

VOICE OF BUSINESS

2024 OCT- DEC ISSUE



The
National
Chamber
of Commerce of Sri Lanka



The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka

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HIGHLIGHTS

WESTERN PROVINCE ENTREPRENEUR AWARDS 2024 ORGANIZED BY NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SRI LANKA & NATIONAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



**THE BEST ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR 2024
BRONZE AWARD
BRITISH INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY (PVT) LTD.**



**THE BEST ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR 2024 - WESTERN PROVINCE
JOINT SILVER AWARD
EVERBOLT ENGINEERING (PRIVATE) LIMITED**



**THE BEST ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR 2024 - WESTERN PROVINCE
JOINT SILVER AWARD
INFINITY GREEN INTERNATIONAL (PVT) LTD.**



**THE BEST ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR 2024 - WESTERN PROVINCE
GOLD AWARD
UNION CHEMICALS LANKA PLC**



WESTERN PROVINCE ENTREPRENEUR AWARDS 2024 - ALL THE WINNERS

The **National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka**, in collaboration with the **National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA)**, proudly organized the grand awards ceremony of the **Western Province Entrepreneur Awards 2024**, which was held **11th December 2024**. This prestigious event marked the **seventh consecutive year** of celebrating entrepreneurial excellence.

The **Western Province Entrepreneur Awards 2024** is an esteemed event jointly organized by the **National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL)** and the **National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA)**. This initiative recognised and celebrated the entrepreneurial excellence of businesses operating within the Western Province of Sri Lanka.

The awards encourage innovation, perseverance, and outstanding achievements across various business categories, fostering a culture of entrepreneurship that contributes significantly to regional and national economic growth.

This award scheme recognised and rewarded entrepreneurs from **Micro, Small, Medium, and Large** business sectors, promoting **business excellence** and **innovative practices** in the Western Province. By honoring these achievements, the program encouraged the region's business community to enhance their standards and adopt a forward-thinking approach to entrepreneurship.

Award Categories:

The event honoured winners across **25 award categories**, including:

- **Sectoral awards for categories (Micro, Small, Medium and Large):**
 - Industry/Manufacturing
 - Agriculture/Livestock & Fisheries
 - Hospitality/Tourism & Other Services
- **Overall Excellence Awards:**
 - Gold, Silver, and Bronze
- **Special Awards** for outstanding performances in Innovation, Environmental Sustainability, Energy Efficiency, Export Excellence, Productivity, Value Addition, Youth Entrepreneurship, Women Entrepreneurship, Differently Abled Entrepreneurship, Job Creation, Sustainability Practices and Financial Performance.

Empowering Entrepreneurs:

The National Chamber and NEDA have a long-standing history of supporting regional entrepreneurs. The Entrepreneur Awards 2024 continues the legacy of fostering entrepreneurship and empowering businesses in the Western Province. By providing recognition, media exposure, and development opportunities. This initiative highlights their dedication to empowering Micro, Small, Medium, and Large sectors while extending training and development opportunities to elevate Sri Lankan enterprises to new heights of achievement.

Sponsorship Support:

The success of the event is largely attributed to the invaluable support of our generous sponsors. Heartfelt gratitude to Pan Asia Banking Corporation PLC as the Gold Sponsor, MAC Holdings (Private) Limited as the Bronze Sponsor, DSI Tyre, LOLC General Insurance, Lady J as Awards Sponsors and Softwave as Printing Partner. A special appreciation to Lakehouse as the Print Media Partner and to our Other Sponsors, including Abhi Top Toe Well-Being, Country Style Foods (Pvt) Limited – Smak, Nature's Beauty Creations Ltd., Ninehearts (Pvt) Ltd., Sri Lanka Gem and Jewellery Association, Illukkumbura Industrial Automation (Pvt) Ltd., BIMT, Synex International (Pvt) Ltd., SALOTA International Pvt Ltd. and Sri Lanka Association of Non-State Higher Education Institutes (SLANSHEI).

Their steadfast commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and encouraging excellence has played a pivotal role in ensuring the continuity and impact of this prestigious event over the years. We deeply appreciate their contributions and unwavering support.

Esteemed Panel of Judges Western Province Entrepreneur Awards 2024

- Prof. Rohana Kuruppu, Chairman of Panel of Judges, Western Province Entrepreneur Awards 2024
(Consultant - SLTC Research University, Padukka)
- Mr. Dhanuka Liyanagamage, Member of the Panel of Judges, Western Province Entrepreneur Awards 2024
(Director – National Enterprise Development Authority)
- Ms. R M Mala Weerasekera, Member of the Panel of Judges, Western Province Entrepreneur Awards 2024
(Assistant General Manager - Branch Credit- Range I - Bank of Ceylon)
- Mrs. Nalini Balasubramaniam, Member of the Panel of Judges, Western Province Entrepreneur Awards 2024
Director Development – Sector I - Ministry of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

The President of National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka, Mr. Deepal Nelson emphasized that ‘... The Western Province Entrepreneur of the Year Awards is a testament to economic excellence in Sri Lanka. The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) embody the spirit of consistency and dedication, in purpose to help support the Entrepreneurs that help ignite the engine of our collective economy. On behalf of the NCCSL, I would like to thank you most graciously the Judging Committee for their expertise in determining fair winners across the range of sectors and size of businesses. We are grateful for their valuable contribution in implementing a fair intellectual process. I also extend my heartiest congratulations to all nominees and indeed our winners in these impactful awards.

Speaking about the awards scheme, **Professor Rohana Kuruppu- Chairman of Panel of Judges, Western Province Entrepreneur Awards 2024 expressed**, “...As Chairman of the Panel of Judges, I had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the remarkable caliber of talent, creativity, and determination among this year’s nominees particularly representing SME sector. Selecting the winners was not an easy task, given the outstanding achievements shown across various industries. Each participant has made a significant impact in their respective fields, exemplifying the spirit of entrepreneurship and leadership that our nation so deeply values....”

