



The  
**Ceylon  
Chamber of  
Commerce**

# Sri Lanka **Economic Summit**

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



## **FACULTY BOOK**

28th & 29th January 2025 | Shangri-La Hotel - Colombo, Sri Lanka



## The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

With over 185 years of service to the nation and business community, it is the premier forum for business in Sri Lanka.

Working closely with 38 Trade, Product and Service Associations, 21 Bilateral Business Councils and through its network of 22 regional and other chambers, the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce serves as the gateway to a world of business opportunities.



# Sri Lanka Economic Summit

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

## Summit Sub-Committee

Mr Bingumal Thewarathanthri (Chairman)

Mr Amal Cabraal

Mr Krishan Balendra

Mr Vinod Hirdaramani

Ms Kasturi Wilson

Mr Buwanekabahu Perera

Ms Alikie Perera

Mr Shiran Fernando

### **CCC SECRETARIAT**

Ms Lilakshi De Mel

Mr Sanjaya Ariyawansa

Ms Shanuka Manickaraj

Ms Ayesha Rafiq

Mr Muhafil Munas

Ms Humaira Haniffa

### **SESSION MANAGERS**

Ms Saumya Amarasiriwardane

Mr Trent Hemachandra

Ms Charuni Gunathilaka

Ms Chamathka Mallikaarachchige

Ms Samali Fernando



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## 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

# Session & Speakers

## 28th January 2025 - DAY 1

### **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

# Sessions & Speakers

## 29th January 2025 - DAY 2

### **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

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**1000 – 1030 hrs      Tea Break**

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### **1030 – 1230 hrs | Session 2**

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

##### **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

##### **MODERATOR**

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

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**1230 – 1330 hrs      Lunch**

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# Sessions & Speakers

## 29th January 2025 - DAY 2

### 1330 – 1500 hrs | **Session 3: Breakout Sessions**

#### **BREAKOUT SESSION 1:** Transforming Productivity in Agriculture

##### **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 Co

##### **MODERATOR**

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

#### **BREAKOUT SESSION 2:** Maximizing Tourism Potential

##### **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** – Jt Dep Chairman & Managing Director, Aitken Spence PLC

##### **MODERATOR**

**Mr Dhananath Fernando** – Chief Executive Officer, Advocata Institute

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

##### **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

##### **MODERATOR**

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

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**1500 – 1530 hrs    Tea Break**

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# Sessions & Speakers

## 29th January 2025 - DAY 2

### **1530 – 1730 hrs | Session 4**

#### **Plan for Economic Transformation**

##### **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

##### **MODERATOR**

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

### **1730 hrs      Close of Summit**





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# Keynote Session

**Sustain Reform. Accelerate Growth.**

## **Chief Guest**

**H E Anura Kumara Disanayake**

President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

### **Opening Remarks & Welcome**

Mr Duminda Hulangamuwa

Chairman, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

### **Fireside Chat with the Chief Guest**

H E Anura Kumara Disanayake

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



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

Duminda Hulangamuwa is a Senior Partner heading the Ernst & Young Tax practice in Sri Lanka, counting over 30 years of experience.

His specialties are advising on transaction tax, international tax, structuring, and tax-efficient inward investments for both direct and indirect tax.

Mr Hulangamuwa is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka as well as the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK and a Graduate in Law from the University of London.



**Mr Bingumal Thewarathanthri**  
**Deputy Vice Chairman, The Ceylon Chamber of**  
**Commerce & Chief Executive Officer - Sri Lanka,**  
**Standard Chartered Bank**

Bingumal, better known as Bingu, was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank, Sri Lanka on 1 January 2019. He is the first Sri Lankan national to be appointed to the position. Apart from his role as CEO, Bingu also heads Sri Lanka's Commercial, Corporate and Institutional Banking (CCIB) business.

Having joined Standard Chartered in July 2004, Bingu counts for more than 25 years of experience within the Banking and Finance industry. During his tenure at Standard Chartered, he has held several leadership positions in Sri Lanka and Africa.

Bingu was elected as Deputy Vice Chairman of The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce for 2023/24 and serves as the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Banks' Association (SLBA). He holds an MBA from the University of Wales, UK. Further, Bingu is an FCMA (Fellow Chartered Management Accountant) and a CGMA (Chartered Global Management Accountant) of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), UK.



