

6th EDITION



January 2025

NEWSLETTER

THE SRI LANKA - MALAYSIA BUSINESS COUNCIL
OF THE CEYLON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



About The Sri Lanka Malaysia Business Council



The Sri Lanka – Malaysia Business Council was inaugurated on February 23, 1994 under the aegis of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce at the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka.

The main objective of this Council is to promote joint ventures in trade, tourism and services between Sri Lanka and Malaysia. In accordance with the constitution, His Excellency Badli Hisham Adam, High Commissioner for Malaysia in Sri Lanka is the Patron of the Council.

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce



The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce was established on 25 March, 1839.

It is one of the oldest and most influential business organizations in Sri Lanka. The chamber provides a range of services to its members, including advocacy, networking opportunities, business support, and trade promotion. The chamber's membership includes businesses of all sizes and from various sectors, making it a diverse and inclusive organization that represents the interests of the Sri Lankan private sector.

2024 - 2025 Office Bearers



Mr. Marshad Barry
President
Amana Bank
PLC



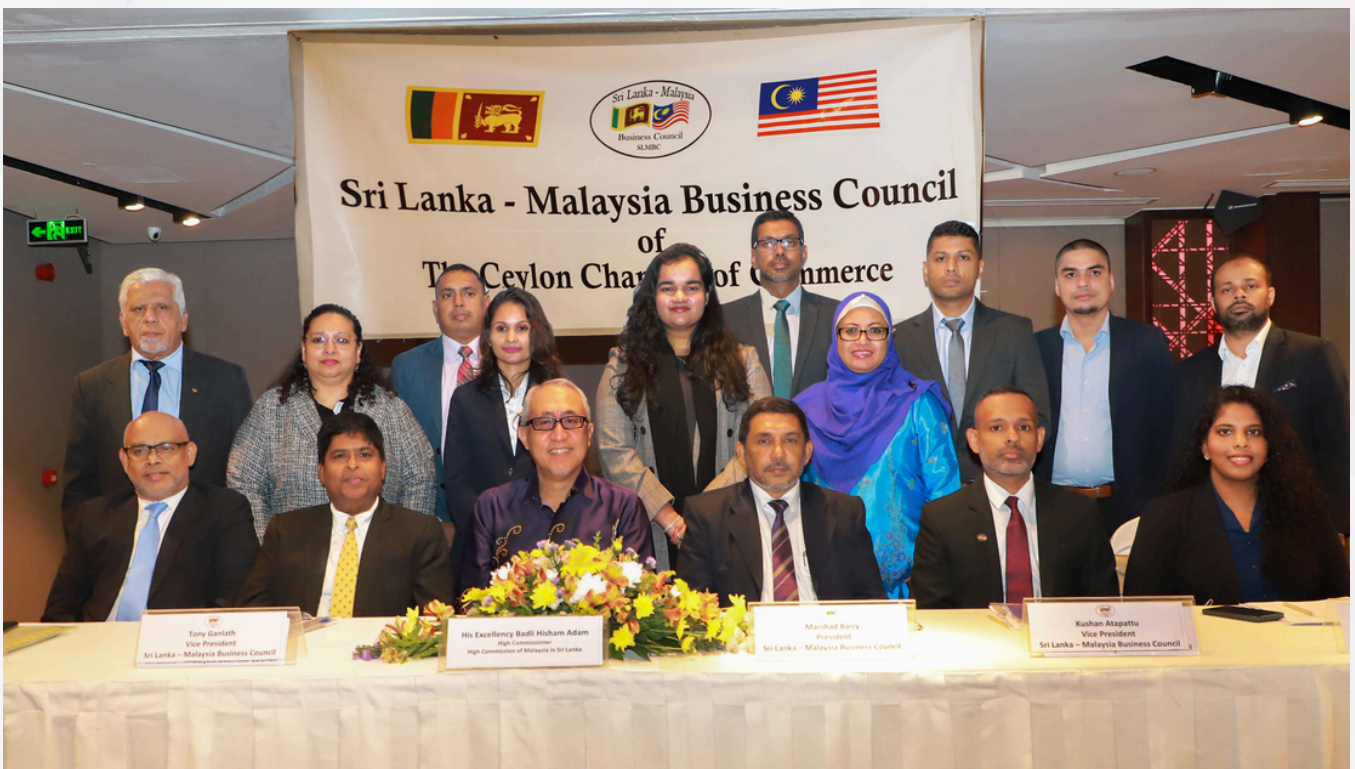
Mr. Mohamed Hameez
Immediate Past President
Spillburg Holdings
PVT LTD



