1. Introduction**

- i. The Consular Affairs Division (CAD) is the portal through which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs extends assistance to Sri Lankans and Sri Lankan origin foreign passport holders, in accordance with the Consular Functions Act No.04 of 1981 and the subsequent amendment of Act No.18 of 2006, through its main office, regional offices, Sri Lanka's Embassies, High Commissions, Consulates General and Honorary Consulates abroad as well as foreign Missions and Posts accredited to Sri Lanka and other local institutions/authorities.
- ii. The Consular Division located at the Ceylinco House, Colombo 01 comprises Document Authentication Section, Repatriation Section, Compensation Section, Death Section, and the Miscellaneous Section.
- iii. The first Regional Consular Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, opened in Jaffna on 26th January 2017 provides consular assistance to people in the Northern Province and adjacent districts. Arrangements are underway to open another regional consular office in Matara, to bring the services to door steps of the people living in the Southern province.

### **2. Key Developments in 2018**

- i. Under the guidance of Foreign Minister Tilak Marapana, two Integrated Consular Mobile Service (ICMS) coordinated by the Consular Division was held in Killinochchi and Mannar, in order to address consular related needs of those who had sought refuge overseas during the conflict and have voluntary returned to Sri Lanka following the end of conflict.
- ii. Minister Marapana attended both the ICMS and interacted with people seeking assistance. The officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jaffna Regional Consular Office, the Registrar General's Department and the Citizenship Division of the Department of Immigration and Emigration took part at the ICMS.
- iii. During both the ICMS, 422 applications for citizenship were received, 120 consular birth certificates were issued, and clarification was provided to those seeking advice and guidance on matters related to citizenship and birth certificates.
- iv. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministries of Foreign and Home Affairs on 16 August 2018 in order to decentralize document attestation process and to offer this service at Divisional Secretariats.
- v. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ceylon Chamber of Commerce on 12th December 2018 with the view to decentralizing electronic attestation of export documents.
- vi. This Division proposed signing a Prisoner Transfer Agreement between Sri Lanka and UAE for transfer of sentenced persons between the two countries and it is now under process.

### **3. Document Authentication Section**

- i. The Document Authentication Section provides attestation of documents through Electronic Documents Attestation System (e-DAS), using the innovative digital technology. The Lanka Government Cloud (LGC) has now been upgraded from LGC1 to LGC2 in order to increase the storage capacity and performance which enabled all Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad and regional consular offices to upload and download documents to and from the Consular Affairs Division in Colombo much faster.
- ii. The Division and the regional office processed almost 300,000 documents and authenticated them during the period under review generating Rs.232.2 million.
- iii. The Division accepts payments through credit and debit cards, in addition to cash payments for document authentication.

### **4. Repatriation Section**

- i. The Repatriation Section is mandated to handle complaints related to Sri Lankans stranded overseas, owing to multitude of reasons.
- ii. The Section facilitates repatriation of Sri Lankans who left Sri Lanka for the purpose of employment, without registration at the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE). In 2018, there were 480 complaints, lodged by the Next of Kin (NoKK) with this Division directly, seeking assistance for repatriation, in addition to complaints directly received by Missions/Posts abroad and other authorities.
- iii. The Division facilitates repatriation of Sri Lankans who are in prisons in foreign countries, following appeals from their NoKK or Missions/Posts concerned. In 2018, out of 146 cases of imprisoned Sri Lankans, 54 Sri Lankans were repatriated.
- iv. In addition, 6750 and 95 migrant workers who were given amnesty for illegal stay, from Kuwait and Lebanon respectively were repatriated during the aforesaid period.
- v. The Division also facilitated repatriation of two Sri Lankans who were detained in Iran since 15 May 2017 on the accusation of drug trafficking.
- vi. In May 2018, 12 Sri Lankan migrant workers stranded in Somalia were repatriated with the intervention of this Division and in coordination with International Organization for Migration [IOM].
- vii. The Division in coordination with the relevant Sri Lanka Missions abroad assisted safe return of 48 victims of human trafficking. This Division also facilitates voluntary returns of trafficked persons to Sri Lanka.
- viii. The Division, acting as the focal point under the Readmission Case Management System (RCMS) to upload and process special Readmission Applications, processed 24 applications through RCMS.

## **5. Compensation Section**

- i. This Section handles cases and issues related to compensations, insurances, end service/retirement benefits of Sri Lankans who pass away abroad and those who return back to the country without receiving their legal entitlements, due to various reasons.
- ii. Approximately SLR 420 Million has been recovered by settling the cases of nearly 190 families /victims as compensation/blood money and other dues during 2018.
- iii. NoKK of the deceased and others who submit applications for compensation are provided required consular assistance and advised with regard to submission of required documentations, including translations etc in the required format.
- iv. This Division, in consultations with the Si Lankan Missions abroad, facilitates legal action taken to secure compensations and other legal entitlements on behalf of victims through law firms in respective countries. NoKK are assisted to prepare required documents free of charge.
- v. In cases of murder or accident related deaths of Sri Lankans abroad, action is taken to ensure that their entitlements are secured for the NoKK.
- vi. All complaints received from migrant workers regarding non-payment of salaries/other dues abroad are facilitated through the respective Sri Lanka Missions.

## **6. Death Section**

- i. The Division is also responsible for identifying the rightful NOK in case of a death abroad and to facilitate with the repatriation, burial or the cremation of the human remains at the earliest in coordination with Missions abroad and the parties concerned.
- ii. The Division advises the Missions to repatriate, bury or cremate the human remains after careful consideration in deciding the rightful party, especially when several parties claim for human remains.
- iii. The Ministry publishes newspaper advertisements requesting assistance from the public to trace NOKK of Sri Lankan nationals who pass away abroad.
- iv. During the period under review a total 444 deaths were reported to Ministry, requesting consular assistance while 110 deaths reported to Sri Lankan Missions abroad, without requesting assistance.
- v. The Death section also facilitates obtaining death certificates.
- vi. The Division assists insurance payment from the SLBFE in cases of death.
- vii. In cases of deaths of Sri Lankans in foreign countries, who are not registered with the SLBFE or who are not in a position to bear the cost to repatriate, bury and cremate, the Division assists them. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has incurred a

sum of approximately SLRS.3, 577,975 /- in this regard for 12 Sri Lankans nationals.

- viii. A sum of SLRS 435,878.50 was spent to publish newspaper advertisements to trace NOKK of 6 Sri Lankan nationals who passed away in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Abu Dhabi, Lebanon and Dubai in 2018.

Annex I - Government Expenditure

Annex II - Number of reported death cases in 2018

## **7. Miscellaneous Section**

- i. This section primarily attends to requests for consular assistance of Sri Lankans residing overseas which do not directly come under purview of other sections of the Division.
- ii. The Section deals with cases of Sri Lankan citizens facing life sentences or death sentence by courts of law overseas and during the period under review a total of 21 such cases had been attended. Three convicts were repatriated to Sri Lanka.
- iii. The section also handles Sri Lankan fishing vessels drifting into territorial waters of other countries as well as cases of Sri Lankan fishermen stranded in mid-sea or detained by foreign naval authorities, coast guards and those who are in need of assistance for the release of their vessels and the crew. Accordingly, during the period under review a total of 152 cases of Sri Lankan fishermen and fishing vessels apprehended abroad or outside Sri Lanka's territorial waters had been attended and assisted for the release of fishermen and vessels.
- iv. The section processes the monthly progress report on the human rights of unregistered migrant workers obtained from Missions for the Sectoral Committee on the Implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRA).
- v. The section facilitates obtaining Police Clearance Certificates, issued by foreign countries where Sri Lankan nationals lived and employed. The total number of such Police Clearance Certificates handed over to the applicants were 411.
- vi. The section had received 30 complaints through the "Tell to President" grievances management programme and the grievances are processed.
- vii. Furthermore, 206 requests for consular assistance to Sri Lankan migrant workers, students, professionals overseas which did not come under the purview of other sections of Division had been attended by this Section.
- viii. The section facilitates issuance of birth certificates for children born overseas and had attended 69 complaints in this regard. A total of 1058 birth certificates of children born to Sri Lankan citizens overseas had been distributed.
- ix. The section assisted 54 foreigners by responding and processing inquiries, requests such as solemnizing marriages in Sri Lanka, application of visa to Sri Lanka and authentication of various consular documents.
- x. The section processed 20 complaints with regard to whereabouts of missing relatives abroad.

- xi. 16 citizenship certificates received from Missions abroad were distributed to the applications while 18 complaints were attended.
- xii. The request for information regarding biological/natural parents of those who had been adopted overseas and other similar requests have also been attended to as and when the section receives from Sri Lanka Missions abroad.

**Details of Consular Assistance provided for the period from 1st January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

Number of documents	297 410
Total Cash Collection (Verification) (Rs.)	232 210 700.00
Reported Deaths	444
Complaints requesting support for repatriate to Sri Lanka (Normal cases)	219
Number of police clearance certificated issued	196
Number of Educational Certificates received from Sri Lankan Missions abroad for onward transmission	85
Complaints for detaining (Sri Lankans sentenced to death abroad)	21
Complaints for Registration of Births	68
Benefited Families (Number) (Compensation)	182
Number of unregistered complaints	172
Total paid Compensation (Rs.)	417,824,923.55
Miscellaneous inquires (written)	68
Number of Sri Lankan fishermen repatriated	80
Details of overseas police clearance applications processed	215
Number of SLBFE registered complaints	61
Details of birth Registration abroad	1058

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Annex I

**Payment made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Repatriation ,Cremation and Burial of Human Remains  
from 01.01.2018 to 31.12.2018**

No	Name of deceased	PPT No	Cause of Death	Date of Death	Mission	SLRS	Cost	local currency	Status
1	Ven.Morape Kusala Gnana Thero	N7278366	Illness	8/3/2018	Bangkok	SLRS.560,100/=	USD.3564	Dispatchd	
2	Mrs.B .K.Shayamalee	N 0947912	murder	28/01/2018	Jordan	SLRS .184,900/=	USD.840	Dispatchd	
3	Mr.L.M.P.N.Tharanga	N7477477	Illness	3/4/2018	Bahrain	SLRS .102,800/=	BHD. 247	Dispatchd	
4	Mr.Sugath C Fernando	N1319265	Illness	4/4/2018	Saudi Arabia	SLRS .383,940/=	SAR.9000	Dispatchd	
5	Mr.Ronnie Lucky Leitch	N7842132	Illness	1/10/2018	Australia	SLRS .953235/=	AUD7796.55	Dispatchd	
6	Ven .Bambawee Indrajothi Thero	N5205877	Illness	20/12/2018	Thailand	SLRS .400,000/=	THB 70,000	Dispatchd	
7	Mrs.Lupa Shanthi	N3979238	Illness	30/01/2018	Kuwait	SLRS 14,000/=	KD 25	Buried	
8	Ms.M. J .F. Hasina	N5830090	Suicide	4/6/2018	Dubai	SLRS.146,000/=	AED.3,353	Buried	
9	Mrs. Sriyani Kanangarage	N5877508	Not mentioned	Not mentioned	Dubai	SLRS.223,000/=	AED.4780	Buried	
10	Mrs.Parel K.Faber	N7946146	Illness	10/11/2018	Dubai	SLRS.240,000/=	AED.4780	Buried	
11	Ms.Shanthi Fernando	Not given	Illness	15/10/2018	Lebanon	SLRS.145,000/=	USD 800	Buried	
12	Mrs.K.Shanthi	Not mentioned	Illness	21.05.2018	Saudi/Riyadh	SLRS.225,000/=	USD 5,000	Buried	
						SLRS.3,577,975/=			
									<b>Total</b>

## Number of Reported death from 01.01.2018 to 31.12.2018

Number	Mission	Number of Death
1	Abu Dhabi	8
2	Australia	9
	Austria	1
3	Bahrain	9
4	Bangladesh	4
5	Belgium	1
5	China	1
6	Cyprus	2
7	Canada	2
8	Dubai	32
9	Egypt	2
10	Ethiopia	1
11	Fiji	1
12	France	6
13	India	14
14	Indonesia	1
15	Iran	1
16	Israel	2
17	Japan	6
18	Jordan	11
19	Saudi Arabia	103
20	Kenya	1
21	Korea	7
22	Kuwait	73
23	Laos	2
24	Lebanon	5
25	Malaysia	17
26	Maldives	7
27	Oman	14
28	Philipine	1
29	Qatar	49
30	Italy	31
31	Turkey	1
32	Thailand	2
	Seychelles	1
33	Switzerland	1
34	Germany	2
35	Sweden	1
36	United Kingdom	5
37	United States	4
38	Ghana	1
39	Hong Kong	1
40	Nepal	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>444</b>



# East Asia and Pacific Division



## **East Asia and Pacific Division**

### **Countries covered:**

Australia, Brunei Darussalam, People's Republic of China, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic Korea, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Vanuatu, Hong Kong SAR, and Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Kiribati, Samoa, Tuvalu, Nauru, Tonga.

### **No. of Resident Missions:**

11 (Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam)

### **No. of Consulates:**

Four (04) (**Australia** – Sydney, Melbourne, **China** – Shanghai, Guangzhou)

### **Concurrent Accreditations:**

Australia (Canberra)	–	Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands
China	–	DPRK, Mongolia
Singapore	–	Brunei Darussalam
Thailand	–	Cambodia, Laos

### **No. of Multilateral / Regional Organization:**

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

### **No. of other organizations covered:**

Bali Democracy Forum, Shangri-La Dialogue.

### **The main areas of work of the East Asia & Pacific Division can be broadly categorized as follows:**

- i. Formulating Foreign Policy guidelines of Sri Lanka in relation to the countries in the geographical region.
- ii. Advising Sri Lanka missions in the geographical regions on the policy decisions of the government and guide them to promote and project Sri Lanka's image positively in their countries of assignment.
- iii. Guiding the Sri Lanka missions in the geographical region to actively engage in economic diplomacy, public diplomacy and extending assistance to Sri Lankans and citizens of Sri Lanka.
- iv. Facilitation/Arrangements of visits of dignitaries to/from Sri Lanka.
- v. Facilitation of signing of bilateral Agreements / MoUs with countries and organisation in the geographical region.

- vi. Coordination of activities related to ASEAN Regional Forum, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Bali Process and CICA.
- vii. Maintaining close and cordial relations with Foreign Mission of East Asia and Pacific region based in Colombo.

## **1. Bilateral Cooperation**

- i. East Asia and Pacific Division from January to December 2018 handled several VVIP, Ministerial visits and convened several Bilateral Foreign Office Consultations.
- ii. The Division organised State Visit of His Excellency Joko Widodo President of the Republic of Indonesia (24 -25 January 2018) and Official visits of Hon. Lee Hsien Loong Prime Minister of Singapore (22 -24 January 2018) and Hon. Prayut Chan-o-cha Prime Minister of Thailand (12 -13 July 2018) to Sri Lanka and Bilateral meetings with H.E. the President and Hon. Prime Minister.
- iii. Organised H.E. the President's State visits to Japan from 12 -15 March 2018.
- iv. Hon. Prime Minister's visits to Singapore (08 July 2018), Vietnam (27 -28 August 2018 and 11-13 September 2018) were facilitated by the division.
- v. The visits of Hon. Taro Kono, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan (05 January 2018) and Hon. Itsunori Onodera, Minister of Defence of Japan (21 August 2018) were facilitated by the division.
- vi. Hon. Speaker of Karu Jayasuriya's visits Lao PDR (21- 17 April 2018), South Korea (27 – 30 August 2018), Japan (25 February to 03 March 2018) and Vietnam (21- 17 April 2018) were facilitated by the division.
- vii. Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs' visits Singapore (19 -31 August 2018), Indonesia (6-7 August 2018) and Malaysia (19 -31 August 2018) were facilitated by the division.
- viii. Bilateral Foreign Office Consultations with Republic of Korea (7 June 2018), Thailand (27 – 28 February 2018), Vietnam (11 April 2018), Philippines (23 October, Manila) were convened in Colombo by the Ministry.

## **2. Regional Cooperation**

### **2.1 ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**

Sri Lanka is a 'participant' country of the ARF and in the process of obtaining a Sectoral Dialogue Partnership with the ASEAN.

Sri Lanka actively participated at following events of the ARF.

- i. 12<sup>th</sup>ASEAN Regional Forum Experts and Eminent Persons (ARF/EEP) Meeting - 6-7 March 2018, in Vietnam to review the progress made on strengthening

preventive diplomacy under the ARF framework and discuss practical measures through which the ARF can enhance regional security.

- ii. DG/East Asia participated at the 25 ARF Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) held in Singapore on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- iii. Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs led the delegation to the 25 ARF Ministerial Meeting from 03-04 August 2018 in Singapore.

## **2.2 Bali Process**

Sri Lanka is a member of the Bali Process

Sri Lanka's participation in Bali Process workshops/seminars/ events during the period, through the Ministries of Justice and Defence, are given below:

- i. 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Bali Process Task Force on Planning and Preparedness (TEPP), 21-22 March 2018, Bangkok, Thailand.
- ii. Bali Process Consultation workshop on draft guidelines for information sharing in relation to people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime-28 March 2018 in Thailand.
- iii. Bali Process Border Management workshop to counter people smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crimes in Air Ports- 23-27 April 2018 in Indonesia.
- iv. Bali Process Technical Experts Group on Returns and Reintegration (RRG), 23-24 April 2018, Manila, Philippines.
- v. Bali Process Pilot Training Workshop on the Guidelines for Information Sharing in relation to people Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime ,3-4 May 2018,Jakarta,Indonesia.
- vi. 13<sup>th</sup> Bali Process Ad Hoc Group Senior Official's Meeting, 27 June 2018, Sydney, Australia.
- vii. 7th Bali Process SOM and Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime was held from 6-7 August 2018 in Indonesia and led by Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka and also represented by Deputy Minister of Justice and senior officials of the Attorney General's Department, Foreign Ministry and others.

Sri Lanka has been regular participating in this event and this year, it was the first time that Minister of Foreign Affairs led the delegation to the above Conference which shows the growing importance that Sri Lanka holds to the Bali Process. In the past, Minister/Deputy Minister of Justice had led the delegations to the Conference.

The Conference reviewed developments in the Bali process including activities undertaken within the Bali Process Working Groups, other engagement mechanisms etc.

## **2.3 Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**

Sri Lanka gained full membership on 15 August 2018.

- i. Minister of Foreign Affairs participated and made a Statement at the Special Ministerial Meeting of CICA, on the sidelines of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UNGA on 24 September 2018 in New York.
- ii. Sri Lanka coordinated with the Ministry of Defence to nominate an official for the Seminar on Military Political Dimension of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) to be held from 16-17 October 2018, Astana, Kazakhstan. Director General of the Institute of National Security Studies, Sri Lanka (INSSSL).

## **2.4 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**

Sri Lanka is a Dialogue Partner of SCO since 2009 and had applied for Observer status of the Organization.

- i. Hon. Attorney General participated at the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Prosecutors General of the Shanghai Cooperation (SCO) on 20 September in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

## **2.5 Shangri – La Dialogue**

Ministry of Defence has been continuously participating in the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue on behalf of Sri Lanka.

- i. Secretary, Ministry of Defence participated in the 17th IISS Shangri- La Dialogue held from 1-3 June 2018, in Singapore and addressed the Forum in the simultaneous special session 4 themed “Competition and Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region”.

## **1. AUSTRALIA**

Sri Lanka maintains three resident Missions/Posts in Australia, namely the Sri Lanka High Commission (SLHC) in Canberra, the Consulate General in Melbourne, and the Consulate General in Sydney.

### **I. Canberra**

#### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- i. High Commission continued follow up on the cooperation from Australian Nuclear and Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) to the

- Presidential Task Force on Prevention of CKDu, to identify the causes of CKDu in Sri Lanka.
- ii. State Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon Vasantha Senanayake visited Australia under the Special Visitor Programme of DFAT in March.
  - iii. A delegation from the Sri Lankan Women's Parliamentary Caucus visited Australia in March, including Canberra and had meetings at Parliament House and Government Departments.
  - iv. The appointment of an Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka in the Northern Territory (based in Darwin) was finalised.
  - v. Sri Lanka Navy vessel *SLNS Sindurala* participated in Fleet Exercise Kakadu 2018 in Darwin in August/September, demonstrating the growing defence relations between the two countries.
  - vi. The Commandant of the Sapugaskanda Command and Services Staff College led a delegation of student officers on a study tour in August. The programme was facilitated through the Australian Defence Adviser based in Colombo.
  - vii. Mission also continued to liaise with Department of Home Affairs regarding cases where Sri Lankans have been arrested/charged with criminal offences.
  - viii. Mission organised an informal talk and discussion with citizens Sri Lanka of Sri Lanka in Canberra for Dr Jayampathy Wickremaratne on "Constitution Making in Sri Lanka; Opportunism and Challenges' in October.

### **Concurrent Accreditations**

- i. High Commissioner presented credentials in Papua New Guinea in May and also met the Foreign Minister and Secretary/Foreign Affairs of PNG. Discussions at these meetings have been pursued and a draft MOU for Bilateral Consultations shared with PNG.
- ii. Following up from discussions with outgoing Fiji High Commissioner, a similar draft MOU to waive visas for diplomatic and official passport holders has been shared with Fiji for their consideration.
- iii. Discussions are ongoing with New Zealand to initiate bilateral consultations. A Draft MOU has also been shared with New Zealand on Cooperation in Youth Development.
- iv. Following on from discussions in Port Moresby during High Commissioner's visit for presentation of credentials, and in consultation with Colombo, Mission proposed the establishment of senior level official talks with PNG to the High Commission in Canberra.

**b. Economic relations and foreign investments**

- i. Inaugural meeting of the Australia-Sri Lanka Joint Trade and Investment Committee was held in Canberra on 19 April.
- ii. High Commission introduced new Apparel Company from Western Australia to Sri Lanka; This Company has started manufacture and import of apparel products from Sri Lanka to promote in Australia under a new brand called "Gunny Loyal".
- iii. High Commission also introduced "Hansa Ceylon Coffee" in Sri Lanka to a company in New Zealand "Espresso Stuff".
- iv. High Commission facilitated the effort of introducing e-Phyto system to Sri Lanka, where the Australian Department of Agriculture & Water Resources (ADAWR) and the Department of Agriculture of Sri Lanka have engaged extensively to introduce e-Phyto system to Sri Lanka.
- v. High Commission employed and supervised a Post Graduate Student at Australian National University as an intern to write a report; "Sri Lanka's Coconut Oil Products in Australia". This report was shared with the SLEDB for the benefit of Sri Lankan exporters.
- vi. High Commission is exploring possibilities to introduce Australian qualification for aged care workers in Sri Lanka for potential employment opportunities for Sri Lankan youths overseas including in Australia. In this regard, Aspen Medical, which is an Australian-owned global provider of innovative healthcare solutions and a registered training organisation of Aged care workers, has agreed to work with Sri Lanka and submitted their proposal which has been shared with GOSL.
- vii. High Commission has also been discussing with Australian Seafood Importers Association to start business with Sri Lanka and explore investing in Sri Lanka fishing industry. EDB has already invited them to visit for discussions and they have agreed in principle to engage. This should constantly be followed up to determine mutually convenient dates for a visit.
- viii. Meeting was organised between Sri Lanka Navy, Industry personnel and AUSTAL, Australian ship building company to work with Sri Lankan Navy and private sector.

**c. Tourism Promotion**

- i. High Commission initiated a project of introducing Adventure Racing World Championship to be hosted by Sri Lanka in November 2019. Number of Australian tourists visiting Sri Lanka has increased by 38% over the past year.
- ii. Promotional work was carried out during annual Sri Lanka Festival at the High Commission and tourism promotional talks by experts.
- iii. At the end of September 2018, 78756 Australians visited Sri Lanka. It is an increase of 38.6% when compared to the tourism arrivals from Australia during the same period in 2017.

#### **d. Cultural Relations**

- i. High Commission participated in the annual Canberra Multicultural Festival in February with a tea and tourism promotion stall.
- ii. A 13 member delegation from Sri Lanka comprising tourism participated at Life Saving Victoria on Life Saving on drowning prevention and water safety workshop facilitated by the High Commission.
- iii. High Commission coordinated participation of the Sports Minister and officials at the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast in April.

## **II. Melbourne**

#### **a. Bilateral Relations**

Visits of Sri Lankan Ministers/Officials and the meetings with State Political Dignitaries /Officials have strengthened the bilateral political relations. The high level meetings and events held during the period under review are as follows;

- i. The Sri Lankan Women's Parliamentary Caucus - Melbourne 21-29 March 2018.
- ii. Facilitated a meeting with Public Transport of Victoria during the visit of Chairman of National Transport Commission of Sri Lanka to Melbourne on 10 January 2018.
- iii. Facilitated the Sri Lankan Drowning Prevention and Water Safety Fellowship participants with the Life Saving Victoria from 15-19 February 2018.
- iv. Facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the Freedom of Navigation at the Indian Ocean – Conference organised by Centre on the Legal Profession, Deakin University, Melbourne 30th April-1st May 2018.
- v. Represented Sri Lanka at the Victorian Sister Cities' Forum organised by the Parliament of Victoria on 18 July 2018.
- vi. Facilitated Overseas study tour of Defence Services Command and Staff College of Sri Lanka in Sapugaskanda to Australia from 02 to 14 August 2018.
- vii. Coordinated the visit of Hon. State Minister for Science and Technology from 03 to 07 September 2018 to Melbourne.
- viii. Visit of Hon. Chief Justice of Sri Lanka to Melbourne 07 -17 September 2018.

Facilitated the visit of Hon. Minister of Social Welfare and Primary Industries of Sri Lanka and Hon. Anoma Gamage Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources Development (20 -24 September 2018).

**b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- i. Facilitated the visit of members of Hambantota District Chamber of Commerce to Melbourne 18<sup>th</sup> – 25 January 2018
- ii. A networking reception was organised to recognise mutual opportunities for trade and investment between Sri Lanka and Victoria on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018
- iii. A diaspora event was organised to promote investment on Sri Lankan Nano Technology on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- iv. Facilitated the visit of Mr. Jayampathi Arambepola, Trade representative of National Chamber of exporters of Sri Lanka to Victoria on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- v. Sri Lanka Tea Board, Coconut Development Authority of Sri Lanka and Ministry of Primary Industries were facilitated to participate at the Fine Food Exhibition from 10- 13 September 2018.
- vi. Business breakfast meeting was arranged with Coconut exporters of Sri Lanka and potential buyers in Melbourne on 11 September 2018.
- vii. Facilitated the visit of National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka 18<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
- viii. Facilitated the visit of Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) 26 – 27 November 2018.
- ix. Organized a Community Networking event with RMIT University to facilitate the Business delegation of ICTA 26 November 2018.

**c. Cultural Relations**

- i. Facilitated the visit of Most Venerable Nagoda Saddhaloka Thero, Head of the Visuddhimagga International Buddhist Organization in Sri Lanka to Melbourne from 17 May to 11 June 2018.
- ii. United Nations Day Vesak Celebrations by the State Government of Victoria - Melbourne Town Hall on 12 May 2018.
- iii. Participation at the Celebration of Multiculturalism and Diversity Day at the Multicultural Commission of Victoria on 27 June 2018.
- iv. Facilitated the Melbourne Dhathu Mandira Pooja organised by Mahamewnawa Bhawana Asapuwa on 25 August 2018.

**d. Tourism Promotion**

- i. Facilitated the visit of members of Hambantota District Chamber of Commerce to Melbourne 18<sup>th</sup> – 25 January 2018

- ii. A networking reception was organised to recognise mutual opportunities for trade and investment between Sri Lanka and Victoria on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018
- iii. A diaspora event was organised to promote investment on Sri Lankan Nano Technology on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
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- vii. Facilitated the visit of National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka 18<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
- viii. Facilitated the visit of Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) 26 – 27 November 2018.

### **III. Sydney**

#### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- i. Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs undertook a visit to Australia from 23-30/09/2018 under Australian Government Special Visit Programme.
- ii. Arranged meetings for Dr Siran Deraniyagala with the University of Sydney, National Maritime Museum and Heritage Management Institutions for familiarisation of best heritage management practices in Australia.
- iii. Coordination of a proposal to curb soil contamination and cooperation to prevent CKDu from Prof Ravi Naidu, CEO and Managing Director of CRC CARE, Newcastle University in coordination with the Sri Lankan authorities.
- iv. The consulate facilitated the following visits:
  - a. 26-29/03/2018 - Secretary Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs
  - b. 25-29/06/2018 - Sri Lankan delegation for the Bali Process Meetings
  - c. 11-14/08/2018 - the Study tour of the delegation of the Sapugaskanda Command and Services Staff College led by the Commandant Major General J.R. Kulatunga.
  - d. 24/06/2016 - The visit of NSW Parliament MP Kevin Humphries to Sri Lanka.

Consulate General partnered with the Sri Lankan Associations in Sydney in September 2018 to collect dry rations for the NSW farmers stricken by the severe drought.

**b. Trade**

- i. Visit of Sri Lanka Nano Technology Official delegation to Sydney - A four member Official Delegation led by Chief Executive Officer of Sri Lanka Institute of Nano Technology (SLINTEC) visited Sydney from 18th to 21st March, 2018.
- ii. First official meeting on TIFA with Australia held in Canberra on 19th April 2018.
- iii. Facilitated the visit of Sri Lanka National Trade Facilitation Committee to Australia Fifteen representatives of Sri Lanka border regulatory agencies, private sector organizations, Chambers of Commerce and members to the Sri Lanka National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) visited Australia from 27th to 31st August, 2018.
- iv. Facilitated a visit by representatives of Sanken Group, property developers in SL visited Sydney in February 2018.
- v. Facilitated a visit by 23 Sri Lankan women in High Posts to Brisbane in Sept/Oct 2018 on gender equality in work space.
- vi. Networking Evening in Melbourne for the Business Delegation from the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka - 12 member business delegations from the Melbourne from 19 – 24 November 2018.
- vii. Meeting with the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) - Visiting Members of the NCE Delegation had a meeting and interacting session at the Victorian Chamber of Commerce during their visit to Melbourne.
- viii. Meeting with Trade Victoria – State Government Australia - Visiting Members of the NCE Delegation met Mr. James Edwards, Regional Specialist for South Asia & International Coordinator of Trade Victoria during their visit to Melbourne.
- ix. Meeting with the Export Council of Australia - Visiting Members of the NCE Delegation met Mr Niels Strazdins, Head of Research & Victoria State Manager of Export Council of Australia during their visit to Melbourne.
- x. Sri Lankan IT-BPM Delegation led by ICTA visits Sydney - In collaboration with the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Sydney, seven IT-BPM companies led by Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) visited Sydney from 28 – 30 November 2018 on an accelerated market access programme to facilitate and support the IT industry in Sri Lanka.

- xi. Sri Lankan ICTA Delegation visit to Macquarie University in Sydney - Consulate also arranged a familiarization visit to the Computer Department of the Macquarie University for the Sri Lankan Delegation on 30th November 2018.
- xii. B2B Meetings in Sydney for Sri Lankan IT-BPM Companies - In association with the sales desk, a Consultancy Agent, and Consulate also arranged a matchmaking meetings and B2B sessions for the Sri Lankan companies on 29th November 2018.

#### **c. Tourism**

- i. Sri Lanka Participation at the Travel Industry Exhibition in Sydney - Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB from 21st to 22nd August, 2018 at Dockside, Darling Harbour.
- ii. Consul General and Consul Commercial had a meeting with Fairfax Media Australia to promote Sri Lanka Tourism at their annual event "Night Noodle Markets" in Sydney from 4 – 21 October 2018.
- iii. As requested by the SLTPB, Consulate office provided the lists of (I) Selected Outbound Tour Operators for FAM tour, (II) Selected Travel Journalists for FAM tour, (III) Bill Board Companies in Australia, (IV) Printed travel magazines in Australia, (V) PR Companies in the travel trade.

#### **d. Investments**

- i. A meeting was arranged to Mr. Kim Darling, Managing Director/Helen Kaminski with Director/Investment, BoI on 2nd April 2018.
- ii. Consul Commercial met Mr Karl Wyzenbeek, MD/Lab Friend and had a discussion on his interest to set up his business in Colombo. Subsequent to the meeting, Mr Karl visited Sri Lanka during August. He is now planning to set up his IT business in Colombo.

## **2. CHINA**

### **I. Beijing**

#### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- i. The Embassy coordinated the work related to establishing the Honorary Consulate of Sri Lanka in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- ii. H.E. Dr. Karunasena Kodituwakku, Ambassador attended following meetings/events to strengthen bilateral relations with China other accredited countries:
  - Meeting with China Association for Friendship with foreign countries on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the Embassy,

- Interview with Xinhua News Agency on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the Embassy with the aim of promoting investment, trade and tourism between China and Sri Lanka,
- The Guangxi and World Walk from 24-28 April 2018 in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region,
- The 14<sup>th</sup> China (Shenzhen)International Cultural Industry Expo Fair from 6-7 May 2018 at the Shenzhen attended by Sri Lanka exhibitors,
- Attended at the Anhui Bengbu Ancient Residential Expo Park Trip from 26-28 May 2018 at the Bengbu, Anhui,
- Visiting the Nest Investment Yunnan Group Company from 11-14 June 2018 at Kunming & Lincang,
- The 5<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Expo and the 25<sup>th</sup> China Kunming Import Export Fair from 14-17 June 2018 in Kunming,
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> High Level International forum of sustainable Urban Development,
- The 2018 West Coast International E-sports Industry Summit from 11-12 August in Qingdao, Shandong province,
- The 2018 International Tourism and Culture Expo from 7-11 September 2018 in Tibet,
- The 17<sup>th</sup> Western China International Fair (Belt and Road Education Exhibition) from 19-21 September 2018 in Chengdu, Sichuan Province,
- Educational Cooperation Forum in NSBM – 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

## **b. Multilateral Relations**

### **Conference on Interactions Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**

Sri Lanka obtained full membership of the Conference on Interactions Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018. On behalf of Sri Lanka, H.E. the Ambassador signed the “Declaration of Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA member states” and the “Almaty Act” at a ceremony held in Beijing.

### **International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)**

- i. The Embassy maintains regular contacts with the Secretariat of International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) in Beijing and attends meetings/ events organized by the INBAR Secretariat.
- ii. The Embassy facilitated with INBAR, ITI, MST&R and MOFA regarding INBAR’s proposals and Global Bamboo and Rattan Congress 2018 held in Beijing from 25-27 June 2018.

## **c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

### **Promotion of Bilateral Trade initiatives**

- i. Meeting with Chengdu Sichuan Province China Council for Promotion of International Trade CCPIT to increase Sri Lanka Sichuan Trade Investment. - Participated at the 9<sup>th</sup> South Asia Sichuan Business Promotion Round Table Conference with 22 Member Sri Lanka Delegation comprising BOI, Federation of Chambers, and COYLE and SLS. Make presentations at the Business Round Table and China South Asia Standardization Conference.

- ii. Meeting with National Gemological Technology Administrative Centre of Natural Resources Ministry of China Discussed the Sri Lanka Participation at the Beijing International Gem and Jewelry Fair December 2018.
- iii. Facilitating and organizing the Belt & Road International Production Capacity Cooperation Promotion Centre VIST TO Sri Lanka with 22 members. A seminar was held at the Kingsbury Hotel Colombo and Hon Deputy Minister of Finance Eran Wickramarathna attended as the Guest. Organized a visit to Colombo Port City in collaboration with the Developers.
- iv. Participated at the South Asian Commodity Fair with 80 Exhibitors held in Kunming from June 6-10, 2018.
- v. Initiated by the Commercial Section Sichuan CCPIT Sub Council agreed facilitate the MOU between Sri Lanka Software Association SLASSCOM and Chengdu Software association.

**Introduction of new products:**

- Action has been taken to introduce Sri Lanka Fisheries Products in China.
- Expansion of market share of existing products; Promoting Gem and Jewellery and increasing the number of Sri Lanka Exhibitors in China. More than 15 Trade fairs in this regard and this year to date Sri Lankan Exhibitors participated in more than 12 Exhibitions.

**Organizing/Participation of Trade fairs:**

- Hangzhou Luxury Expo January
- Shenzhen Tea Expo –March (UBM)
- Shanghai Jewelry
- Dalian Jewelry Show –April
- Kunming –June South Asian Commodity Fair(Beijing-September)
- 10<sup>TH</sup> China Hainan international Ocean Industry Exposition
- South Asia Expo June Kunming

Sri Lankan Exhibitor's participated at the following shows strengthening Sri Lanka's position in China.

- First Ever China International Import Expo Shanghai CIIE
- China Railway Expo
- Beijing Gem and Jewelry Show Beijing December
- Hangzhou Tea Expo December
- World Tourism Alliance
- Global Logistic Alliance Confrere Shenzhen
- Anhui World Heritage Event promoted Tea
- Sri Lanka Investment Forum –Anhui made a presentation on Investment opportunities in Sri Lanka
- Central China Changsha Import Expo promoted Sri Lanka Tea
- Agriculture Products brand promotion Conference
- Hainan BOAO Summit

### **Inward Trade / buying Missions:**

- Arranged an 8 member delegation of China Agricultural Wholesale Markets Association to visit Sri Lanka.

### **Addressing Market Entry barriers:**

- Met with the Agriculture Ministry of China with regard to Quarantine issues faced by Ornamental Fish Exporters of Sri Lanka and accordingly necessary action will be taken to resolve the issue.

### **Organizing Seminars / workshops / promotional events**

- Sri Lanka Promotional Event Chengdu and Kunming

### **Business Networking/Progress under PPP Programme Initiative**

- Facilitated buyers for Sri Lanka Fish Products, Coir Fibre, and Essential Oils Tea.

### **Tea Promotion**

- Facilitated New Exporters to the ever growing China black tea market and Promoted Sri Lanka's participation at specialty Fairs across China.

### **Investment Promotion**

- Discussions were also made with regard to Promotion of Sichuan Investment to Sri Lanka. Especially in the areas of Infrastructure, Housing, Agricultural Machineries, Traditional Chinese Medicine, IT, Textiles and Electronics, Food and Restaurant.
- Facilitated the SEIC investment seminar in the Embassy
- Conducted investment seminar in the Embassy
- Facilitated the Jilin Province delegation visit to Sri Lanka from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
- Facilitated the International Chamber of Commerce Delegation to Sri Lanka. Participated at the CIFTIS May 28<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 XIAN Round Table.

### **Tourist Promotion**

- Several meetings were held with the Chengdu TV and the Sichuan Provincial Tourism Authority to seek cooperation to promote Bilateral Tourism between Sichuan and Sri Lanka during the trade fairs at Chengdu and Kunming.
- Organized a MICE Tourism Seminar at the Embassy in collaboration with CITS One of the Largest Travel bodies in China.
- Facilitated the Sri Lanka Tourism and Convention Bureau's participation at the IBTM and BITM, Medical Tourism and numerous Travel Fairs in China. MICE segment will be promoted vigorously by organizing FAM tours to Sri Lanka with the Support of SLBC.

### **Other Trade related Projects**

- Facilitated the first ever China Import Fair Shanghai

### **d. Cultural Relations**

- i. A photography exhibition was held showcasing Sri Lanka and China relations. Publicity campaign also was conducted by publishing articles on Sri Lanka's Independence and Sri Lankan Gems etc. in Chinese media since two weeks prior to the event taken place.
- ii. The Embassy participated in the 15<sup>th</sup> International Film and TV Programme Exhibition in Beijing from 17-19 May2018 showcasing Sri Lanka's filming locations and information on international films shot in Sri Lanka.
- iii. Sri Lanka culture and art showcased at the Maritime Silk Road ECI International Innovation Festival in Fujian from 22-23 June.

### **e. Labour Welfare**

- i. The Embassy coordinated with Hon. Consulate in Hong Kong to facilitate welfare of the Sri Lankan labour community in Hong Kong.
- ii. Facilitating Chinese tourists' visa application process, Embassy worked with relevant authorities to include China "Union Pay" payment method in ETA system.

### **f. Other**

#### **i. Education**

- The Embassy introduced Chinese Scholarship opportunities to Sri Lanka via Ministry of Education & Higher Education of Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka Scholarship opportunities to prospective Chinese candidates via the Chinese Scholarship Council.
- The Embassy provided necessary consultations to the Sri Lankan students in China and took necessary actions in relation with their queries, appeals etc. while contacting relevant Chinese Education authorities.
- A Social media group (WeChat) was set up for Sri Lankan students to provide messages/ information on Education, Social & Cultural section of the Embassy and quick access for consultations from the Embassy on education related matters.
- The Embassy actively participated in the Educational fairs and forums such as Higher Vocational Education forum in Jiangsu (14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September) and Chengdu Educational Expo (20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September) etc by providing necessary coordination and facilitation to the Sri Lankan education authorities such as Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, University of Peradeniya, NSBM, CINEC and further by organizing Sri Lankan students to provide their service for the exhibition stalls. As a

result of the Educational Expo, the Chinese International Institute of Education (CIIIE) signed a MoU with CINEC on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to enhance the relationship and to possibly develop new collaborative undertakings in the years to come. Further NSMB obtained the opportunity to establish contacts with key authorities/ persons in Higher Education Sector in Chengdu.

## **ii. Defence**

- The Embassy facilitated military courses for Sri Lanka forces and received 285 gratis military courses to Sri Lanka Defence Forces for year 2018/19.
- Military courses offered by training institutions of Sri Lanka Army, Navy and Air Force accepted by Ministry of Defence China and sent 8 (eight) PLA officers to Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka Army Boxing teams consisting of 12 players participated for High Level Boxing training in China from 22-31 July 2018.
- As a result of the discussion with the Office for International Military Cooperation (OIMC) Ministry of National Defense, Chinese Government had constructed Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA) and handed over to Sri Lanka Army.
- Secretary Ministry of Defence Mr Kapila Waidyaratne along with Sri Lankan delegation including Chief of Staff of the Navy attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Beijing Xiangshan forum held in Beijing from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Secretary Defence met General Wei Fenghe, State Counsellor and Defense Minister and Deputy Chief of Staff Shao during the forum and had official talks.
- On Oct 04<sup>th</sup>, Chinese Navy ship arrived for a four day good will visit to Sri Lanka.
- A delegation led by Rear Admiral of Commandant Naval Command College from PLA Navy participated for the Galle dialogue organized by Sri Lanka Navy.
- Two Brigadiers from Sri Lanka Army participated for the Air Show China 2018.

## **II. Guangzhou**

### **a. Bilateral Relations**

Delegation visits:

- i. Mr. Lu Huazhong/ President of Guangdong Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GAAS) and five member delegation of Senior officials from various Agricultural research divisions/Institutes visited Sri Lanka from 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

The Consul General arranged meetings for the visiting delegation with the relevant Political desk of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Two MoU's have been proposed by GAAS with the Dept. of Agriculture of Sri Lanka and SL Tea Board.

- ii. Visit by Mr. Huang Pingxi/ Vice Secretary General of the China- ASEAN Secretariat and four member delegation to Sri Lanka from 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018.
- iii. Vice President of Chinese Academy of Science and the Head of China – Sri Lanka Joint Center for Education and Research in Guangzhou and delegation visited University of Ruhuna, 25th – 30th September 2018.
- iv. The Consul General arranged meetings for the delegation with the Sri Lanka Export Development Board and the Board of Investment to further consolidate ties with the China-ASEAN Secretariat.

## **b. Economic Relations & Foreign Investments**

Tourism & Trade /Investment Forums:

- i. The Consulate General organized Sri Lanka's participation at the Guangzhou International Travel Fair (GITF) from 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 where 15 Sri Lankan travel agents and tour operators participated alongside the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau.

Sri Lanka won the "Most attractive tourist destination" award at the GITF for the third consecutive year. China has been Sri Lanka's second largest source market for tourism since 2014 with year on year growth.
- ii. A Sri Lanka Tourism Roadshow in Guangzhou was held on 5th March 2018 alongside the GITF3.

The Business to Business networking session for the participating SL companies at the roadshow enabled many business opportunities.
- iii. The Consulate General organized and hosted a Workshop on Sri Lankan wildlife with Mr. Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne, a Sri Lankan wildlife expert to create awareness in Guangdong province of the abundant wildlife in Sri Lanka.
  - a. This Workshop exclusively covered the wildlife and wildlife safaris in Sri Lanka.
- iv. The Consulate General facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the 18<sup>th</sup> International Food Exhibition (IFE) in Guangzhou. Two Sri Lankan companies from the tea and coconut sectors participated the event.
- v. The Consulate General participated in the Guangzhou Trade Fair organised by the Guangzhou Foreign Office to promote Sri Lankan handicrafts and showcase the traditional and value added exports to mainland China.
- vi. A tourism Seminar to promote Sri Lanka as a unique destination was hosted by the Consulate General on 8<sup>th</sup> September for Chinese travel agencies and the print media.

- vii. The Consulate General participated at the China (Guangdong) Tourism Expo (CITEE) from 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018 by maintaining a booth during the three day event to service enquiries on the country.
- viii. The Consulate General facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the Food and Hospitality (FHW) Trade Fair from 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- ix. The Consulate General facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the 15<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, Guangxi province from 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- x. The Consulate General organized Sri Lanka's participation at the 15th China International Small and Medium Enterprises Fair (CISMEF) from 10th – 13th October 2018 where 30 Sri Lankan small and medium enterprises participated alongside the Sri Lanka Export Development Board and National Gems and Jewellery Authority of Sri Lanka.
- xi. The Consulate General facilitated a B to B matchmaking meeting on 10th October 2018 for 30 Sri Lankan companies to seek business opportunities for their products in Guangdong province.
- xii. A Sri Lankan Trade Seminar was hosted by the Consulate General on 12th October 2019 in Guangzhou, to create awareness of Sri Lankan value added exports and investment opportunities to target leading importers.
- xiii. The Consulate General assisted Sri Lanka's participation at the Guangdong 21st Century Maritime Silk Road International Expo from 25th – 28th October 2018 in Dongguan.
- xiv. Mr. Summer Lee/General Manager, and Ms. Tan Qiuming/ Brand Director of Guangzhou Create View International Data Information Co., Ltd (which is a leading enterprise in China's intelligent education industry) met with the Consul General on 29th of October 2018 and the latter visited their product showroom to look at opportunities available for the 'Smart Class' Project, with Sri Lankan Universities.

Nine SL companies in the Gems & Jewelry and tea sector participated. This was an excellent opportunity for the companies to expand trade relations with the micro, small and medium sized enterprises in Nanning.

#### Trade inquiries:

- i. The Post regularly services trade inquiries and assists in resolving trade disputes when they arise. Regular meetings are held with the trade Chambers and e-commerce platform operators to scope market opportunities for Sri Lankan brands on e-commerce platforms.

### **c. Cultural Relations**

Promotion & awareness of Sri Lankan cuisine:

- i. The Consulate General facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the Bocuse d'Or Asia Pacific Culinary competition held from 8th – 10th May 2018. Two Chefs from the Water's Edge hotel represented Sri Lanka at the competition.
- ii. The Consulate General provided assistance to a delegation of 13 Buddhist Monks led by Royal Pandith Most Ven. Napana Pemasiri Thero of the Sri Lanka Ramagna Maha Nikaya for their participation at the 5th World Buddhist Forum in Fujian Province, held from 28th- 1st November 2018.

## **III. Shanghai**

### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- i. The Opening Ceremony of the 13<sup>th</sup> Chinese People Political Consultative Conference.
- ii. The Opening Ceremony of the 15<sup>th</sup> National Political Conference.
- iii. Meeting with Hangzhou Foreign Affairs Office.
- iv. Visit of Mme. Yin Yicui, Chairman of the Standing Committee of Shanghai Municipal People's Congress and her delegation to Sri Lanka.
- v. Meeting with Quzhou Foreign Affairs Office and Quzhou International Commerce and Trade Center.
- vi. Meeting with Mayor of Quzhou & Foreign Affair Office for sister-city cooperation.
- vii. Meeting with the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Shanghai Committee 2018 (Shanghai CPPCC).
- viii. Meeting with the Mayor of Shanghai Municipal People's Government.

### **b. Economic Relations**

- i. Preparatory Work Conference for International Forum on China Hospital Development with theme of "Focusing on the Belt and Road and Contribution to Healthy China" with Shanghai Jiaotong University.
- ii. Meeting with Beijing Langsheng Century Exhibition Co. Ltd for the establishment of "Lanka China Economic & Culture Council".
- iii. 2018 Sri Lanka and China Culture and Economic Exchange Meeting.
- iv. China Health Industry Promotion Forum.
- v. Inauguration Ceremony of Shanghai Integrated Service Center for Enterprises Going Global.

- vi. Shanghai 1st Business Forum hold by Ningxia Chamber of Commerce.
- vii. The 9th China International Conference Industry Festival in Hainan Province.
- viii. Opening Ceremony of One Belt and Road Brand Expo.
- ix. Launching ceremony of Greenland Global Commodity Trading Hub.
- x. Meeting about exhibiting Sri Lanka Gem Exhibition Center in Shanghai.
- xi. Night of Oriental Fisherman to promote Sri Lankan Seafood industry.
- xii. Meeting with Quzhou Foreign Affairs Office and Quzhou International Commerce and Trade Center.
- xiii. Youan Tiandi Imported Food Supply Chain Platform Forum.
- xiv. Opening Ceremony of 2018 China International Industry Fair.
- xv. Meeting with the Executive Director of China Logistics and Purchasing Trade and Exhibition Headquarters Base.
- xvi. Preparation Conference for 2018 China International Import Expo (CIIE).
- xvii. 2018 CIIE meeting and on-site visits with Sri Lanka Chief Security and Protocol Delegation and Chinese authorities for protocol and security details.
- xviii. Meeting with Chairman of China-Lanka Cultural and Economic Exchange Company for 2018 CIIE support and coordination.
- xix. Meeting with China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Shanghai Sub-Council (Shanghai CCPIT) for meeting during 2018 CIIE.
- xx. Presentation on 'Belt & Road Construction Cooperation Symposium'.
- xxi. Belt & Road International Economic and Trade Cooperation Promotion Conference, Quzhou.
- xxii. Meeting with President of Lanka Fujian General Chamber of Commerce.
- xxiii. China International Gold, Jewellery & Gem Fair.
- xxiv. Meeting with Youan Tiandi Project for online trade cooperation.
- xxv. Dialogue between Anhui Province and Foreign Missions in Shanghai and Matchmaking Event for enterprises.
- xxvi. Reed Exhibitions International Networking Night for future cooperation related to EXPO.

### **c. Cultural Relations**

- i. Meeting with China-Lanka Economic Cultural (Shanghai) Co. Ltd to prepare for the 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Sri Lanka.
- ii. Little Practioner students' visit to the Consulate General, promoting Sri Lankan culture.
- iii. Hangzhou Primary School students' visit to the Consulate General, promoting Sri Lankan culture and academic relations.
- iv. Jinhua International Primary School students' visit to the Consulate General, promoting Sri Lankan culture and academic relations.
- v. Meeting with the Chief Monk of Jade Buddah Temple.
- vi. Video Interview by Shanghai Eye, promoting Sri Lankan culture.
- vii. Commencing Ceremony in Temple Xilin of Songjiang held by China-Asia Economic Development Association and Takungpao to promote Sri Lanakn Buddhist culture and religious tourism.
- viii. International Parenthood Maker Public Welfare Market.
- ix. Meeting with Shanghai Shengfeng Geological New Technology Application Research Institute Co. Ltd. to promote Sri Lanka culture.
- x. 10th Anniversary of ICS TV Channel.
- xi. China-Sri Lanka Envoy's of Art and Culture Exchanges Contest.
- xii. Interview by Global Times to promote Sri Lankan tea, tourism and gem.
- xiii. Visit of students from Little Master Journal for cultural exchanges.
- xiv. Meeting with Ceylon Princess in Quanzhou for cultural exchanges.
- xv. Huamei Hospital Charity Activity for cultural cooperation.
- xvi. Meeting with Secretary of Yunkai Charity Foundation to seek cooperation in cultural and educational cooperation with Sri Lanka.

### **d. Foreign Investments**

Power point presentation speeches on opportunities in Sri Lanka:

- i. Meeting with the Chairman of the Council for Promoting South-South Cooperation Yangtzi River Delta Branch for potential investment.
- ii. Meeting with Managing Director of Shanghai Sunshine Decorative Materials Co., Ltd, seeking investment opportunities.
- iii. Quzhou Field Trip held by Council for Promoting South-South Cooperation Yangtzi River Delta Branch for potential investment.
- iv. Meeting with China Council for the Promotion of International Trade

- v. Hangzhou Committee for potential investment.
- vi. Meeting with Jiangsu Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export Firms for potential investment.
- vi. Meeting with Shanghai Aquila IMP. AND EXP. LLC for potential investment in Sri Lanka.
- vii. Meeting with CEO of Guomei Company in Hangzhou, seeking investment opportunities.
- viii. Meeting with the Chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Wuxi Committee for potential investment.
- ix. Meeting with Wenzhou Chamber of Commerce for potential investment.
- x. The Investment Environment Promotion of Qingpu District for seeking potential cooperation.
- xi. Visit of Haicheng City and meeting with the mayor seeking for investment cooperation related to factory construction.

#### **e. Tea & Tourism Promotion**

Power point presentations on Sri Lanka as a destination:

- i. Meeting with the manager from Yiyou International Travel Agency to promote Sri Lankan Tourism.
- ii. The Annual Travel Awards Ceremony of Travel & Leisure Magazine to promote Sri Lankan Tourism.
- iii. Meeting with Shanghai Teaforthe Co. Ltd to promote Sri Lankan Tea.
- iv. Meeting with Shanghai Baiqian Industrial Co. Ltd for tourism cooperation.
- v. The Opening Ceremony of the 2018 Shanghai International Tea Exhibition to promote Sri Lankan Tea.
- vi. The Opening Ceremony of the 2018 Shanghai World Travel Fair to promote Sri Lankan tourism.
- vii. One Belt and Road Culture and Tourism Forum at Shanghai Book Exhibition to promote Sri Lankan tourism.
- viii. "Islands, Resources, Tourism, and Society" Tourism Expo in Zhoushan to promote Sri Lankan tourism.
- ix. Meeting with Travel Agency 'Sport Reissen Company for tourism cooperation.
- x. The 13<sup>th</sup> China International Leisure Industry Expo for tourism promotion.
- xi. Opening Ceremony of China International Travel Mart 2018.

- xii. Award Ceremony of Third World Tourism Video Competition with the award 'The Best Tourism Video' for Sri Lanka.
- xiii. Ningbo Tourism Road show.

### **3. JAPAN**

#### **a. Bilateral Relations**

##### i. State Visit of H.E. the President

President, H.E. Maithripala Sirisena undertook a State visit to Japan at invitation of the Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Shinzo Abe from 12-17 March 2018. The two leaders held a bilateral summit meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March at the Office of the Prime Minister. At the conclusion of the talks, Exchange of Notes for provision of a yen loan up to 10.639 billion yen for the Health and Medical Service Improvement in Sri Lanka was signed.

##### ii. Investment Forum

During the State visit an Investment Forum was held in Tokyo with the participation of the President Maithripala Sirisena with a view to take Sri Lanka- Japan investment partnership to new heights.

##### iii. Obtaining Waste Management Technology

With view to obtaining waste management technology from Japan, H.E. the President and the delegation also visited the Shinagawa Incineration Plant, a modern high-tech and waste management plant in Tokyo during the State Visit.

##### iv. Patrol Vessel donated to Sri Lanka Coast Guard

The two coast guard patrol vessels, "SLCGS *Samudra Raksha*" and "SLCGS *Samaraksha*" were donated on 29 August 2018 to Sri Lanka by Japan as part of the Grant Agreement signed between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Government of Sri Lanka, based on the joint declaration on the Comprehensive Partnership between the two countries. These patrol vessels will add to the capacity of the Sri Lanka Coast Guard in its activities related to maritime safety, maritime law enforcement, Search and Rescue (SAR), mitigation of disaster risks, and environment protection.

A familiarization training for the patrol vessels for 08 officers of the Sri Lanka Coast Guard from 07th -19th May 2018 in Tokyo.

##### v. Bilateral Visits

- a. A Parliamentary delegation headed by Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker undertook a visit to Japan from 25 February to 03 March 2018.
- b. Minister of Lands & Parliamentary Reforms and Chief Government Whip of Parliament of Sri Lanka, Gayantha Karunatilaka and a delegation of officials of the Sri Lanka Parliament conducted a study tour from 8th -13th April 2018 to understand the Japanese Parliamentary system.

- c. Officers of the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC), Sapugaskanda, attended a study programme from 2<sup>nd</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- d. State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Kazuyuki Nakane visited Sri Lanka from 28 -30 August 2018 and commissioned the two coast guard patrol vessels donated by Japan.
- e. Mr. Itsunori Onodera, Defense Minister of Japan, visited Sri Lanka from August 20 to 22, 2018 which was the first Japanese Defense Minister to visit Sri Lanka.
- f. Hon. Taro Kono, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan visited Sri Lanka on 05 January 2018.
- g. Minister of Justice and Prison Reforms, Thalatha Atukorale participated in the Fifty-Seventh Annual Session of The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), Tokyo from 8-10 October 2018 and participated in a bilateral meeting with Minister of Justice of Japan on Hon. Takashi Yamashita.
- h. Dr. Sarath Amunugama former Minister of Science and Technology participated in the 15th Annual Forum of Science and Technology in Society, (STS Forum), 7-9 October, 2018, Kyoto, Japan.
- i. Sri Lanka and Japan exchanged support for each other's candidature at regional and international forums.

#### **b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- i. The year 2018 marked remarkable exchange of high-level political visits including the visit of HE the President to Japan, which has been given a positive signals for better economic relations as well. Dr. Hiroto Izumi, the Special Advisor to Prime Minister of Japan, visited Sri Lanka in 2018 to discuss the progresses of broader economic relations between the two countries.
- ii. A leading business delegation from Japan visited Sri Lanka and had interactions with HE the President and the business community.
- iii. In March, HE the President visited Japan and met with leading Japanese businesses and participated at an investment forum with around 200 Japanese companies.
- iv. In May, Dr. Hiroto Izumi, the Special Advisor to Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe, visited Sri Lanka to discuss the progresses of broader economic relations between the two countries.
- v. During first nine months, this Mission has organized/ facilitated three (03) business related delegations to Sri Lanka and five (05) delegations to Japan. Eight (08) investment/business promotion seminars in Tokyo and Chiba were undertaken. Around hundred (100) major potential companies visited Sri Lanka during last 9 months with the Embassy facilitation. The Mission has also organized/facilitated four (04) single country events i.e. Sri Lanka

Festival in Japan, two (02) Ceylon Tea Seminars, Business interaction dinner with BOI officials and Japanese parties. The Mission supported Sri Lanka's participation at four (04) international trade fairs in Japan during first nine months. The Mission has arranged four (04) companies to visit from Sri Lanka to explore spice and concentrate market and arranged B2B with 60 Japanese companies. The Mission supported two (02) Ministerial visits with trade and economic components undertaken by the Minister of Development Strategies and Minister of Plantation Industries. Embassy supported around ten (10) company level introductions from Japan to Sri Lanka on export orders. The Mission has responded around fifty (50) trade and investment related inquiries and attended one (01) trade complaint.

- vi. The Division facilitated the implementation of the following Japanese funded projects with line agencies:

- Trincomalee Port
- Central Expressway 03<sup>rd</sup> Segment (Pothuhera-Galagedara)
- Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) Power Plant and Supply Chain
- Greater Kandy City Development
- Light Rail Transit
- Bandaranaike International Airport Development Project

### **c. Tourism**

- i. The number of Japanese tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka for the first eight months recorded as 34,824. It is an increase by 9.46% compared to the same time period of 2017.
- ii. The Sri Lanka Mission in Tokyo participated in the 2018 Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA) EXPO held in Tokyo from 20<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018. Hon. Ranjith Aluwihare, State Minister of Tourism Development, Hon. Sujith Perera, Monitoring MP For Tourism and Mr. Dehan Seneviratne, Chairman of Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau participated in the JATA Expo.
- iii. Two Road Shows were held successfully in Tokyo and Sapporo on 25<sup>th</sup> and 27th September 2018 respectively with the participation of Sri Lankan and Japanese travel agents.
- iv. The Mission facilitated the visits of the following five Japanese media crew to visit Sri Lanka to make productions on various cultural and religious aspects of Sri Lanka: Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS), Nippon Television Network Corporation, Back up Media Co. Ltd. of Japan, M/s. Creative30 Co. Ltd., M/s. Asahi Television Broadcasting Corporation.
- v. The Embassy participated in the following Festivals to promote Sri Lanka tourism:
  - a. Minato City World Carnival held on March 25 2018 at the Tokyo Tower area hosted by Minato City, Marine Diving Fair 2018, Tokyo by arranging Sri Lanka stall for three days event from 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> April to introduce Sri Lanka as diving destination. Around 50,000 visited Sri Lankan stall at the fair, Peace Boat's Global Festival held on 26<sup>th</sup> August and on 4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Ocean Dream, Yokohama Osanbashi International Passenger Ship Terminal 2017 and organized a Sri Lankan booth to

- promote Sri Lanka tourists, Minato City World Carnival in Tokyo Tower on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and organized a Sri Lankan booth to promote tourism and culture of Sri Lanka.
- vi. Minato Citizens' Festival' held from 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at the Shiba Park in the Minato Ward in Tokyo. The Festival is held annually in the Shibakoen area of the Minato City and attracts more than 200,000 visitors. Embassies and international organizations in Tokyo together with the Minato City Office coordinated this event.
  - vii. 14<sup>th</sup> Sri Lanka Festival 2018 organized by the Sri Lanka Business Council in Japan held on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of August at Yoyogi Park, Tokyo.

