

FCCISL ONLINE NEWSLETTER

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Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry of Sri Lanka
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. **Headline**
2. **About FCCISL** ([click here](#))
3. **Trade and Investment Issues** ([click here](#))
4. **Trade Opportunities** ([click here](#))
5. **Training and Education** ([click here](#))
6. **Special Projects** ([click here](#))
7. **Government Notifications** ([click here](#))
8. **Health Tips** ([click here](#))
9. **Events** ([click here](#))
10. **Overseas News** ([click here](#))

"In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity" -SUN - TZU



FCCISL on way forward - Go Glocal.

By Ajith D Perera

Covid19 is the biggest challenge of our time and in every country sectors such as tourism, hotels, entertainment, airlines, shipping, fast food retail chains and apparel are affected severely. However not all hopes are lost. Sri Lankan government has granted a generous refinancing facility to revive the business community and has taken several major financial and fiscal decisions to arrest the declining trend of the economy.

In the post COVID19 era, major shifts in terms of consumer demand, supply management, H R and production management, logistic management and branding could be expected in the world. More and more investments through public private partnerships may flow in to agriculture related industries. In fact, Sri Lanka needs to adjust itself without a delay to face these changes and move forward. The best option available to Sri Lanka on the short term is to build a strong domestic economy where Sri Lanka focus on Agri industry and its supply chain. In this regard giving all resources such as capital, technology, expertise should be provided to SME's - the back bone of the Sri Lankan economy. It's also important that policy makers take radical steps to ensure that these SME's becoming the part and parcel of the value chain and coming under a formal cooperative system supported by public private partnership. If done effectively the innovations and testing of business concepts in incubators will give Sri Lanka the leading edge over other south Asian economies.

On the other hand, Sri Lanka needs to encourage its exports and related activities on following sectors such as pharma, waste management, packaging, processed food, telecommunication and high tech products which will have a better demand in the world. Sri Lanka also needs to review its Labour practices and legal environment to facilitate the transmission to the new work order - social distancing and Work from Home. (WFH)

During COVID19 world also saw another phenomenon - the emergence of the forgotten owners of the earth from their hideouts in the globe. The treasured living species such as animals, fish and birds were often seen at places where they were not seen when the human beings were active. Sri Lanka had the forest cover (50%) in 1948 and sadly today it has come down to 20% due to man-made activities such as development and human settlements etc.

FCCISL looks beyond its horizons and seriously think it has come to a point of no return where any further compromising cannot be made between the economic development and the environment. Perhaps any further encroachments may endanger the stability of the whole eco system in the country. FCCISL in search of post COVID19 economic order is ready to explore the possibility of extensively using so far commercially un-tapped vast sea territory which is definitely exceeding the output of land based (65k km²) economy.

The Sri Lanka has a sea belt (21 Km²) also has an exclusive economy zone at sea not exceeding 200 nautical miles (altogether 510,000 Km²) and with a right to go up to 1,200,000 Km²). Certainly Way forward for Sri Lanka is a blend of Land based development done so far and future sea based economy, both giving great opportunities for global and local businesses'. It's GLOCAL !

-End-

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USEFUL LINKS

1. **Live updates on New Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak**
<https://hpb.health.gov.lk/en>
2. **Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medical Services**
<http://www.health.gov.lk/>
3. **Locate Nearest Pharmacy Delivery Service**
http://www.health.gov.lk/moh_fina/english/others.php?pid=209
4. **President Media Division**
<http://www.pmdnews.lk/>
5. **Sri Lanka Customs**
<http://www.customs.gov.lk/>

IMPORTANT HOTLINES



011-2691111

GENERAL HOSPITAL COLOMBO



071-0107107

HEALTH PROMOTION BUREAU



1990

SUWASARIYA AMBULANCE SERVICE



117

PRESIDENT TASK FORCE



011-3090502/113

INFORMATION & COMPLAINTS REGARDING QUARANTINE PROCESS



119

POLICE EMERGENCY CALL CENTER



011-2112705

QUARANTINE UNIT



011-3071073

DISASTER UNIT OF THE HEALTH OF MINISTRY



011-2421052

TOURIST POLICE