



FCCISL

Biz News

In Association with
Daily News

Volume 1

Issue 1

5th July 2019

FCCISL launched its “Policy Advocacy Forum” for industrialist and enterprises from large to small scale on 7th June 2019. The forum was attended by the presidents of national and regional chambers, associations, institutions and business councils.

FCCISL represents around 25,000 businesses from large to small scales in all the districts of Sri Lanka through its 63 members of national and regional chambers, associations, institutions and business councils. The policy advocacy forum was opened to FCCISL members to discuss about the issues faced by the enterprises and industries. The identified issues will be taken up with the respective lawmakers of the country. The next issue of the FCCISL BIZ magazine will carry the actions taken and the solutions provided to the identified issues.

Under the construction industry, roads, water supply and some of the biggest building constructions can be categorized as biggest projects. There were projects worth over LKR 10 billion. However, they are restricted to the local construction companies and open to the foreign companies only to bid. When foreign companies quote, they bring the financial support also along with them. Hence the

CHAMBER LEADERS HAVE THEIR SAY ON ECONOMY



financing companies in Sri Lanka too lose the opportunities. As a result, the money is going out of the country. Not only that their rate of the items are 5 times higher than the normal rate. This highly affect the construction industry and lead to around 40% loss of opportunities to the Sri Lankan construction companies. This further triggered by the continuous rupee depreciation for past 1 ½ years from LKR 142 to LKR 180. In addition, construction industry is often shaken by the sudden policy decision

taken by the government with regard to the raw materials supply.

Export sector hasn't received the needed attention from the government though it brings dollars and employment to the country. However, the import sector that is dominated by the traders has received full attention of the government, though it drains out all the dollars in the country and being the hub for bribery. The only time some guidelines were given to the exporters is by the late President Premadasa.

He had instructed all the ministry secretaries to participate in the exporter's forum every month. However, that too interrupted due to the natural death of President Premadasa in 1990 and all the exporters fell away.

20 years back all three countries Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Bangladesh were exporting things worth of same amount 2 billion dollars. 10 years back Sri Lanka has gone up to 25 billion dollars and at present it is again reduced to 12 billion dollars. It is 36 billion in Bangladesh and out of it 50% is from garment industries, which has gone from Sri Lanka to Bangladesh and most of the Sri Lanka's best brains are now with Bangladesh. Vietnam has surpassed both Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and at present have export worth of 217 billion dollars, which is 107 times higher than 20 years ago. One of the reasons for Sri Lanka's slow progress is less attention given to the export sector by the government as the markets for exports are outside Sri Lanka hence less political involvement. However, markets for import goods are within Sri Lanka, those are in the political hands and receive more attention from the government.

Issues faced by the SMEs are as follows:

1. Bank overdraft are restricted to the SMEs. Further, the interest rates are high as there is no CAP on the interest rate charged by the bank on lending.

Continued on page 4

Message from the President FCCISL and SAARC - CCI



I witness that FCCISL is bringing out its debut magazine “FCCISL BIZ”, which provides opportunities for its member chambers, associations, institutions, councils and enterprises from large to small scale to express their ideas, activities, experiences being in the businesses and anticipated solutions to improve the businesses. This magazine will help the Sri Lankan political leadership and bureaucracy to understand the needs of the business communities, enterprises and industrialist and thereby develop national policies to address the issues faced by them as well as to improve the economy of the country.

I would like to convey my heartiest felicitations to the FCCISL BIZ Magazine's organizing committee and editorial team for their commendable venture as well as for the ceaseless successful release of the FCCISL BIZ magazine.

Ruwan Edirisinghe,
President FCCISL and SAARC - CCI

Present Economy - Threats and Opportunities..

Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera recently stated 2018 losses of the State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) doubled. 16 SOEs reported net losses of Rs. 157 b last year, up from Rs. 87 b in 2017. He stresses the need to rethink continued Government support for those loss-making entities.

The former Auditor General Gamini Wijesinghe recently stated at a meeting according to his study, over the years the GDP per day or the income of our country per day is about SLR 5 billion and the expenditure is around 7 billion per day. He argued if we manage the economy well the income can be increased without any further tax increases and the expenditure 7 billion can be brought down to 5 billion. He said at the auditor general's department in their annual audits they have proven out of the government budget at least 25% is not used. 2016 budget had the biggest variation from the budget to the actual. He stated by the 01st January 2019 Sri Lanka had local loans to the tune of SLR 5.7 trillion and foreign loans 5.745 and a total of 11.4 trillion. He further said the actual loans will be at least about another 2 trillion more.

Economy over the years

It is evident from the independence none of the successive governments did a good job to

move Sri Lanka forward. Compared to other Asian countries, Sri Lanka has an abundance of historical economic statistics, particularly since 1802 when Ceylon came under the British control. For taxation purposes, Ceylon's British administrators intensified and improved the collection of statistical data throughout the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

Ceylon became a major producer of agricultural exports, such as coffee, tea, rubber, coconut. The data on agricultural export production are particularly extensive. Consequently, when the country received a degree of self-government in 1931 and independence in 1948, Ceylon's official agencies generated a good amount of economic statistics compared to other less-developed countries in Asia.

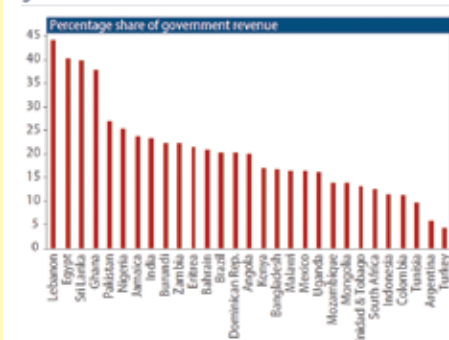
During 1920-1938 Agriculture generated on average 29% of GDP, The ratio of exports

and GDP was on average 34%, dependent on export earnings. Ceylon had a significant commodity trade surplus. At the time of Independence, 1948 Ceylon was comparatively a rich economy in Asia and had huge export earnings.

When we look at the USD and Sri Lanka Rupee from the independence, the Sri Lanka Rupee has depreciated largely with the USD.



Figure 2
Government interest payments as a share of general government revenue in 2017



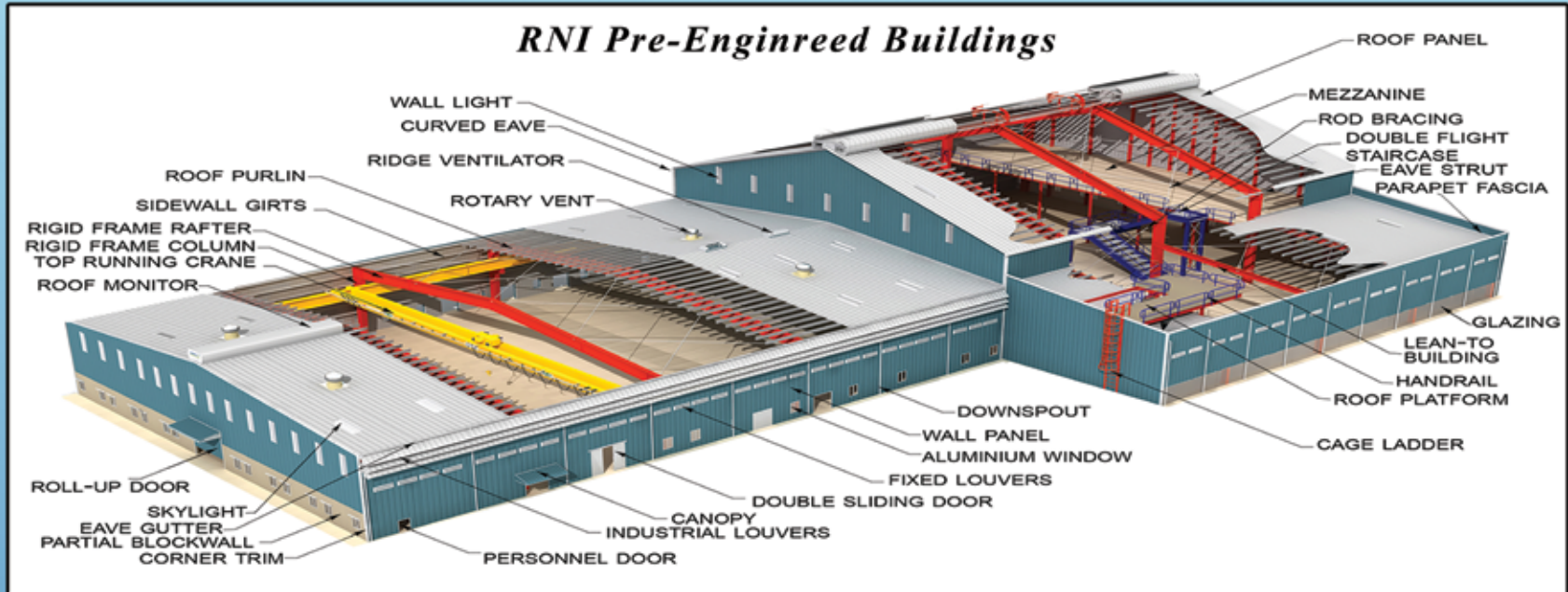
Source: IMF World Economic Outlook April 2018 Database

