

AHK SRI LANKA

Monthly Newsletter

OCTOBER 2023
VOLUME 49



**AHK SRI LANKA
INITIATES STRATEGIC
TALKS WITH
OPPOSITION LEADER
FOR ECONOMIC
COLLABORATION**

**GERMAN BUSINESSES
IN SRI LANKA
RECOGNISED AS BEST
WORKPLACES IN SRI
LANKA**

**INSIGHTS FROM
INDUSTRY LEADERS**



Delegation der Deutschen
Wirtschaft in Sri Lanka
Delegation of German Industry
and Commerce in Sri Lanka

 **Partner In Sri Lanka**



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ECONOMIC DATA OF SRI LANKA

Inflation in Sri Lanka

On year-on-year basis, National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) (2021=100) based headline inflation decreased to 0.8 per cent in September 2023 from 2.1 per cent in August 2023. The Food inflation recorded at -5.2 per cent while the Non-Food inflation recorded at 5.9 per cent in September 2023. Furthermore, the NCPI based core inflation decreased to 1.7 per cent in September 2023 from 4.1 per cent in August 2023.



Sri Lanka Trade Statistics

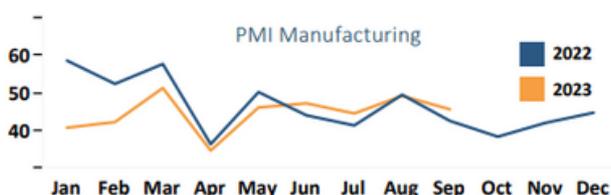
Sri Lanka's merchandise exports increased by 6.98 % to US\$ 1,091.6 Million in August 2023 compared to July 2023 as per the provisional data released by the Sri Lanka Customs. However, it is a 10.91 % decrease when compared to the value recorded in August 2022.

The decline in merchandise exports is due to decreased demand for export products, particularly in sectors such as Apparel & Textiles, Rubber & Rubber-based products, and Coconut & Coconut-based products.

Comparison of Monthly Merchandise Export Performance 2020 – August 2023



Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index



Services Purchasing Managers' Index



EU Trade Statistics

Exports to the European Union (EU) which comprised 21% of Sri Lanka's exports during the month of August 2023 increased by 3.78 % y-o-y to US\$ 252.13 Mn. Further, exports to the European Union (EU) decreased by 18.89 % y-o-y to US\$ 1,872.70 Mn during the period of January to August 2023 compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

During the period of January to August 2023, breakdown of exports to the top five EU markets which accounted for 78 % of Sri Lanka's total exports to the EU were; Germany US\$ 396.3 Mn (decreased by 23.01 %), Italy US\$ 444.86 Mn (increased by 7.39 %), Netherlands US\$ 224.96 Mn (decreased by 17.98 %), Belgium US\$ 150.76 Mn (decreased by 30.04 %) and France US\$ 227.06 Mn. (increased by 27.72 %).

Comparison of Merchandise Export Performance of Top 15 Export Destinations

Values in US\$ Mns

| Region | Jan-Aug 2022 | Jan-Aug 2023 | % Growth (22-23) | Aug 2022 | Aug 2023 | % Growth (22-23) |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| United States | 2,308.75 | 1,872.70 | -18.89 | 320.31 | 252.13 | -21.29 |
| European Union (EU) excluding UK | 2,045.04 | 1,829.15 | -10.56 | 276.03 | 286.47 | 3.78 |
| South Asia | 842.74 | 827.18 | -1.85 | 104.99 | 118.13 | 12.52 |
| ASEAN | 624.23 | 687.49 | 10.13 | 98.76 | 90.40 | -8.46 |
| CIS Countries | 209.95 | 215.65 | 2.71 | 25.56 | 25.22 | -1.33 |
| African Countries | 205.28 | 219.41 | 6.88 | 35.70 | 34.75 | -2.66 |
| Middle East Countries (excl. Cyprus & Egypt) | 149.90 | 165.51 | 10.41 | 26.72 | 19.36 | -27.54 |
| Others | 2,526.23 | 2,166.04 | -14.26 | 337.30 | 265.17 | -21.38 |
| Total Merchandise Exports | 8,912.12 | 7,983.13 | -10.42 | 1,225.37 | 1,091.63 | -10.91 |

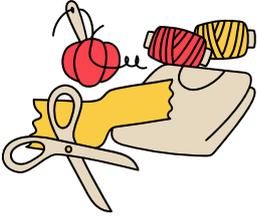
Sri Lanka's Export Performance in Major Markets

Out of top 10 export markets, India, Italy, UAE and France have shown strong performance during the month of August 2023 and the period of January to August 2023 compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

Exports to United States of America, Sri Lanka's single largest export destination, decreased 21.29 % to US\$ 252.13 Mn in August 2023 compared to August 2022. Further, exports to United States of America decreased by 18.89 % to US\$ 1,872.7 Mn in the period of January to August 2023 compared to the same period in 2022.

