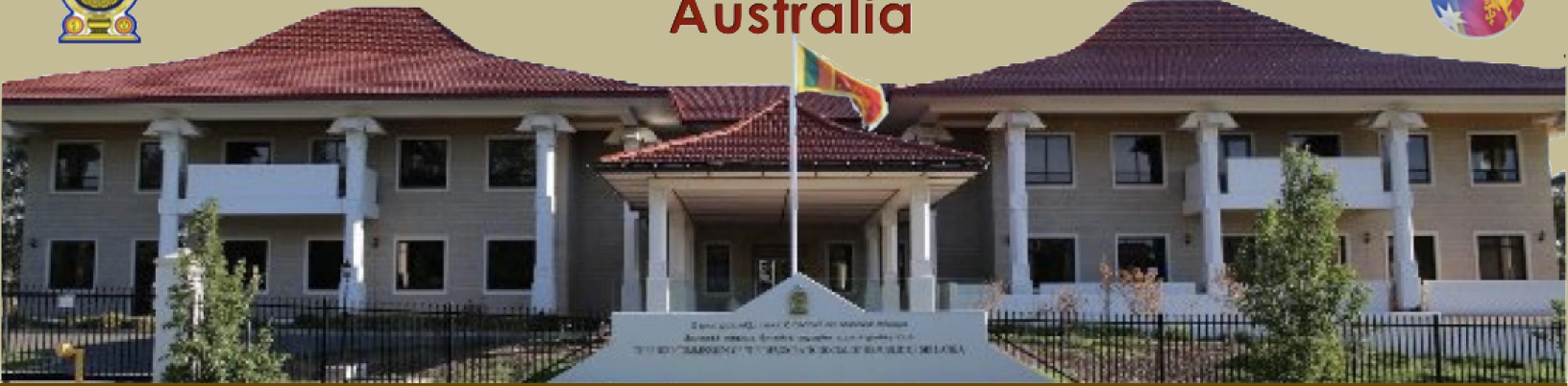




High Commission of Sri Lanka in Canberra Australia



Newsletter

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Sri Lanka High Commission in Canberra celebrated Vesak 2024



The High Commission of Sri Lanka in Canberra celebrated Vesak on Wednesday, 22nd May 2024 at the High Commission premises with the participation of the staff of the High Commission and their family members. The High Commission was decorated with Vesak lanterns and Buddhist flags.

The Buddha Pooja and the Dhamma Sermon were conducted by the Chief Incumbent of the Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara in Canberra Venerable Kotapola Upali Thero.

While welcoming the Ven. Upali Thero and other invitees, the High Commissioner in her remarks stated the relevance of this year's theme of Vesak, "Let's not look at what others have done and look at what we have done" which is a relevant message for our personal life and for the society.

For more information use link below;

<https://www.slhcaust.org/sri-lanka-high-commission-in-canberra-celebrated-vesak-2024/>

Australia-Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group - hosted at the Sri Lanka High Commission in Canberra



The Sri Lanka High Commission in Canberra in collaboration with the Australia-Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group organized an event on 28th May 2024 to mark the first anniversary of the re-launching of the Group as well as to celebrate significant cultural and religious festivals namely the Sinhala and Tamil New Year and Vesak.

The Australian Assistant Foreign Minister Tim Watts was the Guest of Honour. Over 15 members of the House of Representatives and Senators participated in the event.

Sri Lanka born, Cassandra Fernando, MP of the Federal Parliament and Labour Party member as the Chair of the Group together with Senator James McGrath of the Liberal Party, the Vice Chair were associated with the invitation.

This initiative was taken to enhance close collaboration with the members of the Federal Parliament in Australia to strengthen ties between Sri Lanka and Australia to explore areas of cooperation for the benefit of the two counties.

Business Forum in Brisbane, Australia - “Resilient & Rising: Leveraging Sri Lanka’s Potential”



At a time when Sri Lanka is exploring the means to support economic diversification, business innovation and promote inclusive and sustainable growth, Sri Lanka-Australia Chamber of Commerce and the Chartered Accountant Association of Sri Lanka (Australia Chapter Inc) with the collaboration of the Sri Lanka High Commission in Canberra organized the Business Forum “Resilient & Rising: Leveraging Sri Lanka’s Potential” on Thursday, 6th June 2024 in Brisbane.

The event aimed to unite Australian business leaders, entrepreneurs and investors to explore and capitalize opportunities in Sri Lanka, focusing on economic resilience, investment prospects and strategic growth initiatives.

While welcoming the guests, Kalum De Silva, the President of the Sri Lanka Australia Chamber of Commerce spoke on knowledge industries and sustainable manufacturing industries in Sri Lanka. He also highlighted the importance of geographical location and the investment climate of Sri Lanka

The High Commissioner, Chitrangenee Wagswara noted in her remarks that the current economic status in Sri Lanka is stable and moving forward. She touched on the assistance of the IMF and friendly countries and the conducive business potential which makes Sri Lanka an attractive destination for entrepreneurs.

The President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, Mr. Heshan Kuruppu in his speech spoke of the business-friendly regulations in place which facilitates and encourages investors and businesses.

The address by Mr. Paul Cooper, Chairman of Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre and Manufacturing, Queensland was of interest as he

shared his experiences and benefits gained in Sri Lanka having established a company in the manufacturing sector.

