

# **HNB Crowned Best Bank - Sri Lanka at ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave and Awards**



*Sanjay Wijemanne, Chief Operating Officer, HNB (right) accepting the Award from Ameya Prabhu, President, ICC & Managing Director, NAFA Capital Advisors.*

HNB was honored with the 'Best Bank—Sri Lanka' title and was also recognized as the runner-up for Best Performance on Profitability—Sri Lanka at the second Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards, organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

Themed 'Leading in the Digital Paradigm,' the awards ceremony brought together international speakers, delegates, and regulators from The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries to discuss technological advancements and future developments in the banking industry.

"These awards underscore our continuing commitment to empowering all segments of Sri Lankan society while facilitating businesses of all sizes to compete on the global stage and move towards a broad-based economic revival. We aim to promote our clients with the services, technical knowledge, and network needed to seize international opportunities and penetrate new markets.

"Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our pursuit of sustainable development, continuously refining our strategies to enhance resilience and catalyze transformative change. These recognitions fuel our determination to play an even more pivotal role in Sri Lanka's economic resurgence, setting new benchmarks for the banking sector in the process," said Damith Pallewatte, Acting Chief Executive Officer, HNB.

The Bank's outstanding performance in asset quality, profitability, advances and deposit growth, liquidity, capital levels, gender equality, and adherence to compliance contributed to this remarkable achievement.

"Receiving these global accolades is a testament to our team's remarkable dedication and renewed vigor, as well as the robust systems we've implemented to deliver unparalleled service excellence. Our initiatives, such as the Everest Transformation project, have radically improved our operational efficiency and digital banking capabilities. These comprehensive internal realignments have been the cornerstone of HNB's exceptional growth trajectory and a key driver behind our recognition at these esteemed awards.

"By continuously evolving and adapting to meet the dynamic needs of our customers, we're not just transforming our operations; we're reshaping the future of banking in Sri Lanka. These awards motivate us to push even further, innovating and excelling in ways that benefit our customers, shareholders, and the nation," said Sanjay Wijemanne, Chief Operating Officer, HNB.

HNB was recognized within the top five positions on Business Today's Top 40 rankings for 2023.