Continued on page 4

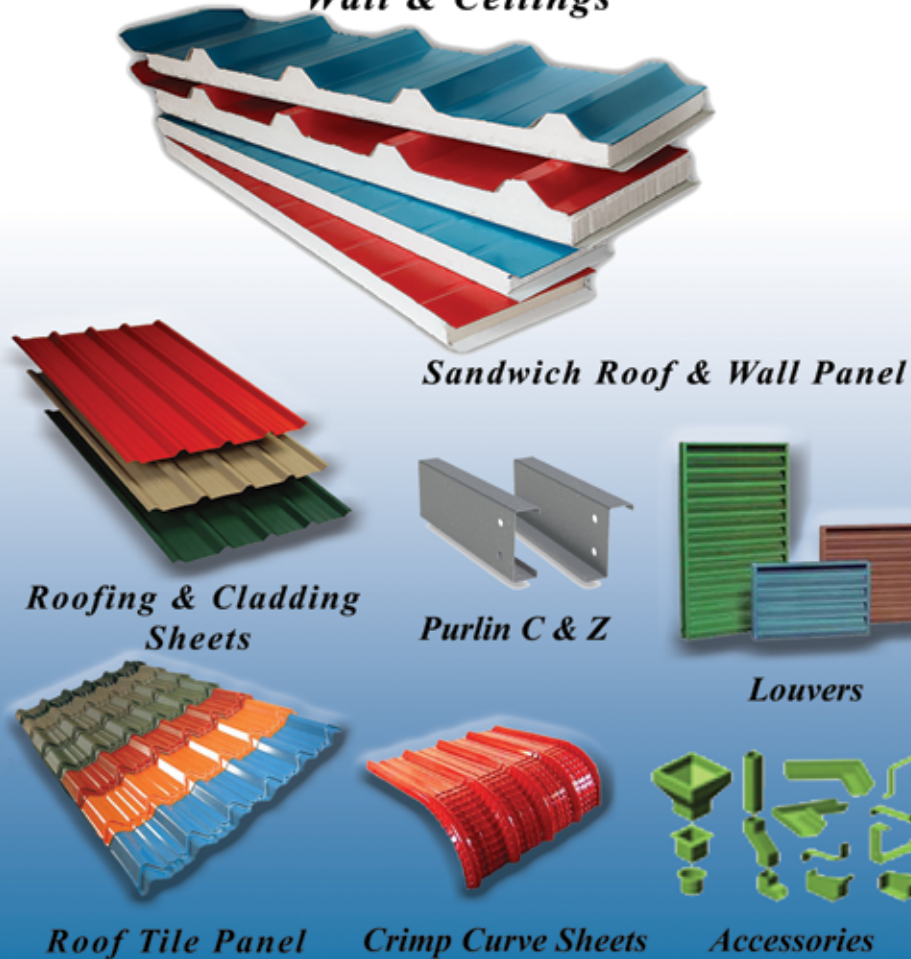


RN Innovative Products (Pvt) Ltd.

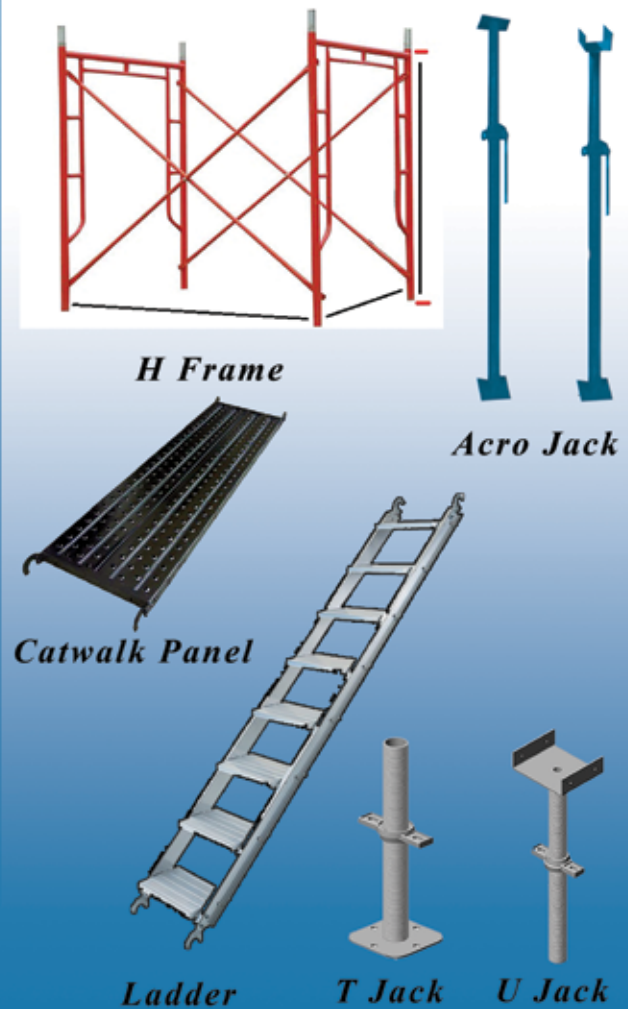
Total Construction Solution Provider.



RNI Roofing Products Insulated Sandwich Panels for Roof, Wall & Ceilings



RNI Scaffolding



A Member of



Export Processing Zone, Mirijjawila, Hambanthota, Sri Lanka
 E-mail: roy@abslanka.com
 Web: www.rngroup.lk
 Tel : 0772269139
 0773887868



FCCISL Director Board

Ruwan Edirisinghe	- President
Shrima Jean Jayawardena	- Senior Vice President
Keerthi Gunawardane	- Vice President
Sarath Kahapalarachchi	- Immediate Past President
Dr. Rohitha Silva	- Board Director
Ruwan De Silva	- Board Director
Macdonald Perera	- Board Director
Jagath Mullevithana	- Board Director
Wasantha Kumara	- Board Director
K. Kulatheepan	- Board Director
Dharshaka Rubasinghe	- Board Director
Mettananda Widanagamage	- Board Director
Abbas Kamrudeen	- Board Director
Saranga Wijerathne	- Board Director

FCCISL Biz Magazine committee:

1. Ruwan De Silva (FCCISL Board Director) – Head of the committee
2. Keerthi Gunawardane (Vice President of FCCISL)
3. Dr. Rohitha Silva (FCCISL Board Director)
4. Shirley Jayawardena (Senior Vice President FCCISL)
5. Ajith Perera (Secretary General FCCISL)
6. Sutharsana Kathiramalai (Assistant Secretary General FCCISL)
7. Fathima (Manager Marketing FCCISL)
8. Nirushan (Executive IT & Accounts FCCISL)

Message from the Head of the FCCISL BIZ Magazine Committee and Director FCCISL



Dear readers,

It gives me immense joy and satisfaction to introduce FCCISL's debut magazine "FCCISL BIZ". This magazine is started with an objective to be the voice of FCCISL's 63 members including national and regional chambers, associations, institutions and councils, which represent around 25,000 enterprises/ business communities in the entire Sri Lanka.

This magazine includes articles related to state of the economy, business environment, trade and investment, sustainability, industry, ICT, finance, emerging issues, digitization, automation, research and development, innovation, training and development etc. The intention of this initiative is to provide publicity and due recognition to our valued members and business community, appreciate the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) undertaken by them as well as to meet the needs of the business community that we serve.

Further, the magazine also includes past and future events such as exhibitions and business forums of FCCISL and its members, business opportunities and achievements by entrepreneurs who are linked to FCCISL and its members.

FCCISL is the largest and most representative apex body of Sri Lankan business. Since its inception in 1973, it has been the rallying point for free enterprises from large, medium, small and micro segments of manufacturing, trade and service sectors of Sri Lanka. FCCISL has a nationwide membership of over 60 chambers of commerce & business associations and speaks directly/ indirectly to over 25,000 enterprises from all districts of Sri Lanka. FCCISL is the country focal point and lead chamber for SAARC CCI in Islamabad, Pakistan and APTA CCI in Beijing, China. FCCISL empowers Sri Lankan businesses to show up their competitiveness and enhance their national and global reach. FCCISL BIZ magazine will pave the way for it as it will reach the present readership of 90,000 Daily News, embassies, high commissions, SAARC-CCI, APTA-CCI, government officials, donors, multilaterals and bilateral, etc.

Further, FCCISL being the leader of all private sectors will lobby on behalf of the private sectors and industries and will advocate to the government with regard to the policies that have to be put in place to protect the private sectors, industries, SMEs and improve the economy of the country. FCCISL will eventually become an advisory body to the lawmakers in the country.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this issue. While sending my sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to this magazine, I welcome your comments that would help us improve our magazine. Please email your ideas to fccislbiz@fccisl.lk

Ruwan De Silva,
Head of the FCCISL BIZ Magazine Committee, Director FCCISL and member of Strategic Committee of FCCISL

FCCISL members:

1. Association of Licensed Foreign Employment Agencies
2. Association of Live Tropical Fish Exporters of Sri Lanka
3. Business Chamber of Commerce
4. Centre for Agribusiness Development
5. Ceylon Hardware Merchants' Association
6. Ceylon Institute of Builders
7. Ceylon National Chamber of Industries
8. Chamber of Provincial Entrepreneurs
9. Chamber of Tourism and Industry Sri Lanka
10. Chamber of Young Lankan Entrepreneurs
11. Federation of information technology industry Sri Lanka
12. Institute of Personnel Management Sri Lanka
13. International Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka
14. Lanka Microfinance Practitioners Association
15. Lanka Pharmaceutical Traders Society Limited
16. National Chamber of commerce of Sri Lanka
17. National Construction Association of Sri Lanka
18. Protected Agriculture Entrepreneurs' Association
19. Roof Tile Association
20. Sri Lanka - Ukraian Business Council
21. Sri Lanka Association of Hairdressers and Beauticians
22. Sri Lanka Association of Printers
23. Sri Lanka Food Processors Association (SLFPA)
24. Sri Lanka Fruit and Vegetable Producers', Processors' and Exporters' Association
25. Sri Lanka Gem and Jewellery Association
26. Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing
27. Sri Lanka Nepal Chamber of Commerce
28. Sri Lanka Thailand Business Council
29. Sri Lanka UK Business Council
30. The Gem and Jewellery Dealers Association of Gem and Jewellery Exchange
31. The Tourist Hotels Association of Sri Lanka
32. Tile & Sanitary Ware Importers Association
33. Vehicle Importers Association of Sri Lanka
34. Women's Chamber of Industry and Commerce
35. Ampara District Chamber of Commerce and Industry
36. Anuradhapura District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
37. Batticaloa District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
38. Central Province Exporters' Chamber
39. Central Province Women's Chamber of Small Industries and Commerce
40. Chamber of Commerce & Industries - Central Region
41. Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Yarlpanam
42. Chamber of Commerce and Industries Trincomalee District
43. Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Central Province
44. Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uva Province
45. Colombo Chamber of Commerce
46. Galle District Chamber of Commerce and Industries
47. Hambantota District Chamber of Commerce
48. Jaffna Women's Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agri Business
49. Kalutara District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
50. Kegalle District Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture
51. Kilinochchi District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
52. Mannar District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
53. Matale District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
54. Matara District Chamber of Commerce and Industry
55. Moneragala District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
56. Mullaitivu District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
57. Nuwara Eliya District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
58. Polonnaruwa District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
59. Puttalam District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agribusiness
60. Sabaragamuwa Province Chamber of Commerce and Industry
61. Siyana Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture
62. Vavuniya District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
63. Wayamba Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Design by
Advertising Supplements Department