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# Session 1

## **Fireside Chat: Shaping Sri Lanka's Digital Economy Roadmap**

0900 – 1000 hrs

DAY 2 (Wednesday, 29th January 2025)



## **Dr Hans Wijayasuriya** **Chief Advisor to the President on Digital Economy**

Dr Wijayasuriya stepped down from his position as Chief Executive Officer – Telecommunications Business and Group Executive Director at Axiata Group in January 2025 to accept an invitation from the President of Sri Lanka to lead the country's Digital Transformation Agenda in the capacity of the Chief Advisor to the President on Digital Economy.

In his capacity as the CEO for Telecommunications Business at Axiata, Dr Wijayasuriya led the pan-region Telecommunications Operations of the Axiata Group Bhd., spanning the markets of Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Cambodia. Dr Wijayasuriya also served on the Board of the Axiata Group in the capacity of Group Executive Director.

Dr Wijayasuriya's career in the Telecommunication's Industry spans 30 Years, over 25 of which have been at CEO level. Dr Wijayasuriya and his team led the company to become the country's largest quad-play converged telco and one of the highest valued entities on the Colombo Stock Exchange.

Dr Wijayasuriya was honored (in 2024) with the "Chairman's Award" by the GSM Association in recognition of outstanding contribution to the global mobile industry. Previously in 2017, Dr Wijayasuriya was the recipient of the "Outstanding Contribution to the Asian Mobile Industry" Award in its inaugural year of award.

Dr. Wijayasuriya graduated from the University of Cambridge UK in 1989. He subsequently obtained his PhD in Digital Mobile Communications from the University of Bristol UK in 1994. A Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institute of Engineering Technology UK, Dr. Wijayasuriya also holds an MBA from the University of Warwick UK.



## **Mr Bhanuka Harischandra** **Founder, Surge Global**

Bhanuka Harischandra is a self-taught serial-entrepreneur that believes in testing, adapting and not conforming to set rules. His unstructured yet intentional approach to problem-solving acts as the fundamental lens in which he helps businesses grow through the use of digital marketing, technology and data.

His career in the media and technology space began at the age of 18 with the launch of "TheGamersCottage" a YouTube Multi-Channel Network that helped over 600 creators monetize half a billion eSports views.

After being approached by a number of local businesses, Bhanuka established Surge Global, a design, marketing and technology firm to focus on the needs of helping businesses grow in the modern economy. In 2018, he captured the eye and imagination of Senior Executives within the Tavistock Group, who invested in the company to leverage and support some of the group's most strategic and valuable investments.

Today Surge is a team of over 400 consultants supporting global businesses helping them identify new opportunities, build enterprise grade technology and combine it with sophisticated storytelling. Over the last 10 years, Bhanuka has successfully led the digital strategy for a multibillion-dollar US smart city, a UK based lender with over billions of pounds lent, Australia's oldest operating public company and engaged with the Qatari govt with multi-year, multi-million dollar technology engagements.

Bhanuka has also co-founded the world's #1 self publishing software and is involved in multiple technology, agriculture and investment opportunities through his private office Viridian Investments. He is a celebrated Entrepreneur, TEDx Speaker and is a part of the prestigious Forbes 30 Under 30 as well as Rest-of-Worlds top 100 Changemakers.



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## 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.*

1030 – 1230 hrs

DAY 2 (Wednesday, 29th January 2025)



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

Dr Kyungjin Song is The Asia Foundation's country representative in Korea. She has over twenty-five years of experience in the public and private sectors, international affairs, and media. She is the first Korean Country Representative for Korea in The Asia Foundation's 70-year history in Korea.

Prior to joining The Asia Foundation, Kyungjin Song served the Government of the Republic of Korea in various capacities. She worked, 2008-2009, as Special Assistant to the Special Economic Adviser to the President in the Office of the President. She served, 2009-2011, as Chief Secretary and Special Adviser to the Chairman of the Presidential Committee for G20 Seoul Summit in the Office of the President. She oversaw the entire production of the official White

Paper of the 2010 G20 Seoul Summit. For these endeavors, she was honored with the Republic of Korea Government's Order of Civil Service Merit.

Kyungjin Song currently serves as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a special focus on economic diplomacy. She also is Korea's coordinator for the Korea-India Strategic Dialogue in the Seoul Forum for International Affairs and a member of the Board of the Association of Korean Economic Studies. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the Global Trade and Innovation Policy Alliance (GTIPA), a global think tank group. She is also an advisor to the ITIF Center for Korean Innovation and Competitiveness.

Kyungjin Song has written extensively on economic policy, international relations, gender equality, and youth issues for leading Korean and international newspapers.