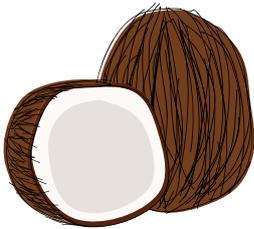
Sri Lankan Global Exports (Source: EDB)

Apparel and Textile Exports



Earnings from export of Apparel & Textile decreased by 18.79 % to US\$ 3,315.56 Mn during the period of January to August 2023 compared to the same period of 2022. Export of Apparel declined by 19.95 % and export of Textiles declined by 4.66 % in January to August 2023.

Coconut-based Exports



For the period of January to August 2023, export earnings from Coconut & Coconut based products decreased by 18.51 % to US\$ 466.67 Mn from the same period last year. Earnings from all the major categories of Coconut based products decreased in the period of January – August 2023 compared with the corresponding period of 2022 due to the poor performance in export of Coconut Oil (-23.17 %), Desiccated Coconut (-32.92 %), Coconut Milk Powder (-9.44 %), Coconut Cream (-17.14 %), Liquid Coconut Milk (-12.01 %), Cocopeat (-16.22 %) and Activated Carbon (-16.83 %).

Rubber-based Exports



In addition, export earnings from Rubber & Rubber finished products decreased by 13.67 % to US\$ 609.26 Mn in January – August 2023 compared with the same period of 2022 attributed to lower exports of Industrial & Surgical Gloves of Rubber (-26.98 %) and Pneumatic & Retreated Rubber Tyres & Tubes (-7.68 %).

Tea Exports



Earnings from export of Tea increased by 6.23 % to US\$ 870.37 Mn was due to the increase of all the sub categories of tea sector except Bulk Tea and Tea Bags. Earnings from Tea packets, Instant Tea, Green Tea and Other Tea increased by 13.71%, 34.61 %, 40.48% and 46.09 % in the period of Jan-Aug 2023.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

UN Calls for Pay Cap for Workers in 'Destructive Industries'

Essential workers in fields like health care and sanitation should earn higher wages, and governments should cap pay in destructive industries like finance trading and fossil fuel excavation. That's the call to action of a new report on the working poor released Friday by the United Nations.

"It is time to flip this injustice on its head," UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Olivier De Schutter, said in a press release.

"Governments should draw up lists of the most socially valuable professions and pay them accordingly, while also listing the professions where pay should be capped to mitigate their harmful side effects."



Germany to Have 5 Billion Euros Extra Budget Leeway in 2024

Germany's federal government will have room to increase net borrowing by around 5 billion euros (\$7.2 billion) next year due to a mechanism that permits additional new debt during an economic downturn.

Finance Minister Christian Lindner had pencilled in net borrowing of 16.6 billion euros for 2024, bringing the federal government's finances back in line with a constitutional limit known as the "debt brake" after it was suspended during the pandemic and the energy crisis.



TOURISM NEWS IN SRI LANKA

Tourism Earnings in the Third Quarter of 2023 Over \$1.45 Bn

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka has revealed that tourism earnings in the third quarter of 2023 were over \$1.45 billion, reflecting a staggering 67% surge from the corresponding period of last year.

Tourist arrivals exceeded 1.1 million so far in 2023.

The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) said this year's tourist arrivals is the highest recorded since 2019.

September earnings stood at \$152.2 million but witnessed a 28% dip from August.

Sri Lanka Tourism Launches New Destination Branding

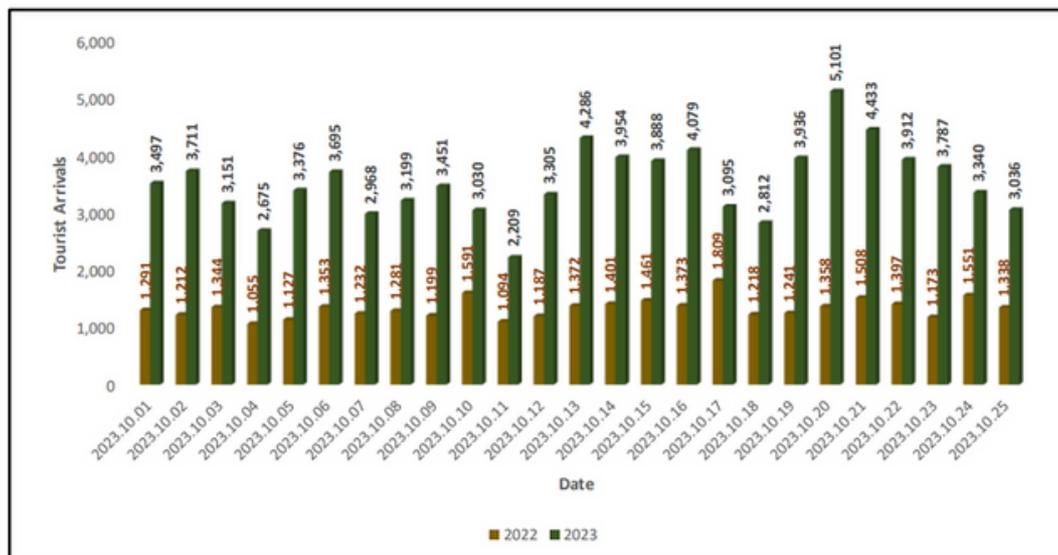
The Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) has unveiled a new campaign under the slogan – Sri Lanka “you will come back for more”- at the International French Travel Market (IFTM) trade show in Paris, France.