Coordinated by **Eranda Edirimanne**

Edited by **Jayasiri Jayakody**

Designed by **Kitnan Udayakumar**

CHAMBER LEADERS HAVE THEIR SAY... Continued from page 1

- When a person default in paying back a loan instalment the name immediately goes to the Credit Information Bureau of Sri Lanka (CRIB), however once it is paid, they do not immediately remove the name from it.
- Enterprise Sri Lanka loan facility is only in paper with less interest rate and not available to the SMEs. Only very few SMEs have received loan from Enterprise Sri Lanka.
- In North and East, the banks have stopped providing overdraft to the construction industry. Hence the constructions companies reach the micro finance organizations to meet their loan needs at higher interest rates.
- Since the newspapers carry sensational news, the people are scared to spend their money on buying things thinking what will happen next week. This highly affected the retailers.
- Orchid and anthurium growers in the Puttalam district are highly affected as the demand for garland has stopped since the tourism industry is affected after the 21st April 2019 attack.
- Racism that the country currently faces after the 21st April 2019 attack has highly affected the coconut oil producers as there are many Muslims businesses in the supply chain are affected.
- Demand for processed food has stopped from hotels due to non-arrival of tourist.
- The mandatory regulation for food manufactures on Color coding for Sugar, Salt & Fat on the labels of the products was put

to effect on 1st June 2019 without considering the time needed to change the packaging and the losses that the manufacturers have to face due to the stock of the old packaging.

Issues with Enterprise Sri Lanka loan facility: Though, government introduced the Enterprise Sri Lanka loan facility for SMEs with less interest rate, when it comes to implementation, it is not easy to get the loan. Most of the times banks reject either saying the money is not available or by asking for more documentations. SMEs are in the opinion that this facility is given to retail banks as there are no development banks in Sri Lanka. The retail banks are trying to make profit from it and suppress the provision of loan under the Enterprise Sri Lanka. Government doesn't monitor after providing the funds to the banks. Regulatory authority of the central bank has to take the initiative to monitor these funds.

The major problem identified in all the sectors is unavailability of national policies. There should be a national policy for each industry.

Present Economy - Threats and Opportunities... Continued from page 1

As an example in the year 1950 USD 1 = SLR 4.76 and today it has gone to almost Rs. 180 +. This shows none of the governments came to power from the independence has managed the economy well. It is high time for us to think about the country and start immediate corrective steps towards making a progressive economy. We need patriotic leaders to lead us who value the economic progress, discipline and the wellbeing of the citizens who can stop bribery, corruption and move the country forward.

Agriculture, Industry and Trade. These sectors should have clear goals of what we should achieve in the short term, medium term and the long term. The world is moving very fast with the modern Industrial and technological changes. A small country like us will have various effects out of the new global developments.

If we had a clear policy to develop Sri Lanka then we would have adjust ourselves for the global developments

and moved staidly. The bad luck was all the political leaders stated doing what they like and finally ended up with inefficiencies, corruption, mismanagement and a very high debt. The most terrible carnage caused by the terrorist attack on Easter Sunday at three churches and three five star hotels too can be treated as not having a clear policy on security. In addition there is a serious laps of responsibility and accountability from the decision

No policy and no bottom line

It is evident from the independence none of the successive governments never wanted to have clear policies for the country. At the time of independence we were mostly an agricultural country heavily dependent on the export income of Tea, Rubber and Coconut. The country was very much sufficient with the agricultural products including Rice. We had enough foreign revenue with our traditional exports. We never decided on an Agricultural policy for the country even after British left Sri Lanka. Since there were no policies the agricultural sector started coming down. Instead some political parties came to power wanted to start some industries without having a clear policy of what kind of industries are suitable and viable to Sri Lanka or in other words never had a policy for the industries. After this there was another school of thought the best way is a mixed economy and the economy should be opened and let the products come in from the countries that can produce them cheap as per their own competitive advantage. There was no policy for the agriculture and that sector came down due to the lack of policy. Even the industries could not perform well under the open economic policy since we started opening up the market almost for anything and everything.

The issue of our country was we never had a clear vision of what we wanted to be. Based on the vision we should have the policies for the

ASIA PACIFIC

44/100

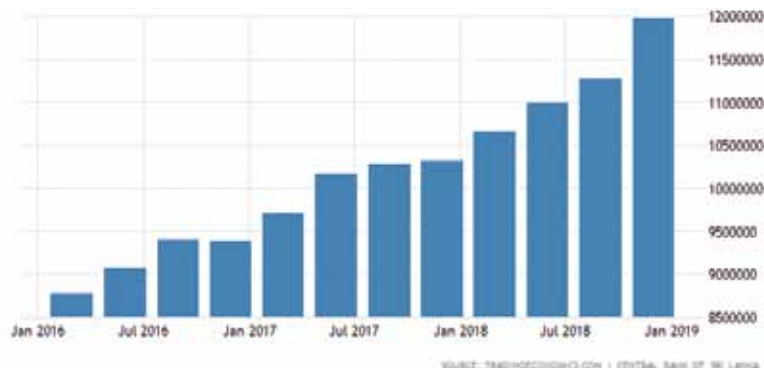
AVERAGE SCORE



The Asia Pacific region is stagnating in the fight against corruption. A lack of progress is unsurprising given the prevalence of weak democratic institutions, and a lack of laws and enforcement mechanisms, all of which typically contribute to higher rates of corruption. However, with two countries in the top 10, and two in the bottom 10, the region is highly diverse in its anti-corruption approach.

SCORE	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	RANK	SCORE	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	RANK
87	New Zealand	2	38	Sri Lanka	89
85	Singapore	3	37	Mongolia	93
77	Australia	13	36	Philippines	99
76	Hong Kong	14	35	Thailand	99
73	Japan	18	33	Timor-Leste	105
69	Bhutan	25	32	Pakistan	117
63	Brunei Darussalam	31	31	Vietnam	117
63	Taiwan	31	31	Maldives	124
57	Korea, South	45	29	Nepal	124
47	Malaysia	61	29	Laos	132
46	Vanuatu	64	28	Myanmar	132
44	Solomon Islands	70	26	Papua New Guinea	138
41	India	78	26	Bangladesh	149
39	China	87	20	Cambodia	161
38	Indonesia	89	16	Afghanistan	172
			14	Korea, North	176

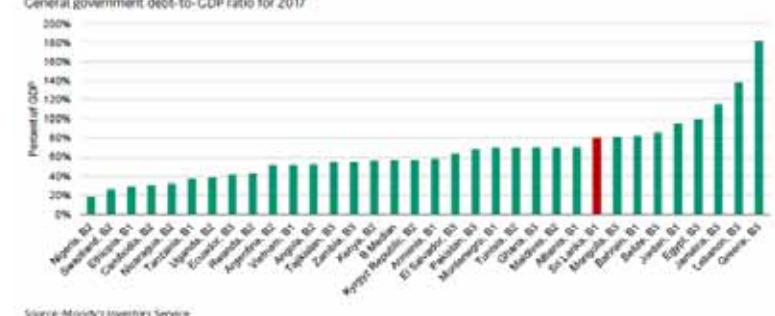
Sri Lanka-government-debt



Sri Lanka-external-debt



EXHIBIT 2 Sri Lanka's debt burden is higher than its peers



makers who are responsible for the security.

With regards to the corruption speaking on Sri Lanka's performance on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI 2018), Transparency International Sri Lanka's Executive Director Asoka Obeyesekere in a statement said, It is important to note that the CPI deals with perceived levels of public sector corruption and as such the existence of a legislative framework, without the will or operational ability to ensure timely justice, reflects on Sri Lanka's clear lack of progress to date.

"However, with the likely conclusion of several high-profile corruption cases in 2019, it is essential that all authorities uphold their impartiality and independence. If the application of the law is interpreted as selective or politically motivated, it could prove detrimental to the anti-corruption drive and the justice system," he said.

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)

We have seen most of the time politicians say that we can improve our economy by having FTAs. We started with India and Pakistan. The Singapore FTA is on hold and we are in the process of negotiating with Thailand and China. The simplest thing any country should study before a FTA is what products lines are competitive enough to export to that respective country. What volumes we can export and how we can be beneficial in the long run are the simple key factors.

We have experience with India and Pakistan. There were very little opportunities for the Sri Lankan industries to benefit in both the places. If we take the FTA with India there were so many non tariff barriers, unloading port issues, testing issues and other inland transport issues for the Sri Lankan exporters.

Continued on page 12

REGIONAL CHAMBERS



Uva Chamber Occupies Own Building 'Wanija Mandiraya'



'A GIANT STEP BY UVA ENTREPRENEURS'

Hon. Nimal Siripala Silva

The Chamber of Commerce & Industries of Uva Province (CCI-Uva) occupied their own Building recently situated at Daya Gunasekara Mawatha, Badulla. It was a project worth of Rs. 20 Million and the Funds were mainly raised by the Directors and the Members of CCI-Uva. The 2 storied Building is expected to use for the Administration purpose and to set up the proposed Business School.

The Building was declared open by the Former Minister of Transport and Aviation Hon. Nimal Siripala Silva with the presence of the Chief Minister of Uva Hon. Chamara Dasanayaka, District Secretary for Badulla, Government Officials, Board of Management and the Members of CCI-Uva and all well-known Entrepreneurs in Uva Province.

Ajith D. Perera, General Secretary of FCCISL delivered the key note address at the forum held just after the opening.



Monaragla District Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture



The President of Monaragla District Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (MDCCIA) Mr. Sumith Prasantha Rathnayaka had a special discussion with Consul General of India Mr. Prem Kumar Nair on 4th April 2019



American Corner Opening Ceremony at Matar Chamber

U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka Alaina B. Teplitz and Minister of Finance Mangala Samaraweera launched a new American Corner in Matar on 26th February 2019 at the Matar Chamber of Commerce and Industry at 149, Hakmana Road.