“Western Province Entrepreneur Awards 2024, highlights the dedication to celebrate entrepreneurial excellence and resilience, particularly in the SME sector. Entrepreneurs are commended not just for their business acumen but also for their courage to navigate economic challenges and adapt to constraints, embodying the true spirit of innovation and determination.

The emphasis on uplifting the SME sector and exploring global markets underscores the Chamber's vision of fostering sustainable growth and integrating Sri Lankan enterprises into the global economy. This initiative reflects the National Chamber's role as a catalyst for progress, offering recognition and support to businesses that drive the country's development”, expressed by **Ms. Nilupul Chandrasena, Secretary General- National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka**

List of winners of Western Province Entrepreneur Awards **2024**

Agriculture/Livestock/Fisheries Sector

Micro Category

Winner: Siyane Agro Bio Tech
Merit Award: Jayalath Food Products
Merit Award: U BEST Product

Medium Category

Winner: Herb Line (Private) Limited
Merit Award: Worga Naturals (Private) Limited
Merit Award: Tropical Fish International (Private) Limited

Large

Winner: Unipower (Private) Limited
Merit Award: Nevil Nutri Feeds (Private) Limited

Industry/Manufacturing Sector

Micro Category

Winner: Candil Products (Pvt) Ltd.
Merit Award: Berlo Products (Private) Limited
Merit Award: Ceedecs Lanka Holdings (Private) Limited
Merit Award: Nimreka Batik & Styling Limited

Small Category

Winner: Wickramarachchi Brothers (Pvt) Ltd.
Merit Award: Daiki Axis Environment (Pvt) Ltd.
Merit Award: Brand View Labels Lanka (Pvt) Ltd.
Merit Award: Foreconns Canneries
Merit Award: Senani Products (Pvt) Ltd.

Medium

Winner: Venora International Projects (Private) Limited
Merit Award: Monara Creations (Private) Limited
Merit Award: Beam Hela Osu Lanka (Private) Limited
Merit Award: Pasyale Ayurveda Osu (Private) Limited
Merit Award: Dedunu Fibre Mills
Merit Award: Civimech (Private) Limited

Large

Winner: Union Chemicals Lanka PLC
Merit Award: Flexiprint (Private) Limited.
Merit Award: Three Sinha Industries (Pvt) Ltd.

Services Sector

Micro Category

Winner: Aqua Pearl Lake Resort (Private) Limited

Small Category

Winner: Exterminators PLC

Merit Award: Infinity Green International (Pvt) Ltd.

Merit Award: British Institute of Management and Technology (Pvt) Ltd.

Merit Award: Pass Asian (Private) Limited

Medium

Winner: Everbolt Engineering (Private) Limited

Merit Award: Alpha Fire Services PLC

Merit Award: Brisca Management Services (Private) Limited

Merit Award: Communication Engineers Lanka (Private) Limited

Merit Award: Java Lounge (Pvt) Ltd.

Large

Winner: Salota International (Private) Limited

Merit Award: Safecare Facilities Management (Private) Limited

Special Awards

Award for the Best Environmentally Friendly Enterprise

Dedunu Fibre Mills

Award for the Best Exporter

Flexiprint (Private) Limited

Award for the Best Productive Enterprise

Brand View Labels Lanka (Pvt) Ltd.

Award for the Best Innovative Enterprise

Everbolt Engineering (Private) Limited

Award for the Best Value-Added Enterprise

Worga Naturals (Private) Limited

Award for the Best Energy Efficient Enterprise

Union Chemicals Lanka PLC

Award for the Best Youth Entrepreneur

Foreconns Canneries – Thilini Jayasuriya

Award for the Best Women Entrepreneur

Wickramarachchi Brothers (Pvt) Ltd. – Dr. Irosha Wickramarachchi

Award for the Best Entrepreneur Providing most Number of Jobs for Females

Three Sinha Industries (Pvt) Ltd. – M.A. Manjula Ariyakumara

Award for the Best Entrepreneur – With Special Abilities

L.N.C. Creations – Lankage Nadun Chamika

Award for the Best Entrepreneur - Sustainable Business Practices

Daiki Axis Environment (Pvt) Ltd.

Award for the Best Entrepreneur - Financial Performance

Infinity Green International (Pvt) Ltd. – D.C.M.S. Samudaya

Overall Winners**The Best Entrepreneur of the Year 2024 - Bronze Award:**

British Institute of Management and Technology (Pvt) Ltd.

The Best Entrepreneur of the Year 2024 - Silver Award - Joint Winners:

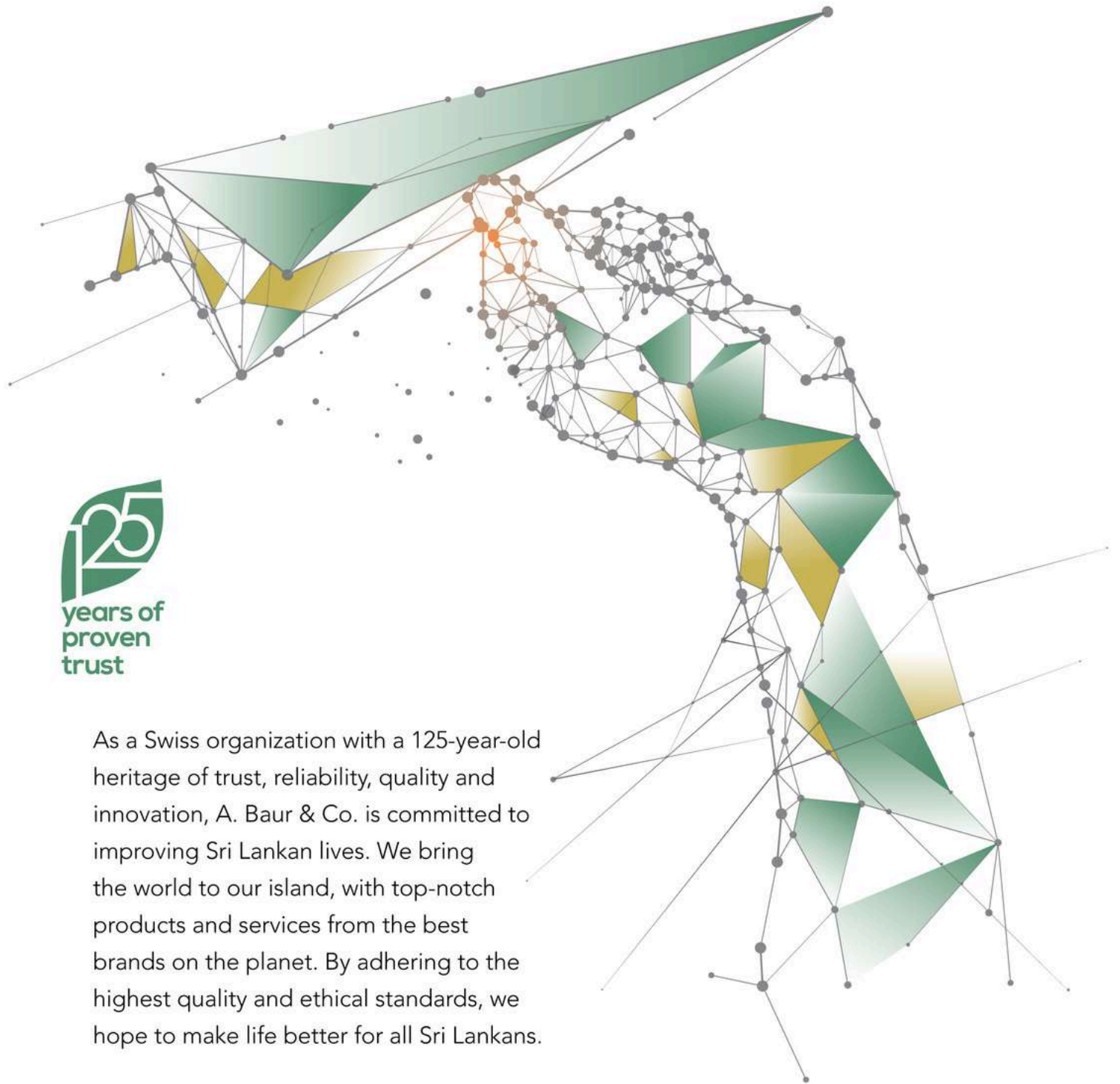
Infinity Green International (Pvt) Ltd.

The Best Entrepreneur of the Year 2024 - Silver Award - Joint Winners:

Everbolt Engineering (Private) Limited

The Best Entrepreneur of the Year 2024 - Gold Award

Union Chemicals Lanka PLC



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SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

MANAGING FOREIGN EXCHANGE THROUGH HEDGE ACCOUNTING, AN INSIGHTFUL SESSION ON FOREX MARKET



The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) held an insightful session on the Forex Market titled, 'Managing Foreign Exchange through Hedge Accounting', held on 4 October 2024, from 3.00 p.m. at the National Chamber Auditorium.

Guest speaker of the session was Mr. Rajith Perera, Partner at EY and the Financial Services Risk Management Leader in Sri Lanka, a passionate advocate for sharing knowledge on the importance of managing Forex. Rajith shared vital insights on the topic through his many years of experience and understanding the characteristics of the forex market as it is crucial for the success of any organization.

Key learning outcome of the session was focusing on how financials will impact with Foreign Exchange volatilities, Managing Foreign Exchange Risks, Balance sheet Management, Devising Hedge Instruments for managing the risk, Application of Hedge Accounting and the minimum requirements to apply hedge accounting.

An audience of participants interested in learning about Foreign Exchange Market Behavior, particularly those representing the business sector impacted by and exposed to the risks of foreign exchange management, as well as entrepreneurs and professionals, attended the program.

" AWARENESS ON HARNESSING ESG FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH"

An insightful session on '**Empowering Growth: Harnessing Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) for Sustainable Success**' was held on 10th October 2024 at the National Chamber Auditorium.

This insightful session was organized in collaboration with the knowledge partners, KPMG Sri Lanka and the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE). It was attended by Industry leaders, Entrepreneurs, SME owners, Professionals in Compliance and Risk Management; CSR, Sustainability, and ESG

Managers; Investors, Financial Institutions, and Supply Chain Managers to understand the transformative impact of ESG principles, global regulations, and opportunities for businesses to thrive sustainably.

NCCSL extends gratitude to the speakers from KPMG in Sri Lanka Pyumi Sumanasekara, Partner – Sustainability, ESG, Family Business & Board Governance, Global Assurance; Shazaad Ninzer, Director – KPMG Global Assurance (Human Rights); • Callishia Fernando, Senior Manager – KPMG Global Assurance (Carbon Emission) and Punyamali Saparamadu, Senior Vice President – Commercial Colombo Stock Exchange for making this event a success!

Speakers from KPMG Sri Lanka presented an informative overview of key aspects such as: Understanding the intricacies of ESG Reporting; New global regulations and their impact on businesses; Risk and opportunities businesses may encounter: Strategies to navigate risks and prepare for future challenges and identifying new opportunities for growth. Ms. Punyamali Saparamadu, Senior Vice President – Commercial of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) shared insights into the framework established for listing Green Bonds, which can be utilized by companies seeking green financing. The Green Bonds will help to ensure that corporations align with international standards, enhancing their appeal to potential customers, suppliers, and other stakeholders.



"ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON UNLOCKING INTERNATIONAL MARKETS - EXPORT PROCEDURE AND DOCUMENTATION"



A full day workshop on 'Unlocking International Markets - Export Procedure and Documentation' held on 20 March 2024 and 24 October 2024 at the National Chamber Boardroom with a group of 41 Participants. the program was conducted by Mr. Ravindrarajah, an experienced trainer and also a former customs Director with an extensive experience in Sri Lanka Customs procedures. The participants were awarded a certificate of participation.

Program was designed for both new and experienced staff, with a deep dive into the latest procedures and documentation and day-to-day tasks related to exports.

Key workshop topics : Introduction to Exporting, Export Readiness Assessment, Market Research and Selection, Export Strategy Development, Compliance and Legal Requirements, Product Preparation and Packaging, Pricing and Invoicing, Export Documentation, Export Financing and

Payment Methods, Role of Freight Forwarders in Exports, the Vital Role of Freight Forwarders in Export Logistics, Optimizing Logistics and Physical Distribution Activities for Enhanced Supply Chain Efficiency- Introduction to Authorized Economic, Operator(AEO) Programme, Brief overview of Customs Export Declaration Processing, Concise overview of Port Procedures, Enhancing International Trade Efficiency through Customs Privileged Facilities, Overview of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)

This workshop was designed to provide a refresher program to supervisors, managers, executives and all categories of staff engaged in export-oriented organisations to provide an ideal refresher program.



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ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ON BUSINESS COMMUNICATION & PRESENTATION SKILLS

The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka conducted a comprehensive and insightful one-day workshop titled "Business Communication & Presentation Skills" on Tuesday, 26th November 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the National Chamber Auditorium, 450, D. R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10.

Facilitated by Ms. Preethimali Liyanage Soosaithasan, a highly regarded Management Consultant and Corporate Trainer, with an impressive track record, a former Deputy General Manager - Operations at LOLC Factors. Program content has been designed to help professionals to sharpen their business communication & presentation skills and enhance their confidence in formal work environments. Participants of the workshop delivered key learnings and hands-on practice in essential areas. This workshop was focused on professionals seeking to improve their communication and presentation skills, including those in middle management, executives and trainees from all sectors with a practical learning session of role plays, videos, preparation and delivery of presentation



AN AWARENESS SESSION ON 'SYMPTOMS AND PREVENTION OF STROKE' HELD ON "WORLD STROKE DAY



PROF UDAYA RANAWAKA'S ADDRESSING THE GATHERING

STROKE PREVENTION AWARENESS SESSION FOR WORLD STROKE DAY 2024

On 29th October 2024, the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka China Business Cooperation Council together with the National Stroke Association of Sri Lanka, hosted a dedicated awareness session on stroke prevention to mark World Stroke Day. Held at the National Chamber Auditorium, the event focused on educating participants about stroke symptoms, emergency response, and preventive care.

The Guest speaker Prof. Udaya Ranawaka, Professor in Neurology, provided in-depth insights into different types of strokes, early symptom recognition, and available treatment options. In addition, Dr Gamini Pathirana, President of the National Stroke Association of Sri Lanka also briefed the objectives and services offered by their Association.

The event also featured a free eye testing camp, BMI screenings and blood testing, which helped participants assess personal health risks related to non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

We would like to extend our gratitude to the organizations that supported us with providing free testing facilities to the participants; eye testing by the Optician, BMI reading by Mega Lifesciences Pvt Ltd and blood tests by Nawaloka Hospitals Pvt Ltd. Further we are thankful to Mr. Aravinthankumar, President of the SLCBCC and Mr Arjuna Yatawara, Secretary General of SLCBCC for their collaborative efforts to organize this valuable program.

We thank Mr Kavinda Rajapaksha, Deputy President NCCSL and Mr Dumindu Karunagoda, council member NCCSL for gracing this occasion.



HALF DAY SEMINAR ON "KAIZEN" BY THE NATIONAL CHAMBER

An Insightful Workshop on Implementing Kaizen for Organizational Improvement by The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka



The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka recently organized a workshop titled "Implementing a Kaizen Programme in Your Organization," on 5th of November, 2024 which highlighted the importance of Kaizen implementation for continual improvement in enhancing productivity. The workshop was led by Mr. Sunil G Wijesinha, an esteemed expert on Japanese productivity techniques and a strong advocate for Kaizen in Sri Lanka. It drew significant attendance from senior management and professionals focused on driving operational efficiency and fostering a Kaizen culture within their organizations.

Mr. Wijesinha, a past president of the National Chamber of Commerce, JASTECA, and former Chairman of JASTECA Trust, was recently honored by the Japanese government with the

"Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays" for his contributions to fostering Japanese-Sri Lankan relations through Kaizen and other Japanese management methodologies. He has also received the APO Regional Award for his efforts to promote productivity in the Asia-Pacific region.

The workshop provided valuable insights into the Kaizen philosophy and fundamentals, fostering a Kaizen culture, factors contributing to Kaizen's success and sustainability, and the Kaizen suggestion scheme. Attendees gained practical knowledge on implementing continual improvement strategies to enhance productivity and reduce waste in their organizations.



Participants gained valuable insights into fostering a culture of ongoing improvement aimed at enhancing productivity, reducing waste, and creating a more efficient and engaged workforce.