Issuing a statement, the SLTPB said, “Sri Lanka is back after 2021 with its new destination branding ‘You will come back for more’”.

“We launched our first phase of the campaign ‘seeing is believing’ which showed that the situation in the country is normal. We are now unveiling a new campaign, the slogan Sri Lanka “you will come back for more” which we were presenting at IFTM to the trade visitors,” Chairman of SLTPB, Chalaka Gajabahu explained.



Number of tourist arrivals, 2022 & 2023 (01st to 25th October)



Top Primary Markets of Tourists to Sri Lanka - 01st to 25th October 2023

| Rank | | Country | Number of Tourists | Share % |
|------|---|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 |  | India | 22,953 | 26% |
| 2 |  | Russian Federation | 8,193 | 9% |
| 3 |  | United Kingdom | 7,051 | 8% |
| 4 |  | Germany | 5,701 | 6% |
| 5 |  | China | 5,183 | 6% |
| 6 |  | Australia | 3,907 | 4% |
| 7 |  | Maldives | 3,362 | 4% |
| 8 |  | France | 2,399 | 3% |
| 9 |  | United States | 2,181 | 3% |
| 10 |  | Bangladesh | 1,955 | 2% |
| 11 | | Other | 25,041 | 28% |
| | | Total | 87,926 | 100.00 |

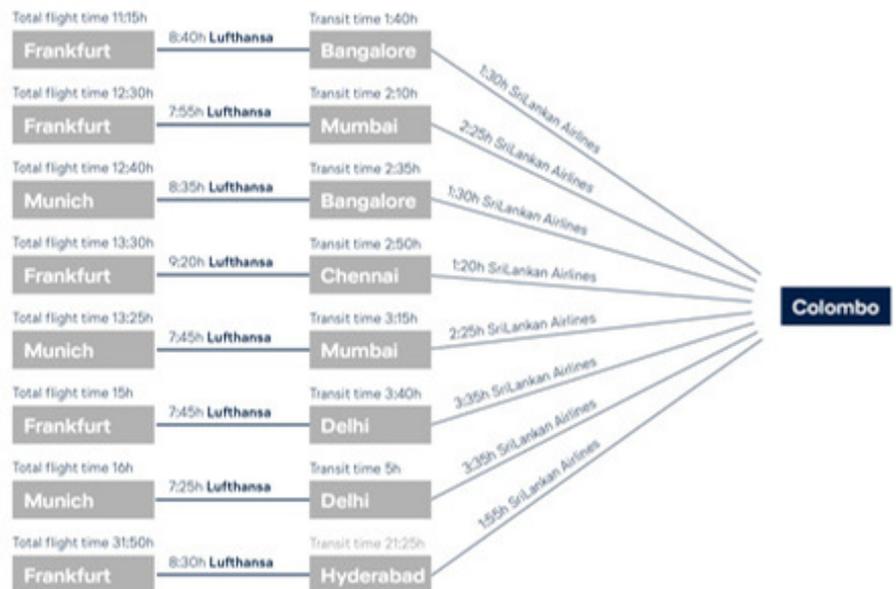
Lufthansa CONNECTIONS

To Frankfurt and Munich via India and The United Arab Emirates
Transits over 6h



Lufthansa CONNECTIONS

To Frankfurt and Munich via India and The United Arab Emirates
Transits over 6h



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INSIGHTS FROM INDUSTRY LEADERS

An Exclusive Interview with Mr. Pawan Singh -
General Manager - Sales & Marketing at Hafele India Pvt Ltd.

1. Embracing innovation is key in today's dynamic business environment. How has your company harnessed innovative approaches to elevate customer satisfaction?

It's time to look at the way companies develop strategy.

In Today's business environment, one would surely point to its turbulence—unprecedented, unstoppable, and, apparently, unlikely to go away in short term. Globalization, technological innovation, regulatory restructuring, demographic shifts, and environmental pressures have contributed all to continually redraw the competitive landscape. As a result, the nature of most industries is changing quickly, and companies are seeing their rivals, suppliers, and customers transform at breathtaking speed.

The Importance of Strategic Planning.

A: Perspective: Where is your business now?

B: Vision: Where do you want to take it?

C: Goals: What do you need to do to get there

Strategic planning is just what it sounds like. It does not look at the day-to-day operational matters, strategic planning takes a big-picture approach: What should the company priorities be? Where do you want to focus your resources? What are your goals for the next year or five years? What kind of outcomes is desired? Where you want to go, how will you get there and how will you know if you've arrived?

Working out the strategic plan with the other key stakeholders – partners, employees, senior management – ensures you're all on the same page. Putting the plan in a document can give you and your team a clearer perspective on what you need to do in the short term to create the big picture.

We at Hafele have kept pace with the required changes to meet and beat the challenges being faced in the business world due to various factors, by continuous monitoring of business, collaborating our collective team strength on creative solutions, implementation of new technology and products.



Mr. Pawan Singh -
General Manager - Sales & Marketing at Hafele India
Pvt Ltd.

2. As an Interior Design company, what unique growth opportunities do you see in the Sri Lankan market, and how do you plan to capitalise on them?

