

## Developing Sri Lanka



Backed with its strategic location and natural resources, Sri Lanka is on her way to transform its economy to five strategic hubs: knowledge, commercial, naval and maritime, aviation and energy. The Economic Development supported by peace and favourable government policies has created an environment for improved investor confidence and commendable performance. The strong economic performance in Sri Lanka has improved per capita income enabling the country to reach middle income status. At the same time Sri Lankan economy recorded a growth of 3.1% in 2017. The Service sector being 56.8% of the GDP of Sri Lanka remains the largest contributor to the national economy.

The government has taken several measures to achieve its targets set in the Vision 2025 and the Medium Term Fiscal Strategy. Accordingly the government revenue is projected to reach above 17 percent of GDP by 2022.

Sri Lankan government has implemented an ambitious programme to develop and upgrade the physical infrastructure of the country; including Sea Port and Airport Development, Colombo Megapolis, Development of High Mobility Road Network, Power & Energy and Telecommunication infrastructure. Investment in the tourism sector and tourism development projects also continues its further expansion in year 2018. The new tourism strategic plan 2017-2020 was introduced to facilitate Tourism vision 2025 which aims to meet Sustainable Development Goals on tourism. Accordingly, it is expected to increase earnings from tourism up to US dollars 7 billion and employ 600,000 workers in support industries. Tourist arrivals recorded a 3% growth compared to the previous year.

One Stop Unit for national investment serves as a centralized promotion and the facilitation center is expected to assist potential investors interested in investing in Sri Lanka. Measures were also taken to continue well focused reforms to boost the investment savings prospects in the country.

With these positive developments Sri Lanka looks forward to become a beacon of growth and opportunity in South Asia to continue on its upward trajectory. Building on country's peace and stability Sri Lanka is ready to spur further growth and encourages potential investors to be part of Sri Lanka's success story.



## Ambassador Hettiarachchi Presents Credentials to President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović of the Republic of Croatia



The Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Germany Eng. Karunasena Hettiarachchi, concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Republic of Croatia, presented credentials to President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, 09<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace in Zagreb.

The Ambassador thanked the Croatian President for the support that Croatia has extended to Sri Lanka in all international fora in the past. The President congratulated the Ambassador and assured full support and cooperation from the Government of Croatia in discharging his responsibilities.

## Sri Lanka Embassy in Berlin Celebrates Ramadan

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Berlin celebrated the traditional Ifthar on Monday, 11th June 2018 at the Embassy premises. The event was attended by a large gathering of Sri Lankan and German Muslim community living in Berlin and the representatives from the Sri Lanka Associations in Berlin.

Ambassadors of Pakistan and Maldives also graced the event and appreciated Sri Lanka's efforts in promoting ethnic and religious harmony between its communities.

Speaking at the event Ambassador Karunasena Hettiarachchi highlighted the significance of Ramadan, and emphasized the importance of promoting interfaith harmony for the betterment of the country. The Embassy Ifthar celebration provided an opportunity for the Sri Lankan community to commit to support their brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka in their efforts to achieve unity and reconciliation.



Moulavi Fathia conducted the Ifthar prayers and blessed the country, the people of Sri Lanka and the participants. The breaking of the fast and prayers were followed by a dinner with Sri Lankan cuisine.

## Sri Lanka Embassy in Berlin Offers Twenty eight Buddha Statues to the Frohnau Buddhist Temple



Marking the first programme to be conducted in felicitation of the 65th diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Germany Embassy of Sri Lanka in Berlin offered 28 Buddha statues on 26th July to the Theravada Buddhist Temple in Frohnau, Berlin.

The meritorious act was initiated by Ambassador Eng. Karunasena Hettiarachchi and was assisted by the members of the 'Suwatha Kawaya of Independence Sqaure, Colombo 7', coordinated by Mr. Mahinda Bandara and Mr. Sudath Tennakoon. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Sri Lanka Customs assisted the Mission in bringing the Buddha Statues from Sri Lanka.

The handing over ceremony was held at the Embassy premises with the participation of representatives of the Sri Lanka Associations in Berlin and the Embassy staff. The resident monk of Frohnau Buddhist temple, Ven. Mahagama Suvineetha Thero conducted the religious observance and blessed all those who initiated and assisted this task.





On Sunday, 1st July, a special ceremony was held to commemorate 'Poson' at the Frohnau Buddhist temple together with a special 'Atawisi Buddha Pooja' to bless H.E. the President, the people of Sri Lanka and the participants from Germany. Sri Lankans living in Berlin and the German Buddhist community participated the "Poson" day ceremony and the "Atawisi Buddha Pooja"

### Long Night of Consulates in Munich

Representing Sri Lanka the Honorary Consulate of Sri Lanka to the Federal State of Bavaria in Germany participated at "The Long Night of Consulates" held at the Museum of five continents in Munich on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018. The Honorary Consulate of Sri Lanka proudly presented Sri Lanka to the participants of the event by serving Ceylon Tea, disseminating tourism information materials and organizing music performances with "Jayantha and the Clan" lead by renowned artist Jayantha Gomes.

