

Colombo International Maritime & Logistics Conference

9th - 11th September 2026

8th edition

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GATEWAY

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CIMC Events

Conference Hotel: Raddison Blu Hotel Galadari Colombo
Accommodation: Hilton Colombo (with extra special rates)

Registration fee: USD 250 per person
2 or more: USD 200 per person



Colombo International Maritime &
Logistics Conference
Established in 2015



Colombo International Maritime & Logistics Conference 2026– www.cimc.lk

New Chapter in Global Shipping

Sri Lanka's maritime and logistics sector has seen renewed interest globally as the premier transshipment port in South Asia. Recent disruptions in the middle east and the vulnerabilities for shipping in key choke points, and cost escalations, Sri Lankan ports make a unique positioning to service the global shipping/logistics and supply chain requirements.

Centrally located in the Indian Ocean Rim, the country lies between west Asia and east Asia, and right at the heart of South Asia, that can securely connect cargo, east bound, west bound and through the Cape of South Africa, without any choke points that could disrupt trade flows. Currently, transshipment and port expansion projects are ongoing in Colombo and Hambantota, while the world's second largest natural port, Trincomalee, will be another option for global supply chains to connect to the two billion strong population in the Bay of Bengal. Historically, Sri Lanka has been known for transshipment. But now the country has lucrative opportunities, in dry docking, repairs, marine engineering, crew changes, ship supplies and other off shore activities, including expansion of ship bunkering. Most importantly, Sri Lanka is advancing specialised "free ports" concepts and tax free zones to facilitate cargo consolidation, packaging and high speed distribution. This is tailored to attract, global e-commerce and fulfillment and value added manufacturing.

The Hambantota multi purpose port, is being heavily promoted as an industrial zone with integrated warehousing and LPG distribution, along with a logistics centre hub in the Indian ocean.

The Colombo International Maritime and Logistics Conference will discuss this new chapter, where Sri Lanka's connectivity to the world will be showcased, to ensure supply chain security and to be a collaborative port for global clients to have options and choices at lower cost with less disruptions to trade. Visit the Colombo International Maritime and Logistics Conference 2026



Draft Programme

Day 1- 9th September 2026

Inauguration



16.30- 17.00-- Registration – meet and greet

17.00hrs -20.00hrs- Inauguration

- Emcee to introduce the event
- Welcome address-Rohan Masakorala-Founder Chairman, CIMC Events
- Address by Sandun Hapugoda, President, AMCHAM Sri Lanka, Official Chamber for the Inauguration
- Address by the Patron-Sri Lankabhimanya Karu Jayasuriya
- Address by the Hon. Aruna Karunathilake-Minister of Ports & Civil Aviation and Minister of Energy
- South Asia Container Report– Ravi Ramprasad, Editor in Chief, Maritime Gateway, India
- Logistics as an enabler for Sri Lanka's economic development– Hanif Yusoof, Governor of Western Province & President's Special Envoy foreign Investment
- The role of the United States in the global maritime industry, to support trade and economic prosperity– Laura DiBella, Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, USA



For the first time in South Asia, US Federal Maritime Commissioner, appointed by the President of United States government, will be addressing at the 8th edition of the Colombo International Maritime & Logistics Conference. The Chairman will elaborate on the Federal Maritime Commission's mission to ensure competitive and reliable international ocean transportation to support exporters, importers and consumers. Further emphasis will be given on policy framework on the maritime sector adopted by the United States government. This will include, regulatory framework on ports, shipping and logistics.



Inauguration cont....

Shippers' Panel discussion

- Panel discussion on the macro-economic front on global supply chains, market dynamics that would shape the international trading environment towards 2050. What significant role the ports, shipping and logistics would play in the expanding global trade over the next decades as the future belongs to well connected trading networks, strengthened through technology, market access, regional and global cooperation. How do we build this eco-system, can Sri Lanka be a change agent?
A high profile panel discussion to set the stage
 1. Robert J. Harvey, Commissioner, Federal Maritime Commission, USA
 2. Rene Piil Pedersen, MD, AP Moller (Maersk) Singapore
 3. Ashroff Omar- CEO, Brandix Lanka
 4. Dustin Bickel- Indo Pacific Coordinator, US Embassy, Colombo
 5. Moderator- Rohan Masakorala, CEO, Shippers' Academy Colombo & Founder, CIMC Events
- Recognition of key personalities
- Launch of a special event
- Vote of thanks

20.00hrs -22.00hrs

- Colombo night -Networking Cocktails



Day 2- 10th September 2026

Maritime & Ports Day

Don't put all the eggs in one basket.....