NCCSL WORKSHOP ON MARKET RESEARCH INSIGHTS AND ANALYTICS FOR BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS



The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) recently concluded a comprehensive workshop titled "Market Research Insights and Analytics for Business Competitiveness" on November 7, 2024, at the National Chamber Auditorium. The event attracted participants from diverse industries, including entrepreneurs, brand management, marketers, and business development professionals, all aiming to enhance their strategic approaches through effective market research. The workshop focused on understanding market opportunities and consumer behavior, offering hands-on experience in designing research processes and using advanced technology for data analysis.

Mr. Waruna Kathriarachchi, an expert with over 25 years in market research and a former Director at Nielsen Sri Lanka, served as the lead presenter. His session covered crucial topics such as analyzing consumer behavior, understanding the market landscape, and applying data-driven insights for competitive advantage.

Through practical applications, he demonstrated how businesses can leverage market research for sustained growth. A team from Crowdsnap provided data analysis expertise using customized AI tools which can be used by individuals in their internal market research requirements.

Complementing the session Ms. Niroshini Kathiravel, an experience qualitative researcher and Brand Strategist at Unilever Sri Lanka, conducted an insightful session on qualitative research. She emphasized the importance of understanding consumer sentiments and using qualitative analysis to create an overall view of market dynamics, equipping attendees with effective methods for capturing consumer insights. Participants found the workshop's blend of qualitative and quantitative research techniques highly valuable. The NCCSL continues its commitment to empowering Sri Lankan businesses with knowledge-based workshops that foster growth and innovation through robust market research strategies.



Feedback from participants highlighted the value of both the qualitative and quantitative research techniques. The NCCSL remains dedicated to offering knowledge-driven workshops that empower Sri Lankan businesses. With a strong emphasis on market research, the Chamber continues to support companies in their journey towards growth and innovation.

challenges which MSMEs face, such as market entry, competitive analysis, digital adoption, and customer preference shifts. This customization can help MSMEs find actionable strategies within their resource constraints.

Further, The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka intends to offer research consultancy services tailored to the MSME sector enterprises, helping them make more informed decisions and stay competitive. These research services will focus on

The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) successfully concludes an interactive workshop on “Intellectual Property (IP) and Business Competitiveness”.

The focused workshop was held at the National Chamber Premises on the 2nd of December 2024, in partnership with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), international and local experts.

A focused workshop on intellectual property was successfully conducted under the guidance of Ms. Tamara Nanayakkara, Counsellor at the IP for Business Division, IP and Innovation Department of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva, Professor Prabuddha Ganguli, an esteemed IP Consultant from India and Ms. Chamindri Ekanayake, Manager (Intellectual Property Division) at Nithya Partners, Sri Lanka. Participants had the opportunity to engage in one-on-one sessions with the panel, allowing for tailored discussions on their IP risk assessments and customized solutions.

The workshop attracted enthusiastic participation from diverse sectors, including environmental startups, fast-moving consumer goods, food and retail, and export-oriented industries.

The session covered a wide range of critical topics such as application of intellectual property diagnostic tool including Design and Creative Materials, Confidential Information, Trademarks and Copyrights, Patents and Licensing, as well as Invention and Innovation. These focus areas provided participants with valuable insights into safeguarding intellectual property and leveraging it strategically for business growth.

The workshop was beneficial to the local industries to understand contextual IP related aspects from the panel. The purpose of the workshop aimed to provide the local businesses with necessary IP related knowledge, by demonstrating the newly launched IP self-assessment tool “WIPO IP Diagnostic tool”, accessible at www.wipo.int/ipdiagnostics-assessment.

At the end of the workshop, participants had a better awareness of IP risks in relation to their products and services, use of freely available IP diagnostic tools, and were equipped to ask follow-up IP related questions from the relevant bodies nationally and globally.

The National Chamber of Sri Lanka aims to nurture intellectual property dialogue among the Sri Lankan business community. The National Chamber aims to be one of the focal partners for sign-posting IP related queries, guidance between Sri Lankan Business and the IP space.

The National Chamber, with gratitude thank the panel of experts and the participants for an engaging day of intellectual business discussion.





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SME DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP IN CENTRAL PROVINCE: A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT FOR ENTREPRENEUR EMPOWERMENT



The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL), Pan Asia Bank, and the Central Province Chamber of Entrepreneurs joined hands to conduct a full-day SME Development Workshop on 19th December 2024. The event was held at the Auditorium of the Central Province Chamber of Entrepreneurs, in Kandy.

It attracted a large audience of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector entrepreneurs from Kandy, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, and nearby regions.

The workshop aimed to equip entrepreneurs with critical skills and knowledge to enhance their business operations. The program featured four focused impactful sessions for upskilling the MSMEs:

1. Financial Literacy and Banking Requirements – Strengthening financial management and understanding of banking processes.
2. Awareness Session by Credit Information Bureau (CRIB) – Enhancing awareness of credit management and financial reliability.
3. Understanding Consumer Behavior and Markets – Insights into market trends and effective customer engagement.
4. Digitization and Risks in the Digital Business Environment for MSMEs– Guidance on leveraging digital tools while mitigating risks associated with online platforms.

The sessions were led by prominent speakers, including Mr. Sarath Dias Bandaranayake, officials from the Credit Information Bureau (CRIB), and representatives from NCCSL, bringing a wealth of knowledge and practical insights to the attendees.

Furthermore, an awareness session on the opportunities to explore export trade was presented by the National Chamber inviting the participants to register with the fromSriLanka.com platform.

This collaborative initiative underscores the commitment of NCCSL, Pan Asia Bank, and the Central Province Chamber of Entrepreneurs to foster SME growth and resilience, which ensures that the businesses in the region are equipped to navigate evolving challenges and opportunities.



