



# CNCI NEWS BULLETIN

ISSUE 103

August 2023

## CNCI Office Bearers

Mr. Canisius Fernando  
Chairman

Mr. Kevin Edwards  
Deputy Chairman

Mr. Pradeep Kahawalage  
Vice Chairman

Mr. Shamendra Panditha  
Vice Chairman

Mr. Kasun Rajapaksa  
Vice Chairman

Mr. Mahinda Saranapala  
Vice Chairman

Mr. Amila Sugathapala  
Treasurer

**Secretary General**  
Mr. Samantha Wickramasena

## **CNCI Achiever Awards 2023**

Page 01 ➡

## **EDB Five-Year Grandiose Plan to Increase Country's Exports To USD 31.3 BN By 2027**

Page 02 ➡

## **Sri Lanka Tourism Set to Surpass 900,000 Arrivals Milestone**

Page 03 ➡

## **Inflation Dips To 4.6%: Department of Census And Statistics**

Page 04 ➡

## **Cabinet Approves Draft Bill for New VAT**

Page 04 ➡

## **DFCC Bank Empowers Migrant Workers, Launches Financial Literacy Guide**

Page 06 ➡

## **President Unveils Revenue Authority Plan To Strengthen Tax Collection Process**

Page 07 ➡

## **Upcoming Seminars of CNCI**

Page 09 - 10 ➡

**CNCI Training**

**Unlocking Sustainability: Mastering GHG Gas Inventory with ISO 14064-1**

Date : 07<sup>th</sup> Sep 2023 | 9.00 am - 4.00 pm (Registration starts at 8.30 am) | Hotel Taj Samudra | SEMINAR

## **Exchange Rates As At 31st August 2023 and Sri Lanka Economy Snapshot**

Page 08 ➡

The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries - CNCI  
Training Seminar

**EPF / ETF**  
AN APPROACH TO IMPROVE YOUR COMPANY'S SUCCESS WHILE ENSURING YOUR EMPLOYEES' FUTURE

## **SL External Trade Dips Sharply In 1H 2023**

Page 05 ➡



The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries - CNCI

No.20, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Galle Face Court 2, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka  
Tel: +94 11 2452181 | 2339200 | 2331444 : Fax : +94 11 2331443  
Email : [cneci@sl.lk](mailto:cneci@sl.lk) Web: [www.cneci.lk](http://www.cneci.lk)



<https://www.facebook.com/THCNCI>

## CNCI Achiever Awards 2023



The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries (CNCI) is now in the stage of internal and external judging. What makes this year; the year 2023 remarkable for the CNCI Achiever Awards is the extended number of enthusiastic applicants, looking forward to make their organization reach the peak of industrial excellence.

It is a fact that many organizations of industrial sector in the country have passed a critical period during the past few years in the face of varied issues known to all of us. One significant feature what we observed in our entrepreneurs was that they do not make it a reason to get themselves discouraged or reluctant to participate in this golden opportunity. Instead, they seem to have perceived that the time is invaluable to apply for the CNCI Achiever Awards 2023, exposure of which will result in increasing customer and employee confidence to accelerate their move towards the desired goals.

The Achiever Award application covers 12 operational areas to be filled with data, which will certainly stand about these operational areas and the standards to be maintained for the success of their business. Whether you win an Award or otherwise, what is more important is for you to participate at the competition which certainly guides you to enter into the correct track to reach the business excellence.

## ***EDB Five-Year Grandiose Plan to Increase Country's Exports To USD 31.3 BN By 2027***



The Export Development Board (EDB) of Sri Lanka said yesterday (02) that it is working on a five-year strategic plan to enhance the country's yearly exports to 31.3 billion US dollars by 2027. In addition, the EDB intends to grow Sri Lankan exports to its top ten existing export destinations by 10% each year. The top ten markets are the United States, the United Kingdom, India, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Canada, the United Arab Emirates, Belgium, and France. In addition, the EDB intends to identify 10-15 prospective new markets and raise Sri Lanka's market share in these areas by 5% every year. According to the EDB, exports would be enhanced through pushing customized value-added products and services at premium pricing to recognized niche markets.

The EDB was founded in 1979 and will celebrate its 44th anniversary on August 1, 2023. Earnings from exports reached 13 billion US dollars for the first time in 2022, a 4.9 percent rise from the previous peak in 2021.

Source: The Island – 03 August 2023





## ***Sri Lanka Tourism Set to Surpass 900,000 Arrivals Milestone***

Sri Lanka Tourism is set to surpass the 900,000 arrivals milestone by tomorrow, coinciding with the 16th Edition of the Asia Cup. During the first 27 days of August, the country welcomed 123,285 tourists, bringing the year-to-date arrivals to 891,198. This marks the largest influx of tourists to Sri Lanka in three years. India remains the single largest source market in August, followed by the UK, China, Germany, and Russia. China has shown remarkable progress in terms of YTD basis, highlighting the growing appeal of Sri Lanka's offerings among Chinese travelers. The Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) will unveil its Global Promotional Roadmap at the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management. The focus on delivering exceptional experiences aligns with the broader vision of achieving sustainable growth within the tourism sector.