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

Takafumi Kadono has over 25 years of professional experience in international development including 13 years in ADB.

He joined the World Bank in 2015, operating out of the Singapore Hub for Urban, Infrastructure and PPP. A challenging hydropower PPP project he led in the Solomon Islands with IFC and MIGA received the Regional Vice President Award in 2019, and the prestigious IJ Global Award in 2020. He returned to ADB in December 2020 as a Principal Planning and Policy Economist where he was responsible for the strategic planning and policy formulation for ADB and served as the lead author for the work program and budget framework which

provides a Bank-wide strategic outlook for the 3-year planning horizon. He also undertook the organizational reform of ADB, business process reviews, and contributed to the capital adequacy framework review which today enables ADB to significantly increase its lending volume.

Mr Kadono assumed his position as the Country Director for Sri Lanka in July 2023. He oversaw the preparation of the 5-year Country Partnership Strategy for 2024-2028 setting the strategic direction of ADB's sovereign and nonsovereign operations in Sri Lanka under challenging socio-economic conditions. He oversees ADB's operations of \$3.6 billion and manages new lending and nonlending commitments to support the government of Sri Lanka's development objectives.

Prior to joining ADB, he spent 7 years as a consultant in the areas of energy, urban, water, and reconstruction projects, roaming the fields of developing Asia and Latin America. Mr Kadono, a national of Japan, grew up in the Netherlands, Canada, United States, Spain, and France, and holds Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Civil Engineering from University of Tokyo.



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

Krishan Balendra is the Chairperson-CEO of John Keells Holdings PLC. He is also the Vice Chair of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the Hon Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Sri Lanka.

He is a former Chair of the Employers Federation of Ceylon, Nations Trust Bank and the Colombo Stock Exchange. Krishan started his career at UBS Warburg, Hong Kong, in investment banking, focusing primarily on equity capital markets. He joined JKH in 2002.

Krishan holds a law degree (LLB) from the University of London and an MBA from INSEAD.



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

Ali Tariq is the CEO of Unilever Sri Lanka, one of the largest MNCs in the country and a market leader in most of the categories that it operates in.

Ali joined the Unilever group 20 years ago and has had diverse country, regional and global leadership responsibilities across the Far East, South Asia, Europe and North America.

Prior to his current role, Ali was based out of the Headquarters in London where he was the global CFO for Unilever's Supply Chain operations and Executive Vice President for large strategic transformations including M&A.

By profession, Ali is a Chartered Accountant from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales and trained with PwC London.



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

Munish Kanwar has a career span of over 25 years with proven track record in leading teams across India and overseas. Cross-functional exposure and highly skilled in leadership, project management, operations and maintenance, due diligence, team building, relationship management, govt liaison, business development, audit and regulatory compliances.

Before taking the responsibility of Chief Executive officer at Colombo West international Terminal at Colombo, Sri Lanka, he was Business head and director at another international venture where he successfully executed the project and commissioned the terminal with

commencement of operations. Mr Kanwar Joined Adani in 2012 as manager in operations and has worked in Adani ports of Mundra, Hazira, Vizag and Krishanapatnam, before taking up the assignment of construction and commissioning of overseas terminal.

Mr Kanwar worked with K K Birla group before joining Adani. With a master's degree in business administration, he has undergone leadership and other skills development programs throughout his career including IIM Lucknow and Harvard.



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

Mattias Martinsson is the Chief Investment Officer and Founding Partner at Tundra Fonder. Mattias is one of Scandinavia's leading emerging market pioneers.

He began his career at the former HQ Russia (later HQ Emerging Markets) in 1996, first as an advisor and analyst and then as head of the department.

In 2011 Mattias founded Tundra Fonder which today has USD 1 billion in AuM, of which USD 300m is dedicated to Frontier Markets. Mattias has a University Diploma in Social Science from Lund University.





**Mr Shiran Fernando**  
**Chief Economic Policy Advisor**  
**Ceylon Chamber of Commerce**

Shiran is the Chief Economist at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and is in charge of the Economic Intelligence Unit which is the focal point of the Chamber for economic research and policy advocacy. He is engaged in providing policy level support and strategic advice to the Government to shape the national economic agenda. In his capacity, as the Chief Economist of the CCC, he is part of several Steering Committees formed by Government to drive forward the economic agenda.

