

ACTIVITY
BOOKLET



20
19

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Chamber Leadership

Dr. Hans Wijayasuriya, Mr. Vish Govindasamy and Mr. Duminda Hulangamuwa were elected as the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Deputy Vice Chairperson respectively.



Dr. Hans Wijayasuriya
Chairperson



Mr. Vish Govindasamy
Vice Chairperson



Mr. Duminda Hulangamuwa
Deputy Vice Chairperson

The Members of the Board for the year 2019/20 are:

Dr. Hans Wijayasuriya, Chairman
Mr. Vish Govindasamy, Vice Chairman
Mr. Duminda Hulangamuwa, Deputy Vice Chairman
Mrs. Dhara Wijayatilake, Secretary General and CEO
Mr. Krishan Balendra
Ms. Shiromal Cooray
Mr. Hussein Esufally
Mr. Asoka Peiris
Mr. Pravir Samarasinghe

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Membership Services

1.1 SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

- Annual Economy + Sector Review and Outlook Seminar | January 2019
- SME Regional Workshop, Colombo, on 'Future Proof Your Business' | February 2019
- An Interactive Evening with His Excellency Akira Sugiyama, Ambassador of Japan in Sri Lanka | March 2019
- Annual National Budget Seminar | March 2019
- A special wellness session for working women, in celebration of International Women's Day | March 2019
- A seminar on Brexit and its Implications to Sri Lanka | May 2019
- A seminar on Exports to the USA under the GSP+ | June 2019
- An awareness session on 'Exporting to the United States under the GSP: New Trends and Opportunities' | June 2019
- A discussion titled 'Progress as a Nation: How Can We Move Forward Together' | July 2019
- Breakfast Seminar on 'Responsible Marketing in Today's Social Media Landscape' | July 2019
- A discussion on the powers of the new President post 19th Amendment to the Constitution | July 2019
- Discussion with the Chairman and members of the Election Commission to discuss initiatives that could be taken to ensure greater transparency in elections | August 2019
- Stakeholder discussion with the trade community to develop a blueprint 'Port Community System' for Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) | September 2019
- Meeting with Her Excellency Sara Hulton, the newly appointed High Commissioner to Britain in Sri Lanka | September 2019
- Breakfast seminar with Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Megapolis and Western Development | September 2019
- A seminar on 'USA Visa Procedures - What Must You Know?' | September 2019
- Breakfast meeting with Cecil Balmond and Ms. Mayanthi Wickremetilleke on 'Big Architecture and Cities' and 'Sustainable Living' respectively | November 2019
- Launch of the Dairy Training Sector in Sri Lanka | November 2019
- Presidential Spotlight - Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake, Presidential Candidate from the National People's Power (NPP) | November 2019
- Workshop on 'Food Risk Communication' | November 2019
- Breakfast meeting with Mr. Peter Coleman, Trade Commissioner at the Australian High Commission | November 2019
- A workshop on trade remedies | December 2019

1.2 FLAGSHIP EVENTS

- Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave - Explore | Network | Capitalize | September 2019



- Sri Lanka Economic Summit 2019 - Re-calibrating Sri Lanka's Economic Trajectory | September 2019



- Future of Business - Reimagining the Future of Work | October 2019



- Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Awards 2019 | November 2019



1.3 EVENTS MANAGED FOR EXTERNAL PARTNERS

- EXCON 2019 Roadshow - On behalf of the Confederation of Indian Industry | October 2019
- Yunnan Green Food Promotion Conference - On behalf of the Yunnan Province Representative Office China | November 2019
- Sri Lanka Retail Forum 2019 - On behalf of the Sri Lanka Retailers' Association | November 2019

1.4 CHAMBER ACADEMY

- A knowledge-sharing session on Big Data and Data Analysis | June 2019
- A full-day training program on 'How Digital Marketing Can Boost Your Business' | December 2019

1.5 CCC-ICLP ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- Training programs for Arbitrators and Case Managers | September 2019
- Launch of a 'Manual for Mediators' at the Symposium held on the subject of 'Mediation as an ADR process for Commercial Dispute Resolution' | November 2019

1.6 PEACEBUILDING INITIATIVES

- Meetings with former President Maithripala Sirisena and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe discussing matters relating to security concerns and national revival efforts | April 2019
- Pledge for Unity | May 2019
- A circular issued to the membership of the Chamber, helping to bring hate speech and other violations of Community Standards targeting businesses | August 2019
- The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce at the Peace Building Commission of the United Nations (PBC) | April 2019