Being a multinational company with a direct representation in Sri Lanka allows Hafele to offer the latest global trends and technology into the market. With the country slowly recovering from the economic meltdown of 2022, we see green shoots of growth in the economy and the industry.

In Sri Lanka, the vertical living penetration is very low compared to its neighbors in the region. This presents a great opportunity for growth in the construction sector which we believe will return with a strong energy towards second half of 2024. In addition, high value projects such as Colombo Port city, BIA airport expansion, New/Renovation hotel projects, makes the whole outlook on Sri Lanka to be very positive.

3. As sustainability takes centre stage across industries, can you share how your company integrates responsible environmental practices and community enrichment to establish a well-rounded and purpose-driven business approach?

Hafele consider sustainability and community engagement closer to our heart. Most of our products are designed using recyclable material and post the life of the product it can be recycled again. Almost all our products are towards smart living solutions. The more space we could save without compromising functionality, the less we disturb the environment.

In terms of community engagement, the main factor we can mention is the way Hafele provides free training and guidance to all our local carpenter, plumbers, and interior designers. In a country where trade skill development needs are underdeveloped, the free knowledge sharing and hands on training we provide has empowered number of new entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka creating wealth for them and for economy of the country along with skilled development & employment.

4. Industries are ever-changing. How does your company envision its strategic path to effectively adapt and flourish in the face of ongoing transformations in the Interior Design sector?

Hafele is a company which moves with new trends and adopts them early helping us stay competitive in a global landscape. The next big thing for the industry is artificial intelligence and how companies can use them to their advantage. Hafele already started integrating AI to its processes, namely the introduction of chatbot AI feature in customer care. Furthermore, we are looking at how AI can be used for design works and other creative aspects.

Going forwards, AI and new technologies will play a major part as to how we improve our processes and deliver best value to the customers.

German Businesses in Sri Lanka Recognised as **Best Workplaces in Sri Lanka**



Congratulations!

Ranked Under Top 10 in Large Workplaces Category



Ranked Under Top 10 in Small Workplaces Category





AdA

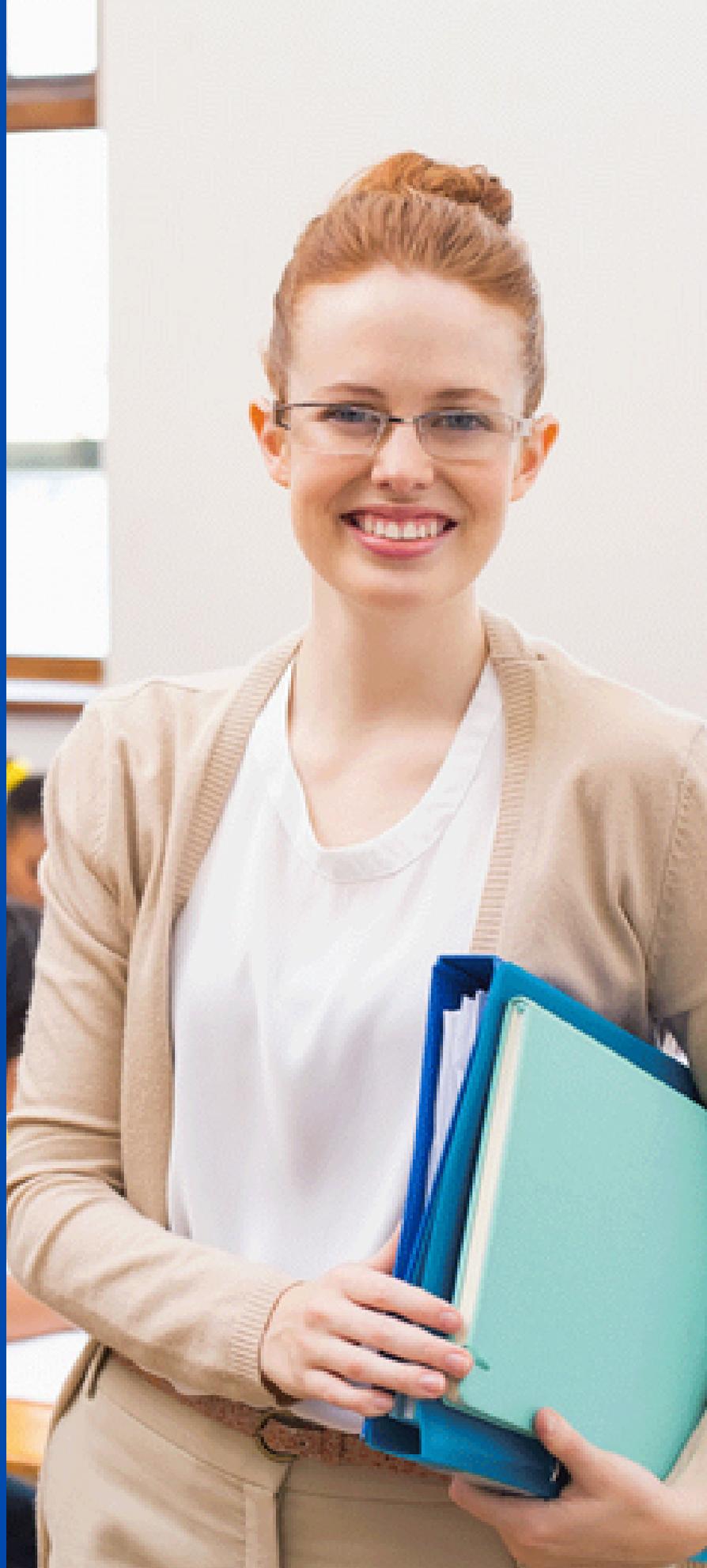
Ausbildung der Ausbilder

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER
AdA International
- Basic Version -