#### **d. Cultural Relations**

- i. "The Month of Photograph Tokyo 2018" was held from 28 May, 2018 to 26 June, 2018 at 4 different galleries in Tokyo, featuring scenery, tradition, culture and lifestyle of people in Sri Lanka.
- ii. Provided official coordination support for the 14<sup>th</sup> Sri Lanka Festival organized by the Sri Lanka Association in Japan affiliated to the Embassy. Sri Lanka Festival is the primary promotional event held in Japan and has now become a landmark event in the calendar of the city of Tokyo.
- iii. Participated in the Sri Lanka Day organized by the Sammu City Office on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2018.
- iv. The 40th visit at Embassy for international understanding education by 36 students and 7 officials from Takasaki UNESCO Association from Gumma visited the residence of H.E. the Ambassador to obtain a better understanding of Sri Lankan culture.
- v. Presentation by H.E Ambassador of Sri Lanka for the members of Kawasaki Rotary Club under the theme of "Japan through Ambassador's eyes".
- vi. Embassy officials conducted two cultural awareness programs for 80 Japanese students for the Shishibone Elementary School, Edogawa, Tokyo and Kumano Higashi junior high school of Hiroshima respectively.

#### **e. Labour and Welfare**

- i. The Government of Japan and Ministry of Foreign Employment of Sri Lanka signed Memorandum of Cooperation on Technical Intern Training Programme on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018.
- ii. Revised Record of Discussions between Japan International Training Cooperation Organization (JITCO) and Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment was signed on 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2018.
- iii. Following the MoU signed between International Manpower Development Organization (IM Japan) and Ministry of Foreign Employment of Sri Lanka in

July 2017, the Mission facilitated seminars conducted for Japanese employment agencies on Sri Lankan technical interns. 10 interns under the said MoU sent by the Ministry of Foreign Employment arrived in Japan in August 2018 and are currently employed in farming and mechanical processing sectors. 08 more interns arrived in September 2018 and are currently undergoing training at the IM Japan Training Center in Saitama. They will be employed in the nursing care sector.

- iv. Provided Consular assistance to Sri Lankans in Japan in Gumma, Osaka, Fukuoka and Nagoya through Mobile Consular Programmes. Around 140 Sri Lankans obtained services from the consular outreach services.

#### **4. REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

##### **a. Bilateral Relations**

During the period under review, the Embassy maintained good relations with the relevant Korean Ministries and its affiliated bodies, Korean institutions, business entities, as well as with the political leadership in the Republic of Korea (ROK), including Members of the National Assembly, with a view to enhancing existing friendly bilateral relations between the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the Government of ROK.

The Embassy closely monitored the political and economic developments in the RoK during the period under review and provided regular updates / briefings to relevant authorities in Colombo including dispatch of political reports. The Mission closely followed on developments in the Korean peninsula and provided regular updates to the Foreign Ministry with regard to the three (03) inter-Korean summits including the adoption of the Panmunjom Declaration and Pyeongyang Joint Declaration with a view to eventually bringing permanent peace and stability and denuclearization in the Korean peninsula under the leadership of ROK President Moon Jae-in. The Mission also followed developments in the domestic political situation in Korea and the foreign policy of the ROK Government.

##### i. Follow Up on the State Visit of President Maithripala Sirisena to ROK

The Mission attended on follow up actions related to the state visit of President Sirisena to ROK from 28-30 November 2017 in commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. This also included follow up on / implementation of the five Agreements / MOUs signed during the state visit. Areas of cooperation and follow up were included in the Joint Press Statement signed between the two countries. To maintain momentum, the Director General of the Asia and Pacific Affairs Bureau of Korean MOFA Ms. Kim Eun-young visited SL for DG level consultations with the SL Foreign Ministry in May 2018.

##### ii. Bilateral Political Consultations

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Bilateral Political Consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka and Korea took place in Colombo on 07.06.2018 after five years (the first round of Consultations having taken place in 2013).The gamut of bilateral relations, including collaboration on trade, investment, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, science and technology, culture, science and technology, environment and climate change, etc., were reviewed during the discussions.

iii. Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation

Within the Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation signed between Sri Lanka and ROK during the state visit in November 2017, the first Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation was held in Colombo on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The discussions were led by the ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs and GoSL Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade. The Joint Commission discussed mechanisms to enhance bilateral investment, trade and tourism.

iv. New Southern Policy and Closer Cooperation with South Asia

The Mission followed up on the implementation of President Moon's New Southern Policy which includes engagement with the South Asian region (including Sri Lanka). The Mission also initiated contact with the new President of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) of the Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) Ambassador Kim In-chul, as well as the Head of the newly inaugurated ASEAN-India Centre at KNDA Dr. Choe Wongi in August 2018 with a view to forging closer cooperation between Sri Lanka and ROK. The Mission also participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> ROK-SAARC Partnership Seminar held on 20 September 2018 organised by the Korean Foreign Ministry with the support of KNDA, which was attended by SAARC officials including Director/East Asia and Pacific Division of the Sri Lanka Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the latter was a panelist).

v. Official Visit of Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka to Korea(27 to 30 August 2018)

The Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka Karu Jayasuriya undertook an official visit to the Republic of Korea from 27-30 August 2018 on the invitation of the Speaker of the Korean National Assembly. The Speaker was accompanied by a cross-party group of Parliamentarians.

Meetings were held by the Hon. Speaker with Hon. Lee Nak-yon, Prime Minister of Korea, Hon. Moon Hee-sang, Speaker of the Korean National Assembly, Hon. Chung Eui-young, Director (Chief) of National Security/ Chairman of the NSC Standing Committee, and Hon. Jung Sung-ho, President and members of the Korea-Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group.

The Hon. Speaker and delegation also participated in an informal interaction at the Embassy with a cross-section of the Sri Lankan community in Korea.

vi. Members of the National Assembly

The Ambassador called on selected Members of the Korean National Assembly, including President and Members of the Korea-Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group, and engaged with them socially, during the period under review.

vii. Areas of Bilateral Cooperation

The Embassy engaged with senior interlocutors of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Korea Exim Bank - Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) with regard to development cooperation on a wide

spectrum including infrastructure, governance, education, industry, fisheries, energy, agriculture, human resource development and public administration.

The Embassy coordinated with defence-related institutions in Sri Lanka and RoK for training/exchange programmes under ongoing collaboration. Accordingly, the Embassy coordinated with the Ministry of National Defence and defence related institutions in Korea and organised and facilitated a comprehensive overseas study tour programme for 2 weeks for a 16-member delegation from the Defence Services Command and Staff College, Sapugaskanda in August 2018, on the latter's request.

The Mission continued collaboration with the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI) with regard to Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) cooperation with relevant institutions in Sri Lanka including the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research and the Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI). Under this collaboration joint workshop for capacity building in Colombo was held from 28 May to 06 June with the support of STEPI.

In the field of Education, The Embassy assisted and coordinated proposed collaboration between Incheon National University (INU) and the Universities of Peradeniya and Moratuwa in Sri Lanka, which included offer of scholarship opportunities for Sri Lankan graduate students (Msc, PhD), in the fields of electronics, electrical and biotechnology engineering, etc. In this regard, the President of INU Prof. Cho dong-sung and a senior delegation of professors visited the Universities of Peradeniya and Moratuwa in Sri Lanka in August 2018.

The Embassy also supported the Woojung Education and Culture Foundation in selection of 05 Sri Lankan students for the Woojung scholarship for the second semester of 2018.

The Mission Coordinated the visit of the Minister of Education to ROK during which visit he renewed the MoU with the Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education (Superintendent of the Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education) for the development of e-learning and Information Communication Technology (ICT) training in Sri Lanka on 27 August 2018.

The Embassy continued to advice and engage with the Sri Lanka Students' Association in Korea(SLSAK) whose Advisor is the Ambassador, including hosting of a luncheon meeting between the students and the Sri Lankan professional community in Korea in March 2018, as well as the 8th Annual General Meeting held at the Embassy on 29 September 2018.

Under Research Collaboration, the Embassy continued cooperation between the Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) of ROK and the BIDTI of Sri Lanka, following the signing of MOU between the two institutions in March 2017. The Mission also continued collaboration between the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS), ROK and the BIDTI and LKI of Sri Lanka. Ambassador Chung Sang-ki, Director/ Centre for Chinese Studies, Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) (from 19-22 May), Korea National Diplomatic Academy visited Sri Lanka for research work of IFANS/ KNDA on the Belt and Road initiative.

The Embassy followed up with the Korean Foreign Ministry on the participation of Korea in the Track 1.5 Conference on "Indian Ocean: Defining Our Future" to be held from 11-12 October 2018 in Colombo, confirmed participation.

On Mutual Legal Assistance, the Mission supported and facilitated the investigation by a delegation from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Sri Lanka with the

Korean judicial authorities from 29 July to 13 August 2018 at the Sri Lanka Embassy premises, on a criminal case which took place in Korea in the 1990s

Cooperation with the Korean Ministry of Sports for the Development of Sports in Sri Lanka was strengthened during the period and organised a training programme for 10 Sri Lankan Taekwondo Athletes in Korea (13 April-01 May) who participated 2018 Asian Taekwondo Games in August 2018.

The Embassy facilitated the visit of an 8-member delegation of senior officials related to the national intellectual property regime in Sri Lanka led by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce on a Study Visit to ROK organised by Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) from 10-14 September 2018.

The Mission continued to engage with the Honorary Consuls of Sri Lanka and their Offices. The Hon. Consul of Busan and Chairman of the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives (Suhyup) Mr. Kim Im-kweon visited Sri Lanka. The New Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka in South Gyeongsang Province nominated by the Mission Mr. SeoMinja, President of Hwasin Shipping and Air cargo Pvt. Ltd., was appointed on 10 April 2018.

### **i. High-level visits**

The period under review saw a few significant high-level visits, the details of which are given below.

#### **To Republic Of Korea:**

- Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Ports and Shipping (from 8-30 May 2018) visited to participate in the 19<sup>th</sup> International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) Conference.
- Hon. Ranjith Madduma Bandara, Minister of Public Administration and Law and Order (from 25-27 June 2018) visited Korea to attend the Programme organized by Korea Productivity Centre (KPC).
- Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament (from 27 to 30 August 2018) undertook an official visit to the Republic of Korea on the invitation of the Speaker of the Korean National Assembly.
- Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education (from 24-29 August 2018) visited Korea on the invitation of Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education and signed the 5<sup>th</sup> Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development of e-learning and Information Communication Technology (ICT) training in Sri Lanka, with the Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education Jang Hwi-guk.
- Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka, Minister of Youth Affairs, Project Management and Southern Development (from 02-08 September 2018) visited to participate 'Distinguished guests in political affairs programme'.
- Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe, Deputy Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation visited Korea (from 18-20 September 2018) to participate in the Global Infrastructure Cooperation Conference (GICC) organized by the Korean Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT). During the visit Deputy Minister met with the Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea Kim, Jeong Ryeol and discussed ongoing cooperation between their respective Ministries.

- The Commander of Sri Lankan Navy Vice Admiral S.S. Ranasinghe visited Korea (from 11-18 October 2018) to attend Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS).
- Hon. Rosy Senanayake, the Mayor of Colombo visited (from 10-13 December 2018) Korea to attend the "International Forum on Transforming Cities for Decent Work 2018" organized by the Seoul Metropolitan Government and met with the Mayor of Seoul Metropolitan City Park Won-soon and discussed possibilities of strengthening cooperation between the Seoul City and the Colombo City. During the visit, Mayor Senanayake was awarded with the "Seoul Honorary Citizenship" by the Mayor of Seoul at a special ceremony held at the Mayor's Office in Seoul on 12 December 2018.

**To Sri Lanka:**

- Hon. Lim Sung-nam, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of ROK (from 06-07 June 2018) to hold the second round of Political Consultations between Sri Lanka and ROK.
- Ms. Kim Eun-young, Director General of the Asian and Pacific Affairs Bureau of the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs (from 13-14 May 2018)
- Mr. Kim Hee-sang, Director General of Bilateral Economic Affairs Bureau of Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs (from 27-28 June 2018) as the head of Korean delegation to hold first Joint Commission on ROK-SL Economic Cooperation.

**ii. Bilateral Agreements**

The following were signed with the facilitation of the Mission during the period under review:

- An MOU between the Ministries of Ports and Shipping of Sri Lanka and Oceans and Fisheries of Korea on cooperation in the Development of Aids to Navigation was signed between Minister of Ports and Shipping of Sri Lanka and the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea on 28 May 2018.
- An -MOU for the development of e-learning and Information Communication Technology (ICT) Training in Sri Lanka was signed between Hon. Minister of Education and Superintendent of the Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education on 27.08.2018.

**b. Multilateral Relations**

Agreements with Multilateral Institutions:

**Cooperation with the Green Climate Fund (GCF)**

The Embassy has continued to engage with the GCF with regard to climate change cooperation and continued to follow up with the relevant entities in Sri Lanka with regard to the processing of the draft Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Dr. Howard Bamsey, Executive Director of GCF visited Sri Lanka from 5-19 April 2018 to discuss further cooperation on climate adaptation and mitigation between Sri Lanka and GCF. Dr. Bamseypaid a courtesy call on H.E. the President during his visit.

### **Sri Lanka's membership of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)**

Sri Lanka side completed the procedures for Sri Lanka to become a member of GGGI, which is a delivery partner of GCF. Accordingly, the Mission deposited the Instrument of Accession with the Headquarters of GGGI on 14.12.2018. Sri Lanka is the 30<sup>th</sup> member country of GGGI and Sri Lanka's membership formally commenced on 13.01.2019.

Sri Lanka's membership of GGGI, its vigorous engagement in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and action under UNFCCC was highlighted during the meeting between Mr. Anura Dissanayake, Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment with Dr. Ban Ki-moon, President of the Assembly and Chair of the Council of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) on 17.07.2018.

Relationship with economic-related entities in Korea:

The Embassy maintained good relations with the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, relevant Korean line Ministries & agencies and its affiliated bodies and government and private trade related institutions.

### **c. Promotional activities**

- i. A 5-member Korean delegation of automobile parts and components (01-04 April); 10-member delegation from the Korean National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives headed by its Chairman (15-19January); 06-member delegation headed by Vice President of Daegu Haany University (15 to 19 March), two Korean Companies to attend the 03<sup>rd</sup> Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave 2018 organized by CCC (19-21 June) and facilitating individual company visits to Sri Lanka / RoK.
- ii. The Mission participated / facilitated Sri Lankan participation including at the International Horticulture Goyang Korea 2018, 'Tea from around the world - TEA WORLD", Import Goods Fair, Seoul Food 2018, 2018 Myung Won World Tea Expo, Hadong Wild Tea Culture Festival, 33<sup>rd</sup> Korea International Travel Fair (KOTFA), 06<sup>th</sup> Seoul International Buddhism Expo, Busan International Travel Fair (BITF), Korean International Tourism Show (KITS 2018), Seoul Friendship Fair 2018, 16<sup>th</sup> Seodong Lotus Festival in Buyeo.
- iii. The Mission organized a 40-member film crew of "Wizard of Nowhere" of MBC (30<sup>th</sup> January to 04<sup>th</sup> February); 45-member team "Low of Jungle" of SBS (04-13 August) to Sri Lanka for filming of two variety programmes. The two TV programmes will provide Sri Lanka a significant publicity in Korea.
- iv. The Embassy, in association with the Sri Lankan Tourism Promotion Bureau, organised the first ever *Sri Lanka Day* in the heart of Seoul, with the support of the Korean Culture Association and the SEOULLO Management Office, on Saturday 16 June 2018 at SEOULLO 7017 - Magnolia Square.
- v. Presentation of two framed photographs of world-renowned Sri Lankan Buddhist sites, the Gal Viharaya in Polonnaruwa and the interior of the Sacred Temple of the

Tooth in Kandy, to 100 Korean Temples for displaying to promote Buddhist tourists to Sri Lanka.

- vi. The second photographic exhibition themed 'Sri Lanka: The Treasure Island' co-hosted by the Embassy and the Korea Foundation and organised by Namhae County was held at the Namhae Exile Literature Exhibition Centre in Gyeongsangnam-do from 07 August to 09 September 2018.

#### **d. Labour Welfare (Employment & Welfare)**

An estimated 27,000 Sri Lankans were employed by Korean employers (SMEs) as of 30 September 2018. The majority of those employees enjoy favorable working conditions. It is estimated that there are in total about 30,000 Sri Lankans living and working in Korea. The Mission continued close coordination with relevant Korean agencies such as the Ministry of Employment and Labour of Korea and the Human Resources Development Service of Korea (HRD) with regard to the welfare of Sri Lankan workers in Korea under the EPS. The number of employees arrived in RoK from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 was 2683.

##### **1. Welfare**

The following statistics show a summation of the welfare tasks handled by the Employment & Welfare Section of the Embassy during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31 December 2018:

(i) The number of work-related complaints of the workers	- 272
• Total number of complaints settled	- 256
(*nature of those complaints: harassment, non-payment of wages, lack of communication, illness, breach of employment contract, etc.)	
(ii) No. of hospitalized cases	- 39
(iii) No. of jail cases (Sri Lankans in prison)	- 12
(iv) No. of Employment & Welfare mobile services (parallel to Consular mobile services) – conducted by the Mission	- 10

##### **2. Cultural Events**

The Sri Lanka Embassy organized and participated in five (5) events during the period under review as follows.

- i. The Sri Lanka Parade in the Annual Lotus Lantern Festival 2018 was supported and participated by the Embassy on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May evening in celebration of 'Buddha's Birthday' or Vesak.
- ii. A Special Temple Stay Programme was organised by the historic Bongeun Temple in Seoul in collaboration with the Embassy of Sri Lanka on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- iii. A Sri Lanka booth promoting the country's many cultural and tourist attractions operated by the Embassy at The Foreign Workers' Festival 2018 organised by the Human Resources Development Service of Korea (HRD Korea) on 02<sup>nd</sup> September 2018.

- iv. A Sri Lanka booth promoting the country's many cultural and tourist attractions operated by the Embassy at 11<sup>th</sup> Gimpo Together Day organised by Gimpo City Hall on 09<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- v. The Embassy arranged a brief programme for 14 children including 02 teachers of the Samsung Day care Centre in Seoul to introduce Sri Lankan culture, history and traditions on 02 October 2018.
- vi. The Embassy organized a parade in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Students' in South Korea (SLSA-K) at the Itaewon Global Festival on 13 October 2018.
- vii. The Embassy facilitated the Asia Dance Committee meeting at the Asia Culture Centre (ACC) in Gwangju, Republic of Korea on 07 December 2018.
- viii. The Mission continued the annual internship programme for the summer semester for 03 undergraduate students of Yonsei University providing an opportunity for them to work with the Mission.

3. A Korean Language Teaching Programme for Sri Lankan job seekers who have passed the EPS-TOPIK Examination

A Korean Language Teaching Programme has been proposed by Asia Development Foundation (ADF) for the Sri Lankan job seekers who have passed the EPS-TOPIK Examination in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE).

4. Information on Safety Measures

The Mission continued to disseminate information on safety measures to be followed by Sri Lankan employees to avoid industrial and other accidents, with special attention on the manufacturing and fishery sectors.

5. Compensation

The Mission facilitated the payment of compensation for 09 deceased Sri Lankan workers during the period under review which amount to a total payment of KRW387,703,094(LKR58,155,464).

**e. Tourism Promotion**

11,936 tourists have arrived during the first 9 months of the year from ROK to Sri Lanka and it is an increase of 14.96% when compared to the tourist arrivals from ROK during the same period.

The Mission facilitated the visits of two TV crews from the Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) to produce a reality TV show (Travel show) covering places including NuwaraEliya, Sigiriya, Galle etc. in Sri Lanka from 31 January to 05 February 2018 and to produce an episode for the documentary called "*Jansangpo 1985*" of the Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) from 27 March to 03 April 2018.

The Mission facilitated visit of TV crew from the Seoul Broadcasting System (SBS) to do a TV show under the programme of "Law of the Jungle" in Sri Lanka from 29 July to 16 August 2018.

#### **f. Sri Lankan Media**

A production crew from the 'Ethera Methera' TV programme which is telecast on National *Rupavahini* channel visited the ROK and filmed a series of programmes including interview with the Ambassador and staff of the Embassy, mobile services and some events organized by the Sri Lankan community based in the ROK, from 18-25 September 2018.

### **5. MALAYSIA**

#### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- i. Meeting with Hon. Minister of Defence April 2018.
- ii. Meeting with YB Tuan Haji Mohamad Bin Sabu, the newly appointed Minister of Defense Malaysia. Discussed the matters of bilateral interest in particular defence cooperation between Government of Sri Lanka and Malaysia.
- iii. Meeting with Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs Malaysia July 2018.  
The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries.
- iv. Visit of Hon. Rishad Bathuideen, Minister of Industry and Commerce July 2018.  
Hon. Rishad Bathuideen, Minister of Industry and Commerce paid courtesy call on Hon YB Darel Leiking, Minister of International Trade and Industry Malaysia. Discussions focused on promoting bilateral trade relation between Sri Lanka and Malaysia.
- v. Working Visit of Hon. Tilak Marapana, PC., MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs to Malaysia September 2018.
  - a. Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka visited Malaysia and had bilateral discussion with YB Dato' Saifuddin bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.
  - b. The Minister also met Hon. Deputy Minister of Tourism, Arts & Culture and attended Sri Lanka: Wonder of Asia Extravaganza & MATTA Fair. During the visit a diplomatic note has been exchanged by the ministers for Foreign Office consultations.
  - c. During the visit, a diplomatic note has been exchanged by the ministers for Foreign Office consultations.
- vi. Visit of Hon John Amaralunga, Minister of Tourism and Christian Religious Affairs September 2018.  
Meeting with Under Secretary South Asia and senior officials regularly and interaction closely with the line Ministries.
- v. Visit to the Federation of Malaysian Sri Lankan Organizations October 2018  
High Commissioner met Dato' S. Kulasegaran, President of FOMSO and discussed matters related to trade and investment and also the forthcoming visit of the officials of Sri Lanka Malaysia Business Council.
- vi. Meeting with Chief Minister of Penang.  
High Commission called on Hon. Mr. Chow Kon Yeow, Chief Minister of Penang and discussed matter of bilateral interests in Penang for further strengthening the Trade, Investment and Tourism opportunities

**b. Trade and Economic Relations/ Foreign Investments**

- i. Trade Fair Participation in Malaysia:  
Malaysian International Food & Beverage Trade Fair (MIFB 2018) June 2018.  
4 Tea Exporters under Tea Board Pavilion and 1 Machinery Exporter of Sri Lanka was able to showcase the products at the fair.
- ii. ASEAN M&E Show July 2018:  
An Electrical and Electronic Delegation of 12 attended the fair. Organized a b2b session at the exhibition venue to the visiting delegation.
- iii. Malaysia International Branding Showcase December 2018:  
1 Tea Exporter and 1 Cosmetic Manufacturer of Sri Lanka were able to showcase the products at the fair.
- iv. Trade Delegations:  
Trade Delegation from the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) January 2018.  
A Trade and Investment Delegation consist of 11 delegates from FMM were sent to Sri Lanka. Business Matchmaking programmes and meetings were arranged with BOI, EDB MSLBC, CCC, and with FCCISL.
- v. Trade Delegation from Malaysia Sri Lanka Business Chamber (MSLBC) June 2018:  
A Trade and Investment Delegation consist of 13 delegates from MSLBC were sent to Sri Lanka to attend Investment and Business Conclave organized by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. Separate Business Matchmaking programmes and meetings were arranged with BOI, EDB, SLRA & MSLBC.
- vi. Electronic and Electrical sector Delegation from Sri Lanka July 2018:  
A Trade Delegation of 12 visited Malaysia. Business Matchmaking programmes and meetings were arranged with MATRADE, FMM, TEEAM and two factory visits were arranged.
- vii. Delegation from Tan Chong Group Malaysia August 2018:  
A Trade and Investment Delegation consist of 9 delegates from the Tan Chong Group were sent to Sri Lanka to attend Lank Auto 2018. Separate meetings were arranged with Hon Minister of Strategic Development and International Trade, BOI, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority, CCC, Lanka Motor, Spare Pats Dealers Association.
- viii. Sri Lanka Malaysia Business Council Delegation Visit November 2018:  
A nine members of Sri Lanka Malaysia Business Council (SLMBC) headed by Mr. Iqram Cuttilan, President of SLMBC, visited Malaysia on 3 days programme arranged from 12th to 14th November 2018 . The delegation held discussions with the Malaysia Investment Development Authority (MIDA), Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) , Malaysia Sri Lanka Business Chamber and met Trade Chambers of Malaysia including the Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM), Federation of Malaysian Manufactures (FMM), The Malaysian Associated Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (MAICCI) and Kuala Lumpur & Selangor Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry

- (KLSICCI) as well as participating in industry meetings and networking events.
- ix. Academy Hevea - Malaysian Rubber Board:
    - i. Technical Training and Exposure Programme for Latex product sector of Sri Lanka August 2018.
      - Arranged Technical Training and Exposure Programme for Latex product sector of Sri Lanka under the proposal of EDB.
      - 12 Latex product exporters from Sri Lanka participated.
  - x. Product Promotion:  
Launching of Product Organized Ceylon Virgin Coconut Oil Launching at the High Commission May 2018.
  - xi. Promoting Sri Lanka exports in Malaysia:  
Arranged a Tea Promotion Session at the High Commission of Sri Lanka with the participation of Sri Lanka Tea Board in line with MIFB 2018 June 2018.
  - xii. Develop closer religious cooperation:  
The Mission participated at International Cultural Festival - Kalaisangamam 2018 November 2018.
  - xiii. 23 Sri Lankan Students performed at the Festival together with over 100 students and artists from Bridge Academy of Fine Arts.

### **c. Labour Welfare**

- i. Handling complaints related to employers/ employee  
High Commission on a regular basis attended to complaints by employers, recruitment agencies and employees.
- ii. Providing assistance solving issues like this Breach of employment contract, Non receipt of wages, harassment, Lack of communication and runaways. 60nos of complaints have solved.
- iii. Reducing the number of illegal migrants and repatriation of workers to Sri Lanka.  
  
Visiting Prisons and Camps:  
Regular visits to Prisons & Deportation Camps to obtain information of the detained Sri Lankan workers and to provide them with necessary welfare assistance.
- iv. Streamline and speed up the process of deporting detainees and assisting in obtaining information of stranded Sri Lankans.

**d. Tourism Promotion**

- i. High Commission together with SLTPB with the assistance of Tourism Malaysia organised a FAM tour for 11 Travel Agents from Malaysia who wish to promote Sri Lanka as a destination and 2 officials from Tourism Malaysia.
  - ii. Close interaction Officials of MATTA and Tourism Malaysia
    - Arranged one to one meetings for Sri Lanka Convention Bureau to promote MICE Tourism March 2018.
    - Assisted Berjaya Time Square Hotel to arrange Sri Lanka Sea Food Festival April 2018.
  - iii. 16 travel agents from Sri Lanka participated under the pavilion of SLTPB.
- The High Commission together with SLTPB organized Sri Lanka: Wonder of Asia- Extravaganza to promote Sri Lanka as a tourist destination in Malaysia in line with MATTA fair 2018.
- iv. Arranged a separate B2B session for the Agents to meet Malaysian Tourist agents, Tourism Forum and a press conference at Sri Lanka : Wonder of Asia- Extravaganza

**e. Defence**

- i. Coordinating and assisting Training Programmes:
  - High Commission assist and facilitate training programmes in Sri Lanka and Malaysia.
  - 8 member delegation headed by Chief of Defense staff attended DSA 2018 held at MITEC, Kuala Lumpur April 2018.

**6. SINGAPORE**

**a. Number of political, economic, trade and cultural exchanges including high level political visits**

- i. The Mission facilitated the official visit of Singapore Prime Minister to Sri Lanka in January 2018, which paved way for the two sides to discuss strengthening relations between Singapore and Sri Lanka, as well as ways to enhance economic cooperation and collaboration in capacity building. The Sri Lanka-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (SLSFTA), which was a comprehensive bilateral agreement involving trade in goods and services, investment and government procurements, was also signed during the visit and the visiting Prime Minister had bilateral discussions with H.E The President and Hon. Prime Minister.
- ii. On the invitation of Singapore's Prime Minister, Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka attended the SIWW-WCS-CESS 2018 and delivered the keynote at the Forum. During the visit, Hon. Prime Minister met Singapore's Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade Relations and held discussions in promoting bilateral trade, investment and cooperation in other mutual beneficial areas.

- iii. The Mission also coordinated with the organisers of the (SIWW), (WCS), and (CESS) with regard to the participation of Mayors of Colombo, Kandy and Deputy Mayor of Galle at the World Mayors Summit which held parallel to the (SIWW), (WCS), and (CESS) Summit in July 2018.
- iv. The Mission facilitated the introductory visit of Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs to Singapore on 23-24 August 2018. During the visit, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs met with his Singaporean counterpart Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan and held bilateral discussions. The Hon. Minister also visited the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) of Singapore and the National Library Board and the National Archives of Singapore to seek technical assistance to streamline record management, including digitalization of records and staff training of the National Archives of Sri Lanka and had extensive discussions with its senior management on potential collaborations for capacity development in technical and vocational education and training in Sri Lanka with the support of ITE Education Services, Singapore and digitalization of records and staff training of the National Archives of Sri Lanka to seek technical assistance to streamline record management, including digitalization of records and staff training of the National Archives of Sri Lanka.
- v. The Mission coordinated the visit of Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, who led the Sri Lanka delegation to participate at the ARF Ministerial Meeting in August 2018.
- vi. The Mission facilitated the visit of Hon. Thalatha Athukorale, Minister of Justice and Prison Reforms to Singapore on 25-28 August 2018. Hon. Minister of Justice and Prison Reforms had meetings with Hon. Edwin Tong, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law, Hon. Amrin Amin, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health and the Chief Executive Officer of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre.
- vii. A delegation led by Hon. Minister of Justice and Prison Reforms also visited the Changi Prison Complex to familiarise themselves with the good practices of prison management/reforms.

**b. Number of reports and assessments generated and follow up actions with tangible and intangible results**

- i. During 2018, the Mission in coordination with the Technical Cooperation Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were able to secure over 80 short to mid-term training opportunities for Sri Lankan officials.
- ii. A few long-term post-graduate study opportunities were also offered to the Sri Lankan public officials to follow fellowships at the Lee Kuan Yew (LKY) School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.

**c. Number of events/forums attended to represent Sri Lanka in foreign countries and international organisations :**

- i. The Mission coordinated with the organisers for Sri Lanka's participation at the 6<sup>th</sup> IISS Fullerton Forum - Shangri-La Dialogue Sherpa Meeting in Singapore held on 22-24 January 2018.

- ii. The Mission coordinated with the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the organisers of the Shangri-La Dialogue for Sri Lanka's participation at IISS Asia Security Summit: Shangri-La Dialogue 2018 held in June 2018 in Singapore.
- iii. The Mission facilitated the participation of the Sri Lanka delegation at the ARF Senior Officials Meeting held in July 2018.
- iv. The Mission also coordinated with the ASEAN Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore with regard to the participation of the Sri Lanka delegation led by Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs at the 25<sup>th</sup> ARF Ministerial Meeting in August 2018.

**d. Trade, Foreign Investment and Tourism Performances - 2018**

**Number of Foreign Investment Promoted: 18**

**Number of Tourism Trade and Commerce activities performed: 13**

- The Mission, in collaboration with the Enterprise Singapore, organized a high-level business delegation to Sri Lanka during the official visit of Singapore Prime Minister to Sri Lanka on 20-23 January 2018.

The following four MOUs were signed;

- i. Colombo City Centre to set-up and operate a Food Court in the luxury mall.
- ii. One Galle Face (Shangri La Malls) to set-up and operate a Food Court in the mall.
- iii. BGI and Ark Holdings signed an MOU to form a commercial joint venture to build a crab hatchery/nursery in Sri Lanka with an export/distribution arm for commercial sustainability.
- iv. HPL Hotels & Resorts will be signing an LOI with Grand Oriental Hotel to redevelop and operate the iconic colonial property.
- The Mission also organized the visit of a 25-member Trade & investment delegation to Sri Lanka by Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI) from 06-11 May 2018 in collaboration with the SCCCI Singapore.
- The Ceylon chamber of Commerce and SL-Singapore Business Council, BOI, facilitated business meetings interaction sessions with the SL companies. Further the delegation met Hon. Minister of Development strategies and International Trade and Hon. Minister of Industry and Commerce, leading conglomerates in Colombo and senior officials to identify business and investment opportunities in Sri Lanka.
- Law Society of Singapore (Commercial Lawyers) visit to Sri Lanka to explore commercial interventions with Sri Lanka from 10th to 14th September 2018.
- A 22 member delegation from the Law Society of Singapore visited Sri Lanka during 10th to 14th September to establish interaction with Sri Lankan commercial Lawyers & companies. The delegation met with Bar Association of SL, BOI, National Agency for Public Private Partnership and few leading conglomerates. A networking session was hosted by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.

- The Mission organized the Invest Sri Lanka Forum in Singapore in collaboration with Singapore Sri Lanka Business Association, Colombo Stock Exchange on 1st March, 2018 at Four Seasons Hotel.

Over 350 companies, investors and fund managers based in Singapore attended the forum at which Hon. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was the Chief Guest and Singapore's Minister of Trade and Industry S. Iswaran was the Guest of Honour.

- Business matchmaking and exposure visit made by the Electrical & electronics sector Delegation from Sri Lanka from 19th to 20th July 2018.

Ten members visited from 6 companies. The programmes organized are as follows: Enterprise Singapore interaction with more than 15 focused sector specific Singapore companies; Singapore Manufacturing Federation with more than 35 companies for B2B session; Singapore Business Federation with more than 14 Construction and related vendors.

Two factory visits were organized for the delegation to Rolls Royce Singapore and to Wilson Cables.

#### **Participation at Chillax International Trade Fairs in Singapore from 14<sup>th</sup>to 17th June 2018.**

Ceylon Tea, Ceylon Cinnamon and Confectionery products were displayed in the Sri Lanka booth to promote the uniqueness of Sri Lankan products

#### **Ceylon Tea, Ceylon Cinnamon Promotion campaign at the Food & Hotel Asia from 24th to 27th April 2018.**

Two SL pavilions were organized at FHA 2018 held in two locations in Singapore. Tea Board Pavilion consisted of three booths and a tea demonstration station.

#### **Sri Lanka's Participation at Singapore International Jewellery Expo (SIJE) 2018.**

Sri Lanka's Participation at Singapore International Jewellery Expo (SIJE) 2018 was organised by the High Commission of Sri Lanka.

#### **Participation at Travel & tour sector Trade fairs.**

NATAS Travel Fair; This Mission together with the Sri Lankan Tourism Bureau organised the Sri Lanka's participation at NATAS Travel Fair held from 23rd to 25th March in Expo Convention in Singapore. Nine (09) travel companies were attended from Sri Lanka.

#### **MICE 2018 "Meet in Sri Lanka " held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at Hotel Shangri La.**

The Sri Lanka Convention Bureau entrusted this Mission to organise a Forum for the travel Tour and corporate sector clients to create awareness on Sri Lanka as a MICE destination.

The Mission organised the event with the coordination of SLBC including presentations video presentation, authentic dishes, Ceylon Tea, crab station, guest speech etc. A B@B session was organised for the visiting 13 companies from Sri Lanka to market their packages.

## **Exploratory visit by JDMIS to Sri Lanka on Gems & Jewellery from 28th to 30th Nov.**

Coordinated with the Gems & Jewellery Authority to conduct an awareness programme for the delegation to explore Student exchange of designing of Gems to cater to the different market segments.

### **Fact finding visits: 08**

ASEAN Outlook Conference and Networking event; Insights into the Belt and Road initiative; International Chamber of Commerce (SICC); Attended the official opening ceremony of Nongsa Digital Park in Batam Island, Indonesia on 20th March 2018; Café Asia / Sweets & Bakes Asia 2018 at the Marina Bay Sands on 22nd March 2018; Asia Pacific Maritime Expo 2018 from 14-16th March; Attended the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) –Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) Singapore Indian Entrepreneur Awards 2018 held on 31st March 2018

Asia Pacific Food Expo held on 16th Nov at Singapore Expo

Attended OSEA at Marina Bay Sands on 27th Nov 2018 to meet the companies in LNG.

Attended the CNF 2018 on 8th November 2018 at Rasa Sentosa Resort & Spa.

ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS)-ASEAN Business & Investment Summit was organized in parallel to 33rd ASEAN summit with the regional leaders. The event was attended nearly 1500 delegates in the region and opportunity received to networking with Singapore leading chambers and companies.

### **Number of Individual company visits coordinated: 26**

23 individual business visits were coordinated. Companies were assisted towards connecting the Singapore Economic Development Board, Ministry of Trade and Industry and meetings with relevant companies.

### **Reports compiled: 02**

- Quinoa as a new export oriented crop
  - Trend analysis on trade/investment and tourism
- Bilateral Trade and Economic Relations between Sri Lanka and Singapore
- Report on Sri Lankan Top products for In-Diplomacy Magazine Annual issue 2018
  - Bilateral Trade and Economic Relations between Sri Lanka and Singapore

### **Number of Trade Inquires & Trade Complaints; 46**

### **Number of activities organised to facilitate and promote foreign employment opportunities**

- This Mission, during the year 2018, was able to register 1585 Sri Lankan migrant workers under the Bureau of Foreign Employment for providing welfare measures.
- In 2018, the Mission coordinated with employment agencies based in Singapore to secure about 2500 job opportunities for Sri Lankans, and shared such opportunities with the Sri Lankan employment agencies through the Foreign Employment Bureau

to call for vacancies available in the fields of Manufacturing (construction workers/male) and Domestic Workers/Helpers categories.

- The Mission handled 130 cases of disputes/complaints of Sri Lankan migrant workers based in Singapore, during 2018.
- This Mission, during the year of 2018, organized five (5) mobile services as part of its effort to bring labour welfare and consular services closer to Sri Lankan migrant workers based in Singapore.
- The Mission organizes quarterly meetings with all registered employment agencies throughout the year, and also introduced a new mechanism to visit registered employment agencies by the Labour Section staff to enhance their service delivery, and also conduct special awareness programmes on work conditions etc. for migrant workers through such job agents. The Mission had over 120 such visits to agencies/relevant companies so far this year.

## **7. THAILAND**

### **a. Bilateral Relations:**

#### **i. Visits from Thailand:**

- Official visit of the Thai Prime Minister to Sri Lanka in July 2018. Following Agreement and MoUs were signed: Treaty on the Transfer of Offenders and on cooperation in the Enforcement of Penal Sentences, MoU on Strategic Economic Partnership, MoU on Technological Collaboration related to Value Addition of Primary Products, Joint Action Programme for Cooperation on Sustainable Community Development Model Based on the Application of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. The negotiations of the Thai-Sri-Lanka Free Trade Agreement were launched.
- Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Thailand led a delegation for the 4<sup>th</sup> Round of the Sri Lanka-Thailand Political Consultations held in February 2018 in Sri Lanka.
- Minister of Culture of Thailand visited Sri Lanka, to invite the hierarchy of the monks from the Siam Sect to Thailand for chanting on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.
- (4) Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai visited Sri Lanka to conduct the Royal Katina Ceremony (November 2018).

#### **ii. Visits to Thailand:**

- Hon. Prime Minister transited in Bangkok enroute to Colombo. A meeting was arranged between the Thai Minister Kobsak Pootrakool attached to the Prime Minister's Office. Hon. Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade was also associated.
- (2) A study tour undertaken by Hon. Minister of Justice and Prison Reforms to ascertain the working of the legal system and treatment of offenders. She met with the Deputy Prime Minister & Justice of Thailand.

- Hon. Minister of Primary Industries visited Thai Texas a booth had been organized by that Ministry and facilitated by this Embassy.
- Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka, Chief of Staff to the Hon. Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Project Management, Youth Affairs and Southern Development visited AMATA Industrial Park in Rayong together with the representatives from China Harbour Limited, Sri Lanka. He also met Minister Pootrakool on cruise line operation.
- Hon. State Minister of Defence visited Thailand and met Minister of Defence in Thailand.

**b. Other Bilateral Engagements:**

- i. To progress the offer of the Bo Sapling from Sri Lanka, a meeting was held with the Thai Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office.
  - ii. Meetings were held with the new Minister of Commerce and Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office handling economic issues.
- Met with Director General – TICA to obtain technical assistance particularly in the fields of agriculture and social empowerment.
- iii. Participated in a visit to Royal Projects with HRH Princes Sirindhorn and attended events presided over by her in the fields of agriculture, science, technology and health.
  - iv. Facilitated the visit to Sri Lanka of the Thai Director General of the Royal Rain Making Bureau and the subsequent visit to Thailand by a technical team from Sri Lanka.
  - v. Thammasat University's offer of Undergraduate Scholarships being progressed with relevant authorities. Further technical assistance scholarships offered by the Thai side have also been progressed.
  - vi. Facilitated youth delegation from Colombo for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Youth Representatives to Experience Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.
  - vii. Facilitated Thai participation at the Defence Seminar in Colombo. Also participated in the programme by Thailand Mine Action Centre programme of the Armed Forces.
  - viii. Attended the Inaugural Asia Pacific Day for the Ocean, Asia Pacific Commemoration on the International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, International Anti-Corruption Day, the launch of the book 'Wisdom of the Monarch'- world leader of sustainable development, law, supported royal initiated projects of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, KPI Congress XXX on Thai Democracy on the Move', and the Opening Ceremony of the Bangkok Forum presided over by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

**c. Multilateral relations:**

- i. Facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the 74<sup>th</sup> Commission Session of ESCAP and Sri Lanka's participation at the ESCAP high level dialogue on Equalities in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development.
- ii. Attended meetings of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives of UNESCAP, Fifty-second session of The Standing Committee of APTA, the 4th international conference on Public Health, Conference on Science and ICT, FAO briefing for development partners, Policy Dialogue for BIMSTEC, Climatic change forum at UNESCP.

**d. Economic relations & Foreign Investments:**

- i. Facilitated the visit of Hon. State Minister of International Trade to Bangkok for consultation with the Vice President of Rojana Industrial Park in order to seek the materialization of the industrial park project in Sri Lanka.
- ii. Facilitated the visit for a team from BOI for discussions with Rojana Industrial Park.
- iii. Attended the FTA Scoping Session and meeting to progress the Strategic Economic Partnership MoU in Colombo.
- iv. Facilitated EDB participation with Sri Lankan traders in Bangkok Gems and Jewellery Fair and Thaifex.
- v. Meeting with the Chairman and CEO of AMATA in a bid to seek alternative investment in the industrial park sector.
- vi. Facilitated the visit to Colombo by a delegation from MuangThai Life Assurance.
- vii. Participated at the Annual Red Cross Bazaar as an opportunity to promote and sell tea and cinnamon.
- viii. Have been assisting SUTECH in facilitating its sugar project in Sri Lanka.
- ix. Thai-Lion Air was also assisted in progressing its interest to begin flights to Sri Lanka which will now be launched in January 2019.
- x. Facilitated a delegation from MJets regarding an investment in private jet travel to Sri Lanka.
- xi. Facilitated Thai companies: Thai Rubber Sourcing Company importing scrap rubber, ITM AI – Mousquetaires Group - import Organic food products, Lazyboy company - luxury furniture, Thai Leader Global Trade Co., - tea, Ditto Co Ltd - supplying tea, ATM Bangkok Pattaya Travel Group - tour operation.

- xii. Publicized Tender and Bid notices of the Sri Lanka Railways, Ports Authority, Lanka Mineral Sands Limited, State Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Sri Lankan Airlines, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, State Engineering Corporation, Litro Gas Lanka Limited.
- xiii. Facilitated Sri Lankan companies on trade inquiries: IFCO company, Dilexo, TIIKM company, Victoria exports imports (private) Ltd, CDDEF Group of Companies , Bluelotus 360 company ,to import ,export and trade relations.
- xiv. (16)Facilitated envisaged investment in Sri Lanka by Muang Thai Life Insurance company, Asian Tigers Mobility, Transpo International Ltd, Blue Sky Energy Co. Ltd, Indo Rama group.
- xv. Facilitated IDB in Sri Lanka to get training assistance from Department of Industrial Promotion Thailand.
- xvi. Promoted & facilitated events in Sri Lanka: Investment & Business Conclave 2018, Facet 2018 exhibition, Sri Lanka Retail Forum.
- xvii. Facilitated educational activities of the Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology (SIIT), Thammasat University, The Chulabhorn Graduate Institute in Thailand, General Sir John Kothalawela Defence University, the Medical Faculty of University of Colombo, The National Youth Services Council, Mae FahLuang University, Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology.
- xviii. Assisted Sri Lanka State Pharmaceuticals Corporation to import Dextran 40 for dengue patients.
- xix. Had discussions with Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA), Thailand, Thai Retailers Association, Thai Gem and Jewelery Traders Association, Thai Chamber of Commerce.
- xx. Attended to trade complaints of Scan Tech Office Automation, Raigam Marketing Services, Maxus Marketing ( Pvt) Ltd, SNS global Pvt Ltd on defaulting of sending goods
- xxi. Organized the trade delegation from the SLEDB on SME sector on food products to Thailand for market exposure and training on packaging, parallel to Thaifex 2018 exhibition.
- xxii. Participated and promoted Sri Lankan products at the YWCA Diplomatic Charity Bazaar.
- xxiii. Trade information were provided to MIT Lanka Ltd for importing A4 Photocopy papers from Thailand, Ceylon Matrinut Holding Pvt Ltd to explore the Coconut products market potential, Three Acre Farm in Sri Lanka for exporting chicks through Bangkok., Furnicraft Co Ltd , Sri Lanka to explore market potential for their wood products by arranging meetings with La Z Boy, German Standard and Office Box companies, House of Ditto Co Ltd, in Bangkok to purchase Ceylon Tea and SNS global Pvt. Ltd., Thailand to import seafood from Sri Lanka.

- xxiv. Invited the President of Thai Gem & Jewellery Traders Association to visit the FACET 2018 Exhibition, and a nominee visited the fair with Thai gem importers.
- xxv. Invited Group General Manager Operation, Siam Paragon Retail Co. Ltd, of Thai retailer Association to participate at the Sri Lanka Retail Forum in October 2018 in Colombo which was organized by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and he attended the forum.
- xxvi. Requested Indo Rama group to invest in Sri Lanka in PET plastic production.
- xxvii. Made a presentation on economics, tourism and investment of Sri Lanka to the members of the Joint Foreign chamber of Commerce in Thailand (JFCCT).
- xxviii. Participated at the seminar on the South- South cooperation dialogue and United Nations Day held in the UNESCAP in Bangkok, the 5<sup>th</sup> Green Industry Conference coordinated by UNESCAP , the seminar on the outcomes of the 51<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Related meetings which were organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Board of Trustee Meeting & Handover Ceremony of the Asian Institute of Technology and the conference on Science and ICT at the UNESCAP, the conference on the Buddhist Path to Sustainable Development Goals, world Buddhist University conference held at the young Buddhist Association, and 130<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT).
- xxix. Facilitated the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to select rubber technology training provider for rubber industrialists in Sri Lanka and recommended M/S Technobiz Communication Company in Thailand.
- xxx. Coordinated with SLEDB and the Electronic and Electrical Allied Club of the Thai Federation of Industries to organize an outward delegation to Sri Lanka.
- xxxi. Publicity was given to the Global Procurement notices of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Mineral Sand Limited, lubricants supplier in Sri Lankan market published by the Ministry of Petroleum Resources Development, the tender notice of Power and Renewable Energy, Request for Proposals for the mixed Development Project for Chalmers Granaries land in Colombo, and the Procurement notice of the State Engineering Corporation.
- xxxii. Facilitated to solve trade complaint received on fake fund transferring, Photo Fine Colour Laboratories (Pvt) Ltd to recover default payments, MM traders, Colombo regarding not sending goods, Little Lanka Ltd, Galle, not sending A4 paper consignment according to the payment, Union J. Plus (Thailand) Co. Ltd regarding not sending payment for plastic raw material containers by Shehasha (Pvt) Ltd, Sri Lanka.

#### **e. Cultural relations**

- i. Following the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence, a Seminar was organized on the subject of "Sri Lanka-Thailand: A timeless Partnership". Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Minister of Special Assignment and Prof. J.B. Dissanayaka, former Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Thailand spoke at this event.

- ii. Participated in the Avurudu festival organized by the Sri Lankan students of Asian Institute of Technology and Sri Lanka Association in Thailand.
- iii. (4) The Embassy organized bana preaching by a Sri Lankan monk from Chulalongkorn University which was also attended by the Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu-krea-ngam and the Deputy Foreign Minister Virasakdi Futrakul.

#### **f. Tourism**

- i. Invited to serve on the Organizing Committee of the Thai Silk show headed by Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu-krea-ngam. The event is an opportunity to showcase Sri Lanka both in the fashion world and tourism aspect.
- ii. Arranged for participation at the Thai International Tourism Fair and attended the opening ceremony.
- iii. Met the new Minister of Tourism and subsequently attended the meeting to strategies a Buddhist tourist circuit through compiling a story book for which the required information was furnished.
- iv. Participated in activities of the National Tourism Organisation (NTO) club in Thailand and assisted in organizing a FAM trip to Sri Lanka for Thai Tour Operators.

## **8. LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

#### **a. Bilateral Relations:**

- i. The Embassy successfully coordinated to arrange a meeting between the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and his Lao counterpart during the WEF ASEAN meeting in Vietnam in September 2018.
- ii. Facilitated the visit of the Sri Lanka –Lao Parliamentarian Friendship Group led by the Hon. Speaker of Sri Lanka to Lao PDR. The said visit culminated in the facility of visa on arrival being accorded to Sri Lankans for which the then Honorary Consul designate also assisted.
- iii. The appointment of the Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka in Lao was completed.
- iv. MoU on Bilateral Political Consultations between the two countries was signed in New York on the margins of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of UNGA.
- v. Following the demise of a Buddhist monk in Vientiane, the repatriation of the remains was successfully concluded with the assistance of the Hon. Consul for Sri Lanka.
- vi. Facilitated business and consular inquiries.

**b. Multilateral Relations:**

- i. The Embassy successfully coordinated to arrange a meeting between the Hon. Foreign Minister and his Lao counterpart on the margins of the ARF in Singapore.
- ii. Coordinated and confirmed participation at "The Indian Ocean: Defining Our Future" Conference.
- iii. Invited to attend Sri Lanka Foreign Relations and Economic Diplomacy Programme (SLFREDP) - 2018.

**c. Economic Relations**

- i. Assisted Hayleys Adventis Company in Sri Lanka to seek investing in Lao PDR

## **9. KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

**a. Bilateral relations:**

- i. The Embassy successfully coordinated to arrange a meeting between the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and his Cambodian counterpart during the WEF ASEAN meeting in Vietnam in September 2018.
- ii. Facilitated business and consular inquiries.

**b. Multilateral relations:**

- i. The Embassy successfully coordinated to arrange a meeting between the Hon. Foreign Minister and his Cambodian counterpart on the margins of the ARF Ministerial Meeting held in Singapore.

## **10. INDONESIA**

**a. Bilateral Relations:**

- i. State visit of H.E. President Joko Widodo followed by bilateral discussions with H.E. the President and Hon. Prime Minister – 24 – 25 January 2018. This is the first State visit by Indonesian President in the last 38 years.
- ii. MoUs signed: MoU on Cooperation in the fields of Higher Education, Research and Technology; MoU on Cooperation on Search and Rescue; MoU Cooperation against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Chemical Precursors.
- iii. Cooperation between Election Commission – Participation of Election Commission in the Regional Election Programme (Jakarta) and the Election visit programme by Diplomatic Officer in the Heads of Missions Programme (Surabaya) 25 – 28 June 2018.

- iv. Lead up Discussion on substantive matters for the State visit: Cooperation on Search and Rescue, Education and Research, Narcotic Drugs, Disaster Management, Climatology, Food Security, Cultural Cooperation.
- v. Youth Exchange: Organized 6 member Indonesian delegation to Yowun Puraya National Programme 2018- 29 and 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- vi. Sharing of Best Practices: Facilitated a study visit on primary and maternal health of Indonesian doctors' team to Sri Lanka -27 March to 01<sup>st</sup> April 2018.
- vii. Organized Sri Lanka resource person to present technical paper at Seminar in Air Langga University on Innovations towards Zero Preventable Maternal Death 12-13 May 2018.
- viii. Presentation of Sri Lanka's National Tree to the Bogor Botanical Garden on the commemoration of the 65 years of diplomatic relations placing Sri Lanka's National Tree at the premier Botanical Gardens and UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ix. Facilitation of a Sri Lanka delegation to the Asian Games 2018 in Jakarta and Palembang.
- x. Bilateral discussions between Hon. Faiszer Mustapha, Minister of Sports of Sri Lanka with H.E. Naqwi, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports of Indonesia on 01<sup>st</sup> September 2018 on bilateral cooperation including training, technical expertise etc. in the field of sports.
- xi. Conducting of the A/L examination overseas for the first time during the Asian Games 2018.
- xii. Arranging and finalisation of Small and Medium level industry study visit to Indonesia- October-November 2018.
- xiii. Official Visit to Yogyakarta by Hon Tilak Marapana, PC, M.P, Minister of Foreign Affairs and meeting with His Highness Sri Sultan Hemengku Buwono X -25<sup>th</sup> October 2018 for discussion for cultural, education cooperation between Indonesia and Sri Lanka especially with Yogyakarta region.

## **b. Multilateral Relations**

- i. Hon Tilak Marapana M.P, PC , Minister of Foreign Affairs led Sri Lanka delegation to the Bali Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and related transnational crime, 07<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and Senior officials' meeting on 06<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- ii. Regional Dialogue and Consultation of the Asia and Pacific Group for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Prep Com towards the 2020 Review Conference to the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Jakarta 21 and 22 March 2018.
- iii. IORA High Level Panel on enhancing Maritime Cooperation for inclusive growth in Indian Ocean Region, Bali-07-08 December 2018, participation by DG Economic Affairs.

- iv. Ambassador's and Sri Lankan delegation representation Represent Sri Lanka at Eleventh Bali Democracy Forum, Bali, Indonesia -6-7 December 2018.
- v. Ambassador and the Sri Lankan delegation representation at Archipelagic and Island States Ministerial Meeting -1-2 November 2018, Manado Indonesia.
- vi. Facilitation of the visit to Sri Lanka by prominent think tank in Indonesia, by the Head of Policy Analysis and Development Agency of Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Conference "Indian Ocean: Defining Our Future" from 11-12 October 2018.
- vii. Facilitation of Sri Lanka delegation and represented the discussions with Sri Lanka delegation at the advance meeting held with Indonesian Ministry of fisheries and Maritime Affairs in relation to the regional Symposium of Sustainable Development GoSL 14 (SDG 14) –Life below water on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- viii. Ambassador's and Sri Lankan delegation represent Sri Lanka at Our Ocean Conference, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Bali, Indonesia.

#### **c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- i. Visit of 11 members CEO delegation from Indonesia to meet with Sri Lankan partners and interaction with Hon. Prime Minister (24 January 2018).
- ii. Joint submission of Sri Lanka and Indonesia for Cross Regional Cumulation in the Apparel Sector under EU GSP.
- iii. Finalization of TOR for Working Group on Trade and Investment – January 2018.
- iv. Discussions (ongoing) conclusion of bilateral FTA agreed in principle at leaders' level (January 2018 onwards).
- v. Follow up discussions with CEO delegation on investments in consultation with Agency for Development : Pharmaceutical; Energy; Textile fabric; Hospitality; Cement; Indonesia Sub-Zone; Infrastructure – Railway, Bridges, Roads, Port (PT INKA, WICA et al).

#### **d. Business and Trade Facilitation**

- i. Organizing with Ceylon Chamber of Commerce business interaction sessions with Indonesian CEO delegation 24 January 2018.
- ii. Facilitation of Sri Lanka Participation at the Jakarta International Jewellery Fair.
- iii. Facilitation of Sri Lanka company participation at the of Tourism Fair "Astindo" 2018-2-4 March 2018.
- iv. Follow-up on Implementation of FTA between Indonesia and Sri Lanka –22 October 2018.

- v. Showcase Sri Lanka at Women International Club's Charity Bazaar-14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**e. Cultural Relations**

- i. Reception and Sri Lanka food presentation to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence and 65 years of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Indonesia.
- ii. Represented Sri Lanka with showcasing Sri Lankan transitional textiles at the International textile exhibition held in relation to ASIAN Games 2018 held at the Textile Museum in Jakarta-9<sup>th</sup> August 2018 to 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2018.
- iii. Facilitation of a study visit by Provincial Ministerial delegation-Ministry of Industry, Youth, Women's Affairs and Development on of Small and Medium handicraft industries of the Central Province of Sri Lanka-09<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- iv. Facilitation and Sri Lanka community participation for the Footfall for Peace international event organised by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia-22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018.
- v. Facilitation of Ethera Methera TV programme in Jakarta –14 December 2018.

**f. Labour Welfare**

- i. Sought assistance from Indonesian authorities on search and rescue on 04 missing vessels including KM Mega Top III starting from 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- ii. Joint partnership with IOM, Indonesian authorities on returnees programme for voluntary repatriation of Sri Lankans- number from January 2018.

**g. Defence Cooperation**

- i. The Embassy secured and lobbied Indonesia's support in principle for observer status in Western Pacific Naval Symposium. Indonesia's support extended on 09<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- ii. Representation of two officers from Sri Lanka Navy at the Final Planning Conference of Multilateral Naval Exercise (KOMODO) -2018 conducted from 05-07 March 2018 in Mataram, Lombok.
- iii. SLNS Sagara one of the OPV's of Sri Lanka Navy and a Naval Delegation participated at the 3rd Multilateral Naval Exercise – 'Komodo' (MNEK - 2018) from 4th to 9th May 2018 in Mataram, Lombok.
- iv. Facilitated Overseas Study Tour (OST) of the 17 Member Delegation from DSCSC, Sri Lanka to Indonesia from 02nd to 14th August 2018.

- v. Facilitated for 02 officers in National Resilience Institute of Indonesia – Regular Education Programme Batch 57 and 58 – academic year 2018.
- vi. Secured 02 placements for officers for 59th intake of Regular Education Program 2018/2019 at LEMHANAS, Indonesia.
- vii. Representation of one Coast Guard Officer in HACGAM Capacity Building Program on "Law of the Sea and Maritime Enforcement Training" organized by Indonesian Coast Guard from 01-06 April 2018 at JCLEC, Semarang, Central Java.
- viii. Two Women Military Officers representing Sri Lanka Army & Navy participated in the 1st Asia – Pacific Military Women Seminar - 2018 held from 19-22 April 2018.
- ix. Representation of one officer each from Sri Lanka Army, Navy and Air Force at the Multilateral Communications Interoperability Programme (PSW 2)- 2018 in Jakarta which was jointly organized by Indonesia & USA from 23-27 April 2018.
- x. Representation of one officer from Sri Lanka Navy at the Bali Process Pilot Training workshop on the Guidelines for Information Sharing in relation to Human Smuggling, Trafficking of persons and related Transnational Crimes from 3-4 May 2018 in Jakarta.
- xi. A Sri Lanka Navy officer attended ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) workshop on best practices in maritime data analysis from 16-20 July in Bali.
- xii. Nomination of 02 Officers from Indonesian Defence University for 11th International Research Conference - 2018" at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) from 13th to 14th September 2018.
- xiii. Nomination of 01 Officer from Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) for DSCSC for year 2019.
- xiv. Offered 13 vacancies in courses conducted by Sri Lanka Army for year 2018.
- xv. Offered 03 vacancies (01 Officer & 02 Ratings) in Asymmetric Warfare Course conducted by the Sri Lanka Navy to Indonesian Armed Forces for the year 2019.
- xvi. Offered 02 Scholarships for officer cadets of TNI for Degree Programmes in KDU for 2019.
- xvii. Offered 02 Observers & 8 Man Team in Exercise Cormorant Strike IX – 2018 conducted by Sri Lanka Army.