He was previously a member of the Steering Committee on Economic Policy of the CCC. Shiran previously held the role as the Lead Economist and Senior Product Head at Frontier Research, where he was responsible for the growth and strategic direction of the Economics Research Division. He has been part of numerous economic and business forums as a speaker, panelist and a moderator. Shiran is also contributing writer to LMD's monthly Economic Outlook Column. He was a co-author of the 'Sixty Years of China-Sri Lanka Relations (1957-2017)', a collaborative publication by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Sri Lanka and the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies.

Shiran holds a Bachelors in Economics and Finance from the University of London and is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (ACMA) and a Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA). He also holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in International Relations from the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS) and is a 2018 Level 3 candidate in the CFA program.



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# 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?*

1330 – 1500 hrs

DAY 2 (Wednesday, 29th January 2025)



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

Harish specializes in strategic advisory for government and private clients, driving innovation and growth in agriculture and allied sector with over 21 years of experience across the food value chain. He has performed diverse roles in strategic planning, project implementation, operations excellence, business development, digital transformations with Government Agencies, Corporate houses, IFIs and startups to meet developmental and business goals.

He has a Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Rural) from Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar, India and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Animal Husbandry from Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture Technology, Pantnagar India.



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

Mr D P Wickramasinghe is a Special Grade officer in the Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS) since 2019.

Before assuming his current position, Mr. Wickramasinghe has held key leadership positions including, Former Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Irrigation, Fisheries, Animal Production and Health, and Agrarian Services for the Western Provincial Council from December 2023 to November 2024, Council Secretary (Acting) – Western Province Council (September 2024 to November) and Additional Secretary – Ministry of Power and Energy (December 2019 to 2023)



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

Aroshan Seresinhe, leads the diversified conglomerate CIC Holdings PLC and its subsidiaries as Group CEO. His career and experience over 25 years across varied industries spans roles in finance, investment management, corporate planning, and project management in venture capital, renewable energy, and oil palm plantations.

He is a member of the Sri Lanka-Singapore Business Council and a former President of GS1 Lanka of the Ceylon Chamber. Mr. Seresinhe is also an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK (ACMA UK) and a Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA).



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

Seasoned professional with extensive experience in export and travel industries. Currently serving as Director of HS AgroExports and HS Voyage (Pvt) Ltd. Skilled in leveraging IT to optimize business operations and achieve strategic objectives.

Harsha holds a Bachelor of Business Information Systems from Middlesex University.



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

Manju Gunawardana brings over 25 years of expertise in research and innovation across diverse fields, including nanotechnology, advanced materials, and engineering. He began his career as an electronics engineer, specializing in military electronics, and has held leadership positions in some of Sri Lanka's leading engineering companies.

Currently, he serves as the Group CEO of the Research and Innovation division of LOLC and as a Consultant Senior Research Scientist/Director at the Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLINTEC).

He is the founder and CEO/Director of Ceylon Graphene Technologies (Pvt) Ltd (CGTL), Sri Lanka's first graphene and advanced materials company, and has played a pivotal role in introducing Sri Lanka's pristine graphite to the global market.

In addition, Mr. Gunawardana holds directorships at LOLC Advanced Technologies (Pvt) Ltd, Ceylon Nano Diagnostics (Pvt) Ltd, Associated Battery Manufacturers (Ceylon) Ltd, Browns Agri Solutions (Pvt) Ltd, Browns Pharma Ltd, and BI Holdings (Pvt) Ltd.

He is a recipient of numerous prestigious accolades, including three Gold Medals and one Silver Medal at the Geneva Innovation Congress. He has also twice earned the title of Best Inventor in Sri Lanka, further solidifying his position as a leader in research, innovation, and advanced technology development.



**Mr Rajeev Pandithage**  
**Executive Director, Diesel & Motor Engineering PLC**

Highly experienced automotive management professional and Daimler 'C' certified manager, proficient in working with prestigious brands such as Mercedes-Benz, Jeep, and Chrysler. Provide direction in strategy and execution in developing motor vehicle franchises and increasing organisational value at a national level. Demonstrated success in driving for success in luxury automotive brands, enhancing company value through consistent customer experience, streamlined systems and enhanced processes.

He is a team player that has managed and coached individuals to thrive in a high-performance team to deliver productivity, sustainable financial growth and brand value. He works closely with the regional strategy teams in Headquarters of the different automotive principles to adopt, localise and drive the global strategies of each brand in the country.

He has a Master of Business Administration (2022) – RMIT University, Melbourne, Vic, a Bachelor of Business and Commerce (2007) – Monash University, Melbourne, Vic and an Advanced Diploma in Business and Commerce - Monash University, Melbourne, Vic.