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Delegation of German Industry
and Commerce in Sri Lanka

DIHK

German Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

NEWS FROM AHK SRI LANKA

AHK Sri Lanka Initiates Strategic Talks with Opposition Leader Honourable Sajith Premadasa for Economic Collaboration

In a significant step towards fostering stronger economic ties between Germany and Sri Lanka, the Chief Delegate of the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka), Ms. Marie Antonia von Schönburg, engaged in a pivotal discussion with the Opposition Leader of Sri Lanka, Honourable Sajith Premadasa, on the 25th of October, 2023. The meeting, held at the Opposition Leader's Office in Colombo, focused on key aspects aimed at enhancing collaboration and trade relations.

The discussions focused on reducing barriers for Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs). The shared objective was to entice more international companies to invest in the country, which will eventually lead to increased economic growth and development, as well as job opportunities, overcoming issues associated with skilled migration and ensuring the long-term development of a skilled workforce.

Visit www.srilanka.ahk.de/en/ to read more on this.



AHK Sri Lanka Explores Graphite Industry with German Business Representatives

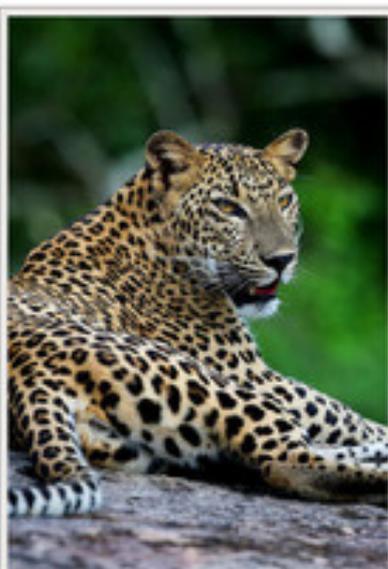
On October 23, 2023, the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka) embarked on a unique excursion to the AMG Graphite mine in Bogala, accompanied by representatives from leading German businesses in Sri Lanka. Adding prestige to the event was the presence of the German Ambassador to Sri Lanka, H.E. Felix Neumann.

Guided by AMG Graphite's experts, the group immersed themselves in the intricate processes of graphite extraction and refinement, gaining profound insights into the industry's operations.

Moreover, beyond being a mere exploration of the graphite industry, the excursion served as a bridge, fostering connections among representatives from prominent German businesses. It was a unique convergence of industry exploration and networking.



16-HOUR INTERACTIVE 'DUE DILIGENCE COURSE' FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR



Participate in one of the sessions if you want to expand your exports to Germany and upgrade your skills in Supply Chain Due Diligence.

All courses are provided free of charge!

1ST SESSION

 30th October 2023
31st October 2023

 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

 Colombo

2ND SESSION

 9th November 2023
10th November 2023

 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

 Colombo

3RD SESSION

 13th November 2023
14th November 2023

 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

 Kandy

4TH SESSION

 15th November 2023
16th November 2023

 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

 Colombo

Use the QR below code to register!



Contact us for more information

Delegation of German Industry and
Commerce in Sri Lanka

Call Us: +94-112-314364/67 (Tarun)
E-mail: communication@srilanka.ahk.de

16-HOUR INTERACTIVE 'DUE DILIGENCE COURSE' FOR THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR



Participate in one of the sessions if you want to expand your exports to Germany and upgrade your skills in Supply Chain Due Diligence.

All courses are provided free of charge!

1ST SESSION

 7th November 2023
8th November 2023

 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

 Colombo

2ND SESSION

 9th November 2023
10th November 2023

 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

 Colombo

3RD SESSION

 14th November 2023
15th November 2023

 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

 Kurunegala

4TH SESSION

 16th November 2023
17th November 2023

 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

 Colombo

Use the QR below code to register!



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The renowned Swiss airline Edelweiss Air, the holiday airline based at Zurich Airport, a sister company of Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) and a member of the Lufthansa Group that primarily operates charter and holiday flights to 70 dream destinations in over 30 countries worldwide has announced its plans to resume winter operations with effect from 2nd November 2023, with weekly flights from Zurich to Colombo with modern and well-equipped aircraft equipped with a state-of-the-art in-flight entertainment system with HD touchscreens, comfortable seats with more legroom and many other amenities ensuring the utmost comfort and safety for its passengers and relies on Swiss quality that inspires lives and values that people all over the world appreciate about Switzerland,

The new connection offers a convenient direct flight for travellers from Colombo to the heart of Europe, with many onward flight options from Zurich connecting to Europe, North America, and beyond with Swiss International Air Lines.