## **11. PHILIPINES**

During the review period, Sri Lanka-Philippine relations were focused through a significant phase of firming up road maps and executing realistic targets for the year ahead. The strategic planning were made to have the highest political level interaction between the two countries. In this context, the Mission activities were mainly focused on selected sectors such as political, trade and investment, tourism, defense, agriculture, labour including capacity building skills, education and cultural spheres.

### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- i. Preparations are underway for a high-level visit to the Philippines from Sri Lanka, in the third week of January 2019.
- ii. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of the Political Consultations between Sri Lanka and the Philippines was held in Manila on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018.
- iii. Continuation of the discussions with the Department of Foreign Affairs regarding the re-opening of the Philippine Embassy in Colombo.
- iv. Several bilateral instruments including Agriculture, Higher Education, Air Services and Defence Cooperation are at final stage for signature and expected to conclude during the proposed VVIP visit.
- v. Also, negotiations are underway on the following Agreements/MoUs; Transfer of Sentenced Persons, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters, MoA Concerning the Recognition of Certificates Under the Terms of the 1978 STCW Convention, reinvigoration of the existing Trade Agreement, Plan of action of the Executive Program on Cultural Cooperation, Labour Cooperation, areas of nursing and care giving, MoU on Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP) and University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) and Tourism Cooperation.
- vi. During the review period, Embassy was able to facilitate the participation of a military officer from Sri Lanka for the Master in National Security Administration (MNSA) Regular Course No. 54 Academic Year 2018-2019 of the National Defence College of the Philippines.
- vii. Embassy was able to successfully negotiate with the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) to obtain scholarships for the Sri Lankan scientists to study PhD and Msc level in plant breeding, agriculture economics and other related disciplines at the UPLB annually commencing from 2018. The first batch of the scientists (19) from Sri Lanka was enrolled to follow the Msc and Phd Degrees. Action also been taken to regularize the intake through signing an Agreement between SLCARP and UPLB during the proposed State Visit in January 2019.

### **b. Multilateral Relations**

- i. On the multilateral relations, establishment of a Country Office by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Sri Lanka in February 2018, active participation at the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) becoming Sri Lanka's largest development partner by providing USD 1 billion for nine projects including solar energy, infrastructure, health and irrigation, USD 75 million in SME loans under "Enterprise Sri Lanka", were instrumental during the review period (2018) in elevating Sri Lanka's positive engagement with the Philippine based multilateral organizations.
- ii. In addition to the above, the following progresses were made in relation to multilateral relations may be highlighted:

Visit by the Director General of IRRI to Sri Lanka in June 2018 and meeting H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Minister of Agriculture to discuss

five-year Sri Lanka-IRRI Work Plan (2019-2023) including developing high yielding, climate resilient rice varieties, upgrading the rice value chain, sustainable land, soil water and nutrition management, remote sensing and geographical information systems for decision support, capacity building, advanced genomic base, breeding techniques and better mechanization and post-harvest technologies.

- iii. Discussions are ongoing with the ASEAN member countries based in Manila to support Sri Lanka's application to the ASEAN as a Sectoral Dialogue Partner (SDP).
- iv. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) reiterated its commitment to support Sri Lanka's continued development drive to achieve inclusive growth, earmarking USD 3 billion over the next three years, in line with its long-term corporate blueprint 'Strategy 2030' for a slew of projects including infrastructure, energy, health, fisheries and education.
- v. Analyzing the training needs and emerging TVET trends, Sri Lanka as member of the Governing Board actively participated at the preparation of the CPSC Strategic Plan 2018-2023. In addition, Sri Lanka was able to participate in all regional programmes, international conferences, customized and short term programmes and the in-country programme in June 2018 organized by the CPSC during the review period. Presently, there are two Sri Lankan professionals attached to the CPSC Secretariat (Governing Board Engaged Faculty Consultant and Internee of the Professional Internship Program for International Experience (PIPE)).
- vi. During the review period, three Sri Lankan professionals have been recruited to the international organizations (ADB, WHO and CPSC).

#### **c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- i. As a result of continuous engagement with the government and the private sector and diversifying its export products to the Philippines during the review period total trade turnover between Sri Lanka and the Philippines recorded USD 47.5 million as of August 2018(Export –USD 10.9 million, Import – USD 36.6 million).
- ii. Follow-up to the successful discussions with the Government of the Philippines, Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect taxes on income signed on 11 December 2000 was ratified by the Philippines in March 2018.
- iii. Progress has been made to reinvigorate the Philippine – Sri Lanka Trade Agreement which was signed in 1980 and the follow-up will be discussed at the Second Round of the Political Consultations in Manila in October 2018.
- iv. Bulk Tea and tea packets with different flavours, pneumatic and retreaded rubber tyres and other rubber products, apparels, processed food, rice and cereals, have been identified as major export products from Sri Lanka to the Philippines during the review period.

- v. In comparison to the year 2017, several new products have been introduced to the Philippines market namely carpets, Travel Good, Bags, and Base Metal Products and Lion Brewery.
- vi. Negotiations are in progress with the Philippine potential importers to export the following Sri Lankan products to the Philippines; Lion Beer from Lion Brewery (Ltd.), Rubber Tyres from Associated Motorways, Petroleum from O.M Aliyar Sons, Boats from Ceynor Foundation, and Spices and Cinnamons from McCurry of Lanka Spices (Pvt.) Ltd.
- vii. Discussions ongoing with Regional General Manager of Transcom Worldwide to establish a BPO sister group in Sri Lanka with St. Anthony's Company and SM Group of Companies for possible collaboration of supermarket chains in Sri Lanka.
- viii. Embassy showcased "Ceylon Teas" at the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Bazaar in November 2018 in partnership with George Steuarts Philippines and Basilur Tea.

#### **d. Tourism Promotion**

- i. As a result of the vigorous promotional activities carried out by the Embassy, the Filipino tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka during the review period has reached 13,550 as of August 2018 (23.6% increase compared to 2017) which holds the second highest tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka among the ASEAN countries and the 5<sup>th</sup> highest rank out of the East Asian countries. It may be noted that even without a direct flight to Sri Lanka, Philippines ranks the top five tourist destinations to Sri Lanka amongst the East Asian countries.
- ii. The Embassy together with the Tourism Promotions Bureau participated at the 25<sup>th</sup> Philippine Travel Agencies Associations Travel and Tour Expo on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and preparations are ongoing to participate for the second consecutive year at the "World Travel Expo 2018" in October 2018.
- iii. Discussion is in progress with the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) to send a three-member travel journalist from Travelife Magazine to Sri Lanka in December 2018.
- iv. Organized an interactive session with the Outbound Tour Operators in the Philippines in collaboration with NKAR Travel and Tours (Pvt) Ltd. on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

#### **e. Cultural Relations**

- i. "Strengthening relations through cultural diplomacy" – a diplomatic reception parallel to the National Day of Sri Lanka was held in February 2018.
- ii. The Sri Lanka Embassy in collaboration with the Sri Lankan Community and Sri Lankan Students Association organized the "Erabadu Mal Wasanthaya" – Sinhala and Tamil New Year celebrations and celebrated the "Buddha Rashmi" International Vesak Day Celebrations.
- iii. "Destination Sri Lanka, Wonder of Asia" TV talk show was conducted with Global News Network (GNN) in April 2018.

- iv. "Food Diplomacy"- Sri Lankan cuisines was promoted through ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) TV Network in May 2018.
- v. Initiated discussion for cultural exchange of "Sister City" concept between Taguig and Colombo City in April 2018.
- vi. The Embassy showcased Sri Lanka's rich and unique culture at "Refreshingly Sri Lanka: Wonder of Asia" in September 2018.
- vii. Discussion ongoing with Buddhist devotees in the Philippines to assist in English language courses for Sri Lankan Samaner as at selected Piriwennas.
- viii. The Embassy in collaboration with the Universal Wisdom Foundation Inc. and Sri Lankan community in the Philippines is in the process of organizing "Kathina Ceremony-Vassa" in November 2018.
- ix. Negotiations are in progress with the South Asian Embassies based in Manila to hold the Film Festival to coincide with the SAARC Day, December 2018.

#### **f. Labour Welfare**

- i. Negotiations are in progress to conclude MoUs/Agreements on Labour Cooperation, MoU in the areas of nursing and care giving and another MoU Concerning the Recognition of Certificates under the Terms of the 1978 STCW Convention.
- ii. Discussions are ongoing with potential training institutes in the Philippines to train Sri Lankan nurses, teachers, seafarers and hospitality sector employees.
- iii. Consultations are ongoing with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), to identify better services extended by the Government of the Philippines for the welfare of overseas workers, assurance of their safety, etc. (Note: The Philippines is one of the top skilled labour sending country in the world.)

## **12. MYANMAR**

#### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- i. A Sri Lankan Food Festival was held on 05<sup>th</sup> –11<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon on the eve of 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence Day Celebrations of Sri Lanka.
- ii. The Government of Myanmar donated 300 MT of rice to Sri Lanka as a humanitarian assistance to the flood victims in Sri Lanka. The consignment was received by the Ministry of Disaster Management in Sri Lanka on 29 March 2018.
- iii. The bilateral meeting between the Union Minister for Planning and Finance of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Embassy officials was held on 19 April 2018 at the Ministry of Planning and Finance in Nay Pyi Taw. Discussed the

matters including promotion export and import sector between the two countries, facilitation of technical knowledge transferring on agricultural sector, gem industry and herbal pharmaceuticals etc. from Sri Lanka for developing activities in Myanmar, Commencing on direct air services between the two countries.

- iv. During presentation of Credentials the Ambassador on 04 September 2018 at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw, the ambassador discussed strengthening of cultural and religious relations, exchange of technical expertise in the areas such as telecommunication, micro-finance, banking sector, hotel industry and building & construction field and commencing direct air route service between the two countries.
- v. H.E. the Ambassador made a courtesy call on the State Counsellor and the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 02.11.2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

#### **b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- i. The International Plastic Exhibition in Myanmar "COMPLAST MYANMAR "organized by the Myanmar Plastic Industry Association (MPIA) was held in Yangon on 15.06.2018. At this exhibition, 10 Sri Lankan leading companies and the officials of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Sri Lanka were participated to promote their business activities in Myanmar.
- ii. A new CBC Myanmar Microfinance Office which is a subsidiary company of Commercial Bank of Sri Lanka was opened in Nay Pyi Taw on 16.07.2018. Currently, it is operating with micro-finance activities in Nay Pyi Taw area in Myanmar.
- iii. The Sanken Overseas (Myanmar) Ltd., a subsidiary company of Sanken Overseas (Pvt) Ltd, of Sri Lanka is operating in Myanmar since 2014 and they conducted an event on "An Evening of Knowledge Fellowship" on 14.08.2018 at Sule Shangri- La Hotel in Yangon for the purpose of expanding its business activities in Myanmar.

#### **c. Cultural Relations**

- i. On an invitation extended by the Sacred Tooth Relic Temple in Kandy, Sri Lanka, the officials of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Visited the Sacred Temple of the Tooth Relic in Kandy, Sri Lanka during the period from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 as an inspection tour of recently donated Tusker Elephant to Sri Lanka by the Government of Myanmar.
- ii. On an invitation extended by the Sacred Tooth Relic Temple in Kandy, Sri Lanka, the two members of the Board of Trustee of the Sacred Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon visited the Sacred Temple of the Tooth Relic in Kandy during the period from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 to strengthen cultural and religious relationship between the two Sacred Temples.
- iii. A Replica of the Sacred Shwedagon Pagoda, the prominent landmark of Myanmar, will be built in Matale, by the devotees of Myanmar. Donation was handed over to Most Ven. Mugunuwela AnuruddhaThero in Matale, Sri Lanka on 28.11.2017.

- iv. The Aggamaha Panditha Most Ven. Kotugoda Dhammadawasa Maha Nayake Thero, Supreme Patriarch of Amarapura Maha Nikaya accompanied by Ven. Prof. Madawachchiye Dhammajothi Thero visited Myanmar during the period from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to attend the Conference on Religious for Peace for high-level international multi-religious delegation organized by the Myanmar national religious leaders to strengthen peace, justice and reconciliation among the different religious people.
- v. Buddhist delegation headed by Most Ven. Pahalawitiyala Jananda Maha Thero, Mahopadyaya, the Present President of the Yogashrama Sanstha, Galduwa Sri Lanka ,09 Venerable Monks and 05 laity and several Sri Lankan monks who are staying/ studying Monasteries in Myanmar participated a Bodhi Pooja ceremony at the Sacred shwedagon Pagoda on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- vi. On an invitation extended by the Board of Trustee of Sacred Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, the delegation from the Temple of the Tooth Relic in Kandy visited in Myanmar during the period from 20 – 26 November 2018.
- vii. Mahopadyaya, the Present President of the Galduwa Yogashrama Sanstha, Sri Lanka, Ven. Kahagolle Soma Wansa MahaNayake Thero and the Chief Incumbent of Sri Lanka Gananobhasha Meditation Centre in Galle, Ven. Maligawila Assaji Thero, the Chairman of the TV Didula and their delegation (30 clergy and 300 laity of Sri Lanka) conducted a special Buddhist ritual at the Sacred Shwedagon Pagoda on 10.12.2018.

## **13. VIET NAM**

### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- i. A delegation lead by H. E. Dang DinhQuy, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the SL - VN Political Consultations held in Colombo in April 2018.
- ii. Hon. Karu Jayasuriyau undertook an Official Visit to Vietnam from 23-27 April 2018. During the visit Hon. Speaker gifted sacred relics of Lord Buddha to Vietnam.
- iii. A delegation headed by Mr. Tran DaeLoi, First Vice Chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam undertook an official visit to Sri Lanka in June 2018.
- iv. Senior Colonel Nguyen Cong Xuan, Deputy Head of Int'l/DSDI of Vietnam attended the Colombo Defence Seminar held from 30-31 August 2018.
- v. Hon. Gamini Jayawickrema Perera, Minister of Buddhasasana visited Vietnam from 23 - 27 September 2018.
- vi. Facilitated the visit of Director, Multilateral Affairs Department of MFA and the Additional Director General, ERD, Ministry of Finance to attend the 46th Executive Committee meeting of Colombo Plan (29 to 31 October).

- vii. Ambassador met with Mr. Nguyen Tat Thanh, DG of South East Asia, South Asia & South Pacific Department of MOFA VN on to discuss matters of mutual concern, including briefing the DG on the political developments in Sri Lanka (21 November).
- viii. Facilitated the visit of Her Worship Mayor of Colombo to attend 37th Executive Committee Meeting and International Seminar City Net Summit in Da Nang from (21 to 22 November).
- ix. Ambassador met Ms. Nguyen Thi Huong Lan, and discussed consular and visa related issues faced by Sri Lankans visiting or living in Viet Nam (21 December).

### **b. Multilateral Relations**

- i. Facilitated a visit by Senior Prof. Amal Jayawardane, Kotalawala Defence University, to attend the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum Experts and Eminent Persons (ARF-EEPs) meeting in Ha Noi held from 5 – 9 March 2018.
- ii. Ambassador participated at the workshop titled sharing results from Unpaid Care Work Research, organized by Action Aid in cooperation with MOLISA held on 7 March 2018.
- iii. Facilitated and coordinated Sri Lanka's participation at the "Regional Conference on Strengthening Resilient Food and Agriculture System" held in Ha Noi from 15-16 March 2018.
- iv. Ambassador signed the Code of Conduct on Plastic Pollution Prevention to mark the World Environment Day. It was part of the Plastic Pollution Advocacy Campaign, which is a joint campaign involving embassies and international partners working in support of VN's sustainable development and attend 04 follow up activities(4 June).
- v. Facilitated the visit of Hon Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and the delegation to participate in the Indian Ocean Conference. Eleven sideline meetings were arranged for Hon. Prime Minister.
- vi. Ambassador was invited to the seminar on "Changes and Challenges in Indo-Pacific Regional Security and Cooperation today", organized jointly by the HCM-NAP and the APCSS for an informal discussion on the USA's new Indo-Pacific Strategy with Alumni of APCSS (4 September).
- vii. Facilitated the visit of Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and to delegation to attend the WEF on ASEAN – 2018 held from 10-13 September 2018 and arranged 10 sideline bilateral meetings for Hon. Prime Minister.
- viii. Ambassador met with Ms. Le Thi Tuyet Mai, DG of the Department of International Law & Treaties, MoFA VN to discuss Viet Nam's candidature to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCTRAL) and other candidatures of the two countries (16 October).

- ix. Ambassador attended 10<sup>th</sup> South China Sea International Conference for Regional Security and Development organized by the DAV FESS and VLA at Sheraton Hotel in Da Nang City (8 to 9 November).
- x. Facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the 10th Asia Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resources for Health (AAAH) workshop 2018 held in Ha Noi (19-21 November).
- xi. Ambassador participated in the UN Day celebrations organized by UNIS – HA Noi and there are 06 Sri Lankan children at UNIS (30 November).
- xii. Ambassador was a special invitee to share the experiences at the Consultative Workshop on Research Report on Rights of Migrant Women Workers in VN (20 December).

#### **c. Economic Relations**

- i. Ambassador had a discussion with the Respect Viet Nam about how it is to work in Viet Nam - working together with both SL and VN staff to achieve Sri Lanka's objectives and how problems are solved in a multi-cultural environment (7 June).
- ii. Ambassador had a meeting with SG - JCCI in VN to discuss on arranging an Interactive Session with leading members of JCCI, during one of the two visits of the Prime Minister of SL to VN(09 August).
- iii. Organized an Interactive Session for Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade with members of JCCI (11 September).
- iv. Arranged B2B meeting for Ms.Ruchini Liyanage, Owner of Sunimal Handloom fabric from (15-26 November).
- v. Organized a Sri Lanka Gem and Jewellery Promotional event (25 November)
- vi. Mission facilitated 13 trade inquiries received from both SL & VN sides.
  
- vii. Mission facilitated 09 trade inquiries received from both SL & VN sides.

#### **d. Foreign Investments**

- i. Coordination of meetings for the delegation from *FPT* University to SL for studying the possibility of establishing a FPT University and discussing on student exchanges.
- ii. Coordinated an investment project on Waste-to-Energy by a consortium headed by Asia Nordic Consult based in Vietnam.
- iii. Coordinated a Hotel Project (a beach side resort and a hill country hotel with a golf course; 100 to 200 rooms) with Japanese investor based in Vietnam.
- iv. Attended the conference on "30 years of FDI Mobilization in Viet Nam: New Vision, New Opportunities in New Era" (04October).

#### **e. Tourism Promotion**

- i. Ground work has been completed to organizing 03 FAM tours for the VN travel agents and media personnel with to visit Sri Lanka.
- ii. Participated at the exhibition organized by the VAPA from 17 –25 March 2018on the occasion of the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vietnamese Photographic Day, this showcased 135 photographs from different countries including Sri Lanka.
- iii. Supported and participated at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the Hoi, An International Food Festival held at An Hoi Sculpture Park in Hoi An, an Ancient Town declared as a World Heritage by UNESCO in 1999.
- iv. Organized 3-day Cultural Fiesta in Ha Noi at the premises of VN Women's Museum to commemorate 70th Anniversary of Independence of SL as well as 48 years of DPL relations between SL & VN. Event had 39 instances of media coverage in VN (27 – 29 April).
- v. A Sri Lanka Dance Troupe from Ranaranga Dance Academy attended 10<sup>th</sup> Hue Festival 2018 held from 27 April -2 May.
- vi. Organized "SL & VN on 24 May Celebrating Friendship through Fashion", a Fashion Show to promote colourful SL handloom cotton and cotton mixed fabric.
- vii. Organized an interactive session on 26 July 2018 with outbound tour operators in Ha Noi.
- viii. Coordinating the creation of the Sri Lankan Artwork on the Ha Noi Mosaic wall.
- ix. organized a fashion show by Sri Lankan contemporary batik artist and designer Ms. Sonali Dharmawardane to promote SL Batik (19 October).
- x. Ambassador met the academics and researchers of the Institute of Archaeology of Viet Nam, affiliated to the Academy of Social Sciences in Ha Noi to discuss possible collaboration between the institute and the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology of Sri Lanka, affiliated to the University of Kelaniya (31 October).
- xi. Organized SL pavilion at the HIWC Charity Bazaar 2018 with a traditional SL Drumming Performance (18 November).
- xii. Organized SL Stall at VN Local Speciality Fair (21 to 23 November).
- xiii. Facilitated of the students' welcome party of VIS at the Ambassador's Residence with SL tourism promotion (1 December).
- xiv. Organized a Painting Exhibition "My Beautiful Sri Lanka" with SL artist Mr. Vasantha Perera at the Residence of the Ambassador ( 5 December).

#### **f. Cultural Relations**

- i. Facilitated the visit of Mr.Navin Gooneratne, Chairman of the light of Asia Foundation from 5- 8 January to construct a Vietnamese Buddhist pavilion at the Shakya Kingdom spiritual centre.

- ii. Facilitated the participation of 05 VN students at the "Yowun Puraya Youth Festival organized by the NYSC in Nikaweratiya, Kurunegala (28 March - 1 April).
- iii. Supported the International Painting Contest themed "I love Ha Noi – A Peaceful City" on the occasion of International Children's Day (6 June) organized by HAUFO in coordination with the Ha Noi Children's Palace. The contest attracted the participation of nearly 100 children, aged 5-15, from Ha Noi including foreign kids from SL (27 May).
- iv. Organized the screening of the movie "Siddhartha: The Buddha" at the Quan Su Pagoda premises, Ha Noi (Headquarters of VBS) on the occasion of celebrating the Vesak Festival in VN, the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence of SL and 48 years of DPL Relations between SL & VN (29 May).
- v. Ambassador participated at a talk show named as "Sharing Viet Nam" of the Net Viet TV to share her impressions on Lotus season in Ha Noi and lotus in SL culture (recorded 3 July and broadcast on 24 July).
- vi. Organized "SL- VN Friendship Concert" at the VNAM with participants from Sri Lanka (23 June).
- vii. Facilitated bringing a sapling of Sri Maha Bodhi by a special delegation and planting at the Tam Chuc Pagoda, venue for 2019 UN International Vesak Day celebrations, Event had 14 instances of media coverage in VN (22 July).
- viii. Supported the ceremony to enshrine the relics of Buddha in the Stupa of Gratitude at Bang Pagoda (19 August).
- ix. Ambassador was interviewed by Vietnam Netnewspaper at the "Things Everlasting" Concert at the Ha Noi Opera House, an annual Concert to mark the National Day of VN (2 September).
- x. Ambassador for the third consecutive year, organized a Networking Reception to celebrate the Viet Nam Women's Day at the official residence (20<sup>th</sup> October)
- xi. Facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the HANIFF 2018 which included 02 Sri Lankan films "Tree Goddess" (Vaishanavee) directed by Ms. Sumitra Peries and "Where's My Route" directed by Mr. Sudath Abeysiriwardena to Ha Noi International Film Festival (37 to 31 October)
- xii. Organized Friendship Concert with Christmas Carols to raise funds for Hope Choir consisting of blind and partially blind youth (2 December)
- xiii. Organized SL pavilion at 5th International Food Festival by MOFA-VN (9 December).

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# Economic Affairs Division



## **Economic Affairs Division**

The Economic Affairs Division is entrusted with activities relating to Economic Diplomacy bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation and international & technical cooperation. The Division coordinates closely the areas relating to trade, investment, technical cooperation, tourism, tea promotion and development assistance with relevant Government agencies in order to ensure benefits for Sri Lanka through the conduct of bilateral and multilateral relations with other countries and organizations.

The Division also plays a pivotal role in assisting other Ministries in efforts to advance economic diplomacy initiatives and attract FDI organizing business/investment related meetings.

During the year 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has continued to play its role as a facilitator to support the engines of economic growth and economic revival in Sri Lanka through strengthening economic relations with other countries. The Economic Affairs of the MFA is primarily responsible for attracting investment and exploring vibrant markets for Sri Lankan products and services, including the promotion of tourism and foreign employment. The Division also liaises with key Government institutions responsible for promoting trade, investment, tourism and other economic activities.

### **1. Economic Diplomacy initiative:**

In order to effectively implement the Economic Diplomacy initiative of the Government of Sri Lanka, the division has introduced a programme to be rolled out over a period of three years, that comprises three components: (i) Economic Indicators and Performance Targets for Missions (EIPTM); (ii) economic promotion of Sri Lanka in selected markets; and (iii) the Sri Lanka Foreign Relations and Economic Diplomacy Dialogue. Each of these sub-programmes contributes to strengthening Sri Lanka's relations with other nations through economic diplomacy.

#### **i. Economic targets for Missions**

By allocating Performance Targets for Missions the MFA hopes to recognize and increase engagement with stronger markets, while allocating more resources to emerging or potential markets. This kind of strategic resource allocation would enable the MFA to maximize total engagement with various nations in a more cohesive manner.

#### **ii. Direct engagements in funding promotional activities**

'Economic Promotion of Sri Lanka,' a sub-programme to identify suitable ways Sri Lanka could further engage with a nation was introduced as a secondary component. As each market has a different set of strengths, this sub-programme is designed to identify the key markets and propose suitable promotional strategies catered to those strengths. Through this programme, the Ministry has taken the initiative to engage directly, finance and organize Economic Diplomacy programmes in 2018 and to be organized in 2019 in collaboration with the relevant line Ministries and the private sector.

11 Sri Lanka Missions overseas in emerging markets were supported in carrying out targeted campaigns to enhance Sri Lanka's global footprint and bring tangible economic benefits to the country. These promotional events ranged from promotion of ICT products and services and also organic food products in Sweden, apparel, textile and footwear in South Africa, fresh and processed food in Bahrain, electronic, tourism and apparel in Brazil, wellness tourism in the UAE, inward investment from ROK and Japan. The Ministry collaborated with all stakeholders to

select these programmes in line with the main focus sectors of the National Export Strategy (NES) launched by the Export Development Board.

### **iii. Sri Lanka Foreign Relation & Economic Diplomacy Dialogue (SLFREDD)**

Thirdly, the Sri Lanka Foreign Relations & Economic Diplomacy Dialogue was established by the MFA to cultivate relations with other countries. Mid-career diplomats from selected countries were invited to attend this diplomatic training course in Sri Lanka and the SLFREDD was successfully conducted by the MFA in October 2018 with the participation of mid-career level diplomats from 23 countries representing all regions of the world.

The objective of this Programme was to foster relations with future decision makers of countries that are important to the economic growth of Sri Lanka, particularly in terms of trade, investment, tourism as well as foreign investment. The Programme aimed at providing comprehensive exposure in the areas of Sri Lanka's socio-economic development and future prospects, while emphasizing on global issues, economic diplomacy and other thematic areas. The MFA is currently in the process of preparing a booklet comprising all lecturers and experiences shared during this programme which could be used as manual in future diplomatic training programmes. Based on the success of this programme, the Ministry intends to continue to host such programmes in future as a soft power approach to Sri Lanka's Economic Diplomacy initiatives utilizing budgetary provisions under the Economic Diplomacy Programme.

This MFA has supported the efforts of other stakeholder Ministries and agencies in their efforts to advance Sri Lanka's trade and economic Policies through the 67 Diplomatic Missions across the world. Further it has engaged and coordinated trade agreement negotiations and has co-organized Joint Economic Commissions in collaboration with other line agencies in furthering Sri Lanka's Foreign Trade Policy.

## **2. Bilateral Economic Relations**

- i. The Division facilitated 07 high level incoming visits from Australia, Georgia, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, New Zealand, UK and Finland.
- ii. There were also 10 high level outgoing visits to Indonesia, Poland, Singapore, Myanmar, Japan, Iran, Kenya, Nepal and the Philippines.
- iii. The Economic Affairs Division coordinated 12 inward business visits from Pakistan, Indonesia, Russia, Japan, Seychelles, China, Zimbabwe, Russia, Belgium, Jordan, Norway and Australia and 05 outward business visits to Qatar, Australia, Japan, Vietnam and Ethiopia.
- iv. The DG/EA & T and Assistant Legal Advisor of the Ministry participated at the FTA and the ETCAnegotiations on the services, economic and technology cooperation and investment chapter.
- v. The Division has been working closely with international economic organizations, particularly on matters concerning treaties of commerce and advancement of free trade.

### **2.1. Details of Joint Economic Commissions held in 2018 and progress and future meetings**

During the period under consideration the following Joint Economic Commissions and Trade/economic fora were held.

i. The Second Session of the Kuwait – Sri Lanka Joint Ministerial Committee in Trade & Technical Cooperation

The 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the Kuwait – Sri Lanka Joint Ministerial Committee in Trade & Technical Cooperation was held on 9 – 11 October 2018 in Kuwait. The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Kuwait – Sri Lanka Joint Ministerial Committee will be held in Colombo in 2019 on mutually agreed dates.

Both countries have agreed to review the existing level of bilateral economic & trade relations and highlighted the importance of developing trade relations and increasing the volume of trade through the exchange of visits and enhanced participation in trade & investment fairs and also at exhibitions.

A draft Agreement for Economic and Trade Cooperation and a draft for an Amendment to the Protocol of the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement between the two countries are under consideration. Trade, Economic and Investment Co-operation, Labour and Manpower Cooperation, Industrial Cooperation, Agriculture Cooperation, Tourism Cooperation and Development co-operation were some other key areas that were discussed.

ii. The Seventh Session of the Sri Lanka South Africa Partnership Forum

The Seventh Session of the Sri Lanka and South Africa Partnership Forum was held in Sri Lanka on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The Forum agreed to strengthen ties between the two countries in the fields of tourism, forestry, fisheries, irrigation, energy agriculture and labour co-operation in relation to Trade and Economic co-operation. The two countries also stressed on the need to continue the dialogue, exchange of official visits including high level visits, as well as facilitating cooperation at all levels.

iii. Sri Lanka and Australia Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA)

Sri Lanka and Australia Trade and Investment Framework Arrangement (TIFA) was signed on 02nd November 2017 to facilitate and promote trade and investment between the two countries. The first meeting of the Joint commission was held on 19th April 2018 in Canberra, Australia. Several areas including the facilitation and promotion of trade and investment, engagement of business communities of both countries, strengthening of the legal and regulative framework were discussed during the meeting. A follow up discussion on the Implementation of the Trade and Investment framework arrangement between Sri Lanka & Australia was held on 16 January 2019 at the Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade in Colombo. The next meeting will be held in the month of June 2019 after the Australian Election.

iv. Follow up Meeting of the Eleventh Session of Joint Commission for Economic Corporation between the Sri Lanka and Iran

The follow up meeting of the Eleventh Session of Joint Commission for Economic Corporation between the Sri Lanka and Iran was held on 7 – 8 February 2018 in Colombo. The follow-up committee held its discussion under two sub-committees, which deliberated on the following areas of cooperation;

Banking, Financial matters, Trade, Oil, Tea and Agriculture, Insurance, Economic & Customs Cooperation

Standards, Transportation, Science & Technology, Health, Culture & Training Programmes

During the deliberations, the delegations discussed the commencement of direct flights and resolution of banking transactions between the two countries. Further discussions were held on the MOU on Tea Industries of the two countries as well as the exchange of information on tariff structures and trade statistics under the signed PTA between Sri Lanka and Iran. The Sri Lanka side also agreed to send a draft MOU on cyber security & related issues for the consideration of Iran.

### **3. Multilateral Economic Relations**

#### **3.1. United Nations Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**

The Economic Affairs Division is the Focal Point of the Ministry to handle issues relating to the United Nations Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). At Present Sri Lanka takes part at five (05) ESCAP Governing Councils: Statistical Institution for Asia and Pacific (SIAP), Centre for Sustainable Agriculture Mechanization (CSAM), Centre for Alleviation for Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CASPA), Asia and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM).

- i. The 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNESCAP was held in Bangkok from 11-16 May 2018. The National Delegation was headed by the HE the Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Bangkok. This Division was instrumental in coordination of matters related to the delegation and formulation of National Policies for the 74<sup>th</sup> Session. In addition, the Division coordinates the participation of Sri Lanka's representatives at meetings, conferences, workshops, etc. associated with UNESCAP.
- ii. The EA Division facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the following UNESCAP events;
  - A delegation from Sri Lanka participated the Fifth Session of the Committee on Social Development, held from 28 to 30 November 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.
  - A delegation from Sri Lanka participated the Asia- Pacific Regional Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of Commitments from the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS Beyond 2015, from 26-30 November 2018 held in Bangkok.
  - A delegation from Sri Lanka participated the Fifth Session of the Committee on Transport held in Bangkok from 19-21 November 2018.
  - A delegation from Sri Lanka participated the Second Expert Group on Energy Connectivity (EWG-EC) held from 12-14 December 2018 in Beijing, China.
  - Economic Affairs, along with the Ministry of Foreign Employment (the focal point for Colombo Process) coordinated the activities of the Colombo Process.

#### **3.2. BIMSTEC**

The Economic Affairs Division has coordinated with the concerned line Ministries with regard to the Sri Lanka participation in the following BIMSTEC Meetings during January to September 2018.

- i. Sri Lanka assumed the Chairmanship of BIMSTEC on 30 - 31 August 2018 during the 4th BIMSTEC Summit which was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ii. Workshop on Strengthening Regional Value Chain in marketing pork meat in Nepal from 13-14 June 2018 (Ministry of Rural Economy).
- iii. Workshop on "BIMSTEC Human Resources Development & Capacity Building on AML/CFT" – Thailand, 08-09 March 2018 (Financial Intelligent, Central Bank of Sri Lanka).
- iv. Workshop on Cyber-crime and Cyber-security for BIMSTEC Member States, Dhaka, Bangladesh 13-15 March 2018 (Financial Intelligent, Central Bank of Sri Lanka)
- v. BIMSTEC Conference on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources, 21-22 May 2018, Bangkok, Thailand (Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine).
- vi. Second Meeting of the BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 28 March 2018.
- vii. Fifth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals, Nepal, 23 May 2018 .
- viii. BIMSTEC Working Group Meeting to finalize the draft text of the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters, 22-23 March 2018, New Delhi, India (Sri Lanka Custom/ MFA).
- ix. Eighth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (JWG – CTTC) held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 13-14 August 2018. (Ministry of Defence).
- x. Eighth Meeting of the BIMESTEC Sub-Group on Legal and Law Enforcement Issues in Kathmandu, Nepal from 29-30 October 2018.
- xi. Director General/ Economic Affairs & Trade (Multilateral) attended the Special Senior Official Meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 11th August 2018.
- xii. 04th BIMSTEC Summit and its preceding Meetings held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 28-31 August 2018.
- xiii. Training Programme on Computer Forensics, Hyderabad, India, 12-16 November 2018 (Central Bank).
- xiv. 21st TNC Meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 18th& 19th November 2018 (DOC, BOI, Dep. of Trades, Customs & MFA).

### **Sri Lanka's commitments to the BIMSTEC - 2018**

Eighth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat was held Colombo on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

### **3.3. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**

The Economic Affairs Division coordinate with the Ministry of Industry & Commerce and National Intellectual Property Office (NIPO) on matters relating to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). DG/NIPO has attended the Fifty-Eighth Series of Meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO, including the Session of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Union Assembly held from 24 September-02 October 2018 in Geneva.

A 10 Point Action Plan was formulated to engage with the WIPO. This Ministry represented Study Visit to the Republic of Korea: Drafting a National Intellectual Property (IP) Strategy for Building an effective IP Ecosystem in Sri Lanka. This Division also coordinates the work between WIPO and NIPO, and facilitating Sri Lankan officials to be present at the various WIPO events throughout the year (patents, trademark, copyrights, industrial designs and enforcement), matters relating to Lisbon System, Madrid Treaty, etc.

### **3.4. IORA**

The Economic Affairs Division has coordinated with the concerned line Ministries with regard to the Sri Lanka participation in the following Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Meetings during January to September 2018.

- i. IORA Indian Ocean Conference on Blue Carbon was held in Perth, Australia from 19-23 March 2018. This Division coordinated the nomination from the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment. Assistant director/ Ocean Affairs and Climate Change has participated in the Conference.
- ii. Workshop to Strengthen Women's Economic Empowerment in the Indian Ocean – Preparations for the Ministerial Conference and Working Group was held in Mauritius from 03-04 May 2018 and Assistant Director/ Economic Affairs & Trade has participated in the workshop.
- iii. A meeting was arranged by this Division to discuss matters on Sri Lanka's stance on the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG) at the Mini Conference Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 25 May 2018.
- iv. The 8<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials Meeting (CSO), The 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) and The 24<sup>th</sup> Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (IORAG) were held in Durban, South Africa from 30 July 2018 to 03 August 2018 and senior officials from the Ministry and Sri Lanka Navy had participated in the events.
- v. IORA Ministerial Conference on Women's Economic Empowerment: A Pre-requisite for Sustainable Development was held in Mauritius from 28-29 August 2018 and Hon. Minister of Women and Child Affairs and Chairperson, National Women Committee had participated in the conference.
- vi. The 1<sup>st</sup> Preparatory Meeting for the establishment of IORA Working Group on the Blue Economy was held in Eastern Cape Province, South Africa from 12-13 September 2018 and Counsellor of the High Commission of Sri Lanka in Pretoria has participated in the meeting.

WGMSS

- vii. 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) & 20<sup>th</sup> Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) Meeting was held in **South Africa from 31 October to 02 November 2018**. Mrs. Saroja Sirisena, DG, E & T and Mrs. Priyangani Hewarathna, Counsellor, Pretoria has participated for the Meetings.
- viii. The IORA High Level Panel on Enhancing Maritime Cooperation for Inclusive Growth in Indian Ocean was held in **Indonesia from 07-08 December 2018**. Mr. Kapila Fonseka, Actg. DG/E & T participated for the event.

### **3.4. Colombo Plan**

- i. The 46<sup>th</sup> Consultative Committee Meeting of Colombo Plan was held in HaNoi, Viet Nam from 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 with the participation of 22 of the 27 Member Countries along with Chile as an observer.

During the meeting, the following were discussed:-

- ii. Re-entry of Mongolia into the membership – the Mongolia's membership stands suspended due to nonpayment of membership fee arrears.  
This Ministry has send a Note verbal to the Colombo Plan Secretariat informing the Government of Sri Lanka's no objection to waive off the membership fee arrears and re-grant the membership to Mongolia
- iii. At the meeting, Sri Lanka pledged to host the 47<sup>th</sup> Consultative Committee Meeting (CCM) to be held in two years in 2020.
- iv. Sri Lanka reiterated its commitment to provide office space in a new facility being built in Colombo for the Colombo Plan Secretariat. The land provided by GOSL earlier, for the construction of a building for the Secretariat had not been utilized due to financial constraints.  
This Ministry represented at the Standing Committee Meeting of the Colombo Plan Council FY 2018/2019 held on 19 December 2018 at 10.00 a.m at the Colombo Plan Secretariat.

### **3.5. Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ACD Working Group on Inclusive and Sustainable Development was held in Kuwait on 13 March 2018 and First Secretary of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Kuwait participated.

The high Level event of Asian Tourism Capital (ATC) was held in Hamedan, Iran from 27-29 August 2018 and H. E. the Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Iran participated.

### **3.6. Cooperation with Abu Dhabi Dialogue**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) hosted by GoSL was held from 8-9 May 2018 in Colombo. Mr. Ravinatha Aryasinha/Addl. Secretary/Economic Affairs and Trade attended the Opening Ceremony and the Thematic Session 04 of the ADD Senior Officials' Meeting. Mrs. Subhashani Silva, Assistant Director/ Economic Affairs and Trade represented also attended the meeting.

Manila Conference on the Future of Migration was held from 14-15 August 2018 in Philippines

Mrs.J.A.S.K .Jayasuriya, DPR/Geneva participated for the Conference.

### **3.7. GFMD**

GFMD and GCM related meetings were held in Marrakesh, Morocco from 05-11 December 2018.

- i. Eleventh GFMD Summit, 05-07 December 2018, Marrakesh, Morocco
- ii. 11<sup>th</sup> Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit Meeting 05-09 December 2018, Morocco
- iii. Intergovernmental Conference to adopt a Global Compact for the Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, 10-11 December 2018

This Division facilitated the participation Sri Lanka delegation at the above event.

### **3.8. EXPO 2025**

The Government of Sri Lanka has supported the Japan's candidature to host the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, at the 164<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) held in Paris on 23 November 2018.

## **4. Statistics of Issuance of Visa From January 2018 to December 2018**

The Economic Affairs Division coordinated the issuance of visa for short term visits of officials of the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Japan International Cooperation Agency etc. and also facilitated visas for participants at workshops and seminars organized by the various Government agencies.

Visa Category							
Short term Gratis Visa		Short term Business Visa		Multiple Entry/Long term visa		Residence/Entry visa recommendation	
To whom	No. of Visas	To Whom	No. of Visas	To Who m	No. of Visas	To Whom	No. of Visas
ADB	06	Sri Lanka Tea Board	04	AIIB	04	ADB	02
World Bank	211	WIPO	02			World Bank	40
JICA	69	FCCISL	18			JICA	37
Others	85					Colombo Plan	16
						IMF	04
						IFC	11
						others	02

Several short and long term scholarships were facilitated for Sri Lankan students, Professionals and Government officials through the Colombo Plan, Singapore Technical Cooperation Programme, Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme, UNESCAP, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Indian Government.

Substantive issues relating to the Colombo Plan are also handled by this Division. The Economic Affairs and Trade Division participated at the 294<sup>th</sup> and 295<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Colombo Plan Council Meetings.

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# Europe and Central Asia Division



## **Europe and Central Asia Division**

The Political Affairs (Europe and Central Asia) Division comprises of two geographical regions and covers work pertaining to Sri Lanka's bilateral relations with countries in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The scope of work of the Division is guided by Sri Lanka Government's foreign policy objectives, which are broadly as follows:

- Promote, enhance and diversify bilateral ties covering cooperation on political, economic, social, security and cultural cooperation.
- Promote economic diplomacy to increase two-way trade flows and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), including tourism.
- Secure development assistance for the reconciliation and peace building processes.
- Promote good relations with the diaspora communities of Sri Lankan origin resident in Europe.
- Promote Sri Lanka's image and interests in Europe and Central Asia.
- Leverage bilateral support to promote Sri Lanka's interests in the EU and at other multilateral and regional fora (European Union, United Nations, etc.). Cooperate with countries in the two regions, who are members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Commonwealth of Nations and within the G77+ China at the United Nations to promote shared interests, including South – South Cooperation, and address common challenges such as poverty, climate change, trade imbalances and food security.

### **A. Europe:**

#### **Territorial Coverage: 43**

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Holy See, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Turkey.

#### **Number of Resident Missions: 14**

Austria, Belgium, France, Germany (Berlin & Frankfurt), Italy (Rome & Milan), Cyprus, Norway, Poland, Sweden, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Turkey.

#### **Number of Concurrent Accreditations: 23**

Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia from Vienna; Luxembourg from Brussels; Spain from Paris; Switzerland, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro from Berlin; Holy See from Geneva, Albania; Greece, Malta, San Marino from Rome; Romania from Warsaw; Denmark; Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania from Stockholm; Finland and Iceland from Oslo; Georgia from Ankara.

## **1. AUSTRIA**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Austria:**

- i. Participated at the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs from 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and organized a side event entitled "Tackling the World Drug Problem in the era of Sustainable Development.'
- ii. Coordinated and facilitated the visit to Sri Lanka by Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 to review cooperation between the IAEA and Sri Lanka. During the visit, Mr. Amano met with Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs and Hon. Ajith P. Perera, the State Minister of Power and Renewable Energy of Sri Lanka.
- iii. Facilitated the participation of a Sri Lanka delegation headed by the Attorney General at the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held from 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Sri Lanka also participated at a side event organized by the United Kingdom titled "Policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The UK approach to tackling cyber-dependent crime" on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- iv. Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka, Chief of Staff to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Project Management, Youth Affairs & Southern Development visited Vienna attended the Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- v. Facilitated the participation of Secretary to the President, Commissioner and a delegation from Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) at the Conference on "Safeguarding Sport from Corruption" held on 05<sup>th</sup> and 06<sup>th</sup> June 2018, the Twelfth meeting of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and the Seventh Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on International Cooperation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- vi. Austrian Business Mission dedicated to project financing accompanied by representatives from the Austrian companies, including AME International GmbH, Med-El GmbH, and Odelga Med Ges. MBH and Hitzinger GmbH visited Sri Lanka from 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to explore investment opportunities. During the visit, the delegation had a meeting with Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Finance and Mass Media of Sri Lanka.
- vii. Liaised and coordinated with the Sri Lanka Hon. Consul in Serbia to facilitate investor/business participation from Serbia at the Investment & Business Conclave 2018 held in Sri Lanka from 19<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> June 2018.
- viii. The Loan Agreement for obtaining financial assistance worth US\$ 50 million from OFID to implement the Technological Education Development Programme was signed on 03<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 at the Headquarters of OFID in Vienna, Austria by Dr R.H.S. Samaratunga, Secretary to the Ministry of Finance and Mass Media on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka and Mr. Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, Director General of OFID on behalf of the OPEC Fund for International Development.
- ix. Attended for the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Conference from 17<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> September 2018 together with a Sri Lanka delegation from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Council and the Atomic Energy Board.

- x. Facilitated participation of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board at the Third Inter-sessional Meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and made arrangements for Mrs. Pabasara Weerasinghe, Assistant Director, Scientific Research to participate as panellist at the session on 'Cross cutting Issues: drugs, human rights, youth, children, women and communities' on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- xi. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Austria together with the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau participated at the Ferien – Messe Wien 2018, the largest holiday and travel show in Austria.
- xii. Organized a tea promotion event and arranged a presentation entitled "Sri Lanka Pearl of the Indian Ocean" at the travel cinema event.

#### **Programmes in Progress:**

- xiii. The Central Environment Authority of Sri Lanka has indicated interest in obtaining a system as proposed by the Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), for a waste management project in Sri Lanka. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Austria has been pursuing this project with the relevant UNIDO authorities.
- xiv. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Austria discussed with UNODC, the availability of funding of 2 million pounds from the UK Windsor Fund to counter trafficking in persons in Sri Lanka. This programme would be coordinated by the Regional Office for South Asia based in New Delhi and would be within Sub Programme 1 of the UNODC Regional Programme for South Asia 2018 – 2021.

## **2. BELGIUM**

#### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Belgium:**

- i. Embassy of Sri Lanka in Belgium together with Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB), organized the Sri Lanka Pavilion at the 60<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Brussels Holiday Fair 2018 held at the Brussels Expo from 01<sup>st</sup> – 04<sup>th</sup> February 2018. 12 Sri Lankan travel companies participated in the fair.
- ii. Photographic exhibition entitled "Land Like No Other" depicting Sri Lanka's tourist attractions was held from 1<sup>st</sup>– 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the exhibition hall of the Brussels Press Club.
- iii. Organized a Sri Lanka Boat Industry Promotional Programme at the Boating Point of the biggest fair of the boat sector in Belgium held at the Flanders Expo on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018. 4 member delegation from the Department of Commerce of Sri Lanka, Representatives from the Belgian Boating Associations, Belgian Boating Companies and Media Personnel attended the promotional event.
- iv. Initiated action for a draft MOU between the University of Gent and the Ocean University of Sri Lanka. Two Senior Lecturers of the Ocean University visited Belgium in February 2018 to discuss possibilities of obtaining technical assistance to develop a marine laboratory at the Ocean University.
- v. A tourism Road Show was organized in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at the Hotel Metropole, Brussels. Travel and tour operators from Sri Lanka had an opportunity to meet with Belgium travel and tour operators at this event.

- vi. Embassy of Sri Lanka in Belgium together with the Belgium Bricks Federation arranged a Technical Exposure Programme for 11 Member Tiles and Bricks manufacturers delegation organized by the EDB in April 2018. Sri Lankan delegation visited Vandersanden NV, Weinerberger NV and Briqueteries de Ploegsteert SA who are the leading bricks and tiles manufacturers in Belgium. Sri Lankan participants expressed that they were able to achieve a good exposure in new technology of the bricks and tiles manufacturing sector.
- vii. Embassy of Sri Lanka in Belgium together with the Export Development Board organised a Sri Lanka Pavilion exhibiting seafood products at the European Seafood Global Expo in Brussels in April 2018. 9 Sri Lankan seafood exporters participated at the Exhibition.
- viii. Embassy of Sri Lanka in Belgium together with EDB organized business forums in collaboration with Flanders Investment and Trade Agency (FIT) and Brussels Enterprises Commerce and Industry, Brussels Invest & Export and Wallonia Export Investment Agency with the participation of Belgium companies on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018. A 33 member Sri Lanka trade delegation led by the Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade of Sri Lanka attended.
- ix. A tourism promotional event in collaboration with Emirates Airlines was held at the Sri Lanka Residence on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018 with the participation of travel and tour operators in Belgium.
- x. World Customs Organisation (WCO) Sessions of the 131<sup>st</sup> Customs Cooperation Council were held at the WCO Headquarters in Brussels in July 2018. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Belgium facilitated the participation of the Sri Lanka delegation led by Ms. S. M. Charles, Director General of Customs.
- xi. Facilitated the visit of the 06 Member delegation from the Belgium - Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Belgium Federal Parliament to Sri Lanka from 14<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The delegation was led by Senator Ms. Petra De Sutter, Chair of the Sri Lanka – Belgium Parliamentary Group. During the visit, the delegation met with Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Speaker and senior Cabinet Ministers of Sri Lanka.
- xii. Coordinated with the FINEXPO the implementation of Kolonna and Balangoda Water Supply Project, reconstruction of Seven Railway Bridges and Buttala- Monaragala Water Supply Project, which is co-financed by the Government of Belgium through its Export Credit Scheme.
- xiii. Organized business match making meetings for the representatives from FADNA Tea to promote herbal tea in September 2018.

### **3. CYPRUS**

#### **Activities undertaken by the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Cyprus:**

- i. A Consulate General in Cyprus was opened in November 2017 in order to enhance economic diplomacy and increase consular services to the expatriate community in Cyprus.
- ii. The Consulate General has initiated discussions with the Cypriot labour authorities to recruit skilled Sri Lankan labour in the hospitality, health and construction sectors.

- iii. Two-way tourism promotion activities and bilateral cooperation in this sector are being pursued with the tourism authorities and travel agents in Cyprus.

#### **4. CZECH REPUBLIC**

##### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Austria concurrently accredited to the Czech Republic:**

- i. Agreement between the Ministry of Development Strategies and International trade of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic on Mutual Cooperation was signed on 07<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- ii. Hon. Tilak Marapana Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Czech Republic from 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May 2018. During the visit, Hon. Minister had a bilateral meeting with Hon. Mr. Martin Stropnický, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Hon. Minister also met with the President of the Senate Mr. Milan Stech, Mayor of Prague and the members of the Czech Chamber of Commerce.
- iii. A delegation led by H.E. Milan Stech, the President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic accompanied by a Czech business delegation visited Sri Lanka from 20<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

#### **5. DENMARK**

##### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Sweden concurrently accredited to the Kingdom of Denmark:**

- i. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Sweden together with the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) and the Sri Lankan Travel Agents participated at the 'FERIE FOR ALLE', the Danish Travel Show, from 23<sup>rd</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

#### **6. ESTONIA**

##### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Sweden concurrently accredited to Estonia:**

- i. On an invitation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, H.E. the Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Sweden visited the Republic of Estonia to attend the National Day celebrations of the Republic of Estonia on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018. During the visit, H.E. the Ambassador held meetings with high level officials of the Government of Estonia to explore avenues such as IT, cyber security and hospitality sector training (tourism) for future bilateral cooperation.
- ii. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Sweden facilitated the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau to represent Sri Lanka at "Tourest 2018" Travel Fair in Estonia from 09<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

## **7. FINLAND**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Norway concurrently accredited to Finland:**

- i. Facilitated the visit to Sri Lanka by Hon. Petri Peltonen, Undersecretary of State, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland accompanied by a Finnish business delegation from 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> June 2018. During the visit, the following MoUs were signed;
  - a. MoU between the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland Concerning Cooperation in the field of Health.
  - b. MoU between the Ministry of Telecommunication, Digital Infrastructure and Foreign Employment of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Transport & Communications of Finland Concerning Cooperation in the areas of Digitalization.
  - c. MoU in the field of Vocational Education and Training in Secondary Education between the Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland.
- ii. The First Session of Bilateral Political Consultations between Sri Lanka and Finland was held on 01 October 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo. The Sri Lankan delegation was led by Mr. Sumith Nakandala, Additional Secretary (Bilateral Affairs) and the Finnish delegation was led by Ambassador Kimmo Lähdevirta, Director General for the America's and Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

The discussions broadly focused on bilateral trade and investment; follow up on the progress being made in the areas of education (vocational training), health, renewable energy, Information and Communication Technology and digitalization; ways and means to enhance mutually beneficial cooperation through exchange of expertise and joint collaborative programmes in the sectors of e-government, critical communications, cyber security, climate change and mitigation, forestry, defense, tourism, and development of smart cities.

## **8. FRANCE**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in France:**

- i. Facilitated the visit to Belgium by Hon. Eran Wickramaratne, State Minister of Finance and delegation to participate at the Conference Against Terrorism Financing held in April 2018 at the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD). The Summit was organized as a two-day conference, to share international expertise and best practices that with regard to combating sources of terrorism funding and channels of funding.
- ii. Coordinated and organized Sri Lanka's participation at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the "Salon Mondial du Tourism" from 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March 2018 in Paris.
- iii. Arranged training programme for three conservators representing the Department of Archaeology and the Central Cultural Fund under the 'Cooperation in the field of

Heritage Conservation agreement' on 19<sup>th</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The programme was sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of France.

- iv. Arranged a book launch by Sri Lankan writer Ashok Ferry and cultural performances at the United Nations Educational Science & Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Headquarters with the participation of the diplomatic corps, business community, and media personnel on 03<sup>rd</sup> April 2018.
- v. Organized a meeting between Hon. Faiszer Mustapha, Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government and representatives of the Sri Lankan community living in France on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Hon. Minister briefed the community on progress made in the reconciliation process and efforts to ease communal tensions perpetrated by organized groups.
- vi. Organized a one day symposium at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris to celebrate the International UN Day of Vesak on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Hon. Wijayadasa Rajapaksha, Minister of Higher Education and Cultural Affairs was the guest of honour. The programme consisted of an opening ceremony, panel discussion and a cultural show featuring traditional Sri Lankan dance, including performances from other Asian countries. The event was attended by over 1200 participants.
- vii. Mrs. Hélène Conway-Mouret, Vice- Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces Committee of the French Senate visited Sri Lanka from 05<sup>th</sup>-08<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- viii. Coordinated and organized the Sri Lanka Day in collaboration with the International Buddhist Center in Paris from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018.
- ix. Facilitated the visit of the Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Megapolis and Western Development and Western Development to France 30<sup>th</sup> June to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Investment Forum was organized at the MEDEF International (French business Confederation) with over 15 French companies, interested in investing in Sri Lanka. Following those meetings, SNCF (French Train Company) visited Sri Lanka on a study tour to develop a programme for the Megapolis Project.
- x. The tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between Sri Lanka's Board of Investment, Export Development Board of Sri Lanka and Business France was signed in Colombo in July 2018 to enhance cooperation, trade and investment between the two countries.
- xi. Participated at the Texworld Apparel Sourcing, Paris - 2018 in collaboration with the Export Development Board. Six apparel exporters and two designers participated at this event held from 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- xii. Coordinated and organized Sri Lanka's participation at the Gastronomy Village held from 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 in Paris.
- xiii. Coordinated and organized Sri Lanka's participation at the IFTM TOP RESA 2018, held from 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018, in Paris.
- xiv. A delegation led by Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education participated at the 205 session of the Executive Board of UNESCO from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
- xv. Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries and Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare, State Minister of Agriculture participated in the "SIAL International Food and Beverage Exhibition" held from 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

- xvi. Assisted the GoSL delegation to represent Sri Lanka at the 13 session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage from 26<sup>th</sup> November to 1 December 2018.
- xvii. Facilitated the following media visits and filming in Sri Lanka:
  - “Off Roads” Tourism documentary
  - “One Planet” Wildlife documentary
  - ARTE France on “Invitation au voyage”
  - TV3 cultural show on “Faut Pas Rêver”
  - Visit of the Spanish Travel Agents Associations (CEAV) to Sri Lanka as preliminary tour prior to holding its Annual Conference in Sri Lanka
- xviii. Facilitated the following tourism promotion events:
  - 43<sup>rd</sup> edition of the “Salon Mondial du Tourism” from 15<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018 in Paris
  - The Gastronomy Village, held from 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2018 in Paris
  - IFTM TOP RESA 2018, held from 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in Paris.
  - IBTM World 2018, 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Barcelona, Spain
  - ILTM Luxury Travel Show 2018, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018 in Cannes
  - Annual Conference of the Spanish Travel Agents Associations (CEAV) AND b2bsession, 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in Colombo.

## **9. GEORGIA**

**Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey concurrently accredited to Georgia:**

- i. Facilitated Sri Lanka’s participation led by H.E. the President of Sri Lanka at the 5<sup>th</sup> Open Government Partnership Forum from 6<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> July 2018.
- ii. Facilitated a bilateral meeting between H.E. the President of Sri Lanka and his Georgian counterpart on the sidelines of 5<sup>th</sup> Open Government Partnership Forum held in Tbilisi from 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> July 2018.
- iii. Facilitated B2B meetings between tour operators in Georgia and Sri Lanka in August 2018.
- iv. Two member delegations from the Georgian State Military Scientific Technical Centre (DELT) visited Sri Lanka from 03<sup>rd</sup>- 06<sup>th</sup> September 2018 for discussions with Senior Officials of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Public Administration, Management and Law & Order of Sri Lanka focusing on enhanced military cooperation between the two countries.
- v. Held discussions with renowned tour operators on promoting Sri Lanka as a tourist destination in Georgia.
- vi. Successfully Obtained Turkey’s support for Sri Lanka’s candidature to the Intergovernmental safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural heritage for the term 2018-2022.
- vii. An Honorary Consulate of Georgia was established in Sri Lanka.

## **10. GERMANY**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Germany:**

- i. Prof. Dr. Eckardt visited Sri Lanka on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to conduct a study on CKDU and to explore possible assistance that could be extended by the Government of Germany to Sri Lanka in this regard.
- ii. Controller General of the Department of Immigration and Emigration of Sri Lanka and delegation visited Germany from 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 for meetings regarding re-admission and deportation.
- iii. Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare, State Minister of Agriculture visited Germany from 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to participate at the international Green Week.
- iv. A Delegation of German Industry and Commerce was established in Sri Lanka on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to further advance bilateral trade and investment.
- v. Hon. John Amaratunga, Minister of Tourism, and Christian Religious Affairs visited Berlin on 06<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- vi. Coordinated the participation of Sri Lanka in International Tourismusbörse (ITB) – International Travel Trade Show at the Messe Berlin. Sri Lanka pavilion won the 7<sup>th</sup> place in the competition from 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- vii. MoU between the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka was signed on 06<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- viii. Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka visited Germany to participate at the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue (BETD) held from 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018. During the visit, Hon. Minister had a meeting with Hon. Niels Annen, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- ix. Hon. Sagala Ratnayake, Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister and Minister of Youth Affairs of Sri Lanka visited Munich from 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- x. Facilitated the Solar Conference in Munich, under the theme of "Self-supply of buildings with solar energy in Sri Lanka" organized by the OAV. H.E the Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Germany delivered the Keynote address at the Conference on 03<sup>rd</sup> July 2018.
- xi. Coordinated the Tourism Road shows in Hamburg, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt and Munich from 03<sup>rd</sup>-06<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- xii. Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade visited Germany from 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to participate at the Business Forums organized in Germany.
- xiii. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Germany facilitated the investment/economic forum during the visit of Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade to Germany from 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> September 2018, in collaboration with the Delegation of German Chambers and Industry, and Board of Investment of Sri Lanka.