We are moving in a century, where smart manufacturing, transportation, inventory management and customer requirements are all bundled through technology advancements to reach billions of consumers around the world. The supply chain resilience is never more important than today's development with challenging, unplanned circumstances occurring faster than anybody could think. Geo-political developments, environmental impacts and market shifts are creating the need for industrial partnerships more than ever before to maintain market stability.

The sessions will discuss different aspects from multiple stakeholders.

8.30hrs

Address by Ahamed Ur Rahman, President, The European Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka-Official Chamber for the Maritime & Ports Day



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Day 2- 10th September 2026

8.45hrs-9.45hrs

Session 1:

“The VUCA World”- Crisis is a new normal, how do we navigate?- Global shipping & ports industry perspective



Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity (VUCA), in the shipping and ports industry has been witnessed over the last decade specifically igniting a greater dialogue since COVID 19. Nations and policy makers have to grapple with the VUCA world and need to be agile and decisive to maintain stable transportation systems, where shipping and ports are considered the key nodes. Compared to world's new developments, how does Sri Lanka including South Asia fit into the new order?

1. Ikram Ghazali- President Director, CMA CGM, Indonesia
2. Abhinav Priya- Country Manager, Hapag Lloyd, Bangladesh & Sri Lanka
3. Capt. Mohit Chaturvedi, Director, Business Development, International Office, AD Ports, Abu Dhabi-online
4. Bhaskar Sengupta- Head of Investment IBS, APM Terminals, The Hague
5. Prof. Ronan Long- Director, WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute
6. Moderator-Romesh David MD, APM Terminals Laldia, Bangladesh



Day 2- 10th September 2026

9.45hrs- 10.45hrs

Session 2:

Is the direction right? Is the Port of Colombo ready in a future logistics landscape in the global value chain by embracing a new model? Is greater stakeholder participation the locked secret? Can we unlock it?- Terminal Operators' Panel



Port of Colombo plays a vital role and has been recognised as a preferred transshipment hub in South Asia, serving as a key node of the Indian Ocean maritime space. However, the business of ports is evolving due to many factors and the choices are becoming greater for the liner shipping industry to fill up the box ships where, modern technologies, IMO led environmental requirements and strong cargo growth in emerging economies space. These segments are calling for greater policy reforms for port modernisation and greater partnerships to secure sustainable business. The session will discuss, the challenges and the opportunities, the port of Colombo and the rest of the Sri Lankan ports including Hambantota would face and actions to mitigate.

1. W W S Managala-Secretary, Ministry of Ports & Civil Aviation
2. H J K U Kumara, Director Marketing & Business Development, SLPA Container Terminals (JCT & ECT)
3. Steen Knudsen-CEO, South Asia Gateway Terminals (SAGT)
4. Irish Siriwardena-COO, Colombo West International Terminal (CWIT)
5. Catriona Jayasundera-Chief Commercial Officer, Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT)
6. Wilson Qu -CEO, Hambantota International Port Group (HIPG)
7. Moderator- Ananda S. Premachandra, Independent Consultant

Tea/Coffee open



Day 2- 10th September 2026

10.45hrs-11.45hrs

Session 3:

Neighbour's advantage as a hub – India's role as an emerging regional giant in container shipping- Indian growth story 2047- is it competition or collaboration?

A two billion population of South Asia, is led by India's industrialisation, joined by Bangladesh and Pakistan linked to the Bay of Bengal region, and has massive consumer market growth, linked with rapid requirements for logistics connectivity for industrialisation. South Asia remains the largest block in Asia that is considered behind its peers in the Asian region. However, Sri Lanka's neighbour is identified as a game changer for intra-Asia trade and global supply chains' key partner in the emerging decades. Should we not collaborate instead of seeing India as a competitor? Analysing trade growth patterns and connectivity, the session will discuss the future shipping and ports partnerships for greater efficiency and security of the sector. It also will give investors an idea of potential opportunities.