Founded in 1995 and named after the Edelweiss flower, a symbol of Switzerland known for its resilience and beauty, the airline is committed to quality and customer satisfaction and has established itself as a prominent player in the aviation industry.

As a reliable companion, the airline's entire 2023/24 winter flight schedule includes 57 holiday destinations in 32 countries - short, medium and long-haul - and ensures a pleasant and carefree travel time and enjoyment safety and well-being of its passengers on board.

| Airline | Operated By | Flight No | Dep Time | Arr Time | Origin | Destination | Duration | Aircraft |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| Swiss International Air Lines | Edelweiss Air | LX 8068 | 18:25 | 8:50 | ZRH-Zurich | CMB-Colombo | 9h 55m | A340-300 |
| Swiss International Air Lines | Edelweiss Air | LX 8068 | 10:05 | 19:20 | CMB-Colombo | ZRH-Zurich | 13h 45m* | A340-300 |

*via Malé

Further information: flyedelweiss.com

JOIN US AT NEXT YEAR'S DYNAMIC TRADE FAIRS!



January 19 - 28, 2024



Messe Berlin, Germany

The 88th edition of International Green Week (IGW) is a leading B2C food and agriculture exhibition. It anticipates 1,400 exhibitors, 1,900+ journalists, and 400,000+ visitors from 61 countries.



March 19 - 22, 2024



Koelnmesse, Germany

Anuga FoodTec is the only global trade fair encompassing food production's full range: processing, packaging, and storage. It's the top hub for information and procurement in the worldwide food and beverage sector.



May 28 - June 7, 2024



Messe Duesseldorf, Germany

The international print industry will once again meet at Drupa, the world's leading trade fair for print technologies. 1,828 exhibitors from 54 countries, 270,000 trade visitors from 183 countries and 1,824 accredited journalists are expected to participate.



June 04 - 06, 2024



Koelnmesse, Germany

The International trade fair for the tire industry: "TIRE Cologne" is a Motor vehicle and tire workshop equipment features prominently in addition to tires and wheels. 300 exhibitors and 12,000 trade visitors are expected.



May 28 - June 7, 2024



Messe Duesseldorf, Germany

At Spoga+Gafa you will find all the trends and new products for the garden: from outdoor furniture, decoration, sports & games to plants, garden tools, smart gadgets and must-haves from the BBQ sector.



November 12 - 14, 2024



Munich, Germany

As a world-leading trade fair, it presents the entire range of technologies, products, and solutions for electronics, and provides deep insights into the latest research and application trends at practice-oriented forums and first-class conferences. 2,140 international exhibitors and around 70,000 visitors from 100 countries are expected.

For more information on trade fairs, please contact:

Mr. Malintha Gajanayake, Head of Corporate Affairs & Export Promotions via malintha@srilanka.ahk.de

INTERNATIONAL GREEN WEEK 2024

**THE LARGEST B2C FOOD & AGRICULTURE
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WHY EXHIBIT?

- Meet new & existing customers
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- Increase your product's visibility & receive real-time feedback from end customers & international visitors
- Witness the latest technologies & marketing strategies of other countries
- Network with a diverse spectrum of international guests & increase confidence of your existing & potential customers

WHEN:

**19TH – 28TH JANUARY
2024**

WHERE:

MESSE BERLIN, GERMANY

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Meet our Partners!



AHK Sri Lanka Premier Partners 2023

PREMIER PLATINUM PARTNERS



SEKOK

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PREMIER SILVER PARTNERS





Aitken Spence Travels Bags Double Awards at SATA 2023



Aitken Spence Travels, the leading destination management company in Sri Lanka, has once again proven its prowess and commitment to excellence by bagging two prestigious awards at the South Asian Travel Awards (SATA) 2023. The company was honoured with the titles of "Leading Travel Agent – Inbound" and "Leading Cruising Travel Agent," solidifying its position as a trailblazer in the travel and tourism sector.

The SATA Awards, renowned for recognising outstanding achievements and contributions in the travel and hospitality industry across South Asia, witnessed fierce competition this year. Aitken Spence Travels emerged victorious, thanks to its unwavering dedication to providing exceptional services and unforgettable experiences to travellers.

Mr. Nalin Jayasundera, the Managing Director of Aitken Spence Travels, expressed his gratitude and pleasure in receiving these esteemed accolades. He said, "We are thrilled and deeply honoured to receive these awards. It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team, who consistently go the extra mile to deliver outstanding travel experiences. This recognition motivates us to continue pushing boundaries and setting new standards in the industry".

"Aitken Spence Travels has consistently been at the forefront of exploring new markets to expand its business footprint and resulting from this, the company has successfully tapped into emerging regions and countries", commented Ms. Stasshani Jayawardena – Jt. Deputy Chairperson and Jt. Managing Director Aitken Spence PLC and Head of Tourism and Leisure for the Group. Additionally, the company leads the way in introducing charter flights to the country, ultimately transitioning them into scheduled flights.

Sustainability and adherence to international standards have been ingrained in the company's DNA from its inception. The company holds ISO and Travelife certifications and was honoured as the most sustainable DMC at the "Sustainability Awards 2022," organised by the AHK (Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka).

