

CNCI NEWS BULLETIN

The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries - CNCI

No. 20, 1st Floor, Galle Face Court 02, Colombo 03

TP : +94 112452181 / 2339200/ 2331444 | Fax: 112331443

email : cnci@slt.lk | po@cnci.lk | thecnci@gmail.com | Web: www.cnci.lk



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Sri Lanka-China FTA offers higher gains to Sri Lankan exports

The Sri Lanka-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will result in higher gains for Sri Lankan exports compared to products imported from China which are already entering the country duty free, local media reported Saturday, quoting a recent study.

The study, carried out by the Economics Research Team of Verite Research, noted that the FTA would contain opportunities that could benefit Sri Lanka in its trade with China and help improve Sri Lankan exporters' access to the Chinese markets if the FTA leads to a reduction of tariffs.



“Several other countries are in the process of negotiating market access through FTAs. Exports from these countries accounted for 33% of China’s total imports in 2016,” the research said. Sri Lanka and China decided to enter into a Free Trade Agreement in August 2013 to further expand trade between the two countries.

Sri Lankan International Trade Minister Malik Samarawickrema said here last week that talks on the FTA between Sri Lanka and China were progressing smoothly and the two sides hoped to sign it soon.

He said the FTA would result in a win-win situation. Sri Lankan exports to China in recent years have recorded a six-fold increase but remain low compared to other South Asian countries.

Source : daily ft. dated 4th June 2018



CSE says Lankan equities attracting interest of wider International Audience

The Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) said on 29th May that investment flows from the Scandinavian region to the Sri Lankan stock market had made a noteworthy improvement in recent years with a 39% per annum (CAGR) since 2013.

It said the Rs. 2.4 billion in foreign purchases recorded from Sweden so far in 2018 marked a new high for investment flows into the stock market from the country, where the inflows recorded within the first five months of the year have bettered the previous high of Rs. 1.6 billion recorded in 2014.

Scandinavian countries have collectively invested Rs. 8.2 billion in local equities in 2018 YTD, 23% of the total foreign purchases during the period.

Foreign purchases originating from Norway also most recently recorded an all-time high, with Rs. 7.6 billion worth of purchases, establishing a new record

in 2017, during a year which established new all-time yearly foreign purchase records for 11 countries.

Commenting on emerging investment flows from non-traditional markets, the CSE Head of Market Development, Niroshan Wijesundere, said: "The stock market has seen encouraging foreign investor interest since 2017, particularly from traditional markets. The emergence of non-traditional segments, such as the Scandinavian region in particular, offers further encouragement and highlights the value proposition the market offers at present and its ability to attract the interest of investors from around the world."

"The sustainable way forward for the Sri Lankan stock market is to consolidate foreign investment strongholds while also actively pursuing new countries that are indicating positive investment trends in Sri Lanka, and this is set to be a main focus in our international investment promotion strategy going forward," Wijesundere added.

Source :daily ft dated 30th May 2018

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Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission accredited 'A' status

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) has accredited the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) with 'A' status, HRCSL announced.

HRCSC Commissioner Ambika Sathkunanadan announced on Twitter that HRCSL has been re-accredited with 'A' status by Global Allia fNHRIs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, congratulating HRCSL, said the Government would continue to support the important and challenging mandate of the Commission in safeguarding, promoting and protecting the human rights of all citizens.

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka is an independent Commission which was set up to promote and protect human rights in the country. The GANHRI accredits 'A' status to member national human rights institutions (NHRIs) which are in full compliance with the United Nations Paris Principles, which provide the international benchmarks against which NHRIs can be accredited. NHRIs with 'A' status are entitled to become voting members and to hold governance positions at GANHRI.

Source : www.ft.lk dated 30th May 2018

Govt. to unveil 'Digital Economic Strategy' soon

The Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) Chairman Prof. Rohan Samarajiva last Thursday (6th June) tipped that the Government is all set to announce a digital economic strategy in the next couple of weeks.

"The Government has come up with a digital economic strategy, a very well-considered, broadly consulted digital strategy." It will be announced in the next few weeks, he said delivering the keynote address at the National Chamber of Exporters (NCE).

The event was organised ICT Forum titled 'Information technology and its role in the modern organisation held in Colombo yesterday.