1. Prof. Sudeep Chakravarti- Executive Director of the Stepwell Centre for Asian Futures, Ahmedabad University
2. Bency Mathew-India Correspondent, Journal of Commerce
3. Romesh David- MD, APM Terminals Laldia, Bangladesh
4. Joy Thathil Ittoop– Maritime Lawyer & Former, Secretary General, Dubai Shipping Agents Association
5. Moderator: Ted Muttiah, Chief Commercial Officer, South Asia Gateway Terminals (SAGT)



Day 2- 10th September 2026

11.45hrs-12.45hrs

Session 4:

Next line of critical reforms - The World Bank and Asian Development Bank

The international institutions, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank play a pivotal role in introducing and modernising the global ports and shipping industry through policy advocacy and funding through infrastructure development. This session will discuss, critical reforms that are needed through the experiences of the World Bank and the ADB.

1. Kamal Dorabawila- Chief Investment Officer, International Finance Corporation
2. Adrian Sammons-Senior Transport Specialist, Asian Development Bank-Online
3. Ananda S. Premachandra- Independent Consultant
4. Amali Rajapakse-Senior Transport Specialist, World Bank
5. Moderator-Prof. Issa Baluch, International Logistics Advisor, Former President FIATA, World Bank Consultant



Lunch break - 12.45hrs- 13.30hrs

Discussion over lunch



Day 2- 10th September 2026

13.30hrs – 14.45hrs

Session 5:

Is manufacturing sustainable or is services the game changer? Connecting to global supply chains, the pragmatic decision



Exports are considered a key pillar for nation building. Specially connected through ocean highways, countries can make a difference to increase production and to be a competitive merchandise exporter. Sri Lanka has new ambitions in export revenues, although it has lagged growth as desired. Can we change this model? What critical three things the country would need to do to be competitive, or is the game changer to be part of the global supply chain by inviting more investments into component production and value addition through supply chain advantages, by being in the middle of the Indian ocean? Wishful thinking or not?

1. Felix Fernando- Chairman, Joint Apparel Association Forum/MD Omega Line
2. Mangala Wijesinghe-Chairman, Export Development Board
3. Ganesh Deivanayagam -Executive Chairman, Eswaran Brothers Exports
4. Rajitha Kariyawasam-MD Haycarb PLC, Group Director Hayleys PLC
5. Sanjay Melvani-MD, Yokohama TWS
6. Moderator: Yohan Lawrence, SG, Joint Apparel Association Forum



Day 2- 10th September 2026

14.45hrs-15.45hrs

Session 6:

Speed to new markets, Africa's new logistics opportunities

Africa's logistics sector is undergoing historic transformation, driven by massive infrastructure investments. The market is projected to reach USD 447 billion by 2029, creating high growth opportunities in supply chains, cross border mega corridors and localised fulfilment centres, with new second cities emerging as hubs, that could have potential for warehousing and last mile distribution.

This session will discuss, Africa's trade and logistics opportunities, which includes the African Continent Free Trade Area, which is considered the largest free trade area by population and connecting to intra-African trade.



1. Prof. Issa Baluch, International Logistics Advisor, Former President FIATA, World Bank Consultant
2. Donald Odhiambo Okumu-MD, GEX Logistics Kenya
3. Laksiri Nonis- COO, Tanzania East Africa Gateway Terminal Limited
4. Sanjay Wijewardena-MD, GEX Logistics Sri Lanka
5. Moderator: Rushdi Zackariya-Director, Samson Lines (DSI Samson Group)

Tea/Coffee Open



Day 2- 10th September 2026

15.45hrs- 17.00hrs

Session 7:

Fireside chat 1: Transforming a nation, Global us- Bringing the exposure and the experience--The Sri Lankan's overseas

The first fireside chat will focus on the views of Sri Lankans engaged in global operations in ports and shipping. They will discuss their experiences in policy, management, operations, opportunities that their home country can adopt to build a prosperous maritime nation. Their voices will also be translated to build a global Sri Lankan maritime community that can assist local policy makers to drive in the right direction to modernise our nation.

