

SRI LANKA ECONOMIC SUMMIT 2009

Posted on



Dawning of a New Era... Opportunities and Challenges With the ending of the war that has ravaged our nation for the past three decades, a new era has dawned in Sri Lanka. Although the war has left deep scars, the time has now come to shut the door on the past and move ahead as a united country to meet the challenges of the future.

Much of the country's economic and human resources have been poured into the conflict resulting in constant underinvestment in education, infrastructure and healthcare. In addition the current global economic recession has had a negative impact on an already faltering economy. Despite this, the new hope that has been instilled in the hearts of Sri Lankans and the end of the conflict open up a new vista of opportunities that must be recognised and seized.

The Sri Lanka Economic Summit for 2009, presented by The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce will explore in depth the various strategies available to address the challenges of the new era and how to make effective use of the new opportunities that would accelerate the economic and social development of the country. Eminent and experienced personalities from overseas will join hands with senior Government officials, public representatives and private sector leaders of Sri Lanka to discuss the global economic environment as well as the recent developments on the local scene.

Special focus will be given to topics relating to North and East development,

governance, employment, agriculture, fisheries, dairy and tourism, knowledge economy and banking and finance. The Summit will also discuss the main challenges confronting the country such as post war reconstruction and resettlement, developing the northern and eastern regions, accelerating southern development, macroeconomic management and the need for development assistance in this regard. During the sessions the speakers and participants will explore how some of the challenges could be converted into opportunities and how the opportunities could be turned into time bound action plans. The programme for the Summit has been designed to generate fresh ideas, a consensus view and a clear vision for the development of the country.

Participants will benefit by learning more about the future economic prospects for Sri Lanka from experts. They will also gain further knowledge about the challenges arising from global and local factors and their impact on Sri Lanka and its business sectors. Lessons on how to face these challenges may be learned from the experiences of other countries.

Furthermore, participants of the Summit will also be made aware of policy changes and initiatives taken by the Government to effectively meet these challenges as well as investment opportunities arising from the current environment. Interactive discussions will give them the opportunity to make and hear suggestions on how to mitigate the adversities and optimise the benefits. These will also enable them to identify actions that need to be expedited to facilitate rapid economic development and give them the opportunity to meet and network with participants from diverse sectors.

The Steering Committee for the Summit includes Prof Lakshman R Watawala (Chairman), J D Bandaranayake, Anura Ekanayake, Prema Cooray, Suresh Shah, Romesh David, Harin Malwatte, Gayathri Gunaruwan, and Alikie Perera. The Summit will take place on June 30 and July 1 and 2 at the Oak Room, Cinnamon Grand Hotel, Colombo.

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Host Hotel: Cinnamon Grand Hotel, Colombo

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DAY ONE

Arrival of Guests (to be seated by 5.45 pm)

6.00 – 8.00 pm Inauguration

Welcome Address

Prof Lakshman R Watawala

Chairman, Economic Summit Steering Committee

Address

Mr Jayampathi Bandaranayake

Chairman, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

Address by Chief Guest

Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Ratnasiri Wickramanayake

Keynote Address

Mr Yasushi Akashi

Representative of the Government of Japan

Inaugural Address

Dato' Dr K Govindan

Deputy Director of the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of Malaysia

Vote of Thanks

Mr Harin Malwatte

Secretary General / CEO – The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

DAY TWO

8.30 – 9.00 am Registration

9.00 – 9.05 am Welcome Remarks

Prof Lakshman R Watawala

Chairman, Economic Summit Steering Committee

9.00 am – 10.30 am : TECHNICAL SESSION 1

“Surviving the Downturn and

Venturing into a New Era”

Keynote Address

Hon Sarath Amunugama

Minister of Public Administration & Home Affairs

Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning

Panelists

Dr Saman Kelegama

Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies

Dr Anura Ekanayake
Vice Chairman, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

Mr Hemaka Amarasuriya
CEO, Singer (Sri Lanka) PLC

Dr Harsha de Silva
Lead Economist, LIRNEasia

Mr Vish Govindaswamy
Managing Director, Watawala Plantations Ltd
Moderator

Ms Savithri Rodrigo
Media Consultant

11.00 am – 12.30 pm : TECHNICAL SESSION 2
“Financial Crisis – Challenges for the Banking
and Financial Sector”

Keynote Address

Mr Ajith Nivard Cabraal
Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Panelists

Dr Richard Vokes
Country Director

Asian Development Bank (Sri Lanka Resident Mission)

Mr Rajendra Thiagarajah
CEO, Hatton National Bank PLC

Chairman, Sri Lanka Banks Association

Mr Ronnie Peiris
Group Financial Director, John Keells Holdings PLC

Mr Nick A Nicolaou
CEO, The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd

Mr Faizal Salieh
Managing Director, Amana Investments Ltd

Moderator

Mr Dinesh Weerakkody
Managing Director, Cornucopia (Pvt) Ltd

2.00 pm – 3.30 pm : TECHNICAL SESSION 3
“Agriculture, Dairy, Fisheries & Tourism Sectors
Opportunities for the Private Sector”

Keynote Addresses

Mr B R L Fernando *

Non-Executive Chairman, CIC PLC

Dr Janusz Szyrmer

Economic Policy Advisor, CORE Project

Panelists

Hon Hemakumara Nanayakkara

Non Cabinet Minister

Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Services

Hon Neomal Perera *

Deputy Minister of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources

Prof Buddhi Marambe

Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya

Mr Sarath Silva

Chairman, International Food Stuff & Agri Bio Tech (Pvt) Ltd

Mr Roshan Fernando

Director / CEO, Tropic Frozen Food (Pvt) Ltd

Mr Srilal Miththapala

President, Tourist Hotels Association of Sri Lanka

Moderator

Mr Ariyaratne Hewage

Former Secretary, Ministry of Education

4.00 pm – 5.30 pm : TECHNICAL SESSION 4

“North East Accelerated Socio and

Economic Development”

Keynote Addresses

Senior Government Representative

Dr Stephen Lewarne

Senior Vice President and Director

Economic Growth, Governance and Reconstruction Division,

Aecom International Development

Panelists

Dr Naoko Ishii

Country Director for Sri Lanka & Maldives, World Bank

Mr V P Balasingham

Chief Secretary, Eastern Provincial Council

Mr Dhammika Perera

Chairman/Managing Director, Board of Investment, Sri Lanka

Mr Gerald Andersen

Director – Economic Growth (USAID)

Mr Mahadevasivam *

Chairman, Jaffna Chamber of Commerce

Mr R Rajaram Mohan *

Chairman, Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Trincomalee

Mr Daya Gamage

Chairman, Daya Apparel Export (Pvt) Ltd

Moderator

Mrs Savithri Rodrigo

DAY THREE

9.00 am – 10.30 am: TECHNICAL SESSION 5

“Harnessing Human Capital for the Future”

Keynote Address

Mr Steven Kapsos

Economist, ILO – Geneva

Panelists

Mr D L Kumaradasa

Additional Secretary (Employment), Ministry of Labour

Mr Ravi Peiris

Director General, Employers’ Federation of Ceylon

Mr Ashroff Omar

Chief Executive Officer, Brandix Lanka Ltd

Mr Priantha Seresinhe

Group Director, Capital Maharaja Organisation Ltd

Mr Dinesh Weerakkody

Managing Director, Cornucopia (Pvt) Ltd

Moderator

Dr Harsha de Silva

Lead Economist, LIRNEasia

11.00 am – 12.30 pm : TECHNICAL SESSION 6

“Building on ICT & English – Presenting Sri Lanka as a Knowledge Economy”

Keynote Address

Ms Amrita Gangotra

CIO – Mobile Services

Chief – IT Operations & Governance, Bharti Airtel Ltd

Panelists

Mr Sunimal Fernando

Advisor to the President

Prof Lalith Gamage

CEO, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology

Mr Mano Sekaram

CEO, Euro Center DDC

Mr Duncan Wilson

Deputy Director, British Council Sri Lanka

Mr Raman Roy

Chairman & Managing Director – Quattrro BPO Solutions

Moderator

Mr Arun Dias Bandaranayake

Radio & TV Presenter and Media Specialist

2.00 pm – 3.30 pm : TECHNICAL SESSION 7

“Governance : Challenges for the Public
and Private Sector”

Keynote Address

Dato’ Dr K Govindan

Deputy Director of the Economic Planning Unit (EPU)
of Malaysia

Panelists

Mr Wijedasa Rajapakse *

Member of Parliament

Mr Dharmasena Dissanayaka

Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration & Home Affairs

Mr Rienzie T Wijetilleke

Chairman, Hatton National Bank PLC

Mr J C Weliamuna

Mr Channa de Silva

Director General, Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka

Desamanya Deva Rodrigo

Past Chairman the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

Moderator

Mrs Savithri Rodrigo

Media Consultant

4.00 pm – 5.30 pm : TECHNICAL SESSION 8

“2020 Vision for Sri Lanka – Parliamentarians’ Points of View”

Keynote Address

Hon Milinda Moragoda

Minister of Tourism

Panelists

Hon Dilan Perera

Minister of Ports & Aviation

Hon Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan

Minister of National Integration

Hon Rauff Hakeem *

Leader, Sri Lanka Muslim Congress

Hon Faizer Mustapha

Deputy Minister of Tourism

Hon Kabir Hashim

Member of Parliament

Hon Bimal Rathnayake *

Member of Parliament

Hon Dayasiri Jayasekara

Member of Parliament

Moderator

Mr Feizal Samath

Business Editor – The Sunday Times, Wijeya Newspapers Ltd

5.30 pm Closure of the Economic Summit 2009 ECONOMIC SUMMIT 2009