



*Sri Lanka
shines*

in Türkiye....



*News & Events
January – February
2024*



*Embassy of Sri Lanka
Türkiye
also accredited to
Georgia & Ukraine*



No: 41, GOP, Kirlangıç Street, Çankaya, Ankara ||| Tel. +90 3124271020-25 |||
Fax. +90 3124271026 ||| Email: slemb.ankara@mfa.gov.lk ||| Website:
www.srilanka.org.tr Facebook: Sri Lanka Embassy in Türkiye |||
Twitter: @slembankara ||| Instagram: slembinankara



January 2024

Initiation of activities for the year 2024 – 02/01/2024

In Ankara, Turkey, the Embassy of Sri Lanka commenced its official duties for 2024 on January 2nd with a formal ceremony at the Chancery. The event included the reading of the Oath of Public Servants and a speech by H.E. the Ambassador.



The seminar on "History of Sri Lanka- Türkiye Relations" at Ankara Social Science University – 11/01/2024

The Ambassador of Sri Lanka delivered opening remarks on bilateral diplomatic relations during the seminar "History of Türkiye -Sri Lanka Relations" at the Ankara Social Science University.

Dr. Zameer Careem provided insights into Türkiye -Sri Lanka relations from Ottoman times to the present. The Ambassador of Türkiye in Colombo participated virtually.



60th Session of IPCC in Istanbul – 16-19/01/2024

The Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye led the Sri Lankan delegation to the 60th Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in Istanbul. The delegation included Mr. Athula Karunaratne, Director General of Meteorology and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the World Meteorological Organization.

It is noted that Sri Lanka supported the re-election of the Turkish Vice Chair of the IPCC AR7 Work Group III, Dr. Siir Kilkis.



DEIK Business Diplomacy Awards Ceremony - 20/01/2024

The Ambassador of Sri Lanka attended the DEIK (Foreign Economic Relations Board of Türkiye) Business Diplomacy Awards Ceremony. The Guest of Honour was H. E. Prof. Dr. Ömer Bolat, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Türkiye.

February 2024

Celebration of 76th Anniversary of Independence of Sri Lanka at the Embassy - 04/02/2024

The 76th Anniversary of Sri Lanka's Independence was celebrated at the Embassy Premises with the presence of some of the Turkish Foreign Ministry Officials and the Sri Lankan community in Türkiye.

The occasion featured the lighting of oil lamps and invoking multi-faith blessings, adding to the significance to the event. Messages of the President, Prime Minister and foreign Minister of Sri Lanka were read in Sinhala, Tamil and English respectively. Ambassador addressed the invitees. Celebrations concluded with enjoying traditional Sri Lankan sweet meats.



Meeting with H. E. Mr. Adem Barış Aşkın, Mayor of Elmadağ, Ankara- 31/01/2024

During the visit, possibilities for cooperation have been discussed to strengthen bilateral collaboration.





Diplomatic Reception celebrating 76th Anniversary of Independence of Sri Lanka - 05/02/2024

The Sri Lankan Embassy in Ankara, Türkiye organized a Diplomatic Reception at the Anemon Ankara Hotel, attended by Turkish politicians, officials, business community, academia, cultural and civil society representatives, as well as Diplomatic Corps, UN, and other international agencies' staff, over 380 persons.



The guest of Honour was H.E. Dr. Yusuf Tekin, Minister of National Education. Among the distinguished guest were H.E. Prof. Ahmet Yozgatligil, Deputy Minister of Industry and Technology, H.E. Yahya Akan, Deputy Ombudsman of the Turkish Parliament, and H.E. Burhan Kayatürk, Chairman of the EU Harmonization Committee at the Turkish Parliament.



Ambassador Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake addressed the gathering, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, introducing Sri Lanka's history, achievements in health and education post-independence, bilateral tourism, trade, and investment cooperation, Sri Lanka's commitment to mitigating climate change, and progress in stabilizing the country's financial situation. She highlighted the solidarity between Sri Lanka and Türkiye during times of tragedy, including the 2004 Tsunami and the 2023 earthquake in southeastern Türkiye.



The audience positively received the visual presentation, prompting Minister of National Education, Dr. Yusuf Tekin, to invite the Ambassador for a discussion on collaboration in research, particularly focusing on archaeological heritage. Dr. Tekin, who also chairs the Joint Commission on Technical and Economic Cooperation between the two countries, expressed interest in furthering cooperation in various areas.

