

ACTIVITY BOOKLET



2020

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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
Chairman



Mr. Vish Govindasamy
Vice Chairman



Mr. Duminda Hulangamuwa
Deputy Vice Chairman

The Members of the Board for the year 2020/21 are:

- Dr. Hans Wijayasuriya, Chairperson
- Mr. Vish Govindasamy, Vice Chairperson
- Mr. Duminda Hulangamuwa, Deputy Vice Chairperson
- Mr. Manjula de Silva, Secretary General/CEO
- Mr. Husein Esufally, Non-Executive Chairman, Hemas Holdings PLC
- Mr. Krishan Balendra, Chairman, John Keells Holdings PLC
- Mr. Pravir Samarasinghe, Director/Group CEO, Overseas Realty (Ceylon) PLC
- Ms. Shiromal Cooray, Chairperson & Managing Director, Jetwing Travels (Private) Ltd
- Mr. Asoka Peiris, Managing Director, Cargills Food Company Ltd

1.0 Membership Services

1.1 SEMINARS, WEBINARS, WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

WORKSHOPS

- New Trends in Packaging, 30th January
- Experience Branding Workshop, 30th January

SEMINARS

- Economy + Sector Review and Outlook 2020 | Witness the launch of the Outlook 2020 Report | 10th February 2020
- Local Economic Growth through Partnerships and Value Chain Development - A case study with the LEED+ model | 28th February 2020
- CHANGES IN INCOTERMS: Certainty & in International Trade | 5th March 2020

WEBINARS

- COVID-19 – Are we prepared | 16th March 2020
- How SMEs can adapt and overcome challenges during COVID-19. A general overview of the current situation and possible future predictions. | 9th April, 2020.
- Webinar on Planning for the Unpredictable | 10th April 2020
- Webinar on Financial Support for Business Recovery - Webinar to discuss the Financial Support offered by the Government for the businesses affected by COVID-19 | 17th April 2020.
- Physical and Mental Health effects of the Covid-19 | 20th April 2020
- Winning with AI - Using data to navigate through current challenges | 21st April 2020
- People's Bank to Build Business Resilience -During the Crisis of COVID -19 - Webinar in Sinhala & Tamil to cover the Government banks role and services to build SMEs and other businesses during the crisis of COVID 19. | 22nd April 2020.
- Public-Private Sector Dialogue on Local & International Cross Border Challenges due to COVID-19 | 23rd April 2020
- Handling personal stress and the stress of employees and clients/customers in a time of disaster | 27th April 2020
- Banking Services and Solutions for Business Recovery offered by DFCC bank during and after COVID 19 – Process and procedures to receive Central Bank support package | 28th April 2020.
- Global picture and the social protection measures that are needed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in the region | 29th April 2020 | In Partnership with ILO

