



*Sri Lanka
shines*



in Türkiye....



News & Events

March – April

2023



Embassy of Sri Lanka

Türkiye

*also accredited to
Georgia & Ukraine*



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MARCH 2023

Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye meets the President of Ankara Chamber of Industry - 01/03/2023



The meeting took place in Ankara Chamber of Industry, with the participation of S. Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye, Mr. Seyit Ardic, President of Ankara Chamber of Industry and Mr. Yavuz Cabbar, Secretary General of Ankara Chamber of Industry on 1st March 2023.

President, Mr. Ardic thanked the Ambassador and the Government of Sri Lanka for the support and also taking the lead to coordinate a donation from the diplomatic corps in Ankara to the Türkiye Disaster and Emergency Management (AFAD).

Ambassador spoke about opportunities for industries in Sri Lanka for which most raw materials can be sourced in Sri Lanka, particularly minerals, fish and agricultural products, traditional export products, modern export products and services, skilled and trained human resources, incentives for investment, bilateral agreements and MoUs with Türkiye that would facilitate bilateral economic cooperation, the foreign investments already in Sri Lanka, particularly from Türkiye. She also added that how value addition in Sri Lanka could make certain products eligible for

reduced tariffs to enter into specific markets using various trade arrangements Sri Lanka has with countries, particularly in South Asia.

President, Mr. Ardic showed interest in gem mining and glass industry, and renewable energy. He was enthusiastic about future collaborations and exchanges of delegations and in organizing information sharing sessions also in collaboration with the Turkish Embassy in Colombo.

Ambassador of Sri Lanka meets with leaders of Industrial Engineering in Türkiye - 02/03/2023

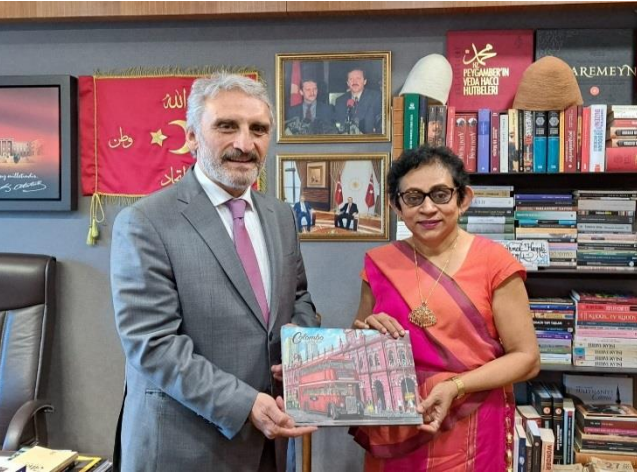


Mr. Emre Tüzemen, General Manager & Mr. Malim Serim from the Turkish Engineering Consulting & Contracting Company (TÜMAŞ) called on the Ambassador and discussed on mega construction and investment projects that TÜMAŞ has implemented in Sri Lanka.

They expressed their continued interest on Sri Lankan construction projects and opportunities for future collaborations too were discussed.

Ambassador of Sri Lanka calls on the Chairman of Sri Lanka - Parliamentary Friendship Association at the National Assembly in Ankara - 02/03/2023





Ambassador expressed her condolence on the recent devastating earthquake that shook Türkiye and support rendered by Sri Lanka to assist much affected people. Ambassador also recalled the assistance provided by Türkiye when Sri Lanka was hit by Tsunami in 2004 and continued support to Sri Lanka particularly during extreme weather events.

Mr. Çamlı appreciated the role played by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in mobilizing the diplomatic corps in Ankara to make a donation in solidarity with the victims of the earthquake.

Ambassador Dissanayake appreciated the role played by Türkiye on Grain Deal Diplomacy which set off an example for soft diplomacy. Further, Ambassador also appreciated the role of Türkiye for hosting nearly 04 million refugees and Türkiye continue to support them for their livelihood in the country which also illustrates that people should unite regardless of ethno-cultural differences but come together and show solidarity as one human race.

She also indicated that the trajectory of development of Türkiye with ensuring food security, then developing industries and growth of SMEs are fine examples to developing countries including Sri Lanka.

In addition, possible visits of delegations from both sides representing Sri Lanka – Türkiye Parliamentary Friendship Association marking 75th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Türkiye in the year of the Republic Day of Türkiye celebrating its 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Republic was also discussed.

Representatives of 2B Tour Company in Türkiye, visit the Embassy – 03/03/2023



This company provides Tourism & Logistics related services, met with Ambassador of Sri Lanka & discussed on possible collaboration including Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) Tourism in Sri Lanka.

Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye call on the Director General of Consular Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye - 14/03/2023

Ambassador of Sri Lanka paid a courtesy call on Director General of Consular Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye Ms. Nurdan Erpulat Altuntaş and had fruitful discussion on consular matters ensuring welfare of Sri Lankan nationals in Türkiye.