1. Randima Krishnaratne- Client Program Director, A. P. Moller Maersk, UK
2. Prasantha Dissanayake-CEO, Arvia Shipping, UAE
3. Jamitha Pathirana- Group CEO/Founder, B-Dynamic Group, Australia
4. Nilantha Costa-MD, Adovan Asia
5. Ikram Ghazali– President Director, CMA-CGM Indonesia
6. Moderator- Navin Perera-Director, GAC Logistics



Day 3- 11th September 2026

Logistics & Supply Chain Day

Lateral, divergent thinking, be unconventional moving towards the AI world



Sri Lanka has been embarking on a transshipment focused strategy for more than four decades. The world has moved on, opportunities have sprung. More and more value-added services in the inventory and the supply chain management have emerged and more consolidation and component management for containerised, break bulk and bulk shipping has emerged. Recent developments in the gulf calls for greater supply chain security, choice and sustainability in sourcing and procurement to avoid market distortions due to unforeseen supply chain disruptions. Be it tariffs, border disputes, geo-political developments, choke points or catastrophic environmental disruptions, the attention of logisticians to come up with innovative solutions to support global trade to floor with minimal disruptions is essential. These sessions will cover modern thinking with pragmatic logistics solutions for maritime nations to embrace the new opportunities.

8.30hrs

Address by Martin Close– Chief Delegate, Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka -Official Chamber for the Logistics & Supply Chain Day



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



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Day 3- 11th September 2026

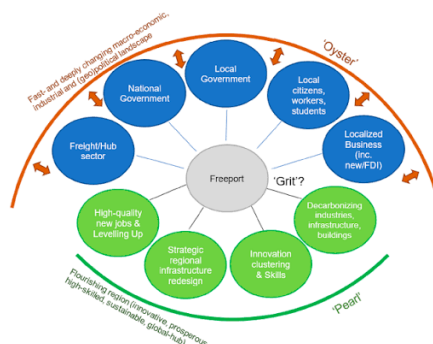
8.45hrs-9.45hrs

Session 8:

The best gift for Sri Lanka-World is realigning -Need for logistics spatial planning- Global free ports, where does Sri Lanka fit in?

The concept of free ports and fulfilment centres are emerging trends to support efficient distribution and inventory control for merchandise products, that needs multiple services, time frames and support consumer behaviour. The process helps manufacturers, exporters, traders, buyers and retailers to plan out supply chain requirements and manage cash flow to be competitive with different regions of the world. It may be finished, semi-finished products or intermediaries. Free ports give that edge over standard port to port business. The industry is now valued over trillions of dollars and growing. Sri Lanka is probably one of the most blessed locations to expand the vertical that can massively contribute to the national economy.

1. Iwan Rutjens-Deputy Ambassador/Counsellor, Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands
2. Rajiv Fernando- Chairman, Free Port Association of Sri Lanka
3. Jeevantha Gunetilake, Director, APL Logistics Lanka-TBC
4. Danusha Gunawardena– MD, DSV Air & Sea, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh
5. Sean Van Dort-Director Logistics & Digital Service Integration, MAS Holdings
6. Moderator: Amal Rodrigo, Director Ports & Terminals, Advantis Shipping



Day 3- 11th September 2026

9.45hrs-10.45hrs

Session 9:

Understanding the logistics markets for trade and economic expansion

Global giants in the transportation industry are looking at backward integration to support companies with new solutions adapting technologies to minimise operational costs and provide speed to market solutions.

This session will discuss different solutions adopted by key players, in transforming the logistics industry. In this context, the experts will discuss regional and global developments including technological solutions that could be adapted by different players and service providers in the supply chain. They will also discuss investment opportunities and consumer trends.



1. Ahamed ur Rahman- MD, Hellmann Worldwide Logistics, Sri Lanka
2. Danusha Gunawardena– MD, DSV Air & Sea, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh
3. Sanjay Samarasinghe-managing Director, Aramex
4. Rear Admiral Shahid Ahmed SI M SBT Retd, Chairman, Karachi Port Trust
5. Nitin Sharma- Regional Sales Manager, Indian Subcontinent, Expeditors Delhi
6. Moderator: Andre Fernando, Chairman, Sri Lanka Logistics and Freight Forwarders' Association

Tea/Coffee open



Day 3- 11th September 2026

10.45hrs-11.45hrs

Session 10:

Future banking- supporting global supply chains and logistics

Supply chain finance refers to a suite of technology driven solutions, provided by banks to optimise cash flow and working capital of businesses connected in a trading network. Supply chains and logistics services are directly linked to efficient financial and value chains in global trade. Proper financing and speeding of documentation and digitalising processes, will create an environment that will help trade and logistics. In this space, electronic bills of lading and simplified data processing and digital solutions for clients will be a key responsibility of future banks.