Source: DailyFT – 29th August 2023

## ***Inflation Dips to 4.6%: Dept. of Census And Statistics***

Sri Lanka's National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) inflation decreased to 4.6% in July, from 10.8% in June. Food category inflation dropped to negative 2.5%, while non-food group inflation decreased to 10.9%. Central Bank Economic Research Department Director P. K. G. Harischandra predicts further inflation fall in August 2023 and stabilization between 4% and 6%. Sri Lanka's inflation has been steadily

decreasing since September 2022 when it reached 73.7%.



Source: The Island, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023

## ***Cabinet Approves Draft Bill for New VAT***

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved revising the Value Added Tax Act No. 14 of 2002, which will abolish the Simplified Value Added Tax (SVAT) methodology from 1 January 2024. The move aims to boost tax receipts by eliminating tax exemptions and abolishing the SVAT methodology. The move comes despite protests from exporters against the abolition of SVAT, which allowed imports of inputs without VAT. Several items currently exempt from VAT will be eliminated to boost tax revenue by 1.2% of GDP. However, health,

education, agriculture, and low-income families will not be excluded. The International Monetary Fund's extended funding facility (EFF) recommends two major changes to the VAT: eliminating most exemptions, revising the VAT scheme, and discontinuing the SVAT approach. During the six months ending June 2023, the government revenue and grants increased to Rs. 1,317 trillion, while non-tax revenue decreased to Rs. 116 billion.

Source: -Daily FT - 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023

## ***SL External Trade Dips Sharply In 1H 2023***

Sri Lanka's external trade experienced a sharp decline in the first half of 2023, with cumulative export earnings decreasing by 10% YoY to \$5.87 billion and import expenditure declining by 18.6% YoY to \$8.16 billion. The trade deficit narrowed to \$2.89 billion, a significant improvement from the \$3.5 billion recorded in 2022. The Central Bank noted that export earnings declined by 19.5% YoY to just over \$1 billion in June 2023, reflecting the high base in June 2022. However, import expenditure increased by 11.6% YoY to \$1.36 billion in June 2023, supported by the low base in June 2022.

The largest intermediate goods category of imports saw a 7.3% YoY increase to \$875.4 million, while imports of building materials and transportation equipment recorded a decline.

The Central Bank noted that industrial goods declined in June 2023 due to a broad-based decline in earnings from most industrial products, mainly garments. Exports of garments to major markets continued to record declines, while rubber products, petroleum products, food, beverages, tobacco, printing industry products, and animal fodder also declined.

Source: - Daily News - 1st August, 2023



Source: - Daily News, 1st August 2023



## ***DFCC Bank Empowers Migrant Workers, Launches Financial Literacy Guide***

DFCC Bank has launched a new Financial Literacy guide titled "Is this Every Sri Lankan Migrant Worker's Story?" to empower migrant workers in Sri Lanka. The guide, spearheaded by DFCC Bank PLC's Remittances Department, aims to create awareness about financial literacy and educate migrant workers on the advantages of remitting money through legitimate channels. The



guide aims to contribute to increased foreign currency inflows to the country and help migrant workers secure their financial futures better. DFCC Bank CEO Thimal Perera believes that the guide will become a trusted guide for financial planning and investment decisions, helping migrant workers secure their financial future and support their loved ones back home. Senior Vice President of Offshore Banking, Remittances and Business Development Anton Arumugam emphasized the importance of the initiative, stating that migrant workers play a vital role in supporting the economy and society. The guide will also be facilitated by the regional offices of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment. The guide was launched at a special ceremony at the DFCC Bank Head Office, with the patronage of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment and Assistant General Manager for Corporate Affairs L. A. P. K. Liyanwala.

## President Unveils Revenue Authority Plan To Strengthen Tax Collection Process

H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe plans to establish a Revenue Authority to address tax loopholes and strengthen the tax collection process to meet fiscal targets. Despite increased tax revenue, the government is falling behind revenue targets under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

by the end of this year, aiming to enhance transparency and reduce corruption. A new Financial Management Act (FMA) is being drafted to manage public finance and expenditure more efficiently, with binding fiscal rules expected to bring fiscal discipline.