- xiv. A dialogue on Sri Lankan Cinema was organized and the Sinhala Film 'Ira HandaYata' was screened at the Embassy. Producer and the Director of the film Mr.Benette Ratnayake attended the event and explained the background and concept of this film.
- xv. Organized a cultural evening for the Ambassadors and Diplomats of the Asia-Pacific region at the Official residence to showcase facets of Sri Lankan traditional dance.
- xvi. Organized a Bicycle rally from the Berlin City Centre to Embassy premises with the participation of Diplomatic community, Sri Lankans and Germans in Berlin, to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Germany.
- xvii. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Germany ceremoniously presented 'Atavisi' Buddha statues to the Buddhist temple in Berlin.
- xviii. Initiated the process to have a sapling of the sacred Sri Maha Bodhi flown to Berlin to be ceremonially handed over to the Frohnau Buddhist temple in Berlin on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- xix. Continuing discussions with the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Energy and the German Federal Foreign Office regarding the recruitment of geriatric nurses from Sri Lanka as per the MoU signed in 2016.
- xx. The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Frankfurt facilitated the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (SLEDB), Tea Board, Coconut Development Authority, National Gem and Jewellery Authority and Department of Commerce to organise Sri Lanka's participation in Trade Fairs in Germany. Sri Lankan exhibitors participated in 16 trade fairs in Germany. Promoted 19 German trade fairs among the Sri Lankan exporters and facilitated the visit of 400 exhibitors/visitors. Assisted 04 Business delegations from Germany to Sri Lanka and 17 business delegations from Sri Lanka to Germany.
- xxi. The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Frankfurt facilitated the visit of Hon. Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade and the investment promotion roadshows held in Frankfurt, Hamburg and Berlin with the assistance of Trade and Industry chambers in Germany and the German Asia Pacific Business Association (OAV). Two networking events for trade and investment promotion were facilitated with the assistance of OAV and the Federal Ministry of Economy and Energy.
- xxii. The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Frankfurt facilitated the Roadshows arranged by the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotional Bureau in 4 cities, Munich, Dusseldorf, Hamburg and Frankfurt.
- xxiii. The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Frankfurt facilitated the visit to Sri Lanka by 05 graduate students of Kassel University under a youth exchange programme introduced with the assistance of the National Youth Service Council (NYSC) of Sri Lanka. The feedback programme was held on November 14, 2018 at the Kassel University with participation of its academics, students. Minister of this Consulate attended the said programme and the Additional Secretary (Youth Affairs) from Colombo too addressed the gathering via Skype. The Consulate is working with the University of Kassel for convenient dates for the reciprocal visit by the Sri Lankan youth delegation.

## **11. ITALY**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Italy:**

- i. The Consul General of Sri Lanka in Milan met with the Milan Prefetto Luciana Lamorgese from 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to discuss advancing cooperation between the Milan Metropolitan Government and Sri Lanka.
- ii. On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018, the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Italy organized a special cultural programme entitled '*Flavours of Sri Lanka*' at the Westin Excelsior Hotel in Rome with the participation of the State Dance Troupe of Sri Lanka. Also organized from 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 a special Sri Lankan Food Week at the Doney Restaurant of the Westin Excelsior with the assistance of 2 Senior Sri Lankan Chefs from the Amaya Hills Hotel in Kandy. The programme promoted Sri Lankan food and culture among the Italian visitors.
- iii. Conducted a series of trade and tourism promotional programmes, i.e Sri Lanka Food Week and the Dinner Reception, held from 09<sup>th</sup>– 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, in Rome, Sri Lanka Cultural Evening on 10<sup>th</sup> February in Florence and Sri Lanka's participation at BIT Tourism Exhibition on 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, held in Milan, having 20 travel companies from Sri Lanka for B2B meetings.
- iv. Sri Lanka participated at 05<sup>th</sup> IFAD-11<sup>th</sup> Replenishment Consultations and attended at the 41<sup>st</sup> IFAD Governing Council held in February 2018. Sri Lanka also participated at the WFP's Executive Board Meeting and its Executive Board Annual Session held in February and June 2018 respectively, and the Mission encouraged private sector participation and fund raising of school meal & nutritional programme in Sri Lanka in line with the WFP's Country Strategic Plan approved for Sri Lanka for 2018–2022 period.
- v. Discussions were held between the Italian Foreign Ministry and H.E the Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Rome, as well as with the Resident Ambassadors of accredited countries of Cyprus, Greece, Albania, and Malta on 28<sup>th</sup> February – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 on areas of mutual support for Sri Lanka's candidature for a seat in the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in Group IV for the term 2018-2022. Positive responses were received. The Italian side accepted a reciprocal support arrangement to support each others candidatures.
- vi. Mr. Carmine Capasso was appointed as Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka in Naples on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- vii. The Consul General of Sri Lanka in Milan participated in the seminar on "Role of Economic Diplomacy "organized by the Milan Chamber of Commerce on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018, and also participated at the panel discussion and made a presentation on Investment / business prospects in Sri Lanka.
- viii. Sri Lanka Country Presentation was conducted at Turin Chamber of Commerce on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Minister (Commercial) made individual site-visits in Turin to meet with prospective Italian investors and buyers for Sri Lanka's rubber products, food, spices, coir, and travel goods.
- ix. The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Milan facilitated the visit of Hon. Wijewardene, State Minister of Defence to Milan from 30<sup>th</sup> May to 04<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

- x. The Hoeplie Publishers, Italy in partnership with the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Milan conducted the launch of the book titled "IL PONTE DI ADAMO" (The Bridge of Adam), by renowned Italian journalist Luca Novelli, at the house of Manzoni on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018.
- xi. Embassy of Sri Lanka in Italy facilitated a Study Tour of Food Processing and Packaging for 13-member delegation from Sri Lanka to Milan, from 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June, jointly with EDB and the ITC.
- xii. His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena visited Italy from 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> July upon an invitation by the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to address the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the 06<sup>th</sup> World Forest Week held at FAO headquarters in Rome, from 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> July 2018.
- xiii. Following the Embassy's proposal to establish a Consulate General Office in Cyprus, preparations are presently underway for the opening of the new Consulate General Office of Sri Lanka in Nicosia, Cyprus at an early date. The newly appointed Consul General of Sri Lanka in Nicosia, Cyprus has taken up duties on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- xiv. Continues to participate in the Committee Meetings, Formal and Informal Seminars, FAO Council etc, covering subject areas such as, Genetic Resources, Biodiversity, Forests, Climate Change, Gender Balance, Food Security, Nutrition, Phytosanitary Measures, Code of Conduct of Fertilizers, Sustainable Soil, Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems (GIAHS), Fisheries, Aquaculture, Commodity Problems, including International Tea Day, FAO funded field visits, Collaboration of Rome-based UN agencies & its MOU, UN Reforms, South-South Cooperation, Asia Regional Group's monthly meetings (Sri Lanka as the Chair) and G77 & China Bureau & Plenary Meetings etc.
- xv. Organized a visit by a 06-member business delegation from Sri Lanka to explore joint ventures in the boat building sector in Sri Lanka. The private sector delegation travelled to Genoa and Milan, from 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> September 2018, and attended the Genoa Boat Show, Italian Marine Industry Association (UCINA), and met with select Italian boat manufacturers i.e. Sanlorenzos.p.a, Amer Yacht, Assomarinas, FB Design Company srl, F.Ili De Angelis Company, Rancraft Yachts, Nuova Jolly Marine srl, International Marine Company and Delta Blue Company.
- xvi. A 5-member market exposure programme for Sri Lankan footwear manufacturers, from 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September 2018, in Milan, was organized jointly by the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB).
- xvii. Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) was assisted to conduct outdoor tourism advertising campaign in Italy and the Embassy is assisting SLTPB to have a Tourism Roadshow in Rome and to participate at TTG Incontri Travel exhibition in Rimini, in October. Also SLTPB has been assisted to publish 02 travel advertisements in leading travel magazines in Italy.
- xviii. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Italy together with the Italian Foreign Ministry and the Global Action Association of Italy participated in the programme of 'Diplomacy Education' on 23<sup>rd</sup> February to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018. This was done jointly with other Diplomatic Missions in Rome. The Embassy of Sri Lanka was twinned with an Italian School (Liceo Majorana) and H.E the Ambassador and the Diplomatic Officers held several interactive sessions with the group of 25 students (Age16-17) on areas of bilateral/political, cultural and consular cooperation, including trade and investment in Sri Lanka. The Italian

students at the conclusion of the programme represented Sri Lanka at the Model UN session which was held in May 2018 at the WFP Headquarters in Rome.

- xix. Signing ceremony of the Tripartite Agreement of the FAO-China-Sri Lanka South-South Cooperation was held at FAO, Rome on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture of Sri Lanka joined the Deputy Director-General (programmes) of FAO and the Ambassador of China for the signing of the agreement. The objective of this project (at the total value of over USD 1.1 million), is to assist Sri Lanka to improve the production and commercialization of 3 fruit crops of Banana, Mango and pineapple.

## **12. LATVIA**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Sweden concurrently accredited to Latvia:**

- i. His Excellency Raimonds Vējonis, the President of the Republic of Latvia and Mrs. Iveta Vējonis, Spouse of the President of Latvia visited in Sri Lanka on a private tour from 06<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> January 2018.
- ii. Facilitated visit to Latvia by Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries from 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Main purpose of the visit was to promote and expand the market share of Ceylon Tea in the Baltic Countries.

## **13. LITHUANIA**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Sweden concurrently accredited to Lithuania:**

- i. Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries of Sri Lanka led delegation visited in Lithuania from 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Main purpose of the visit was to promote and expand the market share of Ceylon Tea in the Baltic Countries.
- ii. Continues to engage in a dialogue with the management of 'Visatex' Garment Factory in Lithuania to provide proper facilities to the employees from Sri Lanka.

## **14. LUXEMBOURG**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Belgium concurrently accredited to Luxembourg:**

- i. Together with the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB), organized the Sri Lanka Pavilion at the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the Vakanz Tourism Fair (Vakanz salon Du Tourisme) which was held from 12th- 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in Luxembourg.
- ii. Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade met with Director General of the EIB in Luxembourg on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and discussed the implementation of the Greater Colombo Wastewater Management Project, which is funded by the EIB.
- iii. Together with the SLTPB organized a Sri Lanka Tourism promotional event for Luxembourg Tour operators in Luxembourg on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in Luxembourg. The main purpose of the event was to create awareness, share knowledge and promote Sri Lanka as a desired destination for tour operators in Luxembourg.

- iv. Together with the Sri Lanka Export Development Board, and Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce organized a roundtable discussion on Discover Sri Lanka, in Luxembourg followed by a networking lunch with Luxembourg companies. A 25 member Sri Lanka trade delegation led by the Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade of Sri Lanka attended the event.
- v. Facilitated the visit by Mr. G. S. Withanage, Secretary, and Ministry of Transport & Civil Aviation of Sri Lanka and delegation to the Luxembourg to conduct negotiations with the Luxembourg Civil Aviation Authority in July 2018.
- vi. A Memorandum of Understanding between Cargolux and Sri Lanka Civil Aviation Authority was signed in July 2018.
- vii. Air Services Agreement between Sri Lanka and Luxembourg was also signed on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in New York on the sidelines of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of UNGA to promote two-way tourism.

## **15. MACEDONIA**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Austria concurrently accredited to Macedonia:**

- i. Facilitated a visit to Macedonia by a Parliamentary delegation led by Hon. Sumanthiran, Hon. Janaka Balasooriya, Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma, with the Secretary General of Parliament Mr. Dharmika Dissanayake from 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

## **16. The NETHERALANDS**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in the Netherlands:**

- i. Organized the "Vakantiebeurs-2018" tourism fair in coordination with Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) from 09<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> January 2018.
- ii. Organized the Internatioanl Vesak day programme on 10 May 2018 which included a *Bakthi Gee* programme, a Vesak pandol, *Dansala* and launching of the Book titled "Monks and Monkeys" written by Ven Olande Ananda Thero.
- iii. Facilitated a visit of a 31 member trade delegation, representing 21 companies led by Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade to The Netherlands from 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The programme consisted of two components; a seminar entitled "Doing business in Sri Lanka" and B2B meetings.
- iv. Mr.Peter Potman, Director of the Asia and Oceania Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands visited Sri Lanka from 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and met with Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- v. Facilitated the Vesak Day programme organized by the *Mahamevnawa* Buddhist Monastery and mobilized the participation of several Ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- vi. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in the Netherlands has an ongoing dialogue with the Dutch authorities to resolve the longstanding issue related to the non-refund of VAT payments to the Embassy, which the authorities have linked to the non-payment by the Mission of

Social Security arrears relating to the locally recruited staff. Despite the best efforts of the Mission, the involuntary repatriation of failed asylum seekers to Sri Lanka, using the Readmission Case Management System (RCMS) has not been successful, due to the non-cooperation of the Dutch authorities. However, the Mission has been able to send seven (07) Sri Lankans home on a voluntary basis with IOM assistance, on travel documents generated by the same RCMS.

- vii. Sri Lanka was elected to the Executive Board (EB) of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) to represent India, Pakistan & Sri Lanka constituency at an EB meeting in April. The Mission also coordinated the visit of the Solicitor-General, Hon. Dappula De Livera, P.C., to The Hague in June to attend an international conference on the enforcement of foreign judgments, organized by The Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), as well as his visit to The Hague in September to attend the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the HCCH.
- viii. The Mission also has an active engagement with the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA).The Mission has closely followed developments in the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).The Mission attended the following Meetings and sent reports to the Ministry, namely, 89<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council (EC), 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018; 61<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the EC, 5 November 2018; 23<sup>rd</sup> Session Conference of the States Parties (CSP), 19,20 & 29 November 2018 and 4<sup>th</sup>Review Conference (RC), 21<sup>st</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

## 17. NORWAY

### Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Norway:

- i. **Oslo Tourism Fair -13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> January 2018** - Organized Sri Lanka's participation at the Premier Travel Fair held in Oslo "Reiselivsmessen 2018" with the collaboration of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotional Bureau (SLTPB). Overall 50,000 world Travelers visited "Reiselivsmessen 2018".
- ii. **Hamar Children's Festival- 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>June 2018** - Arranged a Sri Lanka Stall at the annual Children's Festival in Hamar in June 2018. Activities for children were conducted along with promoting Sri Lanka as a tourist destination.
- iii. Mr. Jens Frølich Holte, State Secretary for Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of Norway visited Sri Lanka from 20<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018. The visit coincided with the arrival of the Norwegian Marine Research Vessel Dr. Fridtjof Nansen (Owned by NORAD and jointly operated by the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR) and the University of Bergen (UIB)) to survey Sri Lanka's fish resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

During the above visit, the State Secretary Holte held meetings with Hon. Vijith Vijayamuni Zoysa, Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development and Rural Economy, Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Finance and Mass Media, Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister of City Planning and Water Supply, Hon. R. Sampanthan, Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Vasanth Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, Secretary/Foreign Affairs.

- iv. Mr. Jens Frølich Holtealso addressed the Symposium on "*SDG 14 – Life Below Water*" on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018, which was organized by the Ministry of Fisheries, in collaboration with the Norwegian Embassy in Colombo and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also visited

Jaffna and took part in a beach cleanup programme and opened a vegetable and fruit packing centre. On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018, the State Secretary opened a Business Conference on Blue Economy for participants from the maritime, marine and aquaculture sectors in both countries, to look at promoting ocean-based industries and building partnerships within the blue economy sector.

- v. A fifteen-member Parliamentary delegation from Sri Lanka visited Norway from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 06<sup>th</sup> October to participate in a programme arranged by the Oslo Center of Norway.
- vi. H.E. the Ambassador hosted a Reception on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to introduce the Sri Lanka IT Start-up Companies that participated at "Oslo Innovation Week", International Conference on IT. Invitees from ICT-Norway, Norwegian IT Industry, and SLASSCOM Sri Lanka attended the Reception.
- vii. The Embassy participated the annual Sri Lankan Cultural Event "Prathibha" held in August 2018.
- viii. "ANTOR Norway" Spring 2017 Network Forum - The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Norway participated at the ANTOR Press Workshop held in Bergen and in Oslo in August 2018. Activities were conducted to promote Sri Lanka as a tourist destination.
- ix. Participated at the "OPPLEV MER" ANTOR Pavilion in Lillestrom, Norway held from 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The event mainly targeted senior citizens. This fair aimed at promoting four different sections which include leisure, health, travel and the economy.
- x. A study visit to Norway by a 15 member delegation of Sri Lankan Parliamentarians led by Hon. Niroshan Perera, State Minister of National policies and Economic Affairs was undertaken on 30<sup>th</sup> September-6<sup>th</sup> October, 2018. The focus of the programme was on coalition building and mechanisms for consensus.
- xi. Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka visited Norway on 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> October. He was accompanied by the Fisheries Minister, official delegation, business delegation and media delegation.  
During the above visit, a joint statement was signed between the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister of Norway which covered the SDG goals, sustainable management of ocean resources and private sector collaboration.
- xii. Hosted an event to promote Sri Lanka tourism via Aeroflot's direct route from Moscow-Colombo.
- xiii. Participated at a Tourism event, ANTWOR 2018, in Bergen and Oslo to promote Sri Lanka tourism.
- xiv. A number of Sri Lanka ICT firms visited Norway to participate at "Innovation Norway" programme.
- xv. Participated at an event, "Opplev Mer", at Lillistorm to promote Sri Lanka tourism.
- xvi. Sri Lanka Ambassador to Norway met with Professor Dan Banik, Centre for Development and Environment, University of Oslo to discuss the possibility of having SDG conference in Sri Lanka.

- xvii. Sri Lanka Ambassador to Norway met Mr. Reider Vestby of "Deep River AS" a company engaged in converting water into energy.
- xviii. The Embassy staff participated in a cultural event held by "Thisarana", Sri Lanka community group.
- xix. The ambassador met Sri Ravi Krishna, an Indian spiritual leader to discuss the work he was undertaking in Sri Lanka.

## 18. POLAND

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Poland:**

- i. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs accompanied by a Sri Lankan Business paid an official visit to Poland from 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>February 2018. During the visit, Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs held bilateral discussions with Hon. Marek Magierowski, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, Hon. Jan Widera, Deputy Minister of Sports and Tourism and Hon. Tadeusz Koscinski, Deputy Minister of Entrepreneurship and Technology etc.  
  
During the above visit, a MoU between the Ministry of Sports of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Poland and Agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of Poland on Air Transport were signed.
- ii. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Poland together with the Polish Chamber of Commerce organized a Business Forum and B2B meetings on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018. 40 Polish companies participated.
- iii. Facilitated Sri Lanka companies to participate at the Euro Gastro Exhibition from 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>March 2018.
- iv. Participated at the Exhibition of Traditional Games of Asia, at the Asia Pacific Museum in Warsaw on 06<sup>th</sup>April 2018.
- v. Sri Lanka Tea Board in association with Embassy of Sri Lanka in Poland participated at the World Food Warsaw from 10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- vi. Participated at the Expo Mazuri in Ostroda held from 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>April 2018 (the third Edition of the Mazuri HorecaTrade Show).
- vii. Sri Lanka Tea Board in association with Embassy of Sri Lanka in Poland participated at the World Food Warsaw on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- viii. Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau in association with the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Poland participated at the Road Show on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in Warsaw, and on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in Krakow in Poland.
- ix. Participated at the First Corporate Film Festival in Poland, the Warsaw Corporate Film Festival on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- x. Hosted a meeting / seminar for Students of Warsaw Schools of Economics.

- xi. Initiated and coordinated the recruiting of 300 Sri Lankans to the M/s Livas & Bambos Clothing (Pvt) Ltd, Romania.

## **19. PROTUGAL**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in France concurrently accredited to Portugal:**

- i. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka paid an official visit to Portugal from 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

During the visit, Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka held bilateral meetings with H.E Teresa Ribeiro, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Portugal , Hon. Luis Filipe de Castro Mendes, the Minister of Culture of Portugal, the Chairman of the Museu do Oriente (Museum of the Orient) and Mr. Joao Neves, the Head of the Instituto Camões. The discussions focused to sharing cooperation to promote two way tourism, explore the possibility of obtaining assistance from the Portuguese Government to renovate the Fort of Mannar, enhance cooperation between Museums of the two countries and establishment of a Portuguese language Center in Sri Lanka.

## **20. ROMENIA**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Poland concurrently accredited to Romania:**

- i. Facilitated the establishment of the Sri Lanka-Romania Parliamentary Friendship Association on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018.
- ii. Hon. Daya Gamage, Minister of Primary Industries and Social Welfare of Sri Lanka visited Romania from 4<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and met with Hon. Teodor Melescanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania. The discussions focused on strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries in the areas of energy, railway and port infrastructure, ship, agriculture, food industry and textiles.
- iii. Two Sri Lankan Gymnastic players participated at the Gymnastic Training Camp which was held in Romania from 06<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 under the MoU between Sri Lanka and Romania on Co-operative Partnership in the field of Gymnastics.
- iv. Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka met with H.E. Teodor Melescanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania on the sidelines of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of United Nations General Assembly in New York on 28 September 2018.

## **21. SWEDEN**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Sweden:**

- i. Hon. Ms. Åsa Coenraads, Swedish MP of the Moderate Party, who is of Sri Lankan Origin visited the Embassy on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and assured her continuous engagement and cooperation with the Government of Sri Lanka.

- ii. Coordinated with Swedish institutions to arrange annual training programmes for Sri Lankan officials and two Navy officials conducted by the World Maritime University in Malmo. Worked closely with the Swedish Armed Forces to ensure training opportunities for Sri Lankan defense forces. Sri Lanka received 8 training programs up to September 2018.
- iii. Facilitated a visit by a high level Sri Lankan University delegation comprising three Vice Chancellors and Chairperson of National Science Foundation to the leading academic institutions in Sweden from 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The visit was arranged in collaboration with the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education.
- iv. Facilitated the visit to Wave Power Plant in Lysekil in Southern Sweden by Mr B.M.U. Senaratne Bandara, Deputy General Manager Renewable Energy (CEB) from 13<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- v. Facilitated the Secretarial Delegation of SWITCH Asia Exposure Visit of five Secretaries of the Ministries from Sri Lanka to Sweden and Denmark from 12<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- vi. Facilitated promotion of 10 Sri Lankan trade fairs and 35 trade and investment inquiries and processed 4 Trade related complaints.
- vii. Provided necessary publicity for the 'Yovun Puraya' youth festival among all the host countries.

## **22. SWITZERLAND**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Germany concurrently accredited to Switzerland:**

- i. Sri Lanka and Switzerland have broadened cooperation in the area of migration. The bilateral cooperation in this area has been formalized through the signing of a *Memorandum of Understanding* between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Swiss Confederation on the establishment of a Migration Partnership on 06<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- ii. The MoU which was signed by the Minister of Internal Affairs & Wayamba Development S.B. Nawinna and Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga during her visit to Sri Lanka from 03<sup>rd</sup>- 08<sup>th</sup> August 2018 enables the establishment of a regular and constant dialogue and common reflective process of migration matters beneficial to both countries, especially in the areas of management of migration flows; prevention of irregular migration; readmission of nationals, stateless persons, and third-country nationals; return assistance and reintegration; capacity building in migration governance matters; prevention of smuggling of migrants and fight against human trafficking etc.

## **23. SERBIA**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Austria concurrently accredited to Serbia:**

- i. H.E. Mr. Ivica Dačić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia visited Sri Lanka from 07<sup>th</sup> - 08<sup>th</sup> May 2018. He had meetings with Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the

Parliament, Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Hon. Mr. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation.

- ii. During the visit, a Bilateral Air Services Agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Republic of Serbia was signed on 08<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

## **24. SLOVAKIA**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Austria concurrently accredited to Slovakia:**

- i. His Excellency Peter Kažimír, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic accompanied by a 22 member business delegation visited Sri Lanka from 27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

During the visit, he had meetings with Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Finance and Mass Media, Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry & Commerce and Hon. Eran Wickramaratne, State Minister of Finance & Mass Media of Sri Lanka. A MoU between the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka and the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency was also signed.

## **25. SLOVENIA**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Austria concurrently accredited to Slovenia:**

- i. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka visited Slovenia at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia Karl Erjavec to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> Bled Strategic Forum, which was held from 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018. During the Forum, Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka participated as a panelist at the panel discussion on 'Alone we fail: Working together for a sustainable future'. The panel consisted of high level speakers drawn from different countries representing governments, academia, civil society and the corporate sector.
- ii. During the bilateral segment, State Minister Senanayake met with State Secretary Andrej Logar of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia and reaffirmed Sri Lanka's commitment to further consolidate ties between Sri Lanka and Slovenia, and discussed ways of advancing cooperation in the culture, science, education, trade and Investment sectors.

## **26. SPAIN**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in France concurrently accredited to Spain:**

- i. Coordinated and organized Sri Lanka's participation at the "FITUR Travel Fair 2018 held from 15<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in Madrid, Spain.

## **27. TURKEY**

### **Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey:**

- i. Cultural show with performances by the Sri Lanka national Youth Dance Troupe was held in Oran, Panora, and Ankara on 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2018.
- ii. Cultural show with performances by the Sri Lanka national Youth Dance Troupe was held in , Natavega, Ankara, Turkey on 04<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- iii. Tourism promotional event was held in Natavega, Ankara from 02<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- iv. Ceylon tea promotion event was held on 06<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- v. Tourism promotional event was held at the Hilton Ankara on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- vi. Cultural show with performances by the Sri Lanka national Youth Dance Troupe was held in in Hilton Ankara, Turkey on 06<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- vii. In order to promote Sri Lanka’s image, National Day receptions were held in three main cities of Turkey, namely Ankara, Trabzone and Erzurum on 06<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 ).
- viii. Cultural show with performances by the Sri Lanka national Youth Dance Troupe was held at the Official Residence of the Ambassador, Sri Lanka in Ankara on 07<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- ix. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey arranged B2B meetings between Sri Lanka tour operators and Turkish counterparts on 07<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- x. Cultural show with performances by the Sri Lanka national Youth Dance Troupe was held in Trabzone, Turkey on 08<sup>th</sup>February 2018.
- xi. Cultural show with performances by the Sri Lanka national Youth Dance Troupe was held in Erzurum, Turkey on 09<sup>th</sup>February 2018.
- xii. Cultural show with performances by the Sri Lanka national Youth Dance Troupe was held in Bursa, Turkey on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- xiii. Tourism promotional event was held in Bursa on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- xiv. Cultural show with performances by the Sri Lanka national Youth Dance Troupe was held in at Istanbul Mall, Istanbul, Turkey on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- xv. Represented Sri Lanka at the mid- term Ministerial Meeting of NAM, Baku, Azerbaijan from 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>April 2018.
- xvi. Arranged B2B meetings between coco-peat producers in Sri Lanka and interested business partners in Turkey from 02<sup>nd</sup> -07<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- xvii. Colombo meets Istanbul Workshop wasorganised in collaboration with the Turkish airlines on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- xviii. Participated at 103 Anniversary of Canakkale Land-Wars in Gallipoli on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

- xxix. Participated at the Commonwealth and Ireland Memorial Service at cape Hellis, Canakkale from 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- xx. Tea Promotion event was held at the International Friendship Day, Haccatep University, Ankara on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- xi. Sri Lanka Promotional Event was held in Hotel Divan, Adana on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- xii. Facilitated the study tour of the 18 member delegation from the Defence Services Command and Staff College, Sri Lanka from 03<sup>rd</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- xiii. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the World Food Exhibition in Istanbul on 06<sup>th</sup> -09<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- xiv. Participated at the 87<sup>th</sup> Izmir International Trade Fair - 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- xv. Participated at the International Street food Festival, Antalya from 07<sup>th</sup> -09<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- xvi. Conducted "Sri Lanka Country Presentation- trading with /investing in Sri Lanka" at the Izmir Chamber of Commerce on 06<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- xvii. Obtained Turkey's support through lobbying for Sri Lanka's candidature to the Intergovernmental safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural heritage for the term 2018-2022.
- xviii. Participated at the seminar entitled "Bridge from Euro Asia to South Asia: Turkey-Sri Lanka Relations which was held at Mugla Sitiki Koçman University, Turkey on 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2018.
- xix. Participated at the Ambassadors' summit, organized by the Uludağ University, Bursa on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and the Ambassador delivered a speech on Sri Lanka-Turkey relations.
- xx. Held multifaceted Sri Lanka Promotional Event covering trade, tea and tourism in Bursa on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018, in Koaceli on 14the November 2018 and on Edirne on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
- xxi. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey participated at the annual Charity Bazaar organized by DMEDD (Turkish Foreign Ministry Spouses' association) on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
- xxii. Facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the Travel Turkey Izmir – 12<sup>th</sup> international Tourism Fair and Congress inaugurated on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018.
- xxiii. Organised and participated at the following events:
  - Sri Lankan food festival at the Hilton Ankara from 03<sup>rd</sup> -05<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
  - Sri Lankan culinary show in parallel to the Independence Day Celebrations at Hilton Ankara on 06<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
  - Sri Lankan culinary demonstration at the Official Residence on 07<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

- Sri Lankan culinary demonstration for Turkish Media at the Official Residence on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey facilitated the International Cultural Festival at the Bilkent University, Ankara on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018.
- The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey participated at the Nevruz Celebrations at Kastamonu 2018 Cultural capital of the Turkic Celebrations.
- The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey participated at the Ankara International Cultural Festival organized by Ankara Industrialists and Businessmen Association and People's Media on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

## **28. UNITED KINGDOM (UK)**

### **Activities undertaken by the High Commission of Sri Lanka in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:**

- i. Sri Lanka Tourism participated at-the Holiday Travel Show-Dublin, Ireland, Destination Travel Show-Manchester, Holiday Travel Show- London, National Wedding Show-London, Telegraphic Travel Show- London during January to September 2018.
- ii. His Royal Highness, The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, and Her Royal Highness, The Countess of Wessex, visited Sri Lanka on 31<sup>st</sup> January to 05<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to participateat the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence of Sri Lanka which was held on 04<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- iii. A five-member delegation of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Sri Lanka (APPG SL) from the House of Commons of the UK Parliament led by Hon. Ranil Jayawardana, Member of Parliament of UK), Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Sri Lanka visited Sri Lanka from 03<sup>rd</sup> - 08<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The delegation had meetings with His Excellency the President, Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Speaker, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition of Sri Lanka.
- iv. Hon. Ranil Jayawardana, UK MP, visited Sri Lanka from 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> February as the UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy for Sri Lanka.
- v. The High Commission of Sri Lanka in the UK arranged thevisit by Members of the Public Accounts Committee of the Sri Lankan Parliament to attend a training programme organised by the UK Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in February 2018.
- vi. Arranged the visit of His Excellency the President to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018 from 14<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>April 2018.
- vii. Arranged the visit of Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs to the United Kingdom to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2018 from 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>April 2018. During this visit, the Minister met with the Rt Hon. Mark Field MP, Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.
- viii. Sri Lanka Tea Board together with four (04) companies participated in the 'Natural & Organic Products Europe' show held in April 2018 in London.

- ix. The Sri Lanka High Commission in the UK along with the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau hosted a special screening in May 2018, an episode of the popular TV serial "Made in Chelsea", filmed in Sri Lanka. The event was attended by a number of travel journalists including the Chairman of the British Guild of Travel Writers, representatives of Shangri-La Hotels, Massey Partnership & actors and actresses starring in the TV show.
- x. An interactive investor forum was held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at the High Commission of Sri Lanka in the UK to promote the Real Estate Market in Sri Lanka with the participation of a representative from Condominium Developers Association of Sri Lanka and other stakeholder institutions.
- xi. Attended a Charity event "Their future today", Terrace Pavillion, The House of Commons on 08<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The event focused on assisting orphaned children in Sri Lanka.
- xii. Arranged the visit of Hon. Prime Minister to the United Kingdom from 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018. During the visit, meetings were arranged with including, among others, The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and the Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Mr David Cameron.
- xiii. Coordinated 'Ethera Metthera' Programme in London with the Rupavahini crew that came to London.
- xiv. Facilitated participation of a record number of Sri Lankan small and medium scale business delegates at the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) 2018 held in April 2018 alongside Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London. More than 40 SME representing IT/BPO /Electronics Apparel handicraft, coconut, tourism, Gem and Jewellery, Maritime and Boat Building sectors participated in the forum. Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen who led the Sri Lanka delegation to CBF also represented at an SME Trade Forum as a panellist. H.E. the President of Sri Lanka made a keynote speech at the CBF on Sustainable Development Goals. In addition to that, a Sri Lanka Breakfast Meeting was arranged to invite around 170 commonwealth entrepreneurs, senior management and professionals to showcase the opportunities in ICT/BPM, Maritime sector, and Boat building and Gem & jewellery industry of Sri Lanka. The main feature of the breakfast meeting was the launch of the national brand for the Sri Lanka ICT sector in London.
- xv. A business promotion event on the theme 'Help Sri Lanka for a Better Tomorrow', organized by InfoMate (Private) Limited Sri Lanka, a subsidiary of the John Keells Group was organized at the Sri Lanka High Commission in the UK in June 2018.
- xvi. Six companies from Sri Lanka participated at the International Jewellery London (IJL) 2018, held in September 2018 in London. This is one of the biggest trade shows for the gem & jewellery sector in the UK.
- xvii. Organized a reception for Chevening scholars on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- xviii. Hon. Ranil Jayawardana, UK MP visited Sri Lanka from 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018 as the UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy for Sri Lanka.
- xix. Mr. Fergus Auld, Head of South Asia Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the UK visited Sri Lanka from 07<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018. He held meeting with the officials of the Foreign Ministry of Sri Lanka.

- xx. Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) 2018 was held in April 2018 in the UK and was attended by a record number of Sri Lankan small and medium scale business delegates, which was held alongside Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London.
- xi. The Commonwealth Senior Trade Officials meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in London, with the objectives of reviewing the recommendations from the Working Group on Trade and Investment on options to boost intra-Commonwealth trade and investment, reflect on the trade-related outcomes from the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, agree on the modality that members wish to pursue to support intra-Commonwealth trade and investment over the next 2 years; and to agree on the work plan for members over the next 2 years.
- xii. Facilitated and coordinated an official visit undertaken by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC to Sri Lanka in August 2018. She held meetings with Hon Prime Minister, Hon. Speaker of Parliament, Hon Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Finance, and Minister of Provincial Councils, Local Government and Sports, during the same visit.
- xiii. The Hon. Reginold Cooray, Governor of Northern Province & the delegation visited the United Kingdom from 04<sup>th</sup> – 07<sup>th</sup> October 2018 to meet the Sri Lanka Diaspora in the UK & invite them to invest in the development of the Northern Province.
- xiv. Rt. Hon. Mark Field MP, Minister of State for Asia and Pacific at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the UK undertook an official visit to Sri Lanka from 04<sup>th</sup> to 06<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
- xv. Hon. Mark Field, Minister of State for Asia & the Pacific of the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland visited Sri Lanka and had a meeting with Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs on 06<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- xvi. Arranged the visit of Hon. Prime Minister to the United Kingdom on 06<sup>th</sup> to 09<sup>th</sup> October 2018. During the visit, Hon. Prime Minister visited the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) on 08 October 2018. He was the special guest at the opening ceremony of the London Stock Exchange market. Hon. Prime Minister also delivered a speech on geostrategic significance of the Indian Ocean region at the Oxford Union on 08<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
- xvii. Facilitated Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in arranging a series of investor promotional events in the UK in October 2018. The events included a ceremonial market opening ceremony at London Stock Exchange by Hon. Prime Minister, an investment forum at the London Stock Exchange and an investment forum at SLHC premises. In addition, Colombo Stock Investor Forum was organised at the High Commission on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
- xviii. Meeting between Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Megapolis & Western Development & Hon. Mark Field, Minister for Asia & Pacific, Foreign & Commonwealth office was held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at the Hon. Mark Field's Office, UK.
- xix. The High Commission of Sri Lanka in the UK in coordination with British High Commission in Colombo and Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development in Sri Lanka facilitated an investment promotion event under the auspices of the Minister of Megapolis and Western Development on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at SLHC premises.

- xxx. Facilitated Sri Lanka Tourism in launching its new destination brand identity entitled 'So Sri Lanka,' on 05 November 2018 London, coinciding with the World Travel Market (WTM) 2018, a leading global event of Travel and Tourism industry, attracting more than 35,000 visitors, 5,000 exhibitors and over 2,000 travel agents and tour operators and the leading global travel media annually. It was launched in the presence of the Minister of Tourism and Wildlife of Sri Lanka and many other dignitaries. The WTM, held from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at the Excel Exhibition Centre, London, was attended by over 60 industry partners from Sri Lanka, among others.
- xxxi. Participated in the annual Commonwealth Fair organised by the Commonwealth Countries League on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The Sri Lankan stall consisted of traditional sweetmeats, rice and curry, and Ceylon tea.
- xxxii. The High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner called on selected Members of the UK Parliament both in the House of Commons and House of Lords, including Members of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Sri Lanka (APPG-SL), and engaged them socially, during the period of review. Regular briefing were conducted for the UK Parliamentarians and officials on steps taken by the Government of Sri Lanka with regard to advancing human rights, reconciliation, accountability, good governance and other important aspects that have taken place in Sri Lanka.
- xxxiii. Coordinated the initiative for Sri Lanka to champion the restoration of mangroves across the Commonwealth in implementing the Commonwealth Blue Charter, which was unanimously agreed on by Heads of Government at CHOGM 2018. The High Commission worked in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to establish the Commonwealth Blue Charter Action Group for Mangrove restoration.

## **B. Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS):**

**Territorial coverage:** 11

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

**Number of Resident Missions:** 01

Russia

**Number of Concurrent Accreditations:** 09

Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, Uzbekistan from Moscow; Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan from Tehran; Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan from Islamabad; and Ukraine from Ankara

### **1. The RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in the Russian Federation:**

- i. Mr. Nikolay Spasskiy, Deputy Director General of the Russian State Corporation (ROSATOM) accompanied by Mr. Oleg Savenkov visited Sri Lanka from 16<sup>th</sup>– 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to enhance cooperation between the two countries in the defence sector.

- ii. Facilitated the visit of four officials of Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Rosselkhoznadzor) and Russian Plant Quarantine Research Centre to Sri Lanka by coordinating with Sri Lanka Tea Board from 04<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- iii. The Tea Promotion Unit of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in the Russian Federation organized a Ceylon Tea PR Events (Ceylon Tea Party & Networking Session and Ceylon Tea sponsorship for 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence Day Celebration of Sri Lanka) from 26<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at Lotte Hotel in Moscow.
- iv. A delegation headed by Mr. Kapila Waidyaratne, Secretary / Defence visited Russia to participate at the Moscow Conference on International Security 2018 from 03<sup>rd</sup> - 06<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- v. Mr. D.C Dissanayake, Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education & Highways visited Russia to participate at Moscow international Educational Fair from 17<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018. During the stay, Mr. Dissanayake also met with Mr. Pavel Zenkovich, Deputy Minister of Science and Education of the Russian Federation.
- vi. Facilitated the visit of Hon. Thalatha Atukorale, Minister of Justice of Sri Lanka to Russia to participate in the VIII St. Petersburg International Legal Forum, which was held on 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- vii. Facilitated the visit of Hon. Arjuna Ranatunga, Minister of Petroleum Resources and Development of Sri Lanka and two other delegates to Russia to participate at the St. Petersburg Economic Forum from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- viii. Hon. Karunaratna Paranawithana, MP Deputy Minister of Science, Technology, Research, Skills development, Vocational Training and Kandyan Heritage and Hon. A. D. Susil Premajayantha, M.P. visited Moscow to participate at the International Forum on Parliament Development from 04<sup>th</sup> - 07<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- ix. Joint Working Group Session between Sri Lanka and Russia on Cooperation in the field of the Use of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes was held in Colombo on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- x. Organized a Ceylon Tea Billboard campaign from 12<sup>th</sup> June to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018 in Moscow in parallel to FIFA WORLD CUP 2018 in Russia. The campaign consisted of 58 billboards in both formats of digital and city boards.
- xi. Mr. Damitry Shagaeu, Director of the Federation Services for Military Technical Cooperation of the Russian Federation visited Sri Lanka from 09<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018. During the visit he met with H.E. the President of Sri Lanka.
- xii. Delegation led by Air vice Marchal K.F.R. Fernando visited Russia to attend the International Military Technical Forum "Army 2018" in Russia from 21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- xiii. The 'Sri Lanka Military Band' comprising of fifty personnel from Sri Lanka Army, Navy and Air Force took part in 'Spasskaya Tower' Music Festival in Russia on 20<sup>th</sup> August - 02<sup>nd</sup> September 2018.
- xiv. A Sri Lanka delegation led by Mr. Kapila Waidyaratne Secretary, Ministry of Defence visited the Russian Federation from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 04<sup>th</sup> September 2018. During this visit, the following agreements were signed,

- Agreement between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Russian Federation on Military Cooperation was signed on 03<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 in Moscow.
  - Terms of Reference (TOR) of the joint Russian-Sri Lankan Working Group on Military-Technical Cooperation was signed on 03<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 in Moscow.
- xv. The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation has offered training (25 vacancies) to Sri Lankan military in the Russian Military Institutions.
- xvi. Facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the World Food Moscow 2018 in collaboration with the Agriculture Sector Modernization Project under the Ministry of Social Welfare and Primary Industries of Sri Lanka. Five official delegates and six Sri Lankan exporters in the sector of Ceylon spices, coconut, tea, dehydrated fruits and ayurvedic products participated at this event. Further, it showcased the uniqueness of Sri Lankan products by performing a cooking demonstration at the Sri Lanka pavilion.
- xvii. Facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at 25<sup>th</sup> MITT - Moscow International Travel & Tourism Exhibition with Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau and 11 travel trading companies of Sri Lanka were participated to this event.
- xviii. Made arrangements to finalize the MOU between AZUR AIR and Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) on wave off 50% landing cost.
- xix. Facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at OTDYKH Leisure Exhibition from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in Moscow with the assistance of Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau. 14 tourism and travel traders were participated at this event. The National pavilion was highlighted with the traditional dancing performance of Sri Lanka which was performed by Sri Lankan Army Dancing Troup.
- xx. Organized an informative seminar for the tour agent in collaboration with Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau and Annex Tour at Sheraton Palace Hotel Moscow on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018. 60 tour agents participated at this event.
- xxi. The Tea Promotion Unit of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in the Russian Federation facilitated the Sri Lankan participants at "PRODEXPO 2018" food and beverages exhibition held on 05-09 February 2018 in Moscow organizing a Ceylon Tea pavilion to accommodate 06 exhibitors , organizing a Ceylon Tea pavilion at World Food Azerbaijan 2018 exhibition from 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> May 2018 for accommodating 07 exhibitors, World Food Uzbekistan 2018 exhibition on 04<sup>th</sup> to 06<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan organizing a Ceylon Tea pavilion to accommodate 03 exhibitors , Coffee & Tea Festival 2018 in Moscow from 25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> August 2018 maintaining a Ceylon Tea Promotional Stand, World Food Moscow 2018 exhibition from 17<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in Moscow, organizing a Ceylon Tea pavilion to accommodate 06 exhibitors.
- xxii. The Russian Energy Week (REW) International Forum was held from 03 to 06 of October 2018 in the Central Exhibition Hall 'Manège' in Moscow. The special plenary session of the Forum was attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who addressed the audience with his speech "Sustainable Energy for a Changing World". The main goal of REW is to demonstrate the prospects of fuel and oil industry in Russia, while providing an upgraded platform for international cooperation in the energy sector. These Forum topics cover the development of the gas industry, coal industry, oil industry, atomic industry, petro-chemistry, electricity, energy conservation, and increased energy

sufficiency. H.E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka, the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation attended the Plenary Session which gathered a number of business, political, and administrative elite representatives from every continent, in an effort to enhance international cooperation in the energy sector and meet new challenges of economic, environmental, and effective management agenda. REW was attended by a Sri Lankan delegation consisting of Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy Mr. Merille Goonetilleke, Additional General Manager of Ceylon Electricity Board Mr. S. D. W. Gunawardena, Director General of Petroleum Resources Development Secretariat Mr. Vajira Dassanayake.

- xxiii. A three-member delegation headed by Hon. Nalin Bandara, Deputy Minister of Public Administration & Management and Law and Order participated at the 22nd International Homeland Security Exhibition "Interpolitex 2018" held from 23rd to 26th October 2018 in Moscow. On 23rd October 2018, Hon. Nalin Bandara and Sri Lankan delegation participated at the opening ceremony of the exhibition which was inaugurated by Hon. V. Kolokoltsev, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation. The Exhibition was organized by the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, Russian Federal Security Service, Federal Service of National Guard of the Russian Federation with the Exhibition Companies Group "BIZON" acting in the capacity of the organizer of the event. During the exhibition, Hon. Nalin Bandara met with the Head of the Department of International Police Cooperation of Russia and discussed the matters of international cooperation in public and state security spheres. At the exhibition, the exhibitors demonstrated to Hon. Nalin Bandara the most modern and advanced technologies and equipment used by law enforcement authorities.
- xxiv. Hon. Daya Gamage, Minister of Social Welfare and Primary Industries participated at the 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the ICAPP which was held in Moscow, Russia from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Parallel to the above meeting, Hon. Minister visited Inter-CHARM exhibition on 27<sup>th</sup> October, and met with Mr. Alexander Kalyagin, International Sales Manager of Inter-CHARM to discuss the future events that Sri Lankan exporters could participate in.
- xxv. A nine-member delegation from Sri Lanka visited Russia to participate at the International Volunteer Forum, which was held from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of December, 2018, in Moscow. The Forum provided a good venue for the Sri Lankan delegation to interact with other Youth organizations' leaders, and to exchange their experience; it also helped to establish new relationships with volunteers and youth leaders from all over the world. On December 6, members of the Sri Lankan delegation met with Mr. Gregory Petushkov, the Head of the National Youth Council of Russia to discuss the opportunities for closer cooperation and partnership between the youth organizations of the two countries. In the course of their discussion, the delegation suggested to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Youth Councils of the two countries.
- xxvi. Embassy organized a Flag Hoisting Ceremony with the participation of the Embassy staff and the Sri Lankan community at the Embassy premises on 04<sup>th</sup> February 2018. In addition, in order to commemorate this event, the Embassy organized a special Cultural Show and Gala Dinner Reception with the participation of over 175 guests including members of the State Duma, members of the Federal Council, Russian Government Officials, representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Federal Customs Service, Federal Services for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance, Ambassadors and Diplomats from Europe, SAARC, ASEAN and CIS nations, Academics, members of the Russian business community and travel trade etc.

- xxvii. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka, met with Hon. Igor Morgulov, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, who oversees the Asia Pacific region in the Russian Foreign Ministry, and presented a copy of his Letter of Credence on 07<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The Deputy Minister extended a warm welcome to Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka as the new Ambassador, and recalled the strong and friendly bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and the Russian Federation as well as in the multilateral fora.
- xxviii. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka met with Mr. Igor Bogdashev, Director of the State protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia (5<sup>th</sup> September) regarding the general protocol procedures of Russia and details of upcoming official ceremonies for the Ambassadors. He also met with Mr. Zamir Kabulov, Director, Second Department of Asia of the Russian Foreign Ministry (30 October), and Mr. Petr Ilogichev, Director of International Organizations of the Foreign Ministry of Russia.
- xxix. The new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation, Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka presented his credentials to His Excellency Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation in the Kremlin, Moscow on 11 October 2018. After receiving the credentials from Ambassadors of 23 countries, President Putin made a speech, and during his speech he mentioned that Russia maintains traditionally friendly relations with Sri Lanka, and is interested in closer trade and economic cooperation, including the fields of fisheries, agriculture, and tourism. On 07<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka hosted his first official reception after presenting his credentials, for the Russian guests, representing a large number of Sri Lanka-Russia partnership areas.
- xxx. H. E. the Ambassador, Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka visited the State Duma of the Russian Federation on 11 November 2018 and held a discussion with Hon. Yevgeny Primakov, Jr., M.P. The Ambassador and Mr. Primakov found a number of shared values and aspirations, for instance to re-activate a more comprehensive and multi-faceted international outlook to put current bilateral and regional relations into a broader context. Both interlocutors underscored the importance of revitalizing the global peace movement, which could unite different groups and parties, often lacking other common points. On November 15, 2018 the Ambassador met with Senator H. E. Konstantin Kosachev, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Federation Council of the Parliament of Russia.
- xxxi. The Embassy also coordinated Sri Lanka's participation at the World Food Moscow 2018 Exhibition in collaboration with the Agriculture Sector Modernization Project under the Ministry of Social Welfare and Primary Industries of Sri Lanka. Five official delegates, and six Sri Lankan exporters in the sector of Ceylon spices, coconut, tea, dehydrated fruits and ayurvedic products, participated at this event. The uniqueness of Sri Lankan products was shown cased in the course of a cooking demonstration at the Sri Lanka pavilion.
- xxxii. The Embassy organized Sri Lanka's participation at the 25<sup>th</sup> MITT - Moscow International Travel & Tourism Exhibition with Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau. Eleven travel trading companies of Sri Lanka participated in this event.
- xxxiii. The Embassy coordinated the visit of Kultura (Culture) channel program crew members to Sri Lanka, by coordinating with the Public Relations Division of Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau. They are planning to shoot documentary videos about Sri Lankan history, culture, and so forth.

- xxxiv. The Embassy facilitated the link between the Sri Lankan private sector agents and Russian TV Channel Pyatnitsa to shoot a video at the Adam's Peak.
- xxxv. The Embassy facilitated granting the approval for performing the direct flights between Moscow and Colombo to the Russian Air Carrier "PJSC Aeroflot" as well as to the Russian Air Carrier "Rossiya Airlines".
- xxxvi. During the event, the guests had a chance to taste pure Ceylon tea and enjoy the show, full of traditional cultural and musical elements, which are essential for the Sri Lankan culture. The Sri Lankan music group "Soul Sounds" conducted fascinating live performances, and the Russian dancing group "Vozrozhdenie" performed some classical Russian dances, such as ballet.
- xxxvii. In the framework of the event, Ms. Anna Svischeva, Russia Tea Masters Cup Champion and Tea Mixology Winner, demonstrated her art of preparing cold tea drinks based on Ceylon tea, and offered the "Manhattan" drink to be tasted by the esteemed guests.
- xxxviii. In collaboration with Sri Lanka Tea Board, the Embassy conducted the first session of Ceylon Tea sampling at four major Auchan Hypermarkets in Moscow (Marfino, Troyka, Altufievo, and Proletarskaya) from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> August; 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> August; 31<sup>st</sup> August to 02<sup>nd</sup> September and from 07<sup>th</sup> September to 09<sup>th</sup> September 2018, respectively.
- xxxix. The Embassy participated at the 21<sup>st</sup> Edition of the Ukraine International Food & Drink Exhibition, World Food Ukraine, which was held in Kiev, Ukraine from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018, at International Exhibition Centre in Kiev with the objective of further strengthening Ceylon tea presence in the Ukrainian tea market.

## 2. BELARUS

**Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in the Russian Federation concurrently accredited to Belarus:**

- i. The Belarusian delegation (4 representatives) visited Colombo on 28<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 to hold expert level consultations on the draft text of the Agreement on Mutual Protection of Classified Information.

## 3. UKRAINE

**Activities undertaken by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey concurrently accredited to Ukraine:**

- i. Held discussions with prominent businessman and a probable candidate for Hon. Consul for Sri Lanka in Kharkiv, Ukraine on investment in Sri Lanka in March 2018.
- ii. Facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the Ukrainian Annual Tourism Fair in March 2018.
- iii. Ukraine Parliamentary delegation led by Hon. Mrs. Oksana Bilozir visited Sri Lanka from 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

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# European Union, Commonwealth and Multilateral Treaties Division



## **European Union, Commonwealth and Multilateral Treaties Division**

### **1. Sri Lanka's relations with the EU**

Sri Lanka's relations with the European Union (EU) continued to improve positively in 2018.

The following include the key achievements /activities of the Division up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

#### I. Follow-up on the EU Generalized Scheme of Preferences (**GSP**) **Plus** trade facility;

- Following the grant of GSP plus facility to Sri Lanka, engagement with the EU continued on the monitoring of the implementation of the GSP+ action points. As per the EU GSP+ regulations, once a country becomes a GSP+ beneficiary, the monitoring process begins on a two-year cycle which is quite intensive and continuous. This process involves 2 inter-related tools – (i) a scorecard for the beneficiary country (ii) a close dialogue with the beneficiary country (through visits, meetings, etc.). In this regard, the EU forwarded the GSP+ scorecard for Sri Lanka through letter dated 29 March 2018 addressed to Hon. Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade.
- This scorecard forms the criteria against which Sri Lanka will be assessed in the next 2 years by the EU with regard to the continuation of the GSP+. The list of issues contained therein addresses the most salient shortcomings in the implementation of the 27 international conventions relevant to the GSP+, categorized under four clusters namely, Human Rights, Labour, Governance and Environment.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with the GSP+ focal point- the Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade, compiled the GoSL response to the Scorecard, following consultations with the Heads and members of the four clusters mentioned above. The response was submitted to the EU side on 9th August 2018, following the approval of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on GSP+.
- In order to address the key GSP+ commitment matters, the Meeting of the Ministerial Committee on GSP+, Chaired by Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs was held on 19 October 2018, during which inter-ministerial consent was received to progress on those key matters.
- In addition, the Ministry has also engaged with the EU Delegation in Colombo, as well as officials in Brussels, time to time, in clarifying the GoSL positions with regard to some of the key concerns raised by the EU.
- Sri Lanka also submitted a request for Cross Regional Cumulation to the European Commission in June 2018, for origin status of apparel products manufactured in Sri Lanka by using materials originating in Indonesia.
- On the implementation of the REX system for issuance of the GSP Certificate of origin, the SLEMB / Brussels, through its consultations with the relevant officials of the European Commission has facilitated the Department of Commerce to commence the registration of the exporters under the REX system with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

## **II. Regular dialogue under annual structured mechanisms;**

- The engagement under the annual structured mechanisms such as the EU-SL Joint Commission, and the Working Groups on Trade & Economic Cooperation, Working Group on Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights and the Working Group on Development Cooperation has continued. The dialogue within these frameworks has facilitated a conducive environment for the two parties to constructively engage.
- The 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the EU- SL Joint Commission was held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in Colombo. The Meeting was co-chaired on Sri Lanka side by Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EU side by Ms. Paola Pampaloni, Deputy Managing Director of the Asia Pacific Department, European Union External Action Services (EEAS).
- The Working Group on Development Cooperation met in Colombo on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Co -chaired by State Secretary / Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs from the Sri Lanka side and Head of Sector South Asia, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission from the EU side.
- The EU-SL Working Group on Governance Rule of Law and Human Rights, which was established in 2016, met for the third consecutive year on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in Brussels, co-led by Director General / EU of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ms. Caroline Vinot, Head of the Regional Affairs and South Asia Division of the EEAS.
- The Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation, met in Colombo on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018, Co-Chaired by Secretary / Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade from Sri Lanka side and Head of South and South East Asia Unit, Directorate General of Trade of the European Commission from the EU side.
- The EU – Sri Lanka Investor Dialogue, which was initiated in 2017, met in April and August 2018 in Colombo.
- Ms. Caroline Vinot, Head of Division for Regional Affairs and South Asia of the EEAS met Secretary of Foreign Affairs on 9th October 2018 on the sidelines of her participation at the e 'Indian Ocean Conference'. The discussions focused on the outcomes of EU-SL WG on HR held on 5th June 2018 in Brussels and the follow –up to the 58 action points which initiated at the 19th JC in Colombo 2016.

## **III. EU Assists;**

### **Development Cooperation Assistance;**

- Development assistance to Sri Lanka by the EU is provided under the Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP), which is a 5 year commitment. The sum of Euro 210 million allocated by EU under the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2016-2020 is twice the amount allocated for 2007-2013 (i.e. Euro 110 million).
- The following programmes are currently being funded under the MIP, and the funds are being disbursed through the World Bank, UN agencies as well as INGOs;

- Integrated rural development programme with particular focus on Uva and Central provinces. This programme is almost fully implemented. Funds were disbursed through CARE International, Stichting Solidaridad, ACTED, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, OXFAM. Total allocation Euro 60 million.
- Agricultural modernization project jointly funded with the World Bank. EU provided EUR 12 million.
- Livelihood improvement project in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Euro 60 million disbursed through 5 UN agencies.
- Trade facilitation technical assistance programme to improve SME competitiveness and improving capacities of value chain in food industry. Assistance with total allocation of Euro 8 million also focuses on a project to build capacity of Sri Lankan officials in trade negotiations and facilitation conducted by International Trade Center (ITC). Funds disbursed through ITC and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).
- Public finance management improvement programme, with the total allocation EUR 40 million funds disbursed through the World Bank.
- Water and sanitation project in the Colombo District. Funds disbursed through AFD (Agence Francaise de Development). Total allocation EUR 6 million. Projects are in progress.
- Support for GOSL's reconciliation programme – Work is in progress to commence the programme, including stakeholder consultations. The total estimated cost of this programme is Euro 14.5 million out of which EU contributes Euro 12 million while the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany and British Council will co-finance the programme.

**Disaster Relief Assistance;**

- Disaster relief assistance is provided by the European Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) of the EU. In June 2018, the ECHO provided a cash grant of EUR 300,000 to the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society for emergency flood relief assistance.

**IV. Facilitation of **visits** taken place during the period under consideration;**

- The EU Parliamentary Members of the International Trade Committee (INTA) of the European Parliament visited Sri Lanka from 4-6 April 2018, and met with Hon. PM and other dignitaries. The visit follows the EU GSP+ Monitoring Mission which visited in September 2017 and the European Parliament's South Asia Delegation visit in October 2017. The visit focused on evaluating the progress made by Sri Lanka in utilizing the GSP+ facility and to enhance the dialog with Sri Lanka on remaining challenges. The Desk coordinated and provided necessary inputs for the meetings.
- Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade visited and met with the Director General of the European Investment Bank (EIB), in Luxembourg on 16<sup>th</sup> May

2018 and discussed the implementation of the Greater Colombo Wastewater Management Project, funded by the EIB.

- The preparation for the visit of 'Friends of Sri Lanka' Group in the European Parliament in January 2019 was undertaken by the Division.

V. Continue the efforts towards listing the **LTTE** as a terrorist organization in the EU

- Following Sri Lanka's engagement at highest level, and submission of substantive evidences, the European Council and its Member States took the unwavering position in March this year that the LTTE should remain as a terrorist entity under EU Regulation EC 2580/2001, despite of the judgments delivered by the General Court and the European Court of Justices in 2014 and in 2017.
- The decision was further extend in July 2018, and the Desk, in coordination with relevant stakeholders, and under the guidance of Secretary to the President is continuing the efforts towards collecting information for submission to the EU and to the EU Member States through Sri Lanka Missions in the respective countries, for continued listing of the LTTE.
- In coordination with the intelligence agencies, and relevant stakeholders, a dossier containing updated information on continued threat posed by the LTTE for the continuation of the listing of the LTTE as a Terrorist Organization in the European Union was submitted on 14th November 2018. This was followed-up by lobbying through Sri Lanka Missions in the EU countries.
- At its last review meeting held on 4th December 2018, the European Council Working Party on Restrictive Measures to Combat Terrorism (COMET), COMET has recommended for a roll-over of the current listing, which includes the LTTE as well. The EU Foreign Affairs Council is expected to have a formal decision on the list in late January / early February 2019.
- The GoSL continues to furnish information on the continued threat posed by the LTTE, in facilitating the periodic review by the EU.

## 2. The Commonwealth

The close collaboration between Sri Lanka and the Commonwealth Secretariats, as well as its Member States continued in 2018, including through Sri Lanka's active engagement in the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting held in London in April 2018.

Among the initiatives that the GoSL is advancing through the Commonwealth remains enhancing intra-Commonwealth trade, cyber security, restoration of mangroves, sustainable use of oceans etc.

The Ministry supported the High Commission in London as the main liaison office between the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to actively take part in all

Commonwealth engagements in the Marlborough House and in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in London.

I. Facilitation of Sri Lanka's representation in the **Commonwealth meetings/ events**;

The Desk facilitated and provided necessary briefs for Sri Lanka's representation at the following Commonwealth meetings;

- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in London from 19 – 20 April 2018 under the theme "Towards a Common Future". The delegation for the CHOGM Summit was headed by H.E. the President, who also attended the Commonwealth Business Forum as the keynote speaker on April 18 on the theme "Delivering the SDGs: Aligning Business, Society and the Governments".

In line with the CHOGM 2018 outcome document 'The Commonwealth Blue Charter', Sri Lanka offered to champion the Commonwealth Blue Charter Action Group for Mangrove Restoration.

The Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) 2018 held in April 2018 with a participation of a record number of Sri Lankan small and medium scale business delegates held alongside Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London. More than 40 SME representing IT/BPO/Electronics apparel handicraft, coconut, tourism, gem and jewellery, maritime and boat building sectors participated in the forum. Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen who led the Sri Lanka delegation to CBF also represented at an SME Trade Forum as a panelist. In addition to that, a Sri Lanka Breakfast Meeting was arranged to invite around 170 commonwealth entrepreneurs, senior management and professionals to showcase the opportunities in ICT/BPM, Maritime Sector, Boat Building and Gem & Jewellery industry of Sri Lanka.