- HNB Taking Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Forward in COVID 19 Crisis - Special services to empower the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises & New digital solutions introduced by the bank to support Businesses | 29th April 2020.
- Accounting and tax implications amidst COVID-19 | 04th May 2020 | In Collaboration with EY
- Online Shopping in Sri Lanka: An opportunity lies in the middle of difficulty | 08th May 2020
- How do you use your Business Continuity Plan for recovery to New Normalcy? | 10th May 2020
- Importance of using e-signature in International Trade Transaction | 13th May 2020
- Beyond the Curve: Guide to restart business post-lockdown | 15th May 2020 | In Collaboration with EY
- Amazing opportunities in agriculture - what we need to do to bring benefits to all stakeholders in agriculture | 16th May 2020
- Daraz - Restarting businesses during COVID 19 How can SMEs benefit through e-commerce? How digitization of retail/SME can help the economy and why it is important as part of the new normal. Daraz Seller Stimulus programme; the objective and benefits. | 26th May 2020.
- Managing HR in the New Normal: Challenges and Opportunities | 27th May 2020
- Sri Lanka Tourism - The Way Forward | 30th May 2020
- Understanding sustainability reporting through the lens of the financial sector | 04th June 2020
- E-Container clearance by Port Terminals and e-delivery order by shipping lines: New initiatives during Covid-19 & future ways of working | 06th June 2020
- Certification for organizations On occupational and Customer Safety from Covid-19 | 11th June 2020
- Roadmap to Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery | 12th June 2020
- COVID-19 controlled environment - Certified? – For Tourism Industry | 01st July 2020
- Future-Fluent Board Leadership in Sri Lanka | 21st July 2020
- Professional Development Program – for undergraduates of University of Ruhuna – 5 Sessions
- COVID-19 Controlled Environment Certification - for Tea Industry | 24th July 2020
- Webinar on Insurance Industry's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic | 11th August 2020
- Webinar on Digital Payments | 26th August 2020 | In Partnership with Facebook
- Webinar on the Provisions of the Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) Framework | 28th August 2020 | In collaboration with PWC
- Webinar on Financial Restructuring - A tool for Corporate Success | 3rd September 2020
- Webinar on Sustaining the Automotive Industry | 22nd September 2020
- Awareness Session on Current challenges in applying accounting standards and general findings of accounting and auditing regulator | 14th October 2020
- Webinar on Paperless Submission of Customs Declarations | 16th October 2020
- Use of digital platforms for small and medium-sized businesses | 11th November 2020
- Analyzing National Budget 2021 | 19th November 2020
- Social Media Use for SMEs | 23rd November 2020
- Webinar on Current Labour Laws & Way forward | 27 November 2020
- Awareness Training on the Introduction of Electronic Government Procurement System (e-GP) | 15th December 2020

1.2 FLAGSHIP EVENTS

- The Ceylon Chamber welcomes Mr. Manjula De Silva as its new CEO



- Sri Lanka Economic Summit 2020 - Roadmap for Take-off: Driving a People Centric Economic Revival | December 2020



- Economy + Sector Review and Outlook 2020 Seminar – 10th February 2020

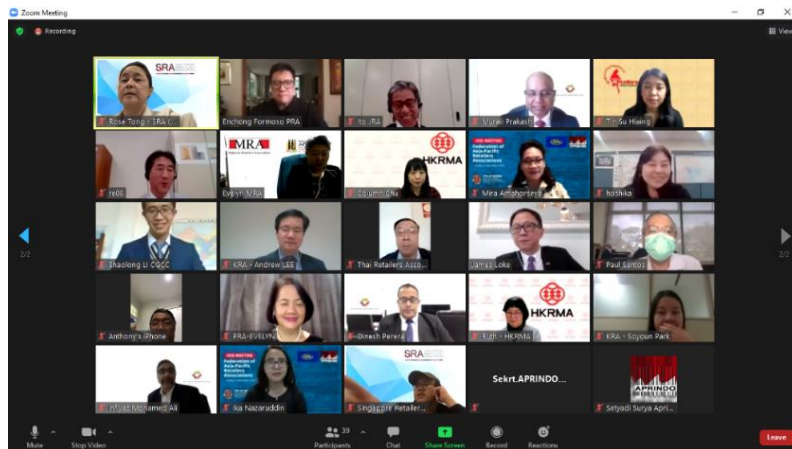


- The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce forms 'CCC Council for Startups'



1.3 EVENTS MANAGED FOR EXTERNAL PARTNERS

FAPRA Executive Directors Virtual Meeting – On behalf of the Sri Lanka Retailers Association | July 2020



