

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SRI LANKA**

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
2017**

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.

Preface

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the institution entrusted with the formulation and implementation of the Foreign Policy of Sri Lanka, continued to promote and protect the interests of the country in the political, economic, social and cultural domains, under the overarching Foreign Policy of “Friendship with all and enmity with none”. In keeping with the policies of the National Unity Government towards the promotion of Democracy, Good Governance, Human Rights, the Rule of Law, Reconciliation and Sustainable Development, Sri Lanka’s international engagements have been expanded with a view to projecting Sri Lanka as a responsible member of the international community, enjoying the respect and its rightful place among the global community and thereby bringing benefits to its people.

In the above context, Sri Lanka’s diplomatic outreach initiated by His Excellency the President, the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs have been instrumental in consolidating our relations with many countries across the regions, that have resulted in tangible and positive outcomes in our foreign relations. Sri Lanka’s open, transparent and constructive engagement with all international partners and organisations, such as the United Nations and the European Union, has led to cooperative partnership transcending into many areas of interest.

Sri Lanka continued to accord a high priority to nurturing diplomatic relations with the neighbouring countries in South Asia. As such, a significant enhancement in the relations between India and Sri Lanka, with regular contact at the highest level, has been witnessed with increased cooperation in a wide spectrum of areas. Similarly, increased interaction with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan and the Maldives has paved the way for the renewal of mutual trust and warm friendship with our friends in the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) .

High-level visits from both Sri Lanka and China have further consolidated the historic and friendly relations between the two countries thereby augmenting cooperation in several fields including in the economic sector. Relations with Japan have reached a milestone with the establishment of a Comprehensive Partnership between the two countries. Sri Lanka’s diplomatic relations with countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Republic of Korea have continued to expand with cooperation in a multitude of areas. Relations between Sri Lanka and Russia saw new heights with several new projects being initiated that have contributed to the further expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

Sri Lanka’s relations with the United States of America has entered a new realm of engagement with greater cooperation and understanding in many areas facilitated by the establishment high level “Partnership Dialogue” between the two countries since 2016. The regular interactions between the two countries, across US Congress and the Administration have strengthened bilateral relations with assistance being given for reconciliation, peace and, socio-economic progress in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka’s regular interactions with countries in the Americas and the Latin America Region including Brazil and Canada also further expanded with increased bilateral high level visits and cooperation in areas of mutual interests.

Sri Lanka's engagement with the European countries reflected promising outcomes with initiatives taken to develop bilateral relations with countries in the European region such as the UK, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Italy, France, Slovenia, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland and Poland. A major achievement that was channelled through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the period under review is regaining the Generalized Scheme of Preference Plus (GSP +) status from the European Union.

Sri Lanka's outreach to the Middle East, especially Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar and Kuwait saw a substantial improvement with high level visits seeking to expand cooperation on trade, tourism and opportunities for skilled contractual labour. While Sri Lanka continued to maintain close contacts with the countries in the African region, its relations with South Africa has showed remarkable progress. Sri Lanka's membership in the African Union, as an Observer, had also further strengthened multilateral cooperation with the African region.

In the sphere of multilateral diplomacy, the new Government has committed itself to maintaining good relations with all countries and increasing its cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations. In this effort, Sri Lanka is making substantive progress by actively participating at various United Nations fora and thereby reaping maximum benefits to the country.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs is on the implementation of towards fulfilling the commitments made by the Government of Sri Lanka in Resolution 30/1 of 2015 and 34/1 of March 2017 titled "Promoting Reconciliation, Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka". It continues to coordinate matters related to the reconciliation agenda of the Government including truth, reparation, justice and non-recurrence with a victim-centred approach, recognising the impact of conflict on all citizens of the country, irrespective of their ethnicities, gender, social status, age and other identities.

In order to meet Sri Lanka's obligation under various Human Rights Conventions that the country had committed to over the years, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in association with the other line agencies and Ministries, with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, have formulated the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) 2017-2021 in the framework of an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights established by the Cabinet of Ministers.

Sri Lanka, for over several decades, has contributed to the United Nations Peacekeeping efforts and thereby reaffirmed its commitment to increase contribution to UN peacekeeping. It has pledged significant participation in Peace Keeping Missions. Currently, there are 328 military personnel deployed in 08 UN Peacekeeping Missions across the world and 32 police personnel have also been deployed in 02 UN Missions in Africa. Two Military Officers are serving at the United Nations Head Quarters in New York. Sri Lanka also took measures to increase its interaction with the Commonwealth fraternity in areas of common interest.

Taking into consideration the strategic importance of Sri Lanka, as an Indian Ocean hub in the realm of global logistics and commercial activities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has undertaken several diplomatic initiatives to promote the vision of peaceful interactions in the Indian Ocean in order to harness the maximum benefits from the location of the country. To this end, enhanced participation of the Government at several meetings of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and Bay of Bengal

Initiatives for Multi sectoral and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) have been a useful platform to advance the country's objectives in this area.

The Ministry continued to project the image of the country as a peaceful and secure nation, in order to bolster the economy, enhance development activities and attract foreign investors to the country. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also collaborates with the International Trade Agency (ITA) tasked with implementing the trade and economic policy decisions taken by the Government particularly related to negotiating Free Trade Agreements with identified well performing economies in order to establish links with the global value chains in main economic corridors in the region.

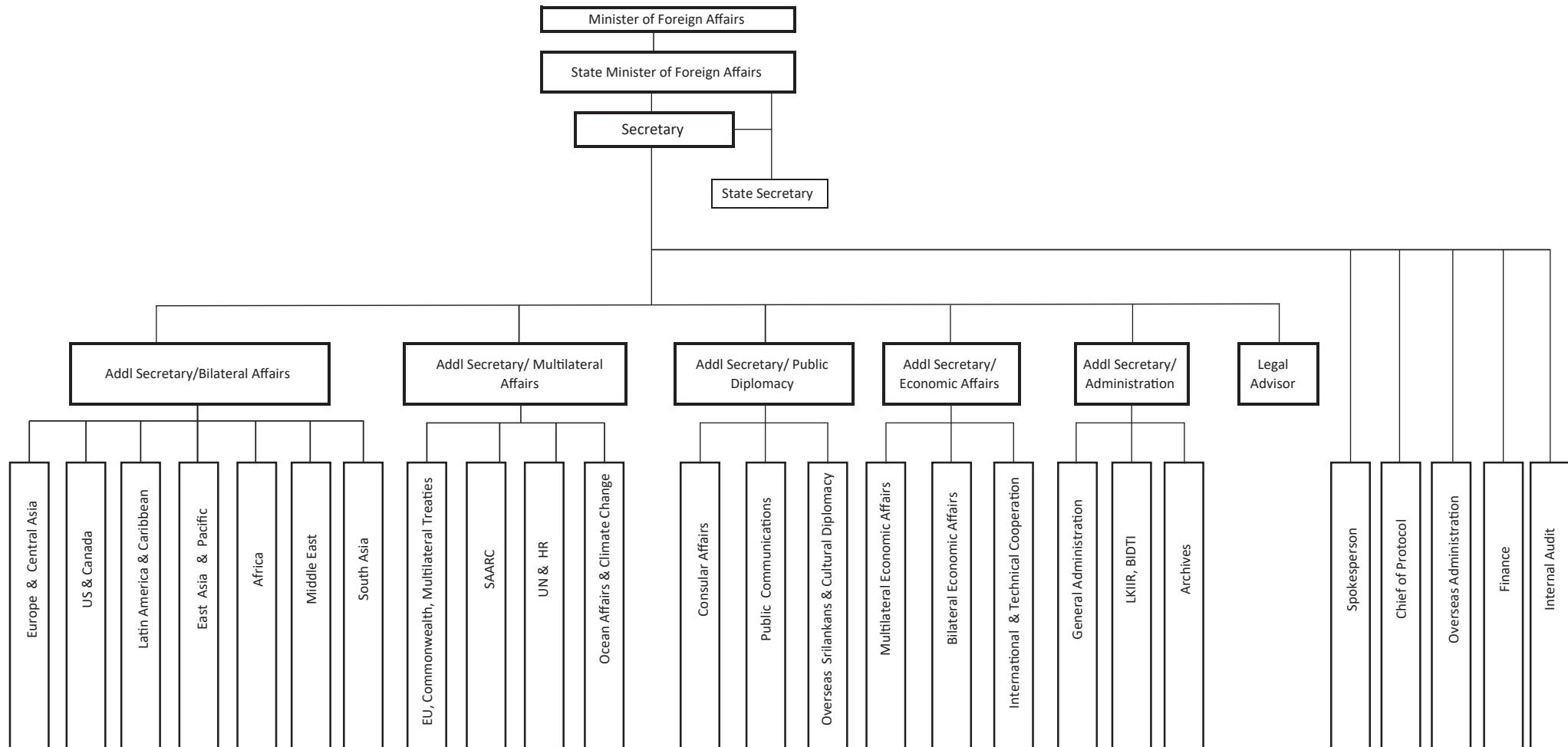
In order for the Ministry to provide better and more efficient Consular Services, a Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) was undertaken and a new digital system was introduced in early 2017. As a result of this programme, the Computer Aided Design provides fully automated, prompt and efficient as well as interactive services to the public, who earn foreign exchange for the betterment of the economy and of the country. In a historic move, branches of the Consular Affairs Division of the Ministry were established in the Northern Province and arrangements were underway to open a branch in the Southern Province during the period under review in order to cater to the needs of the people living in these Provinces. The Ministry also implemented programmes aimed at improving the Consular services provided through the Sri Lanka Missions aboard especially to migrant workers and their families. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has recovered, approximately Sri Lanka Rupees 252 Million to distribute among family members/those affected as compensation and other dues during the first nine months of 2017. Accordingly, a sum of 195 Million has been distributed to 122 families. In recognition of the services the Consular Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was awarded the Public Sector Most Outstanding ICT Achievement Award and the Gold Award in the Government and Public Sector Category at the 19th National Best Quality ICT Awards held in October 2017.

The Ministry also plans to extend Sri Lanka's diplomatic network by opening a new Consulate General in Nicosia, Cyprus in addition to the Consular posts opened in Milan, Italy in 2015 and a Resident Mission established in October, 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Ministry will continue to promote and safeguard Sri Lanka's interests abroad as well as protect Sri Lanka's national interests, sovereignty and identity and the needs of Sri Lankans travelling and living overseas. These fundamental and crucial elements complement the goal of Government of Sri Lanka of working towards greater prosperity for the country and the people of Sri Lanka.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic Building
Colombo 01

Organization Chart of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Africa Affairs Division

Africa Affairs Division

The Africa Affairs Division deals with the matters pertaining to bilateral relations with 54 countries in the Africa region.

The Division is assigned with the task of keeping track of political and socio-economic developments in these countries.

It also directs Sri Lanka's foreign policy with regard to these countries in the political, economic, security, education and social spheres. Technical cooperation and development assistance, investment relations, tourism and cultural promotion through bilateral, regional and multilateral engagements are part of the duties of the Division.

1. Territorial Coverage of the African Continent

To date, out of 54 independent states in Africa, Sri Lanka has established formal Diplomatic relations with 43 countries. Concurrence of the remaining 11 countries for the establishment of diplomatic relations is awaited/pending.

Resident Mission	Concurrent Accreditation
Egypt	Eritrea, Libya, Republic of Sudan
Kenya	Uganda, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda
Nigeria	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Togo
Seychelles	Madagascar
South Africa	Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Ethiopia	Djibouti, South Sudan, Somalia

2. Countries to which there is no concurrent accreditation due to a proposal to accredit Non-Resident Ambassadors

Mauritius, Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania, Botswana, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia

3. Honorary Consul Representation

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

4. Key Activities / Performance in the Division

- i. Monitoring political and economic development in the African continent
- ii. Coordinating and overseeing work of the resident Sri Lanka Missions and Consulates in the region.
- iii. Coordinating in formulating and signing of bilateral agreements and MoUs

- iv. Coordination of Sri Lanka's engagement with regional organizations.
- v. Coordinating inward and outward visits at Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministerial and Government official levels with these countries and ensuring follow up action.
- vi. Coordinating with the relevant line Ministries, Departments and other local agencies on matters pertaining to Sri Lanka's relations with the African countries.
- vii. Liaising and coordinating bilateral relations with foreign Diplomatic Missions of countries from the region based in Colombo and other non-resident Missions.

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.

1.1. Egypt

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. Egypt supported Sri Lanka's candidate to UN Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW), Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam for the term 2018-2021.
- ii. Sri Lanka supported the Egyptian candidatures for the membership of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the term 2017-2019 and United Nation Committee on Human Rights for the term 2017-2020.
- iii. Hon. M.H.A. Haleem, Minister of Posts, Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs attended the 27th Annual Conference of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs in Egypt.
- iv. Hon. A.H.M. Fouzie, State Minister of National Integration & Reconciliation attended a conference on 'Sinai is the capital of Religious Tourism' in Egypt.
- v. The World Youth Forum was held from 5th to 9th November 2017 in Sharm el Sheikh. Youth delegates from 140 countries attended the forum. Two Sri Lankans, namely Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, the UN Youth Envoy and Ms. Anouka Abeyrathne, former winner of UN Youth Award were invited to the Forum.
- vi. The Ambassador visited Eritrea to present credentials to H.E. Mr. Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea from 18th to 19th December 2017.

b. Economic Relations

- i. The Global Tea Party was held at Ramses Hilton Hotel Cairo with the participation of the tea traders in Egypt.

- ii. Sri Lanka participated at the Cairo International Fair 2017 in March where the Sri Lanka Tea Board had a stall.
- iii. A joint venture project between Hegazy Group of Egypt which specializes in rubber motor spares and Samson Compound a member of the DSI Group in Sri Lanka is to be launched, taking advantage of the market accessibility of Hegazy Group to automobile manufacturers in the African continent and the technical know-how to manufacture rubber based automobile parts available to DSI Group.
- iv. Mr. Haitham El-Gammal, Business Development Advisor to Mr. Nagiub Sawiris Chairman of Orascom Group of Companies visited Sri Lanka from 10th to 14th October 2016 for a preliminary study of the investment climate and prospective investment in Sri Lanka.

c. Trade

Exports from Sri Lanka 2016	-	36.88 Million
Imports from Egypt 2016	-	27.59 Million

d. Tourism

2017 whole year	-	3,466 persons
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e. Agriculture

The Egyptian International Centre for Agriculture awards scholarships to Sri Lankan agriculture officials for a training of three months duration in various fields of agricultural management. Two agriculture officials attended courses in December, 2017.

f. Cultural Relations

- i. A group of 13 drummers and dancers from the Sri Lanka Army Cultural Troupe attended the International Festival for Drums & Traditional Arts in April 2017. They also did a performance in the Embassy for the benefit of the community.
- ii. The Anniversary of the inauguration of H.E. Maithripala Sirisena as President of Sri Lanka was commemorated on 08th January, 2017 at the Embassy with the opening of a Cultural Centre.
- iii. In February 2017, the Embassy celebrated the Independence Day with the participation of the Sri Lankan community. A public reception was conducted at the Ritz Carlton Hotel with the participation of the diplomatic community and representative from the trade & tourism sectors and the media.
- iv. The Sinhala Tamil New Year, Vesak celebrations and an Ifthar Programme were organized with the participation of the Sri Lankan community members.
- v. The Asian Ambassadors' Spouses Association (ADSA) in Egypt organized a Charity Bazaar in November 2018 at the Conrad Hotel, Cairo. The Sri Lankan stall displayed Sri Lankan short- eats and sweets. A separate stall displayed the tradition of lace through traditional Beeralu method. Beeralu weavers were provided the opportunity to market their products. Complimentary Tea was served to all guests sponsored by Dilmah Ceylon Tea Co. PLC.
- vi. The Christmas festival was celebrated elaborately with a two day programme. On 24th, a Christmas Eve Mass was celebrated at the Embassy with the attendance of Fr. Sanjeeva Kumara Perera from St. Theresa's Church, Colombo

which was well attended. This was followed by a dinner. The Embassy was decorated appropriately with a Christmas tree and a Crib by the community members. A traditional ‘confession of sins’, a ‘Healing Service’ and Christmas games formed a part of the celebrations. Christmas Carols were sung by a group of community members and Mrs. Shiwanthi Abeyrathne (Second Secretary-Commercial) with Mrs. Mandara Yogarajan on the organ.

g. Labour Welfare

- i. The labour situation in Egypt since the devaluation of the Pound in November, 2016 has become unstable. Salaries of \$ 600 – \$ 700 paid to domestic workers have been reduced or converted to pounds at the old rate. This has prompted many of the domestic workers who are employed in Egypt to return to Sri Lanka. The Government of Egypt increased the fine for overstaying or remaining in Egypt without visa. This also has contributed to more Sri Lankans who were working in Egypt illegally without visa to return.
- ii. The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) donated a sum of Rs.500,000/- to Mrs. K.V. Kusumawathie for the treatment of cancer. A request for assistance from the President’s Fund is pending.
- iii. Four Sri Lankans stranded in Morocco were assisted to return to Sri Lanka with the help of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Cairo.

1.2. Ethiopia

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. The Mission was officially opened by the Foreign Ministers of Sri Lanka and Ethiopia on 02nd February, 2017 with the participation of approximately 120 guests representing Diplomatic Community based in Addis Ababa, Senior Officials of the Ethiopian Government and the African Union, Members of the Sri Lankan expatriate Community and Media, etc.
- ii. Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs) undertook an official visit to Ethiopia, from 30th January, 2017 to 03rd February 2017 making the first ever official visit to Ethiopia by a Sri Lankan Foreign Minister. During the visit, the Foreign Minister held official meetings with the Ethiopian dignitaries.(H.E. the President of Ethiopia, Hon. Speaker, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Minister in - charge of Foreign Investment)
- iii. The Agreement for the Establishment of a Joint Commission on Cooperation between Sri Lanka and Ethiopia and MoU on Diplomatic Consultations between Sri Lanka and Ethiopia were concluded during the official visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka.
- iv. The Ambassador being the first resident HOM of Sri Lanka in Ethiopia also held meetings with the Ethiopian political dignitaries, such as H.E. the President of Ethiopia and Prime Minister of Ethiopia with a view of further enhancing relations between the two Countries.
- v. During the period under review, Mission held a number of meetings with the African Ambassadors based in Addis Ababa to improve Sri Lanka's bilateral relations with respective African Countries.
- vi. An Ethiopian Foreign Service officer attended the Diplomatic Training Programme held in Sri Lanka from 18-29 September, 2017.

- vii. During the period under review, the Ambassador had a meeting with the DG, Asia & Ocean Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss on strengthening bilateral relations including the scheduled VIP visits between Sri Lanka and Ethiopia.

b. Multilateral Relations

- i. The Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, during his official visit to Ethiopia, on 02nd February, 2017 had a meeting with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission.
- ii. The Ambassador as the Resident Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the AU in Addis Ababa had meetings with the Chairperson/Deputy Chairperson and Commissioners of the AU.
- iii. As a Member of the Non-AU Member of the Union (Partner Group) and the Permanent Representative, the Ambassador represented Sri Lanka at the AU Summits held in January and June 2017 and also the seminars, Workshops and discussions, etc. held at the AU on numerous topics.
- iv. Ambassador/PR to the AU had a meeting with H.E. Kwesi Quartey, Deputy Chairperson of the AUC to discuss on strengthening Sri Lanka's relations with the AUC and Sri Lanka's participation at the AU Summit, as a non-AU member, scheduled to be held in January, 2018.

c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investment

- i. The Former Foreign Minister Hon. Mangala Samaraweera had a meeting with Dr. Arkebe Oqubay, Minister & Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia on Foreign Investment on 02nd February, 2017, at the Ethiopian Investment Commission.
- ii. The Ambassador also held a number of meetings with the Ethiopian Investment Commission to increase Trade and Economic relations.
- iii. On 20th June, 2017, Production Operation of two Sri Lankan Companies namely, Isebella Socks Manufacturing PLC and Hirdaramani Garments PLC were inaugurated by the Ethiopian Prime Minister and the Ambassador of Sri Lanka at the Hawassa Industrial Park in Ethiopia.
- iv. At present, few Sri Lankan companies are based in Ethiopia and approximately 350 Sri Lankans are working in Ethiopia.
- v. A nine-member (09) business delegation led by Director, National Gem and Jewellery Authority of Sri Lanka visited Ethiopia, during the first week of June, 2017 to explore the possibility of engaging in Ethiopia's Gem Industry.
- vi. A delegation representing a number of Sri Lankan Companies i.e., David Peiris, Smart Shirts, Savinda Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd., Gamini Gem & Jewellery, etc., visited Ethiopia to explore the possibilities of establishing their business activities in Ethiopia.
- vii. Representatives of a number of Ethiopian Companies visited Sri Lanka to establish business partnerships in Sri Lanka.

- viii. The Ambassador had a meeting on 26th July, 2017 with the Director General/Civil Aviation Authority of Ethiopia to discuss on Ethiopian Airlines to operate direct flights between Colombo and Addis Ababa.
- ix. The Ambassador had meetings with the officials of the leading Ethiopian Trade Chambers to further increase trade relations between Sri Lanka and Ethiopia (Secretary General of Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Association, Executive Director of Pan African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Secretary General of Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce & Sectorial Association)
- x. The Mission had a meeting with the Deputy Chairperson of the Ethiopian Investment Commission to get more employment opportunities for Sri Lankans in Ethiopia in 2018.

d. Cultural Relations

- i. The Sri Lankan expatriate Community living in Ethiopia under the guidance of the Mission organized a Sinhala & Hindu New Year in Hawassa on 02nd May, 2017.
- ii. The Mission had an event to celebrate Christmas at the official residence on 28th December, 2017. The officials of the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry, Members of the Sri Lankan community were among the invitees.

e. Labour Welfare

- i. At present 350 Sri Lankans are working in Ethiopia. This Mission held a number of discussions with the Ethiopian Investment Commission and other relevant stakeholders to improve Welfare facilities of Sri Lankans and other issues related to the Sri Lankan expatriate Community living and working in Ethiopia.
- ii. During the 3rd Week of March, 2017, Somali pirates hijacked the Airs 13" vessel and its Sri Lankan crew. The Mission initiated negotiations with the Somali Government and relevant agencies to secure the release of the Sri Lankan Crew from the Somali pirates.
- iii. The Mission provided assistance to the stranded Sri Lankan Peace keeping Contingent (48 officers) held at the Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa on 30th June, 2017.

f. Other

Ethiopian Athletes participated in the Colombo Marathon Programme held on 08th October, 2017 in Colombo.

1.3 Kenya

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. On the initiative of the High Commission, a Training Workshop for Sri Lanka middle distance and long distance coaches was attended by a 17 member delegation in February, 2017 at the Kenyan Ministry of Sports.

- ii. A panel discussion on the African Girl Child was co-organized by the Riara University and the High Commission on 10th June, 2017. Dr. Hiranthi Wijemanne, founder of the National Child Protection Authority of Sri Lanka was the Guest Speaker.
- iii. On the invitation of the Government of Kenya, Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister for Foreign Affairs represented the Government of Sri Lanka at the swearing in ceremony of H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya on 28th November, 2017. During a courtesy call on the President of Kenya, he also met Deputy President William Ruto and Cabinet Secretary for Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hon. Amina Mohamed at the State House. He also met with the Sri Lankan community, during the visit.
- iv. The Mission had discussions with the High Commissioner of Tanzania to resolve difficulties faced by Sri Lankans in obtaining visa to enter Tanzania in November, 2017.

b. Multilateral Relations

- i. The High Commission is accredited to both UN Habitat and the UN Environment Programme, and it liaises with relevant line agencies and attends meetings organized by the UN Office in Nairobi (UNON) throughout the year.
- ii. Hon. Sarathie Dushmantha Mithrapala, Deputy Minister of Justice, headed the Sri Lanka delegation at the 56th Session of the Asian - African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) from 01st to 5th May, 2017 in Nairobi.
- iii. The 26th Session of the Governing Council of the UN Habitat was held from 8th to 12th May, 2017 in Nairobi. The Sri Lanka delegation was led by Ms.W.K.K. Athukorala, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Construction.
- iv. The meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representative (OCPR) of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, was attended by Ms. Deepa Liyanage, Director Foreign Relations, Mahaweli Development and Environment, Mr. Dharmakirthi Christopher Mahinda Tilakasiri, CEO, Blue Green Economy Financial Facility and Ms. Anzul Jhan, CDA, a.i of the Sri Lanka High Commission, Nairobi on 28th November to 01st December, 2017
- v. Mr. Anura Dissanayake, Secretary, Mahaweli Development and Environment led the Sri Lanka delegation at the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly from 4 - 6th December, 2017, in Nairobi. Ms. Deepa Liyanage, Director Foreign Relations, Mahaweli Development and Environment, Mr. Dharmakirthi Christopher Mahinda Tilakasiri, CEO, Blue Green Economy Financial Facility and Ms. Anzul Jhan, CDA, a.i. of the Sri Lanka High Commission, Nairobi attended the meeting.

The following actions were taken during the Assembly:

- Sri Lanka co-sponsored two Resolutions; Environment and Health and Marine Litter and Mirco plastics at the Assembly.
- On the sidelines of the meeting, Sri Lanka joined UNEP's "Clean Seas Campaign," alongside Chile, Oman and South Africa.
- The Mission facilitated meetings between Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director, Ms. Dech Ligia Noronha, Director, Division of Technology,

Industry and Economics, Mr. Jian Liu, Chief Scientist of the United Nations Environment Programme and other officials.

- The Sri Lanka Delegation also paid a courtesy call on Ms. Sahle – Work Zewde, Director General of the United Nations Office in Nairobi. They also met Mr. Tony Simons, Director General of World Agro Forestry Center and his team. From the Green Climate Fund, the delegation met with Dr. Jerry Velasquez, Director and Mr. Patrick Van Laake, Senior Ecosystems Management Specialist.
- vi. The Mission officials coordinated with relevant Ministries in Sri Lanka on UN Habitat and UN Environment Programme during the year 2017.

1.4 Nigeria

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. The Mission facilitated the following:
 - Participation of two military personnel in Defense Seminar held in August, 2017.
 - Visit by former Hon. Minister of Petroleum Sri Lanka to Nigeria to explore the possibilities of purchasing crude oil from Nigeria.
 - Visit by armed forces personnel from Nigeria to Sri Lanka for higher studies & training.
- ii. The High Commissioner met Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Secretary & Chief of Protocol & updated them on developments in Sri Lanka.
- iii. Bilateral relations between the two countries have been exemplary since the formalization of Diplomatic relations in 1970. As such excellent relations are further strengthened covering many new areas of cooperation. The strategic cooperation between the two armed forces is a case in point. Indicated below a few highlights:
 - The High Commissioner met the President of Nigerian Senate & briefed him on all major positive developments in Sri Lanka.
 - The Head of Mission also met the Secretary Foreign Affairs & Chief Protocol and updated them on all significant developments in Sri Lanka.
 - The Mission facilitated the visit of the then Minister of Petroleum of Sri Lanka to Nigeria.
 - The Mission arranged for the Nigerian armed forces to visit Sri Lanka for further training programmes & higher studies.
 - The Mission coordinated the visit of Minister of transport Nigeria to Sri Lanka.
 - The Mission arranged a MOU to be signed between Abia Chamber in Nigeria and Colombo Chamber of Commerce.
 - The Mission also facilitated the visit of a few business people from Abia

Chamber to Sri Lanka to with a view to further strengthen commercial relations.

b. Multilateral Relations

- i. Nigeria & Sri Lanka are members in the U.N, Commonwealth, World trade Organization and Non-Aligned Movement.
- ii. Nigeria & Sri Lanka work in tandem with each other in these institutions and contribute a large number of troops to the U.N Peace Keeping Operations.
- iii. During this period Nigeria & Sri Lanka supported each other's candidates at various U.N elections in a spirit of cooperation.

c. Economic Relations and Foreign investments

- i. The High Commission organized 150th year of Tea in Sri Lanka at the High Commission and created awareness on Ceylon Tea in Nigeria.
- ii. The Mission undertook a very comprehensive market survey for Sri Lankan products. This has been of some assistance to Sri Lankan exporters to popularize Sri Lankan products in Nigeria.
- iii. The total trade stood at USD 4 million between the two countries in 2014 and has now reached USD 9 million despite the fact that Nigeria was in recession during the last two years.
- iv. About 1000 Nigerians visited Sri Lanka for business, tourism, studies & medical treatment.
- v. The Mission was instrumental in organizing the celebrations of 150th year of tea in Sri Lanka.
- vi. The High Commission undertook a comprehensive market survey and sent a report to the Export Development Board.
- vii. The Mission also put forwarded a proposal for a joint Commission between the two countries for consideration and waiting for a response.
- viii. The Mission responded to more than 25 trade queries. As a result, some Nigerian traders struck successful business deals with Sri Lankan exporters. For instance, the Mission assisted a Nigerian to import biscuits & tea from Sri Lanka.
- ix. The High Commissioner met Mr. Dangote Nigerian billionaire cum investor and briefed him on the positive investment climate in Sri Lanka and urged him to invest in Sri Lanka.
- x. He however indicated his desire to recruit some professionals from Sri Lanka. Indeed, arrangements are underway to recruit some Sri Lankan engineers as first step.
- xi. The Dangote group would place advertisement in Sri Lanka shortly with a view of recruiting Sri Lankan professionals.

d. Cultural Relations

- i. This aspect of relation is still at a budding stage & yet to reach a full potential. The High Commissioner attended an Art Exhibition organized by a Sri Lankan. This attracted a great deal of media attention.
- ii. The Mission has proposed a cultural Agreement with Nigeria. Once this framework agreement is in place some cultural activities will be undertaken to lay bare richness and diversity of Sri Lankan culture
- iii. Since culture & art play a pivotal role in how a country is perceived outside. Hence this Mission hopes to use cultural diplomacy as a tool more effectively in the future.

e. Labour Welfare

- i. There is no large number of Sri Lankan workers in Nigeria. There were a few instances where the Mission intervened to obtain unpaid salary dues & in other instance facilitated repatriation of some stranded compatriots.
- ii. Mission played a key role in the repatriation of some stranded sailors from Benin on two occasions.
- iii. About 50 Sri Lankans reside in Nigeria. Most of them are professionals and work in the hospitality industry and construction.
- iv. The Mission assisted them whenever such assistance was required during this period. The Mission intervened in a few instances and helped them to get their unpaid salary dues.
- v. In some other instances the Mission facilitated repatriation of some stranded Sri Lankans and also to find employment opportunities for them.
- vi. Mission also repatriated some stranded Sri Lankan sailors from Benin on two occasions. The High Commission also repatriated about 5 stranded asylum seekers from West Africa in 2017.

1.5 Seychelles

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. H.E. Danny Faure, President of Seychelles paid an official visit to Sri Lanka and had discussions with H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka on enhancing cooperation in the fields of tourism, agriculture, fisheries, judiciary and legal affairs.
- ii. Hon. Vincent Meriton, Vice President of Seychelles held talks with Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe Prime Minister of Sri Lanka on topics such as drug trafficking, regional security, education, tourism and law and order. It was agreed to a request made by the former to appoint a Joint Commission in this regard.
- iii. A Seychelles delegation headed by Ms. Idith Alexander, Minister of Youth and Culture visited Sri Lanka to participate at the UN Vesak Day Celebration 2017.
- iv. Signed MoU with University of Kelaniya & University of Seychelles headed by Vice Chancellor Dennis Hardy regarding computer science.

- v. Head of Seychelles Farmers Association, Mr. Matombe, requested Tissu Culture Training Program from Sri Lanka. The High Commission is coordinating in this regard.
- vi. Draft MOU with the University of Vocational Technology in Sri Lanka & the Seychelles Institute of Technology for the establishment of a Framework for Communication, Coordination and Cooperation for academic researches, training departmental exchange, capacity building, joint student activities and other related activities were agreed upon by the parties.
- vii. An Agreement was signed between Sri Lanka and Seychelles Ministry of Health to facilitate the opening of Lanka Hospital Branch on 01st March, 2018.
- viii. An Agreement was signed between Seychelles Maritime Academy and CINEC University in Sri Lanka on sharing educational methodologies.
- ix. Faculty of Commerce & Management of the University of Kelaniya and the Faculty of Computer Science of the University of Seychelles had discussions on sharing educational methodologies.
- x. Medical Tourism Pvt. Ltd. and Seychelles Health Minister signed an Agreement for the establishment of a new hospital in Seychelles. A new hospital will be opened on 01st June, 2018.
- xi. The Seychelles Health Ministry and the Sri Lankan Government Hospital Authority signed an Agreement for blood testing project. Currently blood tests from Seychelles are done in Sri Lanka.

b. Multilateral Relations

- i. A high level delegation from Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar attended the 2nd Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- ii. The High Commissioner attended the 20th Plenary of Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) representing Sri Lanka.
- iii. Presented a Cabinet Paper to Sri Lankan Parliament regarding establishing Secretariat Office related to the 20th plenary of Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS).
- iv. Mr. Sumudu Liyanage had discussions with Mauritius business community and Seychelles business community regarding the upgrade on coconut related items on the Mauritius and Seychelles Market.

c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

The Mission facilitated the following:

- i. Promotion of Tourism / Medical tourism with partner hospitals in Sri Lanka using 04 times-a week Sri Lankan Direct flights SEZ-CMB sector.
- ii. Future Holdings (Pvt.) Limited, a fully Sri Lankan owned corporate body in Seychelles was appointed by Seychelles Ministry of Health to facilitate the out sourcing of a Laboratory.

- iii. Medical Tourism (Pvt.) Ltd in association with the Seychelles Ministry of Health has organized many free clinics for Seychelles patients bringing medical specialists from Sri Lanka, to promote medical tourism.
- iv. Hemas Hospitals (Pvt.) Ltd and Medical Tourism (Pvt.) Ltd jointly offered a fully paid scholarship to two Seychellois Radiology Technicians to be trained in Sri Lanka for two weeks.
- v. Individual Business agreements signed by businessmen from Sri Lanka and Seychelles (Recruitment of manpower from Sri Lanka import, sale & hiring of agricultural, construction machinery/ equipment to Seychelles, Import and Wholesale distribution of consumable and household products to Seychelles, is a project mainly consisting of an ice plant and a cool room complex in the local fishing area to purchase products from local fishermen and to export to Sri Lanka by a Sri Lankan Company).
- vi. Visit by a delegation headed by Hon. Daya Gamage, Minister of Primary Industries to Madagascar to promote trade and business.

d. Cultural Relations

- i. A team of professional dancers headed by Prof. Ariyaratne Kaluarachchi, Vice Chancellor of the University of Visual and Performing Arts of Colombo performed Sri Lankan traditional dancing during the Independence Day Celebration held this year.
- ii. A Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Painting of the University of Visual and Performing Arts of Colombo conducted special one week workshop for local students of the Seychelles Institute of Art and Design (SIAD) at the Institute.
- iii. Religious activities were held in Seychelles during Vesak and Poson Poya Days with the participation of Sri Lankan Buddhist Monks with meditation programme organized by Seychelles Buddhist Association.
- iv. The Mission organized Pirith Chanting activity at the High Commission in collaboration with Sri Lanka Buddhist Association under the auspicious of Ven. Kotte Gunasiri Thero.
- v. The Mission participated at a Meditation Programme organized by Seychelles Buddhist Association in October, 2017.
- vi. Christmas celebrations were held at the Residence of H.E. the High Commissioner.
- vii. A decision had been finalized for establishment of a Buddhist Temple in Seychelles with the High Commissioner and the Hon. Vice President of Seychelles.

e. Labour Welfare

- i. The High Commission worked closely with the Ministry of Employment to ensure the welfare of Sri Lankan Labour force in Seychelles.
- ii. An Agreement was signed with a leading manpower recruitment company to recruit Sri Lankan labour Force to Seychelles.

- iii. The Mission organized a Welcome Party to Master Thenuwana Serasingha Sri Lankan child, winner of the 'Youngest Author' Competition.

f. Other

- i. Discussions were held with the relevant Authorities and the High Commissioner to resolve the issues in respect of the *Muthu Kumari* Sri Lankan Vessel intercepted on suspicious illegal fishing in Seychelles waters.
- ii. Discussions were held with the relevant Authorities/Courts and the High Commissioner to resolve issues in respect of the *Subapathum* Sri Lankan Vessel intercepted on suspicious illegal fishing in Seychelles waters.

1.6 South Africa

a. Bilateral relations

- i. The High Commissioner attended the following:
 - Opening of Parliament ceremony in Cape Town.
 - Diplomatic brunch and annual Ubuntu award ceremony presided by the Foreign Minister of South Africa.
 - Asian Heads of Mission Meetings.
 - National day functions, cultural events organized by Foreign Missions in Pretoria and University of Pretoria.
 - Budget speech in Cape Town on the invitation of Hon. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa.
 - An event hosted by African National Congress (ANC) and the President of South Africa.
 - Nelson Mandela Day organized by the Hon. Minister of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, held in the Mpumalanga Province.
- ii. To take stock of the bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and South Africa, the Partnership Forum is held at regular intervals. The Sixth Round of Partnership Forum between Sri Lanka and South Africa was held on 7th April, 2017.
- iii. The High Commission facilitated a visit by a Director, Overseas Bilateral Cooperation Department of Science and Technology of South Africa to visit Sri Lanka in July, 2017, to finalize the outstanding issues pertaining to the draft on Cooperation in Science and Technology.
- iv. For the purpose of fostering stronger ties between the political hierarchy; High Commissioner attended the opening of Parliament ceremony in Cape Town and attended diplomatic brunch and annual Ubuntu award ceremony presided by the Foreign Minister of South Africa; Attended Asian Heads of Mission meetings, National day functions, cultural events organized by Foreign Missions in Pretoria and University of Pretoria.
- v. Took measures to present Credentials in accredited countries; presented credentials in Angola, Swaziland, Mozambique and Malawi this year. During the

visits to the respective countries, the High Commissioner met with the Sri Lankan expatriate community and the Chambers of Commerce, when possible.

- vi. To further bilateral relations, High Commissioner attended a ceremony held in Swaziland, hosted by His Majesty the King of Swaziland. The King has visited Sri Lanka in the past.
- vii. With a view of enhancing bilateral relations, the High Commissioner attended an event hosted by African National Congress (ANC) the ruling party of South Africa, hosted by the President of South Africa. ANC was also the political party to which late President Nelson Mandela belonged.
- viii. High Commissioner participated in Nelson Mandela Day organized by the Minister of Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) under the guidance of the Minister Hon. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, held in the Mpumalanga Province which is 400km from Pretoria. During his visit, the High Commissioner participated in community service activities of that day.
- ix. High Commissioner participated in the meeting convened by the newly elected President of Angola, in Pretoria.

b. Multilateral Relations

- i. With a view to enhancing multilateral relations, High Commissioner attended Commonwealth Day function hosted by the High Commission of UK and attended a reception held on the occasion of 8th Annual Francophone Festival in Pretoria.
- ii. Facilitated the participation of Sri Lanka at Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Meetings (Ministerial Senior officials, business Forum, and Academic Forum) held in Durban, South Africa. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka visited South Africa to participate in IORA meetings from 17-22 October, 2017.
- iii. The High Commissioner has regular interactions with the Asian Heads of Mission through monthly meetings with the group with a view to further Sri Lanka's interests; also such interactions are a regular occurrence with regard to the Heads of other resident Diplomatic Missions in South Africa.
- iv. High Commissioner participated in UN International Day held at DIRCO

c. Economic Relations and Foreign investments

- i. Total trade between South Africa and Sri Lanka from January to November 2017 has been US\$ 310.10Mn, of which exports from Sri Lanka was US\$ 36.45Mn and 5726 tourist arrivals from January to December has been recorded from South Africa during the same period.
- ii. This Mission organized a Trade and Investment promotion seminar in Johannesburg, Sri Lanka's participation at International Trade fairs namely Hostex 2017, SAITEX 2017. Ceylon Tea tasting and sample give a way promotional event at Brooklyn Shopping mall in Pretoria and Global Tea Party to mark 150th years of Ceylon tea in Durban.

- iii. The Mission organized/attended the following:
 - A Trade and Investment Promotion Seminar in Johannesburg.
 - International Trade fairs namely Hostex 2017 and SAITEX 2017.
 - Ceylon Tea tasting and sample give a way promotional event in Pretoria.
 - Global tea party to mark 150th years of Ceylon tea in Durban.
 - A Ceylon Tea promotion week was held in Sandton.
 - A seminar on “Doing Business with Sri Lanka” at the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 26th July, 2017.

- iv. The Mission facilitated 6 Sri Lankan companies to visit South Africa and 4 South African companies to visit Sri Lanka.

- v. Promoted 10 Exhibitions and attended 24 trade investment inquiries received from both Sri Lankan and South African companies.

- vi. The High Commissioner met Mr. Hekmat Currinjee, the Managing Director of Currinjee Export Pvt. Ltd. and discussed on exports and imports between South Africa and Sri Lanka.

- vii. The High Commission made a representation at a business Forum on 3rd August, 2017 organized by the South Korean Embassy.

- viii. High Commissioner participated at Annual Monetary Policy Forum in October, 2017, organized by the Reserve Bank of South Africa, Minara Chamber of Commerce Business Awards, and hosted lunch for the senior officials of the trade chambers in Johannesburg and Pretoria.

- ix. High Commissioner hosted a dinner for directors of Lyca Mobile which is a UK based Mobile Company that commenced its operations in South Africa.

d. Cultural Relations

- i. The Mission Staff participated at a function held for commencement of work for the year 2017 on 3rd January 2017 and Reconciliation week on 10th January, 2017.

- ii. The High Commission staff regularly participates at events organized by the Johannesburg (Thai) Buddhist Meditation Centre (JMC) together with Sri Lanka community.

- iii. Organized the National day event for Sri Lankans and the Diplomatic Community. A coffee morning & lunch was hosted for the spouses of diplomats.

- iv. To mark Vesak Day, a religious/cultural ceremony was organized.

- v. Dinner hosted in honour of the visiting Sri Lanka National cricket team.

- vi. The High Commissioner attended a ceremony in Cape Town, hosted in honour of a visiting school cricket team.

- vii. The Mission assisted in a Charity Bazaar held in Pretoria organized by International Diplomatic Spouses Association (IDSA). A tea stall was organized to promote Ceylon Tea.
- viii. Participated in May 2017, in an award ceremony organized by Cricket South Africa.
- ix. The High Commissioner attended the Gallows Exhumation Project launched by the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services at Mamelodi Cemetery. The exhumation was done under Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) process in South Africa from which Sri Lanka has drawn parallels.
- x. High Commissioner attended a luncheon hosted by the Ambassador of Nepal where the Director of South Africa TRC Mr. Thapelo Mokushane was also present.
- xi. The High Commission commenced operation of Twitter and Facebook to disseminate information as a faster pace.
- xii. High Commissioner participated in Annual Diplomatic briefing held at South Africa Foreign Office & hosted the senior officials to a dinner, attended a meeting/luncheon hosted by the Minister of International Affairs to the Heads of Mission in Asia & the Middle-East. Also participated in the events organized by the Department of Science and Technology of South Africa, African National Congress (ANC) the ruling Party of South Africa.
- xiii. High Commissioner hosted a luncheon to Sri Lanka Tamil expatriate community living in and around Gauteng Province where Pretoria is located.
- xiv. An Agreement on Culture is negotiated. A fresh draft was submitted to South Africa side this year. During the Sixth Round of Partnership Forum.
- xv. High Commissioner participated at the conference organized by the Ambassador of Iran on the theme of "Religion in Dialogue" at the University of Pretoria Conference Room on 23rd August 2017, Annual Principals' Concert organized by the University of Pretoria on 31st August 2017, cultural event organized by the Indian High Commission at the Nelson Mandela Square, and a Golf Tournament organized by the Asian Heads of Mission at the Blue Valley Golf Club in Centurion. The funds collected at this tournament are to be used for charity. This was a very successful event with the participation of the diplomatic community.
- xvi. Sri Lankan movie "Ira HandaYata" was screened on 30th September 2017 at the Residence of the High Commissioner where the members of the Sri Lanka community were invited.
- xvii. With the intention of introducing Sri Lanka culture through cuisine, traditional Sri Lankan food is served at all the functions (mentioned above) organized by the High Commission.

e. Defense and Security Cooperation

- i. A draft Agreement on Defense Cooperation was submitted to South Africa side for negotiations during the Sixth Round of Partnership Forum. A representative

from the defense Ministry of Sri Lanka attended the Partnership forum negotiations.

- ii. Three Agreements between Sri Lanka and South Africa on Justice and Law enforcement are being negotiated; they are Treaty on Extradition, Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Cooperation in Relation to Criminal Matters between Prosecutors. During the Partnership Forum held in Pretoria on 7th April, 2017 it was agreed to finalize the pending MoUs.

f. Education

- i. Draft Agreement on Education and Higher Education is being negotiated.
- ii. This was further negotiated at the Sixth Round of Partnership Forum held this year.
- iii. Sri Lanka offered 3 placements for South Africa and Swaziland students to pursue tertiary education at Sri Lanka Universities under the Presidential Scholarships.

g. Other

- i. The High Commissioner presented Credentials to Angola, Swaziland, Mozambique and Malawi.
- ii. The High Commissioner attended a ceremony held in Swaziland, hosted by His Majesty the King of Swaziland.

Consular Affairs Division

Consular Affairs Division

1. The Consular Affairs Division which is the public face of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs assists citizens of Sri Lanka who reside both in the country and abroad. In accordance with the Consular Functions Act No. 04 of 1981 and the subsequent amendment of Act No. 18 of 2006, the Consular Affairs Division seeks to ensure the welfare of expatriate Sri Lankans and protecting the rights and interests of Sri Lankans overseas through its network of Embassies, High Commissions, Consulates General and Honorary Consulates abroad as well as other local and foreign institutions/authorities.
2. The Consular Division opened its Regional Consular in Jaffna at the District Secretariat office on 26.01.2017. Therefore, the public in the North can have access to consular services without coming to Colombo.
3. The Consular Affairs Division performs its consular functions through five (5) major identical Sections, namely (1) Document Authentication Section, (2) Repatriation Section, (3) Compensation Section, (4) Death Section, and (5) the Miscellaneous Section.