In his remarks, Minister Dr. Yusuf Tekin emphasized the enduring friendship between Türkiye and Sri

Lanka, dating back to historic events like the visit of the Ertuğrul Frigate in 1890 and Türkiye's early recognition of Sri Lanka's independence in 1948. He highlighted mutual solidarity during crises such as the 2005 tsunami and Turkish earthquakes.

Opportunities for enhancing bilateral trade and cooperation were mentioned, including the upcoming Joint Commission Session and the Double Taxation Prevention Agreement.

The Minister expressed happiness about the appointment of a new Chairman for the Türkiye -Sri Lanka Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group and emphasized the importance of closer collaboration in line with Türkiye's "Asia Anew Initiative." The event concluded with gift exchanges and a raffle draw, featuring prizes from various companies. The lighting of the traditional oil lamp added a unique cultural touch to the event.



Guests enjoyed traditional dance performances, including a Pooja dance by three Sri Lankan medical students from Tbilisi State Medical University in Georgia. Music and singing were also provided by Mr. Amila Jayasooriya and Ms. Ellie Dawson, two teachers from the British School in Tbilisi.

Ambassador Meets Prof. Dr. Burhanettin Duran Coordinator of SETA - 07/02/2024

Ambassador met Prof. Dr. Burhanettin Duran Coordinator of SETA, Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research, a Turkish think-tank and discussed on matters of mutual interest as well as on possible collaborations.



Guests were treated to a lavish buffet featuring a selection of Sri Lankan and Turkish cuisine, along with beverages and take-away souvenirs.



The exhibition of Sri Lankan photographs depicting natural and cultural landscape by 02 eminent photographers provided unique insights to the guests.

The Sri Lanka Destination Promotion Event in Istanbul - 21/02/2024

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara, partnered with the Association of Travel Agencies in Türkiye (TÜRSAB) to organize to promote Sri Lanka as a unique and exciting new destination for Turkish tourists. It was held at the TÜRSAB headquarters in Istanbul and was organized with the support of Jazeera Airways and Aitken Spence Travels, Sri Lanka.

It focused on how to organize value for money tour packages to Sri Lanka in the Turkish tourism market. Particularly, experience of doing so since December 2023 was shared with the audience comprising of local travel companies.

Participants included TÜRSAB Executive Board Members, Disciplinary Board Members, Specialized Sector Presidents, Sri Lanka's Honorary Consul (designate) in Istanbul, representatives from over 75 registered travel agencies, and members of the Turkish media.



The event began with opening remarks from TÜRSAB Vice President Mr. Davut Günaydın, followed by the lighting of the traditional oil lamp to highlight Sri Lanka's culture. PowerPoint presentations were then delivered by various speakers, including Ambassador Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake and representatives from Aitken Spence Travels and Jazeera Airways.

Mr. Günaydın highlighted the importance of increasing bilateral relations through tourism promotion in his speech.



During her speech, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Turkey expressed gratitude to the Vice President of TÜRSAB and its Executive Board Members for their collaboration. She showcased the natural and cultural diversity, richness, and tourist destinations of Sri Lanka, as well as its unique products.



Following the event, a reception was held, followed by a Press Briefing aimed at updating the Turkish media on the progress made by Sri Lanka Tourism.

Co-hosted by the Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Ankara Vice President of TÜRSAB, Managing Director of Aitken Spence Travels, and Jazeera Airways Country Manager, the briefing covered topics such as tourist arrivals, airline connectivity, and new tourism experiences in Sri Lanka.

Before the event, the Ambassador met with the Vice President of TÜRSAB and his team, where they discussed plans to promote Sri Lanka as a destination for potential Turkish tourists. It was revealed that TÜRSAB aims to send at least 100,000 tourists from Türkiye to Sri Lanka in 2024, with the Ambassador pledging support to achieve this goal.

She also highlighted the potential of the direct flight operated by the Turkish Airlines, 04 times a week since November 2023, to promote tourism to Sri Lanka, but for *wise versa*, the challenge of high cost for Turkish visa costs was mentioned as being detrimental.



**The Honorary Consul for Myanmar in Türkiye
calls on the Ambassador of Sri Lanka -
28/02/2024**

The Honorary Consul for Myanmar in Türkiye met with the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Turkey to explore potential collaborations between Sri Lanka and Türkiye, among other topics.