1.4 COVID-19 – RELIEF MEASURES

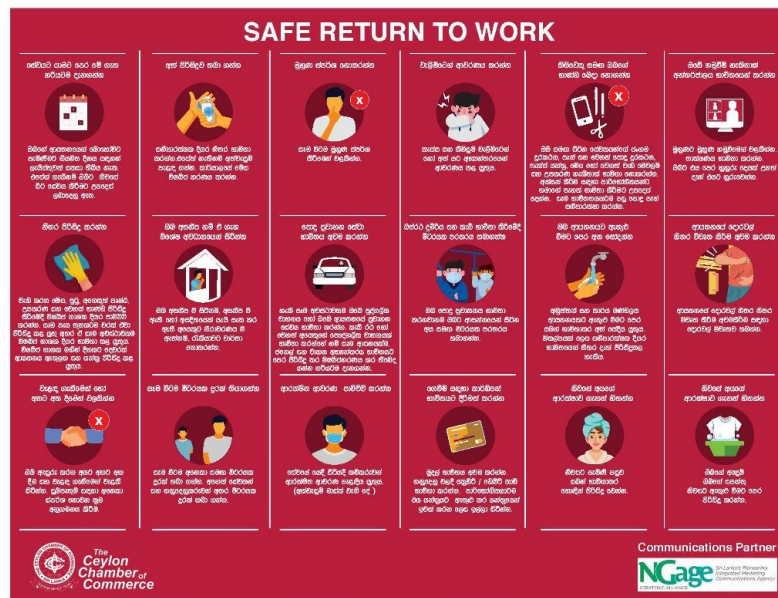
- Purchasing emergency equipment for COVID-19 - The Chamber supplied 20 non-contact infra-red thermometers for the use of District Disaster Management Units of the National Disaster Management Centre, supporting the National Operation Centre for the prevention of COVID-19.
- On the request of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (IDH), the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce channeled Rs. 20 million worth donations during the period April to December 2020.
 - A newly built Mechanical Ventilation and Air Condition System for the Covid-19 ICU II of the National Institute of Infectious Disease (NIID/IDH) was donated by Sunshine Holdings PLC and Fairfirst Insurance Limited.
 - An Automated Extractor (BSC 48) machine was donated by Ceylon Beverage Holdings
 - Vintage Teas Ceylon Pvt Ltd. – Photocopier
 - Nestle Lanka PLC – Food items
 - Council for Business with Britain - Doctors Protective Clothing
 - Sri Lanka - Italy Business Council - Doctors Protective Clothing
 - Sri Lanka - Germany Business Council - 3M N95 Masks



- In line with the Ceylon Chamber's initiative to tackle how the new Coronavirus affects industries and businessmen, the Chamber hosted an interactive webinar for its member organisations. Information on the current epidemic and measures for prevention, personal protection and management, and how to get the workplace ready were discussed. The webinar was a collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organisation, and Rotary International, Sri Lanka.

1.5 DIGITAL PRESENCE

- Chamber digital channels have seen an almost 200% increase in reach compared to 2019.
- Initiating a new social media platform for the SME Centre targeting small business.
- Presence across Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram with frequent informative posts about pertinent economic updates, weekly economic wraps.
- Took upon the agenda to introduce and create awareness on health and safety protocols across its viewership during the initial stages of COVID-19 and continues to build partnerships with likeminded organisations to push for further awareness during the ongoing crisis.
- Providing The Chamber viewership on trade tips and member survey results via infographics and videos.
- Partnered up with Facebook to monitor hate speech towards the Chamber members and escalate it to the highest level of content moderators.
- Digital support towards publicising over 50 successfully concluded Chamber webinars.
- Successfully driving paid participation for the first ever virtual Sri Lanka Economic Summit.
- Initiated Season 04 of the long running Front Row series featuring top level industry leaders and policy makers both locally and globally.
- Providing weekly corporate news for paid subscribers which includes the most pertinent economic highlights of the week with a look ahead for the following week through the 'Corporate Snapshot'.
- Continued Monthly Economic Update series in article and video formats in English and Sinhala.



2.0

Trade and Investment Promotion

2.1 BUSINESS PROMOTION MISSIONS

OUTWARD MISSION

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in association with the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) and the Sri Lanka High Commission in India organised Sri Lanka's participation for the first time, at the "Indusfood - Tech 2020" Trade Fair, held from 8th to 10th January, 2020 in New Delhi, India to showcase Sri Lanka's processed food and beverage industry. 34 representatives from Small and Medium (SMEs) companies were selected to join the mission to explore opportunities to establish business linkages.



2.2 MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

With a view to build a dependable, pragmatic, and advantageous relationship and to establish friendly and cordial relations between Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment on 28th September, 2020. H.E Ashraf Haidari, Ambassador of Afghanistan witnessed the virtual signing of the MOU.