The main feature of the breakfast meeting was the launch of the national brand for the Sri Lanka ICT sector in London: 'Sri Lanka – Island of Ingenuity'

- The Commonwealth Senior Officials Meeting (COW) and the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting held immediately prior to the CHOGM Summit was attended by Senior Officials and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry respectively, in preparations for the following outcome documents of the CHOGM Summit; The Communiqué and the 4 declarations namely,
  - i. Commonwealth Blue Charter
  - ii. Commonwealth Cyber Declaration
  - iii. Declaration on the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda for Trade and Investment
  - iv. Revised Commonwealth Guidelines for the Conduct of Election Observation in Member Countries
- The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs participated at the 18<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting held on 27 September 2018 in New York, during which important discussions on reviewing the governance structure of the Commonwealth Secretariat, including the appointment criteria for the Commonwealth Secretary General were taken up.

- Coordinated with line Ministries on Sri Lanka's participation at the meetings of;
  - 20<sup>th</sup> Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers (20CCEM) held from 19 – 23 February 2018, at Fiji.
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting held from 2-3 April 2018, at Gold Coast, Australia.
  - Meeting of the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting held on 20 May 2018, Geneva.
  - Visit by Members of the Public Accounts Committee of the Sri Lankan Parliament to attend a training programme organised by the UK Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in February 2018.
  - Education Minister's Action Group Meeting (EMAG) on 24th January 2019, at the Commonwealth Secretariat, London.
- An evaluation team from the Commonwealth Secretariat, together with an independent evaluator visited Sri Lanka from 12 - 15 June 2018, to evaluate on the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the support provided by the Secretariat in supporting member states in the adherence to Commonwealth values and principles, under the 'Democracy Programme'. In this regard, the team met with a number of stakeholders, including the Chief Justices Office, Attorney Generals Department, Secretary General/Parliament, Addl. Secretary to Constitutional Assembly, Secretary / National Integration and Reconciliation, Chairperson / Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL), Assistant Director /Elections Commission, as well as few NGO partners. The team met with the DG/ Commonwealth on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018, at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as part of the evaluation.

## **II. Meetings with Commonwealth Secretary-General;**

- Hon Prime Minister met with the Commonwealth Secretary-General in London on 15<sup>th</sup> June, during which a number of mutually beneficial areas were discussed.
- The Commonwealth Secretary-General undertook her maiden visit to Sri Lanka from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> August 2018 since assuming duties in 2016, and called on Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Speaker, Leader of the Opposition, and Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs, Sports, Education, Youth, Law and Order, International Trade and held a dedicated discussion at the Ministry of Environment with stakeholder responsible for Environment, Climate Change and Marine resources. The Secretary-General also visited the mangrove restoration sites in Kalpitya and Pambala and commended the efforts made by Sri Lanka in restoration of mangroves.
- H.E. the President met the Secretary-General on 28<sup>th</sup> September, on the margins of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The Secretary-General praised Sri Lanka's progress in strengthening democracy and reconciliation, and congratulated the President on the positive developments taking place on all fronts in the country, which she was able to witness during her visit in August 2018.

### **III. Queens' Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) initiative;**

- As per the pledge made by H.E. the President in his letter to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, expressing support towards the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC), the Ministry followed- up with the Ministry of Environment on identifying a forest reserve for the QCC programme, and initiated the process for formalization of the same. In this regard, the Ministry of Environment has identified to restore 10 ha of forest land that was degraded due to conflict and natural disaster such as drought. The project aims to restore the area into a natural forest to provide feasible ecosystems for species, and provide benefits to the local communities.
- The Commonwealth Secretary- General commended this project, and recognized it as a unique effort under the QCC initiatives, where the focus has been made to restoration of a devastated area, with tangible outcomes for the local communities.

### **IV. Ongoing cooperation with the Commonwealth;**

- The Commonwealth Secretariat is looking at the possibility of extending technical assistance to develop the e-commerce sector of Sri Lanka and the competences of the professionals of the legal sector in Sri Lanka based on the requests made from the Secretariat by the delegates visited London during this year.
- The Ministry is coordinating with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education regarding the collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat on projects in the education sector, with a view to improve the quality of education in Sri Lanka, as well as to share best practices with the wider Commonwealth.

### **V. Nominations of Sri Lankan's to Commonwealth vacancies**

- The Ministry coordinated with the Ministry of Justice, Attorney General's Department and Sri Lanka High Commission in London for the nomination of Mr. Neil Unamboowe, President's Council, Addl. Solicitor General of Attorney General's Department for the posts of member and the President of the Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal (CSAT)

## **3. Multilateral Treaties**

- I. This Division, with the support of the UN Division, organized the following public consultations, in line with Government's policy on transparency and inclusivity;
  - Public consultation held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 on the mid-term review of the implementation of the recommendations received at the Sri Lanka's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) that took place in November 2017 at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.
  - Public consultation held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018 on the Sri Lanka's draft report to the Human Rights Committee on Sri Lanka's implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
- II. Ongoing engagement with the national stakeholders on the compilation of the Sri Lanka's report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with regard to the

national implementation of the provisions of the International Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

#### **4. National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) 2017 – 2021**

- The progress of implementation of the NHRAP is being reviewed by a two tier mechanism, approved by the Cabinet; (i) an inter-Ministerial Committee chaired by the Hon. Prime Minister, (ii) an Officials' Committee under the direction of Chief of Staff to the Hon. Prime Minister, to ensure timely progress on the implementation of the Action Plan and report thereon to the Inter-Ministerial Committee.
- The NHRAP is being implemented under 10 Sectoral Committees (Clusters), each headed by the Secretary to the relevant line Ministry. Each Sectoral Committee holds monthly meetings with respective agencies, and reports to the above committees on the progress made, and challenges faced in reaching the short-term, mid-term and long-term targets.
- The EU Division, in coordination with the UN Division, participates at these cluster meetings, and intervenes suitably, to ensure that the implementations of the action points are progressing.

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# Finance Division



## **Finance Division**

Head: 112 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1. The Finance Division is entrusted with the responsibilities of providing auxiliary services for the management and financial planning of development activities of the Ministry. The division also maintains two sets of accounts related to financial transactions of the Ministry and Overseas Missions/Posts, which are reported to the General Treasury.
2. Key functions of the Finance Division include the following:
  - i. Assisting the Secretary/Foreign Affairs, the Chief Accounting Officer of the Ministry to fulfill the Financial Obligations.
  - ii. Preparation of annual budgetary estimates, participation for the budget discussions and getting them approved from the General Treasury.
  - iii. Engaging in the Financial Planning to be in line with the operational activities, financial resources being made available to meet the necessities and ensure the Public Accountability.
  - iv. Imprest being disbursed to Ministry activities and to Diplomatic Missions/ Posts on the regular basis in order to meet the expenses.
  - v. Overseeing the entire Financial Reporting functions in the Ministry and Diplomatic Missions/Posts to ensure all the payments and its reporting are carried out in accordance with the Financial Regulations and other statutory requirements.
  - vi. Liaising with the Auditor General Department with regard to the Audit Queries, Audit Reports and other findings.

Sub Divisions/ Sections of the Finance Divisions are as follows:

- i. Ministry Payment Unit
- ii. Budgetary Control Unit
- iii. Mission Accounts Unit

**112 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**(1) Expenditure against provisions of the year 2018 are as follows**

**(a) Recurrent :-**

Description	Total Provision as at 31.12.2018 Rs.	Total Expenditure as at 31.12.2018 Rs.	Percentage of Expenditure on provision %
Personal Emoluments	6,454,197,450	6,452,857,210	100
Other Recurrent Expenditure	4,723,866,050	4,687,798,515	99
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,178,063,500</b>	<b>11,140,655,725</b>	<b>100</b>

**(b) Capital :-**

Object	Description	Total Provision as at 31.12.2018 Rs.	Total Expenditure as at 31.12.2018 Rs.	Percentage of Expenditure on provision %
	<b>Rehabilitation &amp; Improvement of Capital Assets</b>			
2001	Buildings & Structures	519,782,100	244,189,622	47
2002	Plant, Machinery & Equipment	13,400,000	2,361,673	18
2003	Vehicles	43,689,350	23,074,431	53
	<b>Acquisition of Capital Assets</b>			
2101	Vehicles	96,779,700	95,156,848	98
2102	Furniture & Office Equipment	96,109,750	96,008,470	100
2103	Plant, Machinery & Equipment	44,139,875	42,983,232	97
2104	Buildings & Structures□	734,300,000	734,277,546	100
2105	Land & Land Improvements			
2106	Software Development			
	<b>Capital Transfers</b>			
2201(01)	Lakshman Kadiragamar Institute for International Relations & Strategic Studies(LKIIRSS)	8,990,400	7,256,869	81
2201(02)	National Ocean Affairs Committee Secretariat (NOAC)	2,229,050	2,229,040	100
	<b>Capacity Building</b>			
2401	Staff Training	5,678,290	5,678,290	100
	<b>Other Capital Expenditure</b>			
2509	The Grant received from Australian Govt. pertaining to IORA working group meeting Financial code(13)	5,576,000	5,337,884	96
1-2509	Implementation of Economic Diplomacy Initiatives (EDI)	79,846,485	36,398,635	46
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,650,521,000</b>	<b>1,294,952,540</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Grand Total ( (a)+(b))</b>		<b>12,828,584,500</b>	<b>12,435,608,265</b>	<b>97</b>

**(2) Actual against Prescribed Limits in case of Advance Account** (RS.)

Description	Maximum Debit	Minimum Credit	Maximum Debit balance
Prescribed Limit	35,000,000	25,000,000	130,000,000
Actual Amount up to 31.12.2018 - 1120011	34,942,177	35,955,484	116,775,476

**(3) Revenue**

**(a) Ministry:-**

Description	Revenue Code	Actual Amount up to 31.12.2018	(RS.)
Rent on Government Building & Housing	2002-01-01	2,040,171	
Other Interest	2002-02-99	3,350,502	
Fees of Passports, Visas & Dual Citizenship	2003-02-07	12,500	
Consular Fees	2003-02-99	247,120,776	
Other Receipts	2003-99-00	135,904,663	
Social Security Contributions - (Central Government)	2004-01-00	13,458,521	
Sale of Capital Vehicles	2006-02-01	10,022,720	
<b>Total</b>		<b>411,909,853</b>	

**(b) Overseas Missions/Posts:-**

Description	Revenue Code	Actual Amount up to 31.12.2018	(RS.)
Rent on Government Building & Housing	2002-01-01	581,342	
Other Interest	2002-02-99	2,292,832	
Fees of Passports, Visas & Dual Citizenship	2003-02-07	1,369,685,730	
Examinations& Other fees	2003-02-13	15,429	
Dept. of Motor Trafic	2003-02-14	737,666	
Consular Fees	2003-02-99	431,289,676	
Other Receipts	2003-99-00	154,096,411	
Social Security Contributions - (Central Government)	2004-01-00	13,267,142	
Social Security Contributions - (Provincial Councils)	2004-02-00	711,505	
Sale of Capital Assets (Vehicles)	2006-02-01	1,934,999	
Sale of Capital Assets (Other)	2006-02-02	3,154,559	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,977,767,291</b>	

**Grand Total ( (a)+(b))** **2,389,677,144**



# General Administration Division



## **General Administration Division**

### **A. Introduction**

1. Having played the prominent role in the Ministry, the General Administration Division is the focal point of gearing process of working with human and resources of accomplish Ministerial goals. This Division is apportioned with on-going and interrelated responsibilities on the matters relating to Human Resources Management, Parliamentary Questions, Cabinet Memoranda, provision of logistics, maintenance of buildings and equipment, procurement, transport, communication facilities, capacity building programmes, facilitating stakeholders by giving internships, training opportunities and all other interconnected activities of the Ministry.

### **B. Human Resources Management**

2. In respect to Human Resources Management (HRM), the GAD facilitated to reduce the gap between expected and existing performance by providing training opportunities for all staff members of different categories (except SLFS officers) to develop their language proficiency skills, IT skills during the year 2018. The General Administration Division also conducted English Language Proficiency Course in consultation with Bandaranaike Institute of Diplomatic Training for 163 officers at different levels in the Ministry.

With a view to developing language proficiency in Tamil, 11 officers were provided with the opportunities of individual training courses at Miloda Institute coming under the purview of Ministry of Finance. In addition, 33 drivers and Office Employed Service have been facilitated to be fluent in basic Tamil Language by conducting tailor made classes on Saturdays.

In a bid to overcome the existing shortage of staff action was also taken to fill the vacancies in the cadre of 7 Development Officers (DO) through the Ministry of Public Administration. In addition, in order to cope up with the increased work load of the Ministry, General Administration Division recruited 04 Translators to mitigate the dearth of English/ Tamil/ Sinhala translations.

In addition, the 5 workshops in different stages have been conducted all of the staff on the concept of Sexual harassment with the assistance of Ministry of Women and Child Affairs.

### **C. Maintenance Work**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs is housed is more than 100 years old having been constructed during the British period and it invariably needs proper and regular maintenance, attending to regular maintenance of about 27 official residences and buildings being used for institutions affiliated to the Ministry, namely Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies in order to keep them in good condition.

In view of the moderating the Main Conference Hall of the Ministry, GAD has taken action to complete the floor finish with Timber satin deck and to fix a sophisticated network sound system adding some glow to the Ministry. Having attended the regular maintenance work in the Republic Building, GAD completed the repair of wooden floor and new sound system at the Mini Conference as well in the year of 2018.

To make an additional value to the main entrance of the Republic Building, steps have been taken to construct a Guard Room for security service men which was costly approximately Rs 756,000.00. It was good attempt of ensuring the social security and living standards of the working environment of the Ministry. In addition, rain cover for the staircase of the Republic Building has been fixed and cost was computed as Rs 2.50 Mn (Approximately).

Making a new milestone of the Ministry, plans are being implemented to open Matara Consular office in the Month of January 2019 with a modern office environment, necessary IT infrastructure and well trained staff. With the opening of the Regional Consular Office at Matara, it is expected to facilitate the general public in Southern Area to obtain consular services, including attestation of birth, marriage and death certificates and other legal documents, for their use abroad, assistance to family members of Sri Lankans stranded abroad, facilitation of redress and compensation claims of families of migrant workers and repatriation of human remains from abroad, amongst a range of services.

#### **D. Procurement and Inventory Control**

In the later part of the year, GAD has worked to register vendors as a powerful easy-to-use tool to select the best suitable supplier to meet the Ministry requirements in tendering exercises in an easy and systematic way. In addition, the registration criteria have been revised enabling to get supply at the same rate throughout the year.

In addition at the beginning of each year, a procurement plan is developed forecasting all procurement needs of the Ministry while ensuring more than 150 procurement activities over the year. This year it was calculated more than Rs 369 Mn for procurement related to the mission/post activities while Rs 102 Mn was computed for local procurements.

#### **E. Parliamentary and Cabinet Affairs**

As a focal point of coordinating Cabinet of Ministers and parliamentary questions, GAD functions. In this regard, GAD has submitted 51 Cabinet Memoranda and answers for 3 parliamentary questions referred to this Ministry. In addition, swift actions have been taken to submit observations in respect of the Cabinet Memoranda of other Ministries.

#### **F. Logistics and Other**

Considering the prominence of maintaining vehicle fleet of the Ministry, GAD has been assigned the task of maintenance 110 vehicles in the fleet of the Ministry. All the related repairs, insurance, replacing vehicles and purchasing new are handled by this Division. Apart from that, provision of transport and other related logistics for Credential ceremonies of Foreign Ambassadors, High Commissioners, state visits and visits by VVIP and other foreign delegations are smoothed by GAD. During the year of 2018, 6 Credential Ceremonies, 26 VIP visits and all transport facilities to the Delegation designated to "The Indian Ocean- Defining our Future" Conference held in Colombo have been facilitated. Further, GAD is in the process of negotiating with the Ministry of Finance and Media to refresh the vehicle fleet with new vehicles.

#### **G. The library**

Upgrading the existing library is another task assigned to GAD. It deals with preparing and updating standards, organizing of library material and collection development. It is

mainly focus to buy the most related publications related to the foreign diplomacy, economics, international law, research oriented publications etc.,

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# Latin America and Caribbean Division



## **Latin America and Caribbean Division**

The Latin America and Caribbean Division covers the work pertaining to Sri Lanka's bilateral relations with countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region. The scope of work of the Division is guided by the Sri Lankan Government's foreign policy objectives, which can be broadly defined as follows:

- Promote and enhance bilateral ties covering political, economic, social, security and cultural cooperation.
- Promote greater engagement and dialogue with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Promote economic diplomacy to expand trade flows and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- Promote Sri Lanka's image and interests in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

### **Territorial Coverage: 33**

Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Honduras, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

### **Number of Resident Missions: 02**

Cuba, Brazil

### **Number of Concurrent Accreditations: 13**

**Havana, Cuba** - Venezuela, Jamaica, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Dominica, Haiti, Honduras and Panama

**Brasilia, Brazil**- Argentina, Colombia, Suriname, Paraguay

### **Hony. Consul Representation**

Sri Lanka has Hony. Consul Representations in Buenos Aires (Argentina), Nassau (Bahamas), Bolivia (Bolivia), Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Bahia (Brazil), Bogotá (Colombia), Ecuador (Ecuador), Kingston (Jamaica), Mexico (Mexico), Lima (Peru), Paramaribo (Suriname)

## **1. Brazil**

### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- i. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brazil continues to nurture good relations with respective Brazilian Ministries and its affiliated bodies, Brazilian institutions, business entities, as well as with the political leadership in the Federative Republic of Brazil and Members of the National Assembly, Policy makers and officials with a view to enhancing existing friendly bilateral relations between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of Brazil.
- ii. H.E. M.M. Jaffeer assumed duties as the new Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Brazil on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 and presented credentials to President Michel Temer on 05<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The Ambassador presented Credentials to H.E. Desire Delano Bouterse, President of Suriname on 12 December 2018, and held a number of meetings with the Ministers of Trade, Education and Foreign Affairs and officials of the Chamber of Commerce of Suriname.
- iii. Ambassador Jaffeer will be presenting credentials to the Heads of State of Colombia and the Argentine Republic soon as the accredited Ambassador.
- iv. In order to implement the terms of the MoU between the Ministry of External Affairs of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil for the establishment of a mechanism for political consultations signed in March 2011, the two countries held discussions to convene the next Bilateral Political Consultations between Sri Lanka and Brazil in the first quarter of 2019 and to explore new avenues of political & economic cooperation.

### **b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- i. Two rounds of Ambassador level discussions were held with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil to identify bilateral issues relating to Sri Lanka and Brazil. Discussions with respective Honorary Consuls in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo were held to identify potential trade events where Sri Lanka could maximize her presence.
- ii. As a part of the Public Diplomacy Programme, the Embassy participated at the International Fair of Embassies – Feira das Embaixadas in November 2018 and promoted Sri Lankan cuisine among visitors.
- iii. Hon. Gamini Wijith Wijayamuni Zoysa, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resource Management visited Brazil to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, from 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018.
- iv. The Mission also processed appointments of Honorary Consuls for three Brazilian cities, i.e. **(1) Rio de Janeiro** (Dr. Sohaku Raimundo Cesar Bastos), **(2) Sao Paulo** (Mr. Eduardo Pereira de Oliveira) and **(3) Bahia** (Mr. Jose Augusto Maciel Torres). A new Honorary Consul for Buenos Aires in Argentina, Mr. Rallys Eduardo Pliauzer was appointed on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018 for 2 years.
- v. The Embassy conducted a number of video and country presentations to Brazilian tour operators/travel agents and gave publicity on Sri Lankantourism through Brazilian media. Awareness meetings and events in collaboration with Brazilian travel

associations and chambers were conducted as well. The Embassy facilitated a film crew from the Brazilian TV network 'TV Globo International' who visited Sri Lanka in April 2018 to film a documentary on Sri Lanka as a tourist destination.

- vi. In the context of economic relations & foreign investments, the Mission continued its engagement with Sri Lankan exporters by connecting potential Brazilian importers mainly for tea, spices, coconuts, apparel and rubber products.
- vii. The Mission has initiated a Trade Promotional Programme in the sub states in Brazil and launched a successful event at the capital city of the state of Parana with the Chamber of Commerce in Parana. The Mission also held a mini exhibition and a tea tasting event together with number of business meetings with potential importers, trade industry and tourism associations and government officials. Identified opportunities were introduced to Sri Lankan exporters for possible business cooperation.

#### **c. Cultural Relations**

- i. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brazil participated at the Vesak celebration (May) and food festival (August) at the Shin Buddhist Temple in Brasilia organized with the support of Embassies representing Buddhist countries in Brasilia. These two events were attended by Brazilian dignitaries, as well as approx. 3,500 Brazilian nationals.

## **2. Cuba**

#### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- i. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Havana continues to maintain strong bilateral relations and mutual beneficial cooperation with Cuba in multifaceted fields of interest.
- ii. The Embassy held discussions with Cuban political leaders to apprise them on new developments in Sri Lanka and to explore new avenues for expanding bilateral ties.
- iii. The Mission continues to provide an efficient service, assistance and support for Sri Lankans in particular Sri Lankan students in Cuba and other accredited countries.
- iv. A six member delegation from the Ministry of Science, Technology & Research visited Cuba from 21<sup>st</sup>– 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 to participate in the Sri Lanka-Cuba First Joint Committee Meeting for cooperation in Science & Technology. Activities for cooperation are ongoing.
- v. Hon. Dr. Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine and a four member delegation visited Havana, to participate in the International Convention on Public Health "Cuba – Salud 2018" from 23<sup>rd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Discussions were held with the Cuban Minister of Health where both Ministers agreed to work out a cooperative arrangement to supply Cuban medicines on Government to Government basis to Sri Lankan government hospitals. A technical level delegation to discuss the modalities of this is expected to visit Cuba in 2019.
- vi. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs paid an official visit to Cuba from 06<sup>th</sup> - 09<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The purpose of the visit was to review

cooperation between the two countries with a view to further strengthening and expanding the traditional friendship.

**b. Multilateral Relations**

- i. Cuba has supported Sri Lanka's candidatures in various UN fora.
- ii. Sri Lanka has consistently voted in favour of the UNGA Resolution for ending the economic, commercial & financial embargo imposed by the US.

**c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- i. The Embassy facilitated business meetings between "Yaden International" Pharmaceutical Company in Sri Lanka and the Cuban pharmaceutical sector in April 2018 to establish a business relationship between the two countries.
- ii. The Mission continued discussions with the Chambers of Commerce and private companies in Cuba and in concurrent accreditations to promote Sri Lankan exports.
- iii. The Ambassador visited Camaguey and Baracoa provinces to renew contacts with local authorities.

**d. Cultural Relations**

- i. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Havana cooperated with the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People (ICAP) to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sri Lanka's Independence and organized a diplomatic reception and TV programme on Sri Lanka on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> February to mark this occasion.
- ii. Discussions are ongoing between the Embassy and the National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation (INDER) of Cuba to introduce new areas of cooperation. In order to expand the scope of the MoU on Sports Cooperation between the National Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation of Cuba and the Ministry of Sports of Sri Lanka, concerted action is being taken and discussions are continuing with respective Cuban officials. An additional Cuban Volleyball Coach to train the Sri Lanka Volleyball team was sent to Sri Lanka in 2018.
- iii. The Mission held discussions with respective Cuban officials to explore possibilities and more training and scholarships in Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Research & Development for Sri Lankan students.

**3. EL – SALVADOR**

- i. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs paid an official visit to El Salvador from 06th -12<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The purpose of the visit was to attend the First Round of Consultations between Sri Lanka and El-Salvador. The discussions broadly focused on bilateral trade and investment, and cooperation in the fields of culture, science and technology, education, agriculture and tourism and proposed to conduct a joint study on Chronic Kidney Disease (CKDu). A Joint Communiqué was issued following the conclusion of the consultations.

- ii. A delegation from El Salvador will be visiting the Rajarata University in March 2019 to understudy the research done on Chronic Kidney Diseasein Sri Lanka.
- iii. The Ambassador presented Credentials in El Salvador on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

#### **4. JAMAICA**

- i. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs paid an official visit to Jamaica from 03<sup>rd</sup> - 06<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The purpose of the visit was to review cooperation between the countries with a view to further strengthening the existing bilateral ties for mutual benefit.
- ii. The Ambassador presented Credentials on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in Jamaica.
- iii. Sri Lanka has confirmed its support for the candidature of Jamaica for one of the three seats reserved for the Group of Latin American & Caribbean States (GRULAC) on the Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) in the UN for the period 2019- 2021.

#### **5. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

- i. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs paid an official visit to Dominican Republic from 09th - 12th October 2018. The purpose of the visit was to review cooperation between the countries with a view to further strengthening the bilateral relations for mutual benefit.
- ii. The Mission is working towards finalizing a MoU on Political Consultations between Sri Lanka and the Dominican Republic and a MoU on Academic Cooperation between the two countries.

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# Legal Division



## **Legal Division**

### **A. A General description of the core areas of the functions of the Legal Division**

The Legal Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was established in 1967. The function of the Legal Division is to furnish legal advice on matters of International Law to the Minister through the Ministry's Secretary, to the other Divisions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the Sri Lankan Missions abroad, to the Foreign Missions in Sri Lanka as well as to other Ministries. The Legal Division is also the Treaty depository of the Government of Sri Lanka.

### **B. Principal areas in which advice is given by the Division**

1. The Legal Division provides advice on legal aspects of all policy decisions and particularly international issues arising from time to time, such as territorial claims and boundaries, recognition of treaty relations, diplomatic immunities and privileges etc.
2. The Legal Division also advises on matters of International Law to all other Ministries and Government Departments involved in foreign transactions covering a wide range of subjects such as Shipping, Civil Aviation, International Trade, Investment, Terrorism and Migration. Further, the Legal Division is also involved in convening, holding negotiations and finalizing treaties on Judicial Cooperation such as Extradition, Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal, Civil and Commercial matters, Avoidance of Double Taxation, Investment Protection and Promotion, Transfer of Prisoners, Readmission, Migration, Labour and Manpower and Law of the Sea.
3. Interpretation of Ministry Instruction Series relating to Sri Lanka Overseas Service, contracts and agreements entered into by Sri Lanka's Mission abroad, local recruitment of labour by our Missions, issues relating to Diplomatic and Consular Privileges and Immunities of Sri Lanka's Missions abroad as well as Foreign Missions in Sri Lanka are few of the areas in which the Division is consulted.
4. In all bilateral meetings of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Legal Division plays an important and active role and leads bilateral negotiations on the areas such as Investment Promotion & Protection, Double Taxation, Air Services, re-admission and visa exemption.

### **C. Promulgation of United Nations Security Council Resolution**

Regulations Promulgating United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) – 2231 sanctioning Iran published in Extra Ordinary Gazette 2080/34 dated 17th July 2018 and amendment to same also was gazetted dated 21st August 2018.

### **D. Law of the Sea/Continental Shelf Submission of Sri Lanka**

- i. The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (LLCS) appointed a sub-committee to consider Sri Lanka's submission on the continental shelf prepared by 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009. The defending process of the submission has commenced.

Accordingly six Meetings with the Sub Commission have taken place so far. The National Ocean Affairs Committee (NOAC) that comes under the purview of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continue to work with the relevant stake holders as well as with the Legal Division is continues by working with the Legal Division to finalize the pending issues.

- ii. Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) for the negotiation of a Convention on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).

The Legal Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs actively participated at the preparatory committee establish to finalize the elements of the above convention. The IGC commenced its work from 4<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 which was attended by the Legal Division to identify the key elements for negotiating the conference. Working Group will be created early to formulate the national strategy on BBNJ and to develop expertise in Sri Lanka.

Further, the Legal Division is scheduled to attend the II IGC to be held from 25<sup>th</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

#### **E. United Nations Convention on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)**

UNCITRAL working Group III on Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), the second meeting of the working group iii was held in New York April 2018, the Legal Division represented at the meeting as the member of investment promotion and protection Agreements. A committee with representatives from Attorneys General Department, BOI and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Legal Division) is to be appointed pursuit recommendation of the working group in order to revive the old Bilateral Investment Agreements signed.

#### **F. Intellectual Property (IP)**

National Policy on Intellectual Property is still being negotiating with the relevant stakeholders and the Legal Division assists in this regard.

#### **G. Readmission**

Agreement on Readmission between Sri Lanka and Georgia was finalized and ready for signature.

#### **H. Migration**

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Sri Lanka and Swiss Confederation on the establishment of a Migration Partnership on 06<sup>th</sup> August 2018 in Colombo.

#### **I. Air Services**

Air Services Agreement between Sri Lanka and Serbia was signed on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in Colombo during the State visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Serbia.

Ongoing discussions with South Korea, USA, Bhutan, Canada, Qatar, UAE and Oman etc. are ongoing for revision of the existing Aviation regime.

The Legal Division participated at the bilateral Air Services Negotiations between Sri Lanka and Luxembourg held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 in Luxembourg to discuss matters relating to air services between the two countries.

#### **J. ICAO Air Services Negotiation Conference (ICAN) 2018**

ICAO Air Services Negotiation Conference (ICAN/2018) was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018. During the conference, Sri Lanka had discussions with Australia, the United

Arab Emirates, Portuguese, State of Qatar, Tanzania, Netherlands, Turkey, Bahamas, Namibia and the Republic of Korea to review the aviation relations for further developing the regulatory framework for air services.

## **K. Agreement on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments**

### **i. IPPA with Turkey**

The Agreement on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments between the Governments of Sri Lanka and the Government Turkey was initiated during the Second round of Negotiations held in Colombo on 21 February 2018.

### **ii. IPPA with Belarus**

Pending issues are being discussed through correspondence between Sri Lanka and Belarus on Investment Protection Agreement.

### **iii. IPPA with UAE**

The second round of negotiations on Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement between Sri Lanka and UAE was held in Abu Dhabi from 25 – 27 April 2018.

### **iv. FTA discussion**

The Legal Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is involved in the negotiation of Investment Chapters with India (ETCA), Thailand and China which are pending finalizations.

## **L. Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion**

An Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion between Sri Lanka and Oman was signed on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018 in Colombo.

## **M. Extension of Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

As per the decision of the Annual Meeting held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in May 2016, the RCA representatives of Government Parties adopted the extension of the RCA Agreement for an unlimited duration.

Accordingly, the Instrument of Acceptance on the extension of the 1987 Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA) was signed 07<sup>th</sup> September 2018 by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs.

## **N. Ratification of Kigali Amendment**

The Instrument of Ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol was signed by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and deposited at the United Nations Secretariat in New York on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018.

By the Kigali Amendment, the State Parties undertake the responsibility to reduce hydro fluorocarbons (HFC) which is used as an alternative to Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) which was phased down under the Montreal Protocol.

#### **O. Additional Protocol to the IAEA Existing Safeguards Agreement**

A written notification expressing the Agreement of the Government of Sri Lanka to sign the Additional Protocol to Sri Lanka's Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy (IAEA) was signed by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 until Sri Lanka fulfills its statutory requirements.

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# Middle East Division



## **Middle East Division**

### **Activities of the Division:**

1. Co-ordination of bilateral visits of H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Foreign Minister and other Cabinet Ministers, MPs and Senior Officials.
2. Preparation of Speaking Notes and Country briefs for those high-level visits, credential ceremonies and all other meetings.
3. Holding Bilateral Political Consultations, Political Dialogues and Joint Commissions etc.
4. Early conclusion of pending MoUs/Agreements.
5. Preparation of Cabinet papers and obtaining Cabinet approval for MoUs/Agreements.
6. Preparation of Condolence Messages, National Day Messages, Toasts and Felicitation Messages etc. by H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Foreign Minister.
7. Facilitation of internal meetings and courtesy calls by Ambassadors/High Commissioners based in Colombo from Middle East region.
8. Preparation of Action Plan, performance and budget reports etc. for Middle East region.
9. Coordination with Sri Lanka Missions abroad, Overseas Missions in Colombo from Middle East region and line Ministries/Departments and other agencies on day to day activities.
10. Consular matters, legal proceedings and other mattes relevant to the nationals from the Middle Eastern Region who leave/ visit Sri Lanka.
11. Follow-up on the decisions taken during State Visits, Political Consultations, Joint Commissions and other visits to the Middle East Regions.

### **Territorial Coverage**

- a. There are seventeen (17) countries (as per the Wikipedia) for the Middle East region, which includes Egypt, Libya (Africa Division) Turkey (West Division) with the 13 countries where Sri Lanka enjoys formal DPL relations, other than with the State of Palestine.
- b. Sri Lanka enjoys formal diplomatic relations with the following 14 Middle Eastern countries;
  1. Kingdom of Bahrain
  2. Islamic Republic of Iran,
  3. Republic of Iraq
  4. State of Israel
  5. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
  6. State of Kuwait
  7. Lebanese Republic
  8. Sultanate of Oman
  9. State of Palestine
  10. State of Qatar
  11. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
  12. Syrian Arab Republic
  13. United Arab Emirates
  14. Republic of Yemen

c. Out above 14 countries Sri Lanka has established 12 resident Missions, namely;

- Embassies in;

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>1. Bahrain (Manama)</b>    | <b>7. Lebanon (Beirut)</b>                  |
| <b>2. Iran (Tehran)</b>       | <b>8. Oman (Muscat)</b>                     |
| <b>3. Iraq (Bagdad)</b>       | <b>9. Qatar (Doha)</b>                      |
| <b>4. Israel (Tel Aviv)</b>   | <b>10. Saudi Arabia (Riyadh)</b>            |
| <b>5. Jordan (Amman)</b>      | <b>11. United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi)</b> |
| <b>6. Kuwait(Kuwait City)</b> |   |

- **12. A Representative Office in Ramallah City (Palestine)**

- Two Consulates Generals in **13. UAE (Dubai)** and **14. Saudi Arabia (Jeddah)**

d. Therefore, only for two counties namely Yemen and Syria, we don't have resident Missions and they are concurrently accredited to our Embassy of Oman (Yemen) and Embassy of Lebanon (Syria).

- Our mission in Iran is concurrently accredited to Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.
- Four Honorary Consul Representations in Middle East are as follows:

1. State of Israel (Jerusalem)
2. State of Palestine (Bethlehem)
3. Republic of Iraq (Kurdistan)
4. Syrian Arab Republic (Damascus)

## **1. BAHRAIN**

### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- The Ambassador called on His Majesty the King, Prime Minister, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Ministers, and Cabinet Ministers of Bahrain, on several occasions, and broached, primarily, on promotion of trade & tourism, creation of employment for Sri Lankans and augmentation of bilateral treaties.
- A Bahraini delegation led by Mr. Subah Salem Rashid Saeer Aldoseri, Undersecretary (equivalent to Secretary) of Labor and Social Development attended the Senior Officials Meeting of "Abu Dhabi Dialogue" on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in Colombo.
- The Ambassador attended at the Round Table Discussion on Manama Dialogue, on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 with the participation of 25 resident Ambassadors in Bahrain. The Dialogue will gather intelligence chiefs and experts from around the world to discuss key issues facing the region in October 2018.

### **b. Multilateral Relations**

- The 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee was held from 24<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 in Manama, Bahrain. Prof. P.B. Mandawala, Director General of Archeology Department participated at the aforementioned conference representing Sri Lanka.
- The GoSL extended the support for the candidature of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) for the term 2019-2022, at the elections held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018, in New York, in exchange for

the Support of the Kingdom of Bahrain for Sri Lanka's candidature to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) at the elections held in June 2018 during the 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the States Parties. Sri Lanka secured the aforementioned candidature.

- The GoSL confirmed the support for the candidature for the Kingdom of Bahrain for the membership of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the term 2019-2021, at the elections to be held in October 2018, in New York.

#### **c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- A ten-member business delegation led by Mr. Mohammed Sajid, Chairman, Gold and Jewellery Committee, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Managing Director, Al Jaberiya Group in the Kingdom of Bahrain attended at the "Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave- 2018", held from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018 in Colombo.

#### **d. Cultural Relations**

- The Mission facilitated the cultural activities, which were conducted by the Sri Lanka Club and a number of Sri Lankan Associations in Bahrain such as New Year Festivals, Vesak, Christmas, Poson, Deepawali and Iftar as well as other sports event and activities.
- The Embassy organized a mega "Sri Lankan Cultural Show" as part of the 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Celebrations on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and the traditional Sri Lankan dancing, singing, and drama items were performed by the Sri Lankan Community in Bahrain to commemorate the iconic 70<sup>th</sup> year Independence.
- A Bahraini Youth Delegation participated at "Yowun Pura", a Youth Festival held in Nikawaratiya, Sri Lanka, organized by the National Youth Services Council of Sri Lanka from 28<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.
- The American Mission Hospital based in Bahrain and Sri Lanka Engineers Society (SLES), in close association with and patronage of the Embassy of Sri Lanka, conducted a mega medical clinic & camp on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at the Embassy premises to coincide with the Vesak Ceremony and conducted a Blood Donation Ceremony in January 2018 with Salmaniya Hospital to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> year Independence Celebrations of Sri Lanka.

#### **e. Labour Welfare**

- The Mission conducted a "Special Consular Day" on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (Friday) to provide necessary assistance to the Sri Lankan expatriates who are unable to visit the Embassy during working days. This was primarily aimed on unregistered workers, who are living in Bahrain for an extended period of time without any valid travel or legal documents.
- The Labor section of the Mission conducted several workshops at select Sri Lankan Associations in Bahrain to raise awareness of Sri Lankan expatriates on the welfare benefits and entitlements for the migrant workers by registration at SLBFE and disseminated brochures formulated by the Mission including the benefits and utility that could be accrued from the SLBFE. The objective of this event was to make the Sri Lankan employees in Bahrain aware and to encourage them to register with the SLBFE.
- The Labour section has conducted 10 job promotional activities to promote Sri Lankan manpower in semi-skilled and skilled sectors in collaboration with employment and manpower agencies in Bahrain.

## **2. IRAN**

### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- His Excellency the President Maithripala Sirisena, paid a State visit to Iran, from 12 to 14 May 2018.
- H.E. the President was accompanied on the State Visit by Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine Hon. Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of City Planning and Water Supply Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister of Industry & Commerce Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Higher Education & Cultural Affairs Hon. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe and Member of Parliament Hon. K. Kader Masthan.
- During the State visit following MoUs were concluded on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
  - MoU between Institute of Standards & Industrial Research of Iran (ISIRI) and Sri Lanka Standard Institution (SLSI) on Cooperation in the field of Standardization, Metrology, Training.
  - MoU in the field of Health, Medical Science, Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment.
  - MoU on the cooperation in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.
  - MoU for Cooperation in the field of Cinema and Television.
  - MoU on Program of Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.
- Follow up actions were taken on the implementation of above signed MoUs.
- On the Invitation of Senior Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL), Mr. Seyed Ahmed Araghchi, Vice Governor for Foreign Exchange Affairs, Central Bank of Iran visited Sri Lanka and had discussions at the CBSL on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018, on the reestablishment of banking links.

### **b. Multilateral Relations**

- Advisory Council of RCSTT: This mission participates in the activities of the Advisory Council of the Indian Ocean Rim Association Regional Centre for Science & Technology Transfer (RCSTT) in Tehran and takes action in consultation with the relevant authorities in Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka supported Iran's candidature for election to the Board of Governors of the IAEA and Iran's candidature for membership of RCA.

### **c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- During the State visit by H.E. the President to Iran from 12 to 14 May 2018, the bilateral discussions with H.E. Hassan Fereidun Rouhani, President of Iran and the meeting with His Eminence Ayatollah Ali Khamenei were based on all issues of mutual concern, modern politics and diplomacy, with an emphasize to ancient history and culture. Both sides discussed in detail on enhancing cooperation in the fields of socio-politics, economic & trade, investment, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, dairy farming, tourism, textiles industry, defence, railways, civil aviation and establishment of direct air links.
- Follow up actions were carried out on the decisions taken during the State visit.
- The projects which are being implemented with the financial assistance from Iran.
  - (i) Rural Electrification Project – (RE 8): The project is being implemented.
  - (ii) Uma Oya Multipurpose Project: The project is being implemented.
- As one of the outcomes of discussions with Iranian Traders, a private owned export exhibition company (Caspian International Exhibition Company) has agreed to provide 500

sq. mt. Space (free of charge) for our bilateral trade activities in their export center in Zanjan city of Iran.

### **3. AZERBAIJAN**

- Sri Lanka supported Azerbaijan for its candidature for re-election to the Committee on the Protection of Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW) for the term 2018-2021, in exchange of Azerbaijan's support for the candidature of Sri Lanka to the same committee at the same election held from 4-6 June, 2018 in Paris.
- On 08<sup>th</sup> August 2018, Sri Lanka Ambassador for Iran presented his letter of Credence from H.E. the President Maithripala Sirisena to H.E. the President Mr. Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan as concurrently accredited Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Azerbaijan.

### **4. TURKMENISTAN**

- On 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Sri Lanka Ambassador in Iran presented his letter of Credence from H.E. the President Maithripala Sirisena to Hon. Speaker Ms. Gulshat Mammedova of Turkmenistan as concurrently accredited Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Turkmenistan.

### **5. IRAQ**

#### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- Attended the Wreath laying Ceremony on Armed Forces Day in the Green Zone, Baghdad, Iraq.
- The Ambassador had discussions with the new DG Asia & OZ, Dr. Mrs. Amal Al-Rubaye, newly appointed Chief of Protocol, Amb Al-Manhal Al-Safi.
- Had meeting with Dr. Ahmad Jalal to discuss increasing Trade & Tourism with Kurdistan Region.
- An Iraqi Delegation met the Ambassador to discuss how to care for disabled war veterans.
- An Interview was conducted where the Ambassador highlighted Tea & Tourism in Sri Lanka.
- Iraq requested for additional Vacancies for Training of Iraqi DPLs in Sri Lanka.
- The Ambassador discussed progress of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Iraq Sri Lanka Joint Committee for Economic Technical Cooperation meeting.
- Ambassadors in Baghdad were briefed on Sexual Violence used as a Weapon of War by ISIS.
- A Proposal was forwarded to exchange 5 University Students from Kurdistan Region.
- The Ambassador visited Kurdistan Region for 4 Days from 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018.
- The Ambassador had meetings with several Ministers of the Kurdistan Regional Government.
- The Ambassador discussed the Security measures in order to protect the Embassy, at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The Ambassador had discussions with the new DG Asia & OZ Amb. Saad Jawad Kindeel.

- Fresh dates were requested from Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Baghdad,Iraq for the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of Iraq - Sri Lanka Joint Committee for Economic Technical Cooperation.
- The Ambassador attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Function of the Bombing of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Baghdad.
- The Ambassador attended the Inaugural Session of the 4<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Iraq.
- 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day was celebrated in Baghdad.
- The Ambassador attended the Reception to mark the 39<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Iran.

**b. Multilateral Relations**

- The Ambassador participated at a meeting of all Diplomats, convened by Head of UNAMI.
- The Ambassador attended the International Conference for the Re-constructions of Iraq.
- UNAMI conducted a briefing for all Diplomats on New Technology for the General Election.
- UNAMI conducted a briefing for all Diplomats on Electoral, Political & Human Rights.
- The Ambassador attended a Symposium organized by the Islamic Supreme Council in Iraq.

**c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- The Ambassador met an important Tea Importer in BGD Mr. Haider Abbas.
- The Ambassador met a leading Travel Agent in Baghdad, Mr. Mohammad Maash, and Mrs. Luma Sobhi Joode, to arrange Tourist packages.
- Sri Lanka Tea Board confirmed Iraq is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Ceylon Tea Importer in 2017.
- In 2018 (1<sup>st</sup> 8 months) Iraq has become the No.1 Importer of Ceylon Tea, Worldwide.
- A Delegation of Businessmen led by our Honorary Consul in Kurdistan, travelled to Sri Lanka.
- Tourism Booklets prepared in Arabic Language was distributed at the Iraqi Travel Exhibition.
- Colombo Dockyard Ltd., had been chosen to build 2 Vessels for use at Umm – Qasr Port.
- A delegation attended the Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave 2018.
- A discussion was held to enhance Ceylon Tea Trade in the Kurdistan Region.
- The Ambassador had meetings with the Chamber of Commerce of Erbil and the Chamber of Commerce of Sulaimaniya.
- Iraq is well on its way to achieve, both Trade and Tourism Targets given to it by Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**d. Cultural Relations**

- A 44 minutes Video on Sri Lanka depicting cultural events was displayed on a large screen.
- Material on Culture & Tourism in Sri Lanka was displayed at the Iraq Tourism Exhibition.

#### **e. Labour Welfare**

- The Ambassador discussed problems faced by the Migrant Workers in the Kurdistan Region.
- Arrangements were made to provide 1150 slots for Sri Lankan Migrant Workers in Iraq.
- The Embassy is in the process of preparing a list of Sri Lankan Migrant Workers in Iraq.
- Job Orders from Kurdistan Region in Iraq was conveyed to Sri Lankan authorities.
- The Ambassador inspected accommodation of Migrant Workers in Erbil and reported to Colombo.

### **6. ISRAEL**

#### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- A two member delegation led by Air Marshal K.V.B. Jayampathy, Commander of the Air Force visited Israel from 09<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.
- Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited Israel from 10<sup>th</sup>– 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. He led the Sri Lankan delegation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Political Dialogue held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Both sides reviewed the decisions taken during the 1<sup>st</sup> Political Dialogue and discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations in the fields of agriculture, Education and Higher Education, trade, economic, investment, tourism, fisheries, defence, aquatic, city planning, telecommunication and Energy sector. During the visit, Secretary Foreign Affairs also participated at the Annual Conference of the Advocacy at Jerusalem on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, as the keynote speaker.
- A 17 member delegation headed by Air Commodore CB Labrooy, Sri Lanka Air Force, visited Israel from 03<sup>rd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- A 20 member delegation led by Mr. B. Wijayaratne, Secretary/Ministry of Agriculture visited Israel from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018 to study the Modern Agricultural Technologies.

#### **b. Multilateral Relations**

- Israel's membership to the Asian Development Bank. Sri Lanka has decided to support the application of Israel's membership to the Asian Development Bank.
- Advisory Committee on Administration and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for the term 2020 – 2022. Sri Lanka has confirmed the support for the candidature of Israel to the ACABQ at the election which is to be held during the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the UNGA in November 2019 in New York.

#### **c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- The Embassy had discussion with the Israeli tour operators to operate charter flights between Israel and Sri Lanka with the intention of promoting tourism from Israel to Sri Lanka.
- The Embassy had a discussion with Fox Company, one of the leading apparel importers, to seek the possibility of exporting apparel from Sri Lanka to Israel.

- The Embassy had a discussion with a few supermarkets to introduce the Sri Lankan products such as spices, coconut products, tea and others in Israeli market. Following the discussion, we were informed that the food products should have the Kosher Certificate. They also said that they import same products from Thailand, Vietnam and Philippines since the prices are much cheaper compared to Sri Lanka.
- 43<sup>rd</sup> International Arts and Crafts Festival held at Jerusalem from 06<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2018. At the invitation of the Embassy, two Sri Lankan Companies namely M/s Ran Ruwan Co. (Pvt.) Ltd. and M/s Blue Star Company participated at the festival and exhibited the products of Sri Lankan Arts and Crafts to the Israeli nationals.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Annual International Mediterranean Tourism Market 2018 (IMTM 2018) 06<sup>th</sup> – 07<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Embassy participated at the IMTM 2018 (International Mediterranean Tourism Market 2018) with 50 other countries and approximately 25,500 visitors visited the exhibition center.
- The Embassy received 02 trade complaints during the year and coordinated with the Israel – Sri Lankan Chamber of Commerce to settle the complaints.
- Ambassador met the Chairperson of Israel – Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce, Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka in Jerusalem and other potential investors and briefed them on the Sri Lanka's investment climate, transportation, tourism and infrastructure etc.

#### **d. Cultural Relations**

- Sinhala and Hindu New Year was celebrated on 07<sup>th</sup> April in Jerusalem.
- Vesak was celebrated on 29<sup>th</sup> April with the participation of Sri Lankan and Israeli Monks in the Chancery.
- Vesak Seela Programme was conducted on 05<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 in Tel Aviv.
- Cultural programmes organized by the Sri Lankan Community in Tel Aviv on 10.05.2018.
- Sri Lankan Community in Tel Aviv organized the Vesak Ceremony on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in Tel Aviv.
- Poson was celebrated on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 in the Embassy premises.
- Religious programme was conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018 by the Community with the participation of Embassy staff at Tel Aviv. Two Sri Lankan monks living in Switzerland participated at this "Was Pinkam" programme, and also the temporary temple was named as "PativedaViharaya".
- Poson programme was organized by the Sri Lankan community in Tel Aviv on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.
- Embassy organized a Dana ceremony on 24.09.2018 at the Residence.
- 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Sri Lanka was celebrated on 04<sup>th</sup> February at the Embassy Premises.

#### **e. Labour Welfare**

- The Embassy organized a one day mobile service in Haifa on 18.02.2018 for the benefit of Sri Lankan migrant workers. 34 SLBFE registrations were done. Issued passport application for 11 individuals. Handed over one new passport.

- 257 seasonal agricultural workers arrived in the State of Israel under G2G Programme "Arrangement between the PIBA of the State of Israel and the SLBFE of the GoSL for the Recruitment of Seasonal Agricultural Workers for 5 to 8 months of Seasonal Agricultural Work in Israel."
- 10 Caregivers arrived under G2G Joint Pilot Programme of "Recruitment and Placement of up to 50 Caregivers from Sri Lanka to Treat Elderly Disabled Employers in Israel".
- Assisted 169 Sri Lankan migrant workers to settle their employment related issues. Assisted 08 hospitalized Sri Lankan migrant workers. Assisted 04 Sri Lankan workers who are in Jails and in detention centers. The Embassy official accompanied a sick mentally retarded seasonal agricultural worker back to Sri Lanka.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel has forwarded the Draft Agreement on the temporary Employment of Sri Lankan workers in specific Labour Market Sectors in Israel to Sri Lankan authorities and it is under consideration of Sri Lankan side.
- Draft implementation Project to the above mankind agreement, considered as an expanded pilot Programme in the Caregiving Sector also been forwarded by the Israeli authorities and it is under consideration of Sri Lankan side.
- Repatriation of Human Remains of Late Mrs. T.H.D. Violet Winifred, Mrs. T.H.D. Violet Winifred, a tourist visited Israel died on 13.09.2018 in Jerusalem. Her Human Remains were repatriated to Sri Lanka on 18.09.2018 by flight no. PS 778.

## **7. JORDAN**

### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- The Ambassador met H.E. Mr. Zaid Al Louzi, Secretary General of Jordan Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 08.01.2018 and discussed on a reciprocal visit at the Foreign Ministers level.
- The Ambassador met Ms. Mai of Princess Basma's office on 15.01.2018 to invite Princess Basma to National Day of Sri Lanka as the chief guest.
- The Ambassador met Mr. Ra'ad Sultan, the Managing Director of the Sillion Electronic Technology and the brother of Prince ZeidRaad Al Hussein, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on 15.02.2018.
- H.E. Prince Mired Ra'adZeid Al Hussein, Special Envoy of Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention visited Sri Lanka from 05-07 March 2018. He paid courtesy calls on H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Foreign Minister. He also visited the Northern Province, accompanied by the Minister of Rehabilitation and Resettlement, D.M Swaminathan.
- The Ambassador met Eng. KholoudA.Aranki, Director of Plant Protection & Phytosanitary Directorate and discussed on the ban issued by the Jordanian authorities on Sri Lankan fruits.
- Visit of Hon. VasanthaSenanayake, State Minister for Foreign Affairs to Jordan from 09-11 May 2018. He had discussions with the officials of Amman Chamber of Commerce, Director General of the Jordan Tourist Board and proprietors, CEO's and HR Managers of Sri Lankan garment factories. Recomence the non-stop Royal Jordan Flights to Colombo which were discontinued few years ago and to recruitment of more semiskilled and skilled workers into Jordan were discussed.
- The Ambassador met Dr. Mahar Tharwneh, Director General of Asian Division of Ministry of Foreign Affairs seeking support Sri Lanka's candidature to the Intergovernmental Committee

for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) on UNESCO for term 2018-2022.

- The Ambassador met the Minister of Interior of Jordan and discussed on declaring general amnesty for Sri Lankans.

#### **b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investment**

- The Ambassador met Mr. Issa Murad, Chairman, Amman Chamber of Commerce on 22.02.2018.
- The Ambassador met Mr. Majdi Muhtadi, Chairman, Al Mhtado International Trading Est. General Investment and Trade on 28.02.2018. Bid notices were available to him and a meeting with Minister Harin Fernando was also arranged on 20.08.2018 during his official visit to Jordan.
- The Ambassador met Senator Nael Al Kabariti, Chairman, Jordan Chamber of Commerce and discussed on arranging a Jordanian trade delegation to Sri Lanka "Economic enclave" and to sign a MoU with Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.
- The Ambassador attended the Middle East Block Chain & Fintech-Opening Ceremony of the 10<sup>th</sup> Jordan Economic Forum-Crown Plaza/Dead Sea.
- The Ambassador met Mr. Mazen Maaylah, Chairman/General Confederation of Trade Unions on 25.04.2018.
- The Ambassador met Mr. Husam Saleh, Chairman, Jordan Garments, Accessories and Textiles Exporter's Association on 27.05.2018.
- The Ambassador paid four visits to the Amman Chamber of Commerce to meet with Mr. Marwan Ghaith and Mr. Riad Al Saifi, officials of Amman Chamber of Commerce.
- The Ambassador met Mr. Mohannad H. Toubat, Chairman of Sri Lanka and Jordan Trade Relationship on 13.08.2018 and discussed on importation of Sri Lankan spring water and spices. Also facilitated to establish contact with Knuckles Water Company in Sri Lanka.
- The Embassy of Sri Lanka has organized a trade bazaar at the Embassy premises on 07<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September with the purpose of promoting and introducing the Sri Lankan products to Jordanian businessmen.
- The Ambassador met the Chairman of the Talal Abu Ghazeleh organization (TAG- Org), Senator Mr. Talal Abu Ghazeleh. This organization is the largest global group of professional service firms in the fields of Intellectual Property Registration and Protection (IPRP). TAG- Org have recently remitted US\$ 200,000 into Sri Lanka to establish its branch of IPRP.
- The Ambassador met Chairman of Ocean Sea Food and Restaurant. Ocean Sea Food and Restaurant operate with 25 sea food restaurants and 22 sea food outlets in Jordan and discussed on import of sea foods from Sri Lanka.

#### **c. Cultural Relations**

- Sri Lankan cultural dances were organized on the commemoration of the 2018 National Day of Sri Lanka with over 500 participants.
- National week for Reconciliation 2018 was held.

- The Mission celebrated Sinhala & Tamil New year, Vesak, Poson and Easter in which a large number of Sri Lankans, and multi religious dignitaries participated.
- Religious and spiritual services provided to Sri Lankan garment factory workers through the Buddhist monks invited from Sri Lanka. The Embassy has organized four Buddhist, two Christian, one Hindu and one Islamic religious event.
- The Embassy organized a Sri Lankan Cultural Parade presenting and promoting more than 40 Sri Lankan traditional events at the Al Wakalat street.

#### **d. Labour Welfare**

- The Ambassador met H.E. Dr. Ali Al Ghazawi, Minister of Labour on 18.02.2018 and discussed renewing the agreement on "Development of ways and means on finding solutions to the problems related to the export and import of labour and placement of such labour on Contractual Development" and general amnesty.
- The Ambassador met the Regional Chief of IOM in Jordan Mr. Enrico Ponziani, and sought his assistance to declare general amnesty.
- A delegation from SLBFE and Criminal Investigation Dept. of Sri Lanka, on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018 visited Jordan for " Human Trafficking Awareness" programme and visited Ministry of Labour , Thamkeen – Legal Aid for migrants and Anti Human Trafficking Unit which under the Ministry of Defence in Jordan.
- Hon. Harin Fernando Minister of Telecommunication, Digital Infrastructure & Foreign Employment, visited Jordan on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and discussed with the Garment factory owners and Executive committee members of Recruiting Agents Association in Jordan. He visited Maliban garment factory in Ad Dullayl area to observe the working conditions.
- The Ambassador visited garment factories such as Camal, Azeel, MASS and Maliban.
- A delegation from Sri Lanka under "Safe Migration programme" visited on 17th September 2018 to meet, International Committee of the Red Cross, IOM, Thamkeen- Legal Aid for Migrants, Ministry of labour Arab Migrants resource center, Recruiting Agents Association in Jordan.
- Mission assisted to repatriate 11 Sri Lankan illegal over stayers in Jordan to Sri Lanka.
- Mission had meetings with the Mr. Yazen Jerrah, Head of Anti Human Trafficking Unit, Director of Labour and Ms. Linda M Al- Kalash, Executive Director of "THAMKEEN", NGOs such as CARITAS, RED CRESENT of Jordan.
- Labour officials Visit factories regularly and in case of emergency, since January 2018, 36 regular visits and 10 emergency visits.
- Labour officials participated in a conference on July 2018, organized by HR-Managers Forum of garment sector in Jordan, under the theme of "FAIR HIRING PRACTICES FOR MIGRANTS".
- Jail visits were carried out by Mission officials once per month.

## **8. KUWAIT**

### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- H.E. Ali Sulaiman Al Said, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs for Asia Affairs of Kuwait visited Sri Lanka from 22-25 July 2018. He called on Foreign Minister, Hon. Tilak Marapana on 24 July 2018 and had discussions with senior officials of the Foreign Ministry and other line Ministries/Agencies at the Foreign Ministry, Colombo. Both sides discussed on future cooperation in the fields of culture, media, education, science & technology, investment and labour. Provision of assistance for development projects in Sri Lanka from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and future Kuwaiti investment in Sri Lanka were also discussed. Over Kuwait Dinar 77 million (US\$ 256 million) have so far been granted as loans for 15 projects, including the Moragahakanda Irrigation and Agricultural Development Project and the Moragolla Hydropower Project. The discussions laid the foundation for 02<sup>nd</sup> Session of Sri Lanka-Kuwait Joint Committee on Trade in Kuwait, 09-11 October, 2018. (after 21 years of the first meeting held in 1997)
- The Embassy represented Sri Lanka at the seminar “Social responsibility of the private sector in supporting human rights” conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait on 30 April 2018.
- Coordinated the official visit of Hon. Abdul Haleem, Minister of Posts, Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs of Sri Lanka under the invitation of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of State of Kuwait, 22-26 March 2018.
- Held meetings with the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs in February, March and April, 2018 and managed to reap maximum benefit of General Amnesty period declared by the Government of Kuwait.

### **b. Multilateral Relations**

- Secured Kuwait's reciprocal support for Sri Lanka's candidature to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), for the term 2018-2022.
- Represented Sri Lanka at the “International Domestic Workers Day” organized by Sandigan Kuwait Domestic Workers Association (SKDWA) on 23 June 2018.
- The Mission ensured participation of Sri Lankan at the following event of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)
  - 3rd ACD Summit, 15th October 2018, Tehran, Iran
  - 16th ACD Ministerial Meeting, 14th October 2018
  - 2nd ACD Working Group on Inclusive and Sustainable Development, 12-13 March 2018, Kuwait
  - 3rd ACD Tourism Ministers Meeting, 04-06 September 2018, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka
  - Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue to be held on the sidelines of the 73rd UNGA, 27th September 2018, New York.
  - The Asian Energy Security and Transition Cooperation Forum, 13-14 September 2018, Beijing
  - Symposium on “Asia Cooperation dialogue and the building of an Asian Community of Shared Future”, 8 December 2017, Guangzhou, China.

### **c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- Coordinated with Kuwaiti authorities for holding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Trade Committee Meeting in Kuwait, from 9 to 11 October 2018 in Kuwait.
- The Embassy participated at the Asian Bazaar at the Palm Beach Hotel on 27 January 2018 and Spring Festival at the Shaheed Park on 21 March 2018.
- Organized visits of Kuwaiti traders to Sri Lanka and meet Sri Lankan exporters.
- Resolved a number of trade disputes.

### **d. Cultural Relations**

- The national day reception that was held at the official residence on 8 February 2018.
- The Embassy in association with International Women's Group in Kuwait organized a Sri Lankan Day at Crowne Plaza Hotel on 4 March 2018.
- The Embassy in association with the Sri Lankan Funeral Fund and Social Service Society and Sri Lankan Cultural Association in Kuwait organized two New Year festivals on 6 and 13 April 2018.
- The Embassy organized a two day Vesak Day programme in the Embassy premises during 3-4 May 2018.
- The Embassy in association with "We Are the Sri Lankans Society" organized a two day Poson Programme during 28-29 June 2018.
- A few Iftarprogramme were organized by Embassy premises on 1, 7, 8 June 2018 for Muslim community of Sri Lankan origin.
- A special Dhamma Sermon by Ven. Attaragama Pagngnalankarathero was organized during 10-11 August 2018.