1.7 DIGITAL PRESENCE

- Introduced the #DailyUpdate —graphic posts across the economy.lk and the Ceylon Chamber's Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram accounts, on 18 June 2019
- Introduced the #WeeklyWrap, a curated list of editorial must-reads relevant to Sri Lanka and the region, on 15 November 2019
- Celebrated the second year anniversary of economy.lk on 25 July 2019
- Live streamed key sessions of the Sri Lanka Economic Summit 2019 on Facebook
- Providing weekly corporate news highlights of the week with a look ahead for the following week through the 'Corporate Snapshot'
- Continued Monthly Economic Update series in English and Sinhala at the end of every month
- Continued 'Front Row' - A series of interviews with leading Sri Lankan and international industry leaders and policy makers
- Continued updates and posts on the social media platforms of economy.lk such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram

02

Trade and Investment Promotion

2.1 BUSINESS PROMOTION MISSIONS

OUTWARD MISSIONS

- Sri Lanka-Maldives Business Council delegation to the Maldives | July 2019
- A business promotion mission to New Delhi | July 2019

INWARD MISSIONS

- Delegation from the dairy sector in the Netherlands | January 2019
- Presentation on Explore South Africa | April 2019
- Business delegation from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chitwan Nepal (CCIC) | November 2019
- Presentation on Turkey - Your Next Destination for Business | December 2019

2.2 MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

MoU's were signed with the following:

- Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chitwan Nepal (CCIC) | November 2019
- The Bureau of Commerce, Jiazhou | December 2019

2.3 OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Discussion forum with His Excellency Ibrahim Mohamed Sohil, President of the Republic of Maldives | February 2019
- Welcome reception to His Excellency Omar Abdul Razzak, Ambassador of Maldives to Sri Lanka | February 2019
- A networking session with Mr. Sanjeewa Pattiwila, Minister Counsellor (Commercial) designate to Embassy of Sri Lanka in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia | March 2019
- An event titled 'Sharing of Success Stories of doing business in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam' | March 2019
- Meetings with Ambassadors Designate to Austria, Belgium, Bosnia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Oman, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, The Netherlands and UAE | June 2019
- Meeting with Mr. Adnan Lodhi, Trade Secretary, Pakistan High Commission | July 2019
- Meeting with His Excellency Rizvi Hassen, Ambassador Designate to Turkey | July 2019
- Meeting with His Excellency David Holly, Australian High Commissioner | July 2019
- A networking meeting to welcome new members and editors of media organizations | July 2019

- Meeting with Her Excellency Joanna Kempers, High Commissioner for New Zealand in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh | August 2019
- Meeting with J. C. Weliamuna P. C., High Commissioner Designate to Australia | August 2019
- Meeting with Mr. Sugeeshwara Gunaratna, Ambassador Designate to Ethiopia | August 2019
- A networking session with IDP Australia | September 2019
- A networking session with Mr. Prasanna Gamgae, Ambassador Designate to Vietnam | September 2019
- A networking session with Mrs. Shanika Dissanayake, Ambassador Designate to Jordan | October 2019
- A felicitation event followed by cocktails for Mr. Kumar Sangakkara, celebrating his achievements in cricket and business | October 2019
- A networking session between Mr. Mariano Beheran, Agriculture Attaché of the Embassy of Argentina, and local business representatives | November 2019

2.4 PUBLICATIONS

- Working draft of the Sri Lanka Economic Acceleration Framework (SEAF) 2020-25
- A report titled A Critical Analysis of The Energy Sector (Electricity Focused) in Sri Lanka
- Directory of Members 2019

2.5 SERVICES RELATED TO EXPORTS

- Issuing of International Barcodes for Sri Lankan products to be marketed in the domestic and overseas markets (GS1 Lanka).
- Registration of Certificates of Origin and export related documents.

03

Influencing Policy

Policy issues were discussed and required interventions were determined through the Chamber Steering Committees and National Agenda Committees (NACs).

3.1 STEERING COMMITTEES

THE TAXATION STEERING COMMITTEE

In February 2019, the committee made fresh submissions for consideration by the Ministry of Finance and Mass Media for the National Budget 2019.

The Taxation Steering Committee met with the Commissioner General and senior officials of the Department of Inland Revenue in July 2019 to discuss tax administrative issues.

THE TRADE LIBERALIZATION COMMITTEE

The Trade Liberalization Steering Committee met in April 2019 to discuss the findings of a report on Sri Lanka's Offensive Trade Interests with India, which was compiled by the Economic Intelligence Unit of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. This report contains recommendations to the government on potential products that are likely to reap benefits under the proposed Economic and Technology Cooperation (ETCA) agreement between Sri Lanka and India.

THE ECONOMIC POLICY STEERING COMMITTEE

The committee along with the members of the Chamber Board and other Chamber Committees met with the representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in February and September 2019 to discuss matters relating to the economic outlook and business climate of the country. The committee deliberated in March over the National Budget for 2019.

