

# AHK SRI LANKA

## Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2024

VOLUME 61

**GERMAN INDUSTRY  
RESILIENCE IN SRI  
LANKA AMID  
CHALLENGING ASIA-  
PACIFIC MARKET  
CONDITIONS**

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**A MARKET OVERVIEW  
OF SRI LANKA'S  
CINNAMON**

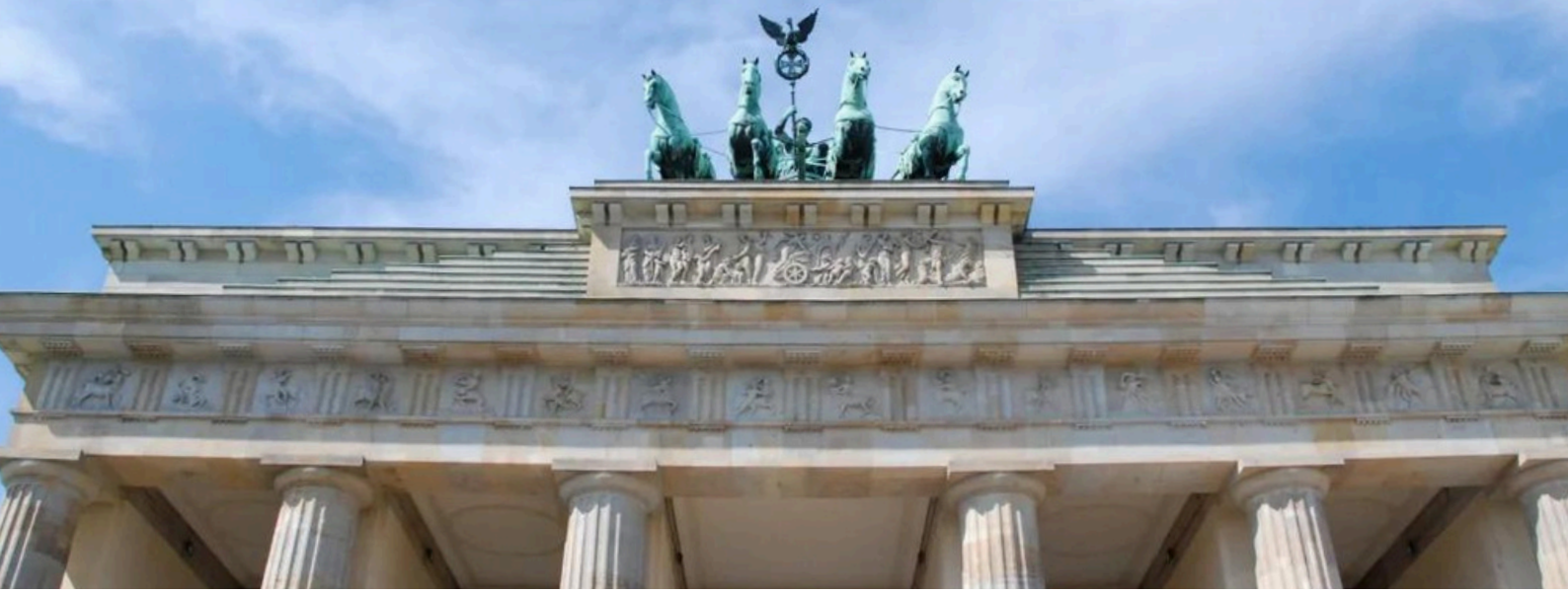
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**SUSTAINABILITY  
AWARDS 2024  
HONOUR ECO-  
FRIENDLY TOURISM  
PRACTICES**



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

 Partner In Sri Lanka



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# ECONOMIC DATA OF SRI LANKA & GERMANY

## Inflation in Sri Lanka

On-year-on-year basis, National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) (2021=100) based headline inflation remained in the negative territory for the second consecutive month, recording a deflation of 0.7% in October 2024 from 0.2% deflation reported in September 2024. Food category recorded an inflation of 1.3%, while the Non-Food category recorded a deflation of 2.3%. Further, the NCPI based core inflation decelerated to 1.7% in October 2024 from 1.9% in September 2024

## Inflation in Germany

The inflation rate in Germany, measured as the year-on-year change in the consumer price index (CPI), stood at +2.0% in October 2024. This means that the inflation rate rose again, after having fallen below 2% in September 2024 (+1.6%) and in August 2024 (+1.9%).