A. Document Authentication Section

4. The Document Authentication Section of the Consular Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the most prominent Section where a large number of people on daily basis get a variety of documents authenticated in order to use them abroad. The most frequently authenticated documents are Birth, Marriage, Death, Medical, Educational certificates. Police Clearance Reports, Affidavits, Power of Attorney, Judicial and Commercial documents are also among the documents authenticated by the Section.
5. It has been estimated that more than 600 applicants visit the Consular Division and more than 1,000 documents are attested daily during weekdays. The Authentication Section provides the service of document attestation using the innovative digital technology through Electronic Documents Attestation System (e-DAS) which was introduced on 06th February 2017.
6. In November 2017, e-DAS won an award in the category of "Government and Citizen Engagement" at the 7th e-Swabhiman 2017. The e-DAS was also awarded the Public Sector Most Outstanding ICT Achievement Award; the Gold Award in the Government and Public Sector Category at the 19th National Best Quality ICT awards and the Asian Oceanian Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO) Award for Digital Government.
7. A mode of credit/debit card payment over the counter by the public for document authentications was introduced for the first time in the public sector institution in Sri Lanka and it has been widely appreciated by the public.
8. Authentication section has collected a total revenue of approximately Sri Lanka Rs.122,565,605.00 (including Jaffna Regional office) for the period from 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2017 and the approximate number of documents authenticated during the period is about 267,755.

B. Repatriation Section

9. The main responsibility of the Repatriation Section of the Consular Affairs Division (CAD) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to arrange the repatriation of Sri Lankans who are stranded, jailed, and those to be deported, upon the receipt of requests from Next-of-Kin (NOKK). The Repatriation Section intervenes to protect secure

rights and take action to repatriate them, by advising Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad to co-ordinate with the relevant authorities to facilitate their early release/repatriation to Sri Lanka.

10. The Repatriation Section encounters difficulties in repatriating migrant workers who run away from the employer without completing the contract period and/or violating employment contracts and the law of the country. In this context, a bilateral Prisoner Transfer Agreement between Sri Lanka and the Islamic Republic of Iran was signed and is nearing its force in to action, facilitating transfer of sentenced persons between the two countries.
11. The division is also attending to cases of those who have migrated abroad without registering with the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE). From January to December 2017, 561 complaints were lodged by the NOKK seeking assistance for repatriation.
12. Furthermore, this Division receives appeals from the Next of Kin (NOK) of Sri Lankans in jail or sentenced for committing various offences abroad. The division frequently advises Sri Lanka Missions abroad to co-ordinate with the relevant authorities and facilitates their early release and repatriation to Sri Lanka.
13. Although the mandate is to repatriate Sri Lankan migrants without the SLBFE registration, the Repatriation Section has attended repatriations beyond its mandate on humanitarian backgrounds upon the requests of NOKK who failed to get necessary assistance from the SLBFE.
14. Out of these cases 102 stranded Sri Lankans and 48 jailed Sri Lankans were repatriated in 2017. In addition, 51 and 33 migrant workers were repatriated from Kuwait and Lebanon respectively in July 2017.
15. In March 2017, Consular Division took action to release Sri Lankan crew members who were under the custody of Somali rebel group in the Somali Sea.
16. Consular Affairs Division encounters difficulties in repatriating runaway workers, who do not adhere to their employment contract. They often violate the law of the country as they seek employment outside their legal contract. As a result, some of these workers are charged by the respective authorities for violating visa regulations or contractual employment law and sentenced to jail.
17. Further, among the Sri Lankans to be repatriated, there are several victims of human trafficking. Among the human trafficking cases, majority of them are trafficked to Oman via United Arab Emirates (UAE). These migrant workers trafficked to Oman via UAE have not been registered at the SLBFE. In the circumstance, Consular Division finds it difficult to trace the whereabouts of the agencies or agents and to take action against them.
18. Some of the special cases attended by the Repatriation Section during the period under review are (i) Repatriation of Sri Lankan crew members stranded on board vessel M/T Omega anchored off Sharjah territorial waters in UAE, with the co-ordination of the Consulate in Dubai, (ii) Repatriation of Master Sayed Abdullah Hussain from Pakistan, in co-ordination with the Sri Lanka High Commission in Islamabad, which was a long standing issue for many years, (iii) a bed-ridden patient in Bahrain was repatriated to Sri Lanka on 1st December 2017 with the coordination of the Sri Lanka Embassy in Bahrain. The Repatriation Section also made necessary arrangements with the Social Service Department (Western Province) in order to provide with shelter, care and future welfare.

19. The section also involved with repatriation of victims of human trafficking, Majority of them were trafficked to Oman via UAE and had not been registered at the SLBFE. Arrangements were made to interview through *SKYPE*, groups of illegal migrants who were detained in Bulgaria (04) and in Denmark (01) with the coordination of Sri Lanka Missions and immigration authorities in the respective countries in order to ascertain the Sri Lankan nationality and to facilitate their early repatriation to Sri Lanka.

C. Compensation Section

20. The Compensation Section of the Consular Affairs Division of the Ministry of Forewing Affairs facilitates to obtain redress to the Next of Kin (NOK) of the deceased persons abroad, mainly the migrant workers. Most of these claims secured through the legal action with the assistance of the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad.

21. Assistance is provided as well to claim unpaid salaries and other dues to the victims of ill-treatment abroad. Additionally, former employees abroad approach this Division in order to obtain their retirement benefits. In case of murders take place in foreign countries, particularly in the Middle East, the Compensation Section ensures to secure redress as "Blood Money" from the convicts. Frequent complaints are received from migrant workers on non-payment of salaries/other dues abroad. Their grievances are attended through the respective Sri Lankan Missions/Posts abroad to ensure obtaining such unpaid dues.

22. The section provides assistance to claim unpaid salaries and other dues to the victims subjected to ill-treatment abroad. Additionally, former employees abroad approach this Division in order to obtain their retirement benefits. In case of murders, which have taken place in foreign countries, particularly in the Middle East, the Compensation Section ensures to secure redress as "blood money" from the convicts. Frequent complaints are received from migrant workers on non-payment of salaries/other dues abroad. Their grievances are attended through the respective Missions to ensure obtaining such unpaid dues.

23. Approximately Sri Lanka Rupees 252 Million has been recovered to distribute among family members/victims as compensation/blood money and other dues during the year 2017. Accordingly a sum of 371 Million has been distributed to 209 families.

D. Death Section

24. The main responsibility of the Death Section is to identify the rightful Next of Kin (NOK) in case of a death abroad in order to repatriate/bury or cremate the human remains at earliest with the support of the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad and the parties concerned. Due to personal interests, many candidates may appear at the Consular Affairs Division to claim human remains. Therefore, careful consideration is given in deciding the rightful party when several parties claim human remains. As per the consent given by the NOK, Consular Affairs Division conveys instructions to the Missions to repatriate/bury or cremate the human remains.

25. As per the consent of the NOK, the consular Affairs Division conveys instructions to the Missions to repatriate/bury or cremate the human remains.

26. A total number of 458 deaths were reported abroad to the Death Section. Out of the above total number, 229 were males, 105 were females. Out of the 458 total, there were 65 accidental, 349 illness related, 10 murder cases, 28 suicide cases and 9 natural causes. The Death section also facilitates to obtain death certificates and insurance payment from the SLBFE.
27. In addition to the above reported deaths, there were another 10 deaths reported directly to the Sri Lankan Missions/Posts abroad. For all these death cases, the family members have taken the actions to repatriate the human remains to Sri Lanka by providing their consents through the Missions/Posts in the host countries.
28. The Death Section also facilitates the NOKK to obtain Death Certificates from the Central Record Room (CRR) and insurance payments from the SLBFE.
29. Assistance is provided on humanitarian grounds to the NOKK when the deceased person is not registered with the SLBFE. During the year 2017, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has incurred a sum of approximately SLRS.3, 640,185.00 to repatriate/bury and cremate the human remains of 09 Sri Lankan nationals who died abroad due to various reasons.

E. Miscellaneous Section

30. This section primarily attends to complaints of Sri Lankans living and working overseas. Complaints such as harassment, denial of basic facilities; non-payment of salaries, stranded Sri Lankans requiring urgent repatriation, Sri Lankans facing long term jail sentences or on death row are brought to the attention of this Section to be resolved. In addition, the Section also handles Sri Lankan Fishing Vessels drifting into territorial waters of other countries including Sri Lankan Fishermen stranded in mid-sea or detained by Foreign Naval Authorities/Coast Guards and are in need of assistance for the release of their vessels and the crew. Human Smuggling including ships detained mid-sea is also covered by the Section. This Section also assists in obtaining birth certificates of children born overseas and forwarding applications of Sri Lankans requesting Police Clearance Certificates from countries in the Middle East.

The Miscellaneous Section has also assisted with the following issues

- Requesting for maintenance from spouses who had deserted their families and living overseas.
- Requesting information about relatives abroad
- Requesting information regarding Sri Lankans who have secretly returned to Sri Lanka after committing offences in foreign countries
- Appeals for action against Sri Lankans committed rapes abroad
- Forwarding information about persons hospitalized abroad
- Requesting intervention of Foreign Ministries overseas to help to find former Sri Lankan government officers who have evaded payment of dues to the government of Sri Lanka.

- Requesting 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 2017 to 31st December 2017

Total Monthly Applicants (Verification)	109,607
Total Cash Collection (Verification) (Rs.)	137,119,600
Reported Deaths	458
Complaints requesting support for repatriate to Sri Lanka (Normal cases)	431
Complaints for detaining (Jail cases)	129
Complaints for detaining (Sri Lankans sentenced to death abroad)	27
Total Birth Certificates received from Missions/Posts	854
Complaints for Registration of Births	48
Applications sent for Police Clearing Reports	407
Benefited Families (Number) (Compensation)	209
Total paid Compensation (Rs.)	371 Million
Miscellaneous inquires (Written)	164
Number of Sri Lankan fishermen repatriated	40
Number of fishing vessels apprehended abroad	6
Number of TPN received from overseas Missions in Sri Lanka	84
Number of Educational Certificates received from Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad for onward transmission	18

East Asia & Pacific Division

East Asia and Pacific Division

Countries covered:

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

No. of Resident Missions:

11 (Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, The 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)

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 persons of Sri Lankan origin.
- iv. Facilitation/Arrangements of visits of dignitaries to/from Sri Lanka.
- v. Facilitation of signing of bilateral Agreements / MoUs with countries and organization in the geographical region.
- vi. Coordination of activities related to ASEAN Regional Forum, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Bali Process.
- vii. Maintaining close and cordial relations with Foreign Mission of East Asia and Pacific region based in Colombo.

1.1 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. SLHC/ Canberra

The High Commission in Australia is concurrently accredited to New Zealand, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea.

a. Bilateral Relations

2017 marks the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Australia. Activities undertaken to celebrate the event included the following:

- i. The State Visit of H.E. the President to Australia in May 2017, is the first ever state visit by a Sri Lankan Head of State to Australia. During this visit, an MoU was signed between the Presidential Task Force on the Prevention of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization (ANSTO) and a Letter of Intent between the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau and the Geosciences Australia was exchanged. A Joint Declaration on Enhanced Cooperation was signed enhancing bilateral relationship between the two countries which underlined several priority areas such as security and defence cooperation, economic relations, development cooperation, education and people to people links.
- ii. The Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka undertook a visit to Australia in February 2017 launching the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. A Joint Statement was issued following bilateral talks in which the strong cooperation on immigration and counter people smuggling issues, education, people to people links, commitment to work together to build regional trade, defence engagement, development cooperation and sports were highlighted. Two MoUs were signed on Development Cooperation Partnership and on Cooperation in Sports.
- iii. The above high level visits were complimented by a visit of the Deputy Foreign Minister to Australia in March, where discussions took place to seek assistance from the Australian Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science in mineral mapping. A meeting with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) also laid the foundation for further cooperation in scientific research into the epidemiology of CKD in Sri Lanka.
- iv. On 6th September, the 4th session of the Joint Working Group on People Smuggling and Transnational Crimes was held in Canberra. GOSL delegation was led by Secretary/ Defence and an MoU was also signed between the MOD and Department of Immigration and Border Protection on the sidelines of the talks.
- v. On 16 November the second session of Foreign Office Senior Officials' Talks were held in Canberra between the Foreign Ministry and Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade. The Sri Lanka delegation was led by Mr Sumith Nakandala, Additional Secretary and Australian delegation was led by Ms Kathy Klugman, First Assistant Secretary for South and West Asia, DFAT.

- vi. On 25 November the High Commission organised the second 'Sri Lanka Festival' at the Chancery premises, promoting Sri Lankan products, food, arts and culture. In view of the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations, the State Dance Ensemble of Sri Lanka led by Artistic Director Ravibandhu Vidyapathy performed at the Festival. The dance groups was sponsored by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs of Sri Lanka.

b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

- i. The need to further strengthen economic relations was highlighted during high level visits and Australian investments have been initiated in energy, mineral sands and graphite sectors.
- ii. An investor forum was facilitated in collaboration with the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) and Securities and Exchange Commission, result of that all-time high investment inflow from Australia to Sri Lanka was recorded.
- iii. The High Commission also started a series of tourism promotional talks targeting Canberra based tourism and travel representatives, travel and wildlife interest groups and public with two interactive talks given by experts on Sri Lankan tourism and wildlife, focusing on elephants (March) and mammals and birds (September).
- iv. Possibilities of improving economic relations were further discussed during the Senior Officials' Talks in November. This will be done under the Trade & Investment Framework Arrangement signed in November, and a first meeting is envisaged in early part of 2018 in Canberra.

c. Cultural Relations

- i. The High Commission of Sri Lanka in Canberra participated in the annual Canberra Multicultural Festival with a tea and tourism promotion stall.
- ii. On the sidelines of the visit of the Hon. Prime Minister to celebrate 70 years of diplomatic relations, a friendly cricket match between Sri Lanka and the Australia Prime Minister's XI was played in Canberra.
- iii. The State Dance Ensemble performed at the Sri Lanka Festival in November, and also held performances in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney

d. Labour Welfare

The High Commission responded to enquiries regarding companies in Fiji to the SLBFE for possible employment opportunities to Sri Lankans in Fiji. The High Commission coordinated with the Honorary Consul in Solomon Islands to explore possible Sri Lankan private investments in tourism, coconut development and hospitality sector in that country.

e. Other

Diaspora engagement: The High Commission in Canberra and the Consulates General in Sydney and Melbourne continue to engage with Sri Lanka Diaspora community towards building bridges among the Sri Lankans and encouraging them to engage with GOSL in the country's development.

II. Consulate General/Melbourne

a. Bilateral Relations - Visits

The following visits of Sri Lankan Ministers/Officials and their meetings with State Political Dignitaries /Officials in Melbourne have strengthened the bilateral political relations.

- i. Hon. Niroshan Perera, State Minister/ National Policies and Economic Affairs of Sri Lanka, 22- 25 March 2017.
- ii. Hon. Dr. Harsha De Silva, Deputy Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, 30 March – 01 April 2017.
- iii. Visit of Hon. Mano Ganesan, Minister of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages of Sri Lanka, 25 – 28 June 2017.
- iv. Visit of Hon. Lakshman Yapa Abeywardhana, State Minister of Public Enterprise Development of the Democratic Socialist of Sri Lanka (30 October 2017- 04 November 2017)

b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments -Trade and Investment

- i. A meeting between Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and Hon. Philip Dalidakis MP, Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade of Victoria was facilitated on 16 February 2017.
- ii. The following meetings with of Hon. Dr. Harsha De Silva, then Deputy Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka were arranged. (30 March- 01 April 2017):
 - Roundtable discussion at the Asia link, University of Melbourne.
 - Meeting with Australia Business Council.
 - A visit to KOOKAi (An institute of an Australian Women's Fashion industry)
 - Meeting with Mr. Jay Meek, Deputy Secretary of Trade, Victoria.

c. Tourism Promotion

Following major meetings and events were held during the period under review:

- i. Sri Lankan Festival to promote Sri Lanka Tourism on 26th February 2017.
- ii. Promotion of Sri Lanka as a travel/ tourism destination at the Business luncheon which was organized during the visit of Hon. Prime Minister to Australia on 16th February 2017.
- iii. Promotion of Sri Lanka as a travel/ Tourism destination at the Investor Forum for fund managers in Melbourne on 23rd March 2017.
- iv. Facilitating the Road Show of Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau which is scheduled to be held on 23rd November 2017.
- v. Arranging a meeting with Ms. Nicki Kenyon, General Manager, Visit Victoria for the officials of Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau.

III. Consulate General/Sydney

a. Bilateral Relations - Visits

- i. Hon. Dr. Harsha De Silva, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs during his visit to Australia from 25th March to 2nd April 2017, also visited Sydney.
- ii. Meetings were arranged for Hon. Mano Ganesan, Minister of National Co Existence, Dialogue and Official Languages with Australian authorities and the Sri Lanka community members in Sydney during his visit from 21st to 28th June 2017.
- iii. On the Invitation of Vice Admiral TW Barret, the Commander of Sri Lanka Navy Vice Admiral Travis Sinniah visited Brisbane and Sydney from 30th Sept to 6th October 2017 to attend Sea Power Conference 2017.
- iv. Two officers from Sri Lanka Navy participated in Planning Conference of Exercise Kakadu 2017 held in Sydney.
- v. During the State visit to Australia H.E. the President apart from the official meetings met with a cross section of Sri Lankan community in Sydney including the representatives of the community associations.
- vi. The Consulate Office associated with the DFAT on the following during the period 2017
 - State Office of DFAT organised afternoon tea with Sri Lankan students studying in Sydney on Australian Awards.
 - Participation at the luncheon to celebrate International Women's Day on 6th March 2017.
 - Participation at the 'Foreign investment policy update' briefing on 22 March.
 - Arranged a meeting with the Sri Lankan Diaspora groups in Sydney on 10th August 2017 for H.E. Bryce Hutchesson, Australian High Commissioner. Eight associations were represented at this event.
 - Attended a briefing on employing locally engaged staff and private domestic workers at the DFAT.
 - Attended Launch of Australia's First International Cyber Engagement Strategy in Sydney on 4th October 2017 and launch of Government's Health Initiative at Medical Research Institute, Brisbane on 8th October 2017.

b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments - Trade and Investment

- i. 'Invest Sri Lanka Investor Forum' was organised in collaboration with Securities and Exchange Commission in Sydney on 20th March 2017 to promote FDI to Sri Lanka.
- ii. The Consulate extended possible assistance to the potential Australian Investors in the area of software, fund management, IT products, medical equipment and education sector for setting up branch offices/ establishing business in Sri Lanka.

- iii. An eight member delegation Australia-Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce undertook a visit to Sri Lanka and signed contracts with Sri Lankan IT Companies for approximately AUS 500,000 investment which created 15 employment opportunities in the IT sector.
- iv. Consulate furnished adequate firsthand information for the inquiries received from potential Australian investors in various sectors including IT, Fund Management, tourism industry etc.
- v. Consulate General in collaboration with Sri Lanka Tea Board and the Coconut Development Authority organised Country Pavilions at Fine Food Exhibition from 11th to 14th September, 2017 in Sydney.
- vi. Consulate General also organised a Business Networking for the Sri Lankan Tea Trade in association with the Tea Board on 12th September, 2017 in Sydney. 35 participants including tea traders, members from the New South Wales Business Chamber, Australia-Sri Lanka Business Council, Catering & Restaurant Industry Association of Australia, Export Council of Australia and selected Media personnel attended the Networking Session.

c. Tourism

- i. Held a Sri Lankan tourism promotion event at the Tattersalls Club in collaboration with the tour company Paradise Island Leisure on 13th July 2017.
- ii. The Consulate General collaboration with the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau organized a Sri Lanka Food and Cultural Festival – 2017, Sri Lanka Tourism Consumer Promotional Event from 25 to 26 November 2017 in Sydney.
- iii. Consulate General office in the collaboration with the SLTPB also organised a Business Networking/Road Show for 35 members Travel Trade Delegation from Sri Lanka on 27th November 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sydney. 150 participants including NSW based outbound travel operators, whole sellers and retailers attended the Networking Session.

1.2 People's Republic of China

Sri Lanka maintains three resident Missions/Posts in China, namely the Sri Lanka Embassy in Beijing, Consulates General in Guangzhou and Shanghai.

I. Beijing

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. The Embassy organised programmes relating to the Belt and Road Initiative in different provinces in order to enhance bilateral relations.
- ii. Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka attended the Belt and Road Forum for International cooperation which was held in Beijing in May 2017.
- iii. A seminar on sharing experience of Sri Lanka on poverty reduction was organised in Beijing.
- iv. Since Sri Lanka is connected to the Maritime Silk Road, the Embassy is invited for the Belt and Road event periodically.

- v. The Embassy has done necessary correspondence work related to appointing Mrs. Orgilmaa Doloonjin as the Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia between MOFA and Mongolian side. Carefully observing and reporting the developments of DPRK to the MOFA.
- vi. Hon. Thilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs arrived in Beijing on 29th October to attend the 60th Anniversary of diplomatic relations and 65th Anniversary of economic relations between Sri Lanka and China. On invitation extended by H.E. Wang Yi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of China and both Honorable Ministers had bilateral talks 30th October 2018 and Hon. Minister met H.E. Wang Yan, Vice Premier of China on 1st November at Zhongnanhai, Ziguangge Beijing.
- vii. Capt. PK Waranakoolasooriya and two other Senior Naval officers attended a meeting held in Beijing from 05th -11th November 2017, about the "Marine Scientific Research" by the Chinese Scientific Research Vessel Xiang Yang Hong 03 in exclusive Economic Zone of Sri Lanka.
- viii. Actg. Deputy Inspector General of Police Headquarters, Mr DRL Ranaweera and two Superintendent of Police attended 'China South Asia & Neighboring Countries capital cities Law Enforcement cooperation conference" organized by the Department of Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau China from 28th -29th Nov. 2017 .
- ix. Air Commodore RHKP Ranasinghe and four other Air Force officers attended the '4th PMR meeting of AOF Project 2017' held at Beijing from 16th - 24th December 2017.
- x. Miscellaneous- Army cultural troop visited china. It was coordinated by the Defence section of the Embassy.

b. Visits to Sri Lanka

- i. Rear Admiral Cui Yuzhong, Deputy Commander of East Sea Fleet, Chinese PLA Navy, was attended the Galle Dialogue: International Maritime Conference held in 9th - 10th October 2017 at Galle Face Hotel Colombo.
- ii. Maj. Gen. Shi Zhong Wu and 20 PLA officers visited Sri Lanka Military bases as study tour on month of November 2017.

c. Sports

- i. Two professional Chinese Table Tennis coaches were sent to Sri Lanka coordinated by the Defence section of the Embassy.
- ii. Two roving players from Defence servicers visited China for advance training, coordinated by the Defence section of this Embassy.

d. Other Visits

- i. Mr. Saman Devapriya Udawatta, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Social Empowerment of Welfare & Kandy Heritage and 04 officials visited Beijing to attend Meeting on the Mid Point Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022 from 18th October 2017 to 27th October,2017.

- ii. Mr. Sarath Chandrasiri Vithana, Secretary, Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply and 9 officials visited Beijing under the China Sri Lanka CKDu research Grant Project.

The following Agreements/ MoUs were signed during period under review:

- A MoU between the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife of Sri Lanka and the State Forestry Administration of China in the fields of Natural Resources.
- Framework Agreement for the Provision of a Loan for Consultancy Services of Southern Extension and Kandy North Pathadumbara Water Supply Project.
- Technical Cooperation Agreement for the Provision of RMB 400 mn.
- The Outline of the Medium and Long Term Development Plan for Investment, Economic and Technological Cooperation.
- Framework Agreement for investment, Economic and Technological Cooperation.
- MoU on the establishment of sister city relation between Monaragala and Jishan, Shanxi Province of China.

e. Multilateral Relations

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 undertook necessary correspondence work between MOFA and INBAR in connection with getting Sri Lanka's support to the INBAR's Application as the Observer Status in UNGA.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

- i. The Embassy attended the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013 - 2022 held in Beijing from 27th November -01st December 2017 with the delegates of Ministry of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage.

f. Economic and Investment

i. Trade

- i. The Embassy participated in several trade fairs promoting tea, gem and jewellery, and handicrafts.
- ii. The Embassy facilitated the participation of 20 companies at the China International Gem and Jewellery Fair 2017, which was held in Beijing in October/November 2017.

ii. Tourism

- i. 268,952 tourists from China visited Sri Lanka till September 2017. Around 15-20 Sri Lankan companies participated in tourism fairs in Guangzhou, Leshan, Shanghai, and Beijing.
- ii. Twenty leading Sri Lankan travel agents participated in a number of travel fairs and road shows organized by the Embassy. In addition, there were number of road shows as well which promoted Sri Lanka to the Chinese media and travel sector. The shows were as follows:
 - Beijing International Travel Mart 2017 and Beijing Road show
 - Wuhan International Travel Expo 2017 – outdoor promotion show promoting Sri Lanka Tourism to the public
 - Changsha Sri Lanka Travel Road show
 - Chengdu International Travel Expo 2017

iii. Investment

Several investment delegations as well as individual companies visited Sri Lanka to explore investment opportunities, particularly in the areas of agriculture, technology, and manufacturing.

- i. The Embassy organized an investment seminar on November 1, 2017 during the visit of Hon. Foreign Minister to China for the bilateral anniversaries between the two countries.
- ii. The Embassy coordinated with Lookwe, an investment consultancy company to publish a commemorative publication on Sri Lanka on the occasion of the bilateral anniversaries, which highlights Sri Lanka's trade, tourism and investment opportunities. The publication is now being circulated amongst the business community and consumers.
- iii. The Embassy organized a delegation from the China Textile Association to Sri Lanka in December 2017 to discuss a project proposal to set up multiple textile industrial parks and training institutions in the textile sector.
- iv. The Embassy organized a delegation from CCPIT Qinghai to the North Western Provincial Council to discuss investment and project cooperation in December 2017.

iv. Development Assistance

- i. The Financial Agreements for Thalpitigala Reservoir Project, Kandy North-Pathadumbara Integrated Water Supply Project and Consultancy Services for Design Construction Supervision of Civil Works on Extension of Southern Expressway Project were signed in Sri Lanka on December 22, 2017 during the visit of an official delegation from the Export-Import Bank of China to Sri Lanka.

g. Cultural Relations

- i. The Embassy attends cultural related events actively with the view of promoting Sri Lankan culture and traditions in China.
- ii. The 60th Anniversary of diplomatic relations and the 65th Anniversary of economic relations between Sri Lanka and China was celebrated on 31st October 2017 in Beijing with the honored participation of Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Chen Xiao Dong, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, and Ambassador of Sri Lanka to China Dr. Karunasena Kodituwakku.
- iii. Sri Lanka Embassy in Beijing won the most Creative Award at the 2017 Diplomat National Costume Competition organized by the Diplomat Magazine in China held on 26th November 2017.

h. Other

i. Interaction with local media

The Embassy is closely working with the Chinese Print and Electronic media to get the publicity for the Embassy's events and to promote Sri Lanka's Trade, Tourism, Investment and culture.

The Embassy coordinated various training programmes and workshops and provided Embassy participation where necessary such as Training Water Resources Management for Asia Cooperation Dialogue on 28th November 2018, China Africa press Center Programme and China South Asia and South East Asia Press Center programme on 5th December 2017 and 1st China-South Asia Literature Forum (5-9 November 2017).

ii. Kunming Marathon

The Embassy made arrangements for two runners to participate in the SCO Kunming International Marathon on 31st December 2017 organized by the Shanghai Corporation Organization and the Yunnan Provincial Government. Ms. Welu Krisanthani, one of the two runners obtained the fourth place of the marathon (42.195km).

II. Guangzhou

a. Bilateral Relations - Visits

The Consulate facilitated the following visits to Sri Lanka:

- i. Hon. Peng Qinghua/Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chairman of the Standing Committee of Guangxi People's Congress and a five member delegation from 17th – 20th May 2017.
- ii. A delegation headed by Prof. Dongxiao Wang of the China - Sri Lanka Joint Centre for Education and Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences from 23rd – 25th May 2017 to explore a collaborative programme with NARA for scientific cooperation.

b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

The Consulate General organized Sri Lanka's participation at the following;

- i. Guangzhou International Travel Fair (GITF) from 23rd – 25th February 2017 where 19 Sri Lankan travel and tour operators and Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau participated. Two Tourism Road shows in Shenzhen and Guangzhou were held alongside the GITF.
- ii. Investment Promotion presentation in Nanhai, Guangdong province, 8th February 2017 to the business community and Govt. officials of Nanhai Bureau.
- iii. Establishment of the South Asia Trade and Investment Alliance (CCPIT) on 15th March.
- iv. A Workshop on creating awareness of Pure Ceylon Cinnamon on 25th March 2017.
- v. Participation at the AQUARAMA Trade Fair from 26th – 29th May 2017.
- vi. 150th Anniversary of Ceylon tea and Sri Lanka's participation at the 14th China-ASEAN Trade Expo from 12th – 15th September in Nanning, Guangxi province.
- vii. Organized the participation of 7 Sri Lankan companies at the Guangdong 21st Century Maritime Silk Road International Expo from 21st – 24th September.

c. Cultural Relations

- i. To commemoration of 60 years of Diplomatic Relations between Sri Lanka and China, a Sri Lanka Section at the Guangzhou Public Library housing over 260 books authored by Sri Lankan writers was established on 23rd March 2017 and a exhibition of Photographs titled "A panoramic glimpse of Sri Lanka" depicting the bilateral relations was organized.
- ii. A Children's Workshop with Mr. Nuri Vittachi, renowned Sri Lankan Children's author was organized on 2nd April 2017.

III. Shanghai

a. Economic Relations

- i. A Sri Lanka - China Business Council was established in May in Hangzhou, the capital city of Zhejiang province.
- ii. Sri Lanka sea food and export promotion was organised in Anhui Province and Shanghai.

b. Cultural Relations

Vinyasa dance troupe visited and performed in Shanghai.

i. Tea and Tourism Promotion

The Consulate General facilitated Tourism Road Show, Shanghai World Travel Fair, 2017 Global Tea Party, and 2017 International Islands Tourism Expo in Zhoushan.

1.3 Indonesia

a. Bilateral Relations:

- iii. At the invitation of HE President Joko Widodo, the State Visit of HE President Maithripala Sirisena to Indonesia took place on 08th March 2017. The outcomes of bilateral discussion gave important direction to the trajectory of the relations in political economic, cultural and security related sphere.
- iv. During the visit the following MoUs were signed:
 - Between National Crafts Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) and Marketing Service Agency for the Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperatives of (SMESCO),
 - Between the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Development of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Marine and Fisheries of Indonesia on Marine and Fisheries Cooperation.
- v. Joint Communiqué on Voluntary International Cooperation to Prevent Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing and to Promote Sustainable Fisheries Governance was also issued.
- vi. Defence Cooperation: Facilitated participation of several officials at defence related course and seminars.
- vii. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs met with H.E. Retno Marsudi on 07 December 2017 in Jakarta and engaged in bilateral discussions on the follow up to H.E. the President's State visit to Indonesia and the Organization of the State Visit of H.E. the President of Indonesia to Sri Lanka in January 2018.
- viii. Bilateral meetings for Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs were arranged with the Heads of Delegation of Brunei Darussalam and interactions with Ministers from Kazakhstan, Jordan, Timor Leste and Samoa.

b. Multilateral Relations

- i. H.E. President Maithripala Sirisena attended the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Leaders' Summit in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of IORA in Jakarta on 7th March 2017.
- ii. Participation of Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Foreign Affairs and delegations at the IORA Council of Ministers Meeting was facilitated.
- iii. H.E. the Ambassador participated at the following events:

IORA Senior Official Meeting- 5th March 2017 / Senior Officials Meeting of Second IORA Ministerial Blue Economy Conference - 9th May 2017 / the 62nd Anniversary of the Asian African Conference -18th April 2017 / Asian African Flags Hoisting Ceremony and the Regional Dialogue and Consultation on Nuclear non-proliferation treaty "towards the PrepCom 2017" -13-14 March 2017.
- iv. Sri Lanka was represented at the Bali Democracy Forum by Hon. Vasantha Senanayake who participated at the Ministerial Panel on the theme *Managing Diversity, Security, Equity and Social Justice*.

c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

- i. The bilateral talks which were held in Colombo on 24th August 2017 to pursue a Sri Lanka and Indonesia Free Trade Agreement/Preferential Trade Agreement and the Business Forum and related discussions at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce was coordinated. (23rd August 2017).
- ii. *Trade Fair:* Sri Lanka participation at the ASTINDO Travel Fair together with the 7 Sri Lankan companies and Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau- 24th -26th March 2017.
- iii. Sri Lanka participated at the Jakarta International Jewellery Fair together with National Gem and Jewellery Authority and seven companies - 20-23 April 2017 and facilitated 11 member Indonesia Goldsmiths and Jewellers Association business to visit Sri Lanka for FACETS and for discussions with National Gem and Jewellery Authority (NGJA).
- iv. Cooperative business and investment Dialogue was established between Ceyline Group in Sri Lanka and PT Samudera and the Akademi Maritime Djadajat-Maritime Training Institute in Indonesia.
- v. Business discussions were held on investment in various fields such as Tourism, food and restaurant, Maritime and Logistics, domestic aviation etc.
- vi. Facilitated participation of delegation from the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce at Indonesia EXPO 2017 – October 2017
- vii. Arranged for the business interaction session for Sri Lankan companies attending the Indonesia EXPO 2017 – October 2017
- viii. Engaged in discussions between KADIN Indonesia and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce to enhance business cooperation and to negotiate a MoU for signature during the State visit of H.E. President of Indonesia.
- ix. Negotiations with Indonesian Agencies for conclusion of the TORs for the bilateral PTA/FTA and the Working Group on Trade and Investment
- x. Presented Sri Lanka's tea and handicrafts at the International WIC Bazaar November 2017.

d. Business and Trade Facilitation:

- i. The Embassy facilitated securing highly technical process of Registration of Food and Safety Testing Laboratory under the new Indonesian regulation on Fresh Food and Plant Origin Countries (FFPO) particularly Sri Lanka Tea. Accordingly SGS Ltd and Sri Lanka Tea Board Laboratory have been accredited to issue Certificate of Analysis for tea for period of three years, extendable.
- ii. Promoted Sri Lanka events and tenders in Mineral Sands, Road Development, Airport Hotel at BIA, Tuticorin Colombo Ferry Service, Government Professional Quarters, Railways, Mixed Development Projects, Sea water desalination.

e. Cultural Relations

- i. The National Reconciliation Day was commemorated on 09th January 2017 together with Sri Lankan community.
- ii. Celebration of diversity: Following the commemoration of Wesak (May 2017) and Ramazan/Ifthar (June 2017). The Embassy joined by community commemorated Deepawali (21 Oct 2017) and Christmas (03 December 2017) as a continuing programme to celebrate Sri Lanka's diversity and build greater unity and understanding.

f. Consular and Labour Welfare

- i. Facilitated repatriation of 17 Sri Lankans refugees and 28 illegal migrants of Sri Lanka detained in Medan.

1.4 Japan

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka visited Japan from 10-16 April 2017. A Joint Statement entitled "Deepening and Expansion of the Comprehensive Partnership between Japan and Sri Lanka" was issued. In addition, notes concerning the two Yen loan projects of "Rural Infrastructure Development Project in Emerging Regions", and "Kalu Ganga Water Supply Expansion Project", as well as the grant aid project of "Economic and Social Development Programme" were signed and exchanged.
- ii. Dr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan and a delegation visited Sri Lanka in August 2017 and discussed with the GoSL officials on bilateral cooperation.
- iii. The State Minister of Defence of Sri Lanka Hon. Ruwan Wijewardene made an official visit to Tokyo from 2nd – 8th November 2017 on the invitation of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. The invitation was aimed at deepening the understanding about Japan through dialogue with relevant counterparts.
- iv. During the visit, the State Minister met with his counterpart, the Minister of Defence Japan, Itsunori Onodera on 6th November 2017, and discussed issues of mutual interest related to cooperation in the field of defence, particularly on maritime security corporation. The Ministers also discussed the importance of strong defence corporation between the two maritime nations.
- v. The Minister also met with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Kazuyuki Nakane, Mr. Hiroyuki Miyazawa, MP and Admiral Satoshi Nakajima, Japan Coast Guard Commandant, Mr. Wataru Takeshita MP and Mr. Yuko Obuchi MP, Members of the Japan-Sri Lanka Parliamentary League during this visit.
- vi. State Minister Wijewardene participated in the launching ceremony of the 30m Type Patrol Vessel donated to Sri Lanka Coast Guard by the Government of Japan.
- vii. During the visit the State Minister and the delegation visited Kyoto, Hiroshima, Onomichi Dockyard and Japan Maritime Self Defence Force Base.

- viii. This Mission facilitated the visit of Mr. Keiichi Ishii, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism to visit Sri Lanka from 24th – 29th December 2017 with an accompanying delegation for policy consultations.

b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

During the working visit of Hon. Prime Minister, the two leaders re-iterated their commitment to the Joint Declaration on the Joint Comprehensive Partnership (JCP) between Japan and Sri Lanka in October 2015. During 2017 three (03) main events were held as envisaged under the Comprehensive Partnership Economic agenda.

i. Foreign, Investments, Seminars & Promotions:

In the last quarter of the year 2017, the Embassy continuously engaged with Japanese Authorities and business supporting institutions, trade chambers, and business councils to furthering the commercial and economic relations between the two countries.

During the last quarter of 2017, the Embassy has facilitated the biggest ever business delegation from Japan to Sri Lanka that took place in January 2018.

As per the data of the Ministry of Finance in Japan, from October to December 2017, Sri Lanka's exports have grown 1% compared to corresponding period of 2016. As per the same data, annual export growth from 2016-2017 has recorded at 7.9% (Adding 2 billion yen exports in 2017). As per the BOI data, during the first three quarters of 2017, FDI from Japan has been recorded as at US\$ 30mn. In 2016 full year, total FDI from Japan stood at US\$ 30mn.

c. Investment Promotion

The Mission organized/ facilitated the following:

- i. Investment promotion seminars in Tokyo, Nagoya, Chiba and Yamanashi.
- ii. Visit of four major potential companies in the area of tourism, fisheries and financial sectors to Sri Lanka.
- iii. Sri Lanka Festival in Japan and Global Ceylon Tea Party.
- iv. 2nd Sri Lanka Gem Fiesta in Tokyo.
- v. Sri Lanka's participation at four international trade fairs and two technical assistance projects on capacity development of PPP Agency in Sri Lanka and fisheries infrastructure development.
- vi. Responded around seventy trade and investment related inquiries and attended two trade complaints.
- vii. The Mission facilitated inbound business movements and outbound business Missions. The Mission also represents Sri Lanka Tea Board at a tea exhibition in Nagoya.

- viii. The Embassy facilitated trade seminars and organized/ facilitated generic investment promotion events.
- ix. The Mission also facilitated two (02) Technical Assistance initiatives on PPP Capacity Building and Green Energy.
- x. Engaged with six (06) trade supporting institutions and also this Mission attended twenty-four (24) trade/investment inquiries and its follow-ups.

1.5. Malaysia

a. Bilateral Relations:

The High Commissioner met with Datuk Seri UtamaIr HJ Idris Bin HJ Haron, Chief Minister of Melaka *March 2017*. Discussed matters of bilateral importance in particular closer cooperation between the city Melaka and Hambantota and organized the visit of the Chief Minister of Melaka to Sri Lanka in September 2017.

b. Trade and Economic Relations

Global Tea Party, July 2017: Global Tea Party was held in collaboration with Malaysia Tea Trade Association.

The High Commission facilitated the following:

- i. Participation of Sri Lanka Tea Board and 6 Exporting Companies at the Malaysia International Food and Beverage Fair in August 2017.
- ii. The participation of Sri Lanka delegation at Malaysian International Halal Showcase (MIHAS), April 2017
- iii. Participation in Awareness programme on collaboration 1 MINE (One Malaysia Network of Entrepreneurs) on Doing Business in Sri Lanka, July 2017.

c. Cultural Relations

To commemorate the completion of 60 years of diplomatic relations with Malaysia, the High Commission organized the following:

- i. Together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, a cultural event at the National Museum with the participation of 21 countries.
- ii. Youth Camp in Sri Lanka in June - August 2017 and 2nd Global Buddhist Congregation and World Buddhist Sangha Youth Summit in July 2017.

d. Labour Welfare

- i. The High Commission attended to complaints by employers, recruitment agencies and employees and resolved them.

e. Tourism Promotion

- i. 12 Sri Lankan Travel Agents together with SLTPB and Sri Lankan Airlines participated at the MATTA Fair 2017.
- ii. 12 Sri Lankan Travel Agents attended the Tourism Workshop in Kuala Lumpur in September 2017.

1.6. Myanmar

a. Bilateral Relations: Visits

The Embassy facilitated visits of the following delegations to Myanmar:

- i. Hon. Minister of Health Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine, Dr. Rajitha Senaratne and delegation to participate at the Digital Health Conference from 7th to 10th March, 2017.
- ii. Hon. Minister of Justice and Buddhasasana, Dr. Wijedasa Rajapakshe from 14th to 15th March 2017.
- iii. Hon. Deputy Minister of Buddasana, Mr. S. Dushmantha to participate "Dialogue for Peace Harmony and Security" on 06th August 2017.
- iv. Participated at the activities on "The National Reconciliation and peace process" in Myanmar organized by the Myanmar Government.

b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

- i. Discussions were held with President's Economic Advisor and several leading shipping line Companies in Myanmar requesting them to commence direct shipping to Sri Lanka.

c. Cultural Relations

The Embassy facilitated the following:

- i. Participation of Myanmar delegation at the International Buddhist Celebration of the 14th United National Day of Vesak held in Sri Lanka, May 2017.
- ii. Sent a 5 feet height Marble Buddha Statue to Sri Lanka offering to the Sambuddha Jayanthi Maha Viharaya, Anuradhapura.
- iii. Organized a Religious Ceremony for celebrating of 10th Anniversary of the Buddhist Media Network (Channel) of Sri Lanka at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon.
- iv. Donation of Tusker elephant by Myanmar to The Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic (Dalada Maligawa) in Kandy.
- v. Signing of an MoU between Shwedagon pagoda in Yangon and the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic (Dalada Maligawa) in Kandy to strengthen religious relationships.
- vi. A Replica of the Sacred Shwedagon Pagoda, the prominent landmark of Myanmar, will be built up in Matale, Sri Lanka by the donation of Most Ven. Aung Za Bu and the devotees of Myanmar. Donation was handed over to Most Ven. Munugunuwela AnuruddhaThero in Matale, Sri Lanka on 28.11.2017 at the Embassy.

1.7. Philippines

a. Bilateral Relations: Visits

- i. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Philippines in August 2017 to attend the 24th ASEAN Regional Forum and the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN. The Embassy facilitated a brief meeting for the State Minister with H.E. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines. The Minister also had several bilateral meetings with Philippines' Ministers and authorities.
- ii. Entry into force of the Visa Waiver Agreement for Diplomatic and Official Passports (signed on 07th October 2016) with effect from 17th November 2017.
- iii. Intensify further collaboration with Philippines on Agriculture sector and finalizing the arrangements for the Sri Lankan scientists to study at PhD and Msc level in plant breeding, agriculture economics and other related disciplines at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) annually commencing from 2018.
- iv. Continuation of the discussion with GMA Network Philippines, group of the "Born to Be Wild", to produce a documentary on Sri Lanka wildlife. The visit is scheduled to take place in first half of year 2018.

b. Multilateral Relations

- i. Sri Lanka as the Chair of the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) Governing Board was able to increase up to 40 CPSC programmes with 3,270 beneficiaries. Also discussions were initiated with Colombo Plan Staff College to offer short term Skills Development Program for low income Sri Lankan Samurdhi members.
- ii. Discussions were held with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Sri Lanka to finalize the Host Country Agreement with IRRI.
- iii. Follow-up discussions with all Head of Missions of the ASEAN member countries regarding the Sri Lanka's intention to apply as a Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN.
- iv. First time, a Sri Lankan was appointed as the new Governing Board-Engaged Faculty Consultant to the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) and also Sri Lanka was selected for the Professional Internship Program for International Experience (PIPIE) of CPSC.
- v. Sri Lanka signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks during the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP12) in October 2017 in Manila.

c. Economic Relations

- i. The embassy held discussions with the Department of Trade and Industry of Philippines to reinvigorate the Philippines-Sri Lanka Trade Agreement which was signed in 1980 and existing Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.

- ii. The Embassy finalised the trade discussion with Rezostar Inc. (Philippine Company) and A F Jones Ceylon Tea Ltd. (Sri Lankan Company) for exporting Jones Tea to the Philippines.
- iii. Participated at the 25th Metro Manila Business Conference from 27th to 28th July 2017 and George Steuarts Philippines participated at the World Food Expo (WOFEX) Northern Luzon, Vigan, Ilocos Sur, from 16-18 March 2017 to promote Ceylon Tea.
- iv. Total bilateral trade has doubled to US Mn. \$ 60 in year 2017 and the balance of trade after seven years has been in favor of Sri Lanka.
- v. Filipinos travelling to Sri Lanka has increased by 32.1% in 2017 - the highest every year on year increase and the last quarter of year 2017 has considerable growth.
- vi. Held discussions with the Department of Trade and Industry of Philippines to reinvigorate the Philippines-Sri Lanka Trade Agreement which was signed in 1980 and existing Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income in line with the prevailing norms and practices as well as legal obligations.
- vii. Participated at the Philippine – South Asia Economic Roundtable in November 2017 to discuss ways and means of expanding trade and investment between Philippines and South Asian Region.
- viii. Participated at the 2017 ASEAN Business and Investment Summit and the AgriLink/FoodLink/Aqualink 2017 to identify partners for importing products from Sri Lanka.
- ix. Showcased “Ceylon Teas” at the 51st International Bazaar in November 2017 in partnership with George Steuarts Philippines and Basilur Tea.
- x. Attended the Board of Investment (BOI) Guinogulan Awards and Invest Philippines to identify potential investors who could invest in Sri Lanka.

d. Foreign Investments

Initial concurrence has been obtained from Regional General Manager of Transcom Worldwide to establish a BPO sister group in Sri Lanka together with St. Anthony's Company.

e. Tourism

- i. Hon. John Amaratunga, Minister of Tourism and Christian Religious Affairs, visited Philippines on 20th June 2017 and met Hon. Wanda Corazon Tulfo-Teo, Secretary of the Department of Tourism, Philippines to discuss matters related to training on hospitality management sector.
- ii. The Embassy together with the Philippines authorities finalised a Transportation Agreement.
- iii. The Embassy together with Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau finalised arrangements to send two groups of journalists from the GMA Network Philippines, to produce two documentaries on Sri Lanka wildlife and Sri Lankan culture.

f. Cultural Relations

- i. The prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award was awarded to a distinguished Sri Lankan Mrs. Gethsie Shanmugam in 2017, for her tremendous work on rebuilding the lives from the psychosocial wounds of conflict and violence.
- ii. As follow up to the Executive Programme on Cultural Cooperation between Sri Lanka and the Philippines, signed on the sidelines of the 1st round of the Political Consultations in November 2016, teaching of Buddhism for the first time has been launched at the Ateneo de Manila University with a Professor from Sri Lanka.
- iii. Minister of Buddha Sasana and Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife of Sri Lanka, gifted a Samadhi Buddha Statue to the Universal Wisdom Foundation, Inc. (UWFI) in October 2017 in Manila.
- iv. Showcased the rich culinary heritage of Sri Lanka at the "Taste of the World at Adamson", organized by Adamson University of the Philippines in December 2017 in Manila.
- v. Sri Lanka featured Traditional Handloom at the "Colours of Asia Pacific" fashion show organized by the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines in December 2017.

g. Labour Welfare

- i. The Embassy facilitated meetings among Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Hon. Silvestre H. Bello III, Secretary (Minister), Department of Labour and Employment of the Philippines, officials from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Philippines Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).
- ii. The Embassy facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the Colombo Process Regional Workshop on Protecting Nationals Abroad in the Context of a Crises held in Manila from 23-24 May 2017.

h. Other

A seminar was organised for students of the Lyceum of the Philippines University and Miriam College, Philippines on "Sri Lanka: Pearl of the Indian Ocean" which gives special emphasis on the present developments of the country.

i. Defence Relations

Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, had a discussion with Undersecretary of National Defense of Philippines, Hon. Cardozo M. Luna, during the State Minister's visit to the Philippines on 3rd August 2017, on the sidelines of the 24th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Manila. Defence issues of mutual interest were discussed.

ii. Education

The Embassy had a discussion with the Vice Chancellor of the University of the Philippines, regarding scholarships for Sri Lankan Agriculturists to follow MSc.or PhD in this University and the Department of Foreign Affairs on assistance from the Philippines in developing Seafarer Training and Welfare Programmes.

