



The  
**Ceylon  
Chamber of  
Commerce**

# Sri Lanka **Economic Summit**

**Shaping Sri Lanka's Future:** Transformational  
Growth Rooted in Sound Economic Policies

## **AGENDA**



**28TH & 29TH JANUARY 2025**  
Shangri-La Hotel - Colombo, Sri Lanka

# About the Summit



After two years of economic contraction in 2022 and 2023, Sri Lanka is striving for a period of accelerated growth. With the conclusion of debt restructuring and the Presidential elections, it is crucial to set the foundation for a decade of sustainable and inclusive economic growth starting in 2025.

Sri Lanka's economy is once again at an inflection point where it can either accelerate economic development or risk reverting to an IMF programme for the 18th time and being a second time debt defaulter. To avoid this, an export-led investment model must be explored through leveraging its strategic location, access to fast-growing markets in the region, and domestic reforms to unleash export sectors. The foundation for this strategy will be stable monetary and fiscal policies to ensure the continuity of the IMF programme. The summit will focus on the key growth levers and sectors that can drive transformational growth

## DAY 1 (Tuesday, 28th January 2025)

**1800 – 2030 hrs**

### INAUGURAL SESSION

**Shaping Sri Lanka's Future: Transformational Growth Rooted in Sound Economic Policies**



#### CHIEF GUEST

**H E Anura Kumara Dissanayake**

President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

**1800 - 1815 hrs Opening Remarks and Welcome**

**Mr Duminda Hulangamuwa** – Chairman, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

**1820 - 1900 hrs Fireside Chat with the Chief Guest**

**H E Anura Kumara Dissanayake**, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, moderated by **Mr Bingumal Thewarathanthri** – Deputy Vice Chairman, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce & Chief Executive Officer - Sri Lanka, Standard Chartered Bank



**1915 hrs**

**End of Inaugural Session / Day 1  
Networking & Cocktails**

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## DAY 2 (Wednesday, 29th January 2025)

**0830 – 0900 hrs** Registration/Arrival of Guests

**0900 – 1000 hrs** **SESSION 1 Fireside Chat: Shaping Sri Lanka's Digital Economy Roadmap**  
**Dr Hans Wijayasuriya** – Chief Advisor to the President on Digital Economy, in conversation with  
**Mr Bhanuka Harischandra** – Founder, Surge Global



**1000 – 1030 hrs** Tea Break

**1030 – 1230 hrs** **SESSION 2**

### What are the Right Reforms for Transformational Growth?

*With economic stability restored and a solid foundation for growth in place, Sri Lanka now stands at the threshold of transformational progress. This session will explore how the nation can embark on a path of sustained growth, drawing lessons from countries like South Korea that have successfully navigated similar transitions. Discussions will delve into the benefits and challenges of adopting such strategies in Sri Lanka's current context, and the critical roles the private sector and multilateral organizations can play in driving this agenda forward.*

**Presenter:**

**Dr Kyungjin Song** – Country Representative Korea, The Asia Foundation

**Panelists:**

**Mr Takafumi Kadono** – Country Director for Sri Lanka, Asian Development Bank

**Mr Krishan Balendra** – Chairman, John Keells Holdings PLC

**Mr Ali Tariq** – Chairman/CEO, Unilever Sri Lanka

**Mr Munish Kanwar** – Chief Executive Officer, Colombo West International Terminal

**Mr Mattias Martinsson** – Chief Investment Officer/Founding Partner, Tundra Fonder

**Mr Shiran Fernando** – Chief Economic Policy Advisor, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce **(Moderator)**



**1230 – 1330 hrs** Lunch

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## DAY 2 (Wednesday, 29th January 2025)

1330 – 1500 hrs **SESSION 3: BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### BREAKOUT SESSION 1: Transforming Productivity in Agriculture

*How do we improve productivity in traditional crops and advance potential in new crop varieties?  
What can we learn from country case studies in modernizing the agricultural sector?  
What sound policies will help with agriculture modernization and infusion of Agri-Tech?  
How do we increase Agri-based exports from 20% to 30% by 2030?*

**Presenter:**

**Mr Harish Chandra** – Executive Director, Deloitte Touche, Tohmatsu India LLP

**Panelists:**

**Mr D P Wickramasinghe** – Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation

**Mr Aroshan Seresinhe** – Group Chief Executive Officer, CIC Holdings PLC

**Mr Harsha Subasinghe** – Founder, HS Agro Exports Pvt Ltd

**Mr Manju Gunawardana** – Group CEO - Research and Innovation, Lanka Orix Leasing Company

**Mr Rajeev Pandithage** – Executive Director, Diesel & Motor Engineering PLC (**Moderator**)



### BREAKOUT SESSION 2: Maximizing Tourism Potential

*How does Sri Lanka achieve USD 8.5 billion tourist earnings by 2030?  
How can we improve our offering to increase average spend by tourists?  
What policies will help the growth potential of tourism?*

**Presenter:**

**Mr Anand Jha** – Vice President, Head of Government Engagement for India and Sri Lanka, Visa

**Panelists:**

**Prof Ruwan Ranasinghe** – Hon Deputy Minister of Tourism

**Mr Henry Fitch** – Chief Executive Officer, Teardrop Hotels

**Mr Mikael Svensson** – Chief Executive Officer, Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts

**Ms Stasshani Jayawardena** – Joint Deputy Chairman & Managing Director, Aitken Spence PLC

**Mr Dhananath Fernando** – Chief Executive Officer, Advocata Institute (**Moderator**)



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### BREAKOUT SESSION 3: Driving Growth in Value-Added Export Manufacturing

*Explore Thailand's integration into global and regional value chains and its role in driving export-led investment growth. How can Sri Lanka improve productivity, cost of doing business, labour laws, innovation that are constraints presently to driving value-added exports.*

**Presenter:**

**Ms Parima Damrithamanij** – Senior Manager, Global Trade Advisory, Deloitte

**Panelists:**

**Ms J M T Jayasundara** – Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

**Mr Suren Fernando** – Chief Executive Officer, MAS Holdings PLC

**Mr Rajitha Kariyawasan** – Executive Director, Hayleys Group & Managing Director, Haycarb

**Mr Yohan Lawrence** – Secretary General, JAAF and Chairman, EASL (**Moderator**)



1500 – 1530 hrs Tea Break

1530 – 1730 hrs **SESSION 4**

### Plan for Economic Transformation

*This final session will focus on crafting a pragmatic action plan to propel Sri Lanka onto a transformational growth trajectory. Building on insights from previous sessions, it will bring together key policymakers overseeing portfolios such as Finance, Entrepreneurship, SME Development, Investment, Exports, and State-Owned Enterprises to articulate a cohesive strategy for sustainable economic progress.*

**Panelists:**

**Dr Harshana Suriyapperuma** – Hon Deputy Minister of Finance & Planning

**Mr Chathuranga Abeysinghe** – Hon Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development

**Mr Arjuna Herath** – Chairman, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka

**Mr Mangala Wijesinghe** – Chairman, Sri Lanka Export Development Board

**Ms Kasturi C Wilson** – Board Member, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (**Moderator**)



1730 – 1800 hrs **CLOSING SESSION – Summary of Summit findings**

1800 hrs **Close of Summit**

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