

JULY 2023

The Ambassador of Sri Lanka visits the Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Environment of Türkiye - 04/07/2023



The Ambassador of Sri Lanka met Mr. Orhan Solak, Director and Ms. Arzu Önsal, Deputy Director of the Climate Change Department in their office.

During the meeting, they shared experiences on climate change, biodiversity, and initiatives taken by Sri Lanka and Türkiye to tackle climate change impacts, both in terms of resilience and adaptation.

Sri Lanka's increasing international engagement in climate change issues were noted by the Turkish side and Ambassador also highlighted the initiative of the President to establish an international university dedicated to climate change studies. She also appreciated the "Zero Waste" initiative of the Turkish First Lady.

Rendezvous with Honorary Consuls for Sri Lanka in Türkiye - 09/07/2023



Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye, H.E. Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake had an interactive online meeting with the 08 Honorary Consuls for Sri Lanka in Türkiye as well as a designated Hony. Consul. The

meeting was focused on the activities performed by them to promote Sri Lanka, both directly and indirectly to strengthen bilateral relations and people-to-people contacts.

It was also discussed re-scheduling the postponed promotional events to coincide with the 75th anniversary of Sri Lanka's independence which were postponed due to the devastating earthquake that hit South East Türkiye, to October 2023.

Dr. Siir Kilkis from the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TUBITAK) visits the Embassy - 13/07/2023



Dr. Siir Kilkis from the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TUBITAK) visited the Embassy and shared her work in the field of climate change and her candidature from Türkiye for the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), Working Group III on "Mitigation of Climate Change" for Vice Chair position.

She apprised the Ambassador and the First Secretary of the work she has being doing within Türkiye, and in the IPCC and the work she proposes to continue if she is elected.

Ambassador shared her concerns about climate change and the need for all countries to come together and support developing countries unconditionally for transition to sustainable life styles starting from adopting renewable energy for transport and industries.

Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye interacts with the leaders of Gaziantep Province of Türkiye - 18/07/2023

Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye, H.E. Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake visited the Gaziantep Province recently to renew friendship and collaborations with the province, together with Mr. Suleyman Cicek, the Hony. Consul of Sri Lanka in

Gaziantep and Ms. Thavishya Mullegamgoda, Minister (Commercial) of the Sri Lanka Embassy in Türkiye.



The Ambassador and the team were warmly welcomed by the Governor of Gaziantep Mr. Kemal Ceber Ersin and his team. The Governor, who was only appointed recently to Gaziantep noted that the Ambassador of Sri Lanka is the first Ambassador he has received since assuming duties, and thus it is a memorable occasion for him.



The Ambassador and the team also had a successful meeting with the President of the Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mehmet Tuncay Yıldırım, and his team.

"Sri Lanka Day in Ankara" unravels ifaceted possibilities for mutual economic cooperation - 20/07/2023



Sri Lanka Embassy in Türkiye organized a "Sri Lanka Day" event in Ankara together with the Türkiye - Sri Lanka Business Council at the Official Residence of the Ambassador to present opportunities for collaborations in trade, investment, and tourism in Sri Lanka among potential Turkish business community. The event was organized under three segments: 'Trade with Sri Lanka', 'Investing in Sri Lanka', and 'Sri Lanka Tourism'.

In his opening speech, Mr. Mehmet Ali Uğur, Chairman of the Türkiye-Sri Lanka Business Council briefly explained the activities of the Türkiye-Sri Lanka Business Council which started in 2014, and its contributions to the improvement of bilateral commercial relations between the two countries. He highlighted that Sri Lanka's potential is not yet known adequately in Türkiye and thus the aim of the Business Council is to improve relations between the two countries with more awareness on opportunities that exist in the two countries, paving the way for enhancing economic cooperation for mutual benefit.



Mr. Çağatay Özden, the Head of the Department of Asia and Pacific Countries, General Directorate of International Agreements and EU at the Ministry of Trade of Türkiye was the Guest of Honour.

Ms. Thavishya Mullegamgoda, Minister (Commercial) at the Sri Lanka Embassy in Türkiye presented trade, investment, and tourism opportunities in Sri Lanka in detail. Presentations consisted of a basic introduction to Sri Lanka, Sri Lankan product basket for export and introduction to Sri Lanka as land with infinite experiences for the Turkish tourists and potential collaborations in tourism sector.

Presentations were also made by Mr. Mehmet Ali Uğur, Chairman of the Türkiye-Sri Lanka Business Council, who is also the son of the Hony. Consul for Sri Lanka in Adana, the first Turkish businessman in modern times to start a business in Sri Lanka with importing tea from Sri Lanka, about his father's and his experience in doing business with Sri Lanka. Mr. Aydın Özü, an Advisory Board Member of the Penthol Group of Companies, designated Hony. Consul for Sri Lanka in Istanbul, spoke about investment opportunities in Sri Lanka, while, Mr. Mahmut Sami Uluer, Hony. Consul for Sri Lanka in Nevsehir, who also operates hot air balloons for

tourists in both Cappadocia, Türkiye and Dambulla-Sigiriya region in Sri Lanka spoke about how it is good for the hospitality industry – for both travel and for investment.

The event was a day-long event with 03 sessions on trade, investment and tourism with lunch and refreshments served and culminated in a cocktail reception at the end for all participants.



The Sri Lanka Day event was attended by over 35 representatives of business chambers, organizations, associations, potential Turkish importers, distributors, manufacturers, exporters, investors, travel companies, hotel chains, etc., not only based in Ankara but also from other regions in Türkiye. Some of the Hon. Consuls for Sri Lanka in Türkiye were also among the distinguished guests.

16th International Defence Fair in Istanbul - 26/07/2023



Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence of Sri Lanka together with the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye & delegation attended the 16th International Defence Fair in Istanbul. The delegation from Sri Lanka was hosted by the Turkish Government.



Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon also called on the Minister of Defence of Türkiye Hon. YASAR GULER and discussed potential mutual bilateral assistance in multiple platforms while attending the international defense exhibition.

AUGUST 2023

Ambassador of Sri Lanka visits the Association of Journalists and Press House - 04/08/2023



The Ambassador of Sri Lanka visited the Association of Journalists and Press House and had discussions with the Deputy Chair Savaş Kıratlı, and Vice Chair, Mr. Yusuf KANLI, briefed the Ambassador on the events and activities of the Association and the Press House.

Interaction at the Economic Policy Research Foundation Centre (TEPAV) - 07/08/2023

Ambassador had an interesting sharing of thoughts and experiences of Sri Lanka & Türkiye on the economy of the two countries with retired Ambassador Murat Ersavci, Director at the Economic Policy Research Foundation Centre (TEPAV), Ankara.



Meeting the Sri Lankans who were injured due to the accident - 17/08/2023



The Ambassador met the Sri Lankans who were injured due to the accident that occurred within the Istanbul Airport Expansion Project site (IGA Project) recently. Officials of IGA briefed the Ambassador on the medical conditions of the injured SL nationals and the ongoing investigation.

The Ambassador also visited the patient in the ICU and met with some of the Sri Lankan employees at the IGA Project site.

Meeting with President of Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) - 21/08/2023



The Ambassador of Sri Lanka paid a courtesy call to Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal, President of TÜBİTAK, and discussed cooperation in R&D and Innovation. Furthermore, they discussed how to commercialize the outcome of R&D and Innovation.

Turkish Victory Day at Presidency Palace – 30/08/2023

H.E. the Ambassador of Sri Lanka extended her warm felicitations to His Excellency Recep Tyyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Türkiye on the occasion of the 101st anniversary of the Victory Day of Türkiye.