2.3 OTHER TRADE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

- Webinar on Coping up with COVID -19 - China's Experience on 30th April 2020
- Webinar on Current economic and social situation of Japan and the future business relationship with Sri Lanka on 2nd May 2020.
- Webinar on "Current economic and social situation of Japan and the future business relationship with Sri Lanka – 6th May 2020
- Webinar on “U.A.E. – Your Destination for Business” with Mr. Malraj de Silva, Ambassador designate to UAE on 6th May 2020
- Webinar on "Sri Lanka and India Current Economy, Business Environment and Opportunities for Joint Collaborations" – jointly organised with the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM), India on 15th May 2020
- SME's plan to action in the New Normal | 23rd May 2020
- Webinar on “Webinar on Thailand and Vietnam Current Economy, Business Environment and Potential Areas for Joint Collaborations” – 10th June 2020.
- Virtual B2B Meetings with Cosmos International, India on 16th and 17th June, 2020.
- Webinar on Post COVID Opportunities in Belgium and the Netherlands on 20th July 2020.
- The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in association with the Pune, Hyderabad and Delhi (PHD) Chamber of Commerce and Industry, India organized Virtual B2B Meetings on 21st July 2020.
- Virtual Meeting with Mrs. Manorie Unambuwe, Ambassador designate to Germany on 22nd July, 2020.
- Webinar on "Singapore - Food and Digitalization - Accelerated Key Trends Driving the Growth in Sri Lanka" on 27th July, 2020.
- Webinar on “New Zealand - Current Business and Education Environment, Trends and Opportunities for Joint Collaborations" on 29th July, 2020.
- Webinar on "Winning and Succeeding in Dubai – What does it take to succeed" on 3rd September, 2020
- Bilateral discussions with His Excellency Woonjin Jeong Korean Ambassador in Sri Lanka on 7th September, 2020
- Webinar on "Korea - Current Economy, Business Environment and Opportunities for Joint Collaborations" on 8th September, 2020.
- The Sri Lanka - Italy Business Council in association with the Embassy of Italy in Sri Lanka and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce organised a Webinar on “Italy New Partnerships for Business” on 10th of September 2020.
- Virtual Q & A Session on “Doing Business with Dubai” on 24th September 2020.
- Interactive Session with Dr. Palitha Kohona, Ambassador designate to China – 29th September 2020.
- Webinar on “India - Sri Lanka Current Business Environment and Opportunities for Joint Collaborations for Agri and Processed Food Sector”, to promote Sri Lanka’s Agri products and Processed Foods - 29th September, 2020
- Promotion of Sri Lanka's Fair Trade/Organic Products in Belgium through virtual B2B meetings in October 2020
- Virtual Meeting with Mr. Sanjeev Gunasekera, Ambassador designate to Japan on 15th October 2020.
- The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in association with the Sri Lanka Embassy and the Konya Chamber of Commerce in Turkey organized Virtual B2B Meetings on 15th October, 2020

- Virtual Meeting with Mr. Ravinatha Aryasinha, Ambassador designate to USA on 21st October 2020.
- Virtual Meeting with Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama, Ambassador designate to France on 2nd November 2020.
- Webinar on “Turkey - Sri Lanka Current Economy, Business Environment and Opportunities for Joint Collaborations” on 4th November, 2020.
- Virtual meeting with Admiral (Rtd.) Piyal de Silva Ambassador designate to Afghanistan on 17th November 2020.
- Virtual Business Matchmaking event between Sri Lanka and Brazilian buyers – 10th and 11th December 2020
- China – South Asia Online Expo 2020 – 12th to 18th December 2020 – 30 companies registered through the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce as Exhibitors and Visitors.
- Webinar on Prospects for Cooperation: Ukraine - Sri Lanka on 11th December 2020.
- Webinar on Bilateral Trade with Australia and Potentials/Challenges for Sri Lankan Exports – 15th December, 2020
- Virtual Meeting for newly appointed Commercial Officials to Sri Lanka Missions overseas (Australia, Canada, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and U.K.) on 15th December, 2020.
- Virtual B2B Meetings with Bypass Network Services Limited, a technology firm headquartered in New Zealand on 22nd December 2020.



Oceanpick Ltd., South Asia’s inaugural project for oceanic farming based in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, entered into an agreement to receive import credit from Saudi Export Program of the Saudi Fund for Development on 5 March, at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.