Mr. Kushan Atapattu
Vice President
Dialog Axiata PLC



**Mr. G.A.D. Anthony
Tissa Ganlath**
Vice President
Timber and Transport
Services



THE OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE OFFICE BEARERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

From L – R (Seated): Immediate Past President - Mr. M. H. K. Mohamed Hameez (Managing Director, Spillburg Holdings), Vice President - Mr. G. A. D. A. Tissa Ganlath (Sole Proprietor, Ganlath Timber & Transport Service), SLMBC Patron - His Excellency H. E. Badli Hisham Adam, High Commissioner of Malaysia, Mr. President - Mohamed Marshad Barry (Deputy Head of Orphan Care, Amana Bank PLC), Vice President - Mr. Kushan Atapattu (Senior Manager – Enterprise Marketing, Sponsorships & Loyalty, Dialog Axiata PLC), Secretary - Ms. Tharushika Senadeera (Manager, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce)

From L – R (Standing): Mr. M. Zubair Hassen (Director, Inspiration Consultancy (Pvt) Ltd), Ms. Devinka Gayanthie Kulathunga (Head of Trade Finance, Public Bank Berhad), Mr. Rupasinghe Arachchige Jude Nadeera (Assistant Manager Sales & Marketing, Acorn Aviation (Private) Limited), Ms. Dona Ruklani Wathsala Wijesinghe (Manager, International Scholar Educational Services (Pvt) Ltd), Ms. Fathima Sarah Mohamed Mizver (Director, Macksons Holdings (Pvt) Ltd), Mr. Gayan Maddumarachchi (Director, MAC Holdings (Pvt) Ltd), Ms. Zaharine Hameen (General Manager, Aitken Spence Travels (Pvt) Ltd), Mr. Praveena Sarathchandra (CEO, SmashTaps (Pvt) Ltd), Representative of Overseas Cargo Consultants, Mr. Mohamed Rushdi (Assistant Trade Accountant, MTL Lanka Travels & Logistics (Pvt) Ltd)

COUNCIL EVENTS

First Exco Meeting of The Year plus Invitees from Ceylon Innovation Consortium Group



The Sri Lanka – Malaysia Business Council (SLMBC) held its first Executive Committee (ExCo) meeting of the year, marking a renewed commitment to fostering bilateral trade and investment between Sri Lanka and Malaysia. The meeting, held on the 6th of January 2025, at The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, saw active participation from ExCo members and featured special invitees from the Ceylon Innovation Consortium Group.

CSR Project 2024



The Sri Lanka Malaysia Business Council (SLMBC) donated essentials to orphaned children at the Vajira Sri Children's Development Centre in Pita Kotte on December 21, 2024. SLMBC President Marshad Barry and Vice President Kushan Atapattu were present, emphasizing the council's commitment to supporting vulnerable communities.

SLMBC Welcomes Second "Overseas Members - OM"



SLMBC held discussion with the Kuala Lumpur & Selangor Indian Chamber of Commerce Industry (KLSICCI) on their new initiative of extending the SLMBC International membership to Malaysian Companies to promote joint ventures in trade, tourism and services between Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

COUNCIL EVENTS

Empowering youth through innovation and entrepreneurship for sustainable economic growth



The Sri Lanka - Malaysia Business Council (SLMBC) of The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce proudly sponsored a youth empowerment event organized by the Interact District Council, in collaboration with Interact Clubs from Fergusan College Ratnapura, Thurstan College, Lyceum College, and Gothami Balika, held at Fergusan High School, Ratnapura on November 4th, 2024.