The American Corner Matar promotes entrepreneurship and provides Sri Lanka's brightest young minds the space and resources to innovate and to develop ideas from concept to reality. The American Corner Matar offers courses on topics such as entrepreneurship, English skills, and coding, as well as information about the United States. It is open from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm, from Tuesday through Sunday.

Calling the American Corner Matar "an idea incubator," Ambassador Teplitz described the center as "an opportunity for youth throughout the Southern Province to create a prototype with our 3D printer, learn business English so they can market it to investors, and discover how to code and use social media to build their brand and business." In his remarks, Minister Samaraweera said the American Corner Matar fulfills a longtime dream to offer Southern Province youth more connections to U.S. culture and bolsters Matar's position as a hub for international activities.

Both Minister Samaraweera and Ambassador Teplitz expressed thanks to the Matar Chamber of Commerce and Industry for their partnership in establishing the American Corner Matar.



Entrepreneurship Development Workshops

Entrepreneurship Development Workshop for Small and Medium Scale Entrepreneurs, Conducted on 20th June 2019.

Our main task through these workshops, is to bring the micro, small and medium entrepreneurs to the next level and support them to develop their business linkages locally as well as internationally.

Career Guidance Programs

Career Guidance and Personality Development Program Conducted on 16th February 2019 by Matar District Chamber of Commerce and Industry with You Lead, Career Me and the Career Guidance Unit of University of Ruhuna.

The objective of this workshop is to improve the skills and prepare the after A/L students for the job market.



Galle District Chamber of Commerce and Industries

Program 1

GDCCI Embarks for a 12 month training program with SME's

Galle District Chamber of commerce and industries has signed a MOU with BIZ+VEGA (Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance) and O Lakes International Development Affiliated with USAID, for a SME Development and Training program with 20 entrepreneurs in Galle. They are expected to provide financial and consulting support towards the program. The program is rated very high and the number of participations for the first session exceeded 40 number.

This program will run for 12 months with 12 different sessions by well renowned resource persons who are experienced trainers and industry specialists. The one day program is designed for each trainer covering theoretical and practical aspects of varied subjects. Main subjects include Organization Expansion, application of Cost and Management accountancy, Marketing development and strategies, leadership, IT application, personal grooming etc...



Program 2

Youth to Nations Foundation (YTNF) joins Galle District Chamber for Youth Business Development.



Led by Carson Cumberbatch Company, YTNF started a youth entrepreneurship training and development program with 25 small scale entrepreneurs from different areas of activities. The final objective of the program is to keep the participants educated with preparation of a business plan acceptable to the business itself and to outside stakeholders. Two half day training sessions have already been completed while another three to complete the full course.

YTNF also expect to select few entrepreneurs for the next phase of expansion which includes financing for the expansion if the project finds feasibility positively.

REGIONAL CHAMBERS



Puttalam District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agribusiness

Some of the Award Winners at the Puttalam District Entrepreneur's Awards



Sabaragamuwa Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Sabaragamuwa Chamber of Commerce & Industry organizes Youth Business Club

Sabaragamuwa Chamber of Commerce and Industry coordinated a gathering of about 30 young entrepreneurs under the age 40 in the area with the objective of developing their capabilities and skills enabling them to grab the export market in five years as a special program of getting their contribution to the country's economic development.

Especially the participation of the children of the entrepreneurs in the area and young entrepreneurs manufacturing goods and services suitable for the export market are sought for this programme.

Here, strengthening the capacity of this group through developing their business capabilities and skills, providing them with the necessary technical knowledge, building trade and commercial connections, directing them to suitable financial organization for financial facilities, connecting them with institutions providing financial facilities and getting them to exchange information among each other will be carried out.

The starting programme of this was held on 13th June 2019 with the involvement of the Sabaragamuwa Chamber of Commerce & Industry. On that day, 27 youth participated in the programme. This project was praised by participants and, in compliance with their demand, arrangements have been made to hold six such programmes in six selected Divisional Secretary's Divisions in the Rathnapura District.

Plans have already been made to provide the selected group with all services necessary under the complete supervision and guidance of the Sabaragamuwa Chamber of Commerce & Industry.



Matale District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture



Matale District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture with the support of FCCISL linked around 90 anthurium out growers in the Matale District with the exporter Mahima Plants. The exporter Mrs. Yamika addressing the out growers in an inauguration ceremony held on 19th June 2019. The business of the local flower growers was affected as tourism industry got affected after the 21st April 2019 terrorist attack. Linking them with the exporter is the best alternative adaptive strategy to the changing business environment in order to sustain the out growers in the business.



Saranga Wijeyarathne takes over reins at Colombo Chamber of Commerce

The Colombo Chamber of Commerce has appointed Saranga Wijeyarathne as its new President for the year 2019-2021. The Chamber made this announcement at its Annual General Meeting held recently at the Sri Lanka Foundation.

Sarangaholds an MBA from the University of Colombo and a first class degree in Marketing Management from the University of Sri Jayawardenapura. He is a fully-qualified member of the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM) and has part-qualifications from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA-Sri Lanka).

He is currently serving as a Director of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL). He held the prestigious position of President of the Colombo University MBA Alumni Association in 2013-14, and has served as the Director of the International Advertising Association (IAA). He also served as a Member of the Global Advisory Board of the World Brand Congress 2015 in Singapore.

Saranga is currently serving as the Director General of the national television station, Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation.

The Colombo Chamber of Commerce is one of largest independent networking and business support organizations, representing the interests of SME sector entrepreneurs and companies. CCC also represents the interests of its members to key business stakeholders and influencers in Colombo.

When asked about his plans as President of Colombo Chamber, Saranga said, "Together with my team, we have identified and prioritized what we have to do. Increasing the visibility of the Chamber and enhancing member engagement are the two main objectives for the year. We want to increase the value of getting membership in the Chamber. One of our major priorities is to give networking opportunities and contribute towards the nation and towards the growth of the economy of the country."

The new Board of Directors of the Colombo Chamber of Commerce consists of

a young and energetic team with Prasanna Liyanage (Immediate Past President), Dilesha Perera (Secretary), Roshan Gunawardane (Senior Vice President), Damith Gangoda wilage (Treasurer), Lakmal Wajirasiri (Vice President), Mohamad Afthab (Director), Dhakshitha Bogollagama (Director) and M. Shabir (Advisory Board Member).



Anuradhapura Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Anuradhapura District Chamber of Commerce to activate three year programme Of standardizing the organizations manufacturing food, drink and purifying water in the Anuradhapura District

Anuradhapura District Chamber of Commerce has planned to activate a three year programme of standardizing the organizations manufacturing food, drink and purifying water in the Anuradhapura District through the PTB Project jointly organized by the German Government and the Ministry of Health. In this programme, such organizations will be edified on the harmful chemicals added to food and drink and advised on how to keep them clean methodically. Furthermore, plans have been made to strengthen the organizations to obtain quality certifications such as SLS and GMP. An introductory programme about this project, scheduled to come into operation from the month of May 2019, was held on 04th April 2019 at the Provincial Council Auditorium under the patronage of the Governor of the North Central Province Sarath Ekanayake. Director General of the Anuradhapura Chamber of Commerce

P.B. Dissanayake, Secretary, North Central Province Ministry of Health Saman Bandulasena, North Central Province Director of Health Services Dr. Palitha Bandara, Divisional Director of Health Services Dr. Nimal Ariyaratne, Deputy Secretary of the Provincial Ministry of Health Crishantha participated in this programme.



NATIONAL CHAMBERS/ ASSOCIATION/ BUSINESS COUNCILS/ INSTITUTIONS



Sri Lanka Food Processing Association:



Awareness session on regulation on color coding:

The Regulation on Color coding on (Sugar, Salt & Fat) came into effect on 1st June 2019. This regulation makes it mandatory for the manufacturers to indicate the sugar, fat, salt contents on the labels of their products. Since it's a time-consuming exercise, the manufacturers along with SLFPA (on behalf

these manufacturers) lobbied to the MOH requesting for an extension of the effective date. The Ministry agreed to extend the deadline till 1st September 2019.

The SLFPA will be conducting an awareness session at The Ministry of Industries Auditorium on 5th of July 2019 from 9.00 am onwards to make the manufacturers especially the SME's sector aware of the requirements of this regulation. The session will be done free of charge as the SLFPA feels that it is very important to educate as many as possible on this regulation ASAP.

The Annual Pro Food ProPack Exhibition:

The Annual Pro Food ProPack Exhibition organized by the SLFPA will be held at the BMICH from 2 - 4th August 2019 as well. Approximately 250 - 300 food manufacturers & companies related to the food sector are expected to show case their products & services. It is estimated that around 20,000 visitors would visit this exhibition during the 3 days.



SLMCCI-FCCISL meet Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce of Industry



Two officials of SL-FCCISL President Wansapriya Gunaseela and Senior Vice President R. P. P. Senarathna, affiliated to Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL), recently visited the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Myanmar Garment Manufacturing Association, and exchanged views on future cooperation. SLMCCI is keen to find new openings in Myanmar for Sri Lankan entrepreneurs. Here, from left: SLMCCI Senior Vice President R. P. P. Senarathna, SLMCCI President Wansapriya Gunaseela, UMFCFI CEO Tint Swai, UMFCFI Central Committee Member Tun Aung, and UMFCFI Central Committee Member Nyi Nyi Aung.



National Construction Association of Sri Lanka



Press conference of Construct Exhibition 2019 carried out by the National Construction Association of Sri Lanka on 11th June Cinnamon Grand, Colombo



ICC rings trading bell to mark 100th anniversary



ICC Sri Lanka Chairman Dinesh Weerakkody rings the opening bell for trading at the CSE yesterday. From left: CSE Chairman Ray Abeywardena, ICC Sri Lanka Secretary Shanil Fernando, ICC Sri Lanka Treasurer Sheanath De Soysa, and CSE Director Anton Godfrey - Pic by Lasantha Kumara

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Sri Lanka yesterday rang the opening bell for trading at the Colombo Stock Exchange, to mark its 100th anniversary.

Speaking at the event, ICC Sri Lanka Chairman Dinesh Weerakkody outlined plans to conduct a special promotion among all listed companies to obtain ICC Sri Lanka membership.

"We are trying to do a special promotion and introduce discounts targeting CSE-listed companies to get membership of ICC Sri Lanka."