He said the digital economic strategy will announce major initiatives that will focus on major export sectors of Sri Lanka.

"In the digital economic strategy we are looking beyond silos, we are looking at IT and BPM as integral part of the key verticals and key exports of the country. I think is very progressive initiative and a policy we can be proud of," he emphasized.

run fast even to remain in place. "We have to keep moving up the value chain. All over the world, Governments and companies are thinking of verticals and not as IT and BPM."

Prof. Samarajiva highlighted that 250 companies were supported under ICTA industry development program last year, while 94 of those have been supported to access foreign markets, hired 27 business development consultants for companies, assisted 75 companies to access to Australian market, In addition, 25 startups have been given exposure in Singapore and in Spain

In a rapidly changing environment and industry, he said it was critical for the companies to focus and .

Source : Daily ft dated 07th June 2018



Are you breathing plastic air at home? Here's how microplastics are polluting our lungs

Research shows that many of the microplastics in our bodies come from the air we breathe – not just from drinking bottled water or eating fish from polluted oceans. Due to their small size, microplastics can be inhaled and may induce a wide range of diseases including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, as well as cancer.

More than 300 million tons of plastic are produced each year. Half of that plastic becomes trash in less than a year. Out of the plastics produced, only 9 percent is recycled; the remaining 91 percent enters the air, land and water as waste. Parts end up in our lungs. And they stay in the lung tissue or enter the blood stream as the body is not able to rid itself of the tiny plastic particles. Babies who crawl on the floor are the most vulnerable, and children more generally are most at risk as their respiratory systems are still under development.

Concentration of airborne microplastics higher in indoor air

Microplastics have been found in both indoor and outdoor air. However, the concentration in indoor air is higher than outdoors, according to research presented in 2018 by École Nationales des Ponts et Chaussées.

Microplastics in the indoor air result from the fragmentation through friction, heat or light of plastic objects found in our homes. These include toys, furniture, plastic bags, cosmetics, toothpaste and scrubs. Showering with a body scrub alone may flush 100,000 microplastic beads into the wastewater system and on into the air, says the Environmental Audit Committee in Britain, which banned microbead use in January 2018, following the lead of the US, Canada and New Zealand. The majority of microplastics found in the indoor air, however, comes from plastic fibres released from synthetic clothing and textiles used in home furnishings. These microplastic fibres tend to be longer and therefore more harmful when inhaled. Today, synthetic materials such as acrylic, nylon, polyester, make up some 60 percent of global textile production.

When washing these textiles, microplastic fibers are released and end up in the wastewater due to lack of good filtration. Washing a fleece jacket, for instance, releases up to 250,000 microplastic fibers into the wastewater, according to a 2016 study by the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at the University of California Santa Barbara. Sadly, most wastewater treatment facilities do not have filters to remove microplastics from so-called 'treated water either.

High human health risks

The full health effects of breathing microplastics are not yet entirely understood. But research proves that the threat to human health is high. Once inhaled, these tiny particles go into



the deep lungs where they may induce lesions in the respiratory systems. The smallest particles can also pass into the bloodstream and cause cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, induce cancer and affect the human immune and nervous system. Microplastics found in lung tissue indicate that the body is not able to rid itself of all particles – i.e. that the microplastics are bio-persistent.

Airborne microplastics may also carry other toxic pollutants found in the air, from bacteria to traffic emissions, into the bloodstream from the lungs.

Children most at risk

Children are more active and breathe more rapidly than adults, taking in more air in relation to their body weights. This makes them more vulnerable. Children are also more at risk as their respiratory system are still developing.

Babies and toddlers spend more time playing on the floor, where microplastics settle in the form of dust. Moreover, small children play with, and may even chew on plastic toys, putting them at a higher risk. Researchers studying Tehran's urban dust found that children may swallow as many as 3,200 plastic particles a year. A baby's first exposure to these particles may, however, already take place before birth, as microplastics have been found in the placenta.

More research is needed to better understand the impact of airborne pollution on human health. In December 2017, the United Nations signed a resolution to stop the flow of plastic waste into the oceans. Its next – and perhaps greater – challenge is to persuade member nations to sign a new resolution to stop the flow of plastic waste into the air.