1.8 Republic of Korea

a. Bilateral Relations

State Visit of H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka to ROK

- i. The state visit of H.E. Maithripala Sirisena took place, the President of Sri Lanka to the Republic of Korea from 28 to 30 November 2017, on the invitation of the H.E. Moon Jae-in, the President of ROK.
- ii. It is significant that President Sirisena was the third foreign head of state to undertake a visit to ROK, since the assumption of office of President Moon in May 2017. This fact, the two countries celebrated the important milestone of 40 years of diplomatic relations, was demonstrative of the importance attached to South Asia and Sri Lanka by the Moon administration.
- iii. The state visit included a summit meeting between the two Heads of State and a State Dinner, an official Business Luncheon co-hosted by the four major business associations in Korea (Kbiz, KCCI, FKI, KITA and AHPEK) followed by B2B sessions, a visit to Jogyesa Temple and meeting with Head of the Jogye Order in ROK the Most Venerable Seoljeong (the Temple visit was also attended by President Moon), a meeting with the Sri Lankan community in ROK, and a visit to the Seoul Metropolitan Office and a meeting with Seoul Mayor Hon. Park Wonsoon who awarded President Sirisena with Honorary Citizenship of Seoul City and a demonstration briefing on Asia's first Intelligent Transport System maintained by Seoul city.
- iv. The Mission arranged courtesy calls by the President Hon. Jung Sung-ho and members of the Korea-Sri Lanka Friendship Group in the Korean National Assembly and the President of the ICAPP Korean Parliamentarian Union Hon. Park Young-sung.
- v. The Mission arranged to present a plaque of appreciation by President Sirisena to Sri Lanka's outgoing Honorary Consul in Busan Mr. Jin Jung-tae who served for 11 years as Sri Lanka's Honorary Consul and also a meeting for the new Honorary Consul in Busan Mr. Kim Im-kwon who is also Chairman of the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives of Korea (NFFC) to pay a courtesy call on H.E. the President.
- vi. At the summit meeting and the state dinner, held on November 29, the two Heads of State deepened their friendship and had discussions on ways to enhance the bilateral relations.
- vii. The important areas of discussion in the political, economic and cultural spheres were compiled in a Joint Press Statement issued following the visit. The following may be noted:

- viii. Increase exchanges of high-level government officials and parliaments of the two countries.
 - Further strengthen defence cooperation in defense, including exchanges and cooperation in regional dialogues.
 - Strengthen cooperation in the economic sphere – signing of Agreement on Economic Cooperation which provides for the establishment of a joint commission to promote bilateral investment, trade and tourism, and signing of MoU between BOI and KOTRA to further expand investment.
 - Cooperation under Western Region Megapolis project and opportunities for Korean companies in major infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka.
 - Expansion of development cooperation under increased EDCF arrangement, as well as with KOICA.
 - Cooperation under the Employment Permit System (EPS).
 - Cooperation in ICT and medical sectors, science, technology, innovation and ICT, agriculture and fisheries.
 - Cooperation under tourism and increase in connectivity.
 - Cooperation in the field of education.
 - Peaceful resolution of the North Korea issue in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions.
 - Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games hosted by ROK.
 - Regional affairs including discussion in President Moon's New Southern Policy for building pillars of prosperity and 'People First' relations with South Asia and ASEAN countries.
 - Multilateral cooperation.
 - Support for the process of reconciliation in Sri Lanka.
 - Policy consultations.
 - Invitation to President Moon to visit Sri Lanka at a mutually convenient time.
- ix. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs Hon. Tilak Marapana, Special Assignments Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Development Strategies & International Trade Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Justice and Foreign Employment Hon. Thalatha Atukorale, Power and Renewable Energy Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya and Primary Industries Hon. Daya Gamage, comprised the delegation of the President, among other senior officials
- x. The Embassy engaged with 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 in various sectors. The Mission continued engagement with EDCF including on signing of the new Framework Agreement.
- xi. A new Korea-Sri Lanka Friendship Group in the Korean National Assembly was formed in March 2017.
- xii. The Embassy coordinated with defence-related institutions in Sri Lanka and the RoK for high level visits, training/exchange programmes under ongoing collaboration.
- xiii. 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.

- xiv. Under collaboration in the field of Education, the Ministry of Education of Korea participated in the annual e-Learning Globalization programme under which 25 teachers from Sri Lanka were trained in August 2017.
- xv. The Embassy facilitated the award of scholarships through coordination with relevant Universities in Korea and Korean institutions. The Embassy organized a meeting of Sri Lankan professionals in ROK in conjunction with the 7th Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lankan Students' Association in South Korea (SLSA-K) on 9 September 2017 at the Embassy.
- xvi. The Embassy maintained good relations with the respective Korean Ministries and its affiliated bodies, Korean institutions, business entities, as well as the political leadership in the Republic of Korea (ROK), including Members of the National Assembly.
- xvii. The Embassy closely monitored the political changes and economic developments in the RoK and provided regular updates /briefings to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant authorities in Colombo.
- xviii. The Mission continued to provide regular updates to the Foreign Ministry with regard to developments in the domestic political situation in Korea, the foreign policy of the new government and escalating tensions in the Korean peninsula due to North Korean missile and nuclear tests.
- xix. The Mission followed the inauguration of President Moon's new Southern policy which entailed heightened focus on ASEAN and India as well as South Asia (including Sri Lanka).
- xx. The Mission also continued with promotional work connected with the celebration of the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations, with the anniversary scheduled for 14 November 2017.

Other Areas of Bilateral Cooperation

- The Embassy closely engaged with 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 Mission continued engagement with EDCF including on signing of the new Framework Agreement for 500 million USD for the next 3 years. (an increase of 200 M USD from the existing 300 M USD FA).
- The Embassy coordinated with defence-related institutions in Sri Lanka and RoK for high level visits, training/exchange programmes under ongoing collaboration.
- 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 collaboration in the field of Education, the Mission met with the President of the National Institute of International Education in Korea (NIIED) Mr. Song,

Kidong on 27 October 2017 and discussed cooperation under the Global Korea Scholarship programme (KGSP), including increase in scholarship opportunities for Sri Lanka under the graduate scheme in the context of the upcoming state visit and in view of the slight decrease in scholarships offered under KGSP to Sri Lankan students during the past two years.

- The Embassy forwarded 4 scholarship programmes and training opportunities in Korea to GoSL authorities including to the Ministry of Higher Education and relevant Universities in Sri Lanka as well as to the Sri Lanka Students' Association in Korea in order to be disseminated among their membership and other Sri Lankan students.
- The Embassy nominated qualified students for the Woojung scholarship in consultation with the Sri Lanka Students Association in Korea as well as following review of applications received directly by the Embassy.
- The Embassy also maintained contact with the Sri Lanka Students' Association in Korea following its 7th Annual General Meeting which was held at the Embassy on 9th September 2017 on follow up with regard to proposal discussed at AGM to form advisory group comprising professional Sri Lankans to advise the Students Association and support as deemed relevant.
- Under research collaboration, the Embassy continued initiation of cooperation between the KFDA of ROK and the BIDTI of Sri Lanka, following the signing of MoU between the two institutions in March 2017.
- The Mission also initiated collaboration between the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS), ROK and the BIDTI and LKI of Sri Lanka.
- The Embassy engaged with the Korean Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST) to strengthen marine scientific and technological capacity building & research collaboration with NARA-Sri Lanka and other GoSL institutions.
- The Mission continued to engage with the Hon. Consuls of Sri Lanka and their Offices. The New Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka in Busan Mr. Kim Ik-kwon who is Chairman of HyeSeung Fisheries Co. and of the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives of Korea (NFFC) was appointed on 30 October 2017. The Mission also processed the nomination of a new Hon. Consul for GyeongsanNam Province Mr. SeoMinja, President of Hwasin Shipping and Aircargo Pvt. Ltd., with the Foreign Ministries of Sri Lanka and ROK.
- Annual audit of the Mission was conducted from 13-22 November 2017 and the Mission facilitated for the audit.

The Mission extended support towards the audit of the Mission conducted by the Auditor General's Department from 13-22 November 2017.

xxi. High-level visits: To ROK:

- Hon. Thalatha Atukorale, Minister of Foreign Employment from 17 to 20 June 2017 and attended several meetings with Korean authorities.

- Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Finance visited to attend the 2nd Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Annual Meeting of Governors from 15-17 June 2017.
 - Hon. Ruwan Wijewardena, State Minister of Defence visited ROK from 16-18 October to attend Aerospace and Defense Exhibition (ADEX 2017) on the invitation of Hon. Song Young-moo, the Minister of National Defense of ROK. During the visit, State Minister Wijewardena had a bilateral meeting with the ROK Minister of Defence on 17 October, where the two parties agreed to further strengthen cooperation in the field of defence, including exchanges and training opportunities, as well as support for the Sri Lanka Navy.
 - Hon. Ranjith Madduma Bandara, Minister of Public Administration and Management visited ROK to participate Regional Anti-Corruption Conference of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific from 15-17 November 2017 held in Seoul. The Conference was also attended by a delegation from the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption of Sri Lanka.
- xxii. High-level visits: from ROK to Sri Lanka:
- Hon. Yun Byung-se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of ROK undertook an official visit to Sri Lanka from 15 to 16 March 2017. This was the first bilateral visit by a Foreign Minister from ROK to SL in 31 years.
 - Prof. Park Young-bum, President of the Human Resources Development Service of Korea visited Sri Lanka from 28-29 June 2017.
 - Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Chancellor of the Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Sri Lanka to participate at the Indian Ocean Conference (held in Colombo (31 August – 02 September 2017).
- xxiii. 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Sri Lanka and ROK:
- The Embassy conducted the following promotional events to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of diplomatic relations:
- A Sri Lanka photo exhibition themed 'Sri Lanka: The Treasure Island' from 11-30 May 2017.
 - Two dance performances by Master Ravibandhu Vidyapathy and his dance troupe at the National Theatre in Seoul and the Asia Culture Centre in Gwangju on 19 and 21 May, respectively.
 - Support towards the 'Architectural Modernism in Sri Lanka: Geoffrey Bawa – Valentine Gunasekera' hosted by the Asia Culture Center (ACC) and produced by the Asia Culture Institute (ACI) in Gwangju from 31 August to 29 October 2017.
 - Commemorative stamps issued by Korea Post and Sri Lanka Post simultaneously on 14 November 2017 to mark the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and the Republic of Korea. (This was initiated by the Korean Embassy in Colombo).
- xxiv. Bilateral Agreements/ MoUs: The Embassy facilitated the signing of the following:

- A MoU on Cooperation between the Korea National Diplomatic Academy and the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute on 15 March 2017.
- A MoU on Cooperation between the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration and the KDI School of Public Policy and Management of Korea on 21 September 2017.
- Agreement on Economic Cooperation between Sri Lanka and ROK
- Framework Agreement for USD 500 Million (EDCF cooperation - Korea EXIM Bank
- Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Arts, Education, Youth and Sports
- MOU between the Ministry of Foreign Employment and Labour of ROK and the Ministry of Foreign Employment of Sri Lanka on the Sending and Receiving of Workers to the ROK under the Employment Permit System (EPS)
- MoU between the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) and Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA)
- MoU between Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) and the Korea Exchange (KRX)

b. Multilateral Relations:

- i. The Embassy regularly coordinates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as with other Korean Government institutions and multilateral institutions based in ROK, i.e., UNESCAP, Green Climate Fund, Global Green Growth institute, relevant Embassies, with regard to cooperation on multilateral issues.
- ii. The Mission coordinated with the CityNet Secretariat headquartered in the Seoul Metropolitan Government with regard to the hosting of the 2017 CityNet Congress by the Colombo Municipal Council (05-08 November 2017, in Colombo).
- iii. The Embassy coordinated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as with other Korean Government institutions and multilateral institutions based in ROK, i.e., UNESCAP, Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Green Growth institute (GGGI), relevant Embassies, with regard to cooperation on multilateral issues.
- iv. The Mission continued close contact with the Director General / GGGI Dr. Frank Rijsberman and facilitated meetings with relevant GoSL interlocutors during his visit to Sri Lanka in early November 2017, including discussions on Sri Lanka's membership of the GGGI, which is currently in process.
- v. The Mission followed up with the process of DFCC accreditation to the GCF, the application for which, has now been submitted.
- vi. The Embassy followed on the North Korean nuclear issue and related impact and escalation of tension in the Korean peninsula and provided regular updates / briefings to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo.
- vii. The Mission coordinated with the CityNet Secretariat headquartered in the Seoul Metropolitan Government with regard to the hosting of the 2017 CityNet Congress by the Colombo Municipal Council held from 05-08 November 2017, in Colombo. 350 participants from 16 countries participated in the CityNet Congress including 85 international organizations such as UNESCAP, UNHABITAT, ADB, AIIB and GGGI. 27 Mayors also attended the Congress. The Mission supported the CityNet Secretariat in coordination of the Congress,

including issuance visa for the participants. The Mayor of Seoul Hon. Park Wonsoon, the President of CitiyNet Secretariat, visited Sri Lanka to participate in the CityNet Congress during which visit he also paid a courtesy call on President Maithripala Sirisena and also met with Prime Minister Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe.

- viii. The Embassy coordinated the draft Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) with GoSL. The draft Agreement (with proposed amendments) is currently pending with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sri Lanka.

c. Bilateral Economic Relations and Foreign Investment

Discussions continued in 2017 on setting up a Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation between Sri Lanka and RoK to explore new avenues of bilateral Economic Cooperation.

- i. The Korea Importers' Association (KOIMA) with the support of the Embassy launched the KOIMA Trade Promotion Partners Committee (TPPC) of Sri Lanka on 18 April 2017.
- ii. A 16-member delegation from the Korea Importers Association (KOIMA) visited Sri Lanka headed by its Chairman Mr. Myoung Jin Shin, from 5th to 7th September 2017.

The Mission facilitated meetings for Hon. Daya Gamage, Minister of Primary Industries (06-09 July 2017), and Hon. Niroshan Perera, State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs (04-07 September 2017) with ROK's top conglomerates, Lotte (Lotte Engineering and Construction) and SK Energy, at the level of Senior Vice President/Vice President, with regard to engagement in projects and potential investment in Sri Lanka.

- iii. The Mission also met with the President of the Photovoltaic Industry Association (KOPIA) and the President and CEO of OCI with regard to investment in the solar panel manufacturing sector in Sri Lanka.
- iv. A networking Session with Private Companies and Public Organizations of Korea for collaboration in the field of Tea, Cinnamon and Herbs was organized on 07th August 2017.
- v. Facilitated with the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) in Korea for 3 Sri Lankan fisheries establishments to obtain approval to export fisheries products to ROK from January 2017.
- vi. The Mission assisted the organizers of the 43 Convention of the International Federation of Asian and Western Pacific Contractors' Associations (IFAWPCA) in Seoul in June 2017 on Sri Lanka's participation at the Convention. The event was attended by over 150 representatives of the Sri Lankan construction industry.
- vii. The Mission facilitated a visit by an expert team from Korea to Sri Lanka for two weeks from 19th May 2017 to discuss cooperation for the comprehensive planning of the proposed Science and Technology City in Colombo. A group of 10 Sri Lankan officials visited Korea in July 2017 as follow up to this.

- viii. Micro Car Holdings in Sri Lanka has established a partnership with one of ROK's top conglomerates, SK Group, to make Sri Lanka's first electric car. SK Group is scheduled to invest US\$ 30 million this year, and a further US\$ 20 million in the next two years with Micro in Sri Lanka.
- ix. The Mission assisted the Korea Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) in organising an 'Investors Forum: Business Opportunities in Sri Lanka' at KOTRA on 27 June 2017, and the Korea Land and Housing cooperation (LH) to organize a Business Forum in Seoul on 21 July 2017.
- x. With regard to tourism cooperation, the Embassy facilitated the publication of Korea's first mainstream Korean language travel guide on Sri Lanka 'Enjoy Sri Lanka' under the reputed 'Enjoy' travel series in Korea by 'Nexus' in June 2017.
- xi. The Embassy facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the International Textile Fair in Korea, International Horticulture Exhibition in Goyang, Korean International Tourism Show, Seoul Food exhibition, Korea Import Goods Fair, Seoul Friendship Fair, Korea World Travel Fair (KOTFA), G Festival, Seoul International Buddhism Expo and the Myungwon International Tea Expo.

Economic related activities that were carried out during the State visit of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to the Republic of Korea.

- H.E. the President of Sri Lanka during his state visit 2017 was accompanied by a 37-member business delegation which participated in the Business Luncheon cum Business Forum jointly hosted by the Korean Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 29 November 2017 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Seoul. Giving below are the details with regard to economic related activities that were organized by the Mission in association with relevant agencies in ROK in conjunction with the state visit.
- A Business Luncheon was hosted by the Korea Federation of Small and Medium Business (KBIZ), on 29th November 2017, in association with the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Federation of Korean Industries (FKI), Korea International Trade Association (KITA) and the Association of High Potential Enterprises of Korea (AHPEK). A large number of leading Korean companies representing each trade organization mentioned above attended the luncheon.
- The Business Luncheon was followed by a B2B Session between Korean companies and visiting Sri Lankan companies organized by the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) in association with the Korea Importers Association (KOIMA), in the afternoon of 29th November 2017. The Sri Lanka Business delegation comprised senior officials from the BOI, the EDB & the Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development, the Sri Lankan Ports Authority, and 24 private sector companies of Sri Lanka totaling 37 members (members of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the Sri Lanka-Korea Economic Cooperation Committee). The B2B Session was successfully held with the participation of around 70 Korean company representatives and a large number of one-to-one business meetings were held, giving the opportunity for Korean companies and the visiting Sri Lankan companies to establish business links in promoting bilateral and commercial relations.

xii. **Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the Governments of Sri Lanka and the Republic of Korea.**

The Mission held discussions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of ROK and the Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade of Sri Lanka, with a view to setting up a Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation between Sri Lanka and RoK to further explore new avenues of bilateral economic cooperation, including the promotion of trade, investment and tourism. As a result of these efforts, the Agreement on Economic Cooperation between Sri Lanka and ROK was signed by the Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade of Sri Lanka and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of RoK during the State visit of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to the Republic of Korea.

xiii. **EDCF Cooperation**

Facilitated discussion in 2017 and intervened to finalize the Framework Agreement in order to sign it during the State visit of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to the Republic of Korea. The Agreement is for the increase in the Korea Exim Bank Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) from the existing 300 million USD to 500 million USD over the next three years (2017-2019 period).

MoUs signed between Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka

- The Mission facilitate the signing of an MoU between the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) and Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) for cooperation in the promotion of investment which was signed between the heads of the two investment agencies during the state visit.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between The Korea Exchange (KRX) and the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) at the KRX Office in Seoul on 20 November 2017 to establish a cooperative relationship between the two Exchanges for the development of capital market industries in Sri Lanka and Korea. KRX Chairman Jiwon Jung and CSE Chairman Ray Abeywardena signed the MoU in Seoul in the presence of Sri Lanka's Ambassador to ROK. The Mission supported the process.

xiv. **Promotional activities**

- The Mission facilitated the visit of a group of 10 Korean delegates including importers, professors /academics from the Korea Food Research Institute and Tea Industrialists from the Republic of Korea to participate in the International Symposium on Traditional and Complementary Medicine, Educational Exhibition & Trade Fair - TradMed International, 2017 - Sri Lanka, organized by the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, in collaboration with the University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP) and World Health Organisation, held on the 23rd- 25thof November 2017 in Colombo. In addition, USJP will be initiating a private-public partnership between USJP and ROK on Ceylon Tea and Ceylon Cinnamon extraction.

- The Embassy facilitated Sri Lanka’s participation in the Bio Industry Expo, 2017 Jeollanam-do International Agriculture Exhibition, 16th Seoul International Café Show, World Food Expo Korea, Seongbuk World Beer Festival and the Itaewon Global Village Festival during the period under review.
- In accordance with the MoU signed in May 2016 between the Korean Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) and Sri Lanka’s Minister of Megapolis & Western Development on collaboration between the two Ministries for Megapolis and Western Region Development Activities, an expert team appointed by the Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) visited Sri Lanka several times and developed a Master Plan for Science and Technology City in Homagama (Tech City Homagama). The Master Plan was launched on 6th November, 2017 at a ceremony in Colombo with the participation of the Hon. Minister of Megapolis and Western Development.
- During the period under review, the Mission re-established the Korea – Sri Lanka Economic Cooperation Committee in the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) in November 2017, under the Chairmanship of a prominent Korean Company with significant business interests in Sri Lanka, namely Kolon Global. Accordingly, the Chairman of Kolon Global is the Chair of the Korea – Sri Lanka Economic Cooperation Committee in the KCCI, and represented the KCCI at the Business Luncheon hosted in honour of the visit of H.E. the President in November 2017. Discussions are being held with the Korea – Sri Lanka Economic Cooperation Committee to organize business promotion activities in 2018.

d. Cultural Relations

- i. The Embassy facilitated the visit of a 7-member delegation from the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism (the main Buddhist order in ROK) led by the Director of Social Affairs, Ven. Jung Moon to the 14th United Nations Day of Vesak celebrations hosted by Sri Lanka. The Mission initiated and facilitated the signing of the Agreement on Culture, Arts, Education, Youth and Sports during the State Visit.
- ii. The National Museum of Korea invited the Director, Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology of Sri Lanka, Prof. Jagath Weerasinghe to deliver a Lecture on the ‘Preservation of Buddhist Heritage in Sri Lanka: History and Challenges’ at the National Museum of Korea on 27.10.2017.
- iii. The Ambassador of Sri Lanka participated in the Katina Ceremony in *Sri Lankaramaya* temple (headed by Ven. VijithawansaThero) in Daegu City on 07 and 08 October 2017. During the visit to Daegu, the Ambassador also visited Donghwasa Temple and Seobongsa Temple in Daegu and met with the Chief Priests of the two Temples. Donghwasa Temple is the head temple of the ninth district of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism and is located on Mt. Palgongsan. Seobongsa Temple is a Jogye Order Temple located in Daegu and is well known for looking after Buddhist cultural properties. The Ambassador met with the Most Venerable Hyokwang, Chief Priest of Donghwasa Temple and Ven. Myungyeon, Chief Bhikkuni of the Seobongsa Temple during the visit. Additionally, Ambassador participated annual Katina ceremony of *Mahaviharaya* in Pyeongtaek City (headed by Ven. Dhammaditthero) on 29 October 2017.

- iv. The Mission welcomed Ven. Dhammadikithi Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Awukana Temple, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka, to the Embassy where he met with the Ambassador and staff and discussed future collaboration.
- v. Sri Lanka participated in the Itaewon Global Village Festival 2017, with the Sri Lankan stall displaying Ceylon tea, Sri Lankan spa and cosmetic products, among others, which attracted many Korean visitors on the weekend of 14 -15 October 2017.

e. Community Relations

- i. This Embassy organized a Community Meeting in parallel to the State Visit of H.E. the President to ROK on 28.11.2017. The event was attended by H.E. the President and 6 Cabinet Ministers from Sri Lanka. Around 125 Sri Lankans including EPS employees, Sri Lankan professionals, the Sri Lankan Business community, and Members of the Sri Lanka Students' Association in Korea participated in this event in addition to the Sri Lankan Buddhist clergy representing Buddhist Temples all over Korea. The Sinhala version of the Sri Lanka Embassy website was launched by H.E. the President during the meeting.
- ii. The Mission met with the Chairman and General Manager / CEO of the National Savings Bank of Sri Lanka and their representative in Korea at the Embassy on 13 October 2017 to discuss that support of NSB to Sri Lankan workers in Korea, i.e., loan schemes, support towards re-integration programmes being organised for Sri Lankan workers by GOSL. It was agreed to provide the support of NSB resource persons to 'Diriya Maga' Awareness Raising programmes organised by the Mission for Sri Lankan workers in ROK in the future.
- iii. The Mission continued discussions with Sri Lankaramaya Temple in Daegu and the *HamgehanamSesang* Korean Association in Daegu City on organizing the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of independence of Sri Lanka in Daegu City (with the Sri Lankan community) in February 2018.
- iv. The Embassy continued to engage the Sri Lankan community and its representatives and Sri Lankan associations in ROK.

f. Consular Relations

- v. The Consular Section of the Embassy provided regular consular services, i.e., issuance of passports/ emergency travel documents, renewal of passports, registration of births and deaths, solemnizing of marriages, attesting of driving licenses, signing of legal documents, and issuance of visa. Apart from the regular consular hours (Monday – Friday: 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and Saturdays 2.00 p.m.-5.00 p.m.).
- vi. The Embassy conducted four (04) consular mobile services in selected regions out of Seoul on public holidays and on weekends during the period under review. Arrangements were also made to deliver 04 Court Summons/documents issued to Sri Lankan nationals living in Korea.

- vii. The Embassy also facilitated the dispatch of 5 human remains of deceased Sri Lankan employees during the period under review, including covering of costs through discussion / negotiation. Additionally, 02 Missing cases of fishery sector workers have been reported during the period and investigations are still being conducted. The Mission is following up on these two cases.
- viii. The Mission continued with implementation of e-das system under the instructions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Consular Section) of Sri Lanka during the period under review.

g. Media

- ix. The new website (English version) of the Embassy was launched on 25th May 2017, and the Korean and Sinhala language versions are under construction.
- x. The Korean media extensively covered the State Visit of H.E. the President including Blue House Media (Presidents Office), most popular news channels such as Arirang TV news, Yonhap News and also well-known Korean Newspapers such as Korea Times, Korea Herald and Hankookilbo. The Mission also extended support to the official media delegation that accompanied H.E. the President on the State Visit.
- xi. The new website (Sinhala version) of the Embassy was launched by His Excellency the President during the community meeting on 28.11.2017, and the website is available in English, Sinhala and Korean languages. Additionally, the mobile compatible version of the website is under construction.
- xii. The Mission continued to update the Embassy Facebook page in Sinhala language to interact with the Sri Lankan Community in Korea, and to disseminate consular and employment-welfare related information. This Embassy also maintains Twitter account and a You Tube video account to promote Sri Lankan trade, investment, tourism and culture. These sites are regularly updated by the Embassy.

h. Labour Welfare

- i. During the period under review, Sri Lanka continued the process of sending employees for labour and allied employment in small- and medium-scale companies in the manufacturing, fishery, construction and agriculture sectors in ROK, under the Employment Permit System (EPS). An estimated 27,000 Sri Lankans were employed by Korean employers (SMEs) as of 31 December 2017. The majority of employees in those sectors enjoy favorable working conditions. However, 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 that arrived in ROK from 1st October to 31st December 2017 were 3460.

j. Welfare:

- i. The following statistics show a summation of the welfare tasks handled by the Employment & Welfare Section of the Embassy during the period from 1st October to 31st December 2017:

The number of work-related complaints* of the workers	- 394
No. of hospitalized cases	- 27
No. of jail cases (Sri Lankans in prison)	- 11
No. of Missing cases in the fishery sector	- 02
No. of Employment & Welfare mobile services	- 12

k. Awareness programmes

- i. The officials of the Employment & Welfare (E&W) Section of the Embassy conducted three (03) "Diriya Maga" Awareness and Counseling programmes in different regions of Korea for Sri Lankan employees in collaboration with the Human Resources Development Service of Korea (HRD) and Support Centers for Migrant Workers during the period under review. This business-oriented programme is introduced to enhance productive business and entrepreneurial skills among returning employees to ensure their smooth re-integration to the labour force of Sri Lanka on their return.
- ii. The officials of the E&W Section of the Embassy also conducted nine (09) Awareness Programme for newly arrived Sri Lankan employees at the training centers in collaboration with Korea Federation of SMEs (KBiz), National Federation of Fisheries cooperatives (NFFC) and Construction Association of Korea (CEK) during the period under review. The information contained in the programme is disseminated with a view to molding responsible and model foreign employees, and encouraging them to achieve future goals, and especially to prevent their illegal stay in Korea.

I. Visits

- i. In the summit held on 29th November 2017 between the two Heads of State, H.E Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka expressed his deep appreciation for the employment opportunities granted to Sri Lankan youth in Korea under the Employment Permit System (EPS). Acknowledging the contribution of Sri Lankan workers to the economies of the two countries, the two Heads of State agreed to further enhance cooperation under the EPS. H.E. the President also requested greater employment opportunities for Sri Lankan workers under the EPS which the Korean Government agreed to consider.
- ii. In the signing Ceremony held on November 29 following the summit in the presence of the two Heads of State, Hon. Thalatha Atokorale, Minister of Foreign Employment of Sri Lankan and Hon. Kim Young-joo, Minister of Employment and Labour of ROK signed the MoU on the Sending and Receiving of Workers to the ROK under the Employment Permit System (EPS) in front of two Heads of State.

m. Meetings

- i. Two (02) meetings were conducted with the Ministry of Employment & Labour of ROK in order to gain more employment opportunities for Sri Lankan workers under EPS, and to discuss welfare measures of Sri Lankan workers.

n. Employment Promotion:

- i. Thirty nine (39) companies were visited and offered with appreciation plaques and souvenirs as an employment promotion strategy during the period under review.

o. Outreach Programmes for Fishery Sector

- i. The E & W Section of the Embassy conducted two (02) visits to NFFC regional branches and Employment Centers in regions with the fishery industry in order to promote the recruitment of Sri Lankan fishery sector employees and to reach out to fishery sector employers through fishery associations of the regions in order to share details of the pre-departure training programme, while discussing the labour-related issues of this sector as well as meeting with the Sri Lankan fishery sector employees.

p. SLBFE Registration:

- i. A total revenue of Korean Won (KRW) 2,016,000 [Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR) 220,800.00] was collected as the SLBFE registration fee under the SLBFE Act, from 1st January to 31st December 2017, under the two categories (a) change of work place 12 SLBFE registration (KRW 1,368,000) and (b) 27 by renewal of SLBFE registration (KRW 648,000).

q. Information on Safety Measures

- i. 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. This information was disseminated via awareness programmes and the Mission Facebook page. The information was widely shared by employees and received extensive publicity which is reflective of the success of this strategy.

r. Awareness Programmes:

i. Return Support Awareness Programme

The officials of the Embassy conducted thirteen "Diriya Maga" Awareness and Counselling Programmes for Sri Lankan employees in different regions in ROK in collaboration with HRD Korea and Support Centers for Migrant Workers.

ii. Programme for Newly Arrived Employees

The Embassy conducted forty one (41) awareness programmes for newly arrived Sri Lankan employees at the training centres in collaboration with the Korea Federation of SMEs (KBIZ), the National Federation of Fisheries cooperatives (NFFC) and the Construction Association of Korea (CEK).

The Embassy conducted seven (7) visits to the NFFC regional branches and Employment Centers in regions engaged in the fisheries industry in order to promote the recruitment of more Sri Lankan employees.

iii. Employment & Welfare Relations Meetings

Six (6) meetings were conducted with the Korean authorities in order to promote more job opportunities, welfare measures and to ensure the protection and welfare of Sri Lankan workers.

1.9. Singapore

a. Bilateral Relations

The Mission facilitated the following visit:

- i. The visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore to Sri Lanka from 17-20 July 2017. A MoU was signed between the Singapore Red Cross and the Sri Lankan Red Cross on relief and rehabilitation programmes in Sri Lanka.
- ii. Visit of Foreign Minister Balakrishnan to Sri Lanka on 31 Aug - 1 Sep 2017 to attend the 2nd Indian Ocean Conference as a co-chair of the Meeting held in Colombo.
- iii. The visit of Hon. S. Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore to Sri Lanka in May/June 2017. A business delegation of 28 Singapore companies, led by International Enterprise (IE) Singapore and the Singapore Business Federation (SBF), also joined the Ministerial Delegation to explore business opportunities in Sri Lanka.
- iv. Hon. Dr. Harsha De Silva, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Singapore on 9th January 2017.
- v. The visit of Mr. Albert Chua, Second Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Singapore to Sri Lanka in May 2017.
- vi. The Mission facilitated the visit of Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Megapolis and Western Development to Singapore in December 2017.
- vii. H.E. the High Commissioner undertook an official visit to Brunei Darussalam from 30th October - 1st November 2017 and met with Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Minister at Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam and held discussion on a range of areas of mutual interest and proposed to sign a MoU on Political Consultation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries to further enhance cooperation.
- viii. The Mission followed up with the relevant Sri Lankan authorities (Prime Minister's Office/PMO & Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration/SLIDA) and the Singapore authorities (Civil Service College and Temasek International) to develop a Comprehensive Public Sector Training Programme for Sri Lankan Public Officials, where majority of funding is granted from the Singapore side.

b. Multilateral Relations

- i. The mission ensured Sri Lanka's participation at several important multilateral fora held in Singapore, such as IISS Asia Security Summit: Shangri-La Dialogue, Meetings of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), and IMDEX Asia (Defence related) Conferences etc.

c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

- i. The Mission facilitated several rounds of Free Trade Agreement negotiations.
- ii. The Mission coordinated with Surbana Jurong (SJ), Singapore to lead a delegation to Colombo from 22 – 25 February 2017 for meetings with the Hon. Prime Minister and several other Senior Ministers to discuss business partnerships and investments in Sri Lanka. Following the above visit, Surbana Jurong, Singapore and BOI, Sri Lanka finalized a Joint Venture Agreement.
- iii. International Enterprise (IE) Singapore, organized the Board of Directors of IE to undertake their first visit to Sri Lanka in coordination with the Mission from 24-25 April 2017.
- iv. The High Commission facilitated three trade/investment promotional events in collaboration with IE Singapore, Singapore Business Federation and Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce during 8th to 10th November 2017.
- v. Meet in Sri Lanka “MICE” promotion event was organised in Orchard Hotel Singapore on 11th October, 2017 by the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau together with the Sri Lanka High Commission in Singapore and Sri Lankan Airlines.

d. Cultural Relations

- i. A visit of a dance troupe, under the patronage of Singapore’s National Arts Council, to Sri Lanka was facilitated in March 2017.

1.10. Thailand

a. Bilateral Relations

i. Visits to Thailand:

- The former Hon. Minister of Justice & Buddhasasana visited to extend invitations for the UN International Vesak Day to HM the King, HRH the Princess and HE the Prime Minister.

ii. Visits from Thailand:

- Hon Minister attached to the Thai PM’s office in charge of religious affairs visited Sri Lanka for the UN International Vesak Day 2017 celebrations together with a delegation.
- The Mission assisted in organizing the initial negotiations for the purchase of rice between the concerned authorities of both countries in mid July.
- Facilitated communication between Ministers of Health of the two countries seeking Thai assistance on the dengue epidemic. Subsequently facilitated a one week mission of two Thai experts for this purpose.
- Discussions are progressing with the Thai Royal Rainmaking Bureau for training a Sri Lankan technical team on artificial rainmaking technology.
- Facilitated the visit of Hon Foreign Minister to attend the Royal cremation on 26 October.

iii. Defence visits: To Thailand:

- (i) senior military officers as Observers for the COBRA GOLD exercise (ii) 15 member Defence Services Command & Staff College delegation (iii) 1 navy officer for the 11th Intelligence Exchange Conference (iv) 2 senior navy officers for the Bali Process meeting (v) Senior Army officer for Defence & Security 2017, Conference, Exhibition & Networking event (vi) participation of SLNS 'Sayurala' in 50th Anniversary of ASEAN – International Fleet Review

b. Multilateral Relations

The following visits/attendance meetings were facilitated:

- i. Attendance of Minister of Industry of Sri Lanka and Commerce and delegation at the Fourth session of the Ministerial Council of the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) (13 January 2017) and meetings with Thai Minister of Commerce, consumer goods suppliers to Sri Lanka, Mitr Phol Sugar Corp., Ltd, OTOP consultant etc were facilitated.
- ii. Attendance of Deputy Minister of Power and Renewable Energy and delegation at the 1st session of the Committee on Energy in January.
- iii. Attendance of Hon Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife and delegation's participation at the Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD) in March.
- iv. The participation of Hon State Minister of International Trade at this forum and organized meetings with Thai investors and members of the Board of Trade.
- v. The convening of the Fourth High Level Dialogue on Financing for Development (April) and attendance of the then Hon Minister of Finance and a 6 member delegation.
- vi. The participation of Sri Lanka delegation to the 73 Commission Session of the UNESCAP (May).
- vii. Facilitated attendance at UNESCAP meetings
- viii. Hon State Minister of International Trade at the *5th Committee on Trade & Investment* (November)
- ix. Hon Deputy Minister of National Policies & Economic Affairs at the *2nd Ministerial Conference on RECI* (November)
- x. Sri Lanka delegation to the *Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* (November)

c. Economic Relations & Foreign Investments

The following Visits/Events/Meetings were facilitated / coordinated /participated/ by the Mission:

- i. The visit of the Hon. Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade and delegation to Thailand (February). The delegation met with the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand in charge of Economic Affairs, and other Ministers and private Thai investors, as well as site visits to industrial parks. The Thai

proposal to expedite the bilateral FTA and sign a Strategic Economic Partnership (SEP) was welcomed.

- ii. In the 2nd meeting of the Sub Committee on Trade related matters between Sri Lanka and Thailand (June), on which occasion the draft for a SEP was provided by the Thai side.
- iii. Participation of Sri Lankan traders in: (i) 59th Bangkok Gems & Jewelry Fair (February) (ii) Supports Arts and Crafts International Centre of Thailand (SACICT) Fair 2017(March) (iii) ThaiFex – World of Food of Asia 2017(May/June) (iv) 60th Bangkok Gems & Jewelry Fair (September).
- iv. Visits of Sri Lankan delegations in the following sectors & also organized B2B meetings (i) logistics (ii) electronic and electrical (September).
- v. The participation of Thai delegations to events in Sri Lanka: (i) Facets Sri Lanka (August/September) (ii) Sri Lanka Investment & Business Conclave 2017 (May/June).
- vi. Participation of Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, former SG of UNCTAD & DG of WTO, at the Sri Lanka Retail Forum and deliver Key Note address (September).
- vii. Participation of Sri Lanka Embassy in Red Cross Bazar (February) to promote tea, cinnamon, gems, jewellery, handicrafts, footwear, Strategic Economic Partnership. Mission provided observations on the first draft text presented by EDB and on the Thai proposal on utilizing the BIMSTEC concession lists submitted by the 2 countries.

The following activities were facilitated / coordinated

- In August 2017, a Letter of Intent was signed between BOI Sri Lanka and Thai company – Rojana Industrial Park, to establish a 400 acre industrial park which would bring in an investment of USD 500 million.
- Initiated the MoU on technical cooperation between Sri Lanka and Thailand in implementing the 'One Tambon- One Product' (OTOP). Observations are awaited.
- MoU between Ministry of Primary Industries of Sri Lanka and the Faculty of Agriculture, Kasetsart University of Thailand on Technological Collaboration related to Value Addition of Primary Industrial Products finalized.
- MoU between Ministry of Primary Industries of Sri Lanka and the Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives of Thailand on Capacity Building, Combined Workshops and Training Programmes was signed in September.
- Sri Lanka has completed internal legal procedures to implement MoU on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- Participation of Sri Lanka Embassy & Thai agents of Sri Lankan companies: (ii) YWCA Diplomatic Charity Bazaar (November) to promote & sell tea, cinnamon, gems & jewellery, ayurveda products, footwear and biscuits.
- Facilitated visits of Sri Lankan delegations in various sectors & also organized B2B meetings (iii) automotive parts manufacturing (November)

- Facilitated & coordinated meetings with relevant Thai Universities and officials from Sri Lanka's CARP to explore MSc & PhD programmes for agricultural scientists (October).
- Organized visit of State Minister of Agriculture to AIT to finalise programme on capacity building measures for Ministry officials (October).

d. Tourism Promotion

- i. Facilitated participation of SLTPB in the 20th Thai International Travel Fair (February) with a Sri Lankan Traditional dance troupe.
- ii. The Mission advised and facilitated a delegation of 215 monks, novices, officials and lay persons travelled to Sri Lanka in February 2017 to engage in Buddhist circuit tourism.
- iii. Held a reception for Thai travel agents/tour operators.

e. Cultural Relations

- i. The Mission organized 3 month merit making event in memory of late King Bhumibol Adulyadej at royal temple of Wat Arun in January with Thai media coverage.

1.11. Cambodia

a. Bilateral relations

- i. A two day visit of the then Minister of Justice & Buddhasasana (March), to meet Cambodian dignitaries to extend invitations to the UN International Vesak Day celebrations was Facilitated.
- ii. Subsequent to continuous representations over several years to remove the restrictions placed on Sri Lankans travelling to Cambodia, the Cambodian government opened the e-visa system for Sri Lankans in June 2017.
- iii. Facilitated the participation of the Cambodian delegates to the Annual Diplomatic Training Programme 2017 under the Foreign Ministry Technical Cooperation programme.

1.12. Lao PDR

a. Bilateral relations

- i. Facilitated a one day visit of the then Minister of Justice & Buddhasasana, accompanied by the Ambassador, March, 2017 to extend invitations to Laos dignitaries to attend the UN International Vesak Day celebrations.
- ii. Assisted the Lao official delegation from the government and Buddhist religious leaders to attend the UN International Vesak Day celebrations in Sri Lanka in May.
- iii. Facilitated a visit of a seven member delegation from the Sri Lanka-Laos Parliamentary Friendship Group of Sri Lanka to Laos in June.

- iv. Coordinated the visit of HE Phongsavath Boupha, Former Minister, and Head of Presidential Office of Lao PDR, to attend the second Indian Ocean Conference in Sri Lanka.
- v. Initiated the process to conclude the following agreements between Sri Lanka and Laos: MoU on Bilateral Political Consultations and Agreement on Exemption of visa for diplomatic and official passport holders

1.13. Viet Nam

a. Bilateral Relations - Visits

- i. Arranged the visit of Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to Viet Nam from 16-18 April. During the visit an Agreement on Educational Cooperation and MoU on Agricultural Cooperation during were signed.
- ii. Facilitated the visit of Hon. Maheepala Herath, Chief Minister of Subragamuwa Province from 11-18 March to participate in the Workshop on Viet Nam Cooperative System.
- iii. Organized the visit of Hon. Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, then Minister of Justice and Buddhasasana from 16-19 March who visited Viet Nam to deliver the letter of invitation for the 14th UN Vesak Day.
- iv. Facilitated the visit of Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce to attend the 10th Asia-Pacific Cooperation Ministers' Conference in Ha Noi from 17-20 April.
- v. Facilitated the visit of Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs to Viet Nam from 29 July-02 Aug.
- vi. Facilitated the visit of Dr. W.M.W. Weerakoon, FCRDI in Mahailluppallama to participate in the Regional Conference on Food Security from 22-23 March.
- vii. Arranged the participation of Mr. Nguyen Phuong Tuan, Standing Member of FAC of NA in Viet Nam for the regional meeting of Young Parliamentarians in SL from 25-26 April.
- viii. Facilitated the visit of a 05-member delegation of GCRA and a 18-member of cultural troupe from VN to participate in the 14th UN Vesak Day in SL.
- ix. Arranged a study tour of 12-member delegation from DSCSC of SL to VN from 09-21 Aug.
- x. Facilitated the participation of Major General Ajith Kariyakarawana from SL Army and Lieutenant Colonel Nalaka Sapugastenna from SL Navy for the "04th International Defence Officers Training Course" organized by the National Defence Academy of Vietnam from 03 Oct. - 17 Nov. 2018.
- xi. New batch of 04 SL students arrived in Ha Noi in mid-Oct. for undergraduate studies in the Academic Year 2017/2018 under the Agreement on Educational Cooperation, signed in April 2017.

b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investment

- i. During the visit of Hon. Prime Minister, the Mission organized 'Sri Lanka – Viet Nam Investment Forum' with the participation of more than 40 VN companies and organized one-to-one meetings with top Viet Nam and Foreign CEOs for the delegation accompanied the Hon. Prime Minister.
- ii. Organized Ceylon Cinnamon and Ceylon Tea Promotional Event on 01 June.
- iii. Supported GT Awards Night 2017 of the Douglas & Sons (Pvt) Ltd of Sri Lanka on 22 July.
- iv. Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka had discussions with the officials of Dinh Vu Industrial Zone JSC (Deep C), visited to the Hung Yen Knitting and Dying Company and Linea Aqua (Viet Nam) Co. Ltd. on 31 July.
- v. Facilitated a visit of a 20-member trade delegation organized by MOIT of VN to SL from 10 -14 Aug.
- vi. In coordination with SLEDB, facilitated visit of the 12-member delegation by SLEDB to VN, representing the Electronic/Electrical Industry of SL from 04th to 06th Sep.
- vii. The Mission facilitated Mr. Saleh Ahmed/CEO of Asia Nordic Consultant and his team to visit SL from 13th -16th Sept to meet relevant SL agencies to establish waste recycling plant and a renewable energy project in SL.
- viii. Organized a Business Conclave themed "SRI LANKA: Hub of the Indian Ocean-The Land of Business Opportunities" at the Rex Hotel in HCMC on 30Nov 2017. The event was attended by over 100 Vietnamese business community, including media as well as few expats and SL professionals/entrepreneurs.
- ix. Facilitated the visit of Mr. Samantha Wickramarachchi, Owner of the Sunray Gems SL to VN from 29 Nov. - 05 Dec 2017. Arranged B2B meetings with gem and jewellery buyers in Ha Noi and visit to the Luc Yen Gem market in Yen Bai province.
- x. Facilitated the visit of Mr. Nalin Jayasundera, Managing Director of Aitken Spence Travel SL from 29Nov. - 01 Dec 2017 including B2B meetings with Vietnamese travels agents.

c. Cultural Relations

- i. The Mission made arrangements to send a media team of Nhan Dan TV to SL under the VJP of SLTPB from 02-10 Aug.
- ii. Organized a Sri Lanka Tourism Promotional Event to coincide with the Celebration of Vietnamese Women's Day on 20 Oct. which was attended by over 50 Vietnamese women, who have excelled in numerous fields.
- iii. Participated in the Opening Ceremony of the 13th Anniversary of the VN Culture Heritage Day showcasing SL traditional costumes at Ha Noi Old Quarter Culture Center on 17th Nov 2017.
- iv. Facilitated display of SL traditional art /paintings and books on SL art at the International Almanity-Arternative light Art Exhibition held in the ancient town of Hoi An, organized by the Almanity Hoi An Wellness Resort from 18 - 20 Nov. in

conjunction with the APEC summit in Da Nang and the celebration of 3rd year Anniversary of the Resort.