Weerakkody said obtaining membership of ICC Sri Lanka would open more opportunities for local businesses to reach the global market and expand their business. He said the ICC was ready to offer help to Sri Lankan businesses after the Easter Sunday attacks.

Weerakkody called for business chambers to work with the Government to improve peace and national security in the country. "One of the themes that came out at the recent World Council was that business chambers in the world now have to work with the Government to ensure peace and security. Business chambers can no longer leave it to the Government, they have a role to play," he said.

CSE Chairman Ray Abeywardena said he was pleased to note that ICC is embracing a new purpose in advocating for peace, prosperity and equal opportunities, which is most relevant from a Sri Lankan perspective.

Abeywardena took the opportunity to

congratulate ICC Sri Lanka for the work that has been carried out in Sri Lanka since its inception in 1995. He said ICC Sri Lanka has paved the way for local companies to connect to global networks, insisting that it helped Sri Lankan corporates to obtain the opportunity to access global outreach, with a widespread network for fostering international trade and cooperation.

He said initiatives introduced by the ICC in Sri Lanka such as 'The Most Admired Companies' had paved the way to evaluate efficient and quantitative performance of the local corporate sector.

"ICC Sri Lanka in the recent past has closely worked with CSE and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in our effort to promote Sri Lankan capital markets overseas, where the Chairman, Secretary and the ICC team were instrumental in introducing the Chamber's international networks in the UK and Singapore as promotional partners, during our Invest Sri Lanka forums, held in those countries."

He pointed out that ICC Sri Lanka and CSE had been able to build a strong working relationship with the Singapore Business Federation that had assisted to reach out to the investment community in Singapore in 2018 and 2019.

Abeywardena said the mandate of ICC Sri Lanka was more important now than ever, as Sri Lanka was tasked with rebuilding and emerging from what has been a challenging few months.

Challenges of Chamber movement in Sri Lanka

Introduction:

Chambers provided entrepreneurs, traders, exporters, importers, and industrialists a public forum to discuss issues facing them as a business community. This representation of common interests became and remains the foundation of chambers of commerce worldwide.

Having gained the recognition from governments and public authorities chambers worldwide soon established the cause for chambers. Government authorities rapidly established close dialogue with chambers, seeing them as the legitimate and institutionalized common voice of business.

Today, chambers of commerce exist in almost every country of the world. In this context member engagement is critical in order for a chamber to thrive. When membership grows the expectations of the membership too arises.

Chambers manage many initiatives from a traditional chamber of commerce to a most futuristic and dynamic chamber of commerce to carry out policy advocacy and lobbying, finding new market opportunities and identifying barriers to trade, developing entrepreneurship that includes guiding business startups, etc.

As the chamber grows in terms of its activities and membership it will be able to operate more effectively and efficiently by using tools such as data management, use of internet and Enterprise resource planning (ERP) available within the industry. The more successful the chamber becomes; the more members will value it and be willing to join the group. All it will take is the right focus on increased engagement.

Diversity of Chambers:

Chambers of commerce today are as diverse in name as the business communities they represent. The word "chamber" is still used in most countries. No longer just chambers of "commerce" and "industry" exist. In today's context chambers also describe themselves as representing "manufacturers", "entrepreneurship", "training", "shipping", "commodity exchanges", "agriculture", etc, to help reflect the communities they serve.

Chambers have also been established along the bilateral and regional lines (eg. Sri Lanka Myanmar chamber of commerce) as well as community and special interest chamber groups eg. Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce, transnational associations of chambers such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) chamber of commerce and industry are also a feature of our landscape, however, as diverse as chambers have become representing a wide cross-section of interests and methods, their common goal remains to support business

enterprises. Undoubtedly Chambers are still the most important type of multi-sectoral business organizations representing the business voice of the country.

Main Challenges faced by Chambers in Sri Lanka:

(1) Sustainability:

This is an Internal Challenge to most of the already existing Chambers in Sri Lanka and that can be more daunting than doing business itself by businessmen. Chambers need to raise funds for its day-to-day activities, projects, etc. Majority of chambers in Sri Lanka raise funds through sponsorships, donor agencies and by providing services to its members at a cost. However, the recent downturn in Sri Lankan economy hampered the chances for sponsorships from the private sector because the private sector too has cut down their promotional budgets drastically. However, the positive side of the fundraising part is due to the change of the government in 2015 many funding agencies resumed their projects in Sri Lanka and helped both national and regional chambers in carrying out its services to the membership. However, in the overall context still a steady income generation for growing needs of the chamber activities is a great challenge for most of the chambers in Sri Lanka.

(2) Lobbying and policy advocacy with governments:

One of the key tasks of Chambers is to serve as conduits to the government to represent the interests of their members (especially SME's) and to facilitate business activities through the maze of government bureaucracies, rules and procedures.

While the chambers' mission is to serve the needs and interests of their members, governments too look to chambers to gain their members to support for government policies and measures. In Sri Lanka, very often both sides find it a difficult process to match or to compromise. May it be an issue of VAT or a bilateral trade agreement with another country all successive governments proceeded despite strong lobbying against the move of the government then the pertinent question arises. How can chambers co-exist within the existing socio-political system while meeting the expectations of its members? If the governments regard chambers as friendly and supportive they need to consult chambers regarding policy matters that would impact on business, especially SMEs the backbone of the country.

By the same token, close cooperation with the government too can lead to real as well as perceived conflicts of interest. Chambers can become suspect of being or behaving like an arm or instrument of the government



Complied by Secretary General / CEO

rather than true representatives of their members.

FCCISL recently launched a policy advocacy forum for SME's and industrialists, which was attended by a large section of trade chambers and industrialists. All participants stressed the need to continue the dialogue on many areas such as lack of national policies for industries, inconsistency of policies, discriminatory tender procedures favoring foreign companies, restriction of movement of freedom by visa restrictions, etc.

(3) Lack of good governance at State:

Citizens in all the world look up at the government and its apparatus for the delivery of good governance. In a democracy, decentralization of power is viewed as necessary to empower people in rural and urban areas to improve their livelihood. When good governance is guaranteed citizens go about their personal business and pursuits with enhanced expectations. On the other side of the spectrum, bad or indifferent governance not only restricts opportunities of success, but it can even degenerate into sectarian conflicts and civil wars. In such an atmosphere, personal accomplishments as well as social achievements get severely restricted.

Good governance helps create an environment in which sustained economic growth becomes achievable. Conditions of good governance allow citizens to maximize their returns on investment. Good governance does not occur by chance. It must be demanded by citizens and nourished explicitly and consciously by the state.

Good governance is accordingly associated with accountable political leadership, enlightened policy-making and a vibrant and professional civil service. It would also avoid the power being concentrated in one

person. The presence of a strong civil society including a free press and independent judiciary are pre-conditions for good governance. What is 'good' governance in the Indian context? The central challenge before good governance relates to social development. In his famous 'tryst with destiny' speech on 14 August 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru articulated this challenge as 'the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunities'. Good governance must aim at expansion in social opportunities and removal of poverty. In short, good governance, as I perceive it, means securing justice, empowerment, employment and efficient delivery of services.

In 2015, present government came to power on the wings of good governance and number of measures such as 19th amendment, setting up of independent commissions, Enactment of Right to Information act, etc. were taken. However, the real impact caused by these measures on the society is yet to be analyzed.

It's noteworthy to mention that lack of good governance at the state severely affects the spirit of the business environment and the working of the chambers in the country.

(4) Lack of good governance at Chambers:

When we criticize the state for not adhering to the principals of good governance the question, arises spontaneously in our minds - are the chambers different? My answer is not really. Except for few chambers operating in the country most of the chambers, especially regional chambers lack a proper governance model instead these chambers are mostly driven by efforts of individuals. In fact their efforts should be highly appreciated and commended specially spending time

for chamber cause having taken off time in a busy schedule but these chambers are restricted by nature of the management style thus preventing them giving a better service to their members and developing them to the next desired level of the chamber. It's important to say that these chambers have a higher concentration of country's SMEs and establishing a good governance model would help these chambers envision the future of SMEs that contribute 65% of the GDP to the country. In Sri Lanka, chambers are either incorporated under the company act no 07 of 2007 (limited by guarantee) or by way of an act enacted in the parliament. However, in countries like Japan all chambers are to be set up under Chamber act specially enacted by the parliament for the purpose of registration of trade chambers. This is an eye opener for Sri Lanka and perhaps an introduction of similar act would perhaps help enhance the governance model, systems and to learn from best practices in other countries.

FCCISL in the past (2017) introduced a new governance model to strengthen its cause and as a result, both national and regional chambers now substantially make the representation at the board of directors while giving an exclusive seat for women chambers at the board. Empowering the secretariat headed by Secretary General and establishment of three board sub committees for Strategy, Risk & Sustainability and Public Relations were done in order to enhance the transparency and collective decision-making process. In addition, advisory committee has been set up consisting of well-known entrepreneurs and business professionals.

(5) Lack of continuous process for capacity Building:

Chamber Capacity building at all levels of an organization is widely perceived as the most important approach to achieve quality of services and members satisfaction. The empowerment of the local levels of administration would foster confidence and enhance the work efficiency to meet the expectations of the businesspersons. Some of the big chambers do insist on capacity development for its staff and membership. However, most of the regional chambers do not pay much focus in this regard. The most crucial element in capacity building is chamber leadership. Good leadership aimed at improvement of organizational culture is integral to capacity building in traditional organizations; information is the preserve of higher-level bureaucracy.



Easy Wash

Premium Washable Paint

- Repels stains and blocks dirt
- Low odour
- Resists fungus growth
- Covers hairline cracks



FOLLOW US
www.nipponpaint.com.lk

Rs. 995/- upwards

ASIA'S NO.1 PAINT MANUFACTURER



HOTLINE : +94 114 600 400

Nippon Paint Lanka (Pvt) Ltd., Nippolac Towers, 69A, Buthgamuwa Road, Rajagiriya.
Tele: +94 11 4356 900 - 8 | +94 11 4600 400 | Fax: +94 11 4356 909



LOG ON & PICK YOUR PAINTER

SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION CHAM



Opening Ceremony of 2019 SSACEIF, Kunming, China



Shirley Jayawardena (Senior Vice President of FCCISL), addressing the gathering at the China South Asia Cooperation Forum



Ajith D Perera, Secretary General of FCCISL and Dr. Rohitha SAARC CCI at a media interview during the 14th

Sri Lanka was Prominent in South and Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair

Sri Lanka being the Theme country of the South and Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair (SSACEIF) as well as the Chair at the 14th China South Asia Business Forum (14th CSAB) played a paramount role in those events held from 11th to 18th June 2019 in Kunming, China. Simultaneously, there were some more events such as China-South Asia Business Cooperation Forum and China-South Asia Key Projects Meeting in which Sri Lanka was prominent.