(Kevin Luo PhD, Particle Deposition in the Human Respiratory System, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden @BlueairGlobe)

Source : *Daily Mirror* Dated 07th June 2018

Seminar on New Inland Revenue Act *Application & effects to Private sector* On 15th May 2018



Seminar on *Customs Procedures with Economic impact & Documentation on Imports & Exports* On 24th May 2018





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Applications Closing date extended to 15th June 2018

Who can apply ?

- All Eligible Sri Lankan Industrial (Manufacturing / Service) Sector Enterprises.
- All Eligible Sri Lankan Industrial (Manufacturing / Service) Sector Enterprises Operating in SAARC Countries.
- All Eligible SAARC Country specific Industrial (Manufacturing / service) Sector Enterprises, recommended by the Chambers of Industries / Commerce in respective SAARC Countries.

Classification and Eligibility Criteria

Category	Manufacturing Net turnover /Investment (LKR) (whichever is higher)	Service Turnover (LKR)	Eligibility
Micro	Up to 5 Mn.	Up to 10 Mn.	To be engaged in Business for 3 years.
Small	>5 Mn. to 100 Mn.	>10 Mn to 100 Mn.	
Medium	>100 Mn. to 250 Mn.	>100 Mn. to 250 Mn.	
Large	>250 Mn. to 400 Mn.	>250 Mn. to 700 Mn.	To be engaged in Business for 4 years.
Ex - Large	>400 Mn.	>700 Mn.	

For Applications and details , Please contact :

The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries - CNCI
No.20 , 1st Floor , Galle Face Court 02,Colombo 03.

TP +94 11 2452181 , 2339200, 2331444 | Fax +94 11 2331443

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Training on MS Excel Advanced Data Analysis

For: Those who are in the fields of IT , Accounts, Finance ,Logistics, Procurement, Inventory Control, Administration and others interested in MS Advanced Excel.



On 19th June 2018
From 9.00am–4.30pm

(Registration starts at 8.30am)

Conducted by:

Mr. Chesmi Kumbalata

M.Sc. In Applied Statistics, Post Graduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya.

Data Analytics Consultant–Shared Knowledge Solutions, Asia Pacific (SKS AP),

Temporary tutor, Department of Information Technology, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce , University of Sri Jayawardenapura

Course will Cover

Basic Introduction to MS Excel & Short cuts

Basic & Advanced Filtering & Sorting

Functions and Formulae for analyzing data

3D

Array

Database

IF , Count IF , Count Ifs

Look up Formulas

Data analysis tools

Goal Seek

Advanced Solver Engines

Pivot Tables

Slicers etc.

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3 to 5 - 5%

6 or More - 10%

Investment

For Members : Rs.8 500/-

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**At
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(Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration)
Malalasekara Mawatha, Colombo 07

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For Registration, Please email to : po@cnci.lk , cnci@slt.lk ,
thecnci@gmail.com

For Further details : please contact : Madhushika or Nilanthi

Tel | 2339200 | 2452181



The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries - CNCI

Apt.No.20,First Floor, Galle Face Court 02, Colombo 03

Phone : 011 2339200 | 2452181 | 2331444 | Fax 0112331443

Email : po@cnci.lk | cnci@slt.lk | thecnci@gmail.com | Web: www.cnci.lk

Seminar on SKILLS FOR GOOD SECRETARIAL PRACTICES



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For Participants,
3 to 5 - 5%
6 or More 10%

Venue / Date / Time

Raja Bojun Seminar Hall.
Liberty Arcade , Colombo 03.
26th June 2018
From 9.00am - 4.30pm
(Registration starts at 8.30am)

Contents

- ◆ Role of a Secretary
- ◆ Handling of Mail and Confidential documents
- ◆ Filing Systems and Boards of Survey
- ◆ Business Writing
- ◆ Agenda , Minutes and Briefs
- ◆ Telephone Ethics
- ◆ Good Communication Practices
- ◆ Interpersonal Relationship
- ◆ Event Co-Ordination

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Conducted By

Abeyrathne Muthugala — *MBA , BMS(sp) , Dip mgt(OUSL) -Qualified Trainer in Office Administration*