Mr. Manjula de Silva met Mr. Peter Fan, Director, Taipei World Trade Centre on 25th September 2020 to discuss possible areas to further strengthen relationship between Sri Lanka and Taiwan.



Virtual Meeting with Mr. Ravinatha Aryasinha, Ambassador designate to USA on 21st October 2020

2.4 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.
- CDRD of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce provided an uninterrupted service to its customers with 24x7x365 days via its online documents verification service <https://e-co.lk> and is open on Saturdays for manual documents verification. Extended services are provided from Monday to Saturday from 8.00am to 5.30pm.

2.5 USAID PARTNER PROJECT

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce became an exclusive subcontractor for Deloitte in the implementation of the USAID project 'Partnership for Accelerating Results in Trade, National Expenditure and Revenue (PARTNER) Activity'. This is a five-year project to support the Government of Sri Lanka under two objectives; (i) Public Financial Resources Mobilised and Effectively Managed and (ii) Trade Facilitation Improved. These objective builds on long-term efforts by Sri Lankan Governments and development partners to improve and build transparency around public revenue, procurement processes as well as their administration while strengthening human and institutional capacity of the Government, increase private sector access to markets, strengthen and streamline trade policies and the implementation of those policies.

Ceylon chamber supported the PARTENER project by successful implementation of following trade facilitation activities for private sector;

- Established Trade Watch: A Webpage to update private sector on important trade information and news
- Conducted 2 Business Survey on Impacts of COVID – 19
- Prepared a report on Digitization Priorities for Public Services
- Prepared a report Quality Infrastructure priorities for the private sector
- Provided Economy and Sector Stimulus Recommendations for a PARTNER project report
- Published 5 trade Updates on the changes to the Import and Export Control Act
- Prepared 2 Trade Tips videos

TRADE WATCH – UPDATES & GUIDELINES ON COVID-19

ENQUIRY

CONTACT US

COVID-19 HOTLINE 077 7223651

AIRPORTS & AVIATION

BORDER AGENCIES

CURFEW PASSES

INVESTMENT

IMMIGRATION & EMIGRATION

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

OTHER AGENCIES

PORTS – DEMURRAGE / DETENTION

SRI LANKA CUSTOMS

TASK FORCE ON COVID-19

TRAVEL & TOURISM

TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS

COVID-19 Updates

Chamber Circulars

3.0 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

This committee played an active role in compiling tax recommendations for the letter the Chamber sent to H.E. President on Private Sector Government Partnership in Achieving Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery. Building on the macro recovery proposals, the Chamber submitted a multi-sectoral proposal to the Task Force for Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation, which also included taxation proposals prepared with the input of this steering committee. The committee also played the key role in formulating the recommendation of the tax chapter of the update of the Sri Lanka Economic Acceleration Framework 2020-25 (SEAF) of the Chamber and compiling Chamber's pre-budget submissions to the Ministry of Finance comprising recommendations for National Budget 2021.

THE ECONOMIC POLICY STEERING COMMITTEE

The committee along with the Board of Directors of the Chamber met in November 2020 to discuss the Chamber's views on the National Budget 2021. The committee also engaged in reviewing the recommendations made in the Sri Lanka Economic Acceleration Framework (SEAF) in 2019, considering the impact of COVID-19 on the economy and other economic developments. The output of the committee is found as the 'General Economy' chapter of the updated SEAF document.

LEGISLATION STEERING COMMITTEE

- Prepared submissions on the impacts of COVID – 19 on legal framework of the country and made suggestions to improve the same to address the current issues and submitted it to the Chamber in April 2020
- Prepared a brief note on proposed 20th Amendment to the Constitution Bill and submitted the same to the Board of the Chamber
- In March 2020, organized a meeting with ICTA officials to discuss the proposed laws on Data Protection and made further representations on the same in August 2020
- In November 2020, via Chamber STC has requested the draft Special Provisions Statue on COVID-19 from Ministry of Justice which they have agreed to share once the draft is finalized.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE STEERING COMMITTEE