- v. Ambassador was invited (together with Ms. Thao Nguyen-Griffiths, Policy Advisor of VCCI) to share their career changes stories with guests at the 16th Women's Story telling Salon on "Stories of Career Changes and Choices" held at the residence of the Ambassador on 05 Dec.
- vi. Participated in the 5th International Food Festival at the Van Phuc Diplomatic Compound in Ha Noi organized by the Service Department for Diplomatic Corps of MFA of VN on 10 Dec.

Economic Affairs and Trade Division

Economic Affairs & Trade Division

1. The Economic Affairs and Trade Division is entrusted with activities relating to bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation. It closely coordinates 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.
2. The Division also plays a pivotal role in assisting other Ministries in efforts to advance economic diplomacy initiatives and attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), by organizing business/investment related meetings.

1. Key activities during the period under review;

3. The Economic Affairs and Trade Division is the main facilitator of the Ministry's Economic Diplomacy Programme and it coordinates bilateral trade and investment promotion activities with other countries through Sri Lanka Missions abroad. The Division liaises with key Government institutions responsible for promoting trade, investment, tourism and other economic activities.
4. The Division facilitated 09 high level incoming visits from Jordan, Iran, Georgia, Turkey, Russia, Hungary, China, Singapore and Germany during January to September 2017.
5. There were also 08 high level outgoing visits to Bangladesh, Russia, Sweden, Thailand, Belgium, Kuwait, UAE and The Philippines.
6. The Economic Affairs and Trade Division coordinated 11 inward business visits from Canada, Oman, New Zealand, Sweden, Thailand, Lebanon, South Africa, Australia, Brazil, China and Nepal and 04 outward business visits to Mozambique, Belgium, New Zealand and Thailand.
7. The Actg. DG/EA & T and Assistant Legal Advisor of the Ministry participated at the FTA and the ETCA negotiations on the services, economic and technology cooperation and investment chapter.
8. The Division continues working closely with international economic organizations, particularly on matters concerning trade related treaties and advancement of free trade.
9. The Economic Affairs and Trade Division coordinated with the Ministry of Industry & Commerce and National Intellectual Property Office (NIPO) on matters relating to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). This Division represents the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the National Steering Committee on Intellectual Property. The National Steering Committee was formed in order to formulate the National Intellectual Property Policy.
10. A 10 Point Action Plan was formulated to engage with the WIPO. Sri Lanka was selected for the first time as one of the four pilot countries to participate in the CDIP project titled "Intellectual Property, Tourism and Culture". In April 2017 Sri Lanka held a National Workshop on Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Expressions which is a tangible outcome in implementing this Action Plan. This Division also coordinates the work between WIPO and NIPO, and facilitating the participation of Sri Lankan officials at various WIPO events throughout the year (patents, trademark, copyrights, industrial designs and enforcement), matters relating to Lisbon System, Madrid Treaty, etc.

11. The Economic Affairs and Trade 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). Presently 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).
12. The 73rd Session of the UNESCAP was held in Bangkok from 15-19 May 2017. The National Delegation was headed by Hon. Ajith P Perera, Deputy Minister of Power and Energy and Hon. S B Dissanayake, Minister of Social Empowerment & Welfare chaired a side event on Social Development. This Division was instrumental in coordination of matters related to the delegation and formulation of National Policies for the 73rd Session. In addition, the Division coordinates the participation of Sri Lanka's representatives at meetings, conferences, workshops, etc. associated with UNESCAP.
13. The Division coordinates all work related to the Group of Fifteen (G-15) and G-77 and coordinated with the Permanent Missions in Geneva and New York on matters related to Sri Lanka's Chairmanship of the G-15 for the period 2010-2017.
14. Economic Affairs and Trade Division, along with the Ministry of Foreign Employment (the focal point for Colombo Process) coordinated the activities of the Colombo Process.
15. The Economic Affairs and Trade 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.

2. Statistics of Issuance of Visa from January 2017 to September 2017

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 Whom	No. of Visas	To Whom	No. of Visas
ADB	119	NAIPO	05	EDB	02	ADB	25
World Bank	400			Ukrinmash	02	World Bank	61
JICA	91					JAICA	114
Central Bank	05					Colombo Plan	44
Dept of Commerce	60					IMF	01
Other	409					IFC	04

16. 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.

17. Substantive issues relating to the Colombo Plan are also handled by this Division. The Division facilitated the celebration of the 66th anniversary of the Colombo Plan. The Economic Affairs and Trade Division participated at the 289, 291, 292 and special sessions of the Colombo Plan Council Meetings. At these meetings, the Government of Sri Lanka offered a plot of land on rent free basis to the Colombo Plan Secretariat for the construction of a building for its Secretariat.
18. Under the Technical Cooperation Programme of the Ministry, the Economic Affairs and Trade Division conducted a Training Programme for Junior Diplomats from 23 countries of Asia and Africa from 17th September to 29th September 2017 in collaboration with the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI).
19. The Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka attended the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland from 17th – 20st January, 2017 along with a delegation. This Division coordinated the work related to WEF and prepared the briefing material for the Hon. Prime Minister's meetings at WEF.
20. The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) on the Sidelines of the 72nd UNGA on 21st September 2017 in New York.
21. Establishment of an Inter-Agency Task Force for Promotion of Economic Diplomacy; The main objective of this mechanism is to create a platform for all national stakeholders to work in partnership to maximize the benefits of international economic endeavours to facilitate effective collaboration and coordination of all issues related to economic diplomacy including trade, investment, tourism, development assistance, membership in regional and international groupings and other international economic activities.
22. Knowledge platform for Economic Diplomacy: The main purpose of the knowledge platform is to provide the necessary information required by the Missions to promote trade, investment and other economic activities connected to Sri Lanka.
23. In this regard, Verité Research, the resources provider engaged for preparing the content for the knowledge platform for Economic Diplomacy completed the following task as per the contract.

Power Point Presentation with voice-over on

- i) Investing in Sri Lanka
- ii) Sri Lanka; an emerging economy in South Asia
- iii) Trading with Sri Lanka

Briefing notes on:

- i) Sri Lanka Maritime and Logistic Hub
- ii) Sri Lanka's Trade Agreements
- iii) Key infrastructure projects and opportunities or foreign investment in Sri Lanka
- iv) EU GSP Plus for Sri Lanka

Q & A notes on the following:

- i) Commercial Hub Regulations in Sri Lanka
- ii) Exchange Control Regulations
- iii) Investment Regulations in Sri Lanka
- iv) Trade Taxes and Trade Regulations in Sri Lanka
- v) BREXIT and its impact on Sri Lanka

24. The above documents were made available to our Missions in a drop box format.
25. Since then the Verité Research updated the presentation, briefing notes and Q & A notes twice. The Embassies were advised to familiarise with the details given in these documents and use them effectively. The Verité Research will also assist the Missions in the initial stage in respect of their understanding and handling of information. The final updates on the Power Point presentation and notes have to be completed in November 2017 by the Verité Research, as agreed in the contract. (Final presentations are under process).

A. BIMSTEC

Activities done for the 20th Anniversary of BIMSTEC

26. A half a page supplement was published in the Daily News newspaper on 06th June 2017 with the messages of H.E the President, Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Secretary General of the BIMSTEC.
27. "Madura Charika" Sinhala film screened at the BIMSTEC film festival held in Dhaka from 22-26 July 2017.
28. The Economic Affairs & Trade Division of Ministry in collaboration with Lakshman Kadrigamar Institute (LKI) convened a Panel Discussion on BIMSTEC titled "BIMSTEC at 20 – Priorities for the Future" on 08th December 2017.

15th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting & 18th Senior Officials' Meeting

29. Sri Lanka delegation for the 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial meeting which was held on 11th August 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal was led by the Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs. At the conclusion of the Meeting, the Heads of Delegation issued a Joint Statement calling for making BIMSTEC stronger, more effective and result oriented.
30. Addl. Secretary/EA & T, ME & A and Director/EA & T attended the 18th BIMSTEC Senior Officials meeting.
31. The Economic Affairs Division coordinated with the concerned line Ministries with regard to the Sri Lanka's participation in the following BIMSTEC meetings during January to September 2017:
- i. The First Annual Meeting of the BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs, 21 March 2017, New Delhi.
 - ii. The Third Meeting of the BNPTT in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 22-23 April 2017.
 - iii. The Seventh Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Legal and Law Enforcement Issues in Yangon, Myanmar on 22-23 March 2017.
 - iv. The Ninth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Combating the Financing of Terrorism, 26-27 April 2017, Yangon, Myanmar.

- v. 1st Meeting of BIMSTEC Network of Tour Operators, New Delhi, 07th July 2017.
- vi. Preparatory Meeting to the first BIMSTEC Annual Disaster Management
- vii. Exercise, New Delhi, India from 08-09 August 2017.
- viii. First Track 1.5 BIMSTEC Security Dialogue Forum, New Delhi, India, 22 September 2017.
- ix. First Annual BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise, New Delhi, from 10-13 October 2017.
- x. First Annual BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise, New Delhi, from 10-13 October 2017.
- xi. Second Meeting of the BIMSTEC Transport Connectivity Working Group (BTCWG), Bangkok, Thailand, 13-14 November 2017.
- xii. International Workshop on Blue Economy, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 22-23 November 2017.
- xiii. First Working Group Meeting to discuss and finalize the Draft Text of the Coastal Shipping Agreement among BIMSTEC Member States, New Delhi, India 27-28 November 2017.
- xiv. Sixth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Agriculture Cooperation, Chang Rai, Thailand, 12-16 December 2017.

Sri Lanka hosted the following BIMSTEC Meetings

- i. Fourth meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on the Establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility in Colombo on 21-22 November 2017.
- ii. Third BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation and the Third BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting on Poverty Alleviation in Colombo 19-20 December 2017.

Readiness of following activities to be done by Sri Lanka has been informed to the BIMSTEC Secretariat

- i. Finalization of the draft MoU for the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection. Sri Lanka has informed the readiness to sign the MoU on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection.
- ii. BIMSTE Network Tour Operators – Sri Lanka offered to host the Second Meeting of the BIMSETC Network Tour Operators in 2018.
- iii. Eighth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group – Sri Lanka will host the Eighth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group in 2018.

D. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

32. IORA Leaders' Summit was held from 5 – 7 March 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia to commemorate the 20th Anniversary Association. H.E. the President, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senior Officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated at the event.
33. Seventh Bi-annual Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) of IORA was held from 02nd – 03rd August 2017 in Bali, Indonesia. Two Senior Officials from Economic Affairs Division participated at the event.
34. Second IORA Ministerial Blue Economy Conference was held from 08 – 10 May 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Hon. State Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development and senior officials from Fisheries Ministry and from Foreign Ministry participated.
35. IORA's 17th Meeting of the Council of Ministers and related Meetings were held from 14th – 18th October 2017 in Durban, South Africa. Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senior Officials from the Ministry participated.

European Union, Multilateral Treaties and Commonwealth Division

1. Sri Lanka's relations with the EU

The following include the key achievements/activities of the Division in the past 12 months in terms of Sri Lanka's relations with the European Union:

a. Restoration of the EU GSP+ trade facility

The bilateral engagement between Sri Lanka and the EU continued to improve in 2017. The EU continued to work with the Government in two important areas of economic interest:

- i) Follow-up work after the lifting of EU ban on fishery exports from Sri Lanka
- ii) Provision of the EU GSP Plus Facility to Sri Lanka.

The decision by the European Commission to lift the ban on Sri Lanka's fishery exports was a significant development of political and economic value for Sri Lanka.

Adding further momentum to the bilateral relations, the European Union on 19th May 2017 decided to restore the GSP Plus concession, allowing Sri Lanka to export products tax free to the European Market, as incentive for reform. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs led the process of addressing concerns pertaining to the implementation of the international human rights conventions relevant to GSP+, which was critical for regaining the trade facility that Sri Lanka had lost in 2010. With the restoration of the GSP+ facility, Sri Lankan products have been provided access to the EU market under significantly less duties with effect from 19 May 2017.

Following the grant of GSP plus facility to Sri Lanka, the GoSL expects that Sri Lanka's exports will diversify, the rate of unemployment will fall, the economic benefits will percolate to all segments of society and the SME sector will develop further.

A Monitoring Mechanism to follow-up on the implementation of GSP+ related commitments chaired by the Prime Minister's Office was set up in 2017. The Ministry assisted the process of establishing the monitoring structure and continues to support and coordinate with the National Focal Point on GSP+ (Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade) the process of monitoring of the implementation of GSP+ action points.

- b. In January 2017, the European Investment Bank (EIB) concluded an agreement with the GoSL for Euro 50 million concessional loans. This loan facility is intended to support improvement and expansion for the Greater Colombo Waste Water Management Project. Exchange of high-level visits and dialogue is an imperative.
- c. The EU also included "Democracy and Reconciliation" as a new pillar in their Development Assistance Programme. This is an important sign of EU's support for Government's Reform Agenda and for Sri Lanka's economic advancement. 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).
- d. The European Union provided financial assistance worth Euro 300,000 (approximately SLRs.55 million) to Sri Lanka for the recent landslide and floods.
- e. The European Union recently launched a EURO 8 million (LKR 1.3 billion) project that will help Sri Lanka increase its trade competitiveness in regional and European markets. The project will be implemented over a period of four years by the

International Trade Centre (ITC) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in collaboration with the Sri Lankan Department of Commerce. Although, UNIDO is an implementing partner, funds are provided by the EU.

f. The Division facilitated and provided required input for the following visits:

- i. The Hon. Prime Minister paid an official visit to Brussels in October 2016. The discussions held with higher officials of EU focused on further expanding trade, investment and economic ties, and expediting progress on some of the specific requirements for the restoration of GSP Plus.
 - ii. The Committee of Political Coordinators of the Asia-Oceania of the European Council (COASI) visited Sri Lanka from 5-9 June 2017. The members of COASI undertake periodic visits to countries with which the EU has special relations. This visit was especially significant in the context of GSP Plus. – The Committee had discussions with senior Government officials. It is reported that the Committee has submitted a favourable report to the European Council.
 - iii. A high level European Investment Bank (EIB) delegation led by Hon. Andrew McDowell, Vice President of EIB visited Sri Lanka in March 2017 following the invitation extended during the visit of the then Hon. Minister of Finance and Hon. Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade to Brussels in January 2017. The delegation met Hon. Prime Minister and had follow-up discussions with the then Finance Minister. The visit of EIB was timely as it contributed to the strengthening of EU – Sri Lanka partnership, in particular EU-SL investment dialogue.
 - iv. A Monitoring Mission from the European Commission visited Sri Lanka in September 2017 to review the status of Sri Lanka's implementation of the 27 international conventions relevant to GSP+. The Ministry supported the Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade, the National Focal Point for GSP+ in facilitating the visit and engaging in stakeholder consultations with the Monitoring Mission.
 - v. A Parliamentary Delegation for South Asia in the European Parliament visited Sri Lanka from 31 October 2017 onward, as part of their official mission to review bilateral relations as well as development cooperation and progress on EU GSP+ commitments.
- g. The Division arranged, coordinated and participated at the following key meetings pertaining to EU-Sri Lanka relations:
- i. The GoSL hosted the 2nd Meeting of EU-Sri Lanka Working Group on Human Rights, Governance, and Rule of Law on 13th -14th March 2017. The EU recognized the progress made by the Government of Sri Lanka in various areas, including: - The ratification of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; - The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; - The passing of the Right to Information Act; - The passing of the legislation on the Office on Missing Persons; and - Other symbolic steps taken to advance reconciliation.
 - ii. Sri Lanka and EU have initiated an Investment Dialogue from 2017. A number of consultations have taken place between the EU delegation and potential investors on the one hand the government officials and Board of Investment on the other clarifying investment related concerns, laws, incentives etc.

- iv. The EU-Sri Lanka Working Group on Trade and Economic Relations Cooperation was held in Brussels in June 2017.
- v. Preparatory work was undertaken for the 21st meeting of the EU-SL Joint Commission to be held in Colombo on 18 January 2018

2. Multilateral Treaties

- a. Formulation and finalization of Sri Lanka's National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights for 2017-2021.
 - The Division, with the support of the UN Division, led the process for the formulation of Sri Lanka's National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (NHRAP) for 2017-2021 through a comprehensive, intensive and vibrant national process that involved members of the Cabinet, government ministries/agencies, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, civil society organizations, the general public and key international organizations present in Colombo.
 - The process, which was a voluntary, inclusive and participatory one, commenced in May 2016 with the Cabinet of Ministers appointing an Inter-Ministerial Committee to direct the formulation of the NHRAP 2017-2021. It was conducted through a multi-level consultation mechanism involving a Steering Committee chaired by the Hon. Attorney General and 2 Coordinating Committees - one for Government representatives and the other for civil society organizations, and 10 Drafting Committees comprising both officials and experts from Ministries and Agencies, as well as civil society representatives that worked on the inputs.
 - Prior to commencing work on the Action Plan, views and observations were called from the general public and the civil society through notices published in national newspapers and the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The inputs so received were given due consideration by the 10 Drafting Committees in drafting their recommendations. The draft that was developed through this process, after clearance by the Steering Committee, was opened for public dialogue organized by the Ministry in Kandy on 23 November 2016. This was followed immediately by consultations with other stakeholders in Sri Lanka, in particular the Human Rights Commission. The drafts were also vetted by a group of eminent academics and activists informally to ensure human rights compatibility.
 - Altogether, almost 40 meetings and consultations were organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo and outside with the objective of securing maximum participation in the process and ensuring that all views and perspectives would find reflection in the draft Action Plan.
 - The Action Plan so finalised was adopted by the Cabinet on 3 October 2017. Upon receipt of Cabinet approval, the Ministry facilitated the translation of the finalised NHRAP into all 3 languages and arranged for the designing and printing thereof. The NHRAP was launched by the Hon. Prime Minister in Parliament on 1 November 2017.
- b. Engaging with the UN human rights treaty bodies

The Division carried out the following tasks with regard to Sri Lanka's reporting obligations under the UN human rights treaty bodies:

- i. Submission of addenda, responses to lists of issues, follow-up questions raised by the following treaty bodies –

- UN Human Rights Committee
 - UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
 - UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
 - UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
 - UN Committee against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment
 - UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
- c. Representing Sri Lanka/facilitating Sri Lanka's representation at the review of Sri Lanka's periodic reports under the following international human rights instruments:
- i. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
 - ii. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
 - iii. Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment
- d. Follow-up on the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)

The Division facilitated Sri Lanka's representation in UNCAC-related conferences, including assistance with the finalization of Self-Assessment checklist under Chapter (II) and (V) of the UN Convention Against Corruption. It also ensured effective participation in the Implementation Review Group under UNCAC, held in Vienna in June 2017 and the Working Group on Prevention and Asset Recovery held in August 2017. The Division also initiated discussions with stakeholders on the broad contours of draft National Action Plan on Anti-Corruption.

3. The Commonwealth

- a. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Sri Lanka High Commission in London continued to liaise with the Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2018 and the officials of the UK CHOGM Office on all preparatory matters of the upcoming Summit in London.
- b. The Ministry, with the cooperation of SLHC/London, facilitated all the Commonwealth Secretariat's (ComSec) visit to Sri Lanka during the period under reference including the visit of Justice Dikgang Mosenike, former deputy Chief Justice of South Africa, who was invited by the Constitutional Assembly of the Parliament (June 2017), to provide technical assistance regarding the drafting of Constitution.
- c. The Ministry Facilitated the Ministerial visits to attend the Commonwealth Meetings including Commonwealth Trade Ministers' Meeting. The High Commission arranged a bilateral discussion between former Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Commonwealth Secretary-General during his visit to London in January.
- d. Other Ministerial Meetings such as Commonwealth Youth Games, Women, Law, Health, etc. were coordinated by the Ministry and these Ministerial Meetings came up with outcome documents which supported promotion of cooperation and assistance among Commonwealth countries including Sri Lanka.
- e. The GoSL was represented at the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting in September 2017 in New York which discussed thematic and other priorities for the Commonwealth in the lead up to CHOGM 2018.

- e. Among initiatives that the GoSL is advancing through Commonwealth remains enhancing intra-Commonwealth trade and economic framework, cyber security, prevention of illegal wild life trade, Countering Violence Extremism and the Urbanisation etc.
- g. The Ministry supported the High Commission as the main liaison office between the ComSec 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.

Finance Division

Finance Division

Head No. 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 Division 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 2017 are as follows;

(a) Recurrent :-

Description	Total Provision as at 31.12.2017	Total Expenditure as at 31.12.2017	% of Expenditure on provision
	Rs.	Rs.	
Personal Emoluments	5,696,862,450	5,696,049,915	100
Other Recurrent Expenditure	3,980,368,990	3,926,935,451	99
Total	9,677,231,440	9,622,985,366	99

(b) Capital :-

Object	Description	Total Provision as at 31.12.2017	Total Expenditure as at 31.12.2017	% of Expenditure on provision
		Rs.	Rs.	

Rehabilitation & Improvement of Capital Assets

2001	Buildings & Structures	98,718,700	48,708,002	49
2002	Plant, Machinery & Equipment	12,200,000	3,413,603	28
2003	Vehicles	29,000,000	6,995,011	24

Acquisition of Capital Assets

2101	Vehicles	82,969,000	78,226,405	94
2102	Furniture & Office Equipment	84,898,300	69,856,713	82
2103	Plant, Machinery & Equipment	19,683,400	15,763,411	80
2104	Buildings & Structures	923,853,500	78,959,999	9
2105	Land & Land Improvements	10,000,000	4,972,095	50
2106	Software Development	1,000,000	1,000,000	100

Capital Transfers

2201(01)	Lakshman Kadiragamar Institute for International Relations & Strategic Studies(LKIIRSS)	5,500,000	4,196,676	76
2201(02)	National Ocean Affairs Committee Secretariat (NOAC)	2,000,000	-	-

Capacity Building

2401	Staff Training	5,000,000	4,280,891	86
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Other Capital Expenditure				
2509	Norwegian Embassy for Agreement on Technical Assistance for Defending Sri Lanka's Submission to the UNCLCS LKA	9,820,165	9,820,165	100
1-2509	Implementation of Economic Diplomacy Initiatives (EDI)	50,000,000	-	-
Total		1,334,643,065	326,192,971	24
Grand Total ((a)+(b))		11,011,874,505	9,949,178,337	90
(2) Actual against Prescribed Limits in case of Advance Account				(RS.)
Description	Maximum Debit	Minimum Credit	Maximum Debit balance	
Prescribed Limit	35,000,000	28,000,000	130,000,000	
Actual Amount up to 30.09.2017 - 1120011	33,226,919	29,115,673	110,103,002	
(3) Revenue - (RS.)				
(a) Ministry:- (RS.)				
Description	Revenue Code	Actual Amount up to 31.12.2017		
Rent on Government Building & Housing	2002-01-01	3,399,135		
Other Interest	2002-02-99	3,600,612		
Consular Fees	2003-02-99	135,700,978		
Other Receipts	2003-99-00	12,289,726		
Social Security Contributions - (Central Government)	2004-01-00	11,476,243		
Total		166,466,694		
(b) Overseas Missions/Posts:- (RS.)				
Description	Revenue Code	Actual Amount up to 31.12.2017		
Rent on Government Building & Housing	2002-01-01	510,983		
Other Interest	2002-02-99	2,115,789		
Fees of Passports, Visas & Dual Citizenship	2003-02-07	1,322,509,500		
Examinations& Other fees	2003-02-13	565,409		
Consular Fees	2003-02-99	318,288,951		

Other Receipts	2003-99-00	190,299,249
Social Security Contributions - (Central Government)	2004-01-00	10,075,218
Social Security Contributions - (Provincial Councils)	2004-02-00	635,819
Sale of Capital Assets	2006-02-00	9,374,381
Total		1,854,375,299
Grand Total ((a)+(b))		2,020,841,993

General Administration Division

General Administration Division

A. Introduction

1. The General Administration Division (GAD) is the focal point of the taking 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 and all other interconnected activities of the Ministry.

B. Human Resources Management

2. With respect to Human Resources Management (HRM), the GAD facilitated obtaining staff required for the Ministry and providing training opportunities for all staff members of different categories (except SLFS officers) to develop their skills during the year. The General Administration Division also conducted two (02) Out Boundary Training (OBT) Programmes to train 51 officers of Office Employment Service (OES) and 60 Drivers to develop their capacities in terms of the knowledge and attitudes. In a bid to overcome the existing shortage of staff action was also taken to fill the vacancies in the cadre of 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 persons with specialized aptitude i.e 02 Current Affairs Analysts, 02 Stenographers and 04 Translators under contract basis as per the directions approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.
3. Since a need of establishing a Media unit for the Ministry has been arisen, necessary actions were taken to establish it immediately. Accordingly, an Information Officer, a News Editor, a Videographer, a Photographer and a News Editor Assistant were recruited by the General Administration Division on contract basis. Five drivers were also recruited on contract basis and were assigned to the personal staff of the Hon. State Minister and 05 vacancies in the cadre of Employment Assistants Service (OES) were filled in order to overcome the existing shortage of staff.

C. Logistics and other

4. Provision of transport and other related logistics for Credential ceremonies of newly appointed foreign Ambassadors and High Commissioners-designate, State visits and visits by VVIPs and other foreign delegations were facilitated by the General Administration Division. During the year of 2017, 30 State visits, 20 Credential ceremonies and other important visits held in Sri Lanka have been facilitated by General Administration Division.

D. Development of IT infrastructure

5. The General Administration Division undertook several IT infrastructure Development projects in the Ministry during the year 2017. A major development project was planned to establish to a secure communication platform for the higher ranking officers in the Ministry and the Missions / Posts. This platform includes a tablet computer, mobile device management software and a secure communication platform. The said project is expected to be completed by the end of November 2017 with the collaboration of ICTA. In addition, a new logical network layout was developed in order to optimize

the newly established Local Area Network (LAN) in the Ministry. Accordingly, the Ministry network runs on a 20 Mbps Internet Leased Line which mitigates the slowness of the internet connectivity of the end users in the Ministry. Further the Ministry LAN is enforced with new web policies to ensure more secure network and prioritize data traffic for the Ministry web services to improve the quality of internet usage for the end users at the Ministry. Further, General Administration Division has taken the additional step to tighten the security of email service of the Ministry to minimize the cyber attacks. Additionally, a vehicle tracking system is in process to monitor the active vehicle status of the Ministry. Also high end scanners were purchased in order to automate the work of the Cypher division.

6. The General Administration Division was able to obtain 10 new Hybrid cars to the Ministry with the approval of the General Treasury and those vehicles have been currently attached to the vehicle pool of the Ministry. In addition to that a new double Cab vehicle was purchased to use as a backup vehicle for Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs.
7. The General Administration Division facilitated the opening of the Regional Consular Office in Jaffna District Secretariat on January, 2017. Action was also taken to recruit 01 Officer of Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS), 3 Development Officers and 2 Public Management Assistants as the staff of the Consular office in Jaffna. General Administration Division facilitated the activities related to the relocation of the Consular Division in the Ceylinco building on February 2017, with modernized office environment and re-engineered process by providing necessary infrastructure and human resources.

E. Maintenance Work

8. In view of insufficient office space and the infeasibility of the expansion of the Republic Building, the General Administration Division made efforts to take over the plot of land located in Jawattha to construct a new building for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also attended to the formalities relating to the takeover of the Building No. 11, located next to the Republic Building. The refurbishment work of the said building is in process in order to accommodate some divisions of the Ministry.
9. In attending to the maintenance work in the Ministry, the General Administration Division completed the replacement of the old timber deck in the Republic building and action was taken to create a sophisticated network room and also renovated the Minister's Bureau. At the request of the Welfare Association of the Ministry, repairs of the Canteen were completed. General Administration Division also attended work relating to the full refurbishment of the Republic building. Further, repairs of the Embassy of Palestine in Colombo were completed with the collaboration of the Sri Lanka Navy.

F. Parliamentary and Cabinet Affairs

10. With regard to the Cabinet and Parliamentary affairs, the GAD submitted 63 Cabinet Memoranda and answers for 5 Parliamentary Questions referred to the Ministry.

Legal Division

Legal Division

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

1. The Legal Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was established in 1967. The function of the Legal Division is to provide 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 Lanka 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

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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

6. Sri Lanka promulgated the following regulations under Section 2 of the United Nations Act No: 45 of 1968 to promulgate resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter on proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and on Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the gazettes were tabled in Parliament on 17th October 2017.
7. United Nations Security Council Resolutions to Counter Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction by way of "2017 regulations on sanctions relating to Proliferation of Nuclear, Chemical or Biological Weapons published in Extra Ordinary Gazette No: 2039/31 dated 06th October 2017 "
8. United Nations Security Council Resolutions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) by way of "2017 regulations on sanctions relating to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea published in Extra Ordinary Gazette No: 2039/32 dated 06th October 2017"

D. Air Services

9. Discussions with the Republic of Korea, USA, Bhutan, Canada, Qatar, UAE etc. are ongoing for revision of the existing Aviation regime.
10. The following Air Services Agreements were concluded and signed during the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAN) Meeting held in Colombo in December 2017. (Jamaica, United States, Mauritius, Rwanda, Brazil)
11. Several Air Services Agreements with Thailand, Bahamas, Qatar, Zimbabwe, Chile, Afghanistan, Dominican Republic, Hellenic Republic and Italy were negotiated and initialled during the ICAN 2017.
12. Several MoUs in the field of Air Services were agreed and signed with India, Russian Federation, Oman, Kazakhstan, UAE, South Africa, United Kingdom and Czech Republic.

E. Investments Promotion

13. The First round of negotiations on Investment Promotion Agreement between Sri Lanka and UAE was held in Colombo in February 2017.
14. The second round of negotiations on Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement between Sri Lanka and Oman was held in Colombo in May 2017. Pending issues are being discussed through correspondence between Sri Lanka and Belarus on Investment Protection Agreement.
15. Assisted the negotiations and finalizations of Investment Chapters with India, Singapore and China under the Free Trade Agreements.

F. Intellectual Property (IP)

16. National Policy on Intellectual Property is being drafted and the Legal Division assists in this regard.
17. Further, meetings to finalize Traditional Knowledge (TK) were held in Sri Lanka this year. Moreover, ongoing work on the IP in Tourism is also assisted by the Legal Division.

G. Readmission

18. Protocol giving effect to the European Commission and Sri Lanka Readmission Agreement was signed with Malta in October and the Protocol with Poland, Romania and the Netherlands for signature.
19. Draft Agreements with Ukraine and Russia to be further negotiated for finalization.

H. National Coordinating Committee on Readmission (NCCR)

20. This Division is in the process of convening meetings of the NCCR, in order to finalize observations of the pending Readmission Agreements and their implementing protocols and also to consider other matters with reference to Readmission.

I. Maritime /Law of the Sea: Continental Shelf Submission of Sri Lanka

21. The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (LLCS) has established a sub-committee to consider the Sri Lankan submission and the defending process of the submission has commenced.
22. Meetings with the Sub Commission were held respectively in February and August 2017 in New York. The National Ocean Affairs Committee (NOAC) that comes under the purview of the Legal Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues by working with the Legal Division to finalize the pending issues.

J. Migration

23. First Round of Expert Consultations between Sri Lanka and Switzerland as per the Bilateral Migration Cooperation Agreement signed between the two countries in December 2016, was held in Colombo in April 2017. The Second Round of Expert Consultations was held on 25th October 2017.
24. Legal Division was part of the discussions held in amending the Immigration and Emigration Act in order to streamline the laws with the international standards. A new paragraph on smuggling of migrants is to be incorporating into the new laws in order to ratify the Smuggling Protocol.

K. Judicial Cooperation, Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Transfer of sentenced persons and Extradition

25. A negotiation between Sri Lanka and Thailand to finalize a Treaty on Transferring of Sentenced Persons was held in Colombo in September 2017. The Treaty was finalized for signature.
26. A negotiation between Sri Lanka and Switzerland in order to finalize a MoU on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal matters was held in Berne in February 2017. MoU was finalized for signature.

L. Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA)

i. MLA Treaty with China

27. Instrument of Ratification were exchanged in Beijing on 29th September 2017.

ii. MLA Treaty with Ukraine

28. Sri Lanka has completed the required internal legal procedures for ratification for both MLA and PTA treaties between Sri Lanka and Ukraine and informed Ukraine authorities accordingly.

M. Extradition Treaties

iii. Extradition Treaty with Russia

29. Relevant constitutional procedures for the ratification of this treaty have been completed by both parties. This treaty will come into force on 6th November 2017.
30. Required Constitutional procedures from Sri Lankan side for the ratification of Extradition treaties with China, Ukraine and Vietnam have been completed and informed the relevant authorities in China, Ukraine and Vietnam.
31. The responses are still awaited for exchanging the instrument of ratification for the process of entry into force.

N. General Agreements

32. Sri Lanka has concluded and signed 32 general agreements with other foreign countries during the year 2017.

Middle East Division

Middle East and Africa 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. Early conclusion of pending MoUs/Agreements.
4. Preparation of Cabinet papers and obtaining Cabinet approval for MoUs/Agreements.
5. Preparation of Condolence Messages, National Day Messages, Toasts and Felicitation Messages etc. by H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Foreign Minister.
6. Facilitation of internal meetings and courtesy calls by Ambassadors/ High Commissioners based in Colombo from Middle East and Africa regions.
7. Preparation of Action plan, performance and budget reports etc. for Middle East and Africa regions.
8. Coordination with Sri Lanka Missions abroad, Overseas Missions in Colombo from Middle East and Africa regions and line Ministries/Departments and other agencies on day to day activities.

Middle East Region: Territorial Coverage

a. 16 Countries - Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Yemen

b. Number of Resident Mission / Posts

(i) **11 Embassies :**

Manama (Bahrain), Teheran (Iran), Bagdad (Iraq), Tel Aviv (Israel), Amman (Jordan), Kuwait (Kuwait), Beirut (Lebanon), Muscat (Oman), Doha (Qatar), Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) and Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates)

(ii) **02 Consulates General :**

Dubai - United Arab Emirates, Jeddah - Saudi Arabia

(iii) **01 Representative Office :**

Ramallah City – Palestine

(iv) **04 Concurrent Accreditations :**

Syria (Sri Lanka Embassy in Lebanon), Yemen (Sri Lanka Embassy in Oman), Turkmenistan (Sri Lanka Embassy in Iran), Azerbaijan (Sri Lanka Embassy in Iran)

(v) **Honorary Consul Representations:**

1.1 Bahrain

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. The Ambassador met/called on the entire Cabinet of Ministers as well as His Majesty the King, Prime Minister, Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Ministers of Bahrain, several occasions.
- ii. Sri Lanka assumed the Chairmanship of Abu-Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) in January, 2017 and Hon. Minister of Labor and Social Development of Bahrain Dr. Jameel bin Mohammed Al Hamaidan visited Sri Lanka.
- iii. A delegation headed by Hon. Minister of Foreign Employment and Justice Thalatha Athukorala visited Bahrain in mid-September, 2017 in the capacity of the Chair of ADD. She met with the Cabinet Ministers as well as the counterpart Minister in Bahrain.

b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

- i. A delegation from Bahrain Asian Traders Committee (BATC) and Bahrain Chamber of Commerce of Industry (BCCI) visited Sri Lanka to attend the "Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave 2017" from 30th May to 1st June 2017.
- ii. The Gulf Air, the National Carrier of Bahrain, has commenced its direct operations to Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo, with five flights a week since January 2017.
- iii. The Ambassador discussed with the Chairman/CEO of Gulf Air on several occasions to increase the frequency of flights as well as to promote Sri Lanka as a highly sought after touristic destination. The Embassy with the Sri Lanka Club conducted medical campaigns, food promotional events and other programs to project and profile the image of Sri Lanka.
- iv. The Ambassador extended interviews to premier tourism and travel magazines and had delivered speeches and addresses on Sri Lanka.
- v. To project and profile the "Soft Power" of Sri Lanka, the Ambassador often speaks as a keynote speaker or as a panelist/Chair at non-Sri Lankan forums and seminars organized by Business Chambers and Houses, Young Presidents' Organization (YPO), academic institutions and universities, Toastmasters Clubs, international and national high school commencement/graduation ceremonies and training programs and seminars.

c. Cultural Relations

- i. The Mission facilitated Cultural activities conducted by the Sri Lanka Club and a number of Sri Lankan Associations in Bahrain (medical camp/clinic, blood donation, celebrations of Festivals i.e Thai Pongal, Sinhala & Tamil New Year, Vesak and Posan, Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Al-Adha,)

d. Labour Welfare

- i. Hon. Minister of Foreign Employment and Justice Thalatha Athukorala met with nearly 40 Leading Employment and Recruitment Agents in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

e. Others

- i. A number of delegations at all levels from Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) visited CMF for discussions, training programs, lectures and conferences. CMF regularly participates at the annual "Galle Dialogue" in Colombo and extends assistance and security to Sri Lankan vessels travelling in the region.

1.2 Iran

a. Bilateral relations

- i. Steps are being taken to further promote bilateral relations between the two countries, in particular, taking into account the importance of Sri Lanka's relations with post-sanctions Iran.
- ii. Hon. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Science and Technology and Research visited Iran on 14th January 2016 and a MoU on Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation was concluded during the visit.
- iii. Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament visited Iran 3-6 March 2017.
- iv. Hon. Mahipala Herath, Chief Minister of Sabaragamuwa visited Iran from 21-27 July 2017
- v. Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka visited Iran from 04 -07 August 2017 to attend the inauguration ceremony of 2nd term of Presidency of Dr. Hassan Rouhani.
- vi. A Delegation from Sri Lanka participated at the 4th Iran Biotech Expo 2017, Tehran from 18-20 September 2017

b. Multilateral Relations

- i. The Embassy participated at the Advisory Council of the Indian Ocean Rim Association Regional Centre for Science & Technology Transfer (RCSTT) in Tehran.
- ii. Sri Lanka supported Iran's candidature for the election to the Board of Governor of the IAEA and the membership of RCA.

c. Economic Relations

- i. The Embassy continues to work on the projects which are being implemented with the financial assistance from Iran.[Rural Electrification Project – (RE 8) : Uma Oya Multipurpose Project]
- ii. The Mission continues to meet regularly in attracting tea importers in Iran with a view to increase of Sri Lankan tea.
- iii. Mission held discussions with leading tour operators /the relevant authorities in Iran and tourism promotion programme was also organized on 06th September 2017.

1.3. Azerbaijan (Accredited To Iran)

- i. Sri Lanka received the support of 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.

1.4 Iraq

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. The Ambassador attended the Wreath laying Ceremony on Armed Forces Day in the Green Zone, Iraq, and BGD Dialogue -'Options after Victory' at the Iraq Parliament, at the Baghdad University and National Reconciliation Initiative & Conference at AI-Hakim's office complex.
- ii. The Ambassador visited to Kurdistan Region for Newroz Celebration (Kurdish New Year) in Erbil, Kurdistan.
- iii. The Ambassador met the Minister of Foreign Relations, of KRG, the President of Kurdistan Region, Honorary Consul (Designate) of Sri Lanka, in Kurdistan Region, in Erbil, Kurdistan.
- iv. The Ambassador met Ambassador AI-Jaf, Director General of Asia and Australia, Chief of Protocol, at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Hon. Erfan AI-Hiyali, Minister of Defence, at Ministry of Defence.
- v. The Ambassador attended 'the Battle of Mosul Victory Parade' at the Green Zone, in Baghdad,
- vi. The mission participated at Baghdad International Fair.
- vii. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Baghdad and the Cabinet of Ministers approved the appointment of Dr. Ahmed Jelaladdin Mustefa as the Sri Lanka's Honorary Consul in Erbil, Kurdistan Region of Iraq.
- viii. The Ambassador met H.E. the President at Al-Salam President's Palace in Baghdad.
- ix. The Ambassador attended the 8th Anniversary of the bombing of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Baghdad which killed a total of 78 Diplomats and other Officials.

b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments:

- i. The Ambassador met Director General of Foreign Economic Relations, Trade Ministry of Iraq.
- ii. The Embassy organized Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion event with Union of Travel & Tourism Agents at Iraq at Ishtar Sheraton Hotel, Baghdad.
- iii. The Embassy assisted Colombo Dockyard PLC regarding the arrival of 10 Sri Lankans attending for Sea trials of Ships to Umm Qasr Port in Iraq.
- iv. The Ambassador discussed with Mr. Vasser Saley arranging a weekly Charter Flight from Baghdad to Colombo from January 2018.

- v. Director General of the Cabinet of Iraq discussed with the Ambassador on increasing tourists visiting Iraq and Sri Lanka, and arranging a direct Flight.
- vi. Global Tea Party was held at the Embassy. TV coverage was carried out by Voice of America covered 49 countries.
- vii. The Ambassador met several Travel & Tourism Agents of the Union of Iraq Travel & Tourism.
- viii. Hon. Kamel AI-Ghreiry MP and Eng. Haider met the Ambassador to discuss developing Trade ties between Iraq and Sri Lanka, especially on Oil and Tea.

d. Labour Welfare

- i. The Ambassador discussed, finalized and received 1385 slots for Sri Lankan Migrant Workers in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

1.5 Israel

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. Hon. John Amaratunga, Minister of Tourism Development, Christian Religious Affairs and Lands paid a visit to Israel to attend the 23rd Annual International Mediterranean Tourism Market (IMTM 2017) from 05th to 08th February 2017.
- ii. Hon. R.M.R. Madduma Bandara Minister of Public Administration and Management visited Israel from 15th to 20th February 2017 to attend a study tour to explore the opportunities in the agricultural sector.
- iii. A 17 member delegation led by Hon. Daya Gamage, Minister of Primary Industries visited Israel from 11th to 17th Sept 2017 for a study tour to explore the opportunities in agricultural sector.
- iv. Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries visited Israel to meet the tea business companies.
- v. Sri Lanka Navy delegation attended 8th International Defence & HLX Expo 2017(ISDEF) in Israel from 06th- 08th June 2017.
- vi. A delegation led by Major General NAPC Napagoda visited Israel from 01st-10th September 2107.
- vii. A delegation led by Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force visited Israel.
- viii. A delegation paid a study tour on agriculture in Israel 10th-14th September 2017.

B. Multilateral Relations

- i. The Mission lobbied for getting Israel's support in favour of Sri Lanka's candidature to the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee for the term 2017-2020.

c. Economic Relations and Foreign investments

- i. The Mission discussed with 02 Israeli companies to operate charter flights between Israel and Sri Lanka with the intention to promote tourism from Israel to Sri Lanka.
- ii. The Mission discussed with Rivulis Irrigation Ltd. and Partnership for Finance and Development (PFD) to explore the possibility of investing in Sri Lanka in "Drip Irrigation" and soliciting investments. (For Sri Lanka Agriculture Sector Modernization Project, P156019 - \$ 125Million)
- iii. The Mission discussed with Investment Fund Ltd. on high tech organic and bio dynamic agricultural projects. [Financing package for an Agricultural Services & Training Center (ASTC)].

d. Cultural Relations

- i. Together with the Sri Lankan community living in Israel, the Mission arranged celebrations of the cultural events to mark National Day, Sinhala & Hindu New Year,Vesak, Poson etc.
- ii. At the invitation of the Mission, leading Sri Lankan Arts and Craft Manufacturing Company "Ran Ruwan" participated at the 42nd International Arts and Crafts Festival in Jerusalem, from 7th to 19th August 2017.

e. Labour Welfare

- i. A delegation led by Mr. Lakshman Abeygooneratne, Chairman, Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (SLFEA) visited Israel from 3rd-7th April 2017, to discuss the issues related to seasonal agricultural workers with the Population Immigration and Border Authority (PIBA) officials.
- ii. Israeli authorities have informed that approximately 500 Sri Lankan Agricultural workers are expected to be recruited by the farmers in the year 2017.
- iii. 26 Caregivers have been selected for job placements under G2G pilot project, out of which 13 have already been arrived in Israel.
- iv. The Mission coordinated with PIBA, respective employers, SLFEA and SLBFE in providing assistance to migrant workers. (43 field/airport visits, 9 hospitalized workers, solved 211 complaints, replied for 4050 queries)
- v. The Embassy participated at the 23rd IMTM 2017 (International Mediterranean Tourism Market 2017) with 40 other countries/large tour companies.
- vi. The Embassy and the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau in collaboration with the Hotel Sheraton Tel Aviv organized the first ever authentic Sri Lankan Culinary festival in Tel Aviv from 07th to 18th May 2017.
- vii. Ambassador met the Chairperson of Israel - Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce, Honorary Consuls for Sri Lanka in Israel and other potential investors and briefed them on the Sri Lanka's investment climate, transportation, tourism and infrastructure etc.

