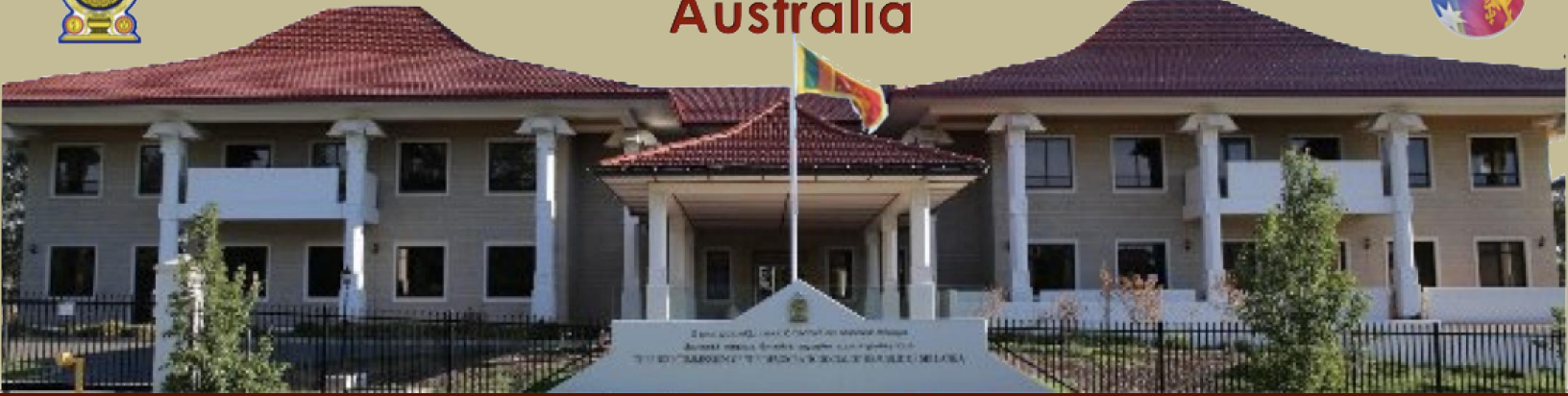




High Commission of Sri Lanka in Canberra Australia



Newsletter

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Presenting Sri Lanka at the Annual Winter Lunch in Canberra



Sri Lanka High Commissioner Chitranganee Wagiswara was invited as the guest speaker at the Annual Winter Lunch organized by the Royal Commonwealth Society, Canberra on 25 August 2024 at the Rama's Fiji Indian Restaurant. The President and the members of the Royal Commonwealth Society (ACT), officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs and professionals in various fields were among the guests.

The High Commissioner in her remarks spoke briefly on the history of Sri Lanka, the present developments in the country and opportunities in the trade and investment sectors in Sri Lanka. She also invited the guests to visit Sri Lanka highlighting the tourism attractions in the country and highlighted the fact that over sixty thousand Australians visited Sri Lanka as tourists up to August 2024. The discussion continued with a Q&A session and some guests spoke about their visit to Sri Lanka and shared their experiences and beautiful attraction of the country.

Tourism brochures and Ceylon tea were distributed to guests at the end of the event.

The Royal Commonwealth Society (ACT) is a branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society in London, the oldest civil society organization in the world.

The Royal Commonwealth Society (ACT) was established in 1958 in Canberra.

The Staff of the Sri Lanka High Commission joined Vassana Dhamma Sermon



The High Commissioner and the staff of the Sri Lanka High Commission in Canberra joined with the Sri Lankan community in Vassana Dhamma Sermon at the Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara, Canberra, held on 03 August 2024.

Indian Ocean Defence and Security 2024 (IODS-24) Conference



Indian Ocean Defence and Security 2024 (IODS-24) Conference was held from 24 to 26 July 2024 at Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Western Australia. Captain Lanka Dissanayake, Counsellor (Defence) of this Mission attended the Conference.

This conference entitled “Where AUKUS meets Quad”, since Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States are exploring opportunities in developing joint advanced military capabilities under the AUKUS partnership. Meanwhile, the growing strategic importance of the Indian Ocean brings focus to Australia’s role within the Quad diplomatic partnership, between Australia, India, Japan and the United States.