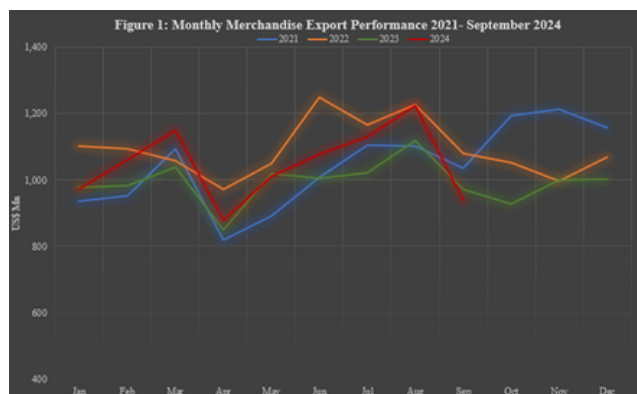


## Sri Lanka Trade Statistics

As per the provisional data released by the Sri Lanka Customs, the merchandise export performance in September 2024 amounted to US\$ 937.95 million, recorded a decline of 3.49 % compared to the month of September 2023. This was mainly due to the decrease in earnings from export of Tea, Rubber based products, Electrical & Electronics and Seafood.

The estimated value of services exports for the month of September 2024 was US\$ 329.89 Million, increasing 6.08 % over the corresponding period of 2023.

### Comparison of Monthly Merchandise Export Performance 2021 – September 2024



### Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index



### Services Purchasing Managers' Index



## Germany Trade Statistics

On a calendar and seasonally adjusted basis, German exports to countries outside the European Union (third countries) were down 6.9% in October 2024 compared with September 2024. According to provisional data of the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), Germany exported goods to the value of 55.1 billion euros to these countries in October 2024, after seasonal and calendar adjustment.

## EU Trade Statistics

Exports to the European Union (EU) which accounts for 24% of Sri Lanka's exports, increased by 0.44 % y-o-y in September 2024. However, exports to EU decreased by 0.62 % during the cumulative period of January to September 2024.

Exports to the top five EU markets were recorded as; Germany US\$ 477.33 Mn (increased by 8.88 %), Italy US\$ 441.88 Mn (decreased by 12.9 %), Netherlands US\$ 285.57 Mn (increased by 15.88 %), France US\$ 199.24 Mn. (decreased 19.77 %) and Belgium US\$ 174.08 Mn (increased by 2.41%) during the cumulative period of January to September 2024 in comparison to the corresponding period in 2023.





## Sri Lankan Global Exports (Source: EDB)



### Apparel and Textile Exports

Export earnings from Apparel & Textile increased by 15.71 % y-o-y to US \$ 418.68 Mn in September 2024 compared to September 2023. Additionally, exports of Apparel & Textile to USA increased by 36.87 % in September 2024 compared to September 2023.



### Coconut-based Exports

On monthly analysis, export earnings of Coconut based products increased by 10.36 % in September 2024 compared to September 2023. Moreover, export earnings of Coconut kernel products, Coconut fiber products and Coconut shell products increased by 9.29 %, 9.39 % and 814.8 % respectively in September 2024 compared to September 2023.



### Rubber-based Exports

Export earnings from Rubber and Rubber finished products have decreased by 4.1 % y-o-y to US\$ 79.5 Mn in September 2024, with the negative performance in exports of Pneumatic & Retreated Rubber Tyres & Tubes (-12.19%).