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# Session 3

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### **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?*

1330 – 1500 hrs

DAY 2 (Wednesday, 29th January 2025)



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

Anand Jha currently heads Government Engagement for Visa India and South Asia. He brings a wealth of experience working with the governments in the region. Most recently, he was the Managing Director, Head of India and South Asia Government Relations, for Blackstone, a leading global private equity investment firm. Previously he held senior executive roles at Heineken and WI-Mart India. Before joining the private sector, for close to two decades, Anand served in the Indian Civil Services, working across various ministries within the Government of India. He eventually rose to the position of Additional Director General of Investigations, in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Anand is a lawyer by training and holds an LLM in International Trade and Commercial Law from Durham University. Additionally, he holds multiple degrees from the University of Delhi and professional certification from the Saïd Business School at Oxford University.

Outside of work, Anand enjoys cooking and tennis.



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

Professor Ruwan Ranasinghe embarked on an impressive academic journey, laying a solid foundation for his future influence in tourism

In 2004, he graduated with first class honors in Tourism and Hospitality Management from Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL), where he also won two prestigious gold medals, distinguishing himself as one of the university's top students.

He further advanced his expertise with an MBA from Rajarata in 2012, followed by a doctorate from Sichuan University (SCU) for International Students China, in 2017 highlighting his commitment to learning and development on an international scale.

His influence on Sri Lanka's tourism landscape began in 2009 when he became instrumental in founding the Tourism and Hospitality Management degree program at Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka. Under his guidance, this program earned certification from the #UNWTO United Nations World Tourism Organization marking a historic milestone for Sri Lanka

In 2019, he became the first chairman of the Uva Province Tourism Promotion Board Visit UVA. In this role, he initiated transformative projects in collaboration with regional government bodies, furthering sustainable tourism and economic growth in Uva Province.

Professor Rajasinghe's scholarly contributions have earned him over 1,000 citations, placing him among Sri Lanka's most influential researchers in social sciences.



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

Henry moved to Sri Lanka in 2007 after five years in London with Leading Hotels of the World & Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts. Together with his business partners, he set up Teardrop Hotels, one of Sri Lanka's leading luxury boutique hotel and restaurant groups. Over the last 17 years, he has taken the lead role in developing and expanding the group's portfolio, which currently consists of nine luxury boutique hotels and villas around Sri Lanka and a restaurant in central Colombo.

In his role as CEO, he oversees the management of all of Teardrop's hotels and is instrumental in developing the company's white-label hotel and villa management arm.

Henry has a BA with Honours in Business and Accounting from Exeter University in England.



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

Mikael Svensson is the Chief Executive Officer of Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts, overseeing the strategic advancement of the company's portfolio in Sri Lanka and the Maldives, including Cinnamon Life at City of Dreams Sri Lanka, South Asia's most anticipated entertainment and leisure destination.

With over 30 years of leadership experience across Asia, the Middle East, and Australia, Mikael has a proven track record in managing luxury hotels and driving strategic growth and innovation. His previous roles include senior positions at iconic properties like Viceroy Palm Jumeirah Dubai and the Grand Hyatt in Mumbai.

Prior to joining John Keells Holdings, Mikael served as Senior Vice President of Louis T Collection, where he led performance transformations. Under his leadership, Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts aims to enhance its global footprint while showcasing Cinnamon Life, part of the USD 1.3 billion City of Dreams Sri Lanka, as a game-changing entertainment and lifestyle destination.





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

Stasshani Jayawardena marks several milestones for Aitken Spence PLC and Aitken Spence Hotel Holdings PLC as the youngest Board Member, and the first female member on the Board. Ms. Jayawardena was appointed as Joint Deputy Chairperson and Joint Managing Director, Aitken Spence PLC and Aitken Spence Hotel Holdings in September 2023 and she also heads the Tourism sector of Aitken Spence PLC inclusive of hotels, destination management and overseas travel.

She is a graduate of St. James' & Lucie Clayton College and Keele University in the United Kingdom, Emeritus Institute of Management, Singapore – and an Associate Alumni of University of Cambridge (Judge Business School), United Kingdom. Ms Jayawardena was the youngest intern to work under US Senator Hilary Rodham Clinton and the Former US President Bill Clinton in 2003; and was appointed as the Sri Lankan Ambassador for EY NextGen Club from 2017 to 2019.