Mr. Cengiz Özgür, from Mars Turk Consulting Company calls on the Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye - 17/03/2023



Ambassador met with Mr. Cengiz Özgür, from MarsTurk Consulting Turkish labour recruiting company and discussed on recruitment of employees from Sri Lanka in liaising with the Foreign Employment Bureau of Sri Lanka.

Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye calls on H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye - 21/03/2023



Ambassador Dissanayake briefed the Minister on the significance of the year 2023, with Türkiye celebrating the 100th anniversary of founding the Republic, Sri Lankan celebrating its 75th anniversary of independence as well as 75 years of diplomatic relations and some of the commemorative activities that were planned but was postponed to latter half of the year due to the earthquake.

Importance of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum scheduled for March 2023 and was postponed as well as completing processes for pending bilateral agreements too were discussed in length and was agreed as important bilateral and multilateral engagements.

Ambassador also briefed the Minister of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Extended Fund Facility (EFF) that was approved by the IMF Executive Board, just a day earlier.

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara joins the International Day of Forests Event to commemorate the victims of the recent earthquake - 21/03/2023



Ms. Priya Nagarajah, First Secretary of the Embassy represented Sri Lanka at this event, demonstrating Sri Lanka's commitment on environment and climate change related issues.

Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye hosts a reception to Turkish friends - 21/03/2023



Hosted by the Ambassador Dissanayake, a dinner was held at the Ambassador's residence for some of the Turkish friends to commemorate 75th anniversary of Sri Lanka's Independence, as the event could not be held due to the earthquake.

H.E. Ms. Esra Cankorur, Director General of Asia Pacific at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador H.E. Ms. K. Nilvana Darama, Coordinator of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Aisa Anew Initiative, H.E. Mr. Ali İhsan İzbul, Deputy Director General of South Asia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Bağcı, Economist Ms. Gülsüm Akbulut were among the guests.

Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye calls on President of Ankara Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Gürsel Baran - 22/03/2023



Discussions were around commonalities between the two countries in general and opportunities for collaboration in political and socio-economic economic spheres as well as the impacts of climate change, and how we could learn from each other in mitigating and minimizing some of the impacts.

Çankaya Mayor Mr. Alper Taşdelen assured that the Municipality is committed to address issues of all residents including the diplomatic community. He added that there are many cultural centres which are open to residents and institutions as well the Embassies to make use of, for making the life easy, meaningful and interesting for Çankaya residents and welcomed the Embassy of Sri Lanka to join activities that the Municipality organizes.

Ambassador suggested to establish a sister city arrangement with the Municipalities of Çankaya and Sri Jayawardanepura Kotte in Sri Lanka to help improve closer relations, especially people to people contacts. Mayor welcomed Ambassador's suggestion and said that he would be happy to discuss such arrangement after the Turkish elections in May.

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Türkiye makes Ramadan Donation to earthquake survivors now residing in Çankaya District -04/04/2023



Ambassador of Sri Lanka paid a courtesy call on President of Ankara Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Gürsel Baran and discussed on strengthening trade relations between Sri Lanka and Türkiye.

APRIL 2023

Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye calls on the Mayor of Çankaya Municipality, Mr. Alper Taşdelen – 04/04/2023

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According to estimations over 300,000 have migrated to Ankara, because of the earthquake with most living in with relatives, friends and in dormitories.

Accordingly, Embassy chose such people living in Alacaatlı Neighborhood of Cankaya District of the Ankara Province. The support for this group is extended by the local Neighborhood Muhtar. A Muhtar

is the elected village head in villages, while in cities, likewise, each Neighbourhood has a Muhtar but with a slightly different status.

The Embassy staff, Sri Lankan community members present and Ms. Hülya Erdoğan, head of Muhtar and her volunteers all joined in the distribution of donation boxes.

Ambassador also interacted with the group, who shared their horrific experiences, and how they are trying their best to be resilient. Further, some of the youth were interested in knowing about Sri Lanka.

Ambassador also had discussions with Ms. Erdoğan and her team, which comprised of a retired teacher and a journalist about their mandate, especially the work they are engaged in supporting the survivors of earthquake both physical and mental support such as organizing counselling and reaching out for funding and material support. Ambassador assured that she will try her best to support their efforts.

The Embassy staff and some of the Sri Lankan community contributed to make the Ramadan donation packs.

Ambassador thanked the Embassy staff and some of the Sri Lankan community who contributed and added that as the disaster occurred on the day that the formal reception of Sri Lanka's 75th Anniversary of Independence was to take place, and therefore it was decided to add a special gift, in commemoration of the same.

Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye calls on the Antalya Metropolitan Mayor - 11/04/2023

The Ambassador of the Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Ankara met with Antalya Metropolitan Mayor Mr. Muhittin Bocek.

Opinions were presented on the possibility of cooperation in agriculture, tourism and IT sectors.