1.6 Jordan

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. The Ambassador attended a briefing on Al-Aqsha Masjid issue in Palestine/Israel for the Heads of Mission by the Foreign Minister of Jordan on 19.07.2017.
- ii. The Ambassador met with H.E. Eng. Khaled Huneifa, Minister of Agriculture of Jordan, and discussed on export of Sri Lankan agricultural products to Jordan. Jordan has placed barriers for importation of certain Sri Lankan agricultural products into Jordan.

b. Multilateral Relations

- i. The Ambassador participated at the seminars organized by the Arab Thought Forum concerning regional and global issues.
- ii. The Ambassador participated at the Arab-African Economic Forum from 28 -29 September 2017.
- iii. Ambassador visited a Syrian refugee camp in Zaatari, located 80 miles way from Amman, and donated a consignment of Ceylon Tea valued at about Rs. 250,000.

c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

- i. The Embassy organized a Catalogue show on 23.08.2017 with the Zarqa Chamber of Commerce of Jordan in which the catalogues of about 50 Sri Lankan companies were displayed.
- ii. The Ambassador met the President and the members of the Amman Chamber of Commerce at the meeting the Amman Chamber of Commerce expressed its readiness to assist the Embassy to organize a single country product exhibition of Sri Lanka in Jordan.
- iii. The Embassy organized the celebration of the 150th anniversary of world famous Ceylon Tea under the theme 'Global Ceylon tea Party' at the Embassy premises.
- iv. The Ambassador discussed with the Chairman, Jordan Chamber of Commerce (JoCC) on further enhancing the trade relations.
- v. An investment and trade forum was organized at the Embassy for the members of Iraqi Business Association which operates having Jordan as their base.
- vi. The Ambassador met with the Minister of Tourism of Jordan and the Chairman of Jordan Tourism Board.
- vii. The Ambassador met with the Chairman, Jordan Tourism Board on 05th March 2017 and the Head of Jordanian Association of Travel Agents on 12th March 2017.
- viii. A Sri Lankan media delegation visited Jordan in April at the invitation of Jordanian Tourist Authority.

d. Cultural Relations

- i. Sri Lankan cultural dances were organized on the commemoration of the 2017 National Day.
- ii. National week for Reconciliation 2017 was held.
- iii. The Mission celebrated Sinhala & Tamil New year, Vesak, Poson and Easter.

e. Labour Welfare

- i. The Ambassador met with the Minister of Labour of Jordan and discussed on 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".
- ii. The Mission made visits to several garment factories met with owners/proprietors/Senior management and inquired about the welfare and facilities they provide for their Sri Lankan employees and searched for new job opportunities available for Sri Lankans.
- iii. The Mission was able to repatriate many Sri Lankans in Jordan to Sri Lanka, having successfully negotiated with the Jordanian authorities.
- iv. The Ambassador visited the Jail and met the jail authorities.
- v. The Mission participated in forums organized by the ICRC, IOM and ILO etc. in Jordan.
- vi. A special health camp was organized by the Embassy to assist Sri Lankan workers in and the check-up was performed by the Sri Lankan doctors based in Jordan.

1.7 Kuwait

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. Facilitated the visit of a five member delegation headed by H.E. (Mrs.) Hind Subaih Barak Al Subaih, Minister of Social Affairs & Labour and State Minister for Economic Affairs to attend at the 4th Ministerial Consultation of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, 23rd -24th January 2017, Colombo.
- ii. Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara, Deputy Minister of Foreign Employment visited Kuwait from 13th-16th August 2017. He met the Director General of Public Authority for Manpower, Director General of the Domestic Workers Department and Asst. Under Secretary of Rehabilitation and Law Enforcement and resolved many issues confronting migrant workers.

b. Multilateral Relations

The Mission coordinated events of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) as follows:

- i. The 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting, 15-17 January 2017, Abu Dhabi, The 2nd ACD Tourism Ministerial Meeting, 10-14 June 2017, Siem Reap, Cambodia: The ACD Conference towards Energy Security and Sustainability, ACD Energy Working Group and 1st East Asia Energy Forum, 7-10 August 2017, Bohol,

the Philippines: The ACD Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the sideline of UNGA 72 was held on 21st September 2017 in New York.

c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

- i. Minister of Public Enterprises Development, Hon. Kabir Hashim met the business leaders, investors in Kuwait on 25th February 2017.
- ii. The Mission discussed with Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs on 20th September on holding the 2nd Joint Trade Committee Meeting from 08th – 09th November 2017.
- iii. The Mission organized visits of Kuwaiti traders to Sri Lanka and to meet Sri Lankan exporters.
- iv. The Global Ceylon Tea Party was organized on 06th July 2017 at the Ambassador's residence with the participation of around 20 Tea Traders plus Media personnel.

d. Cultural Relations

- i. The Embassy in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters in Kuwait and Sri Lankan Airlines organized a "Cultural Week" from 4th to 12th February 2017. The festival featured Pradeep Rathnayake, the musician and Chandana Wickremesinghe and his 20 member dance guild.
- ii. The national day reception was held at the Baraka Ballroom, Crown Plaza hotel on 9th February.
- iii. A Food Festival was organized on 10th February at the Silk Restaurant of Crown Plaza hotel. And a cultural show was organized at the Shamiya Theatre on 12th February.
- iv. In parallel to the national day celebrations, the performances of the Sri Lankan cultural troupe were telecasted in "Kuwait TV 2" channel and national newspapers. A newspaper supplement was issued in the Arab Times on 5th February.
- v. The Embassy organized a two day Vesak day observations and Poson Celebrations.

e. Labour Welfare

- i. The Mission made representations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Public Authority.
- ii. The Mission provided assistance to large number of migrant workers to overcome different challenges encountered by them. (Female 180, Male- 537)
- iii. The Mission recovered salary dues of several migrant workers through negotiations with relevant parties and by referring to the competent authorities. (KD21,667.750 (SLRs.10,999,629.29) SLRs. 11 Millions salary dues of 51 migrant workers)
- iv. Repatriations of safe house inmates during this period is 574. The Mission mediated and facilitated repatriation of 420 illegal migrant workers who sought the Mission's assistance.

- v. 25 patients were repatriated having waived off hospital charges through the intervention of the Mission.
- vi. The Mission paid regular central jail and deportation camp visits.
- vii. The Mission forwarded 140 applications of Sri Lankan prisoners to obtain to spend their remaining jail term in Sri Lanka, under the Prisoners Transfer Agreement.

1.8 Lebanon

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Republic of Lebanon from 16th to 19th August, 2017 and met H.E. the President Michel Aoun, Hon. Prime Minister Saad Hariri, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs Gebran Bassil, Hon. Speaker Nabih Berri and high officials of the Govt. of Lebanon. Hon. State Minister discussed on enhancing cooperation in the fields of Political, Trade, Economic, Labour, and Consular and Cultural etc. Hon. State Minister extended invitations to H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Foreign Minister of Lebanon to visit Sri Lanka.

b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

- i. A Business Forum was organized in the side lines of the Hon. State Minister's visit in August 2017. Nearly 30 leading businessmen, Lebanese Government officials attended the event.
- ii. Under the Economic Diplomacy initiative of Government of Sri Lanka, a Sri Lankan Trade Exhibition and Food Fair was held on 24th of September, 2017 at the Embassy premises with the association of Sri Lankan community living in Lebanon.

c. Cultural Relations

- i. The Mission celebrated the 69th National Day on 4th February, 2017.
- ii. The Mission participated at the Women Day Celebration conducted by Mrs. Malani Kandearachchi, President of Sri Lanka Women Association in Lebanon on 19th of March 2017.
- iii. The Sinhala and Hindu New year Celebration, Vesak Festival, Poson festival and Ifthar Programme were organized with the participation of Sri Lankan community.
- iv. The Mission participated at the Cultural Day event in Bekka on 23rd April and Abey Heritage Festival from 8th-9th July at the Lebanese University in Abey.

d. Labour Welfare

- i. As a result of the request of the Ambassador, the Govt. of Lebanon passed a resolution to repatriate undocumented Sri Lankan migrant workers who are living in Lebanon after paying the half of the fine. Under this resolution, 81 Sri Lankan has already been repatriated.
- ii. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs had discussions with the General Security of Lebanon in August 2017.

1.9 Oman

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. Hon. Daya Gamage, Minister of Primary Industries visited Oman on 13th January 2017 and explored the possibility of market promotions for the Sri Lankan products.
- ii. H.E. Hamad bin Khamis al Amiri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Manpower of Oman visited Sri Lanka from 23rd to 24th January 2017 to participate at the Senior Officials Meeting and the Ministerial Consultations of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue in Colombo.
- iii. H.E. Dr. Mohamed bin Awadh Al Hassan, Undersecretary for Diplomatic Affairs of Oman visited Sri Lanka from 5th to 7th April 2017 to attend the conference of the German Ambassadors in the Indian Ocean Region. He met the Hon. Dr. Harsha de Silva, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce.
- iv. Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce visited Oman from 9th to 11th May 2017 and met H.E the Minister of Oil and Gas of Oman on 10.05.2017 in order to seek the support of the Oman Oil and Gas Ministry to invest in the Ceylon Oil Refinery Project proposed to be established in Hambantota.
- v. Mission also coordinated activities related to Offering of scholarships by the Government of Oman for the Sri Lankan students for the first time in history. The Mission facilitated the sending of Omani students for training and studies at Sri Lankan Aviation College in 2017.

b. Economic Relations and Foreign investments

The Mission facilitated the following:

- i. A visit of a business delegation from Oman to Sri Lanka from 15th to 18th May 2017 in collaboration with the EDB.
- ii. Visit of a delegation of Omani investors of "Al Thamer International Development of Agriculture LLC" to Sri Lanka in February 2017 to inspect a plot of land offered by the Northern Provincial Council for an agricultural project.
- iii. Establishment of an export and food processing facility, which is worth US \$ 20 million and which was inaugurated in May 2017, under the newly formed Y.A.S. Lanka Pvt Ltd in Katunayake Export Processing Zone by Lulu Group.

- iv. The first Tea Lounge with pure Sri Lanka Tea was opened in Muscat on 6th February 2017.
- v. Activities including engaging with the relevant stakeholders, informing the media and arranging of a cultural troupe with the SLTPB in organizing a Road Show in October 2018.
- vi. Furnished an article on Sri Lanka tourism as well as Sri Lanka - Oman relations to The Link Publication.

e. Cultural Relations

- i. A Diplomatic Reception was held on the occasion of the 69th Independence of Sri Lanka.
- ii. Together with the Sri Lankan community living in Oman the Mission arranged celebrations of the cultural events to mark Thai Pongal Day, Sinhala and Tamil New Year, Vesak Day, the Eid and First Muhamarram Vas and Katina in 2017.
- iii. Sri Lankan artists visited Oman for musical performances on 16 & 17 March 2017 at Al Falaj hotel. The Mission also facilitated the visit of the producer of "Sihinayaki Re" Rupavahini programme for recording of two episodes in Oman.
- iv. The Mission facilitated the organization of a public lecture in Oman on Sri Lankan history, by Prof. Raj Somadeva, Prof. of Archaeology of University of Kelaniya in collaboration with the "Ethera Api" organization on 28th April 2017.
- v. A Public Day in Sohar on 13th January and a free medical camp on 19th May for the Sri Lankan community were conducted.
- vi. Daham Pasala is carried out at the Mission premises.

f. Labour Welfare

- i. Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara, Deputy Minister of Foreign Employment visited Oman from 10th – 13th August 2017. He met nearly 3000 Sri Lankans including professionals: and visited factories. A mobile consular service was conducted on 11th August 2017. He also met Mr. Salim Naseer Al-Hadhrami, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Manpower.
- ii. A delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Employment and the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment visited Oman on 16th July 2017. Discussed with the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) of Oman on malpractices in the recruitment process that lead to human trafficking of female Sri Lankan domestic employees to Oman through the UAE.
- iii. The Mission discussed with the Foreign Employment Agencies in Oman, (Fashion Apparel LLC, Baltic Textile Trading (BTT) International Consultation Co LLC, Construction Technical Services Co LLC, Nibrass Group) on the promotion of employment opportunities for skilled workers from Sri Lanka.
- iv. Registered 3674 employment contracts, 148 job orders were approved, 451 registrations, 258 female workers reported to the Safe house, jail visits- 16, hospital visits-57, court visits-41, work sites visits-9, prosecution-47.

1.10 Yemen (Accredited To Oman)

a. Bilateral Relations

The Ambassador presented Credentials to H.E. Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, President of the Republic of Yemen as non-resident Ambassador accredited to Yemen on 14th September 2017.

b. Labour Welfare

The Mission handled the safe release and repatriation of nine Sri Lankan seafarers held by the rebel administration in Al Hudeidah, Yemen since September 2016.

1.11 Palestine

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. Coordination of offer three Scholarships for Undergraduates/ Postgraduates for Palestinian students for the academic year 2016/2017.
- ii. The Sri Lanka Representative had meetings with the following officials:
 - Dr. Mazen Shamiyeh, Head of Asia & Africa Sectors
 - Eng. Mahmoud Abdullah, President and members of Palestine – Sri Lanka Friendship Association
 - Dr. Nabil Shaath, former Commissioner General of the Foreign Relations Commission of Fatah congratulating him for his new appointment as the Advisor to the President for External Affairs and International Relations.
 - Colonel Dr. Mahmoud Salahaldeen, Head of Arab and International Relations at the Ministry of Interior and discussed on the possibility of Military Training Exchange.
 - Mrs. Abeer Ramahi, Chief of Protocol of the Foreign Ministry and discussed on issuing a Palestinian Diplomatic Card for Representatives.
 - Dr. Nabil Shaath, Advisor to the President on Foreign Affairs and International Relations.
- iii. Mr. Imad Zuhairi, Director General of the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) visited Sri Lanka on 10th August 2017.
- iv. The first round of the Political consultations at the senior official level was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombo on 21st April 2017.
- v. Initiatives for twinning the cities of Negombo and Bethlehem.

b. Economic Relations and Foreign investments

- i. The Sri Lanka Representative had meetings with the following officials:
 - Ms. Abeer Odeh, Minister of National Economy in order to develop economic and trade
 - Minister of Agriculture Dr. Sufiyan Sultan
 - Officers of the Agricultural Department of Palestine.
 - Palestinian businessman and contractor in the Foreign Ministry, who is willing to invest in Sri Lanka in the Tourism Sector such as hotels and spas etc.
 - Mr. Omar Hahsem, Chairman of Nablus Chamber of Commerce
 - Former Bethlehem Mayor, Ms. Vera Baboun, and discussed on holding an exhibition of Gems & Jewellery in Bethlehem.
 - Ms. Lina Tafish, Head of Beitunia Ladies Society and discussed on co-operation with Women society in Sri Lanka.
- ii. The representative visited the Pure Olive Oil Soap Factory and initiated trade linkage.
- iii. Palestine National TV interviewed the Representative where it was discussed the appropriate historical value of the occasion of the National Day of Sri Lanka with a view to promote Sri Lanka tourism and business investment. Discussions were also held with Palestinian Travel Agents.
- iv. Coordination activities to grant 2 booths of the Christmas Market that will be held from 30th Nov- 03rd Dec 2017 for those who promote Ceylon Tea in West Bank and Gaza.
- v. Assisted Sri Lankan Tea traders, Tour Operators in promoting Sri Lanka in the State of Palestine.

c. Cultural Relations

- i. Celebrated the 69th National Day of Sri Lanka at Grand Park Hotel, Iftar and a special Ramadan prayers were conducted.

d. Labour Welfare

- i. The Sri Lanka Representative had meetings with few Sri Lankans working in Palestine and made representations with concerned authorities in Palestine on the problems faced by them.

1.12 Qatar

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. Hon. Niluka Ekanayake, Governor of the Central Province visited Qatar from 19th to 21st April 2017. She visited the Stafford Sri Lanka School, Doha.

- ii. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the City of Doha and Sri Lanka Embassy on 04th July 2017.
- iii. Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, former Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Qatar from 8th to 9th July 2017. He met H.H. the Emir, H.E. the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and H.E. the Foreign Minister of Qatar and the CEO of the Qatar Airways.
- iv. Discussion was held between the officials of the Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka and Ministry of Education and Higher Education in the State of Qatar on Cooperation in the field of Education, on 23rd May 2017.
- v. Preparatory arrangements were made for the very first State Visit by a Head of State from Sri Lanka to the State of Qatar and the very first visit to by H. E. the President Maithripala Sirisena to the Middle East region, after assign to the high office of the Presidency from 25th- 26th October 2017.

b. Economic Relations and Foreign investments

- i. The Mission coordinated the visit of Mr. Yusuff Ali M.A., Chairman and Managing Director, LuLu Group International on 18th May 2017 in setting up their own state-of-the-art logistics and packaging centre in Colombo.

c. Cultural Relations

- ii. Together with the Sri Lankan community living in Oman the Mission arranged celebrations of the cultural events to mark the National Day, Thai Pongal Day, Vesak Day and Iftahr -2017.

d. Labour Welfare

- i. The Labour section assists recruiting agents/ companies/ employers with necessary guidelines for the recruitment of Sri Lankan migrant workers by streamlining its process.
- ii. 122 no. of Female Domestic Employees (Housemaids / Babysitter/ Nanny and Servants) reported.
- iii. Received 1,548 no. of Labour complaints through Male Employees.
- iv. Visited the Jails/Deportation Centers periodically and provided the basic essential items.
- v. Provided baby food items for babies who are staying under the mission safe house.
- vi. 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 return to Sri Lanka.

1.13 Saudi Arabia

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. An official delegation led by Mr. G.S. Withanage, Secretary/ Ministry of Foreign Employment visited KSA for meeting of Joint Commission on Labour Supply in January 2017.
- ii. Hon. Minister, Rauf Hakeem visited KSA in March 2017. He met Eng. Abdulrahaman Bin Abdulmohsen Alfadhlly/ H.E. Minister of Environment, Water & Agriculture.
- iii. Hon. Sunil Hadunneththi, M.P. & Hon. K. Kader Masthan, M. P. also visited KSA
- iv. HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abduaziz/ Founder of the Al Waleed Talal philanthropic Foundation visited Sri Lanka on 4th July, 2017 and met H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Foreign Minister.
- v. Mr. Sunil Hettiarachchi, Secretary/Ministry of Education visited Jeddah & Riyadh. SLBFE high level delegation visited KSA.

b. Multilateral Relations

- i. H.E the Ambassador had discussions with Ambassador Tarig Ali Bakheet, Director General in Directorate of Political Affairs to appoint a Special Envoy to represent Sri Lanka in Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

- i. Organized a single country Sri Lanka export products display at special Reception on 69th Independence in February.
- ii. A delegation from Ministry of Finance visited KSA and held discussions with the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) in March 2017: A delegation from SFD visited Sri Lanka to attend meeting with Ministry of Finance in April, 2017
- iii. A selected Journalist from Al Jazirah News Paper in KSA attended the visiting Journalist Program in Colombo in August, 2017.
- iv. The Mission organized the Global Ceylon Tea Party in Riyadh in July, 2017.
- v. 15 Travel companies participated to the JTTX Travel Fair 2017 in Jeddah, 12 Travel companies participated to Riyadh Travel Fair 2017 in Riyadh, in April, 2017.
- vi. Two Business delegates from KSA visited Sri Lanka and had discussions with the BOI, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and companies on business and investment purposes in March and May, 2017.

d. Cultural Relation (Riyadh)

- i. The Mission held a function to mark 69th Independence Day on 4th February, 2017 at the Embassy premises. Two newspaper supplements on trade, tourism and investments were published in Arabic and English. The Embassy also celebrated 69th National Day at the Tuwaik Palace on 27th February, 2017.

- ii. The Mission assisted in celebrating Sinhala/ Tamil New Year festival, organized 20 no. of Buddhist religious activities including Vesak & Seelaviyaparaya: 15 no. of Catholic religious activities: 40 no of Hindu religious activities including Thaipongal & 37th annual ceremony: 28 Dhahampasal programmes (Buddhist & Catholic). The Sri Lanka Muslim cultural event held in March, 2017.
- iii. Sri Lanka Consulate in Jeddah handled 3750 Sri Lankan Hajj pilgrims. Hon. AHA. Haleem, Minister of Postal Services and Muslim Religious Affairs headed a Hajj delegation accompanied with Hon. Minister AHM Fowzi.

e. Labour Welfare

- i. The implementation of the Vision-2020 project was started in March (which is an initiative of the mission and Sri Lankan Professionals in 2016) 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.
- ii. The Embassy Conducted 09 mobile services to assist Sri Lankan migrant workers. (Riyadh)
- iii. During the period of General Amnesty nearly 4200 Sri Lankans were benefitted and returned to Sri Lanka (Riyadh 3000 &Jeddah 1200)
- iv. The Embassy (Riyadh) received 680 nos. of complaints from male workers and out of this 392 cases were settled. Made 188 visits.
- v. The Consulate (Jeddah) received 269 nos. of complaints from male workers and out of this 80% cases were settled. Made 70 no.s visits.
- vi. The Embassy (Riyadh) had 417 visits at women welfare/ social care centers for facilitating to Sri Lankans. The Embassy attended 40 labour cases at courts, made 11 special visits to hospitals, made 72 visits at police stations. The Mission maintains average of 84 inmates at safe house. 913 nos. of FDWs sheltered safe house.
- vii. The Consulate (Jeddah) had 70 visits at women welfare/ social care centers for facilitating to Sri Lankans. The Consulate attended 15 labour cases at courts, made 20 special visits to hospitals attending serious cases, Consulate maintains average of 05 inmates at safe house. 45 nos. of FDWs sheltered safe house.

1.14 United Arab Emirates

I. Embassy in Abu Dhabi

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. Sri Lanka participated at 15th Asia Cooperation Dialogue Ministerial Meeting (ACD), Abu Dhabi from 15th to 17th January 2017.
- ii. The Mission participated at 13th Council Meeting of IRENA, Abu Dhabi on 23rd & 24th May 2017.
- iii. Hon. Ruwan Wijewardena, State Minister for Defence participated at the International Defence Exhibition and Conference 2017 (IDEX), Abu Dhabi from 19th to 23rd February 2017.

- iv. The Mission participated at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2017 (ADSW 2017), 12th to 21st January.
- v. A 20 member senior military delegation from Defence Services Command and Staff College undertook a study tour to the UAE from 10th to 22nd August 2017.
- vi. A delegation headed by Hon. Thalatha Atukorale, Minister of Foreign Employment and Justice visited UAE on 13th September 2017 for the participation at the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and met the Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization of UAE.

b. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

- i. The Mission in collaboration with Sri Lankan Airlines organized 'Destinations 2017–Travel and Tourism Expo, Abu Dhabi', a tourism promotional campaign from 4th to 6th May 2017. Sri Lanka was one of the 7 countries including India, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia participated at the event. Further, the event was highlighted with a cultural dance performance by a group of Sri Lankan children.
- ii. Global Ceylon Tea Party was held in Dubai on 06th July 2017.

c. Cultural Relations

- i. 69th Independence Day of Sri Lanka was celebrated at Abu Dhabi Folklore Theatre on 17th Feb. 2017.
- ii. Together with the Sri Lankan community living in Oman the Mission arranged celebrations of the cultural events to mark Sinhala & Hindu New Year, Vesak day and Ifthar-2017.
- iii. The Friday Dhamma School attached to the Mission organized several events.
- iv. The Mission organized a flood and landslides relief drive in UAE and was able to collect SLRs.15,655,257.02 (which comprised of SLRs. 15, 297,024.00 cash donation from Lulu international in UAE) for flood victims in Sri Lanka in May 2017. It was also collected relief items, such as food, clothes, sanitary etc.

d. Labour Welfare

- i. The Mission conducted Consular & Labour mobile services in Al Ain region, which located 260 km away from Abu Dhabi city once in every month.
- ii. 32 runaway house maids who had sought refuge at Safe house were repatriated to Sri Lanka.

II. United Arab Emirates – Consulate General Of Dubai

a. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

- i. In collaboration with EDB and SLTB, facilitated the largest ever contingent of Sri Lankan Food & Beverage exporting companies to participate at 'Gulf Food 2017' from 26th Feb. to 2nd March 2017.
- ii. Global Tea Party to commemorate the 150 years of Sri Lankan Tea Industry was held Crown Plaza Hotel, Dubai on grand scale.

- iii. To mark 69th Independence day of Sri Lanka, a special newspaper supplement was published in the Khaleej Times which is one of the leading English news papers in UAE to give wider publicity for Sri Lanka's exports, tourism prospects, SriLankan airline ect. on 4th February 2017.
- iv. A business networking event was organized with Sri Lanka Business Council in Dubai to educate business leaders on business regulations in operation in UAE.
- v. Discussed with the CEO of Barakat Company which is one of the leading UAE companies in the food sector, on the possibilities of entering into a suitable arrangement in enhancing Sri Lankan agricultural exports to UAE.
- vi. Facilitated 8 ministerial visits from Sri Lanka to Dubai during the period.
- vii. Served 27 trade inquiries from Sri Lanka for products such as tea, spices, coconut based products, ICT products etc. providing details of potential importers to establish business links.
- viii. 35 Sri Lankan exporters visited Dubai for promotion of Sri Lankan products.
- ix. A property promotional event was held in Dubai in promoting condominium type of property own by a Sri Lankan company in Sri Lanka. A large number of Sri Lankan expatriates as well as foreigners living in Dubai attended the event.
- x. Assistance was extended to Lulu Hypermarket which is one of the largest Indian hypermarket chain based in UAE and the Middle East to set up agricultural products collection and processing Centre in Katunayake, with the total investment of over US\$ 10Mn. The company has already commenced their commercial operations in Sri Lanka and plans are underway to expand their investment up to US\$ 1Bn within next few years.
- xi. Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce visited Dubai to attend the AIM which is an annual major investment promotion event held in Dubai, from 2-4 April, 2017 with Hon. Governor of Western Province and Mr. N. Nilwala, Secretary/Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation.
- xii. Discussions were held with the Director/Overseas Operations of Black Tulip Flowers company which is the market leader holding more than 50% of the total market share in UAE and GCC countries for Cut flowers in persuading investing in Sri Lanka with the investment of over US\$ 2Mn.
- xiii. Held a meeting with the Chairman and a Director of Ambition Group of Companies who wish to consider invest in SL on a tourist hotel and coordinated his visit to SL and to meet relevant BOI officials and other authorities. The company has successfully signed a contract with an existing tourism property in Ahungalla to commence tourist hotel with a total investment is of US\$ 3-5Mn.
- xiv. Held a meeting with the Group Director of Lulu Hypermarket in Colombo together with Sri Lankan project officers and representatives of Prime Minister's office in relation to locating suitable plot of land in setting up a modern upscale hyper market containing cinemas and other service utilities in Colombo. The total estimated investment in the project would be around US\$ 1bn.

b. Cultural Relations

- i. Together with the Sri Lankan community living in Oman the Mission arranged celebrations of the cultural events to mark National Day, Vesak day, Poson day.
- ii. Monthly Buddhist religious observances at the newly established Lankaramaya-temple in Dubai.
- iii. Holding "Dhamma School" (Dhampasala) on every Friday at the premises of the Consulate General.

c. Labour Welfare

- i. 326 employment contracts were executed and 111 new job orders were granted.
- ii. 30 Sri Lankan employees faced difficulties, were successfully repatriated to Sri Lanka.
- iii. 85 visits were undertaken to immigration & Police officers based in Dubai & Northern Emirates in extending required assistance for needy Sri Lankans.
- iv. Visited number of labour camps to attend Sri Lankans' requirements on requests of the authorities.
- v. 17 visits were undertaken to prisons to attend the needs of Sri Lankans in the jail.
- vi. 104 complaints received against recruitment agents were attended in offering solutions.
- vii. Attended on priority basis the claims of compensation by the Sri Lankans: necessities of the safe house inmates: repatriation of human remains etc.
- viii. 16 visits were undertaken to hospitals in Dubai & Northern Emirates in taking care of the well-being of affected Sri Lankans.

Ocean Affairs, Strategic Security and Climate Change Division

Ocean Affairs, Strategic Security and Climate Change Division

1. The Ocean Affairs, Strategic Security and Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was introduced on 15th February 2016 based on the recommendations made in the '*Report on the Restructuring of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka*' dated 25th January 2016. The Division became fully functional in March 2017 with appointment of staff for the Division.
2. Ocean Affairs, Strategic Security, and Climate Change are areas of significant importance which have thus far not had a specific focus within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka. These areas encompass cross cutting issues that are currently covered by several existing divisions in the Ministry. In addition, several line ministries and agencies have direct responsibility for these subjects. However, given the rise to prominence of these areas in international relations, it was felt that a specific focus in the areas were required within the Ministry hence the establishment of the new division. The work of this Division mainly focuses on the following:
 - i. Identify projects/initiatives which are of relevance from an Ocean Affairs, Strategic Security and Climate Change perspective and bring such initiatives to the attention of related authorities for possible implementation.
 - ii. Promote Sri Lanka as a platform for Ocean Affairs, Strategic Security and Climate Change related dialogues/conferences/workshops.
 - iii. Provide input from a foreign policy perspective on issues related to Ocean Affairs, Strategic Security and Climate Change to relevant authorities.
 - iv. Research the impact of Ocean Affairs, Strategic Security and Climate Change on the Foreign Policy of Sri Lanka and provide input to policy makers.
 - v. Facilitate, as appropriate, provision of input by related stakeholders on international initiatives on Ocean related matters, Strategic Security and Climate Change.
 - vi. Strengthen and promote coordination and coherence of Sri Lanka's activities related to Ocean Affairs, Strategic Security and Climate Change particularly in projection of same internationally.
 - vii. Ensure representation from Sri Lanka at Ocean Affairs, Strategic Security and Climate Change related international conferences/workshops.
 - viii. Develop communications/reports/concept papers promoting Sri Lanka's geo-strategic potential.
 - ix. Identify regional and global challenges in the field of Ocean Affairs, Strategic Security and Climate Change where Sri Lanka can make a positive contribution and facilitate such contributions being made.
 - x. Regularly share ongoing and planned activities carried out internationally, including within the UN system in the area of Ocean Affairs, Strategic Security and Climate Change with a view to identifying possible areas for collaboration and synergy.

- xi. Facilitate inter-agency information exchange, including sharing of experiences, best practices, tools and methodologies and lessons learned in Ocean Affairs, Strategic Security and Climate Change related matters.
- xii. Given the linkages between the Foreign Affairs and Defence from a strategic security perspective facilitate and support Defence Diplomacy initiatives of the Ministry of Defence, with identified Sri Lanka Missions overseas and other related stakeholders.
- xiii. Establish and maintain links with the Defence establishment, law enforcement agencies and think tanks dealing with security.
- xiv. Facilitate the development of an integrated Marine Policy for Sri Lanka encapsulating marine spatial planning, maritime security strategy and a maritime strategy.
- xv. Support and facilitate sharing of information with the Climate Change Secretariat and other internal stakeholders on new Climate Change mitigation technologies being used in different countries.
- xvi. Establish and maintain links with the Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, Climate Change Secretariat, think tanks, civil society organizations, NGOs, UN agencies, regional and global organisations and private sector companies dealing with Climate Change matters.

The following were the main areas of work of the Division in the period under review:

1. Preparatory work for the participation of the Sri Lanka delegation at the High Level UN Conference to support implementation of SDG 14, 5-9 June 2017, UN Headquarters, New York- Coordinated the organising of the National Consultations for the High Level UN Conference to support SDG 14 on 25-26 May 2017 in Sri Lanka with the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife including holding preparatory meetings, drawing up agendas, speeches etc. Also provided input for speeches to be made at the Main Conference being held in New York as well.
2. 2nd Indian Ocean Conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 30th August-2nd September 2017- Supported and facilitated the organizing of the Conference together with the Office of the Prime Minister and the India Foundation. The Conference was attended by approximately 300 delegates from over 32 countries and included high level representation.
3. Preparatory work for meeting on the Indian Ocean Code of Conduct (timing tentatively late 2018): Support the work of the Task Force appointed by the Prime Minister to organize 2 lead up conferences and a main Diplomatic Ad Hoc Conference on a Code of Conduct on Freedom of Navigation in the Indian Ocean. The division has prepared sovereign goals for Sri Lanka and also prepared draft Terms of Reference for the work of the Task Force for consideration.
4. Our Ocean Conference "*Our Ocean and an Ocean for Life*" from 5 – 6 October 2017 in Malta: facilitated the participation of the Sri Lanka delegation led by Hon Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs to Our Oceans Conference

held in Malta. This included preparation of speeches, coordinating bilateral meetings and input from related stakeholders.

5. Conference on UNCLOS: Solutions for managing the Maritime Global Commons, October 4-6, 2017, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India: Prepared draft speech for the Valedictory Address of Hon. Dr. Harsha de Silva, Deputy Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs for this Conference.
6. This Division also functions as an information arm on Ocean Affairs, Strategic Security and Climate Change related issues of the Foreign Ministry by providing necessary and requested information for the Hon. Minister, Hon. State Minister and High-Level delegations who are representing Sri Lanka at international level and local level.
7. Speeches / inputs /speaking points were provided for numerous bilateral, multilateral meetings/conferences and events by the division.
8. The Division facilitated participation of line agencies in training programmes i.e. (i) Regional Training Programme on Waste Management and Reduction of Marine Litter : 9th to 13th October 2017 in Singapore – Mr. R.M.D.B. Meegasmulla, Secretary, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife and (ii) Bali Process Consultation Meetings of the Draft materials for the Curriculum on Comprehensive Approaches for Addressing Regular Movement by Sea : 15th September 2017 in Bangkok – Mr. N.G. Panditharathna, Additional Secretary (Civil Security and Development), Ministry of Defence attended at this event.
9. The Division also 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, climate change and strategic security.
10. This Division has commenced research tasks with a view to strengthening Sri Lanka's performance in ocean affairs, strategic security and climate change. Due to the global power shift and numerous changes in the international geopolitical situation, this Division identifies significance of the field of ocean affairs, climate change and strategic security at all levels.
11. This Division is in the process of preparing a Stakeholder Map in cooperation with Centre for Research and Development of the Ministry of Defence. The first phase of the digital Stakeholder map has been completed based on the international organizations/agreements/unions/ad hoc arrangements established on Indian Ocean affairs.
12. The Division worked on developing ties on ocean related matters with several countries. In particular discussions were held with representatives of France, Germany, Norway, Japan, US, India, Australia throughout 2017.
13. Following requests made at the Foreign Office consultations held with the Norwegian Government in December, 2017, the Norwegian side has indicated willingness to support the following endeavors:

- a. provide additional support in terms of Norwegian expertise in the follow up of Sri Lanka's submission to the Continental Shelf Commission [this flows from previous support provided by the Embassy through the project "Technical assistance for defending Sri Lanka's submission to UNCLOS" (agreement signed 19 June 2017)]
 - b. provide Norwegian experts to hold a national workshop on Marine Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Sri Lanka in 2018
 - c. send officials/experts to share experiences on drafting the first ever White Paper on "the place of oceans in Norway's foreign and development policy" which was launched by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry in 2017
 - d. to host a meeting on "Blue SDGs" with a specific emphasis on SDG 14 (Life below Water) and the sustainable management of fisheries resources in June 2018 to coincide with the visit of Norwegian Research vessel Dr Fridtj of Nansen which is scheduled to carry out a survey on marine resources including fish stocks as a part of the technical and institutional cooperation on fisheries between Norway and Sri Lanka.
 - e. The Ocean Affairs and Climate Change division is following up with related local stakeholders and the Norwegian side on the above issues.
14. Provided speeches/input on Ocean Affairs and Climate Change matters for several high level bilateral visits/Conferences that took place in 2017.
- a. Statement delivered by Hon. Wasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Our Ocean Conference, 5-6 October 2017, Malta
 - b. Speech Outline for Secretary/Foreign Affairs on the theme "Importance of Galle Dialogue and contribution of the Sri Lanka Navy towards Greater Maritime Visibility for Enhanced Maritime Security" delivered at the Galle Dialogue, 9 – 10 October 2017.
 - c. Valedictory Speech for Hon. Dr. Harsha de Silva delivered at the Conference "UNCLOS: Solutions for Managing the Maritime Global Commons" October 4-6, 2017, India.
 - d. Inputs for 137th IPU Assembly & Related Meetings – St. Petersberg, Russia 13th to 20th October 2017.
 - e. Inputs for Second Round of Australia – Sri Lanka Senior Official's Talks, 15th November 2017, Canberra
 - f. A brief on strategic security developments in North East Asia for the East Asia & Pacific Division in November 2017.
 - g. Speaking Notes for Secretary/Foreign Affairs for Foreign Office Consultations with Norway, 11th December, 2017.
15. The division functions as an information arm on Ocean Affairs & 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.

Multilateral Relations

- 1 As per recommendations made by the division, the Sri Lanka delegation to the IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association) Ministerial Meeting held in Durban South Africa on 18th October 2017, lobbied and secured lead coordinator status for

Sri Lanka in the IORA priority area of Maritime Safety and Security. The division is currently working on setting up the IORA Working Group on Maritime Safety and Security with other core group countries (India, Australia, Indonesia, UAE, South Africa and Madagascar) and the IORA Secretariat. Action has also been initiated to host a preparatory meeting in Sri Lanka to discuss the establishment of the Working Group. The division intends facilitating the development of synergies among Indian Ocean states in the area of Maritime Safety and Security.

- 2 As per an initiative launched by the Hon Prime Minister, the division is currently 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. The first lead up Conference will be organized by Deakin University, Melbourne from 30th April-1st May, 2018 which will be a track II academic conference. Details for same are at the following link: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/about-deakin/events/maritime-order-in-the-indian-ocean>
 - The second lead up Conference will be held from 21-22 June 2018 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Conference will be organized by the Lakshman Kadiragamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKIIRSS) in collaboration with the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and will be a Track 1.5 exercise. These two initiatives would lead to the convening of a Diplomatic *ad hoc* Conference in November 2018, in Sri Lanka.
 - The Division has undertaken preparatory work for all three conferences referred to above 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.
- 3 Following recommendations made by our High Commissioner in the Seychelles, the Division undertook the task of increasing Sri Lanka's interactions with the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). In particular, Sri Lanka offered to serve as the Secretariat of the Working Group on Operations at Sea of the CGPCS. The division facilitated work related to obtaining Cabinet approval for same through the Ministry of Defence including the preparation of draft Cabinet Memorandum and obtaining approval for Sri Lanka Navy to serve as Sri Lanka's focal point for the Secretariat of the Working Group on Operations at Sea. By functioning as the Secretariat of the Working Group on Operations at Sea, Sri Lanka will be able to support international efforts directed at combating sea piracy off the coast of Somalia and enhance its image as a key player in Indian Ocean Affairs. Sri Lanka will also benefit with respect to Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) by being able to coordinating with stakeholders of the Working Group and sharing information and intelligence. The division will continues to follow up on this matter.

Workshops/Conferences/Seminars

- 1 Fourth Indian Ocean Dialogue - 9th to 10th October 2017 the division facilitated the participation of Captain WHU Abeyrathne, Sri Lanka Navy at this event held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

- 2 Singapore-Norway 3rd Country Training Programme on Waste Management and Reduction of Marine Litter, 09th to 13th October 2017, Singapore – the division facilitated the participation of Mr. R.M.D.B. Meegasmulla, Secretary, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife in the training programme.
- 3 Expert Dialogue on Nationally Determined Contributions of Sri Lanka, at BMICH on 16th October 2017 - Ms. Sashikala Premawardhane, Director General Ocean Affairs and Climate Change represented the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the event and contributed to the Expert Dialogue.
- 4 SAARC – ADB Workshop of the Inter-Governmental Expert Group on Climate Change - Assistant Director, Ocean Affairs and Climate Change and the Research Officer, Ocean Affairs & Climate Change attended the above workshop which was held from 16th to 17th October 2017.
- 5 4th Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment which was conducted from 25th to 27th October 2017 in Bali, Indonesia - Facilitated the participation of Mr. J.M.B.S.B. Jayaweera, Deputy General Manager (Operation) of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment at the Meeting.
- 6 COP23 in Bonn, from 6th to 9th November 2017 - facilitated the participation of Sri Lanka delegation led by Hon. Anuruddha Jayarathne, Deputy Minister of Mahaweli Development and Environment at the meeting.
- 7 Second IORA Meeting of Experts on Maritime Safety and Security from 7th to 8th November 2017 in New Delhi, India - facilitated the participation of Commander M.M.G.U.R. Gamage, Sri Lanka Coast Guard and Lieutenant Commander P. Liyanage at the Meeting. The Foreign Ministry was represented by Acting DG/Ocean Affairs and Climate Change.
- 8 International Workshop on Blue Economy was facilitated from 22nd to 23rd, November 2017 in Dhaka, Bangladesh - Acting Director General/ Ocean Affairs and Climate Change of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated at the Workshop.
- 9 One Planet Summit, 12th, December 2017, Paris, France – coordinated and facilitated the participation of the Sri Lanka delegation headed by Hon. Eran Wickramaratne, State Minister of Finance, the special representative of H.E. the President to the Summit and Mr Mohan Munasinghe, Nobel Laureate, Presidential Advisor and Founder Chairman of the Munasinghe Inst. of Development (MIND).
- 10 Monthly Defence Review Reports – the division is facilitating the process of obtaining Monthly Defence Review Reports from respective Sri Lanka Missions abroad and onward transmission to the Chief of Defence Staff since October, 2017.
- 11 Training Programs – Assistant Director/Ocean Affairs & Climate Change participated in the 4th Yeosu Academy of the Law of the Sea, 23rd October – 04th November, 2017 held in Yeosu, Korea.

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 approval, directions and guidance with regard to the day to day activities in line with SLFS minute, MIS circulars and the other established regulations that govern functions and human resource in Missions/Posts. The management of movable and immovable assets in Sri Lanka Missions abroad and supervision of day to day communications between the Ministry and its network of Missions around the world are also part of the responsibilities of the OAD. The dispatch of the DPL bags to Sri Lanka mission abroad in an efficient and secured manner also done by the Division.

Sri Lanka at present maintains following diplomatic Missions and Posts abroad.

Embassies/ High Commissions	-	51
Permanent Missions to the United Nations	-	02
Deputy High Commission	-	01
Representative Office	-	01
Consulate General Offices	-	<u>11</u>
Total		<u>66</u>

Sri Lanka will open a Consulate General office in Nicosia, Cyprus shortly.

1. Acquisition and Maintenance of Foreign Assets

a) Immovable properties :

The OAD, in consultation with Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad, purchases at least two new properties for the use of our Missions aboard every year. This year, the focus was to renovate/ construct existing properties. In this regard 5 properties were renovated at a total cost of SLRs. 93,155,041.40. Required funds were arranged through the Treasury, the Central Bank and the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) as per the decisions of the Government.

Details of Construction/ Renovations carried out during the year 2017

	Description	Amount (SLRs)
1.	Renovation /refurbishment of Staff Quarters in London	86,000,000.00
2.	Renovation of exterior of the Chancery Building in Beijing	5,310,297.72
3.	Renovation of the electric fence at properties in Sri Lanka High Commission – Pretoria	964,743.70
4.	Renovation of the Official Residence- Sri Lanka High Commission, Nairobi	880,000.00
5.	Repairs of the Sri Lanka High Commission Building in London	3,851,300.00
	Total	93,155,041.42

During the period from January to December 2017, relocation of Chancery buildings in Paris, the Hague, Oslo, Male, Kuala Lumpur was finalized thereby facilitating better working conditions and strengthening services offered to Sri Lankan communities in these capitals. The Ministry also finalised the transfer of Chancery buildings in New York and Brasilia acquired by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) to the Ministry which will enable Ministry to cut down overhead costs in the long run. With these two new acquisitions of properties, the GOSL owns 20 properties in aboard.

b) Movable Properties :

i. Vehicles

The OAD in consultation with the Treasury facilitates the purchase of new vehicles for Missions/Posts abroad as and when replacements for existing vehicle or new vehicles are required.

Approvals were granted to purchase fourteen (14) vehicles during the said period for the use of missions abroad at a total cost of Rs. 69,441,404.55.

ii. Other Capital Assets:

On the requests made by several Missions abroad, the Ministry has granted approval to purchase office equipment and furniture, acquisition of plant, machinery and equipment at a cost of Rs. 62,039,032.52 /= from January to December 2017.

1. Audit Inspections

Regular audit inspections of Missions/Posts abroad, in consultation with the Internal Audit Division, are facilitated by this Division. Audit inspection has been undertaken in the Sri Lanka Mission in London.

2. Facilitation of Official Travel

Travel Unit coming under the purview of the OAD has facilitated visas and ticketing arrangements for 317 Ministry's official visits in the year 2017 from January to December 2017 and had also arranged the payments of necessary travel allowances and other entitlements for the officers during the period. A total of 2,066 Third Party Notes (TPN) have also been issued to facilitate visa for government officials from various institutions.

3. 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 Lankan Missions/Posts abroad and delivery of items of the collected diplomatic bags to the relevant Divisions of the Ministry. The Ministry also initiated dispatch of Diplomatic Bag through a Courier Company to selected Missions in order to cut down cost and ensure efficient delivery of mail bags on timely basis.

4. 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 IT Division works around the clock, seven days of the week and the staff are deployed on a roster basis.

5. Preparing Progress Report ,Annual Performance Report and Mission Directory

The OAD coordinates with Overseas Missions and respective Divisions in the Ministry and prepared the 3rd quarter Progress Report and Annual Performance Report of the Ministry for 2017 to submit to the Parliament. As in the previous year, updated Mission directory was prepared by the Division for 2017/2018.

6. Managing Human Resources

Managing Human Resources attached to Overseas Missions/Posts is one of the key responsibilities of the OAD. Following are the highlights of some of the activities during the period.

a. 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.

b. Recruitments:

The OAD conducts open competitive examinations for the recruitment to the Sri Lanka Foreign Service (SLFS) and for selection of Public Management Assistants (PMA) and Personal Assistants (PA) to serve in our Missions abroad in collaboration with the Department of Examinations.