Ms Jayawardena was an award recipient at the Global CEO Leadership Excellence Awards 2024. The Global CEO Awards ceremony honoured 50 top-tier CEOs and their teams who met the challenges successfully in turbulent times.



**Mr Dhananath Fernando**  
**Chief Executive Officer, Advocata Institute**

Dhananath (a.k.a. Dhana) is currently the CEO of Advocata, an economic policy think tank in Sri Lanka, where he is a founder member. Advocata was ranked as the best upcoming think tank in 2017 and 2018 at the “Global Go to Think Tank Index” by University of Pennsylvania. Advocata report on “SOE’S in Sri Lanka: Beyond “Profit and Losses” made the list of best policy study reports by a think tank across the world in 2019. In 2022 Advocata won the Asia Liberty Award and the prestigious Templeton Freedom Award.

Prior to founding Advocata, Dhananath worked as an Associate Research Director at Breakthrough Business Intelligence, a leading market research agency in Sri Lanka. He read for his Bachelor’s degree in Bio Sciences and Bio Chemistry at the University of Colombo and is an Eisenhower global fellow and a member of Asia Society. He has provided commentary on Sri Lanka’s economy in BBC, Bloomberg, Al Jazeera and many international media.

He was the winner of the “Asian Think Tank Shark Tank Competition - 2018” in Jakarta, and a finalist for the “Think Tank Shark Tank Global Competition” in New York in 2019.

Dhananath is also a curator and founding member of AK Lit Fest, a trilingual literary festival dedicated to showcasing local authors. He is also a member of Safety Advisory Council in South Asia for Tik Tok. In his social responsibilities, Dhananath works with ‘people in need’ by volunteering with CandleAid Lanka, a government approved humanitarian organisation.

Dhananath is an enthusiastic mountain climber and a trekker. He completed the Everest Base Camp in May 2018 and the Chardar Trek (one of the wildest treks based on a ranking by CNN), a frozen river at the Indian-Tibetan border in 2017.



# Sri Lanka **Economic Summit**

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

# Session 3

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### **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.*

1330 – 1500 hrs  
DAY 2 (Wednesday, 29th January 2025)



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

Parima is a Senior Manager in Deloitte Thailand's Tax & Legal practice, based in Bangkok. She joined Deloitte Thailand in 2024. Prior to joining Deloitte, Parima worked at the Ministry of Commerce for 15 years covering a wide range of international and domestic trade at the Department of Trade Negotiations, the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the WTO in Geneva, and the Department of Internal Trade.

Some of her significant works included trade disputes under the WTO, FTA negotiations, customs valuation, agricultural trade, intensive work relating to passing the new Competition Act of Thailand in 2017. She was also seconded to the Office of the Prime Minister for a year and

had worked on laws and regulations under other non-trade Thai agencies, e.g. the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation and Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning. After her tenure in the government, she worked as a corporate lawyer at a real-estate holding company for two years.

She obtained her Master of Law (LL.M.) from Georgetown University Law Center (USA), Juris Doctor (J.D) from Case Western Reserve University School of Law (USA), as well as Bachelor of Laws from Thammasat University (Thailand). She also had Bachelor of Science in Economics from Duke University (USA).



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

Ms Jayasundara is a special grade officer of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service. She is the Commonwealth Excellence Award Winner for the Government Performance Management and Measurement of 2021. Previously she worked as the Secretary of the Ministry of Industries as the first lady Secretary of its history. She also worked as the Secretary to the Ministry of Education. Formerly she was the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, State Ministry of Minor Crops Development and Export Promotion and was the Director General of the Department of Public Enterprises of the Ministry of Finance, while working simultaneously as the First Lady

Chairperson of the Independent Television Network (ITN). She was also the Additional Secretary (Development and Planning) of the Ministry of Finance and Mass Media.

Ms Jayasundara was the Former Director (Industry) of the Asian Productivity Organization Tokyo, Japan, and worked as the APO Head of the National Productivity Organization for Sri Lanka for almost ten years. She was the first Non-Japanese Director (Industry) of the APO in its fifty-six-year history.

She holds a B.Sc. (SriJ), PGDIT (SLIIT), MPA (SriJ), and has many international and national experiences in the Productivity Promotion Movement. Ms. Jayasundara has specialized in the areas of Project Management, Productivity Promotion, Public Policy/Administration, General Management, Human Resource Management, Planning and Monitoring, Strategic Management, Leadership, Knowledge Management, Lean Management, Green Productivity, Public Sector Performance Measurement and Management, Service Innovation and Human Centered Productivity etc.