- January 2020, STC members have had a successful meeting in relation to Consumer Affairs Authority Direction 68, with the Hon. Minister Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, Hon. State Minister of Consumer Affairs and Internal Trade,
- Submitted a report to the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce on the impacts of COVID-19 for the FMCG Sector in April 2020
- The Chamber sought clarifications on draft Food (Labelling & Advertising) Regulations in August 2020
- The STC via Chamber requested to defer the dates of enforcement in relation to Food (Additives) Regulations 2019 and Food (Preservatives) Regulations 2019 in November 2020 and considering the Chamber's request, the Ministry of Health has decided to issue new Gazette in order to defer the dates of implementation of the said Regulations
- The STC also sought further clarifications on Food (Premises Registrations) Regulations and an extension for the date of implementation which Ministry of Health has agreed.
- During the 2nd lockdown of the Western Province as per the request made by the STC members, the Chamber successfully negotiated with the Ministry of Health to obtain curfew passes for the member companies who are into manufacturing and distribution of essential items, to distribute their products in the isolated areas.
- In November 2020, STC has written to Ministry of Health on Draft Guidelines on the Use of Superlatives and also have offered support to organize a stakeholder meeting through the Chamber.

YOUNG LEADERS STEERING COMMITTEE

The Young Leaders of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce organized a networking and knowledge-sharing event Coffee with CEO, featuring Ms. Kasturi Chellaraja Wilson, Deputy Group CEO of Hemas Holdings PLC The event was held on 22 September at the Kingsbury Hotel Colombo.



3.2 NATIONAL AGENDA COMMITTEES (NAC's)

NAC ON FINANCE AND CAPITAL

The National Agenda Committee (NAC) on Finance and Capital, continued its lobbying process for the implementation of REITs to Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Subsequent to the implementation of REITs, an awareness programme together with PwC Sri Lanka was organised, which was also followed by a NAC blog post focusing on the key aspects of the implemented SL-REITs. The NAC also worked on a proposal on Infrastructure Bonds which could aid the government in their Infrastructure plans for Sri Lanka. This was presented to State Minister Money & Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms together with the NACs proposal on the Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act. The NAC also made submissions to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka on key recommendations to improve credit growth in the country while maintaining stability in the financial system and also on the Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFI) sector to mitigate their current challenges. This was received positively from the CBSL and noted its progress.

NAC ON LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT

The NAC on Logistics and Transport developed a working paper on managing post COVID-19 Passenger Transport and also developed a proposal for the smooth operation of Trade and during the first outbreak of COVID -19 in the country. During the outbreak of the second wave of COVID-19, the NAC together with key stakeholders in the industry developed a set of recommendations to the Ministry of Port, Sri Lanka Ports Authority and Sri Lanka Customs to remedy the Colombo Port congestion and faster clearance of goods. The NAC is currently working on a set of recommendations on the mobility of the Colombo City to reduce congestion and pollution. The NAC also played vital role updating the Sri Lanka Economic Acceleration Framework 2021 -2026.

NAC ON ENERGY

The NAC on Energy played an integral role updating the Energy Chapter of the Sri Lanka Economic Acceleration Framework 2021 - 2026.

NAC ON PUBLIC SECTOR REFORMS

The NAC on Public Sector Reforms formulated a comprehensive proposal to modernize the list of Ministries with assigned subjects and institutions. This also incorporated a proposal on the appointment process of Ministry Secretaries, role of Regulatory Authorities and identification of institutions which could be amalgamated, segregated or revisiting their mandates. The NAC also worked on a framework for performance management for State Ministries and a proposal on State Owned Enterprises (SOE) Reform, which was incorporated into the Sri Lanka Economic Acceleration Framework 2021 -2026.

NAC ON DIGITAL ECONOMY

The NAC worked on a proposal on the Digital Economy looking at immediate, medium, and long-term recommendations to the revive the economy through Digital Economy interventions during the first wave of COVID -19 in the country. The NAC also played an integral role updating the Digital Economy Chapter of the Sri Lanka Economic Acceleration Framework 2021 - 2026.

NAC ON INFRASTRUCTURE

This NAC played a key role in updating the Infrastructure Chapter of the Sri Lanka Economic Acceleration Framework 2021 - 2026.