The OAD coordinated to conduct of an examination to recruit a new batch of officers to the Grade III of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service, and the Division also coordinated holding of Efficiency Bar Examination for SLFS officers in February/March 2017. Also preparations have been made to re-gazette the Efficiency Bar Examination once again in second half of the 2018. Further, the Division also gazetted a competitive exam to select Public Management Assistants to serve as support staff in Sri Lanka Mission Abroad and 98 PMAS have been recruited in 2017 during the period under review.

c. Appointing New Heads of Mission and Diplomatic Officers

Seven (7) Heads of Missions / Post were appointed during the period. Further, 53 diplomatic officers from Sri Lanka Foreign Service (SLFS), Defense, Department of Commerce, Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment and Cabinet appointed were appointed.

d. Appointing Support Staff to Missions Abroad:

Ninety eight (80) Public Management Assistants (PMAs), Forty four (44) Personal Assistants (PA), and one (01) Protocol Assistant were appointed in 2017 to work in Sri Lanka Missions abroad.

Human Resources Development Division (HRDD)

1. The Human Resource Development Division (HRDD) was introduced on 15th February 2016 based on the recommendations made in the Report on the Restructuring of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ,Sri Lanka dated 25th January 2016 to address a long felt need in the area of Human Resources pertaining to officers in the Sri Lanka Foreign Service.(SLFS)
2. The Purpose of this Division was to ensure that all 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

- i. Coordination of nominations of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service Officers (SLFS) for all national trainings and workshops on all areas relevant to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Approximately Five (05) national training opportunities were awarded to SLFS officers by various national training institutes.

- ii. Coordination of nominations of SLFS for international trainings and workshops on all areas relevant to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. SLFS officers were awarded forty four (44) training opportunities by various countries in South Asia, Europe, East Asia and Americas.
- iii. Under the guidance of the former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, initiated series of informal lectures on timely and relevant topics once a month during the lunch time as Brown Bag Sessions.
- iv. Coordinated with the Harvard University to conduct Online Economic Diplomacy Course for Officials of the Foreign Ministry and Commerce Department from March to August 2017. Final report will be submitted by the local coordinator of the Harvard University on 20th August 2017.
- v. Conducted several Sessions on issues of international politics for SLFS of 2015 Batch with LKI and senior officers at the M/FA.
- vi. In collaboration with the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI), conducted a training on First Training Programme on Combating Trafficking in Persons on 15-16 June 2017.
- vii. Coordinated matters to hold a two day Training by a team from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore from 27th to 28th July 2017.
- viii. Conducted a Awareness Programme for Ambassadors/Consul Generals-designated from 8th to 10th August 2017 with identified resources persons from the M/FA and outside.
- ix. Conducted a training on advanced Communication Skills for Sri Lanka Foreign Service Officers in consultation with MILODA Academy.

B. Training for Non SLFS

- i. Conducted an Orientation Programme for Personal Assistants who were selected through a competitive examination to serve in Sri Lanka Missions/Posts Abroad on 24-28 April 2017.
- ii. Arranged a five day Induction Training Programme for Sri Lanka Administrative Service 2017- Module on Role Of Government at the MFA from 24th to 28th April 2017.
- iii. Conducted an Orientation Programme for Public Management Assistants who were selected through a competitive examination to serve in Sri Lanka Missions/posts abroad from 18th -21st September 2017.

C. Evaluation of Missions/Post Performances

- i. HRD coordinated with the Missions/Posts and other division in the Ministry and finalized Annual Performance Report of 2016.
- ii. HRD also finalized a document containing the Action Plan of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 2017.
- iii. In the above document; HRD proposed a system to monitor and evaluate the performance of Missions/Posts in March 2017.The Formula comprises steps where the performance of Missions/Posts can be evaluated to achieve tangible results.

D. Brown Bag Sessions conducted

- i. 'Sri Lanka-China Economic Relations in Comparative Perspective: Ample Room to Grow' on 2nd February 2017.
- ii. "Introduction of HR System to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs" has been organized with a presentation by Mr. Sabeer Sikander, Accounts Manager of the Hsnid Company Limited on 20th March 2017.
- iii. "GSP +: Process, Outcome, and Benefit for Sri Lanka" has been organized with a presentation by Mr. A.L.A. Azeez, Senior Director General (European Union, Multilateral Treaties, Commonwealth) on 18th May 2017.
- iv. Commercial Diplomacy in Sri Lanka: exploring some issues by Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja from the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute (LKI) on 24th July 2017.
- v. Session on Climate Change by Mr. Mapa Pathirana, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment 22nd August 2017.

Overseas Sri Lankans Division

Overseas Sri Lankans (OSL) Division

1. The Overseas Sri Lankans (OSL) Division of the Ministry is tasked with:

- i. Facilitating interaction and engagement with Overseas Sri Lankans (SL Nationals resident overseas and those of SL Origin / Heritage) community members abroad.
- ii. Assist those members to visit Sri Lanka to reconnect after years abroad experience for the first time (if 2nd & 3rd generation Sri Lankans).
- iii. Contribute towards socio-economic development efforts and programmes in Sri Lanka.
- iv. Contribute towards reconciliation efforts.
- v. Supporting programmes and organisations involved with assisting and supporting Overseas Sri Lankans to visit and experience Sri Lanka.
- vi. Collaborating with NGOs & Research Organisations involved with studies / research / programmes related to SL Diaspora.
- vii. Maintain and compile a database of Eminent Sri Lankans Abroad / Sri Lanka origin persons including Experts, Professionals, Scientists, Academics, Entrepreneurs, Artists, Personalities etc. that have made notable contributions in various fields.
- viii. Facilitating Visas for Overseas Sri Lankans that are working with organizations / programmes in Sri Lanka.

2. Work with Sri Lanka Missions Abroad

- i. SL Missions have been requested to designate officer(s) to be OSL Focal Points.
- ii. Missions been requested to liaise and support Overseas Sri Lankan Groups / Associations that are contributing to SL social and economic development, reconciliation, and integration efforts.
- iii. One Day of the week has been declared for OSL community members to meet the Head of Mission / Staff without appointments.
- iv. Missions are to raise awareness of events with OSL community and are Identifying certain sectors - Education, Health with private sector groups/ organizations.
- v. Missions have been requested to compile and regularly update list of Sri Lankans Overseas- in certain sectors / areas and inform Ministry.

3. Work with Government Bodies / Agencies

- i. The OSL Division works closely with ONUR (Office of National Unity for Reconciliation) to assist OSL organisations working in Sri Lanka and it is the main partner we use to match up organisations and engage with OSL community that visit Sri Lanka.
- ii. The OSL Division has been having close cooperation and assistance with the Department of Immigration & Emigration to streamline Visas for OSL members and volunteers that are visiting Sri Lanka to work and support socio-economic programmes.

- iii. The Department of Immigration has designated a Focal Point for OSL matters to fast track process and assist with OSL related Visa issues.

4. Activities for period 1 January – 31 December 2017

a. Round Table “Overseas Sri Lankans as Partners for Development”: April 2017

- i. Collaborated with the *Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA)* Research Institution to organise Round Table Discussion from 20-22 April 2017 on the topic "Overseas Sri Lankans as Partners of Development" with participation of Provincial Councils and different stakeholders to discuss and formulate developments projects in Four Pilot provinces to match up their needs with Experts, Volunteers, Organisations, of Overseas Sri Lankans from 20-22 April 2017.
- ii. Priority list of projects and programmes was drawn up to identify sponsors and funding and commence 10-15 projects for the year 2017 in Four Pilot Provinces.

b. Assistance for Flood Victims by Overseas Sri Lankan Medical Professionals: July 2017

- i. In partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry assisted facilitate Joint Project of Sarvodaya and the Global Tamil Forum (GTF) where as part of efforts at confidence building measure between Overseas Sri Lankan diaspora and those in Sri Lanka, 18 medical professionals visited Sri Lanka as Volunteers to set up medical camps for a period of 10 days to work alongside Local Doctors to provide assistance to victims of recent floods.
- ii. Medical Professionals arrived from United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Norway, the United States, France, Bahrain and Germany and deployed in villages and flood relief camps at: Kalutara from 2nd to 6th July and Matara from 7th July to 10th July.
- iii. Approximately 780 patients were given medical, dental and Ophthalmological treatment, that included children's home and orphanage.
- iv. 300 pairs of reading glasses and sunglasses were also gifted to people by the doctors
- v. Foreign Minister Ravi Karunanayake at a ceremony at the Ministry, on Tuesday 11th July 2017, welcomed and felicitated Sarvodaya and the Medical Professionals and students from Global Tamil Forum that had visited Sri Lanka to work alongside local medical doctors, in the flood affected districts for 10 Days.
- vi. Leader of the Opposition, Hon R. Sampanthan, Minister of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine Hon. Dr. Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Finance and Media Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Member of Parliament Hon. M.A. Sumanthiran, General Secretary of Sarvodaya Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne and his senior staff, along with selected Diplomatic Missions with sizeable SL overseas communities took part at event.

Policy Planning Division

Policy Planning Division

1. The Policy Planning Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was introduced on 15th February 2016 based on the recommendations made in the '*Report on the Restructuring of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka*' dated 25th January 2016. The Division became functional in mid-2017 with the appointment of required staff.
2. Policy Planning is an area of particular relevance which has thus far not had a specific focus within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka. The objective of establishing such a division is to undertake research, provide analyses on issues of contemporary global relevance, develop policy briefs on specific aspects of Sri Lanka's Foreign Policy and undertake assessments of existing policies which would contribute to the long term strategic planning of the Foreign Ministry.
3. The work of the Division is expected to facilitate the understanding of foreign policy practitioners on the global operating environment and ensure that foreign policy decision making is based on recent and as far as feasible evidence based research and foresight methodologies. The purpose is to ensure that the information used to make foreign policy decisions is based on sound research rather than mere opinion. Therefore, the division would attempt to adopt a more rational, rigorous and systematic approach so that policy positions are better informed by available evidence including rational analysis. The Division would also encourage evidence based practices to be developed and operationalised within the Ministry. It may be noted however, that policies are developed to serve a range of practical purposes and therefore cannot exclusively be based on research and the decisions with regard to adopting certain policies would need to be in keeping with the vision of the Government and in the best interest of the people of the country.

The following were the main areas of work of the division in the period under review:

- With regard to the policy planning sector, this Division has proposed that consideration be given to the development of an inaugural Foreign Policy Strategy /White Paper for Sri Lanka for the period 2018-2022 and put in place required procedures/resources for successive strategies to be presented every 4/5 years and follow up of the strategies that have been envisaged. Draft Terms of Reference for the inaugural White Paper developed by the division and submitted to the Secretary/Foreign Affairs for consideration.
- This Division is also in the process of creating contacts with think tanks, stakeholders and institutions which are relevant at international level through our Missions overseas and at local level with a view to developing synergies on policy planning sectors.

Protocol Division

Protocol Division

1. The work of the Protocol Division can be categorized into the following main areas :

- i. Performing ceremonial functions.
- ii. Facilitate and monitor diplomatic privileges and immunities extended to foreign Diplomatic Representations, UN and its specialized agencies and international organizations accredited to Sri Lanka.
- iii. Facilitate arrangements for Heads of Missions accredited to Sri Lanka (Based in Colombo and concurrent accreditations from other Missions).
- iv. Facilitate logistical and protocol arrangements for international conferences held in Sri Lanka

2. Ceremonial Functions :

Ceremonial functions coordinated by the Division during the required period.

a. Handling VVIP /VIP visits to Sri Lanka

i.	Heads of States/Prime Ministers	4
ii.	Foreign Ministers and Deputy Foreign Ministers	7
iii.	Dignitaries from UN and other international organizations	5
iv.	Transit Visits	3
v.	Other foreign Dignitaries	28
vi.	Delegation for Meetings/Conferences	14

b. Visit by Sri Lankan VVIPS

i.	State visits by H.E. the President	07
ii.	Visits by Hon. Prime Minister	08
iii.	Visits by Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs	12

c. Privileges and Immunities

The functions performed by the Privileges and Immunities Section of the Protocol Division during the period are as follows;

i.	Issuance of clearance certificates	1,800
ii.	Customs facilities extended to foreign Missions in Sri Lanka and members of the staff during their arrival and departure	150

d. DPL Vehicles

i.	Sale of vehicles	312
ii.	Registration of vehicles	108
iii.	Issuance of revenue licenses	890
iv.	Issuance of Driving licenses	260
v.	Issuance of petrol coupon books	586

e. Visas (For foreign Missions-1,868 & UN organizations 625)		
i. Visa for Foreign Missions-Entry visa	959	
ii. Visa for Foreign Missions-Residence visa	1,528	}
		4,487
iii. Visa for Intl. Organizations-Entry visa	414	
iv. Visa Intl. Organizations-Residence visa	537	}
		951
f. Airport passes - Issuance of airport passes		
i. Permanent – First Issuance	65	
ii. Temporary – First Issuance	14	}
		79
iii. Permanent – Renewal	77	
iv. Temporary – Renewal	37	}
		114
g. VIP lounge permits		13,150
h. Diplomatic Clearances (Foreign Air craft 238 and ships 82)		320
i. Identity cards		
(Diplomatic & other organization 214)		706

3. Accreditation

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;

i. Appointments of Foreign Heads of Missions to Sri Lanka	20
ii. Appointments of Honorary consuls of Sri Lanka Abroad	
• Appointments	13
• Extensions	21
iii. Appointments of Honorary Consuls in Sri Lanka	01

4. 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 coordinates with the relevant line Ministries and Departments.

The Protocol Division also provides necessary assistance and guidance to the staff members of the relevant line agencies to perform protocol and logistical functions related to such International Conferences.

- i. Familiarization programme (Polonnaruwa) for Non Resident Heads of Mission and Defence Attachés/ Advisors parallel to the 69thIndependence Day Celebrations 2-3 February 2017

- ii. 02nd Global Consultation on Migrant Health was held in Sri Lanka from 21st – 23rd February 2017.
- iii. International Vesak Day Celebration was held in Sri Lanka 12–14 May 2017
- iv. 8th Meeting of SAARC Interior/Home Ministers held in Sri Lanka from 11- 13 July 2017.
- v. 06th Meeting of the SAARC Health Ministers Meeting was held in Sri Lanka from 27 – 29 July 2017.
- vi. Regional Meeting organized by UNODC on Critical Incident Management and Response for Remote Islands 21 -22 August 2017.
- vii. 02nd Indian Ocean Conference 2017 which was held in Sri Lanka 31st August – 01st September 2017.
- viii. Mr. David Jalagania, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia holding the rank equal to Addl. Secretary Visited to Sri Lanka from 15th – 18th September 2017.
- ix. 2017 City Net Congress in Colombo, 5-8 November 2017.
- x. 7th Buddhist Conference 2017, 2-5 November 2017.
- xi. 8th Conference of the SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians, 4-6 October 2017.
- xii. 14th SAARC Law Conference and 11th SAARC Chief Justices Conference in Colombo, 27-29 October 2017.
- xiii. 4th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on the Establishment of BIMSTEC technology transfer facility, 21-22 November 2017.
- xiv. 10th Air Services Negotiation Event of the International Civil Aviation in Sri Lanka, 4-8 December 2017.
- xv. Annual Meeting on Non Communicable Diseases Colombo, 09-10 December 2017.

5. Visits to Sri Lanka

a. Heads of States/PMs visits to Sri Lanka :

- i. Hon. Narendra Modi, PM of India in connection with the Vesak Festival, 11-12 May 2017.
- ii. Visit of Rt. Hon. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of the Federal Republic of Nepal, 14 May 2017.
- iii. Visit of HE Danny Rollen Faure, President of Seychelles, 25th February 2017.
- iv. Visit of Hon. Dato' Sri Haji Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, 18-19 December 2017

b. Foreign Ministers' & Deputy Foreign Ministers' visits to Sri Lanka:

- i. Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, 16-18 March 2017.
- ii. Special Envoy of the President of Maldives, Dr. Mohamed Asim, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives, 31 May 2017.
- iii. Visit of Hon. Dr. Prakash Sharma Manat, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, 24-28 July 2017.
- iv. Visit of Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, 17-21 July 2017.
- v. Visit of Hon. Julie Bishop, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia, 19-20 July 2017.
- vi. Visit of Hon. Sheikh Ahmed Bin Jassim Al Thani, Minister of Economic and Commerce of Qatar, 29-31 October 2017.
- vii. Visit of H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of UAE, 15 November 2017.

c. Dignitaries from UN & Other International Organizations:

- i. Visit of WFP Executive Director and Asia Pacific Director, 10- Feb. 2017.
- ii. Visit of Arjun Bahadur Thapa, Sec. Gen. of SAARC, 06-07 Feb. 2017.
- iii. Visit of the Managing Director of the IMF, 19-22 March 2017.
- iv. Visit of Secretary General of SAARC to Sri Lanka, 29-30 May 2017.
- v. Visit of Mr. Pablo de Greiff, UN Special Reporter on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non Recurrence, 10-23 October 2017.
- vi. Visit of Mr. Thomas A Shannon, UN Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, 06-07 November 2017.

d. Transit Visits

- i. Transit visit of HE Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa, 01-02 Sept. & 05 – 06 Sept. 2017.
- ii. Transit visit of H.E. Mohamadou Issaufou, President of the Republic of Niger, 17 October 2017.
- iii. Transit visit of H.E. Mohamadou Issaufou, President of the Republic of Niger, 17 October 2017.

e. Other Foreign Dignitaries:

- i. Hon. Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Minister of Agriculture and Welfare, Gov. of India 02 Jan. – 03 Jan 2017.
- ii. Rt. Hon. Lord Naseby, President of the All Party Parliamentary Group for SL (APPG – SL) in London, 02 – 08 Jan. 2017.
- iii. Visit of Hon. Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, India 07-08 Jan. 2017.
- iv. Visit of Hon Laurent Fabius, Chairman of the Constitutional Council, 11-19 Feb 2017.
- v. Working group on Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights under the EU-SL Joint Commission, 13-14 March 2017.
- vi. Visit of Dr. Abdullah bin Mohamed bin Ibrahim Al Sheikh, Speaker of the Shoura Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 27-29 March 2017.
- vii. Visit of Dr. Jaishankar, S/FA of India, 18-21 Feb. 2017.
- viii. US Congressional Delegation.
- ix. Visit of Prince Alwaleed bin Talal of Saudi Arabia to SL, 04 July 2017
- x. Visit of HE Zhengseng, Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).
- xi. Visit of Prof. Norbert Lambert, President of the German Bundestag, 2-5 April 2017.
- xii. First Sri Lanka – Palestine Political Consultations, 21 April 2017.
- xiii. Visit of Dr. Markus Ederer, State Secretary of German Foreign Office.
- xiv. Visit of Delegation from Mongolia headed by Hon. J. Munkhbat, Chairman of the Cabinet Secretariat, 15-19, 2017.
- xv. Visit of HE Mr. Pirkko Mutila, Minister of Social Affairs and Health of Finland
- xvi. Visit of Albert Cha Foreign Secretary of Singapore, 01-04 May 2017.
- xvii. Visit of the Junior Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic HE Ivan Jancarek.
- xviii. HE Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Secy. Gen. of SAARC, 29-31 May 2017.
- xix. Visit of Hon Prof. Ahmed Davutoglu, Former PM of the Republic of Turkey, 04 11 August 2017.
- xx. Visit of Mr. David Pittaway the Treasurer of the Hon Society of Inner temple UK 01-08 September 2017.
- xxi. Visit of Colombian Officials (Experts), 21-24 Aug. 2017.
- xxii. Visit of European Conservatives and Reformists 19-21 Sept 2017.
- xxiii. Visit of the Delegation of the EU Parliamentarians 29-30 October 2017.
- xxiv. Visit of Hon. Varthilingam, Speaker of Puducherry of India, 8-11 November 2017.
- xxv. Visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Dr. Chulabhorn Mahidol of Thailand, 25-30 November 2017.
- xxvi. Delegation from the European Conservatives and Reformists 19 – 22 September 2017.
- xxvii. Visit of Dr. S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary of India, 18-19 November 2017.

6. Overseas Visits

a. Overseas Visits undertaken by H. E. the President

Indonesia	IORA	6 – 8 March, 2017
Russia	State Visit	22-24 March, 2017
Australia	State Visit	23 – 26 May, 2017
Bangladesh	State Visit	13-15 July, 2017
U.S.A. (NY - UNGA)	State Visit	17– 25 September, 2017
Qatar	State Visit	24-26 October, 2017
South Korea	State Visit	28-30 November, 2017

b. Overseas Visits by Honorable Prime Minister

- i. World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland 16th – 22nd January 2017
- ii. Official visit - Australia from 13th – 17th February 2017
- iii. Official visit - Japan from 10th – 14th April 2017
- iv. Official visit - Viet Nam from 15th – 19th April 2017
- v. Official visit - India from 25th – 27th April 2017
- vi. Official visit - China from 13th – 17th May 2017 (Belt and Road Forum)
- vii. Official Visit - Germany and Finland from 5 – 12 October 2017
- viii. Official Visit – India from 21 – 24 November 2017

c. Minister of Foreign Affairs -Hon. Tilak J. Marapana

- i. India 08.09.2017 – 10.09.2017
- ii. Brussels and Bosnia & Herzegovina 24.09.2017 – 03.10.2017
- iii. South Africa 17.10.2017 – 23.10.2017
- iv. Thailand 25.10.2017 – 27.10.2017
- v. China 29.10.2017 – 04.11.2017
- vi. South Korea 26.11.2017 – 01.12.2017

d. Former Minister of Foreign Affairs - Hon. M. P. Samaratweera

- i. Ethiopia 30.01.2017 – 04.02.2017
- ii. Maldives 08.02.2017 – 09.02.2017
- iii. Geneva 26.02.2017 – 08.03.2017
- iv. Russia 22.03.2017 – 26.02.2017

e. Former Minister of Foreign Affairs - Hon. Ravi Karunanayake

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| i. | India | 06.06.2017 – 07.06.2017 |
| ii. | Switzerland and Qatar | 06.07.2017 – 10.07.2017 |

f. State Minister of Foreign Affairs - Hon. V. N. P. Senanayake

- | | | |
|------|----------|-------------------------|
| i. | Romania | 28.06.2017 – 04.07.2017 |
| ii. | Nepal | 10.08.2017 – 13.08.2017 |
| iii. | Beirut | 16.08.2017 – 20.08.2017 |
| iv. | Slovenia | 29.08.2017 – 06.09.2017 |
| v. | India | 24.09.2017 – 25.09.2017 |
| vi. | Qatar | 25.09.2017 – 26.09.2017 |
| vii. | Kenya | 28.11.2017 – 30.11.2017 |

Public Communications Division

Public Communications Division

The Public Communications Division (PC Division) is an operational Division and is the interface between the Government and external actors for information dissemination and projection of Sri Lanka's image abroad. 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 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 Missions 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 Daily Information Bulleting (DIB) to all Missions and officials of review of local print media 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; (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and Sound cloud).
- xi. Promotion and facilitation of Film Festivals, Media Workshops and Conferences that are held in Sri Lanka.

2. Visits of Foreign Media Personnel & Film Crews

The Division facilitates and coordinates visits of foreign media for news coverage and production of films and TV projects related to tourism, travel & culture and arrange temporary media accreditation for them. 282 temporary media accreditation passes have been arranged including 23 filming /documentaries projects for the period of 01st January to 31st December, 2017.

3. Issuance of Media Releases

The Division has issued 350 Media Releases to Missions and local / foreign media regarding activities of the Ministry, Missions and GoSL.

4. Coverage of Foreign VVIP /VIP Visits to Sri Lanka and Media Events Activities

- i. Media coverage for the lecture on "Europe and the International Order, Post-Brexit" by Hon. Laurent Fabius, President of the Constitutional Council of France & Former Prime Minister of France at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institution of International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKIIRSS) on 14th February, 2017.
- ii. Official Visit of Hon. Yun Byung-se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea on 15th March, 2017.

5. Photo Opportunity & Media Reporting

- i. Payment of compensation to families of deceased and disabled Sri Lankan Migrant Workers at the Ministry on 16th March, 2017.
- ii. Press Conference on the hijacking of the Sri Lankan Vessel by Somalin Pirates by Deputy Foreign Minister, Director General /Consular Affairs and Navy Spokesperson at the Ministry on 17th March, 2017.
- iii. Press conference on GSP+ by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- iv. Official Visit of Hon. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore to Sri Lanka on 18th July, 2017.
- v. Official Visit of Hon. Julie Bishop, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia to Sri Lanka on 19th July, 2017.

South Asia & SAARC Division

1.1 Afghanistan

- i. The request made by the Government of Afghanistan to rehabilitate its printing press is being pursued with the Government Printing Department.
- ii. The Embassy facilitated the award of several scholarships to Afghan nationals including under the UNESCO Scholarship Programme & Presidential scholarships.
- iii. The Mission facilitated promotion of Sri Lankan Airlines & Sri Lanka as a holiday destination among travel agents in Kabul also focussing on "Open Sky" policy & promoting Sri Lanka as an "Aviation Hub". Draft Air Services Agreement, received from the Afghan authorities was forwarded to the relevant authorities in Sri Lanka.
- iv. The Sri Lanka Mission works closely with the UNESCO office in Kabul and Ministry of Culture, Afghanistan to obtain support from the Department of Archaeology of Sri Lanka for the rehabilitation of Bamiyan Buddha Statues in Afghanistan. The Director General of Archaeology has agreed to visit those sites in near future.
- v. H.E. the Ambassador met with officials of the National Programme Coordinator of United Nations Office on Drug and Crime on 16.10.2017 and discussed the possibility of obtaining exposure opportunities for agriculture and small industries in Sri Lanka for the poppy farmers.
- vi. On an invitation, H.E. the Ambassador visited the Radio & Television of Afghanistan (RTA). During the visit RTA has highlighted importance of establishing ties between Afghanistan Television and the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation to enhance the mutual people to people contact through Mass Media.

1.2 Bangladesh

a. Outward Visits

- i. H.E. President Maithripala Sirisena undertook a State Visit in Bangladesh, from 13th-15th July, 2017. During the visit 13 MoUs and 1 Agreement were signed between the two countries. H.E the President held bilateral discussions with the Prime Minister, the President, the Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Health during the visit. A Business delegation accompanied H.E the President and it participated in a Business Forum on the sidelines of the State Visit.
- ii. Mr. Esala Weerakoon, Foreign Secretary on Sri Lanka visited Bangladesh on 03rd July 2017, for the 3rd Foreign Office Consultations.
- iii. Former President Chandrika Kumaratunga visited Dhaka from 21st-24th May 2017, on an invitation extended by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.
- iv. Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce visited Bangladesh from 08th to 10th February 2017, for the UNESCAP-Asia Pacific Forum in Dhaka.

- v. Hon. Dr. (Mrs.) S. Fernandopulle, State Minister of City Planning visited Dhaka from 7-11 August 2017, a Cross Learning visit to Bangladesh.
- vi. Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker visited Bangladesh from 30th March to 06th April 2017, to attend the 136th Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Dhaka.
- vii. Mr. Pujith Jayasundara, Inspector General of Police and Mr. L.K.G. Peiris, Deputy Inspector General of Police attended the Chief of Police Conference of South Asia and Neighboring Countries on "Regional Cooperation in Curbing Violent Extremism and Transnational Crime" held in Dhaka, from 11th to 14th March 2017.
- viii. Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister for City Planning & Water Supply participated at the Dhaka Water Conference, from 29th-30th July 2017.
- ix. Mr. Chandrapreme Gamage, Secretary, Ministry of Buddhasasana visited Dhaka from 22 to 25 February 2017, to attend the Atisha Dipankar Peace Gold Award Ceremony in Bangladesh organized by the Bangladesh Buddha Kristi Prachar Sangha.
- x. A delegation led by Hon. Amirthanathan Adaikalanathan, M.P., Deputy Chairman of Committees participated in the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Dhaka from 4th – 8th November, 2017.
- xi. A three member delegation of National Procurement Commission (NPC) visited Dhaka, Bangladesh from 20th – 24th November, 2017 to attend an e – procurement study.
- xii. Ms. Shobini Gunasekara, Director General / Economic Affairs and Trade (Regional and Tech. Cooperation) and Ms. Sashikala Premawardena, Director General / Ocean Affairs, Strategic Security, Climate Change and Policy Planning of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka participated in the International Workshop on Blue Economy in Dhaka organized by Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi – Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTIC) from 22nd – 23rd November, 2017.

b. Inward visits

- i. Hon. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury visited from 03-06 October 2017 to attend the 8th Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians.
- ii. Hon. Mr. Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce participated at the 2nd Indian Ocean Conference in Sri Lanka from 31st August-02nd September 2017.
- iii. The Sri Lanka-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship Association in the Bangladesh Parliament was revived. The Mission engaged with the Bangladesh Parliament actively in this connection.
- iv. The High Commission reactivated the Sri Lanka Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SLBCCI), which had been inactive since 2012.

- v. The High Commission has been able to set up a Sri Lanka desk officer at the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) to assist resolving issues that Sri Lankan investors experience in Bangladesh.
- vi. The High Commission initiated a programme of human resource development for Sri Lankan community in Dhaka with lectures being delivered by well known Sri Lankan personalities.

1.3 Bhutan

- i. A seven member delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture led by Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture undertook a study tour to Bhutan.
- ii. On an invitation extended by the GoSL, a seven member Buddhist delegation, led by His Eminence Dorji Lopen Kinley participated in the International Vesak Festival held from 12th-14th May, 2017 in Colombo.
- iii. Air Services Agreement between Sri Lanka – Bhutan is being finalized and it would be signed at International Civil Aviation Negotiations Conference (ICANC), to be held in Colombo in 04th – 08th December, 2017.
- iv. A ten member Bhutanese delegation, led by Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck visited Sri Lanka for pilgrimage from 28th December 2017 – 06th January 2018.

1.4. India

a. Bilateral relations

Second meeting of Sri Lanka- India Joint Working Group on Fisheries was held in Sri Lanka on 07th April 2017.

Outward visits:

- i. Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka visited India from 25th- 30th April 2017, where during the "MoU on Cooperation of Economic Projects": between the two countries was signed.
- ii. Hon. R. Sampanthan, Opposition Leader of Sri Lanka Parliament visited India from 13th- 15th March 2017.
- iii. Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka visited India from 06th- 07th June 2017.
- iv. Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka visited India from 08th – 10th September 2017.
- v. Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education of Sri Lanka visited Mumbai from 17th -18th February 2017 to deliver the keynote speech at the World CSR Day. He again visited India from 15th -16th May 2017.
- vi. His Lordship Justice Priyasath Dep, Chief Justice of Sri Lanka visited Mumbai to deliver the keynote speech at the International Conference on Jurists in March.
- vii. Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka visited India to attend the 153rd birth anniversary commemorations of Anagarika Dharmapala.
- viii. Hon. John Amaratunga, Minister of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs of Sri Lanka visited Bangalore.

- ix. Hon. Daya Gamage, Minister of Primary Industries visited Kerala.
- x. Hon. Sarath Fonseka, Minister of Regional Development visited India from 16th- 18th January 2017
- xi. Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade visited India from 31st January- 02nd February 2017
- xii. Hon. Sagala Ratnayake, Minister of Law and Order and Southern Development visited India from 14th- 15th March 2017
- xiii. Hon. Rajitha Senarathna, Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine visited India from 15th-16th March 2017
- xiv. Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Minister of Housing Development and Construction visited India from 27th -29th March 2017
- xv. Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of Finance visited India from 02nd- 03rd April 2017
- xvi. Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Minister of Higher Education and Highways visited India from 15th -17th April 2017
- xvii. Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade visited India on 19th April 2017 and from 25th -27th April 2017
- xviii. Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Minister of Petroleum Resources Development visited India on 19th April 2017
- xix. Hon. Faizar Musthapa, Minister of Provincial Council and Local Government of Sri Lanka visited India from 09th-10th May 2017
- xx. Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce visited India from 16th-17th May 2017 and from 31st August- 05th September 2017
- xxi. Hon. Kabir Hashim, Minister of Public Enterprises Development of Sri Lanka visited India on 07th June 2017
- xxii. Hon. Harin Fernando, Minister of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure visited India on 29th June 2017
- xxiii. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs visited India from 2nd- 4th October 2017. During the working visit the State Minister had meetings with Head of Missions of Spain, Israel, Brunei Darussalam and the Charge d' Affairs of Luxembourg.
- xxiv. Hon. Ranil Wickramasinghe, Prime Minister visited India from 22nd to 24th November 2017 to attend the 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space 2017 held in New Delhi. During the visit Hon. Prime Minister had official talks with H.E. the President of India, Hon. Prime Minister of India, Hon. Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India and Hon. Sonia Gandhi, President of the Indian National Congress.
- xxv. A delegation led by Minister of Industry & Commerce of Sri Lanka, Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen attended the World Food India (WFI) 2017, on 3rd November 2017 at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.
- xxvi. Six member delegation led by the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine of Sri Lanka together with five manufacturing and exporting companies

attended the International Arogya 2017 held in New Delhi from 4th-7th December 2017.

- xxvii. The High Commission coordinated with the Indian authorities [including the Intelligence officials] and secured the visit of two officers from the Financial Crime Investigation Division of Sri Lanka to Mumbai and Thane from 26th – 28th November 2017 regarding an investigation into matter under the Mutual Legal Assistance between the two countries.

Inward visits:

- i. Hon. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India visited Sri Lanka from 11th -12th May 2017 to participate at the International Vesak Festival.
- ii. Hon. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India visited Sri Lanka from 31st August – 01st September 2017, to participate at the Second Indian Ocean Conference.
- iii. Hon. Chandrabanu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh visited Sri Lanka from 07th- 08th January 2017.
- iv. Two company representatives visited Sri Lanka to attend the SME Tech 2017 Exhibition held from 24th-30th October 2017.

b. Multilateral relations

- i. Counter Terrorism Conference (14th-16th March 2017), Ocean Dialogue (19th-21st April 2017), Global Business Summit (27th-28th March 2017), International Conference on Buddhist Traditions, Ideologies and Dissent (07th -08th September 2017), IORA workshop on 'Women's entrepreneurship and Skills Development' (27th September 2017) were held in India and the Sri Lanka High Commission in New Delhi coordinated with relevant authorities, ensuring the Sri Lankan participation.
- ii. The CyFy: The India Conference on Technology, Security and Society (3rd and 4th October 2017), a Seminar focused on the bridge between the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, were held in India on 26th October 2017 and the Sri Lanka High Commission in New Delhi coordinated with relevant authorities, ensuring the Sri Lankan participation.

c. Economic relations and foreign investments

The Sri Lanka Missions in New Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai facilitated and participated in trade and tourism fairs, road shows, seminars etc. assisted with trade and investment inquiries and engaged with Trade Chambers and Indian Importers and businessmen. Meetings were held with potential Indian investors for attracting the investments to Sri Lanka.

- i. Extended assistance to 16 Indian companies arranging business meetings in Sri Lanka with members of the Trade Chambers and Industry Associations related to gems, IT, spices, automotive industry accessories and health solutions.
- iii. Ceylon Tea Promotion was organized for the members of the T- Club on 30th October 2017. High Commission Officials made a presentation on specialty teas from Sri Lanka followed by a tea tasting session.

- iv. Actively involved and facilitated to clear a number of shipments (Quarantine clearance/NTBs) which were detained in Chennai and Cochin.
- v. Facilitated meetings with BOI officials and other relevant Institutions in Sri Lanka.
- vi. In collaboration with the India ASEAN Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a seminar on trade and investment opportunities in Sri Lanka to make aware members of the Chamber.
- vii. In collaboration with the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Mumbai organized Sri Lanka's participation at the 5th Edition of the World Tea & Coffee Expo, from 16th-18th November 2017.

d. Cultural relations

- i. The Sri Lanka Missions in New Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai facilitated and participated in various cultural events including exhibitions, conferences & festivals and engaged with local and central Governments and organizations for further strengthen the bilateral cultural relations.
- ii. The Ministry of External Affairs of New Delhi organized "Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist heritage" from 8-10 December at Indira Gandhi National Center of Arts, New Delhi. An official from the SLTPB and official from Sri Lankan High Commission participated at the inauguration ceremony.

e. Education, Youth, Science and Technology

By Sri Lanka Missions

- i. Facilitated the request by the Ministry of Telecommunications and Electronics in Sri Lanka to implement e-office system.
- ii. Coordinated the matters that are now finalized in the Traditional medicine MoU between Sri Lanka and India (Ayush MoU).
- iii. Facilitated and assisted Sri Lankan students to obtain admission to Indian Universities.
- iv. In collaboration with the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology in Salem, technical training programmes were organized for Sri Lankan technicians, which were held in August and December 2017.

f. Labour welfare other services

- i. Sri Lanka Deputy High Commission in Chennai facilitated the release and repatriation of 17 Sri Lankan fishermen, voluntary repatriation of 1030 Sri Lankan refugees, and attended to consular needs of patients getting treatment under the President's Fund.
- ii. Sri Lanka High Commission in New Delhi facilitated the release of the Sri Lankan crew members of a boat who were taken hostage in Somalia.

The Mission in Chennai assisted in releasing nine fishermen and eight fishing vessels.

- i. SLDHC held fifty two (52) Special Consular Programme services to the voluntary return of Sri Lankans living in Tamil Nadu refugee camp to issue civilian documents. 3522 Birth Certificates and passports were issued free of charge under Refugee Repatriation Programme (1950 RRP Passports). A number of 1513 refugees had returned to Sri Lanka till December 2017.

- ii. Facilitated to Sri Lankan Patients (49) under President's Fund.
- iii. Facilitated and coordinated with respect to the Pension payment for 125 persons.

1.5 Maldives

Bilateral relations

a. Outward visits

- i. Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education visited Maldives from 9th -12th March 2017.
- ii. Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Foreign Affairs visit Maldives to participate at the Third Session of Maldives- Sri Lanka Joint Commission, which was held in Male from 8th -9th February, 2017.
- iii. Under the Prisoners Transfer Agreement, the Mission assisted to obtain the English translation of the conviction orders as it is in Dhivehi language, enabling the punishment of 12 prisoners transferred, out of 14 Sri Lankan prisoners, to Sri Lanka.

b. Inward visits

- i. Hon. Dr. Mohamed Asim, Foreign Minister of Maldives, visited Sri Lanka from 30th May - 3rd June 2017, to handover financial donation for the flood victims of Sri Lanka.

c. Multilateral relations

- i. Hon. Health Minister Dr. Rajitha Senaratna participated at the 70th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia was held in Maldives from 6th- 10th September, 2017.
- ii. Seventieth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia, held from 6th – 10th September 2017 in Maldives. Hon. Rajitha Senarathne, Minister of Health of Sri Lanka along with officials from WHO took part in the committee.

d. Economic relations and foreign investments

- i. Ambassador of Sri Lanka participated as the Guest of Honour for the Food and Hospitality Asia Maldives Exhibition and International Culinary Challenge 2017, held in Male' from 8th – 10th August, 2017.
- ii. Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave 2017, organized by Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, was held from 30th May – 1st June 2017.
- iii. The Mission coordinated invitations for the Colombo Defence Seminar 2017 (held from 28th – 29th August 2017), Asymmetric Warfare Course – 2018, Exercise Cormorant Strike 2017, a Joint Special Forces Multinational Field Training Programme (from 3rd - 25th September 2017) and KDU International Research Conference – 2017 (held on 3rd and 4th August 2017).
- iv. Senior officials of the Maldives Directorate of Intelligence met with the Ambassador and discussed issues relevant to bilateral cooperation, including intelligence sharing on areas of mutual interest & benefit, renewal of existing MoU between the Maldives Police Service and Sri Lanka Police Service and possible specialized training programmes for Maldives police officers.

- v. The Mission coordinated to settle several trade disputes/difficulties faced by Sri Lankan companies in the fields of supply, pharmaceuticals and the Head of Mission represented at several trade fairs, exhibitions and business enclaves held in Maldives to promote tourism and acquire foreign investments.
- vi. The Mission called applications for the award of Presidential Scholarships for undergraduate studies (Five nominations), SLIIT Scholarships for Students in SAARC Region (Four nominations), Technical Cooperation Programme 2017 for Foreign Diplomats (01 nomination) (held from 18th - 29th September 2017 at BIDTI), and for Diploma in Enterostomal Therapy Nursing.
- vii. The Mission facilitated the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) for the Promotion of Sri Lanka's Educational Services in the Maldives.

1.6. Nepal

a. Inward visits

- i. Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs has extended an invitation to Nepali Foreign Minister to visit Sri Lanka.
- ii. Rt. Hon. President of Nepal on 14th May 2017 visited Sri Lanka to attend the closing ceremony of the UN Vesak Day celebrations held in Kandy as the Chief Guest and met with H.E. the President and discussed bilateral matters.
- iii. A Trade delegation from Nepal - Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce visited Sri Lanka from 21st - 25th February 2017.
- iv. A delegation from the Federation of Handicraft Association of Nepal and the Gem and Jewellery Association of Nepal participated at the Gem and Jewellery Exhibition held in Colombo from 31st August to 03rd September 2017.
- v. The Head of Mission met with the relevant officials in October for further discussions on draft Agreement on Science & Technology, Agreement on Tourism co-operation between Sri Lanka and Nepal and renewal of MoU on cultural cooperation.
- vi. The Head of Mission met with Nepalese dignitaries of the Chamber of Commerce, Energy Development Council and Education Consultancy Association of Nepal (ECAN) in October and November to explore the possibility of promoting Trade, invest in Hydropower, Higher Education and Health sectors and tourism in Nepal.
- vii. The Mission facilitated the visit to Sri Lanka of Nepal Tourism Board and Nepal Association of Tour & Travel Agents (NATTA) consisting of Tour operators on 14th December to discuss with relevant officials and Tour operators.
- viii. The Head of Mission met with the Representative of UNHCR on 6th December to discuss welfare of Sri Lankan Refugees and their requirements as the Embassy has received complaints from Sri Lanka refugees regarding facilities provided by UNHCR and delay in repatriation to Sri Lanka.

b. Outward visits

- i. Lt. Gen. Crishantha de Silva, Commander of SL Army visited Nepal on 15th March 2017, on an invitation extended by Gen. Rajendra Chhetri, Chief of the Army Staff of Nepal.
- ii. Inspector General of Police of Sri Lanka visited Nepal from 17th – 21th January, 2017.

- iii. His Lordship Priyasath Dep, PC, Chief Justice of Sri Lanka attended the judicial workshop on Cybercrimes and Electronic Evidence in Kathmandu from 16th- 20th August 2017.
- iv. State Minister of Foreign Affairs Vasantha Senanayake, participated at the Fifteenth Ministerial Meeting of the BIMSTEC in Kathmandu, Nepal on 11th August 2017 and met with the Prime Minister of Nepal, Indian Minister of External Affairs, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bhutan.
- v. A Sri Lankan delegation from FCCISL visited Nepal to participate at the Nepal Investment Summit held in Kathmandu in March 2017. At the Summit Sri Lankan investors pledged to invest US\$ 500,000 in Nepal in different sectors.

During the period under review, the following Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Neon Cooperation between Nepal Council of World Affairs of Nepal and Lakshman Kadirkamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies, on 14th September 2017.

- i. Between Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka and Nepal –Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce & Industry in February with a view to strengthening trade relations.
- ii. The Government of Nepal made a cash donation of USD 50,000/- to Sri Lankan flood victims.
- iii. Sri Lanka also made a cash donation of USD 50,000/- as humanitarian assistance for flood victims of Nepal.
- iv. The Embassy briefed about Sri Lanka and encouraged the Travel Agents /Tour operators of Nepal to send more Nepali citizens to Sri Lanka, with a view to promoting Tourism.
- v. The Mission provided consular and legal assistance to a Sri Lankan National detained in the prison and two Sri Lankan refugees stranded in Kathmandu, who were victims of Human trafficking.
- vi. The Mission assisted to recruit workers from Nepal as per the request of the Chamber of Construction Industry, Sri Lanka.
- vii. Snr. Director General of SAARC Division Ms. Yasoja Gunasekara, participated at the meeting of 54th Session of the Programming Committee, held at the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu from 10th – 12th December 2018.

1.7 Pakistan

a. Bilateral Relations

The following visits of officials were facilitated to Pakistan during the stipulated period.

- i. Commander of Navy of Sri Lanka visited Pakistan from 10th – 17th Feb, 2017.

- ii. Hon. Sudarshani Fernandopulle, State Minister and of City Planning and Water Supply Hon. Anoma Gamage, Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources Development, visited Pakistan on 11.03.2017 for the participation of Role of Women Parliamentarians Conference.
- iii. Commander of the Army – Sri Lanka and the delegation visited Pakistan on 02nd-07th May, 2017.
- iv. Hon. P. Harrison, Minister of Rural Economy and the R.H.S. Samaratunga, Secretary, Ministry of Finance visited Pakistan for the 1st meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee on US\$ 200 Million Credit Line facility to the Government of Sri Lanka by Government of Pakistan on 09th May, 2017.
- v. Mr. C.S. Lokuhetti, Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the delegation visited Islamabad on 09 – 14 July, 2017.
- vi. Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) from Sri Lanka was facilitated to visit Pakistan to discuss on the US\$ 200 Million Credit Line facility promised by the Government of Pakistan to Sri Lanka. A senior level officer was participated at the above meeting from Sri Lanka High Commission, Islamabad.
- vii. Hon. Chief Justice of Sri Lanka visited Karachi in October to attend 25th Anniversary of SAARC Law.

b. Economic Relations

- i. A discussion was held with the officials of Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad in order to purchase 2000 MT Basmati Rice from Pakistan, with the participation of Secretary of Ministry of Commerce and Chairman, Cooperative Wholesale Establishment (CWE).

c. Business Visits/Trade Delegations:

- i. The Sri Lanka Missions facilitated the Field Market Study in Lahore, Pakistan, attended by officials from the EDB.
- ii. This High Commission organized the “Global Tea Party” on 06th July, 2017 with the participation of Tea enthusiasts of Pakistan.
- iii. The Mission participated at “Rawal Expo 2017” & Margala Festival 2017 to promote Sri Lanka’s Trade, Investment and Tourism in Pakistan.
- iv. The Consul General of Sri Lanka in Karachi carried out a trade promotional visit to Islamabad from 15th to 19th Dec, 2017 to explore and promote Sri Lanka-Pakistan bilateral trade relations and to discuss the existing anomalies under Pakistan-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement.