This session will bridge the gap between, buyers and suppliers, and ensure the logistics industry can maintain sustainable financial flows, through innovative banking tools.

1. Opening remarks & moderator: Damith Pallewatte-MD/CEO, HNB
2. Harsha Wanigathunge-Chief Information Officer, Seylan Bank
3. Tharindu Abeywardena- Chief Economist, Sampath Bank
4. Roger Norton, Executive Director, Country Head of Transaction Banking, Standard Chartered Bank
5. Viraj De Mendis-Senior VP & Head of Strategic Solutions, Millenium IT Esp
6. Indike Gunathilake- Chief Architect for Government Technologies, NCINGA



Day 3- 11th September 2026

11.45hrs- 12.45hrs

Session 11:

Bunkering & ancillary services & investments

It has been a policy discussion that the energy sector must play a critical role to make Sri Lanka a maritime hub. This would enhance the capabilities to attract all types of ships and fuels in our key ports of Colombo, Hambantota and Trincomalee. Trading bunker alone is not going to help to grow the industry. The country needs investments in new fuels, infrastructure and lubricants and expand the storage refinery facilities with global partners. The challenge is to maintain competitive pricing, while the opportunity is to provide supply chain security by establishing different types ships energy storage from west, south to the east coast of Sri Lanka.



1. Zafir Hashim-President, Transportation Industry Group, John Keells Holdings
2. K. Raghu-MD, Lanka IOC
3. Capt. Kumar Satnam Singh– Managing Director, Heidmar Marine Services, HongKong
4. Thusitha De Silva- Head of Commercial and Industrial Sales, Chevron Lubricants Lanka PLC
5. Moderator- Anuradha Harasgama-MD, Lynora Shipping

Lunch break -12.45hrs-13.30hrs -

Discussion over lunch



Day 3- 11th September 2026

13.30hrs- 14.30hrs

Session 12:

The world of air -sea connectivity-has Sri Lanka got the potential to enter the space?

In multimodal logistics, combining ocean freight and air freight into a single seamless transportation journey, provides a solution to merchandise traders to optimise supply chains and plan out distribution and inventory control. The air-sea connectivity gives project managers, the flexibility to deliver projects on time, where strategic locations can be used for rapid final delivery. It helps cost mitigation, time reduction and bring in manageable cost structures while it can also help dynamic routing, crisis bypassing and allow businesses to work just in time inventory buffering. This session will discuss the potential for Sri Lanka to be a new air-sea hub and the way ahead to transform the sector.

This session will discuss, Sri Lanka's potential to attract new business, as it is located between east and west Asia, where large volumes of air-sea operations take place and the region needs options for clients as a logistics solution, away from existing hubs.

1. Jagath Pathirana-Director, Expolanka Holdings Limited
2. Aruna Rajapaksha, Head of Airport Management, Aairport & Aviation Services Sri Lanka
3. Sean Van Dort-Director Logistics & Digital Service Integration, MAS Holdings
4. Emre Durmaz- Regional Cargo Manager Sri Lanka & Maldives, Turkish Airlines
5. Prof. Issa Baluch, International Logistics Advisor, Former President FIATA, World Bank Consultant
6. Moderator: Chaminda Perera, Head of Cargo, SriLankan