### **e. Labour Welfare**

- A delegation from the Ministry of Telecommunication, Digital Infrastructure and Foreign Employment of Sri Lanka visited Kuwait from 11 -12 July 2018. The delegation met with senior officials of the Public Authority for Manpower, IOM and several NGOs and Recruitment Agencies based in Kuwait.
- The Mission engaged with the Public Authority for Manpower in Kuwait regarding the formation of the Joint Working Group under the MoU on Labour, Recruitment and Manpower Development signed in 2012.
- With the aim of resolving issues concerning trafficking in persons, the Mission made representations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Public Authority for Manpower, the Department of Domestic Labour, IOM office in Kuwait and several Embassies based in Kuwait.
- The Mission provided assistance to large number of migrant workers to overcome different challenges encountered by them. The total number of reported complaints related to Domestic Workers –in- service and Non Domestic Workers – in- service during the period of 01 January 2018 to 30 September 2018 is 577. (Female 48, Male- 529)

- The Mission intervened to recover salary dues of several migrant workers. As a result this Mission was able to recover sum of KD 6,971/= (SLRs.3.6 Million) as salary dues of 25 migrant workers for the period from 01 January 2018 to 30 September 2018
- The Mission undertook 14 visits to hospitals to assist Sri Lankan patients. Out of which 05 patients were repatriated having waived off hospital charges amounting to KD 19,120/= (SLRs. 10 Millions)
- The Mission maintains a shelter for female domestic workers who flee their place of employment due to various difficulties and maintains a reception desk that functions 24/7. 771 runaway female migrant workers reported to the safe house during 01 January 2018 to 30 September 2018. On an average 75 female workers were maintained at the safe house by the Mission.
- The Mission mediated to repatriation of 742 Sri Lankans during 01 January 2018 to 30 September 2018 Out of 742 workers 630 female workers who were reported to safe house and rest of 112 were illegal migrant workers.
- The Mission paid many visits to Foreign Employment Agencies and reputed business entities in Kuwait in order to secure new employment opportunities for skilled and semi-skilled Sri Lankans and secured 434 Job orders from the reputed companies and Agencies.
- 192 (male: 160, female: 32) Sri Lankans are detained in Jails in Kuwait. This Mission visited the Central Jail 11 occasions. Also visited the deportation camp and the Government shelter.
- The Embassy secured pardon for Mr. Bastian KoralageSampath who was sentenced to death under the charges of murder in 2009. The punishment of Mr.Bastian has been commuted from death penalty to life imprisonment.
- The Mission secured pardon for 139 Sri Lankan prisoners under the general pardon of H.H. the Amir of Kuwait, including commuting the life imprisonment of 32 prisoners to 10 years and commuting 15 years sentence of 74 prisoners to 10 years.

## 9. LEBANON

### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- Diplomatic reception was held on 07.02.2018 at the Official Residence.
- On 23.05.2018 attended to the election of the President of the Assembly and the Bureau organized by the General Secretariat of the Lebanese National Assembly.
- On 28.06.2018 attended the “Multi Stakeholders’ Conference” at the American University of Beirut for the National Protection of Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon.
- On 16.01.2018 represented at a reception organized on the occasion of the New Year & Christmas by the President of the Republic.
- On 09.02.2018 attended at a festive Mass headed by His Eminence Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros El Rahi, in the presence of the President of the Republic on the occasion of St. Maron feast.
- On 14.02.2018 represented in the commemoration of the 13th anniversary for the martyrdom.

- On 17.04.2018 attended at a presentation held by the president of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon entitled:" An update on the Work of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon with a Focus on the most recent Developments".
- On 01.03.2018 attended a conference titled" Women on the front Lines", organized by May Chidiak Foundation.
- On 13.03.2018 attended a conference on Sustainable energy in Lebanon from 2020 concrete targets to the 2030.
- On 16.04.2018 attended a conference titled "Support health Policies "organized by the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization & AUB in Beirut Sciences faculty.

### **b. Multilateral Relations**

- On 05.03.2018 represented at a conference organized by the UNIFIL.
- On 19.03.2018 represented at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNIFIL Establishment day.
- On 22.03.2018 launched the campaign of "My Fair Home".
- Participated annual medal parade for Sri Lankan Force Protection Unit.
- On 23.03.2018 attended at a conference on the occasion of the World Tuberculosis day.
- On 03.04.2018 attended at a conference organized by Insaan Association on Women and Human rights.
- On 27.06.2018 represented at the 30th Ministerial session of ESCWA organized by the United Nations Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia.

### **c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- On 24.02.2018 met the President of the Chamber of Commerce in Tripoli, Mr. ToufikDabboussi.
- Organized Sri Lankan Day with the collaboration the faculty of tourism and science of the Islamic university in Lebanon of 13.03.2018.
- Dr. MhdMoussallam Al Droubi , the Hon. Consul of Sri Lanka to Syria was participated Sri Lanka Investment & Business Conclave held 19th to 21st June 2018, Colombo.
- Embassy facilitated the appointment of Sri Lankan Airline General Sales Agent to Lebanon Mr. Jamil Bayram and his discussions with Middle East Airlines Beirut
- Published an article in prestige magazine titled "Sri Lanka – The resplendent island of the Indian Ocean" on February 2018 which has a circulation of 30.000 copies.
- 20 minutes presentation was done during the diplomatic reception for VVIPs, VIPs, diplomats and government officials on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the official residence.
- Special supplement was also published for the 70th National Day celebrations.
- On 19.02.2018 attended at the launching of MIC ventures, to improve business environment and boost innovation in Lebanon.
- On 14.02.2018 organized a Job Promotion meeting with Zahle Chamber of Commerce.

- Job Promotion Meeting was held at Aley Municipality on 14.02.2018.

#### **d. Cultural Relations**

- On 25.01.2018 organized an art competition titled “Images of Sri Lanka” together with the Ministry of Education and Municipality of Aley.
- On 05.02.2018 organized a Sri Lanka Photography Exhibition “Enter fiel et ciel” presented by Professor Najji El Jalkh at Hazmieh Municipality hall.
- On 17.02.2018 Meeting with the Director of Beirut museum, to discuss the possibility of initiative cooperation in cultural exchanges and holding an exhibition.
- International Youth Camp 28<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 held at Nikaweratiya.
- On 08.05.2018 represented at a Ceremony Honoring a leading Ballet dancer in Lebanon, organized by The LAU University.
- Amchit cultural festival organized by Vilma’s school of music was held at the Amchit Al Saydeh church square on 30.06.2018.

#### **e. Labour Welfare**

- Facilitated the job promotion, human Trafficking advice visits by Ms. Cheka Premasiri Additional General Manager (Corporate Affairs) of the SLBFE and two others on 14.02.2018.
- On 04.02.2018: 70<sup>th</sup> National Independence Day was celebrated.
- On 04.02.2018: a cultural event “RangaSara” jointly organized by the Embassy of Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan community in Lebanon.
- On 25.03.2018 celebrated International Women’s Day at Freres Unis School Ground, Salloumeh.
- On 15.04.2018: Sinhala and Tamil New Year was celebrated.
- On 23 and 24.06.2018: a religious program was held for Poson Festival at the Embassy premises on 23 and 24 June 2018 which was organized by Meera Welfare Society and a sum USD 12,000 were donated to the “BakkulaMahaseya” Bikku Hospital in Horana.
- On 28 and 29.06.2018: Vesak day was commemorated by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Lebanon in accordance with the SLGOS policy.
- Discussed with Baabda Prosecutor, for Repatriating 100 Undocumented Workers who have legal cases.
- Possibility of obtaining Amnesty to long – term serving two Prisoners Lily Nona who is in Tripoli Prison and Biuddika Jayaratane who is in Verdun Prison.
- Requested the Mediation of the Justice Ministry for the Nonpayment of the Salaries of the Safe House Inmate Ms. Punchawarnam whose salaries were not paid for 15 years.
- Donated a Video Laryngoscope worth SLRS. 306,150.00 to the Apeksha Hospital Maharagama with assistance of the Sri Lankan community and well-wishers on 26.06.2018.

- II Donated an Electric wheelchair for Sgt. Ranasinghe who is in Mihindu Seth Madura in AttidiyaDehiwala with the help of Mrs.P.J.Munasinghe, Sri Lankan Migrant worker and Lebanese National Mr.NadimMoujabder on 23.07.2018.
- 131 illegal Sri Lanka emigrant workers were repatriated during the period from January to September 2018 under the Amnesty.
- A sum of USD62, 892.93 has been collected as compensation during the above period.

## **10. OMAN**

### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- A diplomatic Reception was organized by the Mission on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018, on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. A newspaper supplement was publishedin Times of Oman for the same occasion.
- The Mission initiated and coordinated the official visit of the Parliamentary delegation led by Hon. Speaker of Sri Lanka Parliament from 11-16 March 2018, which was the highest level delegation from Sri Lanka to Oman since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countriesin 1981.
- The 02<sup>nd</sup>Political Consultations between the Foreign Ministries of Oman and Sri Lanka, which was held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018 in Colombo. The Sri Lanka delegation was led by Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam and the Oman delegation was headed by the Under-Secretary for Diplomacy and Chief Master's Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman Mr. Mahmood Awad Al Hassan.
- A wide range of matters for mutual collaboration in the fields of trade; tourism; immigration and emigration; labour and manpower training; defence; agriculture; higher education; and culture were reviewed and discussed. Moreover, fisheries, sports, oil and gas were identified as new areas for possible future cooperation. It was also agreed to assist the establishment of a Sri Lanka-Oman Business Council between the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- The two sides also agreed to conclude an Agreement on Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments at the earliest, and to consider entering into a MOU on Skills Development and Mutual Recognition of Qualifications to facilitate mobility of skilled workers from Sri Lanka to Oman.The Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income, between the two countries was signed.
- Hon. Harin Fernando, Minister of Telecommunication, Digital Infrastructure and Foreign Employmentvisited Oman from15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018, and discussed on the possibilities for promotion of employment opportunities for skilled Sri Lankan workers in Oman and met Chairman, Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Sri Lanka Community.
- The Third Joint Meeting of the Technical Committee formed under the MoU on Labour and Training 03<sup>rd</sup> to 04<sup>th</sup> July 2018 was held in Sri Lanka. It has been agreed to introduce a new scheme for streamlining recruitment of Sri Lankan female migrant workers to Oman to curtail the illegal recruitment practices by the employment agents.
- The Mission facilitated the visit of a delegation from the Ministry of Manpower to attend the Abu Dhabi Dialogue in Colombo on May 2018.
- The Government of Oman has offered one scholarship to the Sri Lankan students for the academic year 2018/19 under the Omani government scholarship programme, based on a

request made by the Mission. The Mission facilitated the sending of three Omani students from the Sultan Qaboos University for internship at University of Peradeniya.

- The Mission arranged participation of two Omani students at the YowunPura Youth Festival from 28<sup>th</sup> March- 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018.

#### **b. Multilateral Relations**

- The Government of Oman supported for Sri Lanka's candidature to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of UNESCO for the term 2018-2022.

#### **c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- The Mission organized the Sri Lankan products week in Muscat from 5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in partnership with Lulu Hypermarket on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of Independence. A newspaper supplement was published on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in Times of Oman, which included articles on Sri Lanka Tourism, Investment promotion, Ceylon Tea, Gem and Jewelry.
- The Mission coordinated and facilitated the official visit of a banking sector delegation headed by the Hon. Governor of the Central Bank for exploring the Omani banking sector for investments in the financial markets of Sri Lanka from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The meeting with Executive President of the State General Reserve Funded the Executive President of the CBO, with the objective of attracting the investments from the SGRF to Sri Lanka, among others, were fruitful. A visit by the State General Reserve Fund to invest in the Sri Lanka hospitality industry is in the offing.
- The Mission has assisted several companies including Lalan Rubber Pvt. Ltd, under Lalan Group in arranging B2B meetings with potential buyers in Oman. The Mission was able to arrange participation of two representatives from Sunset Brightness LLC in the Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018. The Mission facilitated “88 Developers,” a company owned by a Sri Lankan resident in Oman, to register with the BOI for a real estate project for an office complex in Borella.
- The Mission is engaged with the Omani Ministry of Oil and Gas in order to obtain their support for the proposed partnership between Oman Oil Company (OOC) and Silver Park International for setting up of an oil refinery in Hambantota Special Economic Zone.

#### **d. Cultural Relations**

- The Embassy, in collaboration with the Sri Lankan Community Social Club and its other affiliated organizations, organized Thai Pongal on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018, “PrathibhaPrabha” Talent Show on 02<sup>nd</sup> and 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2018, Sinhala and Tamil New Year festival 2018 on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Vesak festival at Sri Sambuddhatwa Jayanthi Viharaya located in the Embassy premises from 27<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018, “Ifthar” in celebration of the Ramadan festival on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 and Eid and First Muharram Festival on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and participated at the Food Festival organized by Dar Al Attaa, a Charity Fund, formally registered with the Omani Ministry of Social Development on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- The Mission facilitated participation of a Sri Lankan traditional dance troupe based in Muscat at the International Night organized by the International Student Club of the German University of Technology (GUtech) in Oman.

## **e. Labour Welfare**

- The Mission has received 275 complaints mainly from female domestic workers. 216 complaints have been resolved. The Mission continued to provide shelter to the stranded female migrant workers and arranged to settle their issues through the intervention of the relevant government authorities/sponsor/agency. 270 Female workers and 23 male migrant workers have sought the protection/shelter. The Mission officials have attended 354 meetings/visits with the police, Ministry of Manpower, hospitals, Immigration etc. in connection with dispute settlement and 121 safe house inmates have been repatriated by the Mission following settlement of their disputes. The Mission has also handled 54 complaints received from the Consular Division, related to female domestic workers, not registered with the SLBFE.
- The Mission facilitated the visit of an expert team on counter human trafficking from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 from SLBFE, AGs Department and Policeto provide training to the Labour Section officials on handling human trafficking cases. The delegation met with the Omani governmentauthorities and discussed cooperation on tackling human trafficking.
- The Mission coordinated and facilitated the visit of an expert team comprising of four CID officers on 10<sup>th</sup>March 2018to record statements from alleged victims of human trafficking sheltered in the Embassy's safe house.
- On July 1, 2018, the Mission arranged an awareness session and job promotion event for the Recruitment agencies registered with the Embassy.

## **11. PALESTINE**

### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- Sri Lanka Representative had a meeting with NassarYaqin, President and members of Palestine – Sri Lanka Friendship Association and discussed to promote the activities of the Association.
- Celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> National Day of Sri Lanka at Grand Park Hotel, Hon. Mr. Ali Abu Diak, Minister of Justice of the Government of Palestine was the Chief Guest at this occasion.The award of "Lanka Pranama "(salutation of Sri Lanka) was awarded to the following three Palestinians.
  - Mr. Saleh JaberIhmaid, Chairman of UNIWORLD TEAS Company in Sri Lanka.
  - Mr. Shaddad one of the main leading Tea Traders in Jenin and owner of the SilatAldaher Trading Company.
  - Mr. DurghamAlnabali, Chairman of Al-Nabali& Al-Faris Investment Group.
- Sri Lanka Representativeorganized Iftar and a special Ramadan was conducted by Sheikh Ra'fat at official Residence. The prayers were to bless Sri Lanka and its people from natural disasters.
- A prayer also was conducted by Sheik Rahufath for wellbeing of H.E. the President Maithripala Sirisena, and for the prosperity and harmony among all communities in Sri Lanka as well as in Palestine.
- During the holy month of Ramadan and right before the customary breaking fast Sheikh Ahmed Suqi, Imam of Saifullah Mosque, Quran and BadhrMawloodRecitermade prayers and dua's were called to bless all communities in Sri Lanka,Palestine and all other countries.
- Sri Lanka representative had a meeting with Minister of Waqf and Religious Affairs, Sheikh YusefEdais.

**b. Multilateral Relations**

- Attended a number of National Day Celebrations for Representative offices and consulates in Palestine such as India, Ireland and Morocco Australia, Poland etc.
- Paid courtesy calls on a number of Representatives in Palestine and explained about the present situation in Sri Lanka.

**c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investment**

- Sri Lanka Representative had a meeting with Minister of Civil Affairs, Hon. Hussien Al-Sheikh and requested to receive Sri Lankan housemaids whether transit from Sri Lanka (passing only and non-staying in Jordan since they will need special approval to stay there) to Palestine/West Bank or even from Jordan passing through Allenby Bridge. Hon. Minister promised to make all arrangements with the Israeli Authorities to get special working permits to the Sri Lankan Housemaids to enable them to work in Palestine and to get better salaries.
- Sri Lanka Representative had a meeting with Mr. Ziad Anabtawi, Chairman of Al'Ard Palestinian Agri-products Ltd. that has emerged to be the social and ethical investment of Anabtawi Group for Investment and Development in Palestine. Mr. Anabtawi, is the Chairman of Al-Arz, the largest ice cream factory that was opened in 1950 in Nablus/Palestine, and the largest share through the local market, in addition to exporting for many foreign markets in the last ten years in the Arab world. In 2017 Mr. Anabtawi discussed with the Mission the prospects for joint venture in terms of finding a Sri Lankan partners, or to export to Sri Lanka or to find sources of raw materials for the factory. This year, 2018 Mr. Anabtawi has established contracts with the Sri Lankan Company and he will start exporting Ice cream to Sri Lanka through Macksons Holdings in Colombo.
- Had a meeting with the Chambers of Commerce of Palestine.
- Arrangements have been made by a Palestinian businessman to open a Restaurant in Marine Drive in Colombo during the year of 2018.
- Had a meeting with two Jerusalemites Travel Agents Mr. Wajdi Namari Manager of Nations Tours & Travel and Mrs. Dunia Kadoumi, Operation Manager of Holy Jerusalem Tours & Travel and discussed the ways of cooperating to encourage pilgrimage from Sri Lanka and Singapore to the holy land.

**d. Labour Welfare**

- Sri Lanka Representative had a meeting with Minister of Labor, Hon. Mamoun Abu Shahlah, and discussed on the demand in Palestine/West Bank to have Sri Lankan housemaids.
- Had meetings with very few Sri Lankans working in Palestine and got information of the problems that they are facing. Also had meetings with the Palestinian concerned authorities in this regard.

**12. QATAR****a. Bilateral Relations**

- Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Qatar on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018. He discussed with the Ambassador regarding the political, economic situation, welfare of the Sri Lankan expatriates and the employment opportunities in Qatar.

- Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Qatar from 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018 with a purpose of resolving the issues with regard to the Stafford Sri Lankan School, Doha.
- Hon. Karunaratne Paranawithana, Deputy Minister of Science, Technology, Research, Skills Development & Vocational Training and Kandy Heritage visited Qatar from 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018. He visited the Stafford Sri Lankan School, Doha. Hon. Minister was briefed about the new management of the school and he was appreciative of the action taken by H.E. the Ambassador.
- Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera, Minister of Labour and Trade Union Relations visited Qatar on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018. He visited the Stafford Sri Lankan School, Doha and was briefed about the new management of the school and he was appreciative of the action taken by H.E. the Ambassador to streamline the school.
- Follow up actions were taken on the signed MoU on Visa Exception for Holders of Diplomatic, Special and Official Passports between Sri Lanka and Qatar and it is implemented with effect from 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018.
- Follow up actions on the signed MoUs/ Agreements and decision taken during the State visit by H.E the president Maithripala Sirisena to State of Qatar from 25 to 26 October 2017.

### **b. Multilateral Relations**

- The Government of Qatar supported Sri Lanka's candidates contested for a seat in the Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding of the intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of UNESCO for the term of 2018-2022.

### **c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- The Mission organized an Employment Promotion Programme in Collaboration with the Qatar Chamber to promote more job opportunities for Sri Lankans in Qatar on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Sheraton Grand, Doha.
- Hon. Dr. Indrajith Coomaraswamy, Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the delegation visited Qatar on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Hon. Governor visited the Stafford Sri Lanka School, Doha.
- Hon. Governor and the delegation had meetings with the following;
  - H E Sheik Abdullah Bin Saoud Bin Abdulaziz-Al-Thani, the Governor and Senior Management Team of the Central Bank of Qatar.
  - Mr. Ali Ahmed Al Kuwari, Group CEO and the Senior Management Team of the Qatar National Bank.
  - Mr. Fahad Badar – Executive General Manager, International Banking, Mr. Parvez Khan – Executive General Manager, Investments and Strategy and Mr. Mansoor Salem – Acting Head of Financial Institutions of the Commercial Bank of Qatar.
  - H.E. Mohammed bin Ahmed bin Tawar al – Kuwari, Vice Chairman of Qatar Chamber of Commerce
- The delegation was made aware of the new investment opportunities available within banking, financial and other economic sectors in Sri Lanka and also explored new avenues and markets for securing benefits to the domestic banking system in Sri Lanka.

- The Governor and the delegation also attended a Road Show organized by the Doha Bank.
- On the initiative of Ambassador, Sri Lanka - Qatar Business Council has been formed and officially launched by the Ambassador and CEO of Doha Bank on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- On the initiative of the Ambassador, a Representative Office of Doha Bank has been established in Sri Lanka on 07<sup>th</sup> June 2018 which is assisting the Sri Lankan expatriates for their easy transactions of money and loan facilities.
- The Embassy has taken action to appoint new Chairman and the Management to the Stafford Sri Lankan School on 04<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The School functions smoothly under the supervision of the Embassy.
- On the initiative of the Ambassador LuLu Group opened a collection centre in Katunayake from where fruits and vegetables are collected and exported to Middle East Region.
- The Qatar Chamber proposed a project named "Qatar City" in Colombo.
- The Qatar Charity opened a branch office in Sri Lanka on 03<sup>rd</sup> August 2018.

#### **d. Cultural Relations**

- The Mission celebrated the Independence Day on 8th February 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel, Doha.
- The Mission celebrated Thai Pongal on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Vesak form 26<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and Annual Ifthar on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at the Embassy Premises.

#### **e. Labour Welfare**

- The Labour section assists recruiting agents/ companies/ employers with necessary guidelines for the recruitment of Sri Lankan migrant workers by streamlining its process.
- Refundable security deposit is charged to recruit a Sri Lankan domestic female employee on individual basis. (Without involvement of Sri Lankan Agency) - Amount is QR. 3,650/- . Refundable deposit is released to the appropriate sponsor.
- Non-Refundable security deposit is charged to recruit a Sri Lankan domestic female employee on individual basis. (Without involvement of Sri Lankan Agency) - Amount is QR. 1,460/- . Non-refundable deposits is released to the appropriate sponsor.
- Qatari sponsors are exclusive from the above mentioned payments and Non-Qatari sponsors have to pay either Refundable Deposit or Non-Refundable Deposit (Decided by them)
- 136 no. of Female Domestic Employees (Housemaids / Babysitter/ Nanny and Servants) reported to the Embassy during the period of 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018. Repatriation to Sri Lanka or Re-employment is done through the authorities in State of Qatar. (Eg:- CEID, Police, Foreign Agencies, etc.)
- Received 1,014 no. of Labour complaints through Male Employees during the period of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018. Attended for all complaints.
- Visited the Jails/Deportation Centers periodically and provided the basic essential items.

- Provided Baby items and Food items for babies who are staying under the mission safe house.
- Due amount of ticket cost were provided to Female safe house inmates who were under the custody of Sri Lanka Embassy and seek assistance to go back to Sri Lanka through the CEID.
- Visited hospitals to see hospitalized patients and labour camps of migrant employees with regards to their complaints/problems.
- Employment Promotional programme was held and visited companies to enhance job opportunities.
- 17,932 no. of agreements were attested during the period (1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018) 274 no. of Job Orders were attested during the period (1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018)
- Provision of Food and Medicines to the safe house inmates (spent Rs. 1,112,534.64 from 01<sup>st</sup> January, 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018)

### **13. SAUDI ARABIA**

#### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- The Ambassador had discussions with following;
  - Hon. Dr. Mohamed Saleh bin Thahir Benton, Minister of Hajj and Umrah
  - HRH Prince Saud bin Naif bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Eastern Province
  - HRH Prince Mohamed bin Abdurrahman bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Governor Riyadh
  - HE Dr. Nasser Al Dawood, Deputy Minister of Interior
  - HE Mr. Tameem bin Majid Al Dowsary, Deputy Minister for Consular Affairs at MOFA
  - HE Dr. Adel SirajMirdad, Deputy Minister for Political and Economic Affairs of MOFA
- Various projects envisaged through the 'Vision 2020' programme of the Embassy were also implemented throughout this period. This programme was formed by the Ambassador, the Embassy Staff and Sri Lankan Professionals to maximize the contribution from the KSA to the Sri Lankan economy, to improve the welfare of the Sri Lankan community in the KSA and to enhance the standard of the Embassy Services for Sri Lankans who are living in KSA.
- Saudi Fund for Development delegation visited to Sri Lanka from 18-19 July 2018 for sign of the loan Agreement – Kaluganga Development Project.
- The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Sri Lanka Mr. Abdulnaser H.O. Al Harthi presented his credentials on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to H.E. the President Maithripala Sirisena.

#### **b. Multilateral Relations**

- The Embassy held discussion with the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC), Dr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al Othaimeen.

#### **c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- The Embassy regularly facilitates Saudi businessmen who are visiting Sri Lanka. A group of Saudi businessmen participated at the Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave 2018.

Embassy also supported to obtain 'finance line' facilities for Sri Lankan companies through Saudi Export Program (SEP). This is a result of the agreement of bilateral cooperation between the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and The Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce which was signed in December 2017. The Embassy also held meetings with the Dammam Chamber of Commerce and facilitated discussions between Saudi Fund for Development and Sri Lankan authorities, on Sabaragamuwa University and Kalu Ganga projects.

- The Embassy represented Sri Lanka at tourism promotion events such as JTTX travel fair, Riyadh Travel Fair and Tourism Promotion Road Shows in Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam. The Embassy under its 'Vision 2020' programme also produced a video clip promoting Sri Lankan tourism sector among Arabic social media users.

#### **d. Cultural Relations**

- The Embassy celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sri Lanka's independence on 27 February 2018 with HRH prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdul Aziz Al - Saud / Governor of Riyadh as the Guest of Honour. A cultural exposition was also organized at this event to showcase Sri Lanka's rich cultural heritage.
- The Embassy facilitated the Buddhist, Hindu and Christian Sri Lankan community members to perform their religious and cultural related activities within the Embassy premises. Embassy assisted them to celebrate Sinhala/ Tamil New Year festival, Organized 11 Buddhist religious activities including Vesak &Seelaviyaparaya, 38 of Catholic religious activities including Christmas, 39 of Hindu religious activities including Thaipongal and 28 both Buddhist and Catholic Dhahampasalprogrammes.

#### **e. Labour Welfare**

- The Embassy conducted 9 Mobile services in the Eastern Province of the Kingdom. The Embassy dealt with 55 reported death cases, 14 were buried, 36 dispatched to Sri Lanka and 05 cases are pending. The Male Section of the Embassy received 323 nos. of complaints from male workers and 218 cases have been settled. The Embassy has made 152 visits to various deportation camps, hospitals, police stations, companies and labor courts in order to facilitate male and female Sri Lankan workers who are in distress. The Female Section of the Embassy made 76 visits at women welfare/ social care centers for facilitating Sri Lankans, attended 30 labor cases at courts, made 25 special visits to hospitals attending serious cases, made 56 visits at police stations. Mission maintains average of 33 inmate's at Embassy safe house. During the period 299 female domestic workers were given shelter at the safe house. The Detainee Section of the Embassy has made 32 jail visits and 48 General Court visits to extend services to Sri Lankans who were in detention.

### **14. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

#### **I. Abu Dhabi, UAE**

##### **a. Bilateral Relations**

- Follow up action on the future high level visits by H. E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Foreign Minister from Sri Lanka to UAE.
- There were several Ministerial visits to UAE including visits by Hon. ArjunaRanatunga, Hon. Harin Fernando, Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie and Hon. RishadBathiudeen.
- Coordinated a Study Tour of Senior Military officers from the Sri Lanka Defence Academy to UAE, where UAE Governmenthosted the delegation.

- Preparatory work for holding the 02<sup>nd</sup> Sri Lanka – UAE Joint Commission in Colombo, next year.
- The Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Sri Lanka Mr. Al Ahmed Ibrahim Ali Al Mulla presented his credentials on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to H.E. the President Maithripala Sirisena.

**b. Multilateral Relations**

- The Embassy participated in IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency) Council meetings.
- The Embassy facilitated Sri Lanka's participation in Abu Dhabi Dialogue activities.

**c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- Facilitated negotiations between Central Bank of Sri Lanka delegation headed by the Governor of the Central Bank and his UAE Counterpart. Several State and Private banking sector senior officials from Sri Lanka also participated in the negotiations.
- Participated in Investment Forum in Dubai and promoted investment in Sri Lanka.

**d. Cultural Relations**

- The Embassy facilitated several cultural events organized by the Sri Lankan expatriate community members in Abu Dhabi which included Sri Lankan Musical Shows, Art classes and competitions, Book exhibitions, cultural events, Ifthar, New year event, Dhahampasal etc.
- Facilitated negotiations between the Foreign Ministries of Sri Lanka and UAE regarding establishing a Buddhist Center for Sri Lankan expatriate community in UAE.

**e. Labour Welfare**

- The Embassy conducted job promotional meetings at the Embassy premises and also participated in the launch of Worker Welfare Report of UAE. The Embassy is also currently facilitating legalization/repatriation of illegal residents under the UAE amnesty scheme for the illegal migrant workers.

## **II. Dubai, UAE**

**a. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- In collaboration with EDB and Sri Lanka Tea Board, facilitated the largest ever contingent of Sri Lankan Food & Beverage exporting companies to participate at 'Gulf Food 2018' exhibition, 18-22 February 2018, the world's biggest Food & Drink annual event held annually in Dubai. Total 43 Sri Lankan exporters participated.
- Four paged special newspaper supplements were published in the 'Khaleej Times' and 'Gulf News' which are the leading English newspapers in UAE, on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Independence of Sri Lanka and the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment of the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Dubai.
- Hosted Sri Lanka's National day reception in celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Independence of Sri Lanka and the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment of the Consulate General of Sri Lanka on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the Armani Hotel, Burj Khalifa.

- Hosted “Sri Lankan Day 2018” which was the largest Sri Lankan event held in UAE, in celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Independence of Sri Lanka and the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment of the Consulate General of Sri Lanka.
- In association with Sri Lanka Tourist Board (SLTB) and SriLankan Airlines, facilitated Sri Lanka’s participation at the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of “Taste of Dubai” food festival in Dubai during three days in promoting SL tourism.
- In association with SLTB, facilitated Sri Lanka’s participation at The Arabian Travel Market (ATM), which is the leading travel and tourism exhibition in Middle Eastern and Pan Arab Regions held during 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Over 60 companies SL companies in the travel and Tourism industry participated. A Press Conference was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018.
- In association with SLTB, two tourism promotional road shows were held on 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April in Sharjah and Dubai respectively.
- Arrangements were successfully made for Mr. Y. Wijethilake, Advisor to the GoSL to meet Chief Legal officer of the DIFC and other relevant officials to obtain details related to the legal framework of the DIFC to be used in proposed Colombo International Financial Center (DIFC).
- Required assistance was extended to SLEDB in association with EXPO secretariat in Dubai with regard to Sri Lanka’s participation at the EXPO 2020 including identified a suitable location for Sri Lanka.
- Special work arrangement was established with the Department of Immigration and Emigration SL to provide assistance for SriLankans who wish to return to SL/to formalize their visa status under the special amnesty period declared by the UAE government to assist illegal migrants staying in UAE including providing them passports within 3 weeks.
- Arrangements were made for the President of National Association of Freight and Logistics of UAE and the Vice President of the Extended Board of International Association of Freight Forwarders to visit SL to join national Public-Private Dialogue Maritime, Logistics and Transport Reform Forum held in Colombo.
- Facilitated 7 ministerial visits from Sri Lanka to Dubai
- 6 trade inquiries received from Sri Lanka for products such as tea, spices, coconut based products, ICT products etc. were served with the details of potential importers of those products to establish business links.
- 141 Sri Lankan exporters/companies visited Dubai for promotion of Sri Lankan products/tourism and were introduced potential importers/tourism companies to establish business links.
- Attended Annual Investment Meeting which the major annual investment promotion event is held in Dubai, from 2nd to 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 representing Sri Lanka.
- Had a meeting with a major tourism chain interested in investing in SL and required assistance were extended by introducing investment related parties in SL to realize the investment.
- With the Chairman, Mohammad Omar Bin Haider Holding Group of companies discussed their prospective investment on building a Oil Refinery in Sri Lanka. They visited Sri Lanka and discussed with Hon. Prime Minister on their investment of US\$ 5Bn.
- Required assistance was extended to a UAE based company to invest in SL on agricultural related project with the total investment of US\$ 10Mn.

- Had meeting with the President of International Association of Hotel General Managers on an investment of US\$ 200Mn in a hotel project and Hotel General Managerstraining Programme in Sri Lanka. Introduced to the BOI for realizing the investment.

### **b. Cultural Relations**

- With the assistance of the Sri Lankan community, the Consulate General organized the following events;
  - National Day celebrations
  - Vesak and Poson celebrations
  - Monthly Buddhist religious observances at the newly established Lankaramaya-temple
  - Holding "Dhamma School" (Dahampasala) on every Friday at the premises of the Consulate General with the participation of over 600 students (children of and Buddhism expatriate Sri Lankans living in Dubai & Northern Emirates).

### **c. Labour Welfare**

- 257 Employment contracts were executed and 179 new Job orders were granted during the period under review.
- 20 Jail visits were reported attending to the needs of Sri Lankans in the jail.202 visits were to Immigration & Police based in Dubai & Northern Emirates.
- 36 visits were undertaken to Hospitals in Dubai & Northern Emirates in taking care of the wellbeing of affected Sri Lankans.
- Visited no of labour camps to attend Sri Lankans requirements on requests of the authorities.
- Attended on priority basis the claims of compensation by the Sri Lankans.
- Repatriation of human remains as requested by the NOK. 31 Human remains were repatriated.
- 120 employees including Safe House Inmates repatriated after the Immigration Clearance.
- 94 Complaints Received by the mission and though SLBFE 122, among which 102 Complaints were settled.
- MOU was signed on the Labour Corporation and the Standard Protocol on bilateral Corporation on Domestic Labour in the UAE.
- Conducted Anti Human trafficking awareness programme for the Consular &Labour Staff at the Consulate General.

Two ministerial official visits were taken place. Hon. Harin Fernando, Minister of Foreign Employment has visited to the safe house and inspected.

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# Ocean Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Division



## **Ocean Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Division**

The following were the main areas of work of the Division in the period under review:

### **a. Bilateral Relations**

1. The Division worked on developing ties on ocean related matters with several countries. In particular, discussions were held with representatives of Norway, Japan, Netherlands, and Australia and organizations such as the Max Planck Foundation of Germany and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) of Australia.
2. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sri Lanka –Japan Dialogue on Maritime Security, Safety and Oceanic Issues was held on 19th July, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombo, which was organized by the Division. Following decisions were made at the Dialogue:
  - (i) the two sides agreed to enhance collaboration between the Japan Maritime Self Defence Forces and the Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Air Force and Sri Lanka Coast Guard;
  - (ii) the two sides also discussed augmented cooperation in multilateral frameworks including the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) recognizing the importance of increased engagement in these fora; and,
  - (iii) Explore potential cooperation on enhancing Maritime Domain Awareness.

The Ocean Affairs and Climate Change Division is following up with related local stakeholders and the Japanese side on the above issues.

3. The Division proposed, explored and initiated the process of establishing a partnership between National Aquatic Resource Research and Development Agency (NARA) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) of Australia. The two sides signed a Letter of Intent on furthering scientific research collaboration on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in Colombo.
4. The Division has initiated discussions on establishing a simple facilitative process on granting clearance for applications for Marine Scientific Research in Sri Lankan waters by foreign vessels. This process is expected to be finalized soon.
5. The Division is exploring the possibility of obtaining the assistance of the Norwegian Government in convening a national stakeholder conference on Marine Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management.
6. The Division provided speeches/input on Ocean Affairs and Climate Change matters for several high level bilateral visits/Conferences that took place in 2018 i.e. :
  - a. Input for the speaking notes for the visits of Prime Minister of Singapore, President of Indonesia and Prime Minister of Vietnam in early 2018.

- b. Speaking notes on maritime security and cooperation in the Indian and Pacific regions for the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum Experts and Eminent Persons (ARF – EEPs) held in early 2018.
  - c. Input for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Sri Lanka – Vietnam Political Consultation held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in Colombo.
  - d. Input for the meeting of Secretary/Foreign Affairs with Mr. Jens Frolich Holte, State Secretary for Development Cooperation of Norway held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
  - e. Speech for Secretary/Foreign Affairs for the “Regional Symposium on Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Life Below water (Blue SDG)” convened from 21 – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018 in Colombo.
  - f. Speech for the Hon. Prime Minister at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Indian Ocean Conference held in Hanoi, Vietnam from 27-28<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
  - g. Input for speech delivered by the Secretary/Foreign Affairs at the Colombo Defence Seminar held from 30-31 August 2018.
  - h. Speaking Notes for Hon Prime Minister for the meeting with Hon. Prime Minister of Singapore on the Track 1.5 Conference “Indian Ocean: Defining Our Future”.
  - i. Input for the visit of the Commonwealth Secretary General to Sri Lanka in September 2018.
  - j. Statements and speaking notes for Sri Lanka delegation attending Our Ocean Conference 29 – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018, and the AIS Forum 1-2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 , Indonesia:
  - k. Presentation and a speech for the IORA High Level Panel on Enhancing Maritime Cooperation for Inclusive Growth in the Indian Ocean, 7-8<sup>th</sup> December 2018, Bali, Indonesia.
  - l. Speech for Secretary/Foreign Affairs at the IOMAC-ONS Certificate Course 2018 on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018.
7. The Division functions as an information arm on Ocean Affairs, Environment and Climate Change related issues of the Foreign Ministry by providing necessary and requested information for the Hon. Minister, Hon. State Minister, Secretary and other high-level delegates who represent Sri Lanka at international level.
8. The Division represents the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at international, regional and national levels and also deals with other line Ministries, agencies, institutions with regard to issues related to Ocean Affairs, Environment and Climate Change.

## **b. Multilateral Relations**

### **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Maritime Safety and Security workshop, 4 – 5 September 2018, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

1. At the 17<sup>th</sup>Council of Ministers held in Durban, South Africa in 2017, it was decided that Sri Lanka will coordinate the implementation of the IORA Action Plan 2017-2021 on Maritime Safety and Security that includes, amongst others, the establishment of the Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security. Sri Lanka therefore functions as the lead coordinator of the IORA Maritime Safety and Security priority area.
2. In order to give effect to this international undertaking by Sri Lanka, the Ocean Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Division organized an initial workshop for the setting up of the IORA Maritime Safety and Security Working Group in Colombo from 4-5 September, 2018. The IORA Member States met and finalized the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the setting up of the Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security at this workshop.
3. The finalization of the ToR at the workshop marks an important milestone in the work of the IORA Maritime Safety and Security priority area. The Working Group provides a mechanism for engaging maritime officials and experts across Member States to promote regional cooperation by facilitating practical coordination amongst stakeholders.
4. The ToR outlines the objectives of the Working Group on taking forward the policy priorities set out in the Maritime Safety and Security area which include among others establishing a common understanding between IORA Members States of the collective Maritime Safety and Security risks, threats and opportunities in the Indian Ocean region; establishing an integrated policy approach on Maritime Safety and Security including through capability enhancement and capacity building; building a partnership within the framework of IORA for the strengthening of capacity and capability as well as institution building in the domain of Maritime Safety and Security; and enhancing Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) among IORA Member States.
5. The initial workshop was co-hosted by Sri Lanka and Australia, and was co-chaired by Sri Lanka, Australia, India, Indonesia, Madagascar and South Africa.
6. The Division secured funding to the amount of AUD 50,000 from the Australian Government to host the workshop.
7. The report on the initial workshop to formulate the Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security was presented to the IORA Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) during its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and 18<sup>th</sup>Council of Ministers meeting held from 31 October to 2 November 2018 in Durban, South Africa. Sri Lanka also offered to host the first meeting of the Working Group in 2019.
8. The IORA Ministers welcomed Sri Lanka's efforts and progress made as the lead coordinator in the Maritime Safety and Security pillar and the offer to host the first meeting of the Working Group in 2019.
9. The proposed first meeting of the Working Group which is scheduled to be held in May/June 2019 will aim to review the draft Work Plan which will be drawn up for an

initial period of two (2) years so as to achieve the objectives outlined in the IORA Action Plan (2017-2021) and also to discuss collective member state priorities.

### **Initiative on Freedom of Navigation in the Indian Ocean**

1. As per an initiative launched by the Hon Prime Minister, the Division is working on initiating exploratory talks on preserving and ensuring freedom of navigation in the Indian Ocean for the benefit for littoral states and maritime users. This is being done in consultation with the Office of the Prime Minister and the Task Force on Freedom of Navigation appointed by the Hon Prime Minister. As a part of this initiative 3 events have been/are being organized as follows:

- (i) a track II academic conference was held at Deakin University Melbourne which was attended by officials of the Division;
- (ii) a track 1.5 event which was convened from 11-12 October, 2018; and
- (iii) a track 1 Ministerial conference which is to be held in May/June, 2019.

With regard to the track 1.5 dialogue referred to at (ii) above please see details given below:

#### **The Indian Ocean: Defining Our Future, track 1.5 dialogue, 11-12 October, 2018**

- 1. "The Indian Ocean: Defining Our Future" conference was convened from 11-12 October 2018 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Conference was organized under the patronage of the Prime Minister's office by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKIRSS) in collaboration with the Global Maritime Crime Programme of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- 2. Representatives of 40 countries were in Sri Lanka from 11-12 October 2018 to discuss the future of the Indian Ocean. The track 1.5 dialogue brought together senior representatives from the Indian Ocean littoral states and major maritime users to Colombo to increase focus on an Ocean that has the potential to become a growth pole in the world economy in the future.
- 3. Representatives included, among others, key senior officials from India, South Africa, USA, China, Germany, Netherlands, Singapore, Indonesia Japan and the European Union together with key think tank representatives from the region and beyond. The UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean Ambassador Peter Thomson was also in Colombo for the Conference. President Maithripala Sirisena graced the occasion with his presence.
- 4. The Division undertook the main responsibility of handling preparatory work for the conferences including preparing conceptual framework and facilitating stakeholder interactions in consultation and with the assistance of the Hon Prime Minister's Office and the Taskforce appointed by the Prime Minister to coordinate this initiative.

### **Regional Symposium on Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Life Below water (Blue SDG)**

- 1. The division assisted with the organization of the "Regional Symposium on Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Life Below water (Blue SDG)" convened from 21 – 22 June 2018

in Colombo. The symposium was organized by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development and Rural Economy with support from the Norwegian Government. The Director General/Ocean Affairs, Environment and Climate Change chaired two sessions of the symposium.

2. Another outcome of the symposium was the fish stock survey carried out in Sri Lankan waters by the Norwegian Research Vessel Dr Fridjof Nansen enabling better management of fishery resources. Preliminary results of the survey have already been submitted to NARA. This is the first time since the 1980's that such a fish stock assessment has been undertaken

### **IORA Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Ocean Sciences and Environment for the Indian Ocean Rim Countries**

1. Sri Lanka has agreed to setup an IORA Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Ocean Sciences and Environment for the Indian Ocean Rim Countries. The division is coordinating with the line agencies to facilitate setting up this center of excellence. It is envisaged that the CoE would function as a coordinating body with the main objective of facilitating maritime research activities. The CoE is expected to be operational soon.

### **Commonwealth Action Group for Mangrove Restoration, under the Commonwealth Blue Charter**

1. Sri Lanka is Championing the Commonwealth Action Group for Mangrove Restoration, under the Commonwealth Blue Charter. As a part of this initiative, Sri Lanka will lead a group of Commonwealth countries on protection and restoration of Mangrove cover, across the Commonwealth. The division coordinated the preliminary preparations with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment and developed the concept paper for the initiative with input from the line agency.
2. The Director of the division participated at the Commonwealth Side event on Blue Charter during the High Level Conference on Blue Economy Summit, 26 – 28 November 2018, Nairobi, Kenya, and made representations on Sri Lanka's follow up actions on the Blue Charter, Mangrove Protection on 27 October 2018 in Kenya.

### **c. Other initiatives**

1. The division assists the Sri Lanka Navy and Sri Lanka Coast Guard on work related to the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) together with our diplomatic missions in Singapore and Tokyo.
2. The Division together with the Economic Affairs division of the Ministry is working closely with the Presidential Secretariat, and the Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy with respect to activities of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
3. Sri Lanka Ratified the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol at the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held in September 2018. The Division coordinated the process of ratification with the legal division and the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment.

4. The Division is coordinating work related to proposed agreements with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) and International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). Sri Lanka submitted a letter of intent on obtaining the membership of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) in December 2018. Membership has been granted in January 2019. The division facilitated this process.
5. The Division secured fully funded training opportunities for 10 Sri Lankan diplomats/officials at the Clingendael Institute in The Hague as per a request made by the Director General during a meeting with H E the Ambassador of Netherlands in Colombo. The training programme was held from 5 – 16 November 2018 and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment and Sri Lanka Navy participated.

**d. Workshops/Conferences/Seminars**

1. The Indian Ocean Conference on Blue Carbon- organized by The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Australia's national science agency, with support from the IORA Secretariat and the Australian government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, was held in Perth, Australia from 19 – 23 March 2018. Assistant Director of the Division participated at the conference.
2. Track II conference on Maritime Order in the Indian Ocean- convened by Deakin University in Melbourne, on 30<sup>th</sup> April-1<sup>st</sup> May 2018 – The Director General was part of Sri Lanka delegation that participated in the conference. The event was a lead up event to the track 1.5 conference organized by the division in October 2018.
3. Eighth Bi-annual CSO meeting on 30 – 31 July 2018 in Durban – convened by the Republic of South Africa, the current Chair of IORA, with the support of the IORA Secretariat. The meeting brought together the 21 Member States and Specialized Agencies to take stock of the progress and to chart the way forward, with a special focus on the implementation of the IORA Action Plan 2017-2021. The Director General was part of the Sri Lanka delegation to the meeting.
4. 3<sup>rd</sup> Indian Ocean Conference, Hanoi, Vietnam 27-28 August 2018- the division facilitated the participation of the Hon. Prime Minister at the event together with the Sri Lanka Embassy in Viet Nam. The Director General/Ocean Affairs and Climate Change was a part of the Sri Lanka delegation to the conference led by Hon Prime Minister. Assistance was provided for the substantive aspects of the visit particularly bilateral meetings held on the sidelines and the Prime Minister's statement at the conference. In addition the division also extended support to the Prime Minister's Office in reaching out to Heads of State and Governments as the Prime Minister was the Chair of the Organizing Committee of the Conference.
5. The Galle Dialogue, Colombo, Sri Lanka – 22-23 October 2018 – the Division facilitated granting of visa to participants in coordination with the UN & HR Division. Director General and the Assistant Director participated in the event.
6. Our Ocean Conference, Bali, Indonesia 29 – 30 October 2018 and AIS Ministerial Meeting 1 – 2 Nov. 2018 Manado, Indonesia – the Division facilitated the participation

of Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs at the event. The Director General of the division was part of delegation and has initiated appropriate follow-up action.

7. High Level Conference on Blue Economy Summit, 26 – 28 November 2018, Nairobi, Kenya – convened by the Government of Kenya. The Division facilitated participation of a delegation from Sri Lanka consisting of senior officials from relevant line agencies. Director of the division was part of Sri Lanka delegation representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has initiated follow-up action.
8. The UNODC/IMO Sub-regional workshop on “Implementing International Legal Instruments and Standards related to Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism”, 27-29 November, London - the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch in partnership with International Maritime Organization (IMO) organized a sub-regional workshop for Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives on “Implementing International Legal Instruments and Standards related to Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism”, which was held from 27 to 29 November 2018 in London, United Kingdom. Assistant Director of the Division was part of Sri Lanka delegation to the workshop and follow-up action has been initiated.
9. Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) – Katowice, Poland - the Division facilitated the participation of a delegation of senior officials from Sri Lanka at the conference. Assistant Director of the Division was part of the delegation. Follow-up action has been initiated.

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# Overseas Administration Division



## **Overseas Administration Division**

The primary function of the Overseas Administration Division (OAD) is to facilitate the smooth functioning of all Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad by providing required resources including finance and guidance with regard to the day to day activities. Management of movable and immovable assets in Sri Lanka missions abroad and supervision of the day to day communication between the Ministry and its network of Missions around the world are also a part of the responsibilities of the OAD.

Sri Lanka at present maintains following diplomatic Missions and Posts abroad.

Embassies / High Commissions	-	50
Permanent Missions to the United Nations	-	02
Deputy High Commission	-	01
Representative Office	-	01
Consulate General Offices	-	13
Total		67
		==

Note: Based on the anticipation to provide an efficient service to the Sri Lankan workers in Cyprus and also to promote bilateral relations with Cyprus, arrangements have been made to open the new career Consulate General in Nicosia,Cyprus by the Ministry in shortly and the Consul General assumed duties.

### **1. Acquisition and Maintenance of GoSL owned Foreign Assets**

#### **i. Immovable properties :**

The OAD, in consultation with Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad, initiated a programme to purchase at least two new properties every year to be used for Missions abroad. In 2018, the focus was to renovate / construct existing properties which requires urgent renovations and refurbishments. In this regard, properties of 23Missions were renovated at a total cost of SLRs.187,703,579.26. Required funds were arranged through the Treasury as per the decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers or the Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC).

#### **Details of Constructions, Renovations and Refurbishments carried out in the GOSL Owned properties during the Year 2018**

	<b>Description</b>	<b>Estimated Amount (SLRs.)</b>
1	<b>Brussels – Official Residence &amp; Chancery</b> -Repairs to the Chancery Building -Repairs to the Official Residence -Fixing a gate to the Official Residence -Replacing blinds and curtains of the Chancery -Replacing shutters of the Chancery -Renovation of the Chancery building and the official residence and fixing of an adjustable sun roof for the Official Residence	24,045,329.00

2	<b>Ottawa – Official Residence</b> -Renovation of the Official Residence -Installing new telephone/intercom system at the Chancery	24,803,881.00
3	<b>Cairo –Chancery</b> -Renovation of the Chancery	812,646.00
4	<b>Paris – Chancery</b> -Repairs to the central heating system of the Chancery	520,000.00
5	<b>Berlin – Chancery</b> -Renovation of the Chancery parapet wall	9,436,194.00
6	<b>New Delhi – Official Residence, Chancery and Quarters</b> -Repairs in the Official Residence -Repairing window shades and colour washing of four story building – Staff quarters -Testing of Electric Transformers and distribution panels of the power supply system of the Chancery prior to repair/service - Cleaning and polishing of the floors of the Chancery and the Official Residence -Repair and services of Central AC Plant of the Chancery	10,223,321.00
7	<b>Chennai - Official Residence and Chancery</b> -Installation of Solar panels at the Chancery -Installation of CCTV in the Chancery building and DHC Residence	6,427,474.50
8	<b>Mumbai –Chancery</b> - Repair the floor of the Chancery	888,561.00
9	<b>Jakarta – Chancery</b> -Cementing of the back area of the Embassy Premises	1,201,596.00
10	<b>Tehran – Chancery</b> -Partition the new Chancery	1,490,000.00
11	<b>Tokyo - Chancery</b> -Replacement of heating and cooling systems of the Chancery -Flooring in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor of the Chancery -Installation of new telephone system at the Chancery	13,788,376.00
12	<b>Kuwait – Chancery</b> -Installation of CCTV camera system at the Chancery	526,333.36
13	<b>Kuala Lumpur – Official Residence</b> -Interior décor and furnishing of the Official Residence -Renovation/Refurbishment of the Official Residence	8,056,920.00
14	<b>The Hague – Chancery</b> -Installation of Security Alarm and CCTV Surveillance System at the New Chancery -Installation of internet and communication system at the new Chancery	6,603,826.00
15	<b>Muscat – Chancery</b> -Installation of CCTV camera system at the Chancery	584,000.00

16	<b>Pretoria – Chancery and Staff Quarters</b> -Repairs of the Chancery and Staff Quarters	904,435.00
17	<b>Dubai – Chancery</b> -Installation of new main gate to the Chancery	1,291,395.00
18	<b>Geneva - Official Residence</b> -Repair of the Official Residence gate -Renovation of the Official Residence -Fixing curtains for the official Residence -Replacement of electric wiring system of the Official residence	13,795,708.84
19	<b>Riyadh – Chancery</b> -Installation of CCTV Camera to the Chancery	1,348,515.00
20	<b>London - Official Residence, Chancery Building and quarters</b> -Repairs to the rear section of the High Commission -Refurbishment of the High Commissioner's office, main hall and library of the Chancery	11,592,951.00
21	<b>New York – Chancery</b> -Repairs to the Chancery Premises	3,193,025.00
22	<b>Washington - Official Residence, Chancery and Old Chancery building</b> -Colour wash of the old Chancery -Replace mini heating system at the Chancery -Repairs/improvement to the 3 properties belong to the Mission -Repairs to the drywell underneath drainage system of Chancery -Renovations to the Caretaker's room and bathroom at the Official Residence	45,234,062.00
23	<b>Nicosia – Chancery</b> -Installation of telephone, intercom, fax and internet system at the newly established Chancery	935,029.56
<b>Total</b>		<b>187,703,579.26</b>

Transfer of properties in New York and Brasilia owned by Central Bank of Sri Lanka to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (as per the Cabinet decision) has been finalized and signed the Deed of Transferrin May 2018.

## ii. Movable Properties :

### a. Vehicles

The OAD in consultation with the Treasury facilitates the purchase of vehicles for Missions / Posts abroad as and when replacements or new vehicles are required.

Approvals were granted to purchase fifteen (15) vehicles during the said period for the use of missions abroad at a total cost of Rs.111,688,674.46.

Request for purchase staff vehicles for Missions in New York,Dubai, Pretoria, Islamabad, Beirut, Kuala Lumpur, The Hague, Doha have been submitted to the Treasury, for consideration.

**b. Other Capital Assets :**

**I )**Upon the requests made by several overseas missions abroad, the Ministry has granted approval to purchase office equipment and furniture, plant, machinery and other equipment at a cost of Rs. 133,615,559.63 from January to December 2018.

**II) Reimbursement of Expenditure on Acquisition of Furniture and Equipment**

In order to streamline the purchase of capital items such as furniture, equipment etc. for Missions/Posts abroad, the Ministry has issued MIS circular bearing no 217 dated 19.08.2018. Accordingly, Missions/Posts abroad were instructed to adhere to the instructions stipulated under the said circular.

**2. Audit Inspections**

Regular audit inspections at Missions /Posts abroad, in consultation with the Internal Audit Division, are facilitated by this Division. Audit inspections were conducted in Sri Lanka missions in USA, Canada, Korea, The Philippines, Indonesia, Austria, France and India.

**3. Facilitation of Official Travel**

The Travel Unit which comes under the purview of the OAD has facilitated obtaining visas and ticketing arrangements for 140official visits from January to December 2018 and has also arranged the payments of necessary travel allowances and other entitlements for 282number of officers during the period. 2,200 Third Party Notes (TPN) have also been issued to facilitate obtaining visa for government officials from various institutions.

**4. Security Mail Division**

The Security Mail Division deals with the dispatch of diplomatic bags to Sri Lanka Missions / Posts abroad, collecting diplomatic bags sent by Sri Lanka Missions / Posts abroad and delivery of items of the collected diplomatic bags to the relevant Divisions of the Ministry. The Ministry also initiated assistance with Courier Company to undertake dispatch of Diplomatic Bags to the selected Missions in order to cut down the cost and ensure speedy delivery of mail bags on timely basis.

**5. IT Division**

The IT Division handles between 600 – 700 faxes and emails on daily basis from Sri Lanka Missions / Posts abroad and from other organizations and entities in Sri Lanka and abroad. The duty hours of the IT Division has been revised as per the instructions of S/FA.(Weekdays from 5.30a.m. to 10.00p.m., Saturdays from 5.30a.m. to 9.00p.m., Sundays from 6.00a.m. to 7.00p.m. and public holidays from 5.30p.m. to 8.00p.m.)The staff is deployed on roster basis.

## **6. Preparing Progress Report and Annual Performance Report**

The OAD coordinates with Overseas Missions and respective Divisions in the Ministry and prepares 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Progress Report and Annual Performance Report to submit to the Parliament.

## **7. Packing & Transport and Insurance of Baggage (Personal Effects)**

MIS Circular No216 dated 19.10.2018 has been issued by the Ministry in order to streamline the process of facilitation of heavy baggage of Home based staffin Missions/Posts abroad. Initiatives have been taken to pay a lump-sum amount for Home based staff (Excluding Diplomatic officers) instead of the heavy baggage from 19.10.2018 in order to curtail the related expenditure.

## **8. Guidelines and Checklist for Apartment Takeover and Handover for all Home Based officers.**

MIS circular No 215 dated 17.07.2018 has been issued by the Ministry stipulating the guidelines and checklist for Apartment Takeover and Handover for all Home Based officers attached to the Missions/Posts abroad. Accordingly, the officers who have failed to secure rent deposits had been surcharged in which the Ministry was enabled to secure considerable amount of funds to the government.

## **9. Managing Human Resources**

### **Human Resources and Mission Management Division**

The Human Resource and Mission Management Division came into existence from 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 as a result of re-organization of the Overseas Administration Division as per instructions given by Secretary / Foreign Affairs. The primary function of the Division is to facilitate the smooth functioning of all Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by providing required Human resources and guidance with regard to the day to day activities.

Following are the highlights of some of the activities during the period.

#### **i. Digitalized Human Resources Information System :**

The OAD finalized the process of initiating a digitalized Human Resources Management (HRM) system in the Ministry and in overseas Missions / Posts in order to facilitate the staff coordination and administrative activities.

#### **ii. Recruitments :**

The OAD conducts open competitive examinations for the recruitment to the Sri Lanka Foreign Services (SLFS) and for selection of Public Management Assistancess (PMA) and Personal Assistance (PA) to serve in our Missions abroad in collaboration with the Department of Examinations.

The OAD recruited19 officers to the Grade III of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service and coordinated the conducting of the Efficiency Bar examination one (I) and two (II) for SLFS officers.

### **iii. Appointing New Heads of Mission :**

Seventeen (17) Heads of Mission / Heads of Post were appointed during the period.

### **iv. Appointing Supportive Staff to Missions Abroad :**

Twenty nine (29) Public Management Assistants (PMAs), Twenty one (21), Personal Assistants (PA) and one (01) Protocol Assistant were appointed to work in Sri Lanka Missions abroad.

### **v. Appointment of the Transfer Board**

The Transfer Board has been appointed by the Secretary /Foreign Affairs as stipulated in chapter - III section – 3 of the Establishment Code. The Transfer Board is responsible for making recommendations to S/FA on the selection of SLFS officers serving in the Ministry to fill vacancies in Sri Lanka Missions abroad.

### **vi. Restructuring of the examination format**

Action has been taken to restructure the format of the competitive examinations for selecting Public Management Assistant and Personal Assistant to the Sri Lanka Missions abroad.

## **Human Resources Development Unit**

1. The Human Resource Development Unit (HRDD) was introduced on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 based on the recommendations made in the Report on the Restructuring of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka dated 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 to address a long felt need in the area of Human Resources pertaining to officers in the Sri Lanka Foreign Service (SLFS). In March 2016, this Unit was brought under the Overseas Administration Division (OAD) under the Director General/OAD.
2. The Purpose of this Unit was to ensure that the training aspects of the Human Resources of the Ministry, in particular, the Sri Lanka Foreign Service officers, are handled by one Division of the Ministry.
3. As such, the following actions in terms of training in general were undertaken by the HRD, which continue to function under the DG/OAD:

### **A. Training for SLFS**

1. Coordination of nominations of SLFS for international trainings and workshops on all areas relevant to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. SLFS officers were awarded Thirty Seven (37) training opportunities by various countries in South Asia, Europe, East Asia and Americas.
2. In collaboration with the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI), facilitated to officially launch the online training course on Combating Trafficking in Persons for officers serving in Sri Lanka Missions abroad on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

3. Conducted a two (02) days Awareness Programme for Ambassadors/ High Commissioners designated from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute (LKI) with identified resources persons from the M/FA and outside.
4. Conducted a one (01) day Etiquette Training Programme for designate High Commissioners and Defense Attaches at Hilton on 12<sup>th</sup> September.
5. Organized a two (02) days Orientation Programme for designate Defense Attaches from 13<sup>th</sup> September to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
6. Conducted training on advanced Communication Skills for Sri Lanka Foreign Service Officers of 2018 Batch in consultation with MILODA Academy from 14<sup>th</sup> May to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
7. Arranged an Awareness Programme on Implementation of Right to Information (RTI) Act No. 12 of 2016 on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at BIDTI.
8. Finalized and conducted Public Diplomacy Training Programme in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Press Institute in December 2018.