Many senior Australian and international government, defence and industry leaders gathered to explore these critical geopolitical interests.

The conference and international industry exhibition highlighted challenges and opportunities for international engagement, and discussed how industry may support diplomacy, defence and security policy in the region.

Cassandra Fernando, Member of the Australian Federal Parliament shared her story in Youth Dialogue 2024



Cassandra Fernando, Member of Australian Federal Parliament and Chair of Australia- Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group shared her life story and her success at the Youth Dialogue 2024 virtually on 21 of August 2024.

Youth Dialogue 2024: "Click to Progress: Youth for a Smarter Sri Lanka" was organized by the Office for Overseas Sri Lankan Affairs (OOSLA).

OOSLA established in 2023 under the patronage of Sri Lankan President to serve as the focal point for coordination with all relevant parties to ensure that overseas Sri Lankans receive timely, efficient services and to open doors for their support as important participants in Sri Lanka’s development and reconciliation.

The International Day of Friendship 2024



The Embassy of Paraguay in Australia and the Office of the Government Whip in the House of Representatives, Mr David Smith MP organized an event to celebrate the International Day of Friendship 2024 on Monday 12 August 2024 at the Parliament House, Canberra

Sri Lankan food were served to the invited guests including

Members of Parliament, Heads of Missions of the Diplomatic Corps and Spouses in Canberra. The Speaker of the House of Representatives Milton Dick visited the stall.

Counsellor (Defence) called-on Acting Deputy Chief of Royal Australian Navy



Captain Lanka Dissanayake, Counsellor (Defence) of this Mission officially called-on Commodore Eric Young, Acting Deputy Chief of Royal Australian Navy on 14 August 2024 at the Russel Office.

Discussions mainly focused on Defence Cooperation between the Sri Lanka Navy and the Australian Navy, the ongoing collaborative efforts with the Australian authorities and the Sri Lanka Navy pertaining to Maritime Domain Awareness. The opportunities for training and joint exercises with the Australian Defence Forces were also discussed. Following the discussion, the mementos were exchanged to mark this occasion.

Changes in the High Commission Staff

Ms. Sumudu Yatiwella, Attaché of this Mission and Ms. Maheshika Wickramaratne Accounts Officer of this Mission left Canberra after completion of their tenure.

Ms. Gihani Jayasiri assumed duties on 28 August 2024 and serves as the Attaché of this Mission.

Mr. Lakshitha Wickramage, ended his tenure as the Receptionist of this Mission. Ms. Pethmi Munindradasa is working as the Receptionist on a casual basis with effect from 01 of September 2024, until the arrival of the successor from Colombo.

Important Notice

The online visa application implemented through the visa web portal www.srilankaevisa.lk has been deactivated with immediate effect.

Until further notice, all applicants should follow the details below when applying for a visa: (You must hold a passport valid for a minimum period of six months from the date you arrive in Sri Lanka)

1. Visit Visa (30 Days Single Entry)

Available on arrival at the port of entry.

Special Note: Nationals from Afghanistan, Syria, Ghana, Nigeria, Pakistan, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, North Korea, and Myanmar can apply for a visa from the Head Office of the Department of Immigration and Emigration by sending a representative who is residing in Sri Lanka.

2. Visa-Free Countries

Nationals of China, India, Indonesia, Russia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Japan have the facility to obtain a visa free of charge with effect from 01 October 2024

3. Transit Visa

Can be applied through the following link:

<https://eservices.immigration.gov.lk/TransitVisa/>

Proposal for IT Business Collaboration Between Sri Lanka and Australia



A delegation led by Mr. A. K. R. Alawatta, Additional Secretary (Administration), Ministry of Technology, Sri Lanka paid a courtesy call on the High Commissioner and discussed the needs to have business collaboration in the IT sector with Australia for the benefit of two countries.

Janaka Geekiyanage from the Ministry of Technology, Indaka Raigama from iTelaSoft and Dr. Mahendra Samarawickrama, Director - Centre for Sustainable AI A Committee Member of the Presidential Committee of Sri Lankan AI Strategy accompanied the delegation.