Sri Lanka-Malaysian Business Council to enhance bilateral trade and tourism relations



The Executive Committee of the Sri Lanka-Malaysian Business Council, led by its President Marshard Barry engaged in a productive dialogue with Badli Hisham Adam the Malaysian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka focusing on advancing trade and tourism initiatives between the two nations on Tuesday October 29 2024 at the Malaysian Embassy premises.

SLMBC's first Executive Committee meeting with the newly appointed Office Bearers for 2024 -2025



SLMBC's first Executive Committee meeting with the newly appointed Office Bearers was held on 3rd September 2024 at The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. A new chapter begins for the Sri Lanka Malaysia Business Council (SLMBC) with the appointment of our new office bearers. We look forward to a successful year ahead, fostering stronger business ties between Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

International Scholar Celebrating Success at Friends of Deakin Awards 2024!



International Scholar, a proud member of the Sri Lanka Malaysia Business Council, shown bright at the Friends of Deakin Awards 2024! They've won Best Quality Agency (2nd year running!) and Best B2B Partner (3rd year with SLIT!). A huge congratulations to Wathsala Wijesinghe (Exco Member) for being their Agency Superstar!

Congratulations and all the best!

Multilac wins Gold Award in the Large Exporter Category at NCE Export Awards 2024!



Multilac, Sri Lanka's leading paint manufacturer and exporter, also a proud member of the Sri Lanka Malaysia Business Council, has won the prestigious Gold Award in the extra large category of the chemical export industry's segment at the NCE Export Awards 2024.

Congratulations and all the best!

Celebrate your wins with us!

Email: commodities@chamber.lk

Tharushika Senadeera

SLMBC Secretary (The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce)

Understanding Sustainable Investments

In an era where environmental and social concerns are gaining prominence, sustainable investments have emerged as a critical component of the global financial landscape. By aligning financial goals with ethical and environmental priorities, sustainable investments provide an opportunity for investors to make a positive impact while achieving long-term returns. This article explores the principles of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG), the various types of sustainable investments, and how businesses can incorporate sustainability into their investment strategies.

Overview of ESG Principles

At the core of sustainable investments are the ESG principles, which serve as a framework for evaluating the ethical and sustainability performance of investments:

- **Environmental:** This aspect considers how investments address issues like climate change, resource depletion, pollution, and biodiversity. Companies that prioritize renewable energy, reduce emissions, and adopt eco-friendly practices score high on the environmental front.
- **Social:** The social component evaluates a company's relationships with its employees, customers, and communities. It encompasses labor practices, human rights, diversity, and community engagement.
- **Governance:** Governance focuses on corporate leadership, ethics, transparency, and shareholder rights. Strong governance practices ensure accountability and minimize risks of corruption or mismanagement.

By integrating ESG principles, investors can assess not only the financial performance of an asset but also its broader impact on society and the planet.

Integrating Sustainability into Investment Strategies

For businesses, embedding sustainability into investment strategies requires a holistic approach that balances financial objectives with ethical considerations. Here are key steps to achieve this:

- **Define Sustainability Goals:** Businesses should identify clear sustainability objectives aligned with their values and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Adopt ESG Criteria:** Incorporate ESG metrics into investment analysis and decision-making processes to evaluate potential risks and opportunities.
- **Engage Stakeholders:** Collaboration with stakeholders, including employees, investors, and communities, ensures that sustainability efforts are comprehensive and impactful.
- **Measure and Report Impact:** Regularly monitor and report on the environmental and social outcomes of investments to maintain transparency and accountability.
- **Leverage Technology:** Utilize tools like artificial intelligence and data analytics to assess ESG performance and identify sustainable investment opportunities.
- **Educate and Train Teams:** Equip employees and decision-makers with the knowledge and skills needed to integrate sustainability into investment practices effectively.

Sustainable investments represent a paradigm shift in how financial decisions are made, emphasizing long-term value creation over short-term gains. As global challenges like climate change and social inequality intensify, the role of sustainable investments will only grow, shaping a more resilient and equitable future.



Contacts

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