The proposed Revenue Authority will separate revenue management and tax administration of key agencies. The government plans to roll out an e-procurement system

Source: Daily Mirror : 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023

## Cartoons



Source:cartoon- Daily FT - 24-08-2023



## EXCHANGE RATES AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2023

Date	Buy Rate (LKR)	Sell Rate (LKR)
Australian Dollar	202.8721	214.0315
Canadian Dollar	231.1421	243.0310
Swiss Franc	356.0016	375.1796
Renminbi	42.4937	45.4451
Euro	342.6382	358.9868
British Pound	399.8580	417.4850
Yen	2.1527	2.2527
Singapore Dollar	232.0936	243.6192
United States Dollar	315.3357	326.9396

Source: <https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/rates-and-indicators/exchange-rates/daily-buy-and-sell-exchange-rates>

## Sri Lanka Economy SNAPSHOT



Source : <https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/sri-lanka-economy-snapshot>

## Upcoming Training Programmes by CNCI

**CNCI Training**



# Unlocking Sustainability: Mastering GHG Gas Inventory with ISO 14064-1

Date : 07<sup>th</sup> Sep 2023

9.00 am - 4.00 pm  
(Registration starts at 8.30 am)

📍 Hotel Taj Samudra

SEMINAR

**“Uncover the secrets of accurate emissions accounting and reporting, paving the path to a greener future. Whether you're a sustainability enthusiast, a business leader, or an environmental professional, this training program is your gateway to understanding, measuring, and mitigating your carbon footprint effectively”**

### Resource Person



**Dr. Lalith N Senaweera**  
Ph.D. (Sri Lanka), Ph.D. (Malaysia),  
Ph.D. (USA)  
Fully qualified Lead Auditor for OH&S,  
QMS, EMS, EnMS and FMS  
Retired Director General / CEO -SLSI  
Former Chairman CAA  
UN Expert - UNFCCC (CDM &J)

### Content

1. Dive Deep into ISO 14064-1 Essential
2. Hands-on Workshops and Case Studies
3. Expert Insights from Industry Trailblazers
4. Networking Opportunities with Fellow Eco-champions
5. Certification of Verification Opinion Upon Completion
6. Q & A

### Investment

For Members : Rs. 12,500/-  
For Non Members : Rs. 13,500/-

### Language

English (Sinhala Interpretation)

### For

Directors, Managers, Executives, Supervisors, Sustainability Enthusiasts,  
Business Leaders, Environmental Professionals & all others interested

### For Registration

Please fill and submit the Google form or email your dully filled registration form to :  
**[cncihrd.training@gmail.com](mailto:cncihrd.training@gmail.com) | [cnciprograms@gmail.com](mailto:cnciprograms@gmail.com) | [cnci@slt.lk](mailto:cnci@slt.lk)**



Organized by :  
THE CEYLON NATIONAL CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES - CNCI  
No. 20, First Floor  
Galle Face Court - 2, Colombo 03

For more Details,  
Contact : Sumudu / Gagani  
011 2339200 / 0112452181 / 0771777115





## Upcoming Training Programmes by CNCI



### The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries - CNCI Training Seminar

# EPF / ETF

## AN APPROACH TO IMPROVE YOUR COMPANY'S SUCCESS WHILE ENSURING YOUR EMPLOYEES' FUTURE

### EPF

- Importance and Objectives of EPF
- Forwarding of EPF contribution and contribution details
- Role of CBSL EPF Department In executing EPF refund payments
- Facilities availed for members/ employers
- Introduction and Objectives of EPF Act
- Obligations of the employer
- Consequences of Non-compliance
- Administrative Framework of EPF
- Maintenance of EPF member accounts
- Payment of Retirement and Pre-retirement benefits

### ETF

- ETF Acts - Introduction and Objectives
- Reckonable total earnings
- Collection of contribution
- Maintenance of member accounts
- Consequences of non-compliance
- Payment of Retirement & Pre-retirement benefits
- ETF Provisions for member benefits
- Obligations of employer
- Recent Developments

### Target Audience:

Directors, CEOs, All Managers, Executives,  
Accountants and All Others Involved In Finance,  
Human Resource Management & Administration



21<sup>ST</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2023



9 AM - 4 PM



HOTEL GALADARI

### RESOURCE PERSONS

**Mr. A.G Upali Thilakarathna**  
Superintendent  
Employees' Provident Fund  
Central Bank of Sri Lanka

**Mr. W. P. M. P. Wijewardhana**  
Assistant Labour Commissioner  
Employees' Provident Fund  
Department of Labour

**Mr. Nihal Prasanna**  
Assistant General Manager  
Employees' Trust Fund

### INVESTMENT

**Members : Rs. 12,500/-**

**Non Members : Rs. 13,500/-**

**Valid Certificate will be Awarded**

## For Registration

Please fill and submit the Google Form or Email your duly filled registration form to:

**[cncihrd.training@gmail.com](mailto:cncihrd.training@gmail.com) | [cnciprograms@gmail.com](mailto:cnciprograms@gmail.com) | [cnci@slt.lk](mailto:cnci@slt.lk)**

Contact For More Details:

**0112 339 200 / 0112 452 181 / 077 1777 115 (Sumudu/ Gagani)**



BANK OF CEYLON



Bankers to the Nation