### Tea Exports

Export earnings from tea, which made up 12% of merchandise exports, decreased by 2.44 % y-o-y to US\$ 117.03 Mn in September 2024 compared to September 2023. This decrease is mainly due to the negative performance in the export of Bulk Tea (-10.26%).

# TOURISM NEWS IN SRI LANKA

## Tourist Arrivals in Sri Lanka

In October, Sri Lanka recorded 135,907 tourist arrivals, showing an 11.3% rise from September and a notable 24.5% increase compared to October 2023. This brought the cumulative total to 1,620,715 arrivals by the end of October, underscoring a steady recovery in tourism. Although October's conservative target was set at 143,032, the near achievement highlights strong demand and a positive trajectory in the sector's growth this year.



The latest UNWTO Barometer offers a largely optimistic forecast for international tourism from May to October 2024, with robust recovery anticipated. However, the rebound faces challenges from various factors, including economic pressures like inflation and high fuel costs, geopolitical instability, travel restrictions, visa requirements, low consumer confidence, and ongoing COVID-19 concerns. These hurdles continue to influence the pace of tourism's recovery

## German Tourist Arrivals in Sri Lanka

In October, Sri Lanka's key tourism markets included India, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, Germany, and China, with significant growth in visitors from these countries fueling the sector's expansion. The number of German arrivals in October 2024 were recorded as 9217, a share of 6.8%.



# GERMAN INDUSTRY RESILIENCE IN SRI LANKA AMID CHALLENGING ASIA-PACIFIC MARKET CONDITIONS



The "AHK Asia-Pacific Business Outlook Fall 2024" survey, conducted by the German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs), provides critical insights into the economic and business sentiment across the Asia-Pacific region. With responses from over 3,500 German-affiliated companies globally, including 643 in Asia-Pacific (excluding Greater China), this report outlines key trends, risks, and opportunities. Notably, Sri Lanka emerges as a standout performer, showing significant optimism about its economic future.

## Key Takeaways: Sri Lanka's Promising Outlook in the Asia-Pacific

The Asia-Pacific region continues to grapple with a cautious business environment, as reflected in the overall balance of 43% positive responses for future business expectations. However, Sri Lanka has emerged as a clear frontrunner, achieving an impressive 70% positive balance. This optimism surpasses regional heavyweights like India (57%) and Malaysia (61%), underscoring Sri Lanka's rising appeal as a business destination.

Investment interest in Sri Lanka is also gaining momentum. With a balance of 32% for higher investment intentions—marking a significant improvement over previous years—the island nation is attracting attention from international investors seeking strategic opportunities in the region.



However, it's not all smooth sailing. Like much of the Asia-Pacific, Sri Lanka faces notable challenges, including high energy costs and demand volatility. These risks mirror broader regional concerns but highlight the importance of strategic planning and resilience for businesses operating in the country.

## Sri Lanka: A Bright Spot in the Asia-Pacific Region

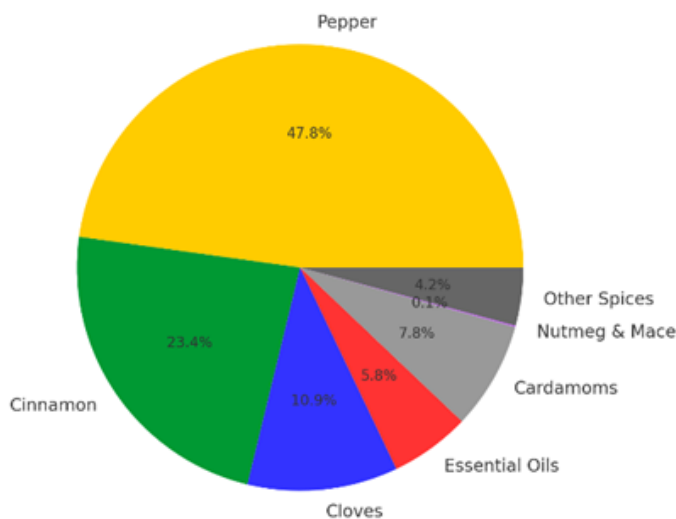
Sri Lanka's standout performance in the "AHK Asia-Pacific Business Outlook Fall 2024" survey reflects a remarkable shift in the country's economic narrative. With business expectations achieving a balance of 70% positive responses—the highest in the region—it is clear that optimism is returning to the island nation after years of economic challenges.