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, civil society and media. The main areas of work of this Division, during the year 2017 included the following:

A. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) - 72nd Session (New York):

1. Substantive and logistical preparations for the participation of the Sri Lanka delegation led by H.E. the President to the high-level segment of the 72nd Session of the UNGA in September 2017, in New York. H.E. the President addressed the UN General Assembly on 19 September 2017.
2. On the side-lines of the UNGA, H.E. the President participated at the UN Reform High-Level Event, chaired by H.E. Donald Trump, President of the USA among other high-level events, and held bilateral discussions with world leaders. He also met with UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
3. Substantive briefs were prepared for Sri Lanka's effective participation and contribution to the work of the 6 main substantive Committees¹ of the UN General Assembly.
4. Contributed to Sri Lanka's relations with other UN member countries by providing instructions to the Sri Lanka Mission in New York on requests for co-sponsorship of resolutions at the UNGA.

B. Reconciliation and human rights:

5. Together with relevant local stakeholders and international partners progress has been made towards fulfilling the commitments made by Sri Lanka in the UN Human Rights Council resolutions 30/1 (2015) and 34/1 (2017) titled "Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka". A new Inter-Ministerial Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Prime Minister was established to coordinate implementation of the resolutions and the Senior Officials Committee under the Ministerial Committee meets regularly to review progress.
6. Substantive and logistical preparations for Sri Lanka's participation at the sessions of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva: 34th Session (27 Feb- 24 Mar 2017), 35th Session (06 - 23 Jun 2017) and 36th Session (11 - 29 Sep 2017).

¹ 1st Committee - Disarmament & International Security; 2nd Committee - Economic & Financial; 3rd Committee - Social, Humanitarian & Cultural; 4th Committee - Special Political & Decolonization; 5th Committee - Administrative & Budgetary; and 6th Committee – Legal.

7. At the 34th Session, Sri Lanka co-sponsored resolution 34/1 titled “Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka”, which was adopted by the UN Human Rights Council on 23 March 2017 by consensus. With the support of friendly countries and the OHCHR, Sri Lanka was able to obtain a two year extension of the timeline for the implementation of resolution 30/1 of 2015.
8. Contributed to Sri Lanka’s relations with other UN member countries by providing instructions to the Sri Lanka Mission in Geneva on requests for co-sponsorship of resolutions at the HRC and making statements in support of friendly countries when they were taken up for review at the UPR.
9. The third cycle of Sri Lanka’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was held from 15th-17th November 2017. Of the 230 recommendations made to Sri Lanka, 177 were accepted and 53 were noted. Sri Lanka also made 12 voluntary pledges at the Review. Prepared and submitted Sri Lanka’s National report to the 3rd cycle of the UPR. For the first time, the National report was submitted following the holding of public consultations in Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Jaffna and Kalmunai.
10. 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 in 2017. The Peacebuilding Board is in the process of establishing Oversight committees for each of the projects receiving funds from the PBF.
11. Assisted the process of formulating, finalizing and obtaining approval by the Cabinet for Ministers of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) 2017-2021 in the framework of an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights established by the Cabinet of Ministers. The NHRAP, was officially launched in all three languages (Sinhala, Tamil, English), by the Prime Minister, at an event held in the premises of the Sri Lanka Parliament in November 2017.
12. Sri Lanka deposited the Instrument of Accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture with the United Nations Headquarters on 05th December 2017.
13. On 20th of November 2017, Sri Lanka, for the first time, briefed the Members of the UN Peace building Commission regarding Sri Lanka’s journey of peace building. The presentations focused on the holistic approach including comprehensive reform required for sustaining peace and the prevention of recurrence of violence.

C. Sri Lanka’s contribution to UN peace-keeping missions:

1. Coordinated the deployment of military and police personnel to UN Peacekeeping Missions and as at 31 December 2017, 696 Army, Air Force and Police personnel have been deployed in 08 UN Peacekeeping Missions i.e., Haiti (MINUSTAH), Central African Republic (MINUSCA), South Sudan (UNMISS), Lebanon (UNIFIL), Congo (MONUSCO) and Western Sahara (MINURSO), Abyei

(UNISFA) and Mali (MINUSMA). This includes 5 female Army officers who are serving in Western Sahara (MINURSO)-(1), South Sudan (UNMISS)-(1) and Central African Republic (MINUSCA)-(3). Two Military Officers are serving at the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at the UN Headquarters in New York.

2. In 2017, Sri Lanka continued to contribute to the establishment of a Level-II Military Hospital in South Sudan (UNMISS). In keeping with the pledge made by H.E the President during the UN Summit on Peacekeeping in September 2015 at the UNGA, to deploy a 200 member Combat Convoy Company, 150 peacekeepers from the Sri Lanka Army with country owned and Self Sustainable Equipment was deployed with the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) on 25 December 2017².
3. Steps were taken to bring to a closure, allegations of misconduct by Sri Lankan peacekeepers which was appreciated and acknowledged by the relevant UN authorities. Measures were also taken to promptly counter misinformation and accusations that appeared in certain media with regard to Sri Lankan peacekeepers.
4. In September 2017, Sri Lanka joined an initiative of the UN Secretary-General, signing a Compact to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse in the UN including UN peacekeeping missions. Demonstrating firm commitment, Sri Lanka also joined the Secretary-General's "Circle of Leadership² on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in UN operations", and contributed to the Secretary-General's Trust Fund for victims. In November 2017, Sri Lanka endorsed the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers.

D. UN Security Council Resolutions:

1. 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 resolutions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in Sri Lanka. The regulations were tabled in Parliament in October 2017, thereby giving effect to the regulations and thereafter placed before the Sectoral Oversight Committee on International Relations as required by the Parliament. The Competent Authority (Ministry of Defence) was appointed for the implementation of the regulations and monitoring thereof.
2. In December 2017, Sri Lanka co-sponsored the UN Security Council resolution 2396 (2017) on Foreign Terrorist Fighters (Returnees and Relocators).
3. A workshop on UN Security Council resolutions, was organized in Colombo in June 2017, with the assistance of the UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, for the benefit of relevant line Ministries / Departments.

² The Circle of Leadership comprises of Heads of State and Government committed to end impunity and strengthen measures to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation in international deployments.

E. Counter-terrorism / non-proliferation and disarmament:

1. Sri Lanka maintains very cordial relations with the UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate. At the request of the UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, Sri Lanka hosted the 12th Regional Workshop on Effective Combating of Terrorism for Judges, Prosecutors and Police Officers for South Asian countries in Colombo in June 2017.
2. At the request of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Sri Lanka hosted the Regional Workshop on Countering the Financing of Terrorism and the Proliferation Weapons of Mass Destruction in December 2017 in Colombo.
3. Sri Lanka deposited 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 with the UN Secretariat on 13 December 2017.
4. Sri Lanka co-sponsored and voted in favour of the UN "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" in July 2017.

F. Sri Lanka's reporting obligations to UN Treaty Bodies & other UN mechanisms:

1. Provided substantive inputs for the examination of Sri Lanka's periodic reports on the:
 - i. Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD);
 - ii. Convention on Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families (CMW);
 - iii. Convention Against Torture (CAT);
 - iv. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women(CEDAW);
 - v. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR);
 - vi. submitting reports/ addenda under the Convention Against Torture (CAT) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
2. Regular responses, as per the obligations of Sri Lanka, were provided to the OHCHR / Special Procedures correspondence and to the Secretariat of the Complaint Procedures.

G. Visits of UN dignitaries:

1. Substantive and logistical aspects pertaining to the visits of the following UN dignitaries to Sri Lanka:
 - i. UN Under-Secretary-General (Political Affairs) of the United Nations, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman (19th - 21st Jul, 2017)
 - ii. Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism, Mr. Ben Emmerson (09th -15th Jul, 2017)
 - iii. Expert Committee from Colombia to provide technical assistance to the process of transitional justice and reconciliation (21st -25th Aug, 2017)
 - iv. Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of non-Recurrence (10th -23rd October 2017)
 - v. Mr. Motoo Noguchi, Prosecutor of the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office of Japan undertook his third visit to the country, to identify capacity building and training needs for reconciliation mechanisms from 23 October – 1 November 2017.
 - vi. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (4th – 15th December 2017)

H. Elections to UN bodies:

1. Successfully campaigned for the re-election of Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, Secretary/Foreign Affairs to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families for the term 2018-2021 at the election held during the 8th Meeting of the State Parties to the International Convention on 28th June, 2017 in New York.
2. Ms. Jayathama Wickramanayake was appointed as the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth in June 2017.
3. 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.

I. International/Regional Conferences/Workshops

1. Facilitated the organization of the following events in collaboration with the Line Ministries/Agencies:
 - i. 2nd Global Consultation on Migrant Health (February 2017)
 - ii. International Celebration of the 14th United Nations Day of Vesak (May 2017).
 - iii. Workshop on effective combating of terrorism for judges, prosecutors and police officers in South Asian countries (June, 2017).
 - iv. IAEA Regional Workshop on Topical issues in Phase 1 for Nuclear Power Programme, (June, 2017).
 - v. IAEA Mission to review Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan of Sri Lanka (August, 2017).
 - vi. Training of Trainers on Treaty Body Reporting (May/June, 2017).
 - vii. Regional Workshop on Countering the Financing of Terrorism and the Proliferation Weapons of Mass Destruction (December 2017).

J. Representation by Sri Lanka in multilateral fora:

1. 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, gender and child issues, disarmament etc.; prepared 28 letters of credence for Sri Lanka's participation at meetings.

K. Liaising Drought/Flood relief assistance with the Ministry of Disaster Management:

1. Liaised with Sri Lanka Missions overseas, line Ministries, NGOs and donors in relation to matters related to receiving foreign aid/assistance during the flood/drought situation in the country.

L. Processing visas and NGO registrations:

1. 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 3908 visas from 01st January, 2017 to 31st December, 2017.

M. Sri Lanka's contribution to the UN and related agencies:

1. 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 to those institutions.

United States of America and Canada Division

The United States of America and Canada Division

1.1. The United States of America

Current Accreditations: Washington D.C: Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. The second Partnership Dialogue is due to take place in Colombo in November 2017. It will build upon and expand on the elements for U.S.- Sri Lanka cooperation.
- ii. Since being selected for a MCC Compact Programme in December 2016, based on the analysis of the constraints to economic growth undertaken by MCC, MCC and GoSL are now conducting due diligence on potential projects in the transport and land sectors. Deputy Minister of National Policies and Economic Development Dr. Harsha de Silva met with the MCC team during his visit to Washington DC in June.
- iii. The Embassy has been liaising with the State Department on a regular basis with regard to upgrading Sri Lanka's tier Trafficking in Persons Report 2017 from tier two, through recommendations and information sharing.
- iv. Paul Grove, the head Republican staffer of the Senate Appropriations Committee (staffer under Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham) visited Sri Lanka for an assessment to support US foreign assistance to Sri Lanka.
- v. Visit of the U.S House Democracy Partnership delegation led by Rep. Peter Roskam from 20th to 24th February 2017. During the visit delegation sought meetings between President, Prime Minister, Hon. M/FA, S/Defence, Speaker of the Parliament, Leader of the opposition and American business representatives.
- vi. Visit of the U.S congressional delegation led by Bob Goodlatte, Chairman of the U.S House of representatives Judiciary Committee from 23rd to 25th February 2017. This was the largest U.S. congressional delegation to date.
- vii. Visit of the Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Ambassador William E. Todd from 21st to 23rd May 2017.
- viii. Rep. Bill Johnson visited Colombo and Jaffna in May. He has taken a very positive and appeasing approach to GoSL in the past two years.
- ix. House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen and Committee Member Rep. Henry Cuellar visited Sri Lanka in August.
- x. A staff delegation from the House Foreign Affairs Committee representing both the republican and democratic committee leadership visited Sri Lanka in August.
- xi. Visit of a U.S Congressional Delegation led by Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman of the U.S House of Representatives Appropriations Committee from 9th to 11th August 2017.

- xii. Visit of the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs and Acting Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Ambassador Alice G. Wells from August 30th to September 02nd 2017. During the visit she met with the representatives of the Government including H.E the President, Hon. Prime Minister, the Tamil National Alliance and Civil Society. She also participated in the Indian Ocean Conference and addressed a special plenary. Ambassador Wells emphasized continued U.S support for the Government of Sri Lanka's effort to promote reconciliation, economic development and equal rights for all Sri Lankans.
- xiii. US Navy warship USS Comstock visited the Colombo Ports in March 2017.
- xiv. The SLEMB/Washington DC has reached out to several congress members to expand and strengthen the House Congressional Caucus on Sri Lanka in the new House of Representatives. As a result, Rep. Dina Titus agreed to take up the position of Democratic Co-Chair of the Caucus.
- xv. The Hon. Speaker lead a multiparty parliamentary delegation to Washington from September 25-29.
- xvi. The Hon. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Science, Technology & Research and Hon. Duminda Dissanayake, Minister of Agriculture paid a visit to Washington DC to attend the 65th Annual National Prayer Breakfast from 01 to 06 Feb. 2017.
- xvii. One senior Sri Lankan Naval Officer joined the Naval War College early 2017 after lapse of 4 years.
- xviii. The most important progress on the military side was the signing of authorizing of funds for IMET (International Military Education Training) by the Secretary of State in June. Courses will be on offer from as early as July this year.
- xix. Under the MoU signed between NARA and the University of Notre Dame, a US vessel will conduct oceanographic research in Sri Lankan waters on June 2018.
- xx. On 09 January 2017, SLEMB/Washington DC organized a programme to mark the National Integration & Reconciliation Week from 08 to 14 January 2017.
- xi. The Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement (ACSA) was signed between the Ministry of Defence and the US Embassy in Colombo on 04 August, 2017.
- xxii. Internal procedures are addressed to sign the seventh freedom rights of air with the US.
- xxiii. Visit of the Hon. Joseph Felter, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for South and Southeast Asia, from 11th to 13th October, 2017.
- xxiv. Dr. Indrajith Coomaraswamy Governor Central Bank of Sri Lanka travelled to Washington D.C to attend the IMF/World Bank Annual meetings from 10th to 15th October, 2017 ,and also participated the "Invest Sri Lanka" Investor Forum on 16th October, 2017 in New York.

- xxv. A Sri Lankan Delegation led by the Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Finance and Mass Media participated the International Monetary Fund (IMF)/World Bank (WB) Spring meetings and G-24 Deputies Ministers and Governors meetings in Washington DC, from 09th to 15th October, 2017, during the visit Hon. Mangala Samaraweera met Ambassador Thomas Shannon, U.S.Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Washington DC.
- xxvi. A Mine Detection Dog (MDD) Team from the Sri Lanka Army was honored by the U.S. based Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) at its 20th Anniversary Clearing the Path Gala in Washington D.C on 24th October 2017.
- xxvii. Hon. W.P.C. Dep, P.C, Chief Justice visited to Mexico to attend the "Global Network on Electoral Justice and the Ibero" – American Conference from 8th to 11th November, 2017
- xxviii. Visit of the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of the United States,
- xxix. Sri Lanka and the United States convened the second Partnership Dialogue on 6th November 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The meeting was led by Sri Lanka Foreign Secretary Prasad Kariyawasam and U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon. The Partnership Dialogue demonstrates the consolidation of cooperation between the United States and Sri Lanka, and serves to further strengthen and enhance bilateral relations in the widest sense, through regular and structured engagement. Ambassador Shannon during the visit met with the Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Foreign Minister & the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

b. Multilateral Relations

- i. Visit of the President of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) Mr. Ken Wollack from 8th to 11th March 2017, he met with Hon. M/FA.
- ii. The SLEMB/Washington DC maintains contact as an observer with Organization of American States (OAS) and its member countries consistent with the OAS framework and communicates relevant information on OAS to M/FA. The Embassy represents SL as a permanent Observer at OAS meetings.

c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investment

- i. The SLEMB/Washington DC facilitated the Sri Lanka delegation headed by Hon. Minister of Finance participated for IMF/ World Bank the Spring Meetings held from 17 to 23 April 2017 at the IMF/World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC.
- ii. Visited the University of Notre Dame and NARA from 23 to 25 March 2017 to sign a MoU between the University of Notre Dame and NARA on Promotion Scientific Collaboration between the two countries.
- iii. Facilitation at the Sri Lanka Tourism Road Show organized by the Sri Lanka Tourism held in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles- October 5, 2017
- iv. The Hon. Minister of Finance met with Ms. Fatema Z. Sumar, Regional Deputy Vice President for Europe, Asia, Pacific and Latin America (EAPLA) in the Millennium Challenge Corporation's Department of Compact Operations on 12 October 2017 at the IMF Headquarters.

v. **USS Nimitz Visit to Sri Lanka first for U.S. Aircraft carrier since 1985**

The Nimitz Carrier Strike Group arrived in Colombo, Sri Lanka for a planned port visit on 28th October 2017. The Carrier Strike Group included the USS Nimitz, the cruiser USS Princeton, and destroyers USS Howard, USS Shoup, USS Pinckney, and USS Kidd.

d. Cultural Relations

i. **Celebration of 69th Anniversary of Independence Day of Sri Lanka**

On 04 Feb. 2017, the Embassy organized a commemoration event at the Embassy to mark the 69th Anniversary of Independence of Sri Lanka with multi faith observances conducted by the religious dignitaries representing Buddhist, Hindu, Islam and Christian faiths and with the participation of Sri Lankan community representatives. Hon. Susil Premajayanththa, Minister of Science, Technology & Research visiting Washington DC was the special guest on this occasion.

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Washington D.C. took part in the Annual Winternational Embassy Showcase held on December 6 at the International Trade Center in Washington D.C.

ii. **Vesak Celebration**

On 16 May 2017, the Embassy organized an alms-giving ceremony at the Embassy to commemorate Vesak 2017 with the participation of the Buddhist Priests in DC and Maryland. The Embassy premises was light up with Vesak Lanterns and Vesak Thorana.

iii. **“Sihinayaki Re” Rupavahini Programme**

- a. On 10 June 2017, Embassy facilitated to record “Sihinayaki Re” musical programme jointly organized by the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and Sri Lanka Ranga Kala Kavaya at the Embassy outdoor premises with the participation of the members of the Sri Lankan – American community.
- b. On 09th July 2017, Embassy attended the community and religious event at Maryland Buddhist Vihara with the participation of the members of the Sri Lankan – American community.
- c. On 20th August 2017, Embassy organized a Sri Lanka Food Festival at the Washington Buddhist Vihara and attended by Sri Lankans and foreign nationals.
- d. On 16 September 2017, 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. The event was held at Kemp Mill Estate Park, 1120 Claybrook Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

e. Labour Welfare

SLEMB/Washington DC facilitated the US based Sri Lankan community in their work related matters.

1.2. Canada

a. Bilateral Relations

- i. The High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Ottawa and Consul General/Toronto, regularly briefs senior Canadian politicians at various levels on the important developments in the reconciliation process in Sri Lanka and the key initiatives taken by the Government.
- ii. A group of students and faculty members from Lakeland College, Alberta visited Sri Lanka from 19th – 27th February 2017 to conduct a study programme on the Mahaweli Development Project.
- iii. The High Commissioner for Sri Lanka met with officials of the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in Toronto last year, and during the follow up discussions held therein after cooperation between the ROM and Colombo Museum including loaning of exhibits were discussed.
- iv. The State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Wasantha Senanayake met the Foreign Minister of Canada Hon. Chrystia Freeland on the sidelines of the 50th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and 24th ARF Ministerial Meeting, Manila, Philippines on 07 August 2017.
- v. Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) WINNIPEG visited Sri Lanka from 21 – 25 May, 2017. This was a visit that took place after nearly ten years.
- vi. Sri Lankan Airlines and the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation is in the process of addressing procedural issues for Sri Lankan Airlines to be designated as an airline to provide services under the Air Services Agreement.
- vii. H.E. Shelley Whiting, High Commissioner for Canada in Colombo called on the Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Ravi Karunanayake on 09 June, 2017.
- viii. Visit of the Canadian delegation from the Canadian Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association from 8th to 12th November 2017. The purpose of the visit to Sri Lanka was to strengthen bonds with our Commonwealth partner and exchange ideas of mutual significance. During the visit delegation had met with the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, MP, Speaker, Hon. Faizer Mustapha, Minister of Local Government and Provincial Councils and Hon. (Dr.) Jayampathy Wickramaratne, MP, Member of the Steering Committee of the Constitutional Assembly.
- ix. The Sri Lankan delegation from the Defence Ministry visited Canada to attend United Nations Defence Ministerial Conference from 14th to 15th November 2017.
- x. The Hon. Eran Wickramaratne, State Minister of Finance visit to Paris to attend "One Planet Summit" from 11th to 12th December 2017.

b. Multilateral Relations

- i. Sri Lanka decided to support the candidacy of Canada for the UN Security Council for the term 2021-2022.
- ii. Sri Lanka confirmed its support for the candidature of Canada to the Executive Council for the term 2017-2019 at the election to be held during the 29th session of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in June 2017.
- iii. The Sri Lanka High Commission in Ottawa facilitated matters related to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which has its headquarters in Montreal.
- iv. The High Commission also sought Canada's support for Sri Lanka's Candidature to the Open Government (OGP) Steering Committee for the term 2017-2020.

c. Economic Relations and Foreign Investments

- i. The High Commission, in association with the Consulate General, arranged the visit of a Political/ Economic Delegation to Sri Lanka headed by Hon. Yasmin Ratansi MP, Chairperson of Canada - Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group, from 10th – 18th March, 2017, as a part of an outreach program, for reconciliation, business development and foreign direct investment promotion.
- ii. The Mayor of City of Toronto, His Worship Mr. John Tory and a Business Delegation visited Sri Lanka from 18 – 20 March 2017. The objective of their visit was to strengthen existing partnership and furthering economic interests in South Asia. Following meetings with High Commissioner, Consul General and Chairman/BOI, a potential investor is interested in a project to build a hotel in Jaffna at a cost of CAD 20 million, which will create over 100 permanent direct employment opportunities.
- iii. Wider awareness was created among tea vendors and others, at the networking event through the Global Ceylon Tea Party celebrations organized in Toronto, July 2017. The High commission was able to connect 31 Canadian companies to consider future imports in this sector and exporters from Sri Lanka were also assisted and provided with the details of buyers for their products.
- iv. The Consulate General coordinated with line Ministries and agencies and made arrangements for Sri Lanka's participation at the SIAL Canada International Exhibition 2017 held in Toronto in May 2017. The two Sri Lanka national pavilions displayed value added food products and value added Ceylon Tea from 13 Sri Lankan companies. A Sri Lankan delegation also participated at the two day Market Orientation Program and a Market Familiarization Tour, and an information session on the Canadian market.
- v. The Sri Lanka High Commission in Ottawa participated at the International Tourism and Travel Show 2016 held in October 2016 in Montreal in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) and the Sri Lanka Tea Board which included 400 exhibitors representing the travel and tourism industry. As a result of discussions had with few airlines, the Mission has agreed to collaborate towards a joint destination promotion.

- vi. Enhancing the Training Capacity of the BIDTI with Assistance from the Canadian Foreign Service Institute (CFSI).

d. Cultural Relations

- i. The Sri Lanka High Commission in Ottawa arranged/assisted/coordinated programmes such as Celebration of the National Day in Ottawa, Sinhala Tamil Aluth Avurudu Celebrations and Annual Vesak ceremony at Hilda Jayewardenaramaya, Ottawa, the 49th Annual Sinhala & Tamil New Year Celebrations organized by the Sri Lanka-Canada Association of Toronto, TD South Asian Fest 2017, the South Asian Fest Art Exhibition and the South Asian Festival at City Hall.
- ii. Events organized, assisted and by the Consulate General in Toronto include programmes in connection with new year at the Periya Sivan Temple in Scarborough, the 2nd anniversary of assumption of office by H. E. the President, National Day celebrations, the 49th Sinhala & Tamil New Year Celebrations of the Canada – Sri Lanka Association of Toronto, Vesak celebration with four main Buddhist temples in GTA and the Sinhala Sangamaya, the special mass for flood victims in Sri Lanka conducted by Bishop of Galle, who was on a visit to Toronto, the Chariot Festival of the Sri Varasithi Vinayagar Hindu Temple and Chandramouleeshwara Shivalayam, iftar programme with the Canada Sri Lanka Muslim Association, Malay cultural programme with the Canada Sri Lanka Malay Performing Arts and Cultural Centre, Eid celebrations with the Canada - Sri Lanka Malay Association, Commonwealth Day Celebrations by Royal Commonwealth Society, the Sri Lanka Day Mass at the Martyr's Shrine in Midlands with the Canada Sri Lankan Catholic Association and Basaka Waruna event by the Sinhalese Association of Canada.

e. Labour Welfare

- i. The High Commission and the Consulate General assisted prospective Sri Lanka nationals seeking employment in Canada through agents, by verifying the bona-fide of the job offers they have received.
- ii. The Consulate General assisted many Sri Lankans employed by Canadian companies regarding their welfare and continued its interactions to create awareness among the potential employers and employment opportunity facilitators.

West Division

West Division

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

- Promote and enhance bilateral ties covering cooperation on political, economic, social, security and cultural matters.
- Promote economic diplomacy to increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows.
- Promote Sri Lanka's image and interests abroad.
- Secure development assistance for the Reconciliation Process.
- Leverage bilateral support to promote Sri Lanka's interests in the EU and at other multilateral and regional fora. (European Union, United Nations, etc.)
- Promote good relations with the diaspora communities of Sri Lankan origin residents in Europe.
- Promote greater engagement with countries in South and Central America and the Caribbean.
- Promote Sri Lanka's image and interests in the Latin American and Caribbean region.
- Leverage bilateral support to promote Sri Lanka's interests in the United Nations and other regional fora.
- Cooperate with countries in the two regions, who are members of the Non-Aligned Movement and within the G77 and 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, Turkey.

Number of Resident Missions: 11

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

Number of Concurrent Accreditations: 24

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

1.1 Belgium

- a. As a follow-up to the Hon. Prime Minister's visit to Belgium on 16-22 October 2016, Hon. Ravi Karunananayake, Minister of Finance and Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade visited Belgium on 19 -20 January 2017 and met with the Minister of Finance and Secretary of State for Foreign Trade of Belgium.
- b. The Financing Agreement with the European Investment Bank (EIB) was signed for the 'Greater Colombo Waste Water Management Project'. EIB granted a concessional loan of Euro 50 million to Sri Lanka in a co-financing arrangement with the World Bank. The Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade participated in the Investment Promotion Seminar at Flanders Investment & Trade (FIT) of Belgium at the FIT Auditorium.
- c. Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade visited Belgium from 12th to 13th March 2017. Hon. Samarawickrama met European Commissioner for Trade at the European Commission in Brussels, with the view of increasing bilateral trade and investments from the European Union.
- d. The visiting Sri Lanka Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon. Sunil Handunneththi, M.P., Chairman/COPE Committee called on Hon. Siegfried Bracke, M.P. Speaker of the Belgium Federal Parliament on 26th April 2017.
- e. Sri Lanka – Belgium Parliamentary Friendship Group was reactivated.
- f. Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Belgium from 24th to 26th September 2017 and had a bilateral meeting with H.E. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium on 26th September 2017. Hon. Minister also had meetings with the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy H.E. Ms. Federica Mogherini, European Commissioner H.E. Mr. Christos Stylianides, Chair/South Asia delegation of the European Parliament and the Sri Lanka – Belgium Parliamentary Friendship Group of the European Parliamentary on 25th September 2017.
- g. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka undertook an official visit to Belgium, Luxembourg and European Union on 13-18 December 2017.
 - During the visit, Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs met with the Chair of the South Asia Delegation of the European Parliament, the Chair and the Members of the Friends of Sri Lanka Group of the European Parliament and several other Members of the European Parliament.

- Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs also met with the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.
 - Hon. State Minister delivered the keynote address at a Seminar on "Sri Lanka – New Economic Opportunities and New Vision" hosted by European Institute of Asian Studies (EIAS) in Brussels on 18 December 2017.
 - During the official visit of Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs to Belgium he met with Mr. Siegfried Bracke, President of the Chamber of Representatives of the Belgium Federal Parliament Secretary of State for Foreign Trade of Belgium and the Chair and Members of the Belgium – Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Belgium Federal Parliament.
 - The MoU on Bilateral Consultations between the Foreign Ministries of Sri Lanka and Belgium was signed by Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs and Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium on 18 December 2017.
- h. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Belgium organized a Tourism, Gems and Jewellery, Tea and Spices Promotion event in Brussels on 07 December 2017.
- i. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Belgium organized a tourism promotion event with the participation of tour Operators/Hoteliers in Brussels on 07 December 2017. The programme included a presentation on Sri Lanka's tourism attractions, tea tasting, cooking and saree demonstration and a cultural show.

1.2 Bosnia & Herzegovina

Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka undertook an official visit to Bosnia & Herzegovina from 27th to 30th September 2017, and had official discussions with Hon. Igor Crnadak, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia & Herzegovina and Hon. Josip Brkic, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia & Herzegovina. The discussions focused on further strengthening and expanding political, trade, cultural relations and people-to-people contacts between the two countries. The Hon. Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka also proposed to establish a 'Bosnia – Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group' in the Parliament of Sri Lanka.

1.3 Bulgaria

H.E. Petko Doykov, Ambassador of Bulgaria resident in New Delhi visited Sri Lanka on 26-28 July 2017 and had a meeting with the Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs. The visit signified an important milestone in bilateral relations as both countries marked the 55th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in the year 2017.

1.4 Cyprus

- a. The Government of Cyprus donated EURO 5,000/- as humanitarian flood relief assistance to Sri Lanka in May 2017.
- b. Sri Lanka is in the process of establishing a 'Resident Consulate General office in Nicosia, Cyprus' to better protect and promote rights of Sri Lankan migrant workers in Cyprus. The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Cyprus has conveyed their concurrence for the establishment of the proposed consulate.
- c. The two countries are negotiating an "Agreement in the Field of Employment of

Sri Lankan Manpower” with a view to seeking increased employment opportunities for Sri Lankan skilled and semi-skilled workers. The current Sri Lankan migrant workforce which is estimated to be approximately 5,700 is mainly employed as domestic helpers, whilst others are employed in hotels and restaurants, construction, agriculture and manufacturing sectors.

- d. Sri Lanka and Cyprus have agreed and expressed interest in strengthening of defence cooperation in the areas of training of Armed Services personnel, port calls by Naval ships and maritime security between the two countries.

1.5 Czech Republic

- a. H.E. Mr. Milan Hovorka, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Sri Lanka resident in New Delhi visited Sri Lanka on 02-07 February 2017 and had meetings with Hon. Malik Samarawickrema, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade, Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wild Life, and Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of Finance.
- b. Hon. Ivan Jancarek, Junior Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic accompanied by H.E. Mr. Milan Hovorka, Ambassador of the Czech Republic resident in New Delhi and business delegation representing banks and companies engaged in financial services, manufacturing, development of infrastructure and energy projects such as Škoda Doosan Power, Arkon Flow Systems, s.r.o., Czech Export Bank and MSA a.s., visited Sri Lanka on 5th May 2017. He had a bilateral meeting with Mrs. Grace Asirwatham, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka on advancing the engagements in the areas of trade, investment, tourism, cultural, and education. Also the Czech delegation participated at the Czech- Sri Lanka Business Forum on 04th May 2017 organized by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in New Delhi and the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic in Colombo with the partnership of the Czech Chamber of Commerce. During the mission, the Czech business delegation had meetings with relevant Sri Lankan stakeholders to explore the ways and means of enhancing bilateral trade and investment relations in a number of areas, with particular focus on the energy sector.
- c. Sri Lanka and Czech Republic signed a MoU in August 2017 to facilitate humanitarian aid for flood Relief work in Sri Lanka.
- d. The Czech Government donated Euro 100,000 through International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) for a Teacher Training College in Matara.

1.6 Denmark

- a. A Ministerial Delegation led by Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Megapolis and Western Development visited Denmark from 6th to 7th June 2017. The delegation participated at the high level round-table meeting on 06th June 2017 at the Confederation of Danish Industry, which focused on promoting investment opportunities for Danish investors in the Greater Colombo Megapolis Development Project in Sri Lanka.

- b. Hon. Troles Ravn, Member of Danish Parliament visited Sri Lanka from 02nd to 09th August 2017 on the invitation of Hon. V.S. Radhakrishnan, State Minister of Education. During the visit, Hon. Troles Ravn had a meeting with Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka.

1.7 Finland

- a. H.E. Mr. Rauli Suikkanen, Finland's Roving Ambassador to South Asia, accredited Sri Lanka visited Sri Lanka from 3rd to 7th February 2017 accompanied by a Finnish business delegation representing ICT, clean technologies, education, health, water supply & sanitation, energy, and mining etc. During the visit, the delegation had meetings with Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Minister of Megapolis and Western Development of Sri Lanka.
- b. H.E. Ms. Pirkko Matila, Minister of Social Affairs and Health of Finland accompanied by a business delegation in the Finnish health sector visited Sri Lanka on 27-29 April 2017. She had a meeting with Hon. Dr. Rajitha Senaratne and assured to extend assistance towards development of health sector of Sri Lanka through public – private partnerships.
- c. Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe , Prime Minister of Sri Lanka paid an official visit to Finland on 8 -11 October at the invitation of Hon. Juha Sipilä, the Prime Minister of Finland. A twenty-five-member Delegation including two Cabinet Ministers and a ten-member Media Team accompanied the Hon. Prime Minister during this visit. This was the first visit by a Sri Lankan leader to Finland.
- d. During this visit, a Joint Statement on the Cooperation in the Energy Sector was released. Sri Lanka and Finland also signed a Bilateral Agreement on Concessional Credit, under the Public Sector Investment Facility (PIF) of Finland.
- e. During the bilateral meetings, the two countries agreed to strengthen and enhance cooperation in the energy, health, vocational education and digitalization for mutual benefit.

1.8 France

- a. The Government of France through The French Development Agency (Agence française de développement, AFD) has proposed to offer a Euro 52 million concessional sovereign loan for the Anuradhapura Integrated Urban Development Project in Sri Lanka. The Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs of Sri Lanka is in the process of operationalizing the offer of the above soft loan facility.
- b. Sri Lanka and France has finalised an 'Agreement on the authorization to engage in paid employment for family members of agents of official Missions of each State in the other State'.
- c. Hon. Daya Gamage, Minister of Primary Industries accompanied by Hon. Anoma Gamage, Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources visited France from 7th to 13th January 2017.
- d. Hon. H.E. Laurent Fabius, Chairman of the Constitutional Council of France visited Sri Lanka on 13-14 February 2017. Meetings were held with the Hon. Speaker, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and other high dignitaries of Sri Lanka. Hon. H.E. Laurent Fabius delivered a lecture at the *Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute* of International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKIIRSS) on 14 February 2017 on "Europe and the International Order, Post-Brexit".

- e. A delegation of the French Senate, led by Mrs. Marie Christine Blandin, Chairwoman of the France - Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group visited Sri Lanka from 26th February to 03rd March 2017. Meetings were held with high dignitaries including the Hon. Speaker of Sri Lanka.
- f. The Government of France donated 848 KGS of toys, clothing, and shoes as humanitarian flood relief assistance to Sri Lanka in June 2017.
- g. Fourth Annual Consultation between French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement /AFD) and Sri Lanka was held on 10-12 July 2017 at the AFD Headquarters in Paris. A 12 member Sri Lankan delegation was headed by the Secretary to the Treasury.
- h. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in France facilitated the participation of the Sri Lankan Delegation headed by Hon. Eran Wickramaratne, State Minister of Finance at the One Planet Summit which was held in France on 12th December 2017.
- i. Coordinated the arrangement of a training programme for three Conservators from the Central Cultural Fund of Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of France.
- j. "The Sri Lanka – France Business Forum" with the participation of 8 Sri Lankan companies headed by Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade and over 20 French participants was held on 11 October 2017 at the French Business Confederation-MEDEF International in Paris.
- k. The Government of the French Republic agreed to provide Euro 13.9 million (approximately Rs.2, 514 million) as concessional loan for the development of the dairy industry in Sri Lanka (Development of six mini dairy projects in Sri Lanka). Dr. R.H.S. Samaratunga, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Mass Media of Sri Lanka signed the relevant agreement on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka.
- l. Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau conducted road shows in key cities namely Lyon, Marseille, Toulouse and Bordeaux on 3-6 October 2017. 17 Sri Lankan travel companies participated in the series of French road shows.
- m. Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau in collaboration with the Embassy organized Sri Lanka's first ever participation at the ILTM Travel Fair on 4-7 December 2017 in Cannes. 10 Sri Lankan travel/tour companies participated at the event.

1.9 Georgia

- a. Hon. David Jalagania, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia visited Sri Lanka from 15th to 18th September 2017 and had meetings with the Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs, then Actg. Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and the Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Christian Religious Affairs. During the visit, a 'MoU between the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL) and the Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI)' was signed.
- b. Agreement on visa exemption for holders of Diplomatic and Official/Service Passports between Sri Lanka and Georgia was ratified in 2017.

1.10 Germany

- a. 'The First Session of Bilateral Political Consultations between Sri Lanka and Germany' were concluded in Colombo on 6th April 2017.
- b. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has invited 15 young Sri Lankan Foreign Service officers to participate in the "Executive Seminar for Diplomats" which is scheduled to be held in 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin. The Federal Republic of Germany will meet all the expenses in connection with the participation of 15 Sri Lankan diplomats in the above programme.
- c. The German Government has confirmed funding support up to Euro 13 million and to continue the joint program for completion of the Maternity Hospital in Galle that was destroyed by the December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. The project objective is to restore sufficient natal care service and to improve the health infrastructure as well as the health situation of people living in the south province of Sri Lanka.
- d. The Government of Germany has proposed to open an office of the German Chamber of Commerce in Colombo. This will facilitate to identify new business and investment opportunities in the respective countries.
- e. The Government of Germany has proposed to re-establish the Friedrich - Ebert – Foundation (FES) and resume its activities in Sri Lanka.
- f. Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka, Minister of Law and Order & Southern Development visited Munich, Germany from 14th to 18th January 2017 to attend the International Democrat Union Forum.
- g. Hon. Wasantha Aluwihare, State Minister of Agriculture visited Germany from 18th to 25th January 2017 to participate at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture held in Berlin.
- h. Hon. Dr. Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine and the delegation visited Germany from 29th to 31st March 2017 to attend the 2nd Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety. The Hon. Minister met Senior Officials of the Heidelberg University and a 'Letter of Intent' on enhancing the cooperation in the field of medicine, especially in the field of cancer research, capacity building and training was signed following the meeting.
- i. In the Higher Education Sector, a Sri Lanka Chair at the South Asia Institute (SAI) of the Heidelberg University has been set up in February 2017 in collaboration with the University Grants Commission. The opening of this chair will provide more opportunities to the Heidelberg University to enhance its academic, research cooperation as well as student exchange between Sri Lanka and the Heidelberg University.
- j. The MOU on Academic Cooperation between the University Grants Commission and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is being implemented.

- k. Prof. Dr. Norbert Lammert, President of the German Bundestag, accompanied by a Parliamentary delegation visited Sri Lanka on 03– 05 April 2017 on an invitation extended by the Hon. Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka. He paid courtesy calls on H.E. the President and the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. Hon. Professor Norbert Lammert, delivered a lecture on "The Future of Liberal Democracy in International Relations at the *Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute* of International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKIIRSS) on 04th April 2017.
- l. The German Embassy in Colombo hosted the "Regional German Ambassadors Conference" in Colombo in April 2017.
- m. Dr. Markus Ederer, State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office and H.E. Sabine Sparwasser, Ambassador, Director General for Africa, Asia, Latin America and Middle East, visited Sri Lanka to participate at the German Regional Ambassadors' conference held from 05th to 07th April 2017 in Colombo.
- n. Hon. Dr. Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine led a delegation to Germany on 14-19 May 2017 with a view to obtain assistance from the German government to implement the Emergency Medical Rescue Services including air and land ambulance services in Sri Lanka.
- o. Sri Lanka and Germany signed a "Joint Declaration of Intent on Principles of Fair Recruitment of Personnel for Training Geriatric Nurses in the Federal Republic of Germany" in June 2017. This programme would enable Sri Lankan health sector professionals in the geriatric care to work in Germany.
- p. The Parliamentary delegation of Sri Lanka led by Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, visited Germany on 25th - 30th June 2017 to attend the Guest Programme Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Employment of Sri Lanka visited Germany in January 2017 to attend the 10th Global Forum on Migration Development (GFMD). The Joint Declaration of Intent on Principles of fair recruitment of personnel for training as geriatric nurses in Germany was signed on 27th July 2017 on the sidelines of 10th GFMD, between Ministry of Foreign Employment of Sri Lanka and the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Germany.
- q. The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Frankfurt organized a tourism promotion event entitled "Sri Lanka Evening" South Asian Institute of Heidelberg University on 16 November 2017.
- r. The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Frankfurt facilitated the visit of Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade to Anuga International Trade Exhibition for Food and Beverages held on 07-11 October 2017 in Cologne. Sri Lanka Export Development Board and Tea Board organized the Sri Lanka Pavilions at the Fine food and Hot Beverages sections separately, and altogether 52 Sri Lankan exhibitors participated at this trade fair.
- s. The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Frankfurt also facilitated the participation of Sri Lankan exhibitors at the Munich Trade Fair for Gems and Jewellery and the Food Ingredient Europe (FIE) Trade Fair in Frankfurt.

1.11. Ireland

The Government of Ireland donated Rs. 200,000/- as humanitarian flood relief assistance to Sri Lanka in May 2017.

1.12. Italy

- a. The Government of Italy has offered a concessional soft loan facility amounting to EURO 20 million for rural / agricultural development of Sri Lanka. A technical team from Italy is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka in the year 2017 to discuss the modalities and procedures to operationalize the offer of the above soft loan facility.
- b. An Agreement on the Remunerated Activity of the Family Members of Members of the Diplomatic, Consular, Administrative and Technical Staff between Sri Lanka and Italy has been finalized for signing between the two countries. This agreement permits members of the families of home-based staff of Diplomatic Missions and career Consular Posts in the receiving and sending States to carry out self-employment or salaried work.
- c. The Government of Italy has offered to cancel debt amounting to EURO 7,671, 459.65 which were granted to Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the Tsunami disaster for infrastructure and housing development programmes. The two countries are now in the process of activating the debt cancellation.
- d. On 04th March 2017 , Entry into force of the Extended Bilateral Agreement for Mutual Recognition of Driving Licenses between Italy and Sri Lanka, which was signed in 2011.
- e. Hon. John Amaratunga, Minister of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs visited Italy to participate at BIT Tourism Fair held in Milan on 02nd- 04th April 2017.
- f. The Secretary to the Treasury and Ministry of Finance of Sri Lanka visited Italy on 24 -26 June 2017. During the visit, a financing agreement "Smallholder Agribusiness Partnerships (SAP)" at a value of USD 33.7 million between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government of Sri Lanka was signed.
- g. Hon. Duminda Dissanayake, Minister of Agriculture visited Italy to attend the 40th Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Conference held in Rome on 03rd - 08th July 2017.
- h. The Sri Lankan State Dance Ensemble of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs toured Italy and performed in the "Festivals Circuit" held from 31st July to 28th August 2017.
- i. The bi-lateral Agreement on the Remunerated Activity of the Family Members of Members of the Diplomatic, Consular, Administrative and Technical Staff between Sri Lanka and Italy was signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome on 27 November 2017.

- j. Hon. Sarathie Dushmantha, Deputy Minister of Justice and Buddha Sasana visited Italy for a special Buddhist religious Ceremony on 01st October 2017 held at the Buddhist Viharaya in Brescia, in the north of Italy.
- k. Coordinated work/ meetings related to Rome based UN Agencies i.e FAO, IFAD, WFP and ICCROM. On 15 November the WFP Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for Sri Lanka for the period of 2018–2022 was approved. The total amount of this CSP is USD 46.8 million. This Embassy also participated at fund raising programme of the WFP's through Rotary Club Rome International, held on 18 November, aiming to provide school meals for 2,000 children in Sri Lanka for one year. Also, Sri Lanka participated at the 30th Session of the ICCROM's General Assembly from 29th November to 01st December and the 158th FAO Council held on 4-8 December, with delegates from Colombo.
- l. Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade of Sri Lanka visited Italy on 09-17 October 2017. Hon. State Minister attended business meetings with the Chambers of Commerce in Milan and the Sri Lanka Business Forum to promote trade & investment on 16-17 October 2017. Dr. Pierantonio Cantoni of AICE Chamber of Milan accompanied by the Minister (Comm.), had a meeting with Hon. State Minister of International Trade in Colombo on 27 November 2017. A seminar entitled "How to access to the Italian Market" was jointly organised with the EDB on 27 November 2017. It was attended by over 120 participants. A programme on grooming for 10 SME's under the 2000 Exporters programme on exporting to Europe was also conducted by Dr. Pierantonio Cantoni at the EDB.
- m. Sri Lanka participated at the 54th TTG Tourism Exhibition Rimini, Italy, 12-14 October, 2017, with 16 travel and tour operators. This was jointly organized by the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau and the Embassy.
- n. The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Milan along with the Sri Lanka Embassy in Rome organized a Sri Lanka Business Forum on 13 October 2017 in Milan during the visit of Hon. State Minister of International Trade of Sri Lanka 30 Prominent Italian businessmen / investors attended.
- o. The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Milan arranged a business community meeting with Association of Small Industries (CAN) of Milan President Daniela Cavagna and the Hon. State Minister of International Trade of Sri Lanka on 16 October 2017.
- p. The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Milan organized a Sinhala Literary Art Festival with Sinhala Literary Art Society to enhance cultural values among expatriate children on 01 October 2017.
- q. The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Milan facilitated the visit of the Deputy Minister of Buddha Sasana at the Opening of the new premises of Brescia Buddhist Viharaya on 02 October 2017.

1.13. Hungary

- a. The Government of Hungary donated HUF 1,500,000/- as humanitarian flood relief assistance to Sri Lanka in May 2017.
- b. An Agreement on Economic Cooperation Sri Lanka and Hungary has been finalized for signing between the two countries. This Agreement envisages to further advance economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.
- c. Hon. Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Export Development Strategies and International Trade, attended the World Export Development Forum (WEDF) held on 25-26 October 2017, Budapest, Hungary. During the visit, Hon. Minister met with Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs and trade Peter Szijjarto in Budapest.

1.14. Lithuania

The Government of Lithuania donated EURO 10,000/- as humanitarian flood relief assistance to Sri Lanka in May 2017.