Day 3- 11th September 2026

14.30hrs – 15.30hrs

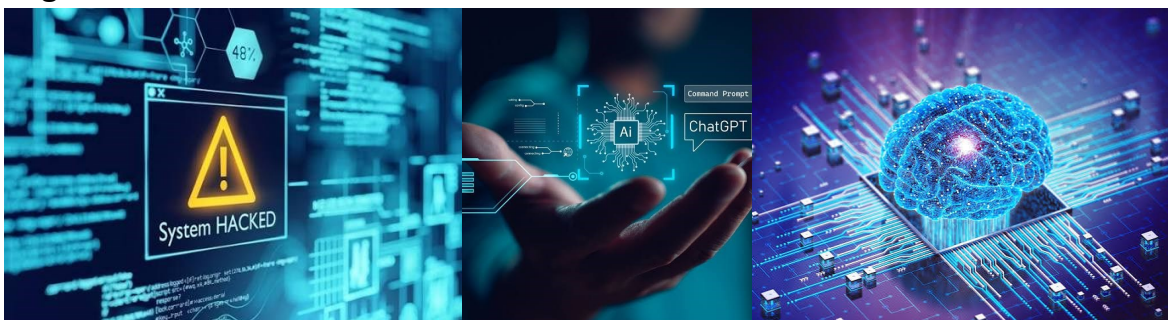
Session 13:

Technology to compete -digital transformation in port logistics, AI challenge and cyber security- the good, the bad and the ugly

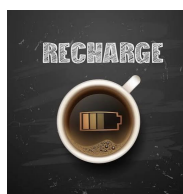
Adapting new technologies, requires shifting the mindset of companies and to embrace tools to build a productive environment that is transparent, efficient and growth oriented. The world has moved to artificial intelligence requiring re-design of work flows and changing the skills sets of employees. The transformation will require modern management practices, where industry leaders will have to invest in human resources who are creative with curiosity and be smart at critical thinking and manage change through emotional intelligence. The adaptation of AI into the ports and logistics sector, will parallelly draw the necessity to face threats through cybercrime.

The session will give an understanding to the logistics industry, a comprehensive view on what to do and what not to do when adapting fast changing technologies. This session will cover, digitalisation and cybersecurity.

1. Mayuran Palanisamy, Partner, Deloitte India
2. Viraj De Mendis-Senior VP & Head of Strategic Solutions, Millenium IT Esp
3. Alessandro Magoni, Sales Manager EMEA – Port Solutions, TMEIC Corporation Americas
4. Randima Krishnaratne- Client Program Director, A. P. Moller Maersk, UK
5. Sheruni Boteju-Associate Vice President – Cyber Security, NCINGA
6. Capt. Anuj Chopra, Co-Founder, ESGPlus LLC, USA- Online
7. Moderator– Vineet Malhotra, Co-Founder of KALE Logistics USA LLC and Kale Logistics India



Tea/Coffee Open



Day 3- 11th September 2026

15.30hrs- 16.30hrs

Transition discussion

16.30hrs – 17.30hrs

Session 14:

Fireside chat 2- “The policy makers”- making Sri Lanka a maritime and a logistics hub

The policy implementation for ports, shipping and logistics, involves translating into a strategic framework. For decades, Sri Lanka has been having a mono policy framework that has stagnated with little or no tangible growth in its contribution to the national GDP, which is considered less than 2.5%. Where as an attractive location, situated in the middle of the Indian ocean, has only gained the populist slogan “the location”, but has failed to get investments, attract new know-how and capital to transform the ports to be recognised as a globally accepted maritime and a logistics hub. The policy makers have been focussing on the 1979 reforms that made Sri Lanka a regional transshipment hub. Beyond this, the country has failed to reform on multiple verticals to be a game changer that could help the national economy to work towards a 10% contribution to the GDP through the ports, shipping and logistics sectors, as shown by other countries. The fireside chat will discuss, the multi-party policy, and how they would transform the country’s direction, as for four decades, the current system has failed to generate the needed financial infusion to the Sri Lanka’s economy.

1. Hon. Janitha Ruwan Kodithuwakku-Deputy Minister of Ports & Civil Aviation-TBC
2. Hon. Anil Jayantha- Minister of Labour & Deputy Minister of Finance-TBC
3. Hon Sujeewa Senasinghe-MP
4. Patali Champika Ranawaka-Former Minister
5. Shehan Semasinghe-Former State Minister
6. Moderator: Thilan Wijesinghe-Chairman, TWC Holdings





While attending the conference
Discover the Beauty of
SRI LANKA

Visits to Port of Colombo and Hambantota Port (subject to availability) -pre & post conference

Please use the link to register: <https://forms.gle/1ZqGzfuPJFWPKGtca>

Registration fee: USD 250 per person

2 or more: USD 200 per person

Please note that the programme is in the process of being adjusted and this is not the final version

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