Backed by an extensive network of partners and a team of highly skilled professionals, Aitken Spence Travels ensures that every journey is not just a trip, but an unforgettable adventure. As the company looks ahead to the future, it remains steadfast in upholding its standards of excellence and committed to innovating to meet the evolving needs of travellers worldwide.



Aqua Dynamics Recognised as a Great Place to Work for the Third Year



Since 2021, Aqua Dynamics has consecutively received the prestigious Great Place to Work award in Sri Lanka. After a challenging 2022 and a daunting 2023 for both global and local economic development, we manage to hold onto our values and strive to be great yet again. That is why we believe this year's award for top 15 employers in the large manufacturing category in Sri Lanka is important to us.

It is not only in Sri Lanka but also on the Asian continent that our presence continues to blossom, as we have been named among the top 70 employers for the third consecutive year.

Success is not a coincidence for us; each day that passes, we endeavour to make our employees social and occupational lives better. When you are blessed to receive a productive yield each year, that brings joy to our hearts. The 2023 Great Place to Work Award is such an occasion that Aqua Dynamics can proudly proclaim.





DHL Express recognized among Best Workplaces in Sri Lanka for 2023



DHL Express Sri Lanka has been recognized as one of the 50 Best Workplaces™ in Sri Lanka for 2023 by the Great Place to Work® Institute. At an awards ceremony held recently, DHL Express Sri Lanka also received accolades for Best Multinational Corporation and secured the No. 1 position for the Small Enterprise Category – reiterating its strong and unique company culture.

For nine consecutive years, DHL Express Sri Lanka has been consistently awarded the Great Place to Work® recognition, demonstrating the company's emphasis on creating an enriching culture and working environment for employees.

Dimithri Perera, Country Manager, DHL Express Sri Lanka said, "The recognition by Great Place to Work® acknowledges our continuous efforts and dedication to creating an inclusive, positive, and fair workplace. Since the onset of the pandemic, economic crisis, and various geopolitical challenges each person involved in our operational process, from couriers to supervisors and coordinators to managers, played a critical role in helping us navigate the emerging logistical challenges. We are a people-first company, and we create an environment that enables our employees to thrive and excel as a winning team to achieve extraordinary results. Hence, motivated employees remain key to the excellence of DHL Express operations and we continue to invest in its people and create a great workplace not just for a few, but for all".

Valuing the work of its employees is key in DHL Express and the company invests annually in several employee initiatives: The 'DHL's Got Heart' initiative enables and encourages employees to support charitable causes they are passionate about. The 'DHL4All' framework which is centered on creating a culture of belonging for employees regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, ability, gender, or sexual orientation is a strong driver of fair and inclusive practices. Additionally, the 'Certified International Specialist' (CIS) program includes inspiring training and engagement content delivered by senior leaders where employees are empowered with the knowledge, they require to deliver outstanding customer service every day.

"Our people are our top priority, and we are proud to contribute to the motivation of our colleagues and to create an environment where everyone can bring their authentic self, feel valued, and belong. These awards represent our commitment to building a workplace where our employees can achieve their goals and become the best version of themselves" said Dimithri Perera, Country Manager, DHL Express Sri Lanka.



DIMO Continues to Lead as One of Sri Lanka's Premier Workplaces for Over a Decade



DIMO's recent remarkable 11-year winning streak as a Top Great Place to Work in Sri Lanka under the Large-size Workplace Category and recognition as one of Asia's Top 100 Workplaces by GPTW, are clear testaments to the strength of its employee value proposition, "making work enjoyable and rewarding."

Speaking on this milestone Executive Director and Chief Human Resources Officer of DIMO Dilrukshi Kurukulasuriya said maintaining such a winning streak requires more than just good HR practices, it necessitates a strategic approach to employee satisfaction and engagement.

The company's employees are the cornerstone of this achievement, and their testimonials on different aspects of the work culture reflect the vibrant work environment.

Rakhita Gunasekera, Chief Operating Officer (Chemical Solutions) at DIMO, emphasized a 'Great Place to Work' as an environment that encourages people to give their best without compromising on values.

Ravinesh Senaratne, Deputy General Manager – Marketing (Retail), who began his career as a Management Trainee at DIMO said, "DIMO didn't just hire me, it invested in me and entrusted me with diverse brands, products, and services from Mobility to Retail Sectors."

Viraj Gunaratne, Deputy General Manager - Automotive Parts Sales highlighted Recognition and Rewarding culture at DIMO not only motivates him and his team to achieve given targets, but also enables them to do things differently

.Shehan Fernando, Head of Customer Care Mercedes-Benz Passenger Service said " Diverse perspectives foster

innovation, while increased engagement drives higher productivity and ensures the quality of the workshop operations, which helps us cater to diverse customers."

Ajla Jayakody, Executive – MIS Demand & Supply Planning, expressed her enjoyment of working at DIMO as an absolute delight. She said celebrating personal and work-related milestones creates a sense of belonging and camaraderie within the DIMO tribe.

Sujani Wanniarachchi, Assistant Manager - Operational Compliance said employee engagement initiatives such as DIMO Got Talent, DIMO Sports Club, and DIMO Nature Club provide opportunities for employees to develop beyond their careers. Interactive sessions like DIMO Day and the Employee Council foster a positive and inclusive work environment.