#### **B. Brown Bag Sessions**

1. HR Support on Gender Based Discrimination Issues at Workplace", presented by Mrs. Shermila Perera, a Lawyer, an Academic and the Consultant to the MFA on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 marking the World Women's day.
2. Role of Social Media in Modern Day Diplomacy by Mr. Nalaka Gunawardene, a leading social media expert on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Mini Conference of the Ministry.
3. Diplomacy and the Ocean: Protection of suitable Development of the Ocean and their Resources by Dr. P.B Terney Pradeep Kumara on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018.
4. Session on economic Diplomacy was conducted by BOI officials on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
5. Session on Auditor General's Bills on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
6. Coordination of nominations of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service Officers (SLFS) for all national trainings and workshops on all areas relevant to the Ministry

#### **C. Recruitment for Sri Lanka Foreign Service**

Recruited twenty (20) officers for Sri Lanka Foreign Service and guided them to undergo two (02) months training Programme at BIDTI from 2<sup>nd</sup> of May to 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2018

#### **D. Training for Non SLFS**

Arranged a training programme for Public Management Assistants (PMAS) who will be assigned to the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts on various aspects of the work in Missions/Posts from 29-30 August 2018.

## **E. Evaluation of Missions/Post Performances**

- i. HRD Unit coordinated with the Missions/Posts and other divisions in the Ministry and finalized Annual Performance Report of 2018.
- ii. Initial work pertaining to the assessment of Missions/Post performances and the Action Plan of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2018 were initiated by December 2018.
- iii. Finalised the Annual progress Report which was to be tabled at the Parliament in October 2018.

## **F. Policy Development**

- i. Amended the Ministry Instruction Series (MIS) on Overseas Service Allowance (OSA); Obtaining Domestic aide/ Service Assistance/ House Keeper service for officer serving at the Mission/ Posts abroad.
- ii. Amended the Ministry Instruction Series (MIS) on Packing and Transport and Insurance of baggage (Personal Effects).
- iii. Amended the Ministry Instruction Series (MIS) on Rent Ceiling Scheme; Reimbursement of Expenditure on Acquisition of Furniture and Equipments.
- iv. Developed the Guidelines and Checklist for Apartment Takeover and Handover for all Home Based Officers for a Ministry Instruction Series (MIS)
- v. Scheme of recruitment Personal Assistants (PA) and Public Management Assistant (PMA) to serve in Sri Lanka Missions Abroad were revised and a new structure to recruit a skilful support staff was developed.
- vi. Finalized the gazette notification of the Efficiency Bar Examinations for the Sri Lanka Foreign Service.

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# Protocol Division



## **Protocol Division**

### **1. The work of the Protocol Division can be categorized into the following main areas :**

- a) Coordinating ceremonial functions
- b) Facilitate and monitoring diplomatic immunities and privileges extended to foreign Diplomatic Representations, UN and its specialized agencies and international organizations accredited to Sri Lanka
- c) Facilitate arrangements for Heads of Missions accredited to Sri Lanka (Based in Colombo and concurrent accreditations from other missions)
- d) Facilitate logistical and protocol arrangements for international conferences held in Sri Lanka

### **2. Ceremonial Functions:**

Ceremonial functions coordinated by the Division during the corresponding period.

#### **2.1 VVIP /VIP visits to Sri Lanka**

- 2.1.1 Heads of States/Prime Ministers
- 2.1.2 Foreign Ministers and Deputy Foreign Ministers
- 2.1.3 Dignitaries from UN and other international organizations
- 2.1.4 Transit Visits
- 2.1.5 Other Foreign Dignitaries
- 2.1.6 Delegation for Meetings/Conferences

See Annexure  
I/I, I/II, I/III

#### **2.2 Visits by Sri Lankan VVIP/VIPs**

- 2.2.1 Visits by H.E. the President (Annexure II)
- 2.2.2 Visits by Hon. Prime Minister (Annexure III)
- 2.2.3 Visits by Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs (Annexure IV)
- 2.2.4 Visits by Hon. Deputy/State Minister of Foreign Affairs (Annexure V)

### **3. Immunities and Privileges**

The functions performed under the Privileges and Immunities by the Protocol Division during the corresponding period are as follows;

3.1	Issuance of clearance certificates	
3.1.1	For Foreign Missions (134 Books containing 50 certificates) -	6700
3.1.2	For International Organizations (30 Books containing 50 certificates) -	1500
3.2	Customs facilities – Imports	
3.2.1	For Foreign Missions	- 1450
3.2.2	For International Organizations	- 250
3.3	Customs facilities – Exports	
3.3.1	For Foreign Missions	- 167
3.3.2	For International Organizations	- 20
3.3	Vehicles (DPL / UN and other Organizations)	
3.3.1	Sale of vehicles	- 212
3.3.2	Registration of vehicles	- 198
3.3.3	Issuance of revenue licenses	- 700
3.3.4	Issuance of Driving licenses	- 172
3.3.5	Issuance of petrol coupon books	- 489
3.4	Visas	
3.4.1	Visa for Foreign Missions – Entry visa (Annexure VI) -	759
3.4.2	Visa for Foreign Missions – Residence visa (Annexure VII) -	1274
3.4.3	Visa for International Organizations – Entry visa (Annexure VIII) -	207
3.4.4	Visa for International Organizations – Residence visa (Annexure IX) -	
		421
3.5	Airport passes	
3.5.1	Permanent – New Issuance	- 62
3.5.2	Temporary (for 6 months) – New Issuance	- 10
3.5.3	Permanent – Renewal	- 94
3.5.4	Temporary (for 6 months) – Renewal	- 35

3.6	VIP lounge permits		
3.6.1	Foreign Passengers	-	6316
3.6.2	Local Passengers	-	4894
3.7	Diplomatic Clearances (Annexure X)		
3.7.1	Approval for Foreign Aircrafts (Military Aircrafts/ State Owned)	-	172
3.7.2	Approval for Foreign Ships (Military Ships/ State Owned)	-	40
3.8	Identity cards (DPL / UN and other Organizations)	-	715

#### **4. Appointments of Heads of Mission/Honorary Consuls**

The Protocol Division is responsible for arranging ceremonies for Presentation of credentials for foreign Ambassadors/High Commissioners accredited to Sri Lanka and seeking Agreement for Sri Lankan Ambassadors/ High Commissioners appointed to countries that Sri Lanka has established resident Missions. The Protocol Division is also responsible for appointments of Honorary Consuls of Sri Lanka and appointments of Honorary Consuls of other countries in Sri Lanka. Functions performed by this section during the period are as follows;

4.1.	Appointments of Foreign Heads of Mission to Sri Lanka (Annexure XI)	- 27
	Appointments of Sri Lankan Heads of Mission to abroad	- 21
4.2	Appointments of Honorary consuls of Sri Lanka Abroad (Annexure XII)	
4.2.1	Appointments	- 16
4.2.2	Extensions	- 24
4.3	Appointments of Honorary Consuls in Sri Lanka	- 05

#### **5. International Conferences coordinated by the Division**

The Protocol Division plays a key role in promoting Sri Lanka as an attractive venue for holding international conferences. In this context, the Protocol Division closely coordinated with relevant line Ministries/Departments in organizing in trade events organized by the line Ministries.

The Protocol Division also provides necessary assistance and guidance to the staff members of relevant line Ministries/Agencies to perform protocol and logistical functions related to such International Conferences.

**Annexure I / I****Heads of States/PMs**

1.	Private Visit of H.E. Raimonds Vejoins, the President of the Republic of Latvia to Sri Lanka ,06 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
2.	Official visit of Hon. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore to Sri Lanka 22 <sup>nd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
3.	Official visit of H.E. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia 24 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
4.	Visit of Hon. General Prayut Chan-o-Cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand 12-13 July 2018
5.	Visit of Hon. Yukio Hatoyama, Former Prime Minister of Japan to Sri Lanka 11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
6.	Private Visit of His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar to Sri Lanka 25 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> January 2018

**Annexure I / II****Foreign Ministers & Deputy Foreign Ministers**

1.	Visit of Hon. Tara Kono –Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 04 <sup>th</sup> -06 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
2.	Official Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran 31July -01 <sup>st</sup> August 2018
3.	Visit of Hon. Don Pramudwinai- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand 08-09 November 2018
4.	Visit of Hon. Peter Kažimír, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic to Sri Lanka ,27 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> March 2018
5.	Official visit of H.E. Mr. Ivica Dacic, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs of Serbia to Sri Lanka,07 <sup>th</sup> -08 <sup>th</sup> May 2018

**Dignitaries from UN & Other International Organizations**

<b>1.</b>	Global Expert Group meeting of the United Nations Office on drugs and Crime 25-27 July 2018
<b>2.</b>	Official Visit of Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund 05 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> April 2018
<b>3.</b>	Visit of Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland QC, The commonwealth Secretary General to Sri Lanka 01-04 August 2018

**Other Dignitaries**

<b>1.</b>	Visit of Hon. Ravi Shankar Prasad ,Minister of Law &Justice & Electronic & IT of India ,14 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
<b>2.</b>	Visit of the delegation from Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI)and Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry(TCCI) 24 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
<b>3.</b>	Visit of Hon. Wataru Takeshita, President of Japan-Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship League to participate 70 <sup>th</sup> Independence Day
<b>4.</b>	Visit of Congressman James Sensenbrenner ,19 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2018
<b>5.</b>	Official visit of H.E. Han Qide ,Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference ,04 <sup>th</sup> -07 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
<b>6.</b>	Visit of H.E. Mr. Wan Qinmin ,Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative conference of the People's Republic of China(Vice Premier level)and the delegation to Sri Lanka 01 <sup>st</sup> -04 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
<b>7.</b>	Official visit of Norwegian State Secretary 20-22 June 2018
<b>8.</b>	Visit of the Finish Business Delegation headed by Hon. Petri Peltonen, Under-Secretary of State Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland to Sri Lanka 10-13 June 2018
<b>9.</b>	Visit by Dr. Matthew Morell, Director General of the International Rice Research Institute(IRRI)
<b>10.</b>	Visit of Mr. Petri Peltonen , Under Secretary of State Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland 10-13 June 2018
<b>11.</b>	Official visit by H.E. Ali Suleiman Al Saeed, Assistant to the Hon. Foreign Minister of Kuwait and Department of Asian Affairs to Sri Lanka 23-25 July 2018
<b>12.</b>	Visit of Hon. Itsunori Ondera, Minister of Defence in Japan to Sri Lanka 20-22 August 2018
<b>13.</b>	Official visit by Mr. Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky, Independent Expert on the effects of Foreign debt and other related International Financial obligation 03-11 September 2018

## **International Conferences- held in Sri Lanka**

<b>1.</b>	The World Health Day 07 <sup>th</sup> April 2018
<b>2.</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)
<b>3.</b>	Buddha Rashmi National Vesak Festival 2018
<b>4.</b>	08 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint working group in Colombo-10 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
<b>5.</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> International Conference of the International Association of Theravada Buddhist Universities(IATBU)2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2018
<b>6.</b>	Eval Colombo 2018 Parliamentarians Global Event Colombo 19-21 September 2018

## **Bilateral Consultations**

<b>1.</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> Session of the EU-Sri Lanka joint Commission (EU-SL-JC) 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
<b>2.</b>	Finalizing the proposal Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement between Sri Lanka & Turkey 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
<b>3.</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Session of Thailand Bilateral Consultation of Sri Lanka (Thailand Political Consultation)
<b>4.</b>	The World Health Day 07 <sup>th</sup> April 2018
<b>5.</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sri Lanka –Oman Political Consultations 15 <sup>th</sup> August 2018

## **Annexure II**

### **Overseas Visits by H. E. the President**

No.	Country	Duration	Purpose
1	India	10-11 March, 2018	Official Visit of International Solar Summit
2	Japan	12-16 March, 2018	State Visit
3	Pakistan	22-2 4March, 2018	Official visit to attend the National day Celebration
4	United Kingdom	16-21 April, 2018	Official visit of CHOGM 2018
5	Iran	12-15 May , 2018	State Visit
6	Italy	14-16 July, 2018	Official Visit of 24 <sup>th</sup> Session of FAO on Committee Forestry
7	Georgia	16-18 July 2018	Official Visit of Open Government Partnership
8	Nepal	29 <sup>th</sup> August -02 <sup>nd</sup> September 2018	State visit & summit BIMTEC
9	United States of America	22-27 September	For UN General Assembly

**Foreign Visits by Hon. Prime Minister**

No	Country	Duration	Purpose
1	Singapore	01 - 02 March 2018	Official Visit
2	Singapore	08 - 10 July 2018	Official Visit (World Cities Summit)
3	Viet Nam	25 - 28 August 2018	Official Visit (Indian Ocean Conference)
4	Viet Nam	10 -13 September 2018	Official Visit (World Economic Forum on ASEAN)

**Foreign Visits by Hon. Foreign Minister**

No	Country	Duration	Purpose
1	India	10 – 14 January 2018	Visit to Nalanda University
2	Japan	10 -17 March 2018	H.E. the President's office visit to Japan
3	Geneva	19 – 24 March 2018	Human Rights Council Session
4	Germany	15 -17 April 2018	Berlin Energy Dialouge
5	UK	18 – 24 April 2018	CHOGM
6	Iran	10 – 14 May 2018	H.E. the President's state visit to Iran
7	Czech Republic	15 -20 May 2018	Bilateral visit
8	Bhutan	06 -10 June 2018	Bilateral visit
9	Uganda	20 -13 June 2018	Bilateral visit
10	Kenya	24 -28 June 2018	Bilateral visit
11	Singapore	03 -05 August 2018	Asian Region Forum
12	Indonesia	06 -08 August 2018	Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process
13	Singapore	19 -24 August 2018	Bilateral visit
14	Malaysia	27 August 2018	Bilateral visit
15	New York	22 -30 September 2018	UNGA Session
16	Bali, Indonesia	24-30 October 2019	Our Ocean Conference, Bali Indonesia

**Foreign Visits by Hon. State Minister**

No	Country	Duration	Purpose
1	India	17-19 January 2018	Official Visit Rosina Dialog
2	Poland	14-19 February 2018	Police Government invitation
3	Australia	23-30 March 2018	Invitation of the Australian Government( Trade Promotion Activities)
4	Qatar and Jordan	08-13 May 2018	Illegal migration arrival, lift of band food item, Staff Sri Lanka School Discussion
5	China	24 June-1 July 2018	Request of Government of China as Delegation of Parliament Member
6	EL Salvador	3-11 July 2018	Official Visit (1 <sup>st</sup> Round Political and Cooperation between Sri Lanka & El Salvador
7	Nepal-Kathmandu	27 August – 2 September 2018	16 <sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC summit
8	Slovenia, Ethiopia and Portugal	08 – 20 September 2018	8-12 Slovenia– Blood Forum 13-16 Ehiopia- Fact finding mission & enhance Economy 17-20 Portugal- Enhance Economy Trade Promotion activities)
9	Jamaica, Cuba and Dominican Republic	3-12 October 2018	Official Visit
10	Rwanda	21-25 October	Official visit

Annexure  
IX

	<b>ADB</b>	<b>Plan</b>	<b>FAO</b>	<b>ICRC</b>	<b>IFRC</b>	<b>ILO</b>	<b>IMF</b>	<b>IOM</b>	<b>IWMI</b>	<b>JICA</b>	<b>SACEP</b>	<b>UNHCR</b>	<b>UNDP</b>	<b>UNFPA</b>	<b>UNOPS</b>	<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>AMNESTY</b>	<b>IFC</b>	<b>UNHABITAT</b>	<b>WFP</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>World Bank</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Jan</b>	4	2							8	3	3	3	4						1	1			29
<b>Feb</b>	1		2						1			1						3			2	10	
<b>Mar</b>		1		3	2	2	2	2								1	2			1		16	
<b>Apr</b>	1	4		1	1				7	1					5	1			3	1	1	1	25
<b>May</b>	1	3	1	1	1	1		1	6	6			9		3	4		1	5	5	53		
<b>Jun</b>		1	6		3		4	5	7			7		4				1	1	5	44		
<b>Jul</b>		1		4	5		2	11	3	1			1	0			1	4	1	1	4	48	
<b>Aug</b>	1			1					4	2	5	1	4	1	9	3	4		2	4	4	51	
<b>Sep</b>		1	5				4	5	5			7	1	3	1				2	2	2	36	
<b>Oct</b>	1		2		1		5	1	3	3		8	1	1	2			1	1	4	4	34	
<b>Nov</b>	2	1	1	3		2	4	9				6		3	8	5						44	
<b>Dec</b>	3	2	10				2	7	2								1	2	2			31	
<b>Total</b>	4	18	6	42	12	10	4	24	65	35	12	4	56	3	11	26	11	15	6	11	9	37	421

Annexure  
VIII

**Entry Visa for International Organizations**

	ADB	PLAN	FAO	ICRC	IFRC	ILO	IMF	IOM	IWMI	JICA	SACEP	UNFPA	UNHCR	UNDP	UNFPA	UNOPS	UNICEF	AMNESTY	UNHABITAT	WFP	WHO	WOLD BAnK	IFC	TOTAL
<b>Jan</b>										2							1							4
<b>Feb</b>										3											1			4
<b>Mar</b>		1	2		1			4	3								7				8			26
<b>Apr</b>		2	6					5									5	1						19
<b>May</b>		1	4				2	4			3		3							2	1	1		21
<b>Jun</b>		1	8		4		2	3	2		1		3								2			26
<b>Jul</b>		1	5				4	2	2	1	2		3				3		2		4	4		33
<b>Aug</b>		1	2		1			3	1				7						1		1			17
<b>Sep</b>			1				5	2	3	3			2		3	1			2					22
<b>Oct</b>						2	1	2	1						2	1	5		1					15
<b>Nov</b>			2	4					1								1			1				9
<b>Dec</b>							8	2					1											11
<b>Total</b>		5	4	32		6	2	10	37	22	6	5	3	19		5	15	10		6	3	17	5	207

**Visa for Foreign Missions – Residence Visa**

**Annex. VII**

	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Afghanistan		3						1		1		2	
Australia	5							9	9	3		7	
Bangladesh	9	1	3	5	1	4	7			3			
British Council				9	2	10	7	10	4		18		
Brazil	2								4				
Canada		1		13				4	9				
China		1	1	3	2	4	2	11	5		1	3	
Cuba	2								1				
Egypt	4	1			1		1	1	2				
EU		6	2	6		6	2	15	1	3	1	1	
France	2	5	5	1	8	12	4	10	16	7	2		
Germany	2	2	8	3	7		5	9	3	3	1	1	
Holy Sea				1									
India	36	10	57	18	8	17	18	15	15	4	17	12	
Indonesia	4	7		1	5					4	2	3	
Iran	1	1	1		6				11	2		4	
Iraq						11	3			4	1		
Italy	4	3	5			1		1	9	3	3		
Japan	2	5	11	1	10	1	1	4	1	4		2	
Korea	2	9	10	8	2	3	6	14	3	4		6	
Kuwait		1				5	1	2	3				
Libya		1	5	2		1		4	10		1		
Malaysia	1	3						4		1			
Maldives	11	5	12	4	9	7	21	2	5	2	1	4	
Mexico									1				
Myanmar								1		3			
Nepal				4		3							
Netherland	6		1	1				1	2				
Nigeria	4			2			8	8		1			
Norway	1	1	2					4	1	2			
Oman	5				1		1						
Pakistan	11		1	3	1	7		12	13	4			
Palestine		7	7							4			
Qatar			1					8	3	1			
Russia		5	1	1	6		6	4	3	2	2	2	
Romania												2	
Saudi		3			1					2			
Seychelles							3	3					
South Africa													
Switzerland			9	1	1		4	4			1		
Tajikistan													
Thailand	1					4		5		4	6	1	
Turkey	3		1				2						

<b>UAE</b>				10	7	3	8		1			
<b>USA</b>	3	10	14	4	13	9	28	25	16	38	5	3
<b>UK</b>	4	12	15	3			7	8	14		2	6
<b>Vietnam</b>	1				1	2	2	2				
<b>Sweden</b>												
<b>Israel</b>												
<b>USAID</b>								4				
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>59</b>
												<b>1456</b>

### **Annexure III**

#### **Foreign Visits by Foreign Secretary**

No	Country	Duration	Purpose
1	India	10 -11 March 2018	Grand Dedication Ceremony of the pilgrims rest at Jambudipa Sri Lanka Buddhist Temple Saranath
2	Geneva	08 -21 April 2018	UN Committee on Protection of migrant workers
3	Israel	09 – 13 June 2018	AJC Global Forum
4	Washington	21 – 30 July 2018	Ministerial Meeting to advance Relation freedom
5	New York	21 September to 01 October 2018	73 <sup>rd</sup> UNGA

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**Public Communication,  
Overseas Sri Lankans (OSL)  
and Cultural Diplomacy  
Division**



## **Public Communications, Overseas Sri Lankans (OSL) and Cultural Diplomacy Division**

### **Public Communications Division**

The Public Communications Division (PC Division) is an operations Division and is the interface between the Government and external actors for information dissemination and projection of Sri Lanka's image overseas. The Division covers events/ situations that take place in the Ministry and the country in general, related to Sri Lanka's foreign policy and international relations.

#### **1. Key Activities**

- i. Promotion of Sri Lanka's image abroad in coordination with Sri Lanka Missions.
- ii. Dissemination of information / publicity material to Sri Lanka Missions abroad and keeping Missions and the wider public informed through media releases/ government statements.
- iii. Responding to media queries on aspects related to the Ministry and matters related to Sri Lanka's foreign policy / international relations.
- iv. Dissemination of promotional material on tourism, trade and investment to Mission and stakeholders.
- v. Liaising with local and foreign media.
- vi. Preparation and release of media statements in consultation with political desks.
- vii. Issuance of media accreditation for visiting foreign media.
- viii. Maintenance of records of foreign correspondents in Sri Lanka and reporting on Sri Lanka.
- ix. Compilation of Local News Round-up through local print media to be disseminated among all Missions and officials and selection of news reports of interest to Sri Lanka from foreign and local media to be posted on the Ministry website.
- x. Maintenance of the Ministry Website including social media platforms in all three languages; (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and SoundCloud).
- xi. Promotion and facilitation of Film Festivals, Media Workshops and Conferences that are held in Sri Lanka.

#### **2. Visits of Foreign Media Personnel and Film Crews**

The Division facilitates and coordinates visits of foreign media for news coverage and production of films / documentaries and TV projects related to tourism, travel, culture and arrange temporary media accreditation for them.

- ❖ 309 temporary media accreditation passes were arranged in consultation with the Government Information Department, including 35 filming/documentaries projects for the period from 01 January to 31 December 2018.

### **3. Issuance of Media Releases**

The Division has disseminated 452 Media Releases during the stipulated period. This number includes media releases issued by Sri Lanka Missions abroad and those that were issued by the Ministry itself. Out of this, the Ministry issued 126 media releases. In addition, the Division posted on the Ministry's social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) almost on a daily basis.

### **4. Coverage of Foreign VVIP/VIP Visits to Sri Lanka and Media Events / Activities.**

During the stipulated period, the Division arranged media coverage for the following visits / events. Media Coverage of the visits of Heads of State / Government was arranged in coordination with the Government Information Department. Other visits/ events were covered by the Division itself.

- i. Visit of HRH Prince Edward of the United Kingdom, from 31 January to 03 February 2018.
- ii. Official Visit of Hon. Taro Kono, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, from 04 – 06 January 2018.
- iii. Official Visit of Hon. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore, from 22 – 24 January 2018.
- iv. Official Visit of H.E. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia, from 24 – 25 January 2018.
- v. Fourth meeting of the Sri Lanka- Thailand Bilateral consultations, from 27 – 28 February 2018.
- vi. Visit of HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein, Special Envoy of the Anti Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, from 5 – 7 March 2018.
- vii. Official Visit of H.E. Mr. Peter Kazimir, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Slovak Republic, from 27 – 29 March 2018.
- viii. Official Visit of Mr. Dang Dinh Quy, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, 11 April 2018.
- ix. Official Visit of Hon. Ivica Dacic, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, from 06 – 08 May 2018.
- x. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Bilateral consultations between Sri Lanka and the Republic of Korea, 07 June 2018.

- xi. Official Visit of Mr. Jens FrØlich Holte, State Secretary for Development Cooperation of Norway, from 23 – 25 June 2018.
- xii. Official Visit of H.E. General Prayuth Chan-O-Cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, from 12 -13 July 2018.
- xiii. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sri Lanka-Japan Dialogue on Maritime Security, Safety and Oceanic issues, 20 July 2018.
- xiv. Official Visit of Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary – General of the Commonwealth, from 01 – 04 August 2018.
- xv. Official Visit of H.E Simonetta Sommaruga, Federal Councilor of the Swiss Confederation, 07 August 2018.
- xvi. The 2<sup>nd</sup>Round of Sri Lanka – Oman Bilateral Consultations, 15 August 2018.
- xvii. Official Visit of Mr. Kazuyuki Nakane, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, from 28 – 30 August 2018.
- xviii. Initial Workshop on the Establishment of the IORA Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security, from 04 – 05 September 2018.
- xix. Sri Lanka – Finland Bilateral Consultations, 01 October 2018.
- xx. The Seventh Session of the Sri Lanka-South Africa Partnership Forum, 16 October 2018.
- xxi. The Valedictory Session of the Sri Lanka Foreign Policy and Economic Diplomacy Dialogue 2018, 26 October 2018.

## **5. New Interface of the Website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

The New interface of the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was developed and launched in April 2018. The Sinhala and Tamil language interfaces were made available in May 2018. The new interface has been designed with a view to providing a more user-friendly web interface for the public, and contains comprehensive, updated information.

## **6. Proposal to Streamline Websites of Missions/Posts abroad**

A proposal was drafted to design user-friendly, secure and standard websites for all Sri Lanka Missions overseas.

## **Overseas Sri Lankans (OSL) and Cultural Diplomacy Division**

The Overseas Sri Lankans and Cultural Diplomacy Division deals with matters pertaining to Overseas Sri Lankans and Cultural Diplomacy initiatives of the Ministry.

Key activities of the Division include inter alia: facilitating interaction and engagement with Overseas Sri Lankans (Sri Lankans resident overseas and those of Sri Lankan Origin / Heritage); assisting them to visit Sri Lanka so that they can reconnect after being abroad and to harness their contribution towards socio-economic development and reconciliation efforts in Sri Lanka; collaborating with NGOs & research organizations involved with studies / research / programmes related to Sri Lankan diaspora; and facilitating Visas for Overseas Sri Lankans attached to organizations / programmes in Sri Lanka.

Under Cultural Diplomacy, the Division seeks to support public diplomacy initiatives for promotional and cultural activities, educational exchanges, media and film projects, support of partnerships between private and public entities to promote scholarship and research, and outreach activities such as conferences and workshops.

### **Work with Sri Lanka Missions Abroad**

- SL Missions have been requested to designate officer(s) to be OSL Focal points.
- Missions have requested to liaise and support Overseas Sri Lankan Groups/ Associations that are contributing to SL social and economic development, reconciliation, and integration efforts.
- One day of the week has been declared for OSL community members to meet the Head of Mission/ Staff without appointments.
- Missions are to raise awareness of events with OSL community and are identifying certain sectors – Education, Health with private sector groups / organizations.
- Missions have been requested to compile and regularly update list of Sri Lankans Overseas-in certain sectors/ areas and inform Ministry.

### **Work with Government Bodies/ Agencies**

- The OSL Division works closely with ONUR (Office of National Unity for Reconciliation) to assist OSL organizations working in Sri Lanka and it is the main partner we use to match up organizations and engage with OSL community that visit Sri Lanka.
- The OSL Division has been having close cooperation and assistance with the Department of Immigration and Emigration to streamline Visas for OSL members and volunteers that are visiting Sri Lanka to work and support socio-economic programmes.
- The Department of Immigration has designated a Focal Point for OSL matters to fast track process and assist with OSL related Visa issues.

## **Activities for the period from 01 January to 31 December 2018**

By way of recommending Visas for several OSL community members, experts, and volunteers, the Division facilitated the work of several OSL organizations in Sri Lanka such as Bridging Lanka, Nectar Lanka, Comdu.it, Sunyra Lanka and the International Centre for Ethnic Studies.

### **Bridging Lanka: Assistance for a Research Study in Kandy: August 2018**

- The Division facilitated Bridging Lanka's work in Sri Lanka to engage, collaborate and work with organizations with expatriate Sri Lankans/those of Sri Lanka Origin that are contributing to Sri Lanka's socio-economic development. Bridging Lanka arranges expertise and resources for a number of livelihood support, business development, community advocacy, urban planning and social cohesion projects.
- Notably, the Division facilitated a research study undertaken by Bridging Lanka in Digana and Theldeniya areas of Kandy District on communal harmony to strengthen inter-communal trust and mutual respect among different communities.

In addition, OSL Division has also collaborated with the Department of Immigration and Emigration for the issuance of visas for the staff members enabling them to stay and work in Sri Lanka.

- **Comdu.it**

Comdu.it is a Canadian organization that organizes a number of overseas Sri Lankan volunteer programmes to provide technical assistance and support sustainable development in Sri Lanka. The Division supported their programme for 2018 – 2019 and facilitated 12 young students / professionals to work in Sri Lanka as volunteers with different organizations on ongoing programmes and projects in the Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka.

- **Asia Foundation Programme – Lanka Corps Fellows**

The Division recommended the work of **Lanka Corps Fellowship 2018**. Six talented professionals arrived in Sri Lanka to engage in social, cultural and economic development activities in Sri Lanka through a six-month fellowship programme, where they were placed in both public and private sector.

## **Cultural Diplomacy**

- Under Cultural Diplomacy, the Division facilitated Sri Lanka Rupavahini's "Ethera Methara" programme in Italy, UK and the Republic of Korea, during the stipulated period.
- The Division also facilitated securing foreign youth participation in the "Yowunpuraya" national youth camp held in March / April 2018.
- The Division assisted several cultural diplomacy initiatives of Sri Lanka Missions abroad by way of providing audio-visual material, documents, etc.

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# **South Asia and SAARC Division**



## **South Asia and SAARC Division**

### **1. AFGANISTAN**

- i. The proposal to enter into MoU between Radio Television Afghanistan and Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC) has been forwarded to the SLRC.
- ii. The Mission facilitated the Afghan request for a study tour for five Afghan police personnel in Sri Lanka and the Police Headquarters of Sri Lanka agreed to facilitate.
- iii. Head of Mission has met with the Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, Afghanistan to discuss matters of mutual interest and operationalizing the bilateral agreements.
- iv. Regular participation on UNAM& UNHCR meeting on issues that are of relevance to Afghanistan and other countries in bi/multilateral forums.

### **Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- i. Discussions have been made by the Mission on the import of Sri Lankan tea to Afghanistan. The investors have shown keen interest to visit Sri Lanka on same.
- ii. Steps have been taken to implement and operationalize the MoU between two countries on the employment of Sri Lankan Skilled and Professional Manpower in Afghanistan.
- iii. Taken steps to display Sri Lankan Airlines promotional materials in the Mission and distributed them among the travel agents in Kabul to promote Sri Lankan Airlines and Sri Lanka as a holiday destination.

### **Cultural Relations**

- i. Subsequent to discussions with the UNESCO in Kabul, Sri Lanka's expertise was offered for the ongoing rehabilitation/restoration, and the UNESCO has agreed to extend their assistance for the Archeological expert's visit to Bamiyan. However, visits on two occasions were arranged by this Mission to Bamiyan but both visits did not materialize from the Sri Lankan side.

### **Labor Welfare**

- i. The Mission has supported the repatriation of a Sri Lankan national in February 2018, after payment of \$4920 as fines to the Afghan Government for over stay.

### **2. BANGLADESH**

#### **Outward visits**

- i. A delegation led by Hon. (Dr.) Sudarshani Fernandopulle, former State Minister of City Planning and Water Supply attended the 2018 meeting of the South Asia Parliamentarian Platform for Children held in Dhaka from 1 - 4 May 2018.

- ii. Hon. Palitha RangaBandara, State Minister of Irrigation, Water Resources and Disaster Management attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Disability and Disaster Risk Management held in Dhaka from 15 – 17 May 2018.
- iii. Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya, Chairman of the Election Commission of Sri Lanka led a delegation to the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia held in Dhaka from 04 – 08 September 2018.
- iv. Hon. Harsha de Silva, State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs led a delegation to the second meeting of the South Asia Maritime and Logistic Forum held in Dhaka from 9 – 10 October 2018.
- v. Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade led a high level Garment Sector trade delegation to Dhaka from 11 – 12 October 2018.

### **Inward Visits**

- i. Mr. Tareque Muhammad, DG/South Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh led a delegation to the conference "The Indian Ocean: Defining Our Future" held on 11 – 12 October 2018 in Colombo.

### **Bilateral Relations**

H.E. the High Commissioner called on the following Bangladesh dignitaries;

- i. On 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.
- ii. On 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2018, the Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.
- iii. On 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018, H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh at the Parliament of Bangladesh.
- iv. on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2018, the Chairman and senior officials of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council to discuss on implementing the MoU between Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council.

### **Multilateral Relations**

H.E. the High Commissioner attended the following events;

- i. On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the conference "BIMSTEC at its' 20 – Towards the Bay of Bengal Community" held at the BIMSTEC Secretariat.
- ii. The 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Dhaka on 05<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- iii. The BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (JWG-CTTC) in Dhaka from 13 – 14 August 2018.

## **Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- i. The High Commissioner met the Chairman and senior officials of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), together with the Director Board of the Sri Lanka Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SLBCCI) to discuss issues related to Sri Lankan Investments in Bangladesh on 06<sup>th</sup> July 2018.
- ii. To promote Sri Lanka as a MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Events) Tourism Destination, the High Commission organized two events (Meet in Sri Lanka & Sri Lanka stall) along with the Convention Bureau of Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan Airlines and the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau from 22–24 March and on 11 October 2018.

## **Cultural Relations**

- i. The High Commission with the assistance of the Sri Lanka Association of Bangladesh facilitated the Sri Lankan cultural education for the Sri Lankan children in Bangladesh.

## **Labour Welfare**

The High Commission handled a number of consular cases relating to Sri Lankan expatriate workers.

## **3. BHUTAN**

### **Bilateral Relations**

- i. The Government of Bhutan provided four statues of the Gautama Buddha for the Vesak Celebration held in Temple Trees from 29 April-02 May 2018. Sri Lanka Missions in Dhaka and New Delhi supported in this regard.

### **Outward visits**

- i. Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Bhutan from 06-09 June 2018. A trade delegation accompanied the Hon. Minister.

During the visit the Government of Sri Lanka introduced further scholarship opportunities in higher education in both private and state Institutions to Bhutan students. Hon. Minister called on His Majesty 5<sup>th</sup> King of Bhutan, Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Hon. Minister of Economic Affairs during his visit.

## **4. NEPAL**

### **Outward visits**

- i. Visit of H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of SL, from 01-02 September for the 4<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Summit held in Kathmandu, 30<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> August. H.E. the President visited Maya Devi temple in Lumbini, birth place of Prince Siddhartha Gautama, Sri Lanka Maha Viharaya, Dutugamunu Pilgrims Rest, SAARC Secretariat, Anandakuti Viharaya and Pashupatinath Temple and met with Rt. Hon. K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal and inaugurated a "Trade, Tourism & Investment Dialogue" organized by ISSR.

- ii. MoUs were exchanged between the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) of Nepal and Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI) of SL and on Cooperation for the Youth Development.
- iii. Ms. YasojaGunasekara, Snr. DG, SAARC Division attended the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Programming Committee on 07<sup>th</sup> July in Kathmandu
- iv. Ms.YasojaGunasekara, Senior Director General, SAARC Division and Ms. Abayajeewa, Deputy Director were attended 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the Programming Committee, 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Bilateral Relations**

- i. Ambassador had a meeting
  - with Gen. RajendraChhetri, Chief of the Army Staff, Nepal on 08<sup>th</sup> January.
  - with Hon. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal
- ii. Gen. RajendraChhetri, Chief of the Army Staff, Nepal visited SL on an invitation extended by Lt. Gen. Crishantha de Silva, former Commander of SL Army.

### **Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- i. The Ambassador attended the following meetings with a view to promoting economic relations between SL and Nepal.
  - President & Members of Dang,Janakpur,Pokhara Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nepal on respectively 05<sup>th</sup> January, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 07<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
  - On 27<sup>th</sup> January, at Nepal Power Investment Summit
  - On 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Meeting with Hon. RaghbirMahaseth, Minister of Physical Infrastructure and Transport.
  - On 25<sup>th</sup> April, with CEO, Investment Board, Nepal.
  - On 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018, ECAN Education Fair.

### **Tourism**

- i. The Ambassador had participated in several events and meeting around Nepal including Pokhara, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur and Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal (TAAN)
- ii. meeting
  - with the Tour Operators and Travel Agents of Nepal on 28<sup>th</sup> March.
  - with CEO of Nepal Tourism Board and NATTA on 11<sup>th</sup> July.
  - with Nepal Council of World Affairs, on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and signed a MoU between Nepal Council of World Affairs (NCWA) and LakshmanKadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKIIRS).

### **Cultural relations**

- i. The Mission monitors the reconstruction of i.e. Anandakuti Viharaya & RatoMachchindranath Temple.

- ii. The Ambassador attended a meeting organized by UNESCO office in Kathmandu on International Scientific Committee in Lumbini, from 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- iii. Assisted to send a Youth delegation from Nepal to SL for Youth Festival held 28<sup>th</sup> March to 01<sup>st</sup> April.
- iv. Organized a "Sri Lankan Food Festival" at the hotel Yak & Yeti in Kathmandu from 25<sup>th</sup> May to 02<sup>nd</sup> June 2018.
- v. Meetingwith the Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal and Ven. MetteyyaSakyaputta, Vice-Chairman of Lumbini Development Trust on 07<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- vi. Organized a cultural show at Hotel Hyatt Regency on 30<sup>th</sup> August.
- vii. Meeting with Chancellor of Nepal Academy

**Consular Assistance:**

- i. The Ambassador had discussed matters relating to Sri Lankan students studying in the Manipal Medical College with the Medical College.
- ii. The Mission assisted to recruit workers from Nepal as per the request of the Chamber of Construction Industry, Sri Lanka.

## **5. MALDIVES**

**Bilateral Relations**

- i. Continued dialogue with the Foreign Ministry, Maldivian National Defense Force, the Coast Guard, Police, Immigration and Customs of Maldives for better cooperation and smooth operation with regard to repatriation of strandedSri Lankan fisherman.
- ii. The Head of Mission had attended the following meetings &discussions;
  - With the Controller of Immigration and Emigration with regard to visa matters of the Sri Lankans living in Maldives.
  - With the Commissioner of Police regarding Sri Lankan arrestees.
  - With the Prosecutor General on delaying juridical proceedings with regard to arrested Sri Lankans.
  - With the Chairman Airport Aviation and the Commissioner General of Customs regarding issues faced by Sri Lankan nationals traveling through Velana International Airport.
  - With the Minister of Health regarding internships in Sri Lanka for Medical students of Maldives & additional slots in Medical College of KDU for Maldivian students.
  - With the Minister of Sports to improve the stranded of cricket in Maldives.

- iii. Sent a delegation from Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture, Maldives to SL to attend SDG 14.
- iv. Visit by Hon. Sarath Amunugama, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Faiszer Mustapha, Minister of Provincial Council, Local Government and Sports, Hon. Namal Rajapaksha, Member of Parliament, Hon. Kanka Herath, MP and Senior Officials from MFA of SL to attend the Inauguration Ceremony of the President-elect of the Maldives.

### **Multilateral Relations**

- The Head of Mission had attended the discussion with Dr. Aravind Mathur the representative of WHO in Maldives on epidemic issues in the Maldives
- A delegation of International Youth Committee Members headed by its Chairman visited the Embassy

### **Economic Relation and Foreign Investments**

- i. The Mission facilitated the organizers of the education exhibition (Maldives International Education and Career EXPO) with educational Institute in Sri Lanka.
- ii. The Mission organized and conducted a meeting for the leading construction companies on behalf of the KMCC Group a leading hardware production company.
- iii. The Embassy re-established negotiations between the Health Ministry and the State Pharmaceutical Corporation in Sri Lanka and State Trading Organization in Maldives to procurement of medicine to Maldives.
- iv. Facilitated Lanka Exhibition & Conference Service (Pvt) Ltd to represent at "14th Edition Hotel Asia Exhibition & International Culinary Challenge 2018" in Maldives.

### **Cultural Relation**

- i. Successfully conducted Sri Lankan Film Festival Screening three famous Sri Lankan films with the attendance of the film directors.

### **Labor Welfare**

- i. The Mission organized workshops and awareness programme to Sri Lanka labor on their rights, entitlements do's and don'ts rules of the lands, behavior, and discipline the services.
- ii. Hon. Sunil Handuneththi, MP, visited Maldives on & met with Sri Lankan workers.

## **6. INDIA**

### **Outward visits**

- i. H.E Maithripala Sirisena, President visited New Delhi to participate in the Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Meetings with the President, and the Prime Minister of India were held during the visit.

- ii. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, attended the "Raisina Dialogue 2018" on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in New Delhi.
- iii. Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Minister of Public Enterprise & Kandy City Development attended the funeral as Special Envoy of the Government of Sri Lanka. The funeral of Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India.
- iv. Hon. Minister of Finance and Mass Media visited Mumbai to participate in the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) from 23-27 June 2018
- v. Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament and delegation visited India on a familiarization tour from 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018, on an invitation from the Speaker of the Lok Sabha of India.
- vi. Hon. Prime Minister visited India from 18 to 20 October 2018

The High Commission coordinated and facilitated the following meetings;

- a. Hon Rajitha Senarathne, Minister of Health and Indigenous Medicine attended the meeting on Ending TB in South East Asia Region, held in New Delhi from 13 – 14 March 2018.
- b. His Lordship Piyasath Dep, Chief Justice of Sri Lanka attended the SAARC Law Conclave from 28th to 29th April, 2018 at Indian Institute of Legal Scientific Tests, Dagarbh, Darjeeling.
- c. Hon. Ajith P. Perera, Minister of Power and Renewable Energy participated at the 16th International Energy Forum from 10th-12th April 2018
- d. Hon. Vijith Wijayamuni Soysa, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management attended the 8th Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific under the theme "Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency, held from 9-12 April 2018, India.

### **Inward visits**

- i. Hon. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics and Information Technology of India to Sri Lanka from 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018. During the visit the MoU between India and Sri Lanka for promoting cooperation in the field of Information Technology and Electronics was signed.
- ii. Speaker of the Parliament of India Hon Sumitra Mahajan attended the South Asian Speakers' Summit held in Colombo from 11-12 July.
- iii. Member of the Kalinga Foundation visited Sri Lanka and met Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs on 30 October 2018.

- iv. An 18 member business delegation from the Merchant's Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Kolkata west Bengal visited SL in September. An MoU was signed with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce during the visit.

### **Consular**

- i. The Deputy High Commission in Chennai facilitated the release Sri Lankan fishermen in custody in coordination with the Indian authorities, Voluntary repatriation of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees from the State of Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka.
- ii. Sri Lankan pensioners in coordination with the Department of Pension of Sri Lanka, Sri Lankan patients undergoing medical treatment, and
- iii. Protocol assistance to VIPs who visited Southern India by arranging security, protocol and Darshan facilities at the TirumalaTirupatiDevasthanam.

### **Bilateral relations with India**

The High Commission coordinated and facilitated the 28<sup>th</sup> India-Sri Lanka DG level talks on anti-smugglers which was held from 22-23 February, 2018 in New Delhi between the Director-General of Customs of Sri Lanka and the Director General/DRI of India

### **Trade/Aviation**

- i. Sri Lankan Airline connects 14 Indian destinations Coimbatore, Madurai and Mangalore, for the Sri Lankan Airlines.

### **Economic Relations and Foreign Investments**

- i. Facilitated the visit of Hon. Minister of Tourism Development & Christian Religious Affairs of Sri Lanka to Bangalore for a meeting with tour operators and journalists. The Ramayana Trail website was launched by the Hon. Minister in the presence of media, tour operators and travel industry in Bangalore.
- ii. A delegation from the Joint Apparel Association of Sri Lanka visited New Delhi from 26-27 September 2018 for meeting with the apparel industry of India.
- iii. Assistance was provided for island wide emergency services housing in the North & East and the hill countries.
- iv. India provides scholarships annually under the Nehru Memorial (100), Rajiv Gandhi Memorial (25), Azad Maulana scheme (50) and the Commonwealth scheme (5). Further 5-10 scholarships are provided under the Ayush scholarship scheme.

### **Cultural Relations**

- i. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon TilakMarapana attended the 4th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference, held in Rajgir, Bihar in India from 11th – 13th January 2018.

- ii. Coordinated the process of taking the sacred Buddha relics enshrined at the MulagandhakutiVihara at Saranath in India to Sri Lanka for public veneration from 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018.

### **Educational matters**

- i. The University of Ruhuna of Sri Lanka signed a MoU on cooperation with the Indira Kala SangeetVishwavidyalaya in Khairagarh in Chhattisgarh and the University of Calcutta.

### **Defence Matters**

- i. Sri Lanka participated at the 5<sup>th</sup> Indo Sri Lanka Annual Defence Dialogue held on 9<sup>th</sup> January in New Delhi, the Navy to Navy Staff Talks, from 07<sup>th</sup> to 09<sup>th</sup> February 2018, Air to Air Staff Talks from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Army to Army Staff Talks in New Delhi from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 and the Coast Guard to Coast Guard Staff Talks in March 2018.
- ii. Coordinated the acceptance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel constructed at Goa Ship yard Limited on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.

## **7. PAKISTAN**

### **Outward visits**

- i. H. E. the President of Sri Lanka visited Pakistan from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018. During the visit he had meetings with the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan. Agreements were signed between Pakistan and Sri Lankan Governments, in the fields of Youth Development, Diplomatic trainings, Training for the officers of Sri Lanka Administrative Service and Cooperation in Developing Tourism.
- ii. Hon. Minister Rauff Hakeem, Minister of City Planning and Water Supply visited from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018
- iii. Commander of the Army, Lieutenant General, N. U. M. M. W. Senanayake, RWP RSP USP USACGSC visited Pakistan, from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- iv. Mr. H. T. Kamal Padmasiri, Secretary, Ministry of Provincial Councils, Local government and sports, Mr. P. B. S. C. Nonis controller General, Ministry of Finance & Mass Media, visited national school of Public Policy in Pakistan (NSPP) to discuss on implementing of the MoU signed between SLIDA and NSPP.
- v. His Lordship Piyasath Dep, the Chief Justice of Sri Lanka visited Pakistan to attend Asia Pacific Judicial Colloquium on Climate Change held in Lahore from 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

## **Inward visits**

- i. The Chief of the Army Staff Pakistan, General Qamar JavedBajwa, visited Sri Lanka from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018

## **Bilateral Relations**

- i. Technical Assistance and capacity building co-operation, provided by Pakistan in order to develop the livestock sector of Sri Lanka, specially focusing on Polonnaruwa dairy farm project.

## **Education & Defence**

- i. Offered a diplomatic course, under Special Technical Assistance Programme to Sri Lankan Government officers in the month of March 2018.
- ii. Under Pakistan Technical Assistance Program (PTAP), 18 Seats are allocated to Sri Lankan Students in the fields of MBBS, BDS, D. Pharmacy and B.Sc Engineering.
- iii. Pakistan Armed Forces offered training courses for Sri Lankan Military forces, officials and to the Sri Lanka Police Department.

## **Multilateral Relations**

- i. The Conference of 7th South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN - VII) for safe sanitation in South Asia – Plan 2030 was held in Islamabad on 11th to 15th April 2018.

## **Economic Relations & Foreign Investments**

- i. During the Presidential visit to Pakistan in March 2018, this High Commission arranged meetings for potential Pakistani Investors.
- ii. Four high value investors who were interested in investing in Sri Lanka facilitated to visit Sri Lanka to meet relevant authorities.
- iii. The High Commission planned a familiarization Tour for selected Travel Agents and Travel Journalists to Sri Lanka, which make them to write on Sri Lanka tourism in the leading travel magazines in Pakistan.
- iv. The High Commission participated in the International Rawal Expo 2018 organized by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI) with view to promote Sri Lankan Products and Handicrafts among Pakistan business communities.
- v. Exportation of urea fertilizer amounting 76000 Metric Tons from Pakistan, facilitated by the Mission.

- vi. The Department of Plant Protection, Pakistan stopped issuing import permits to the importers of products from Sri Lanka. The Consul General/Karachi clarified the related issues under the international trade law obligations and the matter was resolved.
- vii. As per the finance bill of Pakistan for the year 2018-2019 created tariff anomaly and imposed regulatory duty on MDF Boards imported from Sri Lanka to Pakistan. The Consul General met with the members of Pakistan Timber Merchant Association and appraised them on Pakistan's commitment under Pakistan-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement on MDF Boards and lobbying against the incentives already granted under PSFTA.
- viii. The Consul General witnessed the signing ceremony of an agreement contract which was signed between M/s. Salwa Distributors, Sri Lanka and M/s. Nauras Pvt. Ltd., Pakistan for the distribution of its ready-made curry powders in Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan fresh spices and condiments exports to Pakistan.
- ix. The Consulate organized an outward Pakistan business delegation of 22 members to Sri Lanka from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, April 2018.

## **Tourism**

- i. The Consulate in association with Sri Lankan Airlines organized the Sri Lankan Food and Cultural Festival from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February at Karachi, Pakistan.
- ii. This Consulate made arrangements for an inward delegation of 10 Sri Lankan tourism companies to participate at the Pakistan Travel Mart 2018 in association with Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB).

## **Cultural Relations**

- i. Sri Lankan food festival was successfully organized by the Sri Lankan High Commission, in collaboration with the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018.
- ii. The High Commission facilitated to obtain the sacred Tooth Relics of Gautama Buddha for Vesak Festival organized by the Prime Minister's Office in Sri Lanka, from 28th April to 2nd May 2018.
- iii. International Students Society of University of Engineering and Technology-Lahore in collaboration with the High Commission arranged the International Cultural & Food Fiesta 2018".

## **Labor Welfare**

- i. Both the High Commission and the Consulate regularly meet the Sri Lankan community and provide necessary advice for their problems.

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# United Nations and Human Rights Division



## **United Nations and Human Rights Division**

Sri Lanka's Permanent Missions / High Commissions / Embassies in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Paris, Rome, Nairobi, Bangkok and the Hague come under the purview of this Division in the context of multilateral work. The Division also coordinates activities with relevant line Ministries, UN Agencies in Sri Lanka, international & local human rights groups, and the civil society and media. The main areas of work of this Division, during the year 2018 included the following:

### **1. 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), New York, 25 September – 1 October 2018**

- The Division made both substantive contributions for the participation of the Sri Lanka delegation headed by H.E the President at the High-Level Segment of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UNGA in September 2018 including, the High-Level segment. The H.E. the President addressed the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2018. The Ministry also facilitated meetings for H.E. the President with other Heads of State/Government, Leaders of delegations and high ranking UN officials, on the sidelines of the High-Level Segment.
- The Permanent Mission in New York facilitated bilateral meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg and Minister of International Development of Canada. Bilateral meetings were also arranged with the Under-Secretary General of the UN Office of Counter Terrorism; Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs of the US Department of Health and Human Services of the USA.
- Sri Lanka also attended Foreign Ministers meetings of the Commonwealth; SAARC and ACD held on the side-lines of the UNGA. Sri Lanka was also welcomed as the newest member at the Special Meeting of CICA (Confidence Building Measures in Asia) of Foreign Ministers.

### **2. Reconciliation and human rights:**

#### **UN Human Rights Council:**

- The Division, along with other stakeholders, continued to coordinate and assist the process undertaken by the Government to ensure progress on the implementation of the UN Human Rights Council resolutions 30/1 (2015) and 34/1 (2017) titled "Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka".

The progress achieved by Sri Lanka in 'Advancing Human Rights, Reconciliation, and Good Governance in Sri Lanka' was regularly updated and disseminated among relevant stakeholders, including Sri Lanka Missions abroad.

- Substantive and logistical preparations were made for Sri Lanka's participation at the 2018 sessions of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva: 37<sup>th</sup> Session (26<sup>th</sup> Feb – 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar 2018), 38<sup>th</sup> Session (18 Jun – 06 Jul 2018) and 39<sup>th</sup> Session (10 - 28 Sep 2018).
  - Hon. MFA visited Geneva from 19 - 23 March 2018 in connection with the presentation of the Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sri Lanka. The rest of the delegation consisted of Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, MP.,Hon. Faizer Mustapha, MP, PC and Mr. Mano Tittawella, Secretary General,

Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms of Sri Lanka and other senior officials of the GoSL.

- During the 37<sup>th</sup> Session held in March 2018, Sri Lanka made an intervention as the Country Concerned, following the presentation of the Report of the OHCHR on Sri Lanka, by the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- During the time period from January- September 2018, Sri Lanka engaged with the Council by making 17 interventions, supporting and making comprehensive observations/recommendations regarding 16 thematic resolutions and supporting 4 cross-regional statements. A notable reduction of references to Sri Lanka by Member states/observer states was also observed during the 3 Sessions, which can be considered as a reflection of the improved human rights situation in the country and the projection thereof internationally.
- In addition, the following statements/interventions were also made on behalf of Sri Lanka at the following fora of the UN Human Rights Council:
  - Statement at the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on Right to Development, which was held from 23-27 April 2018;
  - Statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention during the 37 HRC (March 2018) and Statement as 'country concerned' at HRC 39 on 12 September 2018 on the Report of the Working Group on its visit to Sri Lanka from 5-17 December 2017.
- Sri Lanka chaired the Social Forum 2018 of the Human Rights Council and Sri Lanka's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva delivered an opening statement at the Forum on 01 October 2018.

### **Universal Periodic Review (UPR):**

- The Outcome of Sri Lanka's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group was adopted by the Council at the 37 HRC, on 19 March 2018. The Division co-organized a dialogue with the members of the civil society and the representatives of the stakeholder Ministries on 23 August 2018 in Colombo, to review the recommendations accepted by Sri Lanka at the Universal Periodic Review and to explore ways of incorporating them to the ongoing initiatives of the government.

### **UN Special Procedures Mandate Holders:**

- Following the standing invitation extended by the Government of Sri Lanka to special procedure mandate holders since December 2015, the UN Independent Expert on the Effects of Foreign Debt and other Related International Financial Obligations on the Full Enjoyment of All Human Rights, particularly Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Mr. Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky visited Sri Lanka from 03-11 September 2018. This Division coordinated with the Secretariat of the Independent Expert, PRUN/ Geneva and relevant stakeholders to facilitate this visit. A total of 8 Special Procedures have visited since 2015.

### **National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP):**

- The Ministry facilitated the effective implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) 2017-2021 by assisting the Inter-Ministerial Mechanism established by the Government to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan as well as by implementing

certain action points therein. The NHRAP was formulated through a broad based consultation process coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and approved by the Cabinet in 2017. The NHRAP is being implemented through a three tier Inter Ministerial Committee headed by the Hon. Prime Minister, assisted by government and non-government agencies.

### **3. Youth:**

- The Permanent Mission of New York along with the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN in partnership with the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, ILO organized a side-event to commemorate the 'World Youth Skills Day 2018' for the fourth consecutive year.

### **4. UN Peacebuilding Fund:**

- Sri Lanka is a beneficiary of the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and as such a national Peacebuilding Priority Plan was developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders. A Peacebuilding Board has been established to monitor the progress of the projects funded by the PBF and regular board meetings were held since 2017. Secretary/ Foreign Affairs is co-chairing the Peacebuilding Board meeting with UN Resident Coordinator. As of September 2018, this Division has facilitated 09 meetings of the Peacebuilding Board. The Division represents the MFA at the oversight committee that monitors the projects under the peacebuilding fund and contributes to their successful implementation.

### **5. Trafficking in Persons:**

- The Division coordinated Sri Lanka's report for the US State Department Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report was submitted in March 2018. As a result of the efforts made to address this issue, Sri Lanka succeeded in retaining its Tier 2 ranking in the US State Department Report for 2018, for the second consecutive year.
- The Division also facilitated and assisted measures to train officials to identify victims of trafficking proactively, and improve protection services and prevent trafficking offences. In this regard, an online training module was developed to help improve the knowledge and skills of officials attached to Sri Lanka Missions Overseas for responding effectively and with sensitivity in dealing with potential victims of human trafficking. This program was launched on 9 October 2018. A similar training programme was launched September 2018 for cabin crew of Sri Lankan Airlines to enhance the capacity of airline crew to identify and assist trafficking victims.

### **6. Humanitarian Affairs:**

#### **International Committee of the Red Cross:**

- Sri Lanka maintains good cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) who has been visiting persons detained in prisons and temporary places of detention Sri Lanka since 1989. On the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers granted on 22 May 2018, the Government of Sri Lanka and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) signed an Agreement on "Cooperation and humanitarian activities to benefit persons deprived of their liberty". This Division also participated and contributed substantively to the discussions which led to the finalization of the said Agreement.
- This Agreement allows access to the ICRC to all detainees and all detention centres under the purview of GoSL other than Sri Lankan military personnel detained under military law in military establishments. Through this Agreement, Sri Lanka will be able to benefit from the

international experiences and expertise of the ICRC in its endeavours to improve the conditions of detention and treatment of detainees in the country and to align its penitentiary system with internationally recognized standards.

## **7. Disarmament:**

- Demonstrating its longstanding commitment to humanitarian disarmament, Sri Lanka acceded to the Instrument of Accession to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction, on 13 December 2017; and the Cluster Munitions Convention by depositing the Instrument of Accession at the UN Headquarters through Sri Lanka's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, on 1 March 2018.
- The highlights of the year 2018 in the area of disarmament were as follows:
  - Sri Lanka assuming the Presidency of the Conference of Disarmament as well as the position of the Chair-Rapporteur of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties (9 MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions;
  - From 4-7 March 2018, Sri Lanka received the Special Envoy on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction, HRH Prince Mired Bin Raad Al-Hussein.
  - Following Sri Lanka's accession to the Anti-Personnel Land Mines Ban Convention (Ottawa Treaty), the PRUN/ Geneva facilitated engagements with the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Treaty in Geneva and Co-hosted with ISU the Individualized Country Presentation held in June 2018.
- The Division is coordinating the drafting and finalization of the State Party refers to the mine ban treaty which will be submitted in November 2018.
- The Division also represented the MFA at the mid-term review of the national mine action strategy and assisted in assessing implementation as well as setting goals assisted for the future.

## **8. UN Security Council Resolutions:**

- In keeping with the responsibility of UN Member States to implement UN Security Council resolutions, the relevant local regulations were drafted and gazetted, under the UN Act No. 45 of 1968, in order to promulgate the UN Security Council resolution 2231 on Iran. The Extraordinary Gazette No. 2080/34 enabled Sri Lanka to implement the sanctions relating to the UN Security Council Resolution 2231. Secretary/ Ministry of Defence was appointed as the Competent Authority regarding the implementation of the regulations.
- Three workshops related to the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 was organized in Colombo in August 2018, with the assistance of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), for the benefit of relevant line Ministries / Departments.

## **9. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees:**

- The Division continues cooperation between the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the relevant government agencies on the registration of asylum seekers and refugees and the resettlement of refugees and related issues. The Division also addresses humanitarian concerns and addresses the issue of access to education for refugee and asylum seeker children in cooperation with UNICEF and UNHCR.
- The Division also addresses the issues concerning the resettlement of Sri Lankan refugees, mainly returning from India. As at August 2018, the numbers of Sri Lankan refugees returned to Sri Lanka stand at 948 and a total of 10,675 Sri Lankan refugees have returned since 2009.
- As at September 2018, five workshops (107 participants) have been conducted by the UNHCR to raise awareness among the Government officials regarding international protection of refugees and asylum-seekers.

## **10. Candidatures:**

- The Division contributed to Sri Lanka's relations with other UN member countries by supporting them at elections/exchanging Sri Lanka's votes for their candidatures and maintains a database on Sri Lanka's voting pattern at the elections to UN bodies.
- Sri Lanka extended its support to other UN Member states to foster bilateral cooperation.
- The Division coordinated among Sri Lanka Missions to solicit support for Sri Lanka's candidature to the Intergovernmental Committee on Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of UNESCO for the term 2018 -2022. Sri Lanka obtained 122 votes in support of its candidature and secured the seat.

## **11. Sustainable Development Goals:**

- The Division coordinated between the UN Secretariat, UNDP Colombo and the Ministry of Sustainable Development on policy matters and periodic reporting.
- The Permanent Mission to New York took part in and facilitated the participation of the high-level delegation from Sri Lanka led by the Monitoring Minister of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development and senior officials.