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

Suren is the Group Chief Executive Officer of MAS Holdings (Pvt) Ltd. Counting over 25 years with MAS, Suren was previously the Chief Transformation Officer of MAS Holdings, overseeing MAS' 2025 transformation. He was also the CEO of MAS Intimates, the largest division of MAS Holdings. Among the many roles within the Organization, he also functioned in the capacity of Chief Operating Officer of MAS Intimates in 2014.

Suren holds a BSc. in Engineering from the University of Moratuwa and is a Fellow Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK. He has received extensive overseas business exposure and training, including Executive Education at Wharton

Business School, University of Pennsylvania, INSEAD Business School, Ashridge Business School, Henley School of Management, University of Waikato in New Zealand, and Harvard Business School (Program for Leadership Development).

He was bestowed the Silver award for CIMA Business Manager of the Year in 2004 and adjudged winner (Gold Award) of the Chief Financial Officer of the Year, 2007, at the CIMA Janashakthi Pinnacle Awards.

Suren is an Independent Non-Executive Director at John Keells Holdings PLC, he is also a member of the board of directors at World Vision Sri Lanka, a non-profitable relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.



**Mr Rajitha Kariyawan**  
**Executive Director, Hayleys Group &**  
**Managing Director, Haycarb**

Rajitha Kariyawan is a member of the Hayleys Group Management Committee and the Main Board of Hayleys PLC.

He currently serves as the Managing Director of Haycarb PLC (Purification Products Sector) and Deputy Chairman of Dipped Products PLC and Hayleys Fibre Plc, two other key export manufacturing sectors of Hayleys Plc. and is a member of the Board of Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (Private) Ltd., (SLINTEC) representing Hayleys.

Mr Kariyawan holds a BSc Engineering (Electronics and Telecommunications) from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Fellow Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK. (FCMA/CGMA). Also he is a Six Sigma (Continuous Improvement Methodology) Black Belt, certified by the Motorola University, Malaysia.

Before joining Hayleys, he held the position of Director/General Manager of Ansell Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, a leading multi-national manufacturing operation in Sri Lanka in the export of surgical & industrial gloves. He has served as the Chairman of the Manufacturing Association of Export Processing Zone, Biyagama too.

Mr Kariyawan has a vast experience in export manufacturing industry and in international B2B marketing. He is passionate in developing successful teams in the direction on value addition and organic growth. Has shared the knowledge at many forums/panels and has been a guest lecturer in many University and Professional events. He is a nature lover, passionate on wild life photography as a pastime.



**Mr Yohan Lawrence**  
**Secretary General, JAAF and Chairman, EASL**

Educated in Sri Lanka and the UK, Yohan is an accomplished and results driven business head with a proven track record of 20 years in high level positions in management of apparel businesses and last 4 years with the apex body for the apparel industry in Sri Lanka.

He holds a B.Sc (Econ) from University College of London, and an MBA from Middlesex University also in the UK. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute of the UK.

After 10 years of manufacturing experience in Sri Lanka, he moved to the UK for his MBA. On returning to Sri Lanka he spent just shy of 20 years working for international apparel manufacturing companies in Sri Lanka. During this time, he was Chairman of the Sri Lanka Apparel Exporters Association, and Vice Chairman of the Joint Apparel Association Forum (JAAF) the apex body for the industry.

In 2021, he left the manufacturing side of the industry and took on the role of Secretary General to JAAF. He also works on a consultancy basis with companies in the export sector across a range of functions.

Very well networked through positions held at Joint Apparel Association Forum, National Labour Advisory Committee, Wages Board, Sri Lanka Apparel Exporters Association and Export Development Board.

Board Member of the Sri Lanka Institute of Textile and Apparel and current Chairman of the Exporters Association of Sri Lanka.



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# 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.*

1530 – 1730 hrs

DAY 2 (Wednesday, 29th January 2025)



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

Dr Harshana Suriyapperuma, a fellow member of CIMA-UK, former fellow member of ACCA-UK, CPA-Australia & Associate member of CIM-UK, has a MBA from PIM of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. He earned his PhD from the Management & Science University of Malaysia. He has over 30 years of experience in three continents (Africa, Australia & Asia). He worked as a director at the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC) for nearly a decade. He headed the 'World Bank Doing Business Ranking' in Capital markets segment in SL for several years and significantly advanced Sri Lanka's ranking from the 74th position to the 28th position (ahead of the USA) and it is the only Sri Lankan agency with a global ranking among the

world's best 30 countries. Corporate Governance is an area of his expertise where he headed the task force on Corporate Governance at the SEC. He is a member of the advisory Committee on Corporate Governance of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka during 2015, 2023, & 2024 which publishes the only recognized code applicable to businesses on Corporate Governance in Sri Lanka.