[Click here to read the full article](#)

# A MARKET OVERVIEW OF SRI LANKA'S CINNAMON



Sri Lanka's Spice Exports (2021)



- Sri Lanka obtained Geographical Indication (GI) certification in 2022 further enhancing Ceylon Cinnamon's reputation in the global market.
- Cinnamon ranks second as the key export earner for Sri Lanka among spices (23.4% of spice export earnings and 8% of total agricultural exports).

## Cinnamon in Numbers

- Sri Lanka's cinnamon sector includes around 70,000 plantations, with 80% being smallholders. Approximately 71% of cinnamon operations are small-scale with less than 2.4 hectares, while only 9% are large-scale.
- There are about 15,000 cinnamon peelers currently employed, but the industry requires 350,000 peelers for optimal processing.
- On average, labor costs account for 67% of cinnamon production costs, while material inputs contribute 19%. Farmers retain around 80-82% of the FOB price.

## Challenges

- High labor costs and outdated farming practices affect competitiveness. Farmers also face high input costs such as fertilizer and planting materials.
- Sri Lanka's inability to meet global safety and hygiene standards hinders access to key export markets.
- The industry also struggles with logistical inefficiencies and a lack of infrastructure investment.
- Price volatility, particularly for premium varieties like Alba, makes farm gate prices unpredictable, sometimes shifting by more than 10% per month.

## Opportunities

- The global demand for natural and organic products is increasing, allowing Sri Lanka to tap into niche markets.
- Significant potential exists for value-added products such as cinnamon oil, pharmaceutical derivatives, and nutraceutical products.
- Technological innovations and advancements in farming practices can help overcome labor shortages and improve productivity.

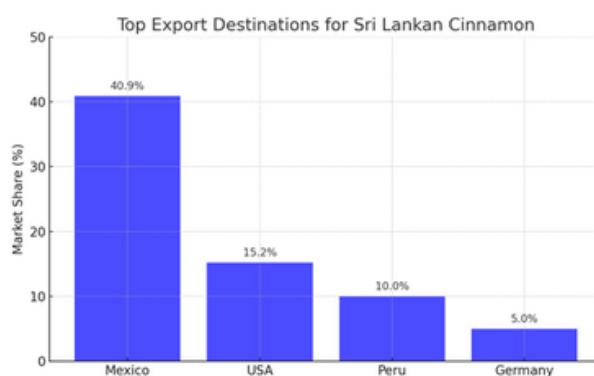


### Distinction Between Cassia and Ceylon Cinnamon:

- Ceylon cinnamon is milder, softer, and more aromatic, while Cassia cinnamon is stronger, thicker, and less refined.
- The two also differ in appearance: Ceylon cinnamon has thin, delicate, layered quills, whereas Cassia cinnamon comes in thicker, rougher sticks.
- Ceylon cinnamon contains less coumarin, making it a healthier option.
- Sri Lanka is the world's largest producer of Ceylon cinnamon, accounting for over 90% of global exports.
- Known for its premium quality and health benefits, Ceylon cinnamon secures a higher market price and uniquely positions Sri Lanka in the global spice trade.

### Market Insights

- Sri Lanka's cinnamon export value reached USD 232 million in 2022, contributing 1.7% to the nation's total exports.
- The country is the world's largest producer and exporter of pure cinnamon, holding 90% of the global market share.
- The country's main trading partners are Mexico, the USA, and Peru, with



- Mexico accounting for 40.9% of total exports, the USA for 15.2%, and Peru for 10%.
- Germany imported nearly 2,900 tons of ground cinnamon and cinnamon flowers in 2022, a significant increase from 1,200 tons in 2010.
- Of the 266 registered cinnamon exporters, only 48 are regular exporters, while 130 are occasional exporters and 88 are inactive members. Cinnamon exporters are often small-scale operators, with only 11% of exporters handling over 500 MT annually.
- The majority of Sri Lankan cinnamon production (90%) is destined for overseas markets, while only 10% is consumed domestically.