Sri Lanka as the Theme Country at 2019 SSACEIF



Shirley Jayawardena (Senior Vice President of FCCISL), signed the Understanding on Co-building China-South Asia B

It was significant that Ruwan Edirisinghe, President of SAARC CCI and FCCISL, chaired the 14th China-South Asia Business Forum, held from 12th to 13th June 2019. Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha (Deputy Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade), Dr. Rohitha Silva (Vice President, Sri Lanka Chapter of SAARC CCI and Director of FCCISL), Shirley Jayawardena (Senior Vice President of FCCISL), Ruwan De Silva (General Assembly Member of SAARC CCI and Director of FCCISL), Ajith D. Perera (Secretary General of FCCISL), and relevant Government Officials took part at the events representing Sri Lanka. Chandhi Raj Dhakal, Vice President, Nepal Chapter of SAARC CCI, Hina Saeed, Secretary General of SAARC CCI, and Zulfiqar Ali Butt, Deputy Secretary General of SAARC CCI, also took part at the events.



Ruwan Edirisinghe (President of SAARC CCI and FCCISL), Dr. Rohitha Silva (Vice President, Sri Lanka Chapter of SAARC CCI and Director of FCCISL), Ruwan De Silva (General Assembly Member of SAARC CCI and Director of FCCISL) with Sri Lankan Government Officials.



SAARC CCI delegation led by Ruwan Edirisighe, President SAARC CCI including Dr. Rohitha Silva, Vice President (Sri Lanka), Ruwan De Silva, General Assembly Member SAARC CCI and Director of FCCISL meet Liu Guangxi, Chairman of C

In fact, it is momentous that for the first time SAARC CCI organized a Pavilion which is representative of the South Asian nations at the 2019 SSACEIF where SAARC CCI had 104 stalls out of which 40 are Sri Lankan stalls conducted by the FCCISL.



Ruwan Edirisinghe, President of SAARC CCI with H.E. ZongGuoying, Deputy Governor of People's Government of Yunnan Province, China, at the opening ceremony of 14th China South Asia Business Forum.



CCPIT Legal team led by Liu Chao meeting with SAARC CCI delegation led by Ruwan Edirisinghe, President, SAARC CCI along with Chandhi Raj Dhakal, Vice President SAARC CCI (Nepal), Hina Saeed, Secretary General SAARC CCI & Zulfiqar Ali Butt, Deputy Secretary General SAARC CCI, on June 13, 2019, in Kunming, China

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SAARC CCI)/ INTERNATIONAL

A Series of SAARC CCI Meetings Successfully Concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal



Dr. Rohitha Silva, Vice President, Sri Lanka Chapter of China-South Asia Business Forum

in Kunming, China



MOU representing FCCISL (Memorandum of Business Cooperation Database)



Inauguration Exhibition



Ruwan Edirisinghe, President of SAARC CCI and FCCISL, and Liu Qilin (Secretary of Party Committee of CCPIT Yunnan Sub Council) exchanging tokens of appreciation



Group Picture of 77th EC and 23rd GA Meetings

The 77th Executive Committee (EC) Meeting and 23rd General Assembly (GA) Meeting of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI) were successfully held on May 2, 2019 at Chandragiri Hills, Kathmandu, Nepal. The Meetings were organized by the SAARC CCI in collaboration with Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI).

The 77th EC and 23rd GA Meetings were chaired by Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe, President of SAARC CCI. The EC and GA members from South Asian countries gathered in Nepal to take significant decisions in terms of taking SAARC CCI into new heights. Eminent business leaders from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka actively took part at the meetings scheduled in Kathmandu from 2nd to 4th of May, 2019.

Rt. Hon'ble Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Speaker of House of Representatives, Federal Parliament of Nepal was invited as the chief guest at the inaugural session of 77th EC and 23rd GA Meetings of SAARC CCI. H.E. Mr. MazherJaved, Ambassador of Pakistan to Nepal graced the occasion with his valuable presence.

Along with the 77th EC and 23rd GA Meetings, the SAARC CCI in collaboration with the FNCCI organized 4 important meetings, i.e. the Meeting with the Prime Minister of Nepal, H.E. Mr. Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nepal, Hon'ble Mr. Pradeep Gyawali, SAARC Startups Task Force Meeting, and the Strategy Workshop of SAARC CCI.

Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe (President of SAARC CCI and FCCISL) chaired



Bandula Egodage, EC SAARC CCI, and Ruwan De Silva, GA SAARC CCI, talking at the 77th EC Meeting

all meetings and Dr. Rohitha Silva (Vice President - Sri Lanka Chapter of SAARC CCI), Mr. Ruwan De Silva (GA Member of SAARC CCI

and Director FCCISL), and Mr. BandulaEgodage (EC Member of SAARC CCI) took part at the evets representing Sri Lanka.

Fostering Startup Ecosystems in South Asia

One of the main focus of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI) is enhancing innovations and improving startup ecosystems in South Asia which are instrumental in socioeconomic development in the region. Hence, a pro bono SAARC CCI Startups Taskforce was established as per a decision of the Startup Vision Summit 2018 held in Bengaluru, India, from 3rd to 5th December 2018. The first SAARC CCI Startups Taskforce Meeting was held at the Yak and Yeti Hotel, Kathmandu,

Nepal, on 3rd May 2019. The taskforce consists of 9 members from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The main objectives of the SAARC CCI Startups Taskforce Meeting was to introduce the Startups Taskforce to the Presidium of SAARC CCI and provide the Taskforce with an opportunity to network and discuss areas of mutual interest pertinent to Startups, to report the outcome of the discussions (issues and prospects) highlighted at the SAARC CCI Startups Vision Summit 2018, and to present the Strategic Plan and road map for

future activities of the Startups Taskforce and to discuss ways of collaboration between the Startup Task Force and the SAARC CCI.

The Startups Taskforce and the SAARC CCI discussed various difficulties and challenges faced by the startups in the region and presented a set of suggestions for the development of startup ecosystems in the South Asia focusing on innovative and quality incubators, accelerators, tinkering labs, e-cells, centres of excellence for fostering and improving scale of startups in the region.



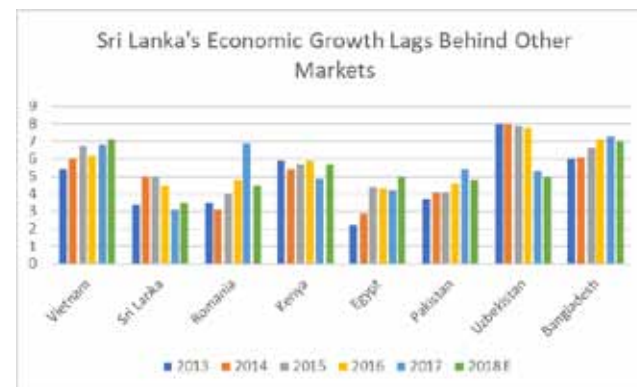
Group Picture of SAARC CCI Startups Taskforce Meeting

FCCISL's representation in other Institutions

Name of the FCCISL representatives	Representation in other Institutions
Ruwan Edirisinghe - President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Islamabad – Pakistan (SCCI)
Shirley Jayawardena –Senior Vice President, Chairperson of Public Relations Committee, and Head of Sponsorship Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice President of Sri Lankan chapter of South Asia Women Development Forum(SAWDF) Executive Committee member at SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Islamabad – Pakistan (SCCI) Executive Committee member of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Women Entrepreneurs Council (SCWEC)
Keerthi Gunawardane – Vice President, and Chairman of Risk & Sustainability Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Committee member at SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Islamabad – Pakistan (SCCI) Vice Chair of ICT Council affiliated SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Board member at Colombo Chamber of Commerce Board member of Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards Monitoring Board.
Sarath Kahapalarachchi – Immediate past President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of Silk Road Chamber of International Commerce in Beijing,China (SCIC) Ex-officio member of the Governance Council of National Institute of Business management (NIBM)
Ruwan De Silva – Board Director, Member of Strategy Committee, and Chairman of FCCISL BIZ Magazine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Assembly member of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Islamabad – Pakistan (SCCI) Member of the Governing Council Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment
Rohitha Silva – Board Director, and Chairmen of Strategy Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice President of Sri Lankan Chapter of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Islamabad – Pakistan (SCCI) President Designate - Asia Pacific Trade Agreement Chamber of Commerce and Industry (APTA CCI) Beijing
Abbas Kamrudeen– Board Director, and Member of Public Relations Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of ICT council affiliated to SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Islamabad – Pakistan (SCCI)
Ajith D Perera –Secretary General/ CEO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC), Member of the EU-ITC working group on Trade Policy, Focal point for Skills for Inclusive Growth of Australian Aid (S4IG) Coordinator–APTA Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Beijing,China (APTA CCI)

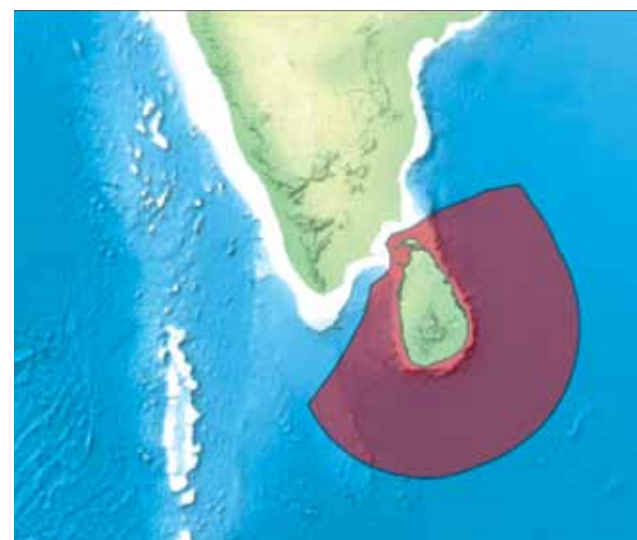
Present Economy - Threats and Opportunities...