Niluka Ferdinands, Secretary to the Managing Director and Group CEO, who has served DIMO for more than 13 years proves her bond towards the company. She explained the healthy work environment and that her peers' trust motivated her to work hard.

Timal Tennakoon, Deputy General Manager Medical Engineering Solutions, highlighted the training and development opportunities the company offered him from managing a clientele to handling international brands such as Carl Zeiss.

DIMO's recognized work culture also reaffirms the company's commitment towards fuelling dreams and aspirations of its people.



PASSPORT



United States of America

INDONESIA COVID TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

To enter Indonesia, visitors are required to have a valid visa or a stay permit, and they can apply for an e-visa before departing on their journey. Meanwhile, foreign visitors from 43 selected countries can also enter Indonesia with the Visa on Arrival program. Furthermore, citizens from nine ASEAN countries can continue to enter Indonesia without a visa.

Authorities no longer require international travellers to present proof of COVID-19 vaccinations to enter the country. Additionally, passengers who have not had a vaccination are exempt from PCR testing and quarantine. To ensure compliance with the entrance criteria, all foreign nationals intending to enter the Republic of Indonesia must carefully review and update their travel documents which includes passport validity, return ticket, and visa. These new entry regulations have made it considerably simpler to visit this stunning tropical paradise.



CHINA SIMPLIFIED VISA APPLICATION PROCESS



China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) introduced a simplified visa application process on September 20, 2023. This revision primarily focuses on the visa application form and entails two significant changes. Firstly, applicants must now list their travel history from the past year instead of the previous five years. Secondly, the educational background section has been streamlined to only request the highest level of education achieved.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs intended to reduce the time applicants spend on visa forms and enhance the overall efficiency. The MFA has reiterated its commitment to fostering people-to-people ties between China and other countries in order to promote China's dedication to high-quality development and involvement in the global community.

Beyond Borders: Tailored tours to explore destinations



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6N/ 7D
LKR 1,020,000



DUBAI
3N/4D
LKR 305,000



LOURDES PILGRIMAGE
7N/8D
LKR, 685,000



EGYPT
8N/9D
LKR 789,000



MALAYSIA
3N/4D
LKR 163,000



AZERBAIJAN
5N/6D
LKR 458,000

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LCP COIR TWINE



NATURAL WHITE MIX FIBER

are used to make Twine. Coir fiber is twisted with an inner Cotton thread. Since the product is made with natural fiber, it's far superior to the others when it comes to its uses and benefits of this product.

APPLICATIONS

Coir twine is used for various industrial purposes and products such as Stringing of hops & other wines, Matting Industry, Oyster cultivation, as well as in Domestic & horticulture industry



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Wurth Lanka Powers Jayanthi, First Sri Lankan to Summit Everest, in Her Next Challenge to Climb Matterhorn



Wurth Sri Lanka Lanka, sponsored mountaineer Jayanthi Kuru-Utumpala's next expedition to conquer Mount Matterhorn in Switzerland. Wurth Lanka has come on board as her silver sponsor, continuing its long-standing partnership with Jayanthi. Apart from her rock-climbing expeditions, Jayanthi is also a women's rights and gender equality advocate, inspiring women of all ages to overcome gender stereotypes and achieve their dreams. The Wurth Group shares the same vision of enabling and advocating for gender equality and diversity in the workplace, along with the mission of working towards creating a gender-equal society.

As a veteran mountaineer with over two decades of rock-climbing experience under her belt, Jayanthi Kuru-Utumpala made history in 2016 as the first Sri Lankan to reach the peak of Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world. Supporting Local athletes to conquer international events has been part of Wurth's commitment since its inception in 1998 in Sri Lanka.

Wurth Lanka, which has been in operation for 25 years in Sri Lanka, has overcome many challenges and achieved many milestones along the way. As an organisation, Wurth Group understands that success is not a destination, but a journey that requires perseverance, passion and courage. This was one reason for Wurth Lanka to support Jayanthi in her endeavour to scale Matterhorn. Jayanthi is seen as a voice for gender equality and is an inspiration for many women and girls to keep pushing forward.

Wurth Lanka sees Jayanthi as a great role model not just for the organisation, but for everyone out there who is climbing their own mountains in life.

Wurth Group is a global market leader in technical consumables for the automotive aftermarket, construction and maintenance industry. With over 90,000 employees across 400 companies in over 80 countries, the group is a €20 Bn company, headquartered in Germany and has been operating in Sri Lanka since 1998.





TOP GERMAN BRANDS IN SRI LANKA

9th Edition - 20th September 2023

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For more information:



Click here: [AHK Sri Lanka Website](#)



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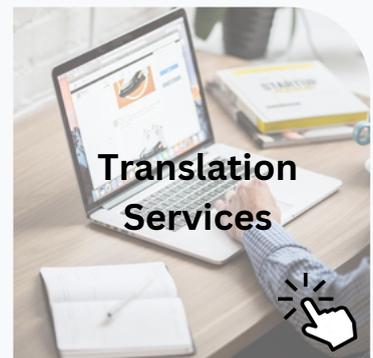
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