CSR PROGRAMME

"A HELPING HAND FOR STUDENTS IN NEED.", A JOINT CSR INITIATIVE BY THE EMBASSY OF ROMANIA AND THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SRI LANKA.

This CSR initiative, titled "A Helping Hand for Students in Need," stands out as a heartwarming and impactful collaboration between the Embassy of Romania and the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL). Held on 17th November 2024 at the Auditorium of the Sri Lanka Foundation in Colombo, the program emphasized extending educational support to underprivileged students from rural schools in Hakmana, Matara District.



The project provided over 200 students from low-income families with essential school supplies, including school bags, books, lunch boxes, water bottles, and food items. The initiative not only addressed their immediate educational needs but also enriched their experience through a visit to the Colombo Museum, offering educational and cultural exposure. The event ensured the children's comfort by arranging transportation from Matara to Colombo and back, along with the provision of two meals during the program.

Leadership and Contributions: The initiative was spearheaded by Summit Lanka Pvt Ltd and a member of NCCSL, with the joint efforts of the Embassy of Romania, the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), Romania, and the patronage of Her Excellency Madam Seluta Ahire, the Ambassador of Romania to Sri Lanka. Additional support was provided by Mr. Adrian Badescu, Advisor to the President of BCCI, and Mr. Deepal Nelson, President of NCCSL.

This initiative reflects the power of international collaboration in addressing local challenges and inspiring hope among the youth of rural Sri Lanka. It underscores a shared vision of empowering future generations through education.

Addressing the Audience; The Chief Guest, Her Excellency Madam Seluta Ahire highlighted the commitment of Romania to supporting Sri Lanka and lauded this endeavor for its positive impact on the students and Mr. Deepal Nelson, President of the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka extended his gratitude to the organizers and encouraged the students to make the most of the opportunities provided through Sri Lanka's free education system.

The event was graced by several other distinguished invitees including, Mr. Pasanda Yapa Abeywardene, former Chief of the Provincial Council, Southern Province, Dr. Lakmal Fernando, Hon. Secretary of NCCSL, Mr. Hemantha Kumara Perera, Chairman/ Managing Director, Isabella (Private) Limited, Council member NCCSL and several other invitees.

SHINING GLOBALLY ROOTED LOCALLY



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in our journey to surge forward.**



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BILATERAL SESSIONS

BILATERAL TRADE BETWEEN SRI LANKA AND GERMANY, 'MEET THE AMBASSADOR OF GERMANY', SESSION BY NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SRI LANKA

The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka organized a special Bilateral Trade & Investment Session with the Ambassador of Germany to Sri Lanka, His Excellency Dr. Felix Neumann, on 5th December 2024 at 10.00 a.m. at the National Chamber Auditorium, No. 450, D.R. Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10.

This exclusive event was provided a valuable opportunity to engage directly with His Excellency Dr. Felix Neumann, who discussed the current trade environment, investment opportunities, policies, and other crucial aspects of the Sri Lanka-Germany trade relationship.

The session focused on exploring opportunities to strengthen bilateral trade and investment, gaining insights into Germany's market dynamics and investment services, and fostering connections for mutual economic growth.

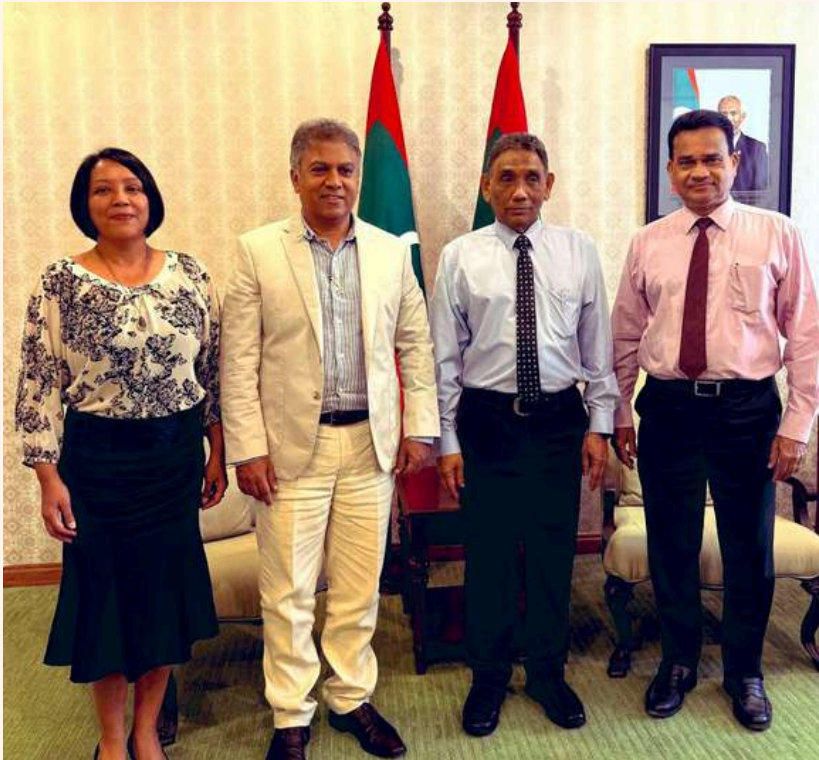
Key Trade Insights:

- **Sri Lanka's Exports to Germany:** Apparel, coconut-based products, fisheries products, machinery parts, tea, rubber products, tri-cycles, scooters, pedal cars, and other value-added products.
- **Sri Lanka's Imports from Germany:** Pharmaceutical products, chemical products, machinery, electric generators, nuclear-reactors, boilers, machinery & mechanical appliances, electric generating sets & rotary converters, optical and medical instruments, plastics and articles, paper and paperboard, iron and steel, dishwashing machines, machinery for cleaning or drying bottles or other containers, and man-made filaments.