NAC ON TRADE

This committee played an active role in compiling trade recommendations for the letter the Chamber sent to H.E. President on Private Sector Government Partnership in Achieving Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery and the multi-sectoral proposal to the Task Force for Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation, which also included immediate, medium, and long-term interventions to for economic revival. The committee also played the key role in formulating the recommendation of the trade chapter of the update of the Sri Lanka Economic Acceleration Framework 2020-25 (SEAF) of the Chamber.

NAC ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM

Established in January 2020, the NAC on Entrepreneurship Ecosystem has 11 members from the business sector. The Committee had its preliminary meeting on 16th January. The committee identifies actions needed to conduct a gap analysis on the entrepreneurship ecosystem, and policy interventions for advocacy. As a part of its efforts, the Chamber's Centre for SMEs, through its partnership with Supreme TV, hosted a talk show in Sinhala for the SME sector.



3.3 SUBMISSIONS, LETTERS TO THE GOVERNMENT

- In March 2020, the Chamber provided leadership to a Joint Chamber submission to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, on the CCC-Covid-19 Recovery Strategy
- In April 2020, the Chamber submitted its recommendation on a Public Private Shared Vision for Post Covid-19 Economic Recovery. The recommendations were made to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, and focused on regaining Sri Lanka's economic growth rate within 6-8 months of the COVID Exit.
- Letter to Hon. Basil Rajapakse, Chairman of the Presidential Taskforce on Essential Services - Subsequently, the Chairman and Board members were granted a meeting with Hon. Basil Rajapaksa on 11th April.
- Letter to Mr. Gamini Seneviratne, Secretary, Ministry of Transport Services Management- The letter entailed a working paper on 'Managing post COVID-19 Passenger Transport for a Safe Return to Economic and Social Life in Sri Lanka'.
- In May, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce submitted its multi-sectoral proposals to the Task Force for Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation. This was building on the submission made to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on a 'Shared Vision for Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery'
- Letter to Mr. S.R. Attygalle, Secretary, Ministry of Finance on the Revision of Sections 1 and 2 of the Gazette Notification issued on 16 April
- Letter to Mr. C.D Wickramarathna, Acting IGP highlighting streamlining the issuing of curfew passes for manufacturers and distributors.
- Submission to the CBSL on Measures to improve Credit and Financial System Stability
- Submission to the SEC on Capital Market Development
- Multiple letters were sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Plantations to resolve the issues related to the shortage of fertilizer for the Plantation Sector
- Pre-budget submissions to the Ministry of Finance on the proposals for National Budget 2021 -October 2020
- Several submissions to the Controller General, Department of Imports and Exports Control on member concerns arising from the gazettes related to amending The Imports and Exports (Control) Act No. 1 of 1969
- In November, the Chamber submitted a list of Recommendations to improve the situation at the Colombo Port to the Secretary, Ministry of Ports and Shipping.

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

- Monthly Economic Update circulated to the membership
- Strategic Insights Research Report - Volume 7; titled 'Decoding Sri Lanka's FinTech Regulatory Sandbox' | November 2020
- Commissioned reports to understand the impact of COVID-19 on Sri Lanka's economy and sectors
- Research output as part of the collaboration of the CCC with the USAID Partnership for Accelerating Results in Trade, National Expenditure and Revenue (PARTNER) Activity:
 - Business Survey on Trade and Labour Market Impacts of COVID – 19 on Exporters in Sri Lanka | June 2020
 - Business Survey On Trade and Labour Market Impacts of COVID – 19 On Sri Lankan Exporters – An Update | September 2020
 - 5 Briefs on the Changes to The Imports and Exports (Control) Act No.1 Of 1969 covering gazettes issued between April-August 2020, 15th September 2020, 19th of October 2020, 14th December 2020 and 24th December 2020.
- Blog articles on:
 - 10 Things to Know about SL– Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) | September 2020
 - National Budget 2021—Challenges and the Balancing Act | November 2020

4.0

Sustainability Development Initiatives

4.1 USAID FUNDED YOULEAD PROJECT

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce is a key private sector partner in USAID funded YouLead Project, a four-year, \$12 million project in Sri Lanka initiated to improve technical and vocational education and training and increase the employability of young people in Sri Lanka. YouLead Project aims to create a more skilled and flexible workforce by undertaking following activities that support and strengthen students, teachers, and institutions.