The Mayor of Antalya Metropolitan Municipality Muhittin Böcek stressed that the two countries will be able to cooperate and organize events in the commercial, social and cultural spheres, especially in tourism and agriculture.

Hony. Consul for Sri Lanka in Antalya, Mr. Ali Kamburoğlu too was present and contributed much to the discussion.



Governor also expressed his interest in visiting Sri Lanka.



Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye meets the President of the Antalya Chamber of Commerce & his team - 11/04/2023

Ambassador of Sri Lanka had a successful meeting with Mr. Ali Bahar, President of the Antalya Chamber of Commerce and his team. Potential for trade, investment & tourism cooperation for mutual benefit were discussed.

It was agreed to organize a tourism, trade and investment promotion general seminar for members of eth Chamber in late June or early July followed by a business delegation to Sri Lanka.



Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye calls on the Governor of Antalya -11/04/2023



During the discussions with the Governor of Antalya Mr. Ersin Yazıcı, Ambassador Dissanayake shared details of some of the proposed activities planned to be held in Antalya in 2023.

Expressing his satisfaction with the visit, Governor Yazıcı emphasized that they show Turkish hospitality, which is a part of the Turkish culture, to all tourists coming to the city; he added *"I hope we will take steps to improve our relations in the field of tourism and trade in the near future. We welcome guests from all over the world in our beautiful city. We would be happy to host our Sri Lankan guests in our beautiful city Antalya."*



Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye meets President of Antalya Association of Journalists - 12/04/2023

Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye and Hony. Consul of Antalya, Ali Kamburoğlu met the President of Antalya Association of Journalists.

Possible collaborations to promote the two destinations especially for tourism and the role of media were discussed.



Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye, met Mr. Cenk İleri to discuss about the Turkish foreign labour employment procedures, particularly connected to recent visa rejection for potential employees for the hotels sector.



Ambassador Dissanayake participated in the Commemoration of 108th Anniversary of Canakkale Land Battles and World War I - 24/ 04/ 2023

Canakkale land battles, one of the most challenging fronts of World War I fought over 08 months 108 years ago, in Gallipoli peninsular. Ottoman Forces led by Veteran Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, won over allied forces. Death toll was nearly 300,000 comprising of Turks, British & Commonwealth militaries, French, etc. with nearly an estimated 250,000 Turkish lost their lives.

This victory paved the way to establishing the Turkish Republic by veteran Atartuk in 1923. Veteran Atartuk, after the debacle, declared that all fallen soldiers, whether Turkish or otherwise, as they lay in Turkish soil, would be commemorated equally.

Today there are British, French, Australian and New Zealand cemeteries in addition to the Turkish cemetery for the fallen soldiers of all sides.

In fact every year, there are ceremonies on 24th and 25th April with all these participating countries to Honour all those who perished.

Ambassador recalls that it was an honour to be a part of this historic commemorative event as a part of the Commonwealth family and above all to remind ourselves of horrors of wars and do our utmost, especially as diplomats to prevent such situations - to ensure that history is not repeated.



Meeting with Mr. Cenk İleri, General Manager, Department of International Labour Force, Ministry of Labour and Social Security – 19/04/2023



am and there were 1600 Australians and New Zealanders who have arrived on the previous night and camping on sight.

Fought between 25 April 1915 and 6 January 1916, the Gallipoli campaign envisaged British and French fleets arriving off the Ottoman capital Constantinople to compel an Ottoman surrender. This required them to pass through the Dardanelles into the Sea of Marmara. When the fleets were defeated in their first attempt to pass through on 18 March 1915, the decision was taken to land troops to seize the forts that dominated the Dardanelles.



Australian and New Zealand troops took part in this military operation as the ANZAC. The campaign involved two main landings – at Cape Helles and at a point 20 km north, now known as the Anzac area. At neither point were the Allies able to make significant progress after landing. The campaign quickly became a stalemate. An attempt to break out of the Anzac area and take the high ground (at Chunuk Bair) in August failed. With winter approaching, the Allies decided to cut their losses. By 6 January 1916, all Allied forces had been evacuated.

This early morning ANZAC event was followed by an Australian and New Zealand specific ceremonies.



ANZAC remembrance at dawn – 25/04/2023

It was an honour to be a part of ANZAC commemoration of 108th anniversary of Gallipoli landing held at 5 am on 25/04. We were there by 4



**Australian and New Zealand commemorations -
- 25/04/2023**



These were held at their respective cemeteries with the attendance of Hon. Matt Keogh, Minister of Australia Veteran Affairs & Hon. Andrew Little, Defence Minister of New Zealand.

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Türkiye participates in the 15th Istanbul Security Conference 2023 - 25 April in Istanbul.



Embassy was represented by Ms. Priya Nagarajah, First Secretary of the Embassy.

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Türkiye celebrates Sinhala and Tamil New year- 29/04/2023