Sri Lanka's cinnamon will take center stage at the **International Green Week 2025** Trade Fair in Berlin, Germany, as part of a dedicated Sri Lankan pavilion happening from the 17th to 26th of January 2025. With its position as the world's largest exporter of Ceylon cinnamon, Sri Lanka will showcase this premium spice to a global audience of over 400,000 visitors, reinforcing its reputation for quality and sustainability.



## G20 SUMMIT: GERMANY HOPING FOR EU-MERCOSUR TRADE PROGRESS



At the G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz might achieve a significant diplomatic breakthrough by finalizing a historic free-trade agreement between the European Union and the Mercosur states of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. If successful, this long-awaited deal would mark the culmination of decades of negotiations, potentially strengthening economic ties between the regions and fostering greater cooperation on global challenges.

"This free-trade agreement would be liberating for the German economy. It's almost impossible to imagine a more difficult situation geopolitically — we have to use this opportunity," Volker Treier, the foreign policy leader of the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, told DW.



### German economy hoping for breakthrough

Treier noted a recent business survey from the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Brussels. The result, he said, was "pretty dismal."

With the European Union facing US protectionism under the incoming Trump administration, Treier said, an agreement with Mercosur would be an important signal for EU and German businesses. When it comes to batteries, solar panels, wind energy and green hydrogen, he said, the European Union could achieve its green transformation more quickly and sustainably with the help of raw materials from Latin America.

In return, European businesses would no longer pay €4 billion (\$4.2 billion) in tariffs to export their goods to Mercosur countries, according to Treier. "We already have good relations with Mercosur, but there's no real dynamism. In part, that is because Mercosur countries are imposing 25-30% tariffs on classic German export products like cars, but also electronics or machined goods," said Treier.

In the event the agreement isn't signed at the G20, proponents are aiming to get it wrapped up at the Mercosur summit taking place in Montevideo, Uruguay, in early December.

[Click here to read the full article](#)

Source: DW News

## Sustainability Awards 2024 Honour Eco-friendly Tourism Practices



The 2024 Sustainability Awards, organized by the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka) and funded by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF Sri Lanka), took place on 12 November 2024 at the Hilton Colombo Residences. This year's event brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and sustainability advocates to recognize and celebrate exceptional achievements in sustainable business practices within Sri Lanka's tourism sector.

With a focus on sustainable supply chains, the awards honoured companies committed to eco-friendly and socially responsible practices. The ceremony provided a platform for showcasing innovations in sustainability, empowering businesses to adopt practices that positively impact both people and the environment.

The winners were:

- Tour Operator/Destination Management Company (DMC) - Large Enterprise: Aitken Spence Travels (Pvt) Ltd
- Tour Operator/Destination Management Company (DMC) - Small and Medium Sized Enterprise: DTH Travel Sri Lanka
- Hotel and Accommodation Service Provider - Large Enterprise: Hilton Colombo
- Hotel and Accommodation Service Provider - Small and Medium Sized Enterprise: Siddhalepa Ayurveda Health Resort (Pvt) Ltd

The winners were selected by a distinguished panel of experts in sustainable tourism, with representatives from AHK Sri Lanka, FNF Sri Lanka, and sustainability leaders in the sector. Each awardee was honoured with a physical token and a certificate.

The Sustainability Awards 2024 serves as a significant milestone in Sri Lanka's ongoing efforts to create a more sustainable and responsible tourism industry. By spotlighting the initiatives of forward-thinking businesses, the event continues to inspire positive change across the sector, encouraging further collaboration and innovation in