The Long Night of the Consulate is an event organized by the Bavarian State Chamber and Consular corps every two years and is open to the public to get to know the city's cultural diversity as

### Embassy Represents Sri Lanka During School Festivals



To promote different aspects of Sri Lanka, the Embassy made representations by presenting culture, art and cuisine at the International Day of Berlin Brandenburg International School on 09th June and Berlin International School on 30th June respectively.

well as gain an insight into the work of the consulates and learn about the various countries and their cultures.



## Anyone in Sri Lanka or overseas can share information with Office on Missing Persons



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs encourages anyone in Sri Lanka or overseas to share with the Office on Missing Persons information regarding any individuals, including security forces and police personnel, who may be considered to be missing.

The Office on Missing Persons (OMP) which has been established by an Act of Parliament (Act No. 14 of 2016 as amended by Act No. 09 of 2017) is the permanent and independent entity in Sri Lanka that is vested with the tasks of, inter alia, searching and tracing of missing persons and clarifying the circumstances in which such persons went missing, and their fate; making recommendations to the relevant authorities towards reducing the incidents of missing persons; protecting the rights and interests of missing persons and their relatives; and identifying proper avenues of redress to which such missing persons or their relatives may have recourse.

Any information available should be directed to the Chairperson of the Office on Missing Persons;

Address

**Chairperson**

**Office on Missing Persons**

**Address: 34, Narahenpita Road, Nawala, Sri Lanka**

**E-mail: ompsrilanka@gmail.com**

## DIMO Introduces thyssenkrupp Elevators from Germany



Diesel & Motor Engineering PLC (DIMO) has been appointed as the distributor, installer, and service provider in Sri Lanka and Maldives for thyssenkrupp Elevator. thyssenkrupp is a German company graded as a leader in elevators and escalators worldwide. The new partnership is expected to pave the path to different products of thyssenkrupp to the local market. The product range cover elevators, escalators, moving walks/travelators and home elevators.

DIMO handles many reputed global brands, which includes a number of German brands and provides a significant guarantee of high-quality service to the customers. The company's wide range of existing solution to the construction industry will be boosted by the introduction of thyssenkrupp products as it provides one-stop turnkey solution to clients.

Commencing the partnership, thyssenkrupp Elevator Asia Pacific Chief Operating Officer Tobias Engelmeier mentioned "Distributors are important business partners that help open up growing markets, such as Sri Lanka. With its strong capability, 80+ years of engineering experience and diverse business portfolio, we are confident that DIMO will further contribute to Sri Lanka's urban mobility and sustainable developments, in conjunction with thyssenkrupp's innovative products backed by German engineering and technology."

## German Government Honours Ranjith Pandithage with the "Cross of the Order of Merit"



Recognizing the outstanding contribution for German-Sri Lanka relations and his involvement to introduce and promote the German vocational education and dual training system in Sri Lanka, the Chairman and Managing Director of DIMO Ranjith Pandithage was honoured with the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Cross of the Order of Merit is the highest tribute the Federal Republic of Germany can pay to individuals. German Ambassador to Sri Lanka Jörn Rohde handed over the award to Pandithage on behalf of the Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on 26th April 2018 at the Official residence of the German Ambassador to Sri Lanka.

Pandithage, an Engineering graduate from the University of Cologne, is a member of the Institute of Engineers in Germany and maintains a lifelong relationship with Germany. As a founder of Sri Lanka German Business Council, he has been initiating, developing and promoting Sri Lanka and German relations.

DIMO is the most prestigious German Brand present in Sri Lanka since 1939 and is the oldest distributor for Mercedes-Benz in Asia and represents renowned German brands like Siemens, Osram, Zeiss, Bosch and Thyssenkrupp.

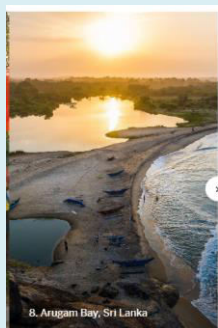
### **Sri Lanka Awarded Top Global Safety Destination for Women Travellers by the People's Daily of China**



The People's Daily newspaper of China selected Sri Lanka as the top global safety destination for women travelers in 2018, in a recently concluded contest, which combined the results of expert reviews, ratings and popular votes. Sri Lanka topped the list of 20 countries that were selected, including USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Switzerland and the Maldives.

The awards were presented to representatives from the Embassies and travel bureaus of the winning countries on 05 June 2018, at a ceremony held during the 2018 Women's Safe Travel Experience Summit, co-organized by the People's Daily and the Capital Normal University.

### **Arugam Bay Shines in Lonely Planet's Best in Asia List 2018**



The Global travel authority Lonely Planet has released its 2018 Best Asia list in which Arugam Bay has been listed in the 8th position of the best 10 destinations to visit in 2018. According to Lonely Planet Arugam Bay "... has managed to retain its cool ..., Arugam has grown its on-land offering with ... beachside bars and makeshift music festivals; plus a handy proximity to Kumana National Park, home to leopards, elephants and crocodiles."

Busan of South Korea, ancient cities of Usbekistan and Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam are listed as first, second and third respectively.