The Audience included selected and reputed representatives from Australian Companies, Sri Lanka Business Companies in Brisbane and over 175 Sri Lankan and foreign companies who joined from overseas virtually.



Meeting with the Federation of Sri Lanka Organizations of Queensland (FSOQ)



During the High Commissioner’s visit to Brisbane, 6-7 June, a meeting was arranged with the representatives of FSOQ.

At the meeting the President, Dr. Jay Weerawardena and Secretary, Mr. Jayantha Weerasekara welcoming the High Commissioner, spoke briefly on the activities undertaken by the Association. A slide presentation was done on the programme of work undertaken over the years. Those present at the meeting and the High Commissioner discussed issues of interest to the expatriate Sri Lankan Community.

High Commissioner also briefed the group on recent development in Sri Lanka. Following the discussion, the High Commissioner and First Secretary were hosted for a lunch.

Historical religious ceremony held in Bendigo, in the State of Victoria, Australia with the planting of the Bo-sapling from the Jaya Sri Mahabodhi, Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka.



The Bodhi Dhamma Buddhist Association in Bendigo which is an established Sri Lankan Buddhist Association together with the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion held a religious ceremony to plant the Bo-sapling from the sacred Jaya Sri Mahabodhi, Anuradhapura. The Bodhi Dhamma Vihara has a large Buddha Statue, Ceremonial Gates, a traditional Moonstone and a fence carved from stone from Sri Lanka. The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion is a centre for interfaith harmony with symbols from major faiths which are represented in the peace park.

The delegation headed by Ven. Pallegama Hemarathana Thero of Anuradhapura Atamasthanadhipathi with Buddhist monks from Sri Lanka as well as from Myanmar and Vietnam, China, Thailand and Laos participated in the ceremony.



for more information use link below;

<https://www.slhcaust.org/historical-religious-ceremony-held-in-bendigo-in-the-state-of-victoria-australia-with-the-planting-of-the-bo-sapling-from-the-jaya-sri-mahabodhi-anuradhapura-in-sri-lanka/>

Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Melbourne welcomes the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Australia



The Consul General of Sri Lanka for South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria Sandith Samarasinghe recently hosted an official reception for the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Australia Chitranganee Wagiswara during her first official visit to Melbourne after assuming office last year. The reception was held at the Lincoln of Toorak.

The reception was attended by the representative of the Premier of Victoria Nick Staikos, Federal Member for Holt Cassandra Fernando, as well as representatives from the Consular Corps in Melbourne and Sri Lankan community leaders.

The High Commissioner highlighted the importance of the Sri Lankan community in Melbourne as one of the largest communities of overseas Sri Lankans and recognized their longstanding contribution to promote Sri Lanka in Australia and for Sri Lanka's economic and social development. She also spoke positively on the strong cultural, social and economic connections between Australia and Sri Lanka, and welcomed the opportunity to connect with Melbourne as part of her work in promoting Australia-Sri Lanka bilateral relations.

Mr. Staikos, during his speech, welcomed the Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Melbourne and spoke highly of the close relations between Australia and Sri Lanka. He also recognized the significant contribution the Sri Lankan community has made to the diverse and multicultural society in Melbourne and Victoria as a whole, and expressed his hope for continued connection with the High Commission.

for more information use link below;

<https://mfa.gov.lk/consulate-general-of-sri-lanka-in-melbourne-welcomes-the-highcommissioner-of-sri-lanka-to-australia-chitranganee-wagiswara/>

Courtesy call by the Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force



The Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force, Air Marshal Udeni Rajapaksa, participated in the Air and Space Power Conference 2024, which was held from 6th to 9th May 2024 at the National Convention Centre, Canberra, Australia.

During the visit Air Force Commander paid courtesy call to the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Australia, Her Excellency Mrs. Chitrangane Wagiswara, on 06 May 2024, at the Sri Lanka High Commission in Canberra.

During the cordial discussions between the Air Force Commander and the High Commissioner, the Commander highlighted the ongoing collaborative efforts with the Government of Australia and the Sri Lanka Air Force pertaining to Maritime Domain Awareness. Furthermore, the discussion focused on opportunities for training and joint exercises with the Australian Military. Following the dialogue, mementos were exchanged to commemorate this significant occasion.

Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Called-on High Commissioner



The Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Rear Admiral (Retd) HGUD Kumara and Deputy Registrar Commander (H) RORB Senaratne Called-on the High Commissioner on 1st May while they were on a university promotional campaign in Australia.

Vice Chancellor briefed the High Commission on the promotional campaign that was organized by the Grand Royal (Pvt) Ltd which is an institution providing Higher education accredited to KDU. Further, he stated that the aim of this campaign is to promote Kotelawala Defence University among the Australian community and mainly to encourage Sri Lankan expats to send their children to study at KDU.

Dr Lasantha Amarakoon. Chairman/Managing Director of Grand Royal (Pvt) Ltd was also present at the occasion.

“Connect Sri Lanka “Rupavahini Programme

Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Industries conducts a series of TV programmes for public awareness of international markets and potential Sri Lankan exports and assistance given to the persons in the business field by the Sri Lankan Missions, abroad.

Following is the Link of the TV program conducted with the Sri Lanka High Commission, Canberra, Consulate General in Melbourne, the Australia Sri Lanka Business Council and the Sri Lanka Australia Chamber of Commerce.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4I-L-3cju7g>

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