The National Chamber invited the business community to join the session and work collaboratively to enhance trade and investment ties between Sri Lanka and Germany.



NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SRI LANKA LEADERSHIP MEETS HIGH COMMISSIONER OF MALDIVES TO FOSTER BILATERAL TRADE OPPORTUNITIES



The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) is pleased to announce a bilateral discussion held on the 20th of November 2024, between His Excellency Massod Imad, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Maldives in Sri Lanka, and the leadership of NCCSL, Mr. Deepal Nelson, President, and Dr. Lakmal Fernando, Honorary Secretary. The meeting took place at the High Commission of Maldives in Sri Lanka.

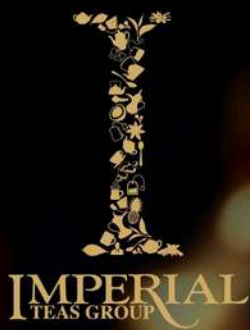
This productive and high-level discussion focused on advancing the bilateral economic ties between Sri Lanka and the Maldives, with

an emphasis on strengthening trade relations, facilitating investment opportunities, and enhancing cooperation across key sectors. The National Chamber is eager to collaborate with the High Commission to create new avenues for Sri Lankan businesses and promote closer economic collaboration between the two countries.

Key topics of the discussion included trade facilitation, with the two parties exploring opportunities in tourism, renewable energy, construction, and fisheries. Both sides expressed a strong interest in identifying potential joint ventures and partnerships to foster economic growth and mutual prosperity.

A notable outcome of the meeting was the agreement to organize business delegations between Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Plans are now underway for a Sri Lankan delegation to visit the Maldives, followed by a reciprocal visit from the Maldives to Sri Lanka. These delegations will focus on promoting trade, investment, and collaboration in priority industries.

The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka is committed to fostering this promising partnership, facilitating mutual exchange, and supporting the growth of businesses in both Sri Lanka and the Maldives.



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MEETINGS

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH H E PRESIDENT MR. ANURA KUMARA DISSANAYAKE AND THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SRI LANKA AT THE PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT

An interactive session with HE President Anura Kumara Disanayake and The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) held on 29th October 2024 at the Presidential Secretariat.

The Council of NCCSL led by President Mr. Deepal Nelson and office bearers, council members representing diverse sectors engaged in a discussion about the most pressing issues and challenges pertaining to

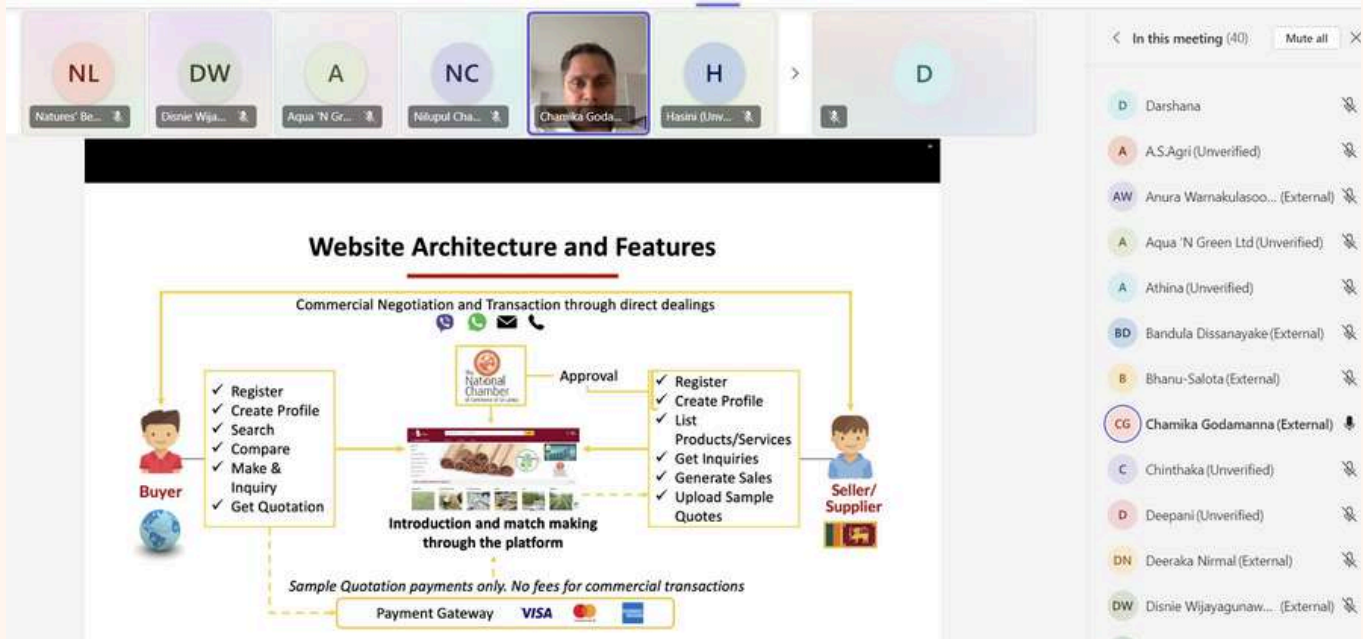
each sector and their proposals to contribute for economic growth. Further emphasized about the potential to elevate Sri Lanka through this digitization efforts.

It was an extensive discussion about the challenges and future goals across various sectors, including export insurance, banking, construction, tourism, health, plantation industries, power and energy, manufacturing, construction, and in particular representing Small and Medium Enterprises.