Continued from page 4



However for the Indian exporters they had a trouble free access to the Sri Lanka market. Before we enter to any FTA a full study is required to assess the benefits. Then the in-house sustainability and the capacity building is important for us to benefit out of a FTA. This again depends on the Agricultural, Industrial and trade policy of a country. What we need is a clear consistence policy. Any political party who comes to power can improve the situation but should not change the way they like. If they think a change is required for the benefit of the county then a proper dialog with the chambers and the stake holders is essential to make the changes in medium and long term but not in the short term.

Sri Lanka as a country we are blessed with so many resources many of the other countries do not have in the world. In addition to the land area of 65,610 KM2 the massive sea area belongs to Sri Lanka which we never used the best potential.



The most beautiful beaches to the Fauna and Flora of our island to the wild life we have not used the potential. Highly literate and well educated human resources not been used properly and most of the educated youth migrates and we are facing a serious issue of brain drain from the country. The major reason for most of the issues can be solved with a proper political leadership who can discipline our motherland and stop corruption from our society. The day we can achieve this, progress of this nation will not be a miracle.



Keerthi Gunawardane

The writer is an Economics Hons Graduate from the Sri Jayawardenepura University, Immediate Past President of the International Chamber of Commerce and the Vice President of the Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industries Sri Lanka.

Challenges of Chamber movement... Continued from page 8

FCCISL recently began a series of workshops on regional chamber capacity development in collaboration with ITC/EU trade related assistance project where envisioning the future of regional chambers, governance model and sustainable business plan were discussed and finalized. Once the chambers are established having a futuristic vision and backed by a proper governance model and sustainable business plan what will be the role of these chambers?

In this context, let us quote a famous saying by Mahatma Gandhi at 4th AGM of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in April 1931 – “Chambers do need to realize that the Industry should regard themselves as trustees and servants of poor.” Ineffect, the very noble cause of Chambers is to help society create

wealth for the nation and eradicate poverty the process of which is to be essentially driven by a vision, good governance model and a sustainable business plan.

(6) Going abroad – Maintaining a Share of voice at international forums and markets:

In the era of globalization and growing role of the private sector, the government is demanding the private sector to adopt affirmative actions. In this context even bigger chambers do find difficulties in representing the members' views at regional and international forums due to lack of resources.” It is important for Sri Lankan chambers to showcase their products and services at various knowledge fares, exhibitions and trade

fares. Unfortunately going abroad for Sri Lankan SMEs is yet a unfulfilled dream and its evident by the contribution of Sri Lankan SMEs with regard to exports which cuts a sorry figure of 05% -08% when Asian economies such as China, Korea, Thailand and India SMEs do account for over 30%- 50% of country exports. In China, India, Pakistan, Vietnam and Thailand governments support chambers financially to represent at various regional and international knowledge forums to showcase the country's product and services and to share their success stories.

In essence, Sri Lankan chamber movement needs support from the government agencies, business sector, NGOs, donor agencies and financial institutions to develop further its product offer to the membership and to the society.

NATIONAL CHAMBERS/ ASSOCIATION/ BUSINESS COUNCILS/ INSTITUTIONS



Sri Lanka Printers to raise the bar



The Sri Lanka Association of Printers laid the foundation in preparation of the upcoming Executive Committee for the year 2019 / 2020, by conducting a 'Brain Storming Workshop' recently at the SLAP Head Quarters Auditorium in Thaladena Malabe.

A distinguished number of print owners and representatives of leading Printing, Publishing & Packaging organisations participated. The current President Ranjith Fernando warmly welcomed the participants, whilst the 1st Vice President and in-coming President Delan F Silva made the introductory remarks to the innovative workshop.

The Workshop gathered momentum quietly guided by the Facilitator Dian Abeyewardene, a renowned Trainer, encouraging the experienced Masters of the Printing Industry to dig deep in

to their knowledge and past performances in relation to the Printing industry as a whole on the basic Theme ;

What should SLAP deliver in terms of Increasing Market share – ORDERS, Education - Training, Networking and bringing awareness to the industry to cover Short Term – 2020, Medium Term – 2030, Long term - 2040?

The ideas, concerns, doubts, challenges were then categorized in to eight sub-topics such as;

1. Government lobbying
2. Training and recruitment
3. Membership drive
4. Management
5. Technology
6. Export Marketing
7. Administration

8. Business expansion

The participants were then cast in to three groups for extensive discussion and the summarization of each group analysis was presented by the respective group spokesperson / leader, which was further analyzed by all participants leading the workshop to a positive conclusion.

It was unanimously concluded that a follow-up action of the findings and conclusions of each group should be further enhanced by the formation of Sub-Committees under the selected topics to ensure implementation of the areas identified. The common agreements were to enhance Training & Development of the entire Printing, Publishing & Packaging Industry in preparation of becoming the Print Hub of the Asian & Pacific Region. The need to obtain

Government cooperation to establish Sri Lanka Printing as a Logistic Hub to be pursued gaining focus on the industry via the Export Development Board and other institutions such as Customs Department, Tax Department and the Labour Department to resolve many challenges faced in reaching out to international markets in view of Going Global was duly noted. The importance of the printing, publishing & packaging industry was reiterated and the diversity and dependence of every other industry on printing was emphasized to remind the vast potential and responsibility the Sri Lanka Association of Printers has to ensure Printers manage their businesses profitably empowering all industries to grow their markets globally taking Sri Lanka to the next level of economic growth expanding the market share reaching out internationally.



Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing



Suranjith Swaris – President SLIM addressing at Brand Excellence 2019

L to R: Thilank Abewardena – Vice President SLIM, Suranjith Swaris – President SLIM, Tilan Wijesekera – Head of Jury, Ahamad Aroos – Project Chairman – Brand Excellence 2019



Sri Lanka Gem and Jewellery Association

It's that time of the year once again to announce the approach of the premier event of the Gem and Jewellery industry in Sri Lanka – the FACETS International Gem & Jewellery Exhibition. The 29th edition of FACETS is scheduled to be held at the end of August at the BMICH. Organized by the Sri Lanka Gem and Jewellery Association in collaboration with the National Gem and Jewellery Authority and the Sri Lanka Export Development Board.

Facets
SRI LANKA
INTERNATIONAL
GEM & JEWELLERY SHOW

29th AUG TO 1st SEP 2019
AT BMICH - EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION CENTRE

29th EDITION

ORGANIZED BY: Sri Lanka Gem & Jewellery Association

CO-ORGANIZERS: National Gem & Jewellery Authority, EDB, Sri Lanka Export Development Board

WWW.FACETSSRI.LANKA.COM

SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SAARC CCI)/ INTERNATIONAL

SAARC CCI Strategic Planning Workshop

The SAARC CCI Strategic Planning Workshop was held in Yak and Yeti Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal, on 4th May 2019, chaired by Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe, President of SAARC CCI. The Senior Vice President of SAARC CCI, Vice Presidents of SAARC CCI, EC and GA Members of SAARC CCI, Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General of SAARC CCI and other SAARC CCI officials attended the workshop.

Context setting and sharing of objectives, SAARC CCI mission vision and policies, developing a joint understanding and roadmap of challenges and opportunities in 2019, developing consensus on roadmap for addressing the challenges and achieving the tasks, and development of a SMART time-action-plan with clear responsibilities and timelines of execution were main areas of the discussions of the SAARC CCI Strategic Planning Workshop.



Dr. Rohitha Silva, Vice President Sri Lanka Chapter of SAARC CCI, and Ruwan De Silva, GA Member SAARC CCI and Director FCCISL, talking at the Workshop

NATIONAL CHAMBERS/ ASSOCIATION/ BUSINESS COUNCILS/ INSTITUTIONS



The Ceylon Institute of Builders

CIOB completes Level One - Lean Construction Course

The Ceylon Institute of Builders (CIOB) recently finished conducting the Lean Construction Level One Course, which is the equivalent of a White Belt Lean Course. Participants for this course included engineers, surveyors and mid management staff from the medium to large scale companies in the construction sector.

Lean Construction practices enable companies to reduce the loss of resources in the construction industry, such as wastage of materials, delays in delivery, lack of communication between stakeholders, defects and corrections required, etc. Since the quantum of funds is so large in average construction projects, small savings will significantly improve budgets, timelines and profitability. In fact, the construction sector around the world has realised the need for significantly increased efficiencies and similar courses are being conducted in countries such as the UK, Ireland, Thailand, Australia and Malaysia.

The staff who attended were very pleased that they learned of new ways to identify and improve efficiencies within their organisations. Exercises conducted during the session included those to identify the eight

Lean Wastes, Process Value Mapping and understanding how to draw "Spaghetti Diagrams." Many of the exercises conducted were very practical and were designed so they could be easily adopted within their working practices

Dr. Rohan Karunaratne, President, Ceylon Institute of Builders, who proposed the commencement of this Course, and stressed the importance of using Lean techniques to assist contractors reduce waste, which would then enable Sri Lankan companies to win more of the larger projects in the Colombo Megapolis. To date, all large projects have gone to foreign contractors. Professor Wedikkara, formerly of Moratuwa University, stressed the importance of training staff in Lean as procurement guidelines for government projects will include Value Addition and Lean Specialists within the corporate team in the future. She also stated that there is currently a high demand for Lean Certified Engineers and Construction staff in Qatar.

Participants who successfully complete the course would be awarded a Lean Level One Certificate at the forthcoming prestigious 8th World Construction Symposium, scheduled to take place



Prof. Chitra Weddikkara interacting with participants

in November 2019. The CIOB, who also formed the South Asian Lean Construction Institute (SALCI) last year, also intends to regularly conduct Lean Construction Courses and is planning a 2 day Yellow Belt

Lean Course in September 2019. The courses are being conducted by Arosha Jayasundera, a specialist Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, who had been in the Operational Excellence industry for 15 years and

has founded the Asian Institute of Excellence. She works closely with many government bodies and the private sector as a lecturer, trainer and senior management consultant.



ICCSL recognised by ICC world body

The International Chamber of Commerce of Paris last week recognised ICCSL for the chamber's positive contribution to the local business community and for its innovative work.