He served as a member of National Standards Committee on Quality Assurance and Accreditation for Private Universities & Higher Education Institutions in Sri Lanka. Since moving out from the Govt service in 2021 he served as the Chief Operating Officer & Director of an investment management company in Sri Lanka.

His alma mater was Royal College Colombo. He is a member of the NPP Economic Council.



**Mr Chaturanga Abeysinghe**  
**Hon Deputy Minister of Industry**  
**and Entrepreneurship Development**

Chaturanga Abeysinghe obtained his BSc. Finance (Special) from University of Sri Jayewardenepura Sri Lanka and also is an Associate Member of CIMA UK since 2012.

He has 8 years of industry experience in Finance, Operations and IT with a pivotal shift in his career to domain of Data in 2013.

He successfully established the Talent analytics function in a Leading Sri Lankan Multinational and gave leadership to setting up a Data Science team and data infrastructure as the Lead Data Evangelist in the same Organization

He Joined National People's power executive committee in 2021 and moved to fulltime politics in 2024. He was elected to Parliament of Sri Lanka in 2024 from Colombo District. Now he serves as the Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development in Government of Sri Lanka.



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

Arjuna Herath is a corporate leader with an extensive career spanning over three decades, marked by notable contributions to both the public and private sectors. Currently, he serves as the Chairman of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka and on the Board of the Colombo Stock Exchange.

Having recently retired as Senior Partner and Head of Consulting at Ernst & Young (Sri Lanka and Maldives), he has a wealth of experience advising clients across a wide range of industries on matters including capital markets, investment mobilization, corporate restructuring, governance, technology, and performance improvement. The inaugural Chairman of the Data Protection Authority of Sri Lanka, Mr Herath is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (ICASL), and served in numerous esteemed roles in internationally accredited organizations.

Mr Herath was the founding Chief Executive Officer of Nepal Sri Lanka Merchant Bank Ltd in Nepal where he was responsible for rolling out the Sri Lankan investment in Nepal and building the bank's operations from the ground up.

His corporate career is complemented by a strong academic background with both a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Master of Arts in Financial Economics from the University of Colombo, as well as an MBA from the University of Strathclyde in UK.



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

Mangala is an accomplished leader with over 25 years of senior management experience across diverse sectors. Currently, he is serving as the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Export Development Board of Sri Lanka and the Chief Operating Officer at Brown & Company PLC, with a proven track record of transforming loss-making ventures into profitable enterprises.

His expertise lies in managing, complex business operations and driving strategic initiatives to achieve operational excellence. His leadership experience spans sectors including Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals, Consumer Electronics, Integrated Engineering Products, Lubricants, and Telecommunications, with an extensive experience managing a global network of international suppliers, ensuring efficiency and profitability.

His corporate excellence is backed by a stellar academic record. He obtained his Bachelor's in Economics at the University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Sri Lanka and a Master in Business Administration (MBA) from the UK. He is also a Chartered Professional Manager (CPM).





**Ms Kasturi C Wilson**  
**Board Member, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce**

Kasturi Angela Wilson is the Chief Operating Officer (Head of APAC) of 5hour International Corporation and is a corporate leader with a rich and diverse career spanning over three decades. Prior to this she was the Group CEO of Hemas Holdings PLC from October 2020 to March 2024 driving growth during the toughest period of the history of Sri Lanka. Notably, she made history as the first female Group CEO of a listed conglomerate in Sri Lanka when she was appointed as Group CEO for Hemas Holdings PLC in 2020.

She is an alumna of Harvard Business School and is a Fellow of Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA).

Beginning her professional journey 1988 as an Audit Trainee at Someswaran Jayawickrema and Co (now Deloitte), Kasturi swiftly rose through the ranks to hold pivotal roles at Hemas Holdings PLC, which she joined in 2002. With her strategic acumen and operational expertise, she spearheaded key businesses within the organization, including Hemas Pharmaceuticals, Surgicals, and Diagnostics and Hemas Mobility Sector.

Beyond her corporate endeavors, Kasturi is recognized for her contributions to various industry

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