LEGISLATION STEERING COMMITTEE

At a meeting held in February 2019, the committee proposed recommendations to repeal the Companies Donations Act No. 26 of 1951 and amend the Consumer Affairs Authority Direction No 26 published in Extraordinary Gazette No. 1571/25 dated October 17, 2008.

Submissions were made on the Proposed Framework on Data Protection, and the Draft Bill on Cyber Security to the Ministry of Digital Infrastructure and Information Technology in July 2019.

In November 2019, the Legislation Steering Committee had discussions with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) regarding the proposed amendments to the Construction Industry Development Act No. 33 of 2014.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE STEERING COMMITTEE

The Chamber provided some logistical support to the Ministry of Health towards a Training on CODEX Standards (with trainers from overseas) in February 2019.

The members of the committee attended a Stakeholder Meeting on Food (Colour Coding for Sugar, Salt and Fat) Regulation in February 2019 and made submissions to proposed food regulations.

Food and Beverages Steering Committee together with the Ministry of Health and Food Industry Asia (FIA) organized an awareness program in November 2019, on food risk communication.

YOUNG LEADERS STEERING COMMITTEE

The Young Leaders' Steering Committee organized their third interactive session of The Coffee with CEO Talk Series, with Mr. Hanif Yusoof, Group CEO, Expolanka, in March 2019.

This committee conducted a survey in July 2019, focusing on the aspirations of the Sri Lankan youth, in order to ascertain their baseline viewpoints and career ambitions.

3.2 NATIONAL AGENDA COMMITTEES

NAC ON FINANCE AND CAPITAL

The National Agenda Committee (NAC) on Finance and Capital, the Legislation Steering Committee and the Economic Policy Steering Committee met in November 2019 to discuss the Central Bank of Sri Lanka Bill.

NAC ON ENERGY

The NAC on Energy met with the World Bank's Energy Infrastructure Sector Assessment Program (SAP) team for the second time, in February 2019 to discuss the WB Report on 'Sri Lanka's Energy Infrastructure Investment Needs'. The committee published its report titled 'A Critical Analysis of The Energy Sector (Electricity Focused) in Sri Lanka,' which can be accessed [here](#).

NAC ON LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT

Members of the Committee and other relevant stakeholders met with Verite Research (VR) to discuss the findings of a background research paper done by Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF) and VR on the existing legal and regulatory framework on MCC services in Sri Lanka.

NAC ON PUBLIC SECTOR REFORMS

The Ceylon Chamber formulated a new NAC on Public Sector Reforms in October 2019, to drive the Chamber's efforts in recommending suitable strategies and to advocate the resolution of pressing issues in the public sector.

Key bottlenecks in the public sector, such as anomalies in the selection and recruitment process, and the need for gearing the public sector officials were discussed by the committee during November 2019 and proposals were formulated on how best the government could address these concerns.

3.3 SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS MADE

- Post-budget submissions to the Ministry of Finance - Recommendations on the issues relating to the proposals of the National Budget 2019 | April 2019
- A submission made to the Controller General of the Import and Export Control Department containing industry concerns and recommendations on the proposed changes to the Standardization and Quality Control Regulations of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act No.1 of 1969 | May 2019
- Submissions to the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) on tax administration issues | August 2019
- Submissions to the Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade (MODSIT) on the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) between Sri Lanka and Australia | August 2019

3.4 PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH OF THE ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE UNIT (EIU)

- Monthly Economic Update circulated to the membership
- A publication on 'BREXIT: A Global Trade Risk Factor with Significant Local Implications' | March 2019
- Launch of the Sri Lanka-United Kingdom Bilateral trade and Investment Report | July 2019
- Strategic Insights Research Report - Volume 6; titled 'IMO2020 Global Sulphur Cap: Implications for Sri Lanka' | December 2019

04

Capacity Building of SMEs

TRAINING FOR SMEs ON EXPORT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Implemented in collaboration with the International Trade Center ((ITC)

Objective - Improve SMEs' export management practices to meet international market requirements.

SME REGIONAL WORKSHOP, COLOMBO

Implemented together with Microsoft Sri Lanka

Objective - To educate SMEs on possibilities for digital transformation of businesses.

05

The 2025 Development Framework



The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce launched its Sri Lanka Economic Acceleration Framework (SEAF) 2020-25 at the Sri Lanka Economic Summit 2019. The Chamber has obtained inputs from eighteen (18) Working Groups to formulate the Framework. It sets out identified objectives, targets and actions required in respect of important thrust areas that impact the national economy. It contains the expectations from the Government as well as the contribution of the private sector, which would help to achieve the level of progress targeted for 2025. The working draft of the SEAF is now available at www.seaf.chamber.lk