For Registration, Please email to : po@cnci.lk , cnci@slt.lk , thecnci@gmail.com

For Further details : please contact : Madhushika or Nilanthi Tel | 2339200 | 2452181



The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries - CNCI

Apt.No.20,First Floor, Galle Face Court 02, Colombo 03

Phone : 011 2339200 | 2452181 | 2331444 | Fax 0112331443

Email : cnci@slt.lk | po@cnci.lk | thecnci@gmail.com | Web: www.cnci.lk

ACL Cables, rank amongst Sri Lanka's top 50 companies

ACL Cable PLC had been recognized amongst Sri Lanka's top 50 companies according to a study conducted by Brands Finance 2018. This is the third consecutive year ACL Cables has received this prestigious ranking which is compiled annually by Brands Finance, the local pioneers for independent brand evaluation and presented by the nation's leading business magazine Lan Marketing Digest (LMD).

Earning further kudos, ACL Cables is also the only cable manufacturing company to be ranked amongst the Top 50 companies for three consecutive years. Additionally, the company has earned further esteem securing its position as the 3rd valuable consumer brand in the building material industry. ACL Cables has also been ranked 45th among the overall evaluation of the top Lanka companies. The evaluation model follows a seven-step process, beginning with identifying the top performing brands among companies listed on the Colombo Stock Exchange.

The strength of a brand is determined through the developed Brand Strength Index (BSI). Further analysis into the brand is through its brand investment, brand equity and finally the impact on business performance.

The above analysis for each brand is assigned a BSI score out of 100 which is then processed into the brand value calculation. Based on the score each brand in the league table is assigned a rating between 'AAA+' to 'D'. The brand valuation approach is calculated through a league table using the 'Royalty Relief' approach.

Commenting on achieving this milestone, ACL Cables PLC Managing Director Suren Madanayake said, "This is a remarkable achievement of hard work and dedication of proper brand building. We focused on smart brand investment options throughout the past few years that gave us the opportunity to ascend on our overall brand strength and maintain our consistency to achieve what we have today. I would also like to thank all our business partners, consumers and stakeholders for believing in us and making ACL Cables the No.1 cable in Sri Lanka."

He added, "We also focus on continuous innovation and expansion of our product portfolio as measures to strengthen the overall brand health. This enables our consumers to have a one-stop solution for all their electrical building requirements. We initially began manufacturing cables and since then have moved into AC switches and sockets, ceiling fans, low voltage switches (breakers, trip switches, etc.), and many other electrical accessories. Our latest product launch is ACL Elegance, the modular type of switches and sockets which is already winning customer acclaim."

As the No. 1 Cable company in Sri Lanka, ACL Cables holds 70% market share with revenue over Rs.15 billion as a group.



**Mr. Suren Madanayake -
Managing Director**

Source : www.Daily.ft.lk dated 28th May 2018

Exchange Rates 30th May 2018

Currency	Buying Rate(LKR)	Selling Rate(LKR)
Australian Dollar	118.5570	123.2928
Canadian Dollar	120.3997	124.6460
Swiss Franc	157.3603	163.0469
Renminbi	24.1662	25.2610
Euro	182.0749	188.1216
British Pound	207.6155	213.9290
Yen	1.4171	1.4668
Singapore Dollar	161.7816	120.5387
UD Dollar	156.7213	159.8165

Source : www.cbsl.gov.lk/exchange-rates

Economic Indicators

	Last	Reference	Previous	Range	Frequency
GDP Growth Rate	1.4%	Dec/17	3.7	0.5 : 16.1	Quarterly
Unemployment Rate	4%	Dec/17	4.2	3.7 : 16.6	Quarterly
Inflation Rate	4%	May/18	3.8	-0.9 : 28.3	Monthly
Interest Rate	7.25%	May/18	7.25	6 : 10.5	Daily
Balance of Trade	-871USD Million	May/18	-1062	-1101 : -50.1	Monthly
Government Debt to GDP	77.6%	Dec/17	78.8	16.3 : 109	Yearly

Markets	Last	Reference	Previous	Range	Frequency
Currency	158	Jun/18	158	95.6 : 159	Daily
Stock Market	6404 points	Jun/18	6398	42.59 : 7812	Daily

Source : www.tradingeconomics.com/sri-lanka/indicators