## **Environment and Climate Change:**

- The 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the State Parties to the CITES will be hosted by Sri Lanka in 2019. In this regard, the Division continued to liaise with PRUN/Geneva, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and the CITES Secretariat regarding the preparations.
- The Division continued to coordinate between the line Ministries, PRUN/Geneva and the multilateral agencies on Sri Lanka's compliance with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

## **12. Representation by Sri Lanka in multilateral fora:**

- Facilitated Sri Lanka's representation/participation in international conferences; assisted in the coordination and formulation of positions on matters of interest to Sri Lanka on a range of issues including environment, socio-economic issues, health, disarmament etc.;

and prepared 34 letters of credence for Sri Lanka's participation at meetings (as at 30 September 2018).

### **13. Processing visas and NGO registrations:**

- Facilitated the issuance of visas for conferences, workshops, meetings, seminars being held in Sri Lanka throughout the year; facilitated the process of registration of NGOs when assistance of this Ministry was sought by the NGO Secretariat. The Division has issued 2253 visas from 01<sup>st</sup>January to 30 September 2018.

### **14. Sri Lanka's contribution to the UN and related agencies:**

- This Division coordinates with the relevant Government Ministries and institutions on the respective payments to be made to the UN agencies for Sri Lanka's membership in those institutions.
- Sri Lanka chaired the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) to coordinate United Nations related work of the Group composed of 56 countries for the month of September 2018. As Chair of the Group, Sri Lanka also took part at a briefing on the Joint SDF for Chairs of Regional Groups held on 12 September 2018 with the UNDS Transition Team and briefed members of the Group on proposed governance structure of the Joint SDG Fund, including the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and its composition. Sri Lanka also represented the APG at the unveiling of the statue of former President Nelson Mandela by the President of South Africa, in the presence of the UNSG on 24 September 2018, prior to the opening of the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit.

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United States of America  
and  
Canada Division



## United States of America and Canada Division

### I. The United States of America

**Current accreditations:** Washington D.C.: Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago

#### a. Bilateral Relations

- i. Embassy representatives met with State Department, National Security Council counterparts and congressional members/ staffers, including the Congressional Sri Lanka Caucus to keep them apprised on developments in Sri Lanka. The Embassy had approximately 220 direct engagements (meetings/ interactions) during the reporting period. Both administration and congressional representatives recognize the importance of more high-level U.S. congressional visits to Sri Lanka.
- ii. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Tom Shannon, the third highest-ranking State Department official accorded Sri Lanka the honour of attending the 70th National Day Reception as the Chief Guest and delivering remarks on behalf of the U.S. government.
- iii. A delegation led by Chairman of the **House Armed Services Committee** Rep. Mac Thornberry visited Sri Lanka in May. In August, the U.S. announced U.S. \$39 million for Foreign Military Financing for Sri Lanka. Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Rep. Sensenbrenner and his Chief of Staff Matt Bisenius visited Sri Lanka in February on a visit under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act (MECEA).
- iv. Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi joined the Congressional Caucus on Sri Lanka at the request of the Embassy.
- v. Consulate General collaborated with the Office of Foreign Missions in Los Angeles, US State Department of State during a program to share professional experiences and to discuss strategies to increase participation of women within the countries among the South Asia Region.
- vi. At the request of the Embassy, Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Sri Lanka Rep. Dina Titus issued a statement for the congressional record on 70 years of U.S.-Sri Lanka diplomatic relations.
- vii. The Embassy has continued to engage with **think tanks** A delegation headed by the Director of the Asian Studies Centre of the Heritage Foundation visited Sri Lanka in October for meetings with GoSL representatives, including the Prime Minister and they also had a private roundtable with the LKIIRSS.
- viii. Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka visited Washington D.C. in September to engage with U.S. government officials (State, Defence, National Security Council, USAID, Millennium Challenge Corporation) and members of the U.S. Congress (Chairman Mac Thornberry of the House Armed Services Committee, Chairman Ted Yoho of the House Foreign Affairs Committee) to discuss the U.S. - Sri Lanka partnership and discuss further opportunities for cooperation.
- ix. Secretary/Foreign Affairs Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam visited Washington D.C. in July and met with U.S. government officials (State, Defence, National Security Council, and members and staffers of the Congress (Rep. Robert Aderholt and Rep. Dina Titus, Co-Chairs of the Congressional Sri Lanka Caucus, Rep. Bill Johnson of the Caucus on Ethnic

and Religious Freedom in Sri Lanka). He also led the GoSL delegation to the first **Annual International Religious Freedom Ministerial** hosted by the U.S. Secretary of State. Sri Lanka was among the approximately 80 countries that were invited to the ministerial.

- x. The Embassy met with the Special Advisor for Religious Minorities Knox Thames to discuss possible cooperation in follow up to his visit to Sri Lanka in March. The U.S. Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security were due to visit Sri Lanka in December 2018 and conduct training for Sri Lankan law enforcement including a Workshop on Inclusive Governance.
- xi. Sri Lanka maintained its Tier 2 status in 2018 in the **Trafficking in Persons report**. The report notes that while GoSL does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, it is making significant efforts to do so. It states that as GoSL demonstrated increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period, Sri Lanka remained on Tier 2.

## 1. Defence Matters

- i. The Embassy had approximately 120 defence cooperation related direct engagements with the U.S. counterparts. These engagements include meetings/discussions by visiting Sri Lankan government delegations also.
- ii. Embassy representatives proposed that there is scope for further enhancing and broadening the defence partnership and cooperation with the three services and the Coast Guard. In this regard, the U.S. is interested in finalizing the Status of the Forces Agreement (SOFA) between the two countries. Further, five other proposals on an Air hub, Aircraft layover, Aircraft part storage, prepositioning of HADR equipment and the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) have been forwarded by the U.S. for consideration.
- iii. The Embassy maintained continued dialogue with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defence for Policy for South and Central Asia. Ministerial delegations, Secretary/Foreign Affairs and the Commander of the Navy met with the DASD Randall Shriver and DASD Dr. Joseph Felter on different occasions during the year and discussed matters connected to defence cooperation and the Status of the Forces Agreement (SOFA) and other's proposals.
- iv. The current U.S. administration's Indo - Pacific strategy involves a significant focus towards security relationship with the countries in South East and South Asia. In this context, U.S. Secretary of State in August 2018 announced assistance amounting to US\$ 300 million to the region through the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) programme. Out of which US\$ 39 million has been allocated to Sri Lanka for programmes related to, maritime security, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR), enhancing peace keeping capabilities and countering transnational crime, signaling the intentions of the U.S. to further enhance security cooperation with Sri Lanka.
- v. Marking a significant milestone in enhancing bilateral cooperation since 2015, the U.S. transferred the Ex-US Coast Guard Cutter "Sherman" to the Sri Lanka Navy on 28 August in Hawaii. The Sri Lankan crew is undergoing training onboard the ship at present and the ship is due to sail for Sri Lanka by end February 2019. Once transferred, the ship will be the largest in the Sri Lanka Naval fleet.
- vi. In addition, the Embassy assisted the exchanges of training teams, Subject Matter Experts (SME's)/Mobile Training Teams (MTT)'s participation in military exercises and training with close cooperation of INDOPACOM and the U.S. Embassy in Colombo. The

- U.S. and Sri Lanka continued to engage in joint military training exercises, ship visits and related partnership programmes. The Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Response Exercise "Pacific Partnership" was conducted for the second time in Trincomalee in April this year.
- vii. Sri Lankan Navy Marines participated in the world's largest joint international maritime exercises "RIMPAC" conducted in the Pacific in July and August, involving twenty-five nations.
- viii. The Embassy continued to coordinate the humanitarian mine clearance programme in Sri Lanka with the Marshal Legacy Institute (MLI). The MLI plans to send additional Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs) to Sri Lanka to work with SL Army Engineers to achieve the goal of a mine-free Sri Lanka by 2020.
- ix. The Sri Lanka Navy Commander attended the 23rd International Sea Power Symposium (ISS) at New Port Rhode Island, U.S. Naval College from 18 – 21 September 2018. The Commander presented the report on "Indian Ocean Naval Symposium" (IONS) at the Conference and had bilateral discussions with the Chief of Naval Operations of the U.S. Navy, the Chief of the Australian Navy, the U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander, the Commander U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard and discussed matters of mutual interest and partnership engagements. While in Washington D.C. the Navy Commander met with Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and South and Central Asia and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Policy for South and Central Asia.
- x. Sri Lanka submitted its candidature for Observer Status at the Western Pacific Naval Symposium held on 12 October 2018. The Embassy requested the U.S. support through the Department of State. Sri Lanka was awarded the Observer Status and the Department of State informed that the U.S. along with the INDOPACIFIC partners strongly supported our request.
- xi. The Embassy continued to facilitate participation of the U.S. civilian and military professionals for defence/maritime conferences. Speakers/Panelists from the Naval Post Graduate School, California, the National Defence University in Washington D.C. and the U.S. INDOPACOM participated for the above conferences in 2018.

## **2. Education & Research**

- (i) The Embassy has reached out to the representatives of the International Cooperation Department of universities exploring the potential for affordable higher education opportunities for Sri Lankan students, establishing joint educational programmes with Sri Lankan universities, establishing of representative offices in Colombo, academic exchanges and encouraging U.S. universities to explore opportunities to expand their presence in Sri Lanka, in the context of Sri Lanka as a hub for education catering to the requirement for modern education in the region and the emergence of the South Asian Region as a potential global economic driver.
- (ii) The Embassy is in regular contact with representatives of think tanks and research institutes. These organizations play a role in the policy formulation process of the United States:

### **3. Public Diplomacy and Cultural Relations**

- (i) In February 2018, the marked the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Independence of Sri Lanka at the Embassy of Sri Lanka and hosted a reception at the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) for U.S. government officials, diplomatic corps, Sri Lankan – American community, civil society and other contacts.
- (ii) The Embassy coordinated the participation of the Sri Lankan drumming and dance ensemble in cultural performances at events organized by the Asian – American Associations of U.S. government entities including the State Department.
- (iii) The Embassy organized the annual almsgiving at the Embassy for Buddhist priests on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in commemoration of the Vesak.
- (iv) The Embassy organized an Annual Food Fair at the Washington Buddhist Vihara on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018.
- (v) On 22 September 2018, Embassy attended the Sri Lanka Day jointly organized by the Sri Lankan – American Associations in Washington DC with the participation of the members of the Sri Lankan – American community at Bender JCC of Greater Washington 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20820.
- (vi) Embassy participated at a community event organized by the Kala Lanka Foundation of Sri Lanka with Keerthi Pasquel & Anil Barathi, on 20 October 2018 at Takoma Park School Auditorium, 7611 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910.
- (vii) "The Jeweled Isle" the seven months long most comprehensive and professionally arranged mega Sri Lanka Art Exhibition official launched at the Resnick Pavilion, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) on December 5, 2018 with a participation of over 300 Special Guests including US Government Agencies, Western State Governments, Foreign Diplomats, Business Entrepreneurs and the Sri Lankan community. The Consulate General organized a lunch after the ceremony at the Consulate General premises and it was attended by over 150 guests.

## **II. Multilateral Relations**

### **1. World Bank/ IMF**

- (i) Strengthening relations with the respective staff of IMF and World Bank.
- (ii) Monitoring the economic and economic policy development in the U.S. and their impact on Sri Lanka.
- (iii) Coordination of IMF/World Bank Spring meeting and Annual meetings and facilitation of participation of the Sri Lanka delegation.

### **2. Organization of American States (OAS)**

The Embassy maintains contact as an observer of OAS and its member countries within the OAS framework. A representative from the Embassy represents Sri Lanka at OAS meetings as a permanent observer. The Embassy reports to the Ministry on relevant OAS matters.

### **3. International Telecommunication Satellite Organization (ITSO)**

Participated in the meeting of the 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Parties of ITSO from 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in Washington DC, USA. The Embassy reports to Colombo on relevant matters.

## **II. Trade Investment, Economic & Tourism Cooperation**

A large and a high-level business delegation organized by the US Department is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka in May 2019. This is a large and a high-level delegation visiting Sri Lanka after three decades.

### **1. Trade**

#### **(i) Promotional campaigns**

A forum was organized to establish business incubators linking industry and academia on 01<sup>st</sup> July 2018 to promote value added cinnamon.

Tourism and tea promotion programmewere organized for the members of the International Club of DC on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

The Consulate General has been in regular contacts with the major market players of cinnamon and will continue with the on-going promotional measures during the coming months to ensure the growth momentums are maintained

**Natural Spices and Ceylon Cinnamon;** Consulate General has given special attention in promotional programmes with the objective of further popularizing the sector among the potential niche markets.

#### **(iii) Participation in trade fairs**

Summer Fancy Food Show 2018, 30<sup>th</sup> June - 02<sup>nd</sup> July 2018.

Ceylon Tea promotion at the World EXPO 2018 – Sri Lanka Tea Board in collaboration with the Consulate General of Sri Lanka organized the Sri Lanka Pavilion at the 2018 edition of the World Tea Expo from June 12 – 14 in Las Vegas Convention Centre. In parallel with the Sri Lanka National Pavilion at the 2018 edition of the World Tea Expo, Consul General/Tea Board representatives held a networking cocktail for tea promoting media personnel and briefed matters of interest and the uniqueness of specialty regional “Ceylon Tea” category products and betterment for the global tea industry.

#### **(iv) Promotional meetings/inquiries**

Total number of twenty-eightmeetings wereheld during the period.

Responded to total number of forty nine inward and outward inquiries on travel goods, cinnamon &value added cinnamon products, coir & related products, industrial tyres, food products, coconut products, ceramic/porcelain tableware, handicrafts, cleaning brushes, virgin coconut oil, live plants, coco peat, garcinia, apparel, tea, spices, costume jewellery, polypropylene bags, essential oil, gloves, electric bicycles, canned fish, mango & mango pulp, computer software and tourist attractions.

(v) Organizing/coordinating of business visits

Coordinated thirty-two individual visits for various business purposes.

(vi) Promotion of trade fairs/events in the US, and concurrently accredited countries

Following trade fairs/events promoted in US and accredited countries.

- 1) Colombo Bridal Week 2018.
- 2) "Ayurveda Expo" 2018.
- 3) Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave 2018.
- 4) FACETS Sri Lanka.
- 5) Sri Lanka Boat Show.
- 6) Sri Lanka Agricultural Exhibition.

(vii) Market surveys/special reports

Following reports/commercial information were prepared and submitted to respective authorities in Sri Lanka.

1. Tea market report 2017.
2. Applicable tariff concessions for some categories of apparel products under US GSP scheme.
3. Inputs for preparation of a marketing and brand strategy to promote value added cinnamon.
4. Information on US industrial policy.
5. Market situation and export prices of yellow corn.
6. Report of the participation of the Ethanol Summit 2018 of the Asia Pacific.
7. Report of the participation of the Indo - Pacific Business Forum 2018.
8. Report of the participation of the American LNG Summit 2018.
9. US Market Analysis on Spices to the Department of Commerce

(vii) Strengthening engagement with Mexico and Trinidad & Tobago, through their missions in Washington D.C.

Assistance was sought from the Trade and NAFTA office of the Embassy of Mexico to give publicity of trade fairs and events in Sri Lanka among interested parties in Mexico. In addition to that assistance was requested to resolve trade complaints by two Sri Lankan companies against two importers in Mexico.

Assistance was sought from the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago to give publicity of trade fairs and events among interested parties in Trinidad and Tobago.

## **2. Investment**

(i) Promotional meetings

Meetings and communications had with seventeen companies on investments on land development, power generation, energy, telecommunications, beverages, transport, agriculture, infrastructure development, manufacturing and energy.

The Consulate General with the support of the Ministry of Megapolis& Western Province Development of Sri Lanka organized 04-day Foreign Direct Investment promotional programme conducted in California and Nevada during April 2018.

Round Table meeting held with Deputy Mayor and Director of International Trade and Investment of City Office and senior city office executives, Los Angeles - sought their support in attracting possible US investors with particular focus to FDI from the agencies

### **3. Tourism**

- (i) Participation in tourism fairs

New York Times Travel Show, 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

- (i) Special promotional programmes

Tourism promotional event in the American University in Washington DC, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

- (ii) Promotional meetings

International Club of DC.  
Silk Route, Maryland.  
Embassy Experience.  
Harvard Club of Washington DC.

### **4. Economic Corporation**

- (i) Handling of trade policy matters with a view to trade facilitation

Representation was made to US International Trade Commission and International Trade Administration of the US Department of Commerce on the safeguard action against import of solar panels to USA. Sri Lanka was excluded from the action and the importer was able to import without paying the safeguard duty.

Continuous representations were made to the US International Trade Commission and the International Trade Administration of the US Department of Commerce on the countervailing duty investigation against Sri Lanka on import of rubber bands from Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka was excluded from the investigation as a result of submissions made by the Embassy in consultations with the Department of Commerce of Sri Lanka.

Continuous coordinationand follow up was made with the Department of Commerce, Colombo and the legal firm on the case in the US Court of International Trade filed by the GoSL against the Government of US in impose of Countervailing duty on import of certain categories of Off the Road Tyres from Sri Lanka to USA. The Mission gave the necessary instructions received from the Department of Commerce, Colombo on the case. Sri Lanka won the case and the US Government appealed

against the decision. In consultation with the Department of Commerce, Colombo, the Mission advised the law firm on further steps.

Continuous discussions had with the office of the USTR on the renewal of USGSP scheme, imposition of safeguard duty on solar panels, investigation on import of rubber bands from Sri Lanka and arrangements & agenda of the next TIFA meeting.

As a result of the initiation of the Embassy, a high-level delegation from the National Institute of Health visited on 18<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> April to Sri Lanka with a view to introduce the newly invented Dengue vaccine to Sri Lanka.

Coordinated with the US Grain Council and the US Department of Agriculture and initiated to request assistance on policy and technology to introduce Ethanol blending to Sri Lanka. As a result, a representative visited Sri Lanka on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018 for initial discussions with the Ministry of Petroleum Resources Development and Ceylon Petroleum Corporation of Sri Lanka.

Liaised with the LNG Allies and the US Department of Energy and started initial discussions with a view to obtain the LNG technology and encourage US investors on LNG sector to Sri Lanka.

Continuous discussions had with the Overseas Private Investment Cooperation (OPIC) of USA and requested their cooperation and assistance to encourage and guarantee US investments to Sri Lanka. Two representatives from OPIC visited 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and another two representatives visited 02<sup>nd</sup> - 04<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

Sri Lanka has been listed under the Grey List of the Financial Assets Task Force. The action that Sri Lanka has taken to develop the financial sector was informed to the US Treasury Department and requested the support of US to remove Sri Lanka from the Grey List.

## (ii) Organizing/coordinating of inward/outward delegations

Organized and coordinated the delegation of the National Institute of Health visited Sri Lanka on 18<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to introduce the newly invented Dengue vaccine to Sri Lanka.

Coordinated the visit of the officials of the US Food and Drug Authority to Sri Lanka from 24<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018 for random visit of inspection of food production companies.

Coordinated a visit of the delegation from the University of Sri Jayawardenapura to Washington DC for a forum to establish business incubators linking industry and academia on 01<sup>st</sup> July 2018 to promote value added cinnamon.

Coordinated the visit of two officials from the Overseas Private Investment Cooperation to Sri Lanka from 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Coordinated the visit of two officials from the Overseas Private Investment Cooperation to Sri Lanka from 04<sup>th</sup> - 05<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

Coordinating the visit of a representative from the US Grains Council from 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

## **II. Canada**

### **I. Bilateral Relations**

- i. The HC encouraged and coordinated the visit to Sri Lanka from 24th – 27th February 2018 by Hon. Dr. Donald Bobiash, Assistant Deputy Minister/Asia Pacific of the Global Affairs Canada. During this visit, he had meetings with Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Secretary/Foreign Affairs and few other Ministers and higher officials in Sri Lanka.
- ii. The HC assisted the visit of the following dignitaries to Canada:
  - A. Hon. MayanthaDissanayake, Member of Parliament in April 2018.
  - B. Dr. SusithaSenaratne, Director/ Sri Jayawardenapura Hospital in July 2018.
  - C. Former President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga from 26th August to 08th September 2018 (private visit).
- iii. The MoUto establish a bilateral consultation mechanism between Sri Lanka and Canada to be signed in due course.
- iv. The Mission has been coordinating with the Department of National Defence, Canada and the Ministry of Defence, Sri Lanka in arranging a Peacekeeping familiarization visit to Canada by a team from Sri Lanka to be conducted in October/November 2018.
- v. The Mission is in the process of finalising the MoU between the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI) and the Canadian Foreign Service Institute (CFSI).
- vi. Consul General met with Superintendent Steven Molyneaux of the Toronto Police College regarding training opportunities for the Sri Lankan law enforcement authorities.

### **II. Multilateral Relations**

- i. The HC sought Canada's support for Sri Lanka's Candidature to the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee for the term 2017-2020.
- ii. The HC sought Canada's support for Sri Lanka's Candidature for Observer Status at the Western Pacific Naval Symposium to be held on 12th October 2018 in the Republic of Korea.
- iii. The HC has coordinated with the DFATD and other Diplomatic Missions in Ottawa to seek support for Sri Lanka's candidature at international organizations.

### **III. Economic Relations and Foreign Investment**

In order to achieve the set target for year 2018 of USD 220.96 million worth exports from Sri Lanka to Canada, the HC and the CGcontinued with the promotional measures, consequent to whichthere have been positive developments in terms of responses from the Canadian corporate sector, Small and Medium Enterprises sector and private entrepreneurs together with the business community of the Sri Lankan Diaspora in exploring trade and investment potentials in Sri Lanka.

## **1. Trade**

- i. Sri Lanka registered a constant positive growth in exports by 2.8%, reaching to USD 165.88 million over January - July 2018 compared to the corresponding period in 2017.
- ii. Imports to Sri Lanka from Canada registered a positive growth (USD 113.49 million over January to July 2018 compared to USD 84.13 million over January - July 2017).
- iii. The HC and the CG proposed a visit of a Trade Delegation from the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka to Canada coinciding with the major "Grocery innovations Canada" exhibition which is scheduled to be held from 23rd -24th October 2018, at the Toronto Congress Centre.
- iv. The CG by participating at the networking event on the 6th Annual Tea Festival organized by the Tea Guild of Canada held at the Toronto Reference Library from 3rd - 4th February 2018 created wider awareness among tea vendors and others.
- v. The CG facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the SIAL Canada International Exhibition 2018, held in Montreal in May 2018. It helped promote value added specialty food and beverage sector products. The Sri Lankan delegation also participated at the two day Market Orientation Program, Market Familiarization Tour, and information session on the Canadian market. The Business to Business (B2B) meetings during the exhibition provided the exhibitors an opportunity to establish useful trade contacts.
- vi. The CG assisted EDB to identify consultants to conduct an awareness seminar in 2018, for registered exporters in the food sector on food regulations and entering into the Canadian market. The EDB has informed that this event was a success and indicated that selected exporters will be visiting Canada in 2019 for a matchmaking programme.

## **2. Foreign Direct Investment**

- i. Following meetings with the High Commissioner, Consul General and the Chairman/BOI, an investor commenced activities of a hotel-building project in Jaffna at a cost of CAD 20 million.
- ii. The Consulate General provided information in order to organize the "Invest in Sri Lanka" Investment Forum in Canada, in coordination with the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) and the High Commission, with a view to promoting investment in the Sri Lankan stock market by Sri Lankan origin residents. Canada is yet to be chosen as venue for the Investment forum, as CSE is still in the process of obtaining necessary approval. The High Commission and the Consulate General facilitated cooperation between the Colombo Stock Exchange and the Toronto stock Exchange.
- iii. The High Commissioner and the Consul General had several focused meetings with many potential investors, businessmen, representatives, event organizers, officials of business chambers, officials of Trade Facilitation Office of Canada and Municipal Boards of Trade.
- iv. Project proposals from these investors were sent to BOI where applicable. The identified projects were in areas of eco-friendly waste management and power generation from waste, solar power generation, residential and commercial property development.
- v. The CG is closely engaging with the Diaspora business community to encourage investments, including a meeting with a group of potential investors on 26th July 2018.
- vi. The CG provided information to organize the "Invest in Sri Lanka" Investment Forum in Canada, in coordination with the Colombo Stock Exchange and the HC, with a view to

- promoting investment in the Sri Lankan stock market by Sri Lankan origin residents. The HC and the CGfacilitated cooperation between the Colombo Stock Exchange and the Toronto Stock Exchange.
- vii. The CGfacilitated the visit of a delegation headed by Mr. Anil Shah, President of Ni-Met Metals Inc, from 30th August to 3rd September 2018. Ni-Met Metals Inc is in the process of establishing a scrap-metal recycling project, with an investment of CAD 35 million.
  - viii. The CGin discussion with officials of Global PC Trade Finance Corp, on an investment proposal for a 100 Megawatts Solar power project.

### **3. Tourism**

- i. The targets set for the Number of Tourist arrivals from Canada to Sri Lanka for the year 2018 is 50,235 and as per the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority statistics, the total annual tourist arrivals up to August 2018 is 39,196.
- ii. Information, guidance and assistance are extended to Canadian tourism and travel agencies and various others who are interested in travelling to Sri Lanka. Leading travel operators and major airlines were approached to promote Sri Lanka in their destination promotion programmes and alsoin include to their listed tour packages.
- iii. The HC in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau provided Tourism Brochures, Ceylon Tea as well as images which can be printed out to decorate the Sri Lankan pavilion at Folkfest, Saskatoon which was held from August 16th to 18th, 2018

### **IV. Cultural Relations**

The HC and the CG arranged/assisted/coordinated/participated programmes as follows:

- a. New year blessing Ceremony at Hilda Jayewardenaramaya Buddhist Monastery and Mediation Centre and at the Ottawa Buddhist Vihara in January 2018.
- b. 70th Anniversary of Sri Lanka's Independence at the Sri Lanka High Commissioner's Official Residence in Canada on 4th of February 2018.
- c. Musical Evening at the Carleton University in March 2018 organized by the Sri Lankan community in Ottawa.
- d. Sinhala and Tamil New Year Celebrations at the Hilda Jayewardenaramaya and at the Ottawa Buddhist Vihara in April 2018.
- e. 50<sup>th</sup>Annual Sinhala & Tamil New Year Celebrations organized by the Sri Lanka-Canada Association of Toronto on 21st April 2018.
- f. Vesak Day Celebrations organized by the 'Vesak in Ottawa and Asian Heritage' Month at the City Hall on 19 May 2018.
- g. The HCin partnership with the Ottawa Public Library and Light of Asia Foundation screened the award winning Sri Lankan movie "Sri Siddhartha Gauthama" at the Ottawa Public Library main branch auditorium on 06th of September 2018.
- h. Annual Gala event organized by the Sri Lanka Association of Cambridge, Guelph, Kitchener and Waterloo in January 2018
- i. Thai Pongal celebrations at VarasiththyVinayagar Hindu Temple in January 2018

- j. Sinhala & Tamil New Year celebrations organized by Sinhala Sangamayaas well as Canada – Sri Lanka Association in April 2018
- k. Festival of Malay Food and Culture by Canada Sri Lanka Malay Performing Arts and Cultural Centrein April 2018
- l. Event organized by SLUNA to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Independence of Sri Lanka in April 2018
- m. Inaugural celebratory dinner of Women In Management Canada Chapter in April 2018
- n. Musical event performed by Mr. Victor Rathnayake, Mr. Sunil Edirisinghe, Mr. T.M. Jayaratne and Mr. RohanaWeerasinghe in May 2018

## **V. Labour Welfare**

- i. The HC and the CG assisted prospective Sri Lanka nationals seeking employment in Canada through agents, by verifying the job offers.
- ii. The HC also assisted the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment in this regard.
- iii. The CG assisted Sri Lankans employed by Canadian companies regarding their welfare and continued its interactions to create awareness among the potential employers and employment opportunity facilitators.

<b>Country</b>	<b>United States of America</b>		<b>Canada</b>	
<b>Mission</b>	<b>SLEMB/Washington D.C.</b>	<b>CG in Las Angeles</b>	<b>SLHC/Ottawa</b>	<b>CGin Toronto</b>
<b>Period (Details received from the Mission)</b>	<b>01.01.2018 to 31.12.2018</b>		<b>01.01.2018 to 31.12.2018</b>	
<b>Visas Issued</b>	1160	400	599	2245
<b>Passport Issued</b>	596	319	432	956
<b>Non-Machine-readable passports</b>	69	59	47	107
<b>Identity Certificates Issued(TTD)</b>	13	04	04	23
<b>Endorsements made in Passports</b>	26	05	05	24
<b>Passport renewals</b>	-	-	03	-
<b>Repatriations (Human Remains)</b>	14	-	02	05
<b>Registration of Births</b>	213	81	64	89
<b>Registration of Deaths</b>	08	01	-	04
<b>Attestation of Documents</b>	511	84	186	1211
<b>Police clearance Certificates</b>	10	-	06	66

<b>Dual Citizenship Applications</b>	302	238		331
<b>Child adoptions</b>				01
<b>Affidavit/Power of Attorney</b>				89
<b>Pensions</b>				450
<b>Translations</b>	10			

**Revenue collection from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018- Ottawa**

<b>Subjects</b>	<b>CAD</b>	<b>LKR</b>
Immigration Act (2003-02-07)	191,294.00	24,107,274.25
Consular Act (2003-02-99)	29,195.00	3,690,248.09
Other (2003-99-00)	9,854.62	1,233,327.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>230,343.62</b>	<b>29,030,850.28</b>

**Revenue collection from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018- Toronto**

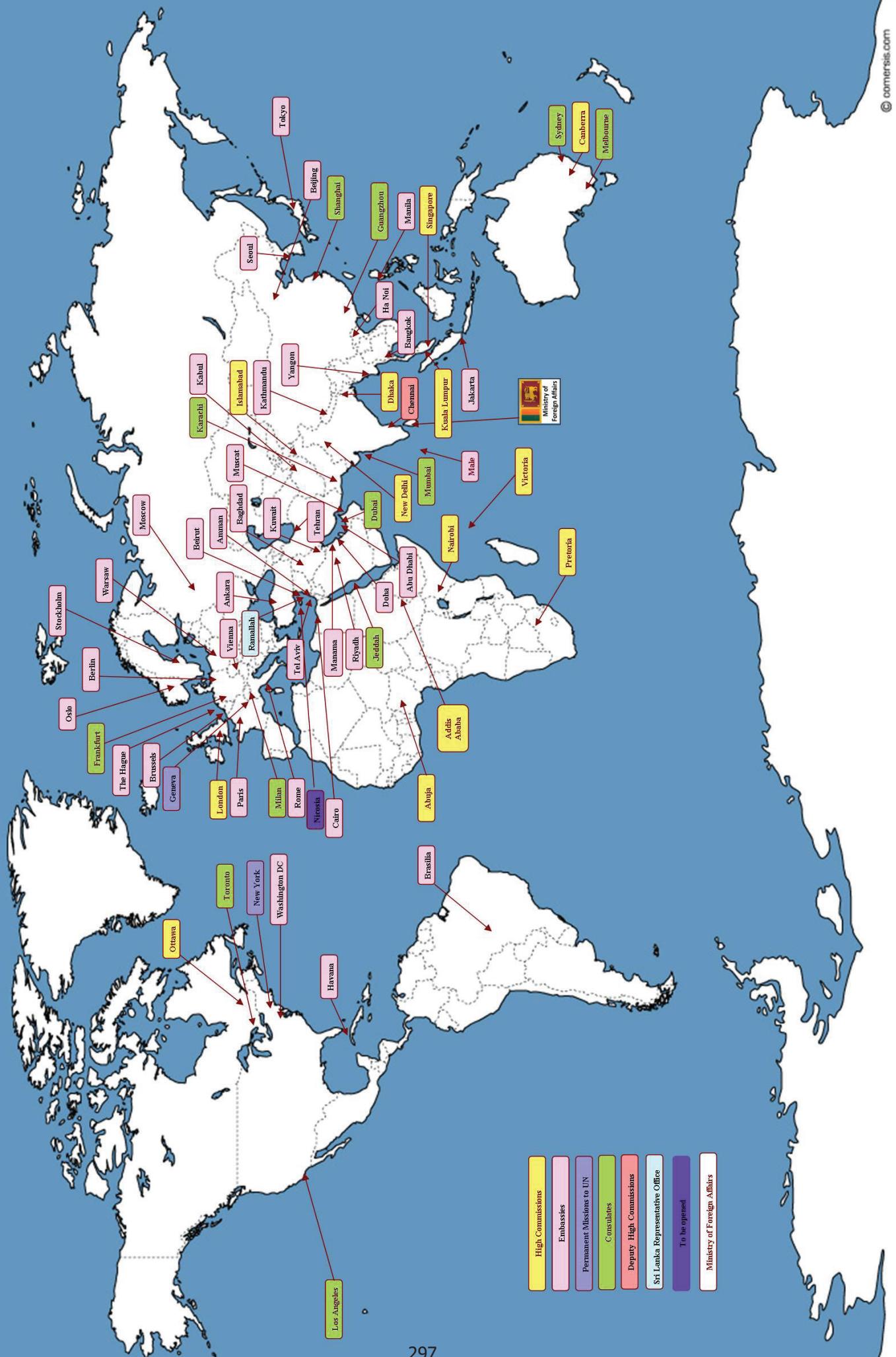
<b>Subject</b>	<b>SLRs.</b>	<b>CAD</b>
Immigration Act	76,673,105.69	616,950.00
Consular Act	6,716,521.05	53,993.00
Police Clearance	220,132.07	1,764.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,609,758.81</b>	<b>672,707.00</b>

**Details of Revenue collection from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

	<b>USD</b>	<b>SLRs</b>
Immigration Act	155205.50	25,075,261.75
Consular Act	39501.67	6327404.59
Other	764.19	185682.22
Registration of Employment Contracts	0.00	0.00



## Sri Lanka Diplomatic Missions / Posts Aboard





**Revenue Report of Missions/Posts as at 31.12.2018**

M/No	Mission	Rent on Govt.Build	Other Interest	Passport & Visa	Exams & Other	Dept.of Motor Trafic	Consular Fees	Other Receipts	W & OP Central	W & OP ProvIn	Sale of Cap. Assets	Sale of Cap. Assets	Grand Total
		2002-01-01	2002-02-99	2003-02-07	2003-02-13	2/14/2003	2003-02-99	2003-99-00	2004-01-00	2004-02-00	2004-02-00 (Vehicle)	2006-02-02 (Other)	
01A	Camberra	47,149.64	18,865,305.06	29,163,538.91	638.95	177,474.78	12,213,467.68	969,534.73	1,184,229.70	223,687.68	18,405.75	855,881.30	27,909,249.76
02A	Sydney	17,656.48	24,454,308.43	180,904.44	683.40		372,139.87	82,508.55	103,545.20	157,630.98	14,299.74		42,714,286.29
03A	Cairo	35,750.68	165,016,757.55			21,481,458.68	2,890,211.07	291,488.63		65,706.05		3,193,406.50	189,782,056.06
04A	Paris	27,769.17	16,023,028.72	32,450,229.40	600.19	540,835.31	13,663,387.40	6,159,388.40	132,883.97	190,591.62	17,827.39		19,676,883.53
05A	The Hague												46,885,011.15
06A	Tokyo	13,062.23	5,906,578.17	252,509.03	4,979,842.24	605.48	498,212.43	7,555,035.60	106,458.47			6,770,084.98	
07A	Amman	4,843.84	8,212.60	37,817,263.64			3,298,301.74	1,755,332.96	123,588.86	49,719.73			13,397,507.09
08A	Kathmandu			17,451.52	3,759,003.25		1,103,788.05	6,667,526.09	137,957.84			43,052,399.53	
09A	Berlin			29,306.54	17,933,055.04	618.50	5,299,626.96	5,897,972.27	343,000.36	20,928.11			11,840,181.38
10A	Vienna			11,225.46	17,987.85		192,859.66	84,808.98	2,445.03				29,524,507.78
11A	Beijing			17,717.27	14,419,487.18		4,056,483.55	8,517,923.64	235,749.39				720,652.90
12A	Havana			41,964.28	5,993,525.77		4,463,454.95	2,905,345.99	256,674.95				13,660,965.44
13A	KualaLumpur			22,887.77	14,533,009.30		2,823,822.40	1,450,924.07	369,386.75				19,200,100.29
14A	Singapore			83,360.10	25,034,722.68		6,424,145.42	1,258,486.19	451,993.79	49,180.57			33,336,297.25
15A	New York			19,897.68	15,326,871.89		1,311,749.50	128,675.89	137,928.09				16,925,123.05
16A	Washington			6,203.02	9,882,454.61	3,005.33	553,863.27	138,770.43	86,819.63				10,696,746.51
17A	Los Angeles			14,459.67	1,563,953.34		1,463,454.95	2,826,318.59	139,146.67				6,038,794.11
18A	Dhaka			30,304.42	12,275,770.11		208,278.24	75,709.81	123,730.90				1,713,793.48
19A	Mumbai			8,104.73	2,183,633.25		118,141.55	118,436.41	124,203.94	17,642.93			2,566,482.21
20A	Nairobi			21,463.05	13,905,644.92		1,944,396.41	1,544,455.72	165,463.07				17,581,423.18
21A	Yangon			20,043.46	3,476,890.38		1,826,237.39	4,354,946.13	149,619.67	38,889.82			9,866,626.84
22A	Stockholm			26,550.14	4,677,568.10		1,304,628.18	216,157.81	205,905.86				7,020,153.78
23A	Bangkok			39,476.91	8,738,122.36		28,562,451.94	2,059,829.76	481,726.73				77,135.13
24A	Brussels			31,787.51	1,420,790.00	604.20	51,753,758.66	583,241.46	187,957.92				39,958,752.83
25A	Chennai			29,664.12	2,357,477.01	601.20	2,529,195.30	116,610.60	92,238.02	27,913.21			2,740,109.74
26A	Jakarta			31,121.93	47,003,676.30	649.03	13,442,565.52	202,569.45	419,829.89	25,338.76			5,153,689.47
27A	Geneva			50,276.69	19,715,193.13	99.89	3,482,380.78	2,370,013.29	150,682.69	92,903.22			61,125,850.89
28A	Abu Dhabi			39,075.40	77,523,527.40		15,043,313.80	4,047,220.62	257,070.56	21,041.00			25,861,549.68
29A	Dubai			61,471.20	72,343,255.70		86,867,753.29	3,244,470.98	400,335.51	34,076.61			97,326,076.09
30A	London			39,605.38	3,172,734.61		11,835,909.96	11,835,909.96	411,432.53	22,769.02			162,951,363.29
31A	New Delhi			396.79	32,496.50	35,264,587.30	1,799.76	12,297,362.10	1,123,148.45	401,437.60			20,936,201.68
32A	Seoul			49,283.43	90,079,120.39		25,340,468.95	458,204.29	572,887.61				49,321,228.49
33A	Kuwait			117,337.41	43,556,177.46		2,274,153.56	2,614,998.20	368,869.56				116,449,964.77
34A	Riyadh			28,207.06	1,280,360.28	624.20	62,1,666.56	7,573,648.65	177,331.87				49,592,009.39
35A	Moscow			40,232.54	24,248,687.62		3,648,471.00	1,655,010.46	212,967.83	5,933.02			9,681,838.63
36A	Ottawa			12,393.21	885,854.00		153,489.50	211,529.65	42,988.58	866.17			2,689,056.85
37A	Baghdad			514,511.03	95,066,047.86		2,059,829.76	3,12,974.08	289,207.42				2,137,121.11
38A	Rome			33,166.51	10,588,167.43	612.98	4,380,670.91	456,392.71	289,363.40	22,149.25			129,869,980.73
39A	Oman			9,146.99	1,426,017.13		819,116.06	229,986.57	174,286.96	30,503.14			16,275,610.39
40A	Islamabad			15,614.29	1,615,518.77		750,624.89	87,035.83	99,580.20	22,132.99			2,689,056.95
41A	Karachi			12,393.21	15,887,323.36		2,951,402.04	9,322,153.06	99,881.82				28,477,433.72
42A	Jeddah			19,964.88	55,165,190.85		12,177,589.76	7,980,706.49	972,987.48				728,169.50
43A	Qatar			22,268.24	3,385,544.58		4,045,112.41	1,805,112.41	172,230.66				5,860,100.40
44A	Pretoria			34,049.48	5,089,498.01		464,409.49	404,436.45	19,486.53	19,328.71			2,689,056.85
45A	Beirut			25,578.57	1,193,925.50		116,244.80	279,473.58	56,719.32				2,137,26
46A	Tehran			29,877.46	3,100,528.53		673,318.24	133,192.88	145,632.27				4,082,549.38
47A	Manila			13,852.98	865,635.19		419,028.20	1,043,536.62	47,133.26	22,011.96			2,411,198.21

M/No	Mission	Rent on Govt Build 2002-01-01	Other Interest 2002-02-99	Passport & Visa 2003-02-07	Exams & Other 2003-02-13	Dept.of Motor Traffic 2/14/2003	Consular Fees 2003-02-99	Other Receipts 2003-99-00	W &OP Central 2004-01-00	W & OP Provin 2004-02-00	Sale of Cap Assets 2006-02-01 (Vehicle)	Sale of Cap Assets 2006-02-02 (Other)	Grand Total
50A	Oslo	12,046.18	9,711,914.03	1,199.92		462,236.69	1,726,248.92	96,710.36	1,242.34		12,011,598.44		
51A	Frankfurt	10,968.73	40,515,588.36			1,096,323.82	1,829,344.88	233,194.81			43,685,420.61		
52A	Tel Aviv	2,928.21	10,195,054.81			2,402,404.08	1,729,421.69	97,738.19			14,427,547.97		
53A	Toronto	32,792.42	9,918,065.42			8,446,376.43	8,634,675.79	256,500.12			111,288,410.18		
54A	Brazilia	40,739.90	189,610.09			169,940.98	376,057.43	216,673.44			993,021.84		
55A	Hanoi	3,738.94	1,831,478.25	600.00		936,686.47	2,295,315.29	165,146.68			5,244,625.47		
56A	Ramallah	1,666.50					1,101,304.77	17,858.26			1,120,823.53		
57A	Shanghai	7,868.92	5,166.30	6,422,352.51		508,238.66	2,642,134.46	91,526.62			9,677,287.48		
60A	Ankara	16,949.61	865,905.66			533,054.75	595,982.12	177,219.27			2,889,111.40		
61A	Guangzhou	6,847.11	3,489,657.82			432,783.52	838,029.56	129,435.50			4,896,753.52		
62A	Melborne	261,129.04	53,605,200.94			19,835,250.97	1,642,512.56	137,313.25			75,481,406.75		
63A	Manama	17,715.82	10,735,530.94	2,485.60		2,398,893.92	435,632.54	122,392.23			13,745,940.86		
65A	Abuja	7,245.92	2,041,633.83			75,709.81	120,931.82	23,293.05			2,868,724.43		
66A	Victoria	7,126.65	993,514.48			231,629.99	5,638,159.88	19,735.01			6,890,166.01		
67A	Kabul		1,735,937.00				76,518.32	20,394.36			1,832,849.68		
68A	Milan	17,965.92	70,231,544.77			44,400,201.50	946,444.25	98,522.23			115,694,678.66		
69A	Addis Ahaba	15,419.99	477,614.35			303,485.55	2,985,901.22	131,884.26			3,914,305.36		
70A	Cyprus						-	9,225.52			9,225.52		
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>581,241.96</b>	<b>2,292,832.09</b>	<b>1,369,685,730.34</b>	<b>15,428.62</b>	<b>737,665.97</b>	<b>431,289,675.82</b>	<b>154,096,411.35</b>	<b>13,267,142.18</b>	<b>711,505.21</b>	<b>1,934,998.97</b>	<b>3,154,558.98</b>	<b>1,977,767,291.51</b>

**CONSULAR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY SRI LANKA MISSIONS ABROAD**  
**FROM 01<sup>st</sup> JANUARY TO 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2018 \* Mission Reported for the period from January to September 2018**

Country	Mission	Visas issued	Employment contract	Passport issued	Non Machine readable passports	Identity Certificates issued	Endorsements made in passport	Passport renewals	Repatriations	Registration of Births	Registration of Marriages	Registration of Deaths	Attestation of Documents	Police Clearance Certificates	other	
																Other
Afghanistan	Kabul	-	483	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Australia	Canberra*	-	82	599	109	-	5	-	-	177	-	5	343	53	-	
Australia	Melbourne*	-	616	1442	126	60	34	-	-	365	-	7	1921	105	20	
Australia	Sydney*	-	520	627	58	80	18	-	-	142	-	6	1136	85	3	
Austria	Vienna	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bahrain	Manama	555	310	675	48	0	66	0	15	64	0	8	525	17	462	
Bangladesh	Dhaka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Belgium	Brussels	0	465	33	0	12	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	203	0	-
Brazil	Brasilia	-	8	5	1	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	27	4	2	
Canada	Toronto	-	2905	1184	132	-	29	-	27	107	-	6	-	88	-	
Canada	Ottawa	-	599	432	47	04	05	03	02	64	0	0	0	186	06	-
China	Beijing*	-	2285	52	4	-	3	3	-	21	-	-	-	1126	2	17

**CONSULAR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY SRI LANKA MISSIONS ABROAD**  
**FROM 01<sup>st</sup> JANUARY TO 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2018** \* Mission Reported for the period from January to September 2018

Country	Mission	Visas issued	Passport issued	Non Machine readable passports	Identity Certificates issued	Passport renewals	Registrations	Registration of Births	Registration of Marriages	Attestation of Deaths	Police Clearance Certificates	other
China	Guangzhou	-	561	-	5	-	2	-	1	-	1	95
China	Shanghai	-	597	14	45	-	4	-	19	11	9	293
Cuba	Havana	-	7	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	57
Egypt	Cairo	31	205	32	13	-	2	-	-	10	-	23
France	Paris	0	1202	4191	130	58	435	0	112	1167	286	0
Germany	Berlin*	-	1876	311	9	-	11	-	-	36	-	258
Germany	Frankfurt*	-	973	878	21	0	25	0	0	70	2	3
India	New Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	Chennai											
India	Mumbai	0	884	19	3	-	2	6	2	1	-	1
Indonesia	Jakarta	-	231	12	79	-	-	-	10	-	-	44
Iran	Tehran	-	239	1	6	-	-	1	4	1	-	2
Iraq	Bagdad	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Israel	Tel Aviv*	-	5	275	26	-	6	-	3	20	2	191

**CONSULAR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY SRI LANKA MISSIONS ABROAD**  
**FROM 01<sup>st</sup> JANUARY TO 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2018** \* Mission Reported for the period from January to September 2018

Country	Mission	Visas issued									
		Employment contract					Passport issued				
Non Machine readable passports											
Italy	Rome	-	29	847	69	0	62	0	05	269	04
Italy	Milan*	-	5	1954	690	-	275	-	-	672	17
Japan	Tokyo	-	670	637	139	21	16	-	23	204	41
Jordan	Amman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kenya	Nairobi*	-	67	20	8	-	-	-	1	10	-
Korea	Seoul*	-	286	941	91	-	9	11	-	30	8
Kuwait	Kuwait	-	1375	5523	1704	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	Beirut*	-	11	416	30	-	12	-	207	41	-
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur*	114	272	288	444	-	23	-	87	37	20
Maldives	Male	0	148	103	18	0	7	0	0	7	0
Myanmar	Yangon*	-	333	9	6	-	-	6	1	-	-
Nepal	Kathmandu	0	1418	01	06	0	0	0	01	01	0
The Netherlands	The Hague*	-	674	65	1	3	-	-	9	20	-
Nigeria	Abuja*	-	333	9	6	-	-	6	1	-	-
Other											
Registration of Births											
Registration of Marriages											
Registration of Deaths											
Attestation of Documents											
Police Clearance Certificates											

**CONSULAR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY SRI LANKA MISSIONS ABROAD**  
**FROM 01<sup>st</sup> JANUARY TO 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2018** \* Mission Reported for the period from January to September 2018

Country	Mission	Visas issued	Employment contract	Passport issued	Non Machine readable passports	Identity Certificates issued	Passport renewals	Registrations	Registration of Births	Registration of Marriages	Attestation of Deaths	Police Clearance Certificates	other		
Norway	Oslo	-	544	141	8	-	7	0	4	38	-	1	48	1	-
Oman	Muscat	4635	94	624	151	-	52	624	148	78	0	16	875	4	0
Pakistan	Islamabad	-	595	1	3	-	-	4	-	8	-	-	168	-	66
Pakistan	Karachi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Philippines	Manila*	-	303	21	1	-	5	-	-	11	-	-	91	3	31
Poland	Warsaw	7	47	11	2	-	2	-	8	1	-	-	211	-	-
State of Palestine	Ramallah City	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Qatar	Doha	-	185	3897	1541	-	305	14	-	345	15	53	2255	6	576
Russian Federation	Moscow	0	166	10	6	8	1	0	1	9	0	0	352	5	0
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	Jeddah	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seychelles	Victoria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Singapore	Singapore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Africa	Pretoria	-	107	12	17	-	5	66	-	20	-	2	69	21	-

**CONSULAR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY SRI LANKA MISSIONS ABROAD**  
**FROM 01<sup>st</sup> JANUARY TO 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2018** \* Mission Reported for the period from January to September 2018

Country	Mission	Visas issued	Passport issued	Identity Certificates issued	Non Machine readable passports	Endorsements made in passport	Passport renewals	Registrations	Registration of Births	Registration of Deaths	Police Clearance Certificates	Other	
Sweden	Stockholm	0	1033	168	20	0	03	0	53	0	02	76	0
Thailand	Bangkok	-	466	10	37	-	4	-	16	11	7	1	219
Turkey	Ankara	-	113	-	4	-	-	3	56	7	-	1	110
United Arab Emirates	Abu Dhabi	11	174	1114	29	232	109	993	9	144	23	9	506
United Arab Emirates	Dubai	293	734	4102	830	-	425	4332	145	455	-	20	491
United Kingdom	London*	-	2710	2356	-	-	198	638	51	333	16	10	-
United Nations	Geneva	0	855	1315	103	0	49	3	188	326	0	4	1039
United Nations	New York	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
United States of America	Washington	-	1160	596	69	13	26	-	14	213	-	08	511
United States of America	Los Angeles	-	400	319	59	4	5	0	0	81	0	1	84
Viet Nam	Ha noi	-	195	6	4	-	1	3	-	8	-	-	255
													23



# Auditor General's Summary Report





Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Auditor General's Summary Report on Financial Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year ending 31 December, 2018 as per Clause 11(1) of National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.

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1. Financial Statement

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2. Qualified Opinion

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The Financial statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year ending 31 December 2018 consisting of the Financial Status Report as at 31 December 2018, Financial Performance Report for the year for the same and Cash Flow statement were audited under my direction in accordance with provisions set out in Article 154(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to be read along with the provisions laid down in the National Act No. 19 of 2018. My comments and observations with regard to the Financial Statement being submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as per Clause 11(1) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 are contained in this report. The Annual detailed Management Audit Report to the Accounting Officer as per Clause 11(2) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 will be issued in due course. The Auditor General's report in accordance with Clause 10 of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 to be read along with Article 154(6) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka will be presented to the Parliament in due course.

It is my opinion that a true and fair position of the Financial Status as at 31 December 2018, financial Performance for the year ending at that date and Cash Flow of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is reflected in the Financial statement, other than the impact caused by the facts stipulated in para.1.6 of this Report.

1.2. Basis of Qualified Opinion

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Audit was conducted by me in accordance with Sri Lanka Audit Standards. My responsibility with regard to the financial statements are further described under Clause titled Responsibility of the Auditor. It is my belief that audit evidences obtained by me to compile a basis for my opinion are adequate and appropriate for the purpose.

1.3. Responsibility of the Chief Accounting Officer with regard to Financial Statements



It is the responsibility of the Chief Accounting Officer to compile Financial statements reflecting the true and fair position in accordance with generally accepted Accounting principles and provisions set out the Clause 38 of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 and to decide on the internal administration process enabling compilation of Financial Statements sans quantitatively erroneous statements due to frauds and faults. The Ministry should duly maintain books and reports with regard to its Revenue, Expenditure, Assets and Liabilities enabling compilation of Annual and current Financial Statements in line with Clause 16(1) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018.

The Chief Accounting Officer should ensure that an effective internal administration network, as per Sub Clause 38(1)(c) of the National Audit Act, is being maintained in the Ministry which should be reviewed from time to time to ensure its effectiveness and should make amendments necessary for streamlining.

#### 1.4. Responsibility of the auditor with regard to Auditing of Financial Statement

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My objective is to make available a fair confirmation to the effect that the Financial Statements as a whole are devoid of quantitatively erroneous statements which may cause due to frauds and faults and to issue the Auditor General's Report containing my opinion. Although a reasonable assurance is a high level certification, it will not be a confirmation that it is devoid of quantitatively misrepresentations, in the process of auditing as per Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Quantitative misrepresentations may arise due to individual or collective impact of frauds and faults and due vigilance should be exercised by those who make economic conclusions on the basis of these financial statements.

The auditing was carried out with professional judgment and professional dubiety as per Sri Lanka Audit Standards. Thus:

- Basis of my opinion was the collection of quantitative and appropriate Audit evidence in order to avoid risks which may arise due to frauds and faults, through planning of *savoir-faire* audit procedures in the instances of identifying and assessing risks of quantitatively erroneous declarations in Financial Statements due to frauds and faults. The impact caused by a fraud may be more intensive than an impact caused by quantitatively erroneous statements and a fraud may be caused through collusion, forgery, willful evasion or evasion of internal administrative network.
- It is not intended to make an opinion with regard to the effectiveness of the internal administration network in the Ministry in order to compile *savoir-faire* auditing systems.
- Evaluation of appropriate and reasonable inclusion of transactions and events which provided the basis for structure and contents of the financial statements containing revelations.
- Transactions and events which provided the basis for structure and contents of the financial statements have been appositely and reasonably included when submitting Financial Statements as a whole.



The Chief Accounting Officer and the Accounting officer were made aware of the important audit findings, main internal administration deficiencies and others identified during my auditing.

#### 1.5. Report on other legal requirements

My declaration as per Clause 6(d) of National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.

Financial Statements had not been submitted since there was no necessity for the Department to prepare Financial Declarations for the previous year.

#### 1.6. Comments on Financial Statements

##### 1.6.1. Accounting Deficiencies

Following quantitative accounting deficiencies were revealed.

###### (a) Receipts not construed as Revenue

Following observation is made in the auditing conducted with regard to the Receipts not construed as Revenue, during the year under review.

###### Receipt of Advances

During the reconciliation of Receipts of Advances included in the Financial Performance Statement with the Monthly Financial Summaries of the Ministry, a discrepancy of Rs. 9,934,037 was observed which according to the Ministry was Rs. 9,896,124.00. Accordingly, the difference is Rs. 37,913.00.

##### 1.6.2. Imprest Account

In the Imprest Reconciliation Account, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had reconciled expenditure incurred under other Vote Heads as Rs. 778,863,553 where as it was Rs. 786,835,575 in the Monthly Accounting Summary. Therefore, a difference of R. 7,972,022 was observed.

##### 1.6.3. Property Cost and Implements

- (a) Instead of indicating the cost of Ministry vehicles sold in the year under review as Disposal



Value, the value estimated for insurance purposes amounting to R. 13,990,000 had been included in the Financial Statements. Further, although the number of vehicles old is 05, value of 06 vehicles had been shown in the non-Financial Statement.

- (b) Selling value amounting to Rs. 2,156,731 of 03 Mission vehicles disposed in the year under review costing Rs. 13,875,228 had been shown as Disposal value and the cost of Rs. 7,648,500 of 02 other vehicles disposed had been included in the Non-Financial Statement as disposal value.
- (c) Under the heading – Provision of Disowning and Sale of Physical Assets in the Cash Flow generated from Investment Activities in the Cash Flow Statement, a sum of Rs. 5,089,558 being the sale- proceeds of three Mission vehicles only had been included and the amount of Rs. 10,020,720 realized by selling Ministry vehicles had not been included.

#### 1.6.4. Advance Account Balances

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Following observations are made.

- (a) According to the Government Officers Advance 'B' Account, total loan balance of officers who were transferred, retired, interdicted, service terminated and vacated remained at Rs. 2,326,566 while the total balances of loan arrears for over 05 years was observed as Rs.1,259,997.
- (b) No action has been taken to identify or settle the total loan balance of Rs. 1,518,668 remaining unidentified for the last 05 years as indicated in the Government Officers Advance 'B' Account in the year underreview.

#### 1.6.5. Non-maintenance of Documentation and Books

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A Register of Losses in respect of Missions abroad had not been maintained as per FR 110.

## 2. Financial Review

### 2.1. Imprest Management

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During the analysis of Imprest Planning, Requisition and Receipts of the Ministry in the year under review, it was observed that the total Imprest received is Rs.4,380.4 Million less than the requisition.

### 2.2. Expenditure Management

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In spite of preparing complete and accurate estimates as far as possible being the responsibility of the Accounting Officer, 100 percent balance from provisions amounting to Rs. 3,669,300 allocated for 04 vote Heads was observed and a total amount of Rs. 324,915,822 unspent under the provision of 07 Vote Heads amounting to Rs. 566,000,000 which represented 54% to 78% of the total provision.

### 2.3. Liabilities and Commitments

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Following observations are made.

- (a) Liabilities amounting to Rs. 44,155,260 had been created over and above the total net provision of Rs. 9,925,496,365 provided for 31 Vote Heads in the Financial Statement for the year under review.
- (b) According to Clause 3.4 of the Public Finance Circular No. 267/2018 of 11 November, 2018, any of unreported commitment or liability should not be settled in 2019 as an expenditure in the previous year. Nevertheless, liabilities amounting to R. 10,884,464 unreported during sample examinations of several missions abroad, had been settled in the year under review.

### 2.4. Issuance and settlement of Advances

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Unsettled Advance Balance of Missions abroad as at 31.12.2018 was Rs. 392,373,638. This comprised Rs.342, 391,044 of Housing Security Deposits and Rs. 49,982,594 of other deposits. Security deposits in respect of houses presently occupied and security deposits in respect of vacated houses which cannot be set-off are included in Housing Security Deposits. This balance includes advances and deposits which are lying unsettled for a period of 1 to 27 years.

### 2.5. Deposits

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FR 565(5) directs that a Monthly Deposit Summary Report prepared in respect of each month should be submitted to the Auditor General before the end of the next month, but has not been done.



### 3. Operations Review

#### 3.1. Losses and Damages

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Following observations are made.

- (a) Total value of losses in 46 instances with regard to Missions abroad remained at Rs. 27,162,885. Total balances over 10 years and between 5 to 10 years are Rs. 21,626,285 and 1,334,664 respectively.
- (b) No action has been taken as per FR 104 to conduct requisite inquiries and to arrive at settlement of an amount of Rs. 1,091,828 on account of malversation, thefts and No-Pay leave reported in the Financial Statement and are being brought forward continuously.
- (c) No action is taken to settle, but being continued to bring forward under Losses, a sum of Rs. 2,166,467 as unrecovered Housing Security Deposits, Rs. 3,752,431 on account of motor accidents, Rs. 1,750,081 of unrecoverable advances, Rs.16,000 on account of lost mobile phones and Rs.2,235,495 on account of other losses.

### 4. Human Resource Management

#### 4.1. Approved cadre, Actual cadre and Expenditure on personal emoluments

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Details pertaining to Approved Cadre, Actual Cadre, Vacancies and Surplus Cadre as at 31.12.2018 are given below. The Ministry had incurred an expenditure of Rs. 1,735,721, 849 in respect of Salaries and Wages Vote Head under Personal Emoluments , other than the Ministry Office during the year under review.

##### (a) Staff of the Ministry

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Employee category	Approved cadre	Actual Cadre	Vacancies	Surplus
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I. Senior level	99	92	07	-
II. Tertiary level	08	04	04	-
III. Secondary level	367	342	28	03
IV. Primary level	51	13	38	02
V. Other(casual/temp./ On Contract)	-	-	-	-
Total	663	581	87	05



(b) Staff of Missions

Home based	Approved cadre	Actual Cadre	Vacancies	Surplus
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Senior/Tertiary*	246	208	38	-
Secondary **	260	258	02	-
Primary ***	07	07	-	-
Total	513	473	40	-

Locally Recruited

Secondary **	306	276	30	-
Primary ***	270	255	15	-
Total	576	531	45	-

- i. Senior/Tertiary – Head of the Mission, MinisterCounsellor, Counsellor, First Secretary, Second Secretary, Third Secretary
- ii. Secondary –Officers in Management Assistant Service including Development Assistants, Information Technology Officers
- iii. Locally recruited Secondary – Officers including Clerks, Receptionists, Stenographers, Translators, Information Technology officers
- iv. Primary – Officers including drivers, KKS, Sanitary labour

Sgd. W.G.N.Menike  
Deputy Auditor General  
For Auditor General

cc. Director General, Department of Public Finance.