1.15. Luxembourg

- a. Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka undertook an official visit to Luxembourg on 27th September 2017 and had a productive bilateral meeting with Hon. Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg. This was the first visit of a Sri Lankan Foreign Minister to Luxembourg since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1972. The two Ministers agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations with particular focus on economic opportunities. The two Ministers also agreed to facilitate a visit of a business delegation from Sri Lanka to Luxembourg in 2018. The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka invited Luxembourg Foreign Minister Asselborn to visit Sri Lanka at an early opportunity.
- b. During an official visit to Luxembourg on 15 December 2017, Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka met with the President of the Chamber of the Luxembourg Parliament and the Minister of Social Security, Development Cooperation, Humanitarian Affairs and Sports of Luxembourg.
- c. Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs also met with the members of Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce to discuss prospects for stronger connectivity between Luxembourg and Sri Lanka in the areas of trade and investment.
- d. Following the request from Luxembourg to conclude an Air Services Agreement, The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Belgium initiated initial discussions in preparation for the commencement of negotiations. The conclusion of this Agreement is aimed at facilitating regular Cargolux flights to Sri Lanka. As Luxembourg is a major logistics hub in Europe, Cargolux flights will facilitate exports from Sri Lanka to Europe via Luxembourg.

1.16. Netherlands

- a. The Embassy facilitated Media FAM for the "KRO NCRV Television Group (documentary) in July, Dutch National TV BNNVARA in August (documentary) and NPO Public Broadcasting Company (nature & wildlife) in August 2017.
- b. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in The Netherlands facilitated the visit of Hon. P. Harrison, Minister of Livestock and Rural Economic Affairs to the Netherlands on the invitation of the Dutch Government on 24-28 October 2017.
- c. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in The Netherlands also facilitated the visit to Sri Lanka by a two member Media Crew from BNN Vara , a public Broadcaster on 27 November to 03 December 2017.

1.17. Norway

- a. Following Agreements in the field of Fisheries between Sri Lanka and Norway were signed in March 2017 at the Ministry of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development of Sri Lanka:

Grant Agreement regarding Formulation of a New Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for Sri Lanka between the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Institutional Cooperation Contract regarding Formulation of a New Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for Sri Lanka between the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development of Sri Lanka.

- b. The Government of Norway confirmed its assistance for Sri Lanka through the FAO to conduct a survey of Sri Lanka's fish resources in the EEZ using Norway's Marine Research vessel Dr. Fridjott Nansen (*which is with the Department of Fisheries of the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy*) under the Cooperation in the fisheries sector between the two countries. The Government of Norway confirmed its assistance to develop a comprehensive national fisheries policy framework in Sri Lanka.
- c. In August 2017, the Government of Norway in response to the request made by the Government of Sri Lanka has sent a technical expert team headed by Bent Aagaard to find out the reasons for the leak in the main tunnel of the Uma Oya multi-purpose project and provide scientific solutions to the issues arisen therein. The interim report compiled by the Norwegian expert team on the Uma Oya multi-purpose project was handed over to the H.E. the President of Sri Lanka.
- d. The Norwegian Embassy in Colombo has been funding an on-going technical cooperation between the National Building Research Organization (NBRO) and the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI), for capacity building and advanced equipment to NBRO on landslide prevention, analysis and early warning systems.

- e. Following Members of the Women Caucus of the Sri Lanka Parliament visited Norway from 26th March to 01st April 2017 to attend a study Programme arranged by the Norwegian government:
 - Hon. Chandrani Bandara, MP, Minister of Women and Child Affairs
 - Hon. Thalatha Atukorale, MP, Minister of Foreign Employment
 - Hon. Sumeda G. Jayasena, MP, Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife
 - Hon. (Dr) Anoma Gamage, MP, Deputy Minister of Petroleum Resources Development
 - Hon. Vijayakala Maheswaran, MP, State Minister of Child Affairs
 - Hon. Sriyani Wijewickrama, MP
 - Hon. (Dr) Thusitha Wijemanna, MP
- f. Hon. Warnakulasuriya Jude Sumal Tissera, Minister of Fisheries of the Provincial Council of the North-Western Province participated at the FAO Meeting on IUU Fishing from 29th May to 2nd June 2017 in Oslo, Norway.
- g. The Western Norway University of Applied Sciences signed a 'Collaboration Agreement with the University of Jaffna on Capacity Building and Establishing of a Research Consortium in Nano-materials for Clean Energy' on 7th July 2017. This collaboration amounts 6.2 million Norwegian Kroner (LKR 112million) for a period of three years.
- h. The Norwegian Government donated NOK 10 million (LKR 180 million/USD 1.2 million) as humanitarian flood relief assistance to Sri Lanka through United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC).
- i. The Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam and Assistant Legal Advisor Mrs. Tilani Silva visited Oslo on 11-12 December 2017 for Sri Lanka Norway first round of Foreign Office Consultations. Secretary Kariyawasam met with the Secretary General of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, Mr. Wegger Strommen. They reviewed the status of bilateral relations and ongoing projects in Sri Lanka assisted by Norway. The two Secretaries also discussed ways and means of broadening and deepening the relations between the two countries.
- j. In a meeting with the Senior Officials of the Legal Department of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, the Sri Lanka delegation presented the submission by Sri Lanka under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). Norway has appeared Sri Lanka expert legal assistance in this area.
- k. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Norway organized a Tourism Promotion event on 22 November 2017 at the Mission in Oslo. Leading Travel Agents, Travel

Operators, renowned Travel Writers and Travel Journalists, Representatives of major Airlines servicing Sri Lanka participated at the above event.

- I. The Mission arranged a visit to Sri Lanka by leading Travel Magazine Editor Mr. Terje Myklebost. A report on "Shangrila Hotel, Hambantota" has been published by the Editor in the "Glossy Magazine" *Great Hotels & Food* (2018 Edition).

1.18. Malta

- a. Signing of the protocol between Sri Lanka and Malta on implementing the "Agreement between the European Community and the Government of Sri Lanka on the Readmission of Persons without Authorization" has been finalised for signing between the two countries.
- b. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka led the Sri Lanka Delegation to the 4th International Our Oceans Conference, which was held in Malta on 5-6 October 2017. State Minister Senanayake delivered a keynote statement at the Conference highlighting the significant steps taken by Sri Lanka to implement commitments made to promote sustainable fisheries, reduce marine pollution and protect coastal communities.
- c. On the sidelines of the Conference, State Minister Senanayake met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malta Carmelo Abela and reviewed bilateral relations between two counties. The two Ministers signed the Implementing Protocol to the EU – Sri Lanka Readmission Agreement.

1.19. Poland

- a. The Sri Lankan Mission in Warsaw facilitated the recruitment of 20 Sri Lankans to the *Fructo Fresh Company* in Poland from January to April 2017.
- b. The 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Poland was celebrated in Poland on 06th June 2017 in collaboration with the University of Warsaw. Hon. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Poland and over hundred guests participated at the above event.
- c. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Poland participated at the 02nd International Tourism Fair, World Travel Show at the PTAK Warsaw Expo held on 20-22 October 2017.
- d. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Poland in association with the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotional Bureau participated in the 25th International Travel Show - TT Warsaw 2017, which was held on 23 -25 November 2017 in the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw .
- e. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Poland also organized a first ever Sri Lanka Food Festival at the Hilton Hotel in Warsaw.
- f. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Poland facilitated discussions between H.B.T I nt. Transport Spzooi and Employ House S.A. in Poland and coordinated between the SLFEB regarding the recruitment of skilled workers from Sri Lanka.

- g. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Poland facilitated and coordinated with the Agrisol International Ro SRL, The Fabricva De Carosari SRL, The Rojobs Selectie SI Recruiter SRL, The Romjob Global Recruitment in Romania, and the SLFEB in 2017 regarding the recruitment of skilled workers from Sri Lanka.

1.20. Romania

Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Romania from 28 June to 02nd July 2017 for bilateral consultations. The Hon. State Minister had meetings with Deputy Ministers of Energy, Trade and Labour of the Government of Romania. Hon. State Minister attended Business Forum with ten member Sri Lankan business delegation held in Bucharest on 29 June 2017. The Hon. State Minister's visit to the Transylvania University in Brasov was facilitated to strengthen educational exchanges between the Transylvania University and the Peradeniya University. Also, during the discussions, Rector Abrudan announced the award of a grant by the Transylvania University to an officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka to facilitate a MA or PhD programme in a select field of study. The Agreement on Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic Passports between Sri Lanka and Romania was also signed.

1.21 Slovenia

- a. Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Slovenia from 30 August to 05 September 2017 to participate at the 12th Bled Strategic Forum 2017. The Hon. State Minister joined the panel discussion on "Realistic hope - How transformation happens faster than one thinks" and joined the discussions at the interactive session. He met with Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar and the Prime Minister of Serbia Ana Brnabić during the Bled Forum.
- b. During the bilateral segment of the visit, Hon. State Minister Senanayake had discussions with the Slovenian counterpart State Secretary Andrej Logar and reviewed the ongoing areas of bilateral cooperation. State Minister also held bilateral discussions with Mrs. Eva Stravs Podlogar, State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development (Tourism) and Technology, Mr. Klemen Postisek, State Secretary, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Slovenia, Mayor of Piran Peter Bossmann and Dr. Ernest Petric, Advisor to the President on International Affairs and International Law.
- c. The Slovenian Government donated Euro 30,000 through IFRC for flood affected areas in Sri Lanka.

1.22. Sweden

- a. Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Foreign Affairs paid an official visit to Sweden, on the invitation of H.E. Ms. Margot Wallström, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, from 17-18 January 2017. During the visit, the Hon. Minister had meetings with H.E. Ms. Margot Wallström, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, H.E. Ms. Isabella Lövin, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, H.E. Ms. Ann Linde, Minister for European Union (EU) Affairs and Trade, Mr. Urban Ahlin, Speaker and selected Members of the Swedish Parliament.

The Hon. Minister delivered a speech at the Institute for Security & Development Policy (ISDP), Sweden on the theme "Current Political Development in Sri Lanka and Reconciliation Process". He attended the round table discussion under the theme "Smart Cities and Sustainable Development" at Hammar by Sjöstad, Stockholm, with the participation of well known Swedish companies/investors.

- b. A delegation from IKEA visited Sri Lanka on 20-23 February 2017 to conduct a feasibility study for future investments in Sri Lanka.
- c. Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Megapolis and Western Development visited Sweden on 08-09 June 2017. He had high level meetings with Swedish trade representatives during the workshop focused on investment opportunities in Megapolis projects in Sri Lanka held at business region in Gothenburg, Sweden on 08 June 2017.
- d. Several delegations from FORTUM, a reputed energy company based in Sweden visited Sri Lanka in February, April and August 2017 to explore possible areas of future cooperation and investment opportunities in Sri Lanka. The delegations had meetings with the Hon. Minister of Megapolis and Western Development, Officials of the Ministry of Power and Energy and Minister of Finance of Sri Lanka etc.
- e. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Sweden together with the National Gem & Jewellery Authority of Sri Lanka facilitated the participation of Mr. Jonannes Orstadius, a Gemologist in Sweden to conduct a workshop at the FACET Gem & Jewellery fair held in September 2017 in Colombo. The Programme was held on 01 September 2017 at BMICH on the sidelines of the FACETS 2017.
- f. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Sweden together with the Department of Commerce, Sri Lanka arranged the Sri Lanka pavilion at the "Natural Products Scandinavia 2017" Trade Fair held on 15-16 November 2017 in Malmö, Sweden.
- g. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Sweden in consultation with Professor Vernon Cooray of the Ångström Laboratory, Uppsala University, Sweden made arrangements for a representative from the Ceylon Electricity Board (nominated by the Ministry of Power & Renewable Energy of Sri Lanka) to visit the Wave Power Plant in Lysekil in Southern Sweden on 15 May 2018 to explore the possibility of introducing wave power energy in Sri Lanka.

1.23. Switzerland

- a. The Government of Switzerland has been funding and supporting a Safe Labour Migration Programme in Sri Lanka focusing on the well-being and protection of labour migrants and their families. This programme is being implemented in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka and technical support of International Organizations and in partnership with Civil Society Organizations. The purpose of this project is to provide safe migration information and relevant services to migrant workers and their families, aimed at reducing the social, psychosocial as well as economic costs and enhancing the benefits of labour migration.

- b. The 'First Round of Expert Consultations between Sri Lanka and Switzerland' under the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on Migration Matters was held on 04th April 2017 in Colombo.
- c. Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister visited Davos, Switzerland to attend the 'World Economic Forum' from 16th to 22nd January 2017.
- d. Hon. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Science, Technology and Research paid an official visit to Geneva from 31st January to 9th February 2017. During the visit, an 'International Cooperation Agreement (ICA) to enhance scientific cooperation in High Energy Physics between the scientific community of Sri Lanka and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) was signed.
- e. Hon. Dr. Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine visited Geneva from 6th to 7th February 2017 to attend the WHO meeting on "Rehabilitation 2030: a call for Action"
- f. Hon. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Science, Technology and Research paid a visit to Geneva from 2nd to 8th May 2017.
- g. Hon. Dr. Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health, and Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine & Hon. M.C.M. Faizal, Deputy Minister of Health, and Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine visited Geneva to attend the 17th World Health Assembly from 22nd to 31st May 2017.
- h. Hon. W.D.J. Seneviratne, Minister of Labour and Trade Union Relations visited Switzerland from 5th to 16th June 2017 to attend the International Labour Conference.
- i. Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Ports and Shipping paid a visit to Geneva from 5th September to 14th September 2017.
- j. First Session of Foreign Office Consultations between Sri Lanka and Switzerland was convened on 15th November 2017 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombo. The Swiss delegation was led by Ambassador Mr. Johannes Matyassy, Assistant State Secretary and Head of Asia Pacific Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Sri Lankan side was headed by Mr. A.L.A. Azeez, Additional Secretary, European Union, Commonwealth and Multilateral Treaties, Political Affairs (West)

1.24. Turkey

- a. H.E. Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey visited Sri Lanka from 04th to 11th August 2017 on the invitation extended by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka. H.E. Mr. Davutoğlu called on Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka during the visit. H.E. Mr. Davutoğlu also delivered the Annual Commemorative Lecture of the late Deshamanya Mohamed Abdul Bakeer Marker, and for the award ceremony of the all-island essay and art competition jointly organized by the Bakeer Marker Center for National Unity and the office for National Unity and Reconciliation.

- b. Hon. Sujeewa Senasinghe, State Minister of International Trade undertook an official visit to Turkey from 13th to 19th August 2017. Hon. State Minister accompanied by the representatives from the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Export Development Board and the Joint Apparel Association Forum (JAAFSL) of Sri Lanka. Hon. State Minister and the delegation paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Trade and Customs of Turkey and the senior officials of the Ministry and participated at the Izmir Annual International Trade Fair, which was held every summer in Izmir, Turkey.
- c. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey participated at the 24th General Assembly of the Turkish Exporters Assembly held on 17 June 2017.
- d. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey participated at the Izmir International Trade fair held on 13-19 August 2017.
- e. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the World Food Exhibition - Istanbul held on 07-10 September 2017.
- f. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey organized an event at the Swiss Hotel, Ankara to promote "Ceylon Tea" and Sri Lanka as a "tourist destination in 2017".
- g. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey participated at the Istanbul Tea Festival in 2017.
- h. Seminar on "Business and Investment opportunities in Sri Lanka" was organized in 2017.
- i. "Sri Lanka Business and Investment Forum" held in collaboration with the Industrialists Businesswomen and Businessmen Confederation in 2017.
- j. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey organized the photographic exhibition entitled "enchanted isle" to promote Sri Lanka as a tourist destination on 23 August 2017.
- k. Second phase of the "Enchanting Isle", photographic exhibition was held at the Sebnem Bahar Art & design Gallery, Murat Pasa, Antalya, Turkey on 01-03 November 2017.
- l. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey organized a Sri Lanka Promotion Day at Erzurum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ETSO) on 18 December 2017. This included a Sri Lanka Photographic Exhibition and Trade Promotion Seminar.
- m. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey facilitated Sri Lankan a traditional dance performance at the Swiss Hotel, Ankara.
- n. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey facilitated a Sri Lankan culinary show at the Swiss Hotel, Ankara.
- o. Organized a conference entitled "Turks and Sri Lankans: Through Historical Links to the Future" at the Middle Eastern Technical University in Ankara.
- p. The first ever book in Turkish language on Sri Lanka titled "Sri Lanka'yi Kesfedin" (Discover Sri Lanka) authored by Mrs. Nazli Akcura, spouse of Sri Lanka's Hon. Consul in Izmir was published.

1.25. United Kingdom (UK)

- a. Rt. Hon. Lord Naseby, President of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Sri Lanka visited Sri Lanka from 01-09 January 2017 to gain a first-hand understanding of the ongoing reconciliation process, good governance and transitional justice mechanism in Sri Lanka.
- b. Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Foreign Affairs visited the UK from 10th to 15th January 2017. During the visit, he held a meeting with Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs focusing developments in the bilateral relationship, including the way forward to advance trade and investment between the two countries. During the visit, the Minister also met with Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland, Secretary General of the Commonwealth. The Hon. Minister also delivered a special address at the Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London on the 'Efforts of the Unity Government to move forward Peace and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka'.
- c. On the invitation of Rt. Hon. Justine Greening, Secretary of State for Education in the UK, Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, and Minister of Education visited the UK to attend the Education World Forum held in London from 21st to 25th January 2017.
- d. Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training paid a visit to UK from 22-23 January 2017.
- e. Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka, Minister of Law and Order and Southern Development, Hon. Ruwan Wijewardene, State Minister of Defence, Hon. Harin Fernando, Minister of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure and Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Member of Parliament visited the UK to participate at the International Parliamentary Conference on National Security & Cyber Security Day held in London from 27th to 31st March 2017.
- f. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake and Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe, Members of Parliament visited the UK to attend the Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Modern Slavery in Westminster, London from 26th to 28th April 2017.
- g. Hon. Susantha Punchinilame, Deputy Minister of Public Administration and Management visited the UK to attend the Security and Counter Terror Congress and Exhibition 2017 in London from 03rd to 04th May 2017.
- h. Hon. Mohan Lal Grero, State Minister of Higher Education and Highways visited the UK to participate in the "Going Global Conference-2017" in London from 21st to 24th May 2017.
- i. Mr. David Pittaway QC, the Treasurer of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple visited Sri Lanka from 01st to 08th September 2017. He had meetings with Hon. Minister of Justice, Judges of the Supreme Court and other judicial officers of Sri Lanka.
- j. Hon. Karu Jayasooriya, Speaker of Parliament of Sri Lanka paid an official visit

to the UK to attend the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy from 11th to 14th September 2017.

- k. Mr. Nick Mellors, Head of the South Asia Bilateral Section, Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the UK visited Sri Lanka and met with Hon. State Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Ministry on 7 November 2017.
- l. The Under Secretary of State for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Minister for Asia & Pacific of the United Kingdom, Hon Mark Field on his first official visit to Sri Lanka met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka on 5 October 2017 at the Ministry.
- m. Chief Minister of Southern Province, Hon. Shan Wijayalal along with five officials of the Provincial Council visited UK to attend a study tour programme on 17-24 December 2017.

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

1.1 The Russian Federation

- a. Senior level delegation from the Ministry of Labour and Trade Union Relations paid an official visit to the Russian Federation and signed a MoU between the Academy of Labour and Social Relations of the Russian Federation and the National Institute of Labour Studies of Sri Lanka (NILS) on 26th January 2017 at the Academy of Labour and Social Relations of Russia.
- b. Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Plantation Industries of Sri Lanka and a business delegation visited Russia from 05th to 11th February 2017 to attend the 24th "Prod Expo" Food and Beverages Exhibition, held in Moscow from 06th - 10th February 2017. The Hon. Minister had meetings with the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Senior Officials of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and key trading partners of the Russian Federation. He also attended the "Ceylon Tea Networking Dinner" held in Moscow.
- c. H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, the President, paid an Official Visit to the Russian Federation from 22nd to 24th March 2017, on the invitation extended by H.E. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation. This was the first such visit made by a Sri Lankan leader at the invitation of a Russian Head of State since 1974. He had official meetings with H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister and other senior political leaders of the Russian Federation.

Following agreements/ MoUs were signed during the visit between the two countries:

- i. Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Fisheries
- ii. MoU on Cooperation in the Fields of Science, Technology and Innovation
- iii. MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism
- iv. Protocol on Cultural Cooperation
- d. Hon. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Science, Technology and Research visited the Russian Federation on 29th March 2017 to conduct negotiations with the Russian State Space Corporation (ROSCOSMOS). During the visit, a 'MoU' between Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies and ROSCOSMOS on Cooperation in the Field of Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes was signed.
- e. Hon. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Science, Technology and Research visited Russia to attend the 'IX International Forum AtomExpo-2017' held from 19th to 21st June 2017. He had a discussion with Deputy Director General for International Relations of the State Atomic Energy Corporation ROSATOM.
- f. Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara, Minister of Sports and a delegation visited Russia to participate at the Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VI). The Conference was held in Kazan from 13th to 15th July 2017.
- g. The Government of the Russian Federation provided humanitarian aid to the flood and landslide victims in Sri Lanka in August 2017. The items include 02 portable generators, 200 tents, and 4000 kitchenware sets.
- h. Hon. Lakshman Senewiratne, State Minister of Science, Technology and Research and a delegation visited Russia to participate in the 'Third Joint Institute for Nuclear Research (JINR) International Training Course', which was held in Dubna from 04th to 08th September 2017.
- i. The Postmaster General of Sri Lanka visited Moscow to attend the 'Second Universal Postal Union World CEO Forum 2017' from 17th to 19th September 2017.
- j. Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka and a delegation made an official visit to St. Petersburg, Russia to participate in the 137th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly held on 14-18, October 2017.
- k. In the framework of the IPU Assembly the Hon. Speaker had a series of discussions with Russian officials, including Vice Governor of St. Petersburg, Vice Chairpersons of Federation Council and the State Duma of the Russian Federation.
- l. On October 9, 2017 Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training of Sri Lanka Hon. Chandima Weerakkody arrived in Moscow at the invitation of the Director General of the Training and Research Center of Moscow Trade Union Federation, Mr. Vladimir Bogdashin to participate in the International conference: "Social Responsibility and Working Environment – the main factors of Sustainable Development".

- m. A Sri Lankan delegation headed by Hon. Niroshan Perera, State Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs, visited Russia on 11-17 October 2017 to participate in the Ministerial Meeting of High Ranking Officials Responsible for Implementation of Youth Policies and the World Festival of Youth and Students on the invitation extended by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.
- n. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Russia facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the XIX World Festival of Youth and Students (WFYS) which was held on 14-22 October 2017, Sochi in Russia.
- o. Hon. Dr. Rajitha Senaratne and delegation visited Russia from 16-18 November 2017 to participate at the "First World Health Organization Global Ministerial Conference on ending Tuberculosis in the Sustainable Development Era : A Multi Sectoral Response" held in Moscow, Russian Federation on 16-17 November 2017.
- p. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Russia facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the World Food 2017. Sectors represented were sea food, spices, coconut and confectionary. A business networking seminar was conducted in parallel with the World Food 2017 with a participation of more than 45 Russian business parties in the product sectors of coconut and spices.
- q. A Sri Lankan delegation of 14 expert officials from different Government organizations visited Moscow and Ekaterinburg on 24-29 December 2017 for technical level discussions on safe industry use of chrysotile asbestos.
- r. On November 30, 2017 the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Russia organized a Ceylon Tea Tasting Ceremony for the Moscow Association of Military Attachés (MAMA). The event was attended by the Diplomatic and military Corps representing more than 30 foreign Missions in Moscow.
- s. A five member TV crew of NTV Channel in Russia visited Sri Lanka on 17-25 December 2017 to make a documentary film on Ceylon Tea. The visit of the TV crew was organized by the Sri Lanka Tea Board in coordination with the Tea Promotion Unit of the Sri Lanka Embassy in Russia.
- t. The Second Session of Russia – Sri Lanka Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held on 24-26 October 2017.
- u. Russia imposed a temporary ban on imports of all agricultural products from Sri Lanka including tea, from 18th December 2017. This was following the detection of an insect known as Khapra beetle, in the packaging of one consignment of tea from Sri Lanka.
- v. On the same day, H.E. the President of Sri Lanka made a special request to H.E. the President of the Russian Federation to get the ban lifted. Meanwhile, a delegation of experts including the Hon. Minister of Plantation Industries visited Russian Federation for discussions. After several rounds of discussions, the Russian authorities lifted the ban with effect from 30th December 2017.
- w. Russia issued a Commemorative Stamp to mark the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Sri Lanka and Russia on 18th December 2017.

1.2. Ukraine

- a. Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka visited Ukraine to attend the 'Global Legislative Conference', which was held in Kyiv from 17th to 21st May 2017. He was accompanied by the Secretary General and the Chief of Protocol of the Sri Lanka Parliament.
- b. A senior official level delegation from the Attorney General's Department visited Ukraine in September 2017.
- c. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the Ukrainian Tourism Fair 2017.
- d. The 3rd phase of the photographic exhibition "Enchanting Isle" was held at the Ukrainian Parliament.

1.3. Turkmenistan

Hon. Dayasiri Jayasekara visited Turkmenistan to participate at the opening ceremony of the 5th Asia Indoor and Martial Arts Games, which was held from 17th to 27th September 2017.

C. Latin Americas:

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: 08

Venezuela, Jamaica, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Ecuador from Havana and Argentina, Colombia, Suriname from Brasilia

1.1. Argentina

Hon, W.D.J Senevirathne, Minister of Labour, Trade Union Relations and Sabaragamu Development visited Buenos Aires, Argentina to attend the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour, from 13-20 November 2017.

1.2. Brazil

- a. Hon. V.N.P. Senanayake, State Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management visited Brazil from 21st to 24th March 2017 to attend the conference on "Eco-hydrology for Security of Ecosystems and Societies" under the auspices of UNESCO.
- b. Sri Lanka's participation in 'APAS Trade Show': The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brazil, in association with the Ministry of Plantation Industries of Sri Lanka, organized Sri Lanka's participation in 'APAS Trade Show' which was held from 2nd -5th May 2017 at the *Expo Centro Norte* in Sao Paulo. Six Sri Lankan exhibitors displayed tea and coconut products at this Exhibition. The Sri Lankan

- delegation at the event was headed by Hon. Lakshman Wasantha Perera, Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries.
- c. An Official delegation, comprising of both Government and Private sector delegates, from the State of Goiás of Brazil visited Sri Lanka from 11th to 13th August 2017 to attend the 'CRT Trade Fair on a Rubber Sector Trade Mission' to explore the possible partnership and investment with the Sri Lanka's rubber industries. The delegation had a special meeting with the Hon. Minister of Plantation Industries and visited the Rubber Research Institute of Sri Lanka.
 - d. Vice Admiral RC Wijegunaratne, Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy (CofN) visited Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to attend the 11th Latin American Aerospace and Defence (LAAD-2017) exhibition.
 - e. A delegation from Police Headquarters of Sri Lanka visited Sao Paulo, Brazil to attend Maritime International Police Cooperation Programme on 13-17 November 2017.
 - f. Dr. Otavio Augusto de Castro Bravo, Prosecutor of the Military Justice of the Office of Military Justice in Rio de Janeiro undertook a study tour in Sri Lanka from 30th October to 04th November 2017 to research on 'Military Justice in comparative law'.
 - g. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brazil organized a Trade Promotional Programme in Anápolis, *Goiás*, Brazil on 22 November 2017.

1.3. Colombia

H.E Patti Londono, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia visited Sri Lanka from 28th to 30th March 2017. The purpose of the visit is to discuss matters of common interest to both countries with a view to further strengthen the bilateral ties and also to complete negotiations on two draft instruments.

1.4. Cuba

- a. Following the signing of a MoU on Cooperation of Science, Technology and Innovation between Sri Lanka with Cuba, Sri Lanka has identified strengthening co-operation, particularly in the area of technical assistance to benefit from Cuba's extensive expertise in biotechnology, nanotechnology, and medical science- particularly, epidemiology.
- b. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Cuba continues to facilitate discussions between a Sri Lankan company and two Cuban institutions to produce pharmaceutical, medicinal and bio-tech products.
- c. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Cuba is continuing discussions with state owned enterprises to introduce and promote Sri Lankan products such as building materials (Pipes, conduits, electric cables etc), wood items and furniture, house hold goods, apparel (middle range), light engineering products, plastic products and spices and allied products into the Cuban market .

1.5. Chile

Director General of Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institution visited Santiago, Chile to attend 44th meeting of the International Forum on Diplomatic Training.

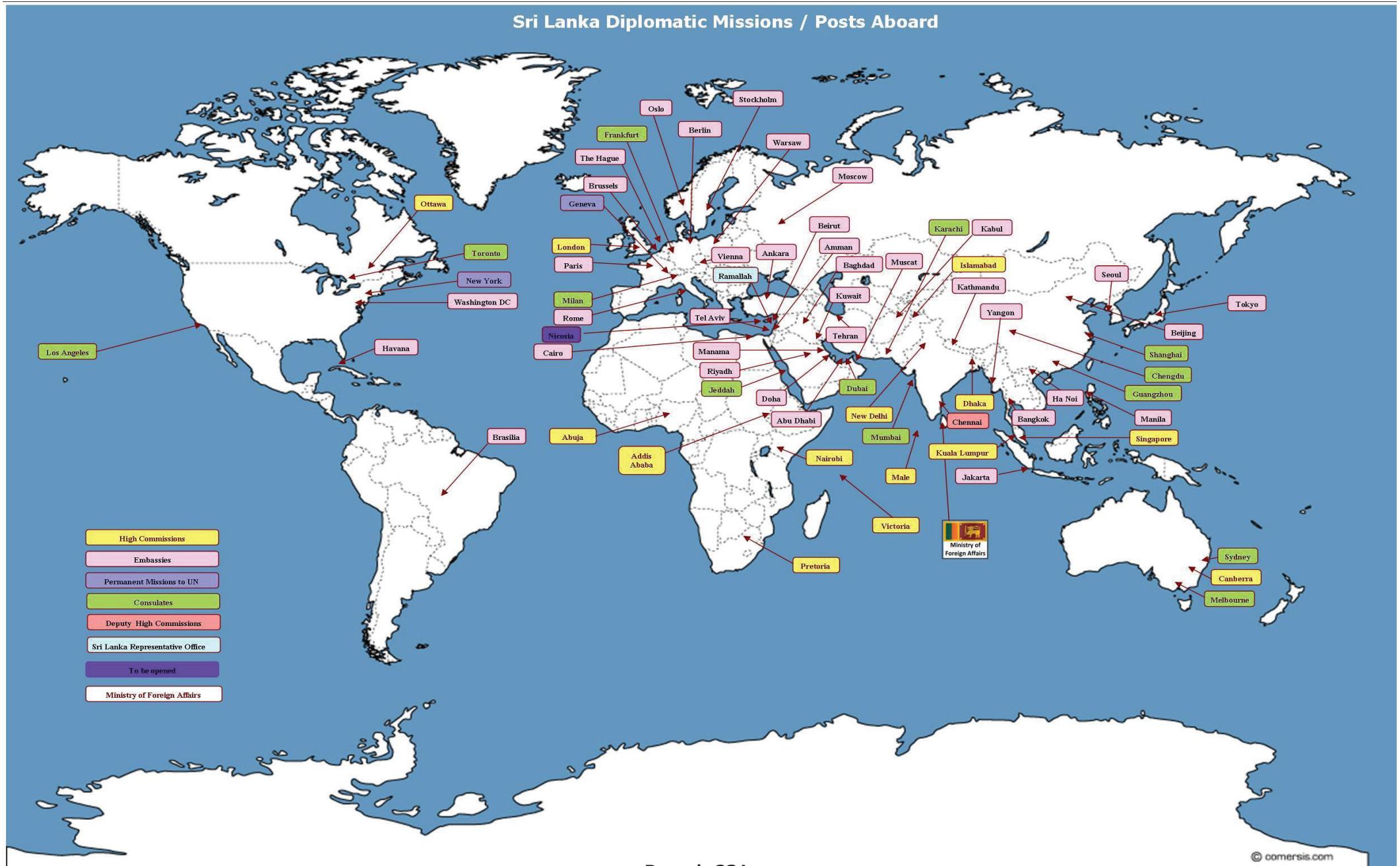
1.6 Mexico

Hon. Anura Priyadarshna Yapa, Minister of Disaster Management visited Mexico

from 22nd to 26th May 2017 to participate at the '5th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction' held in Cancun.

Network of Diplomatic Missions Abroad

Sri Lanka Diplomatic Missions / Posts Aboard



Revenue Report of Missions as at 31-12-2017

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	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 2006-02-00	Grand Total
01A	Canberra	-	19,268	18,730,030	-	5,889,185	3,079,860	181,248	-	-	27,899,592
02A	Sydney	-	10,840	27,126,078	-	7,969,837	1,891,061	130,715	21,126	-	37,149,657
03A	Cairo	-	49,296	2,243,340	-	229,036	150,404	70,785	-	-	2,742,861
04A	Paris	-	21,276	133,091,447	561,193	13,281,732	4,381,397	265,772	78,962	-	151,681,779
05A	The Hague	-	2,920	12,360,504	-	2,458,085	96,316	108,589	-	-	15,026,413
06A	Tokyo	-	33,717	19,041,552	-	11,976,012	6,324,003	123,140	18,199	-	37,516,622
07A	Amman	-	8,357	5,904,899	-	420,889	2,506,304	59,419	-	-	8,899,867
08A	Kathmandu	-	6,020	3,470,375	-	21,153	1,601,520	80,918	-	7,045,650	12,225,637
09A	Berlin	-	36,208	31,160,709	-	2,994,066	859,283	109,393	23,451	-	35,183,111
10A	Vienna	-	32,703	2,942,189	-	453,558	948,598	136,706	-	-	4,513,755
11A	Beijing	-	15,823	12,578,227	-	4,451,788	1,378,427	238,651	19,025	-	18,681,941
12A	Havana	-	4,938	59,549	-	197,096	92,844	57,215	12,909	-	424,552
13A	Kuala Lumpur	-	9,553	18,713,647	-	2,411,582	5,020,707	219,635	-	-	26,375,124
14A	Singapore	-	28,963	7,693,005	-	4,363,257	2,194,109	174,486	-	201,430	14,655,251
15A	New York	23,123	51,230	10,390,889	-	2,465,278	655,074	313,870	-	-	13,899,464
16A	Washington	-	21,945	27,052,496	-	4,733,383	1,706,645	402,579	-	-	33,917,048
17A	Los Angeles	-	13,339	13,780,824	-	1,151,084	106,533	96,300	-	-	15,148,080
18A	Dhaka	-	4,129	14,163,269	-	669,709	403,241	72,330	-	158,410	15,471,087
19A	Mumbai	-	458	1,755,870	-	1,304,060	162,144	117,712	-	1,207	3,341,453
20A	Nairobi	-	20,388	1,303,237	-	166,740	118,400	72,079	17,191	-	1,698,036
21A	Yangon	33,337	14,581	1,474,107	-	32,301	560,779	105,268	15,434	-	2,235,807
22A	Stockholm	-	13,597	13,394,084	-	1,861,198	779,173	161,442	-	-	16,209,494
23A	Bangkok	-	25,430	6,466,334	-	1,108,386	4,281,332	201,484	16,912	-	12,099,877
24A	Brussels	-	21,962	3,773,420	-	375,680	670,931	186,155	-	-	5,028,148
25A	Chennai	-	18,580	8,037,186	-	14,184,666	315,710	350,636	23,209	81,261	23,011,247
26A	Jakarta	-	22,583	1,981,413	-	257,607	907,193	132,540	-	-	3,301,337
27A	Male	-	21,746	2,142,906	-	1,442,153	825,037	57,988	23,308	-	4,513,137
28A	Geneva	-	16,534	44,771,806	-	13,953,794	8,035,527	448,949	21,557	-	67,248,167
29A	Abu Dhabi	-	19,960	18,001,018	-	2,298,836	16,897,450	153,596	17,552	-	37,388,412
30A	Dubai	-	46,472	59,102,231	-	10,877,810	3,718,863	212,144	-	-	73,957,520

31A	London	-	67,309	60,655,417	1,001	68,386,567	1,325,305	372,280	6,769	-	130,814,648
32A	New Delhi	15,061	32,668	3,137,138	-	3,699,277	3,431,569	341,762	42,213	-	10,699,688
33A	Seoul	-	24,870	31,521,024	-	8,181,597	12,835,268	353,469	-	-	52,916,228
34A	Kuwait	-	52,867	95,071,057	-	17,131,194	1,104,288	330,358	-	736,551	114,426,315
35A	Riyadh	-	21,424	69,549,533	-	2,765,786	4,660,651	293,589	-	363,163	77,654,145
36A	Moscow	-	28,195	1,290,749	-	480,670	2,311,830	99,451	18,658	-	4,229,554
37A	Ottawa	-	8,130	25,399,431	-	2,369,311	2,405,678	169,852	39,569	-	30,391,970
38A	Baghdad	-	337	583,121	2,150	152,144	125,761	28,049	17,704	-	909,265
39A	Rome	432,148	16,009	93,205,834	-	21,493,235	4,318,231	235,990	-	-	119,701,447
40A	Oman	7,315	40,830	9,481,541	-	3,710,273	276,454	241,874	10,962	443,137	14,212,386
41A	Islamabad	-	2,133	2,633,655	-	292,434	2,107,918	152,068	23,479	44,696	5,256,383
42A	Karachi	-	13,062	2,900,131	-	193,647	130,793	76,585	21,785	-	3,336,002
43A	Jeddah	-	14,056	25,194,161	-	1,725,138	187,833	107,776	-	-	27,228,962
44A	Qatar	-	69,327	57,489,806	-	17,412,288	5,214,508	136,147	-	-	80,322,077
45A	Pretoria	-	5,660	3,291,907	-	511,575	1,960,340	169,489	-	-	5,938,970
46A	Beirut	-	32,065	6,928,190	-	419,137	599,199	139,002	27,579	-	8,145,173
47A	Tehran	-	14,041	1,624,461	1,065	100,398	85,726	46,814	5,943	-	1,878,448
48A	Manila	-	25,733	3,398,668	-	670,116	15,732,854	137,700	-	30,440	19,995,512
49A	Warsaw	-	4,040	667,757	-	460,229	1,989,143	15,055	16,755	-	3,152,980
50A	Oslo	-	16,615	9,577,420	-	556,089	175,894	44,599	41,098	268,437	10,680,152
51A	Frankfurt	-	12,510	39,934,089	-	1,540,337	455,371	160,742	-	-	42,103,050
52A	Tel Aviv	-	4,705	12,782,138	-	1,376,469	1,841,612	101,303	-	-	16,106,227
53A	Toronto	-	32,699	92,660,217	-	5,310,873	846,181	163,241	-	-	99,013,211
54A	Brazilia	-	10,681	224,151	-	75,882	216,894	110,594	12,543	-	650,745
55A	Hanoi	-	10,315	2,087,931	-	808,417	961,658	127,040	23,093	-	4,018,454
56A	Ramallah	-	1,743	45,713	-	-	84,222	18,045	-	-	149,723
57A	Shanghai	-	11,607	4,644,894	-	345,571	528,068	69,734	-	-	5,599,874
60A	Ankara	-	17,759	342,073	-	363,399	144,070	165,278	-	-	1,032,579
61A	Guangzhou	-	6,000	1,356,025	-	290,182	47,161,583	85,125	-	-	48,898,915
62A	Melbourne	-	864,474	57,064,325	-	14,554,768	2,231,146	123,281	-	-	74,837,995
63A	Manama	-	11,035	9,030,211	-	1,605,398	142,957	116,232	18,834	-	10,924,668
65A	Abuja	-	9,231	4,879,658	-	10,478	84,222	94,683	-	-	5,078,272
66A	Victoria	-	1,512	1,068,692	-	338,457	102,220	16,986	-	-	1,527,867
67A	Kabul	-	323	416,537	-	-	84,226	14,983	-	-	516,069

68A	Milan	-	9,118	69,254,920	-	26,798,937	1,267,086	99,073	-	-	-	97,429,135
69A	Addis Ababa	-	9,888	410,284	-	158,716	2,499,623	75,223	-	-	-	3,153,734
Grand Total		510,983	2,115,789	1,322,509,500	565,409	318,288,951	190,299,249	10,075,218	635,819	9,374,381		1,854,375,299

Revenue Codes

- 2002-01-01** Rent on Government Building & Housing
- 2002-02-99** Other Interest
- 2003-02-07** Fees of Passports, Visas & Dual Citizenship
- 2003-02-13** Examinations & Other fees
- 2003-02-99** Consular Fees
- 2003-99-00** Other Receipts
- 2004-01-00** Social Security Contributions - (Central Government)
- 2004-02-00** Social Security Contributions - (Provincial Councils)
- 2006-02-00** Sale of Capital Assets

**CONSULAR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY SRI LANKA MISSIONS ABROAD
FROM 01st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER 2017**

Country	Mission	Employment contract	Visas issued	Passports 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
Afghanistan	Kabul	0	35	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia	Canberra	0	191	740	6	103	4	0	0	247	0	8	247	225	0
Australia	Melbourne	0	979	2,046	204	0	59	8	0	524	0	3	2,873	291	1454
Australia	Sydney	0	785	779	63	92	16	0	0	198	0	4	1,551	214	0
Austria	Vienna	0	309	29	6	0	1	0	1	6	0	0	109	3	0
Bahrain	Manama		118	643	30			3	63	83	4	5	325	13	1380
Bangladesh	Dhaka		4008	53	4	0	4	0	0	12	0	1	192	5	5
Belgium	Brussels	0	439	41	0	9	0	0	3	8	0	0	84	0	0
Brazil	Brasilia	0	10	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	25
Canada	Toronto	0	3,197	1863	146	68	53	4	0	226	0	10	1,533	176	502
Canada	Ottawa														
China	Beijing	0	2,438	58	5	0	4	0	0	23	0	1	1,135	0	17
China	Guangzhou		272		6			1	1			1	97		
China	Shanghai														
Cuba	Havana	0	5	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	50	0	0
Egypt	Cairo	30	216	47	26	7	8	0	11	11	0	1	54	54	0
France	Paris		1,085	3,775	90	54	328		9	1,093	188	2	670	34	3,440
Germany	Berlin		1,078	86	3	0	2	0	0	5	0	1	163	2	1
Germany	Frankfurt		1,384	1,224	41		56		26	117	2	1	107	2	
India	New Delhi		2,005	15	31			7	4	9		27	1051	7	

**CONSULAR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY SRI LANKA MISSIONS ABROAD
FROM 01st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER 2017**

Country	Mission	Employment contract	Visas issued	Passports 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
India	Chennai	0	2,721	2,275	60	0	5	9	1513	3,520	17	13	0	0	0
India	Mumbai	0	1,291	12	7	0	0	6	4	5	1	1	355	2	7
Indonesia	Jakarta		294	10	74				71	7			24		
Iran	Tehran	0	309	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0
Iraq	Bagdad	0	51	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	0	45	0	0
Israel	Tel Aviv	1	10		43			484		31	4				1,028
Italy	Rome	0		3471	301		380			1,005	13	23	62	336	3,831
Italy	Milan		11		715		435	2750		855	53	45	2,019	445	622
Japan	Tokyo		697	562	173	20	12		18	189	44	5	970	20	
Jordan	Amman	392	119	496	64	0	13	1	25	9	0	0	67	4	5
Kenya	Nairobi	0	69	19	10	0	0	0	5	6	0	3	20	2	0
Korea	Seoul	0	404	1,054	139	0	0	1	0	52	6	9	1,901	41	38
Kuwait	Kuwait		1,564	6,197	6,165		745	256	1,286	377	4	90	3,094	74	7,832
Lebanon	Beirut	671	25	619	586	7	23	4	411	52	7	15	120	34	
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	40	156	118	143	0	0	0	11	9	2	6	46	0	0
Maldives	Male		181	112	26	0	9	0	14	7	2	2	369	5	0
Myanmar	Yangon		350	4	6					1			11		
Nepal	Kathmandu	0	889	4	7	0	1	3	2	1	1	3	4	0	0
The Netherlands	The Hague	0	829	66	16	5	0	0	5	31	0	0	312	0	3
Nigeria	Abuja	0	898	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Norway	Oslo		458	171	13		2		6	35		1	56	1	
Oman	Muscat	5,171	133	608	123	0	35	0	91	61	1	2	957	18	0

CONSULAR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY SRI LANKA MISSIONS ABROAD FROM 01 st JANUARY TO 31 st DECEMBER 2017																
Country	Mission	Employment contract	Visas issued	Passports 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	
Pakistan	Islamabad	1	843	15	2	0	2	3	1	4	0	0	104	2	0	
Pakistan	Karachi	0	836	14	7	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	27	1	1	
The Philippines	Manila	0	736	34	6	0	3	9	0	21	2	0	111	3	64	
Poland	Warsaw	6	51	13	1	0	1	1	58	2	0	0	100	0	0	
State of Palestine	Ramallah City	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Qatar	Doha	19,856	77	4299	1150	0	239	6	0	319	8	3	1,710	17	0	
Russian Federation	Moscow	0	187	8	5	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	491	5	0	
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	268	394	3,302	4,791		421	145	777	235	1	114	442	62		
Saudi Arabia	Jeddah	3	629	1,225	2116		25	10	52	113	1	10	241			
Seychelles	Victoria	34	23	45	9			0	12	11		2	26	4	0	
Singapore	Singapore	575	246	237	86		135	5	31	59	14	9	572	20	0	
South Africa	Pretoria	0	90	82	17	0	9	76	0	32	0	2	58	20	0	
Sweden	Stockholm	0	1,149	149	14	0	7	6	7	55	0	0	189	0	38	
Thailand	Bangkok	0	1,122	23	34		16	17	14	15	5	3	292	2	0	
Turkey	Ankara	2	79	3					57	3		2	99			
United Arab Emirates	Abu Dhabi		302	1,242	122		90			139	27	3	351	22	189	
United Arab Emirates	Dubai	422	748	3,522	690		374	59	84	441		36	462	31	469	
United Kingdom	London		2,906	2,496			328	575	109	917		7		139	1469	
United Nations	Geneva	0	811	1147	89	0	136	0	190	314	1	6	721	2	0	
United Nations	New York	0	219					301		71		2	0	6	178	
United States of America	Washington		1204	728	65	15	20	0	15	212	0	2	457	23	346	
United States of America	Los Angeles	0	344	285	96	0	9	0	1	53	0	8	97	0	209	
Viet Nam	Ha noi	0	349	8	2	0	5	0	2	7	0	0	280	2	0	