At a special session at the Permanent Heads meeting in Paris, the winners were announced last week. Sri Lanka was placed second in Best Initiatives of the Year in the Asia-Pacific region.

Celebrations took place in Paris last week, beginning a year of activities to mark 100 years of the International Chamber of Commerce



Chairman ICCSL Dinesh Weerakkody receiving the certificate from ICC National Committees and Global Membership Director Mary Kelly



Vehicle Importers Association of Sri Lanka

Vehicle Importers Association of Sri Lanka held a press conference to discuss the controversial LUXURY TAX matter that would drive up car prices even more.



Ranjan Peries (Hon. President), Arosha Rodrigo (Hon. Secretary), Prasad Manage (Hon. Treasurer), Rushanka Silva (Hon. Vice President), Dinesh Senanayake (Hon. Past President), Anil Adikari (Executive Committee Member)



RN CONSTRUCTIONS (PVT) LTD.

Engineers & Contractors.

ICTAD C1 CATEGORY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR
ISO QMS 9001 : 2008
ISO EMS 14001 : 2004
OHSAS 18001 : 2007 CERTIFIED COMPANY

Winner of ICTAD Construction Excellence Award for Year 2006, 2015 & 2016
Merit Award in Year 2011 & 2013
Green Excellence Award 2015 & 2016
ICTAD Construction Safety Award in Year 2008

Wide Range of construction works shall undertake with 21 years of experience in Construction Industry as follows.



**Construction of Industrial Buildings Factories,
Warehouses, Processing Plants.
Commercial Buildings.**



**Office Complexes, Super Markets, Hospitals,
Cinema Halls, Educational Institutions.
Housing Projects.**



**Apartments, Hotels, Multiple Housing Schemes,
Low Cost Housing Projects, etc..
Roads & Bridges.**



**Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing Works (MEP).
Telecommunication Towers.**



**Water Supply & Drainage works, Irrigation,
Land Drainage & Reclamation works, etc..**

A Member of



532/1, Kaduwela Road, Thaladena, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka.
Fax : 011-2789014
E-mail: rncons@eureka.lk
Web Site : www.rngroup.lk



“Ways to retain Millennial with Modern Training”

The concept of training and development can be regarded as one of the vital factors in this dynamic and fast paced corporate world. For any business, employees are the greatest and valuable asset and they are the key to success in any organization. Therefore, all businesses should be aware of the positives of implementing a proper training and development programme for their staff, one that can be altered to suit an individual's professional needs.

Training allows employees to acquire new skills, sharpen existing ones, perform better, increase productivity and be better leaders. On the contrary, conducting proper training and development programs help to retain the millennial and grow profits, increased employee motivation, reduced employee turnover, improved productivity speed and the competency level.

As the battle for top talent becomes more competitive, employee training and development programs are more important than ever. In present, top companies invest in training programs because they know the investment pays off in individual and organizational benefits. It's a known factor that every business looks for productivity, quality improvement, effective management and industrial safety. Having considered all the above facts in to consideration that the federation of chambers of commerce and industry in Sri Lanka has strengthened their “TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ARM” with the intention of delivering the customized training and development programmes for the organizations, Job seekers, students, businessman and entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka.

FCCISL as the largest and most representative apex body of Sri Lankan business, Since its inception in 1973, it has been the rallying point for free enterprises from large, medium, small and micro segments of manufacturing, trade and service sectors of Sri Lanka that helps to empower Sri Lankan businesses to show up their competitiveness and enhance their national and global reach. With the rapid changes of the corporate culture and having identifying the real need of the corporate sector, Entrepreneurs, job seekers and students that FCCISL are planned to provide below listed training and development programmes from the month of July 2019. These are especially designed to the respective organizations and anyone who is keen to get improved their abilities through training and development programmes. All the programmes will be commencing month of July/August and September 2019. In order to get more information, you can reach us on 0705 999 590 or mail : training@fccisl.lk



Priyanka Perera
Consultant – Training & Skill Development
Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in
Sri Lanka

Training Programme	Course Duration	Target Group
Corporate Communication & Personal Branding (CCPB)	3 Months	Professionals, Job seekers, Executives, Managers
Public speaking & Personality Development Course	3 Months	School leavers, Job seekers, Professionals, Businessman
Public Speaking & Business communication	3 Months (Weekly basis)	Professionals, Entrepreneurs, Presenters, Trainers
Personal Branding and Grooming Session	1 Day workshop	Anyone who is interested to groom their personality
Advanced Excel Training	2 Days Training	Corporates, Businessman, Job seekers
"How to Delight your customer"	1 day workshop	Sales representatives, Marketing and sales managers
How to Manage the information flow – emails, phone and messaging	1 day workshop	Corporates, Businessman, Job seekers, Executives
Corporate stress management training and resilience training for the workplace	1 day workshop	Managers, Professionals and Entrepreneurs, Executives
Improve leadership qualities and Professional Effectiveness, (OUT BOUND TRAINING)	Can be customized as per client's requirement	
Spoken English & Personality Development	3 months	Anyone who is interested to groom their personality and English speaking ability
E commerce Training	2 Months	Anyone who needs to earn an extra income
Chinese Language course	4 Months	Exporters, Entrepreneurs, Trainers
"Let's Dive in" Digital Marketing Training	2 Months /1 day workshop	Managers, Professionals and Entrepreneurs, Executives
E commerce Training	2 Months	Anyone who needs to earn an extra income

Furthermore, all the participants will be awarded a worldwide recognition certificate issued by the APEX body of Chambers in Sri Lanka upon the successful completion,

SINGER[®]

SRI LANKA'S No.1 BRAND

OVER
12000
Home appliances

 011 5400400

SHOP
NOW

www.singer.lk

**SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SAARC CCI)/ INTERNATIONAL**

SAARC CCI conducted “Start-up Boot Camp” from 27th – 30th June 2019 in Bangladesh



Group picture of participants & mentors with Mr. Mahub ul Alam, Vice President #SAARC CCI (#Bangladesh) at the #SAARCCCI's Boot Camp for #Startups on June 27-29, 2019, in #Dhaka, Bangladesh.

REGIONAL CHAMBERS



**Chamber of Commerce and Industries
Trincomalee District:**



Chamber of Commerce and Industries Trincomalee District, Trincomalee District Secretariat and German Development Corporation conducted District SME Development Forum in Trincomalee District



**Central Province Chamber of Commerce and
Industries**

Aim of the action

Support the development of micro businesses by enhancing local services.

Roles of the Organizations

ICEI, as the main implementing partner of the project, will be legally responsible fulfillment of the donor's (AICS- Italian Agency for Development Cooperation) regulation management and implementation of the project. In particular, ICEI undertakes to:

- manage institutional, administrative and legal relations and communication with AICS;
- provide indication (Format, criteria...) and support the CCI-CP for the financial and reporting;
- transfer funds to the CCI-CP on activity basis financial request (Only District Enterprises can be paid after submission of bills)

CCI-CP undertakes to:

- carry out the project in compliance with the



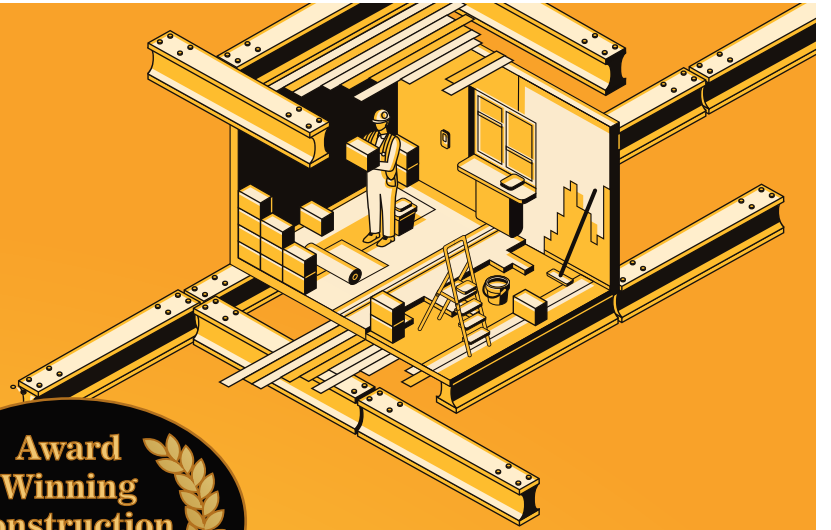
On June 2019 MOU signed with Soru Country Manager, ICEI, Intergrated Rural Development in Sri Lanka: Rice and Spices from Production with the central province chamber. President Keerthi Bandara and Country Manager Soru

funds transferred and manage funds received from ICEI accordingly

- supervise and support the appointed staff to carry out the assigned tasks and duties
- ensure the coordination of the activities with the ICEI project staff ensuring the collaboration and the correct and necessary flow of information
- provide the ICEI with a stamped and signed copy of the accounting documents supporting detailed list of expenditures



SRIPALIE
CONTRACTORS (PVT)LTD
 EXCEEDING EXCELLENCE



CONSTRUCTION YOU CAN COUNT ON

Building Construction
Leisure/Hotel
Commercial Complex
Hospital
Institutional
Residential
Industrial
Design & Build Projects

As pioneers, we know that successful projects depend on mastery and our experienced commitment employees. Truly valuing our top-notch customer's needs and concerns is of top priority, our knowledgeable team understands that consistently working to improve the quality of service and attention to detail are the best ways to get the job done. Let us assure your trust on our promise, and provide tailored service for your merited investment. Why you are still waiting? Take the first step towards your construction by today.

No.06. S.H Dahanayake Mawatha, Kaluwella, Galle

Tel:- +94 91 2246953 Fax:- +94 91 2233004

E-mail:- info@sripaliecontractors.lk

Web: www.sripaliecontractors.lk





TRUSTED ASSURANCE
FOR THAT
Timeless finish
ON
INTERIOR WOODEN FURNITURE



WORLD'S NO. 1
WOOD COATING



SAYERLACK® PU LACQUER

LOOK FOR THE MARK OF EXCELLENCE AT OUR ESTEEMED PARTNER OUTLETS BELOW AND MANY MORE ISLANDWIDE



JAT Holdings (Pvt) Ltd

351, Pannipitiya Rd, Thalawathugoda +94 11 440 7700 www.sayerlack.lk /SayerlackByJAT