FROMSRILANKA SUPPLIER FORUM: VIRTUAL AWARENESS SESSIONS

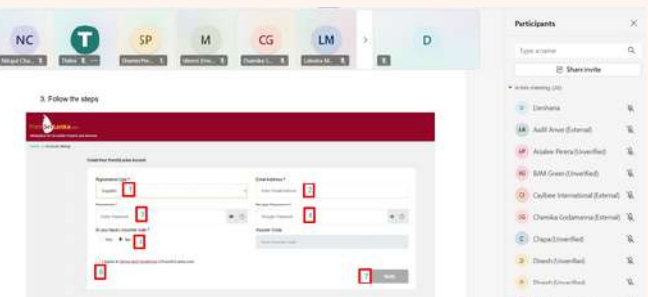
"Taking Sri Lanka to the Global Market through fromSriLanka"



The fromSriLanka Supplier Forum two virtual sessions were organized on 9th October 2024 and 27th November 2024, aimed at providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of the benefits of connecting with the platform. A total of 98 participants attended these sessions, where they were guided through the platform's registration process and introduced to its unique advantages.

"Taking Sri Lanka to the Global Market" is the vision that drives this initiative, focusing on promoting Sri Lankan products, services, and expertise to the international stage. By enhancing its global presence, Sri Lanka seeks to attract international buyers, partners, and investors.

FromSriLanka.com, developed by the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL), is an innovative online platform designed to showcase Sri Lankan products and services to a global audience. Serving as a one-stop destination, it facilitates the



sourcing of a wide range of Sri Lankan goods and services, promoting the country's unique offerings to the world.

The virtual sessions were conducted by the fromSriLanka team of the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka, under the leadership of Mr. Chamika Godamanna, Hon. Treasurer and the National Chamber team.

These interactive forums provided an excellent opportunity for participants to engage with experts and gain valuable insights into the platform's features and functionality, further strengthening the bridge between Sri Lankan suppliers and global markets.

Item No.	Event	Date, Time & Venue
1.	Review of NCCSL constitution, 2nd discussion - Senior Deputy President, Hon. Treasurer, members of NCCSL Constitution Review committee and SG/CEO participated.	1 October 2024 at 11.00 am both virtual and physical at the Boardroom.
2.	Review of NCCSL constitution, 3rd discussion - Senior Deputy President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, members of NCCSL Constitution Review committee and SG/CEO participated.	9 October 2024 at 2.00 pm at the Boardroom.
3.	FromSriLanka - Supplier Forum 2nd session - Registered suppliers on the platform connected virtual for this engagement session. Ms. Thilini Dishani, Team Lead of FromSriLanka platform conducted the session. Office Bearers, Secretary General and the staff of NCCSL joined the session.	9 October at 3.00 pm via online.
4.	Special interactive session with H. E. President organized by the Presidential Secretariat was held on Purpose of this meeting was to discuss the most pressing current issues applicable to each sector. H. E. President Anura Kumara Disسانayake, President of the National Chamber, Council members and SG/CEO participated.	29 October 2024 at 1.00 pm at the President's Office.
5.	Weekly Management Meeting of the National Chamber – Office Bearers and staff members participated.	6 November 2024 at 3.00 pm at the Boardroom.
6.	New Member interviews of the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka - Chaired by Dr. Lakmal Fernando, Hon. Secretary, Three new members and SG/CEO participated.	7 November 2024 at 2.30 pm at the 4th floor Boardroom,
7.	Discussion on SME program in Central Province - NCCSL, Pan Asia Bank and Central Province Chamber - SG/CEO and few staff members joined the meeting.	8 November 2024 10:30 am via online.
8.	Demonstration of online Certificate of Origin issuance system developed by NCCSL - Mr. Dilanga Hettiarachchi, Assistant Director of Commerce, Department of Commerce, SG/CEO and the Team of Documentation Division of National Chamber participated.	19 November 2024 at 11:00 am at Department of Commerce.

9.	FromSriLanka Platform Meeting with Sankara's Group - Hon. Treasurer, SG/CEO and few staff members of the National Chamber joined the meeting.	21 November 2024 at 12:00 pm via online.
10.	Discussion Meeting on the fromsrilanka Marketplace with the Sri Lanka Chamber of Garment Exporters	26 November 2024 at 3:00 pm.
11.	CPM Launch of Best Management practices organized - SG/CEO participated.	26 November 2024 at 4:00pm
12.	Document Management System introduction by auraDOCS - National Chamber staff participated.	27 November 2024 at 9:00 am through online.
13.	fromsrilanka Supplier Forum Phase 03 - Registered suppliers in fromsrilanka platform, Hon. Treasurer, SG/CEO and few staff members joined the session.	Held online on 27 November 2024 12:00 pm via online
13.	fromsrilanka Supplier Forum Phase 03 - Registered suppliers in fromsrilanka platform, Hon. Treasurer, SG/CEO and few staff members joined the session.	Held online on 27 November 2024 12:00 pm via online
14.	Weekly Management Meeting of the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka to discuss the upcoming and present activities of the Chamber - Office Bearers, SG/CEO and National Chamber staff attended.	28 November 2024 at 3:00 pm
15.	From Sri Lanka Platform Discussion with Spice Council.	10 December 2024 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm online
16.	Weekly Management Meeting of the NCCSL - Office Bearers and Chamber staff participated.	18 December 2024 at 2.30 pm at the National Chamber Boardroom
17.	Consultative Meeting on Formulating the Strategic Action Plan of the National Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy (2025-2027) organized by Ministry of Women and Child Affairs – Ms. Nilupul Chandrasena, SG/CEO of the National Chamber attended.	20 December 2024 at 2.00 pm Renuka City Hotel
18.	New Member Meeting of the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka - The Membership Committee of National Chamber headed by Dr. Lakmal Fernando, Hon. Secretary, Secretary General/CEO and three new members participated	23 December 2023 at 2.30 pm at the National Chamber Boardroom.



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