- Improving the quality and availability of career counselling, aligning tools and counsellor training with in-demand jobs and skills and high-growth sectors.
- Ensuring high-quality, market-oriented career counselling is equally available to traditionally underserved groups, including rural youth, girls and young women, and ethnic minorities.

The Chamber is facilitating private sector engagement in activities of all three components of the project both at national level through the members of Chamber and affiliated Associations as well as at the regional level through the regional chamber network. YouLead Project has received a 3-year extension till 2024 and additional funding to further expand its skills development/youth entrepreneurship activities.

4.2 COACHING ON EXPORT MANAGEMENT FOR SMES

As a component of the EU – Sri Lanka Trade-Related Assistance Project, in collaboration with International Trade Center (ITC), the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) has been offering on-the-job coaching on export management to SME exporters since 2018. The objective of this on-the-job coaching is to assist selected SMEs to review the internal processes with a view to enhance their ability to reduce their transaction costs and to improve their compliance with administrative requirements.

As the key implementing partner of on the job coaching on export management for SMEs, the Chamber has already completed following activities in collaboration with ITC;

- Developing a coaching kit including: interview questions to assess the company performance in managing trade transactions, organisational and procedural checklists, standard job description, SME freight-desk structure, export management standard operating procedures
- Providing coaching on Export Management to 70 selected SMEs through 10 Export Management Coaches (EMCs) trained by International Trade Center
- Conducting a 4-day Training of Trainers (ToT) Program on Export Management Coaching for 28 officers from Government Organizations involved in Export Promotion and SME Development.

4.3 INTRODUCTION OF AN EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ROADMAP FOR POST-CONSUMER PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT IN SRI LANKA

Plastic waste has become a global crisis with serious implications on health and well-being of humans as well as living creatures on earth and oceans. In 2017, the Government of Sri Lanka made attempt to implement a ban on a range of single use plastics, and introduce of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system for plastic waste recycling. The private sector had serious concerns on potential negative implications due to the fast-tracked introduction of the proposed EPR system and related cost escalations in transport, energy and storage. After careful review and deliberations on the proposed EPR system, the CCC industry clusters felt the need for a broader stakeholder engagement and the need to develop an innovative EPR mechanism acceptable to all relevant stakeholders. The Chamber with the financial assistance from the USAID/DIG Municipality Waste Recycling Programme (MWRP) has now formulated an EPR Roadmap for post-consumer plastic waste management with extensive consultations with the Government, Private Sector, Recyclers, Collectors and stakeholder entities on post-consumer plastic waste management. The goal of the EPR Roadmap is to promote sustainable post-consumer plastic recycling and management based on circular economic principles to minimize plastic loadings to the Coastal and Marine environment.

4.4 BUILDING BUSINESSES DISASTER RESILIENCE

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in partnership with UNEP DTU Partnership (Denmark), Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (Thailand) and MPEnsystems (India) with the financial assistance from the Nordic Climate Fund (NCF) is implementing “Building Businesses’ Disaster Resilience Project with the objective of the objective of developing a disaster risk management (DRM) tool that will allow businesses particularly SMEs to reduce economic losses due to natural disasters especially floods. The project has now developed an innovative mobile APP, which will help build businesses' adaptation capacity in the face of natural disasters. This new DRM tool will help SMEs to integrate long-term climate adaptation solutions in business operations, in a manner, which is cost-effective and contextually adapted to the disaster prone businesses.

5.0

Update of Chamber's Development Framework



The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce reviewed the Sri Lanka Economic Acceleration Framework (SEAF) 2020-25 published at the Sri Lanka Economic Summit 2019 during 2020 to reflect the progress made on the proposals and incorporate developments in a post-COVID-19 context. The updated document of SEAF for the 2021-26 period was subject to discussion and debate during the Sri Lanka Economic Summit in December 2020 leading to the final revised Version 2.0. The Chamber looks forward to handing over of the first copy of the report to the His Excellency the President followed by the Prime Minister and other key Cabinet Minister and Secretaries and discussing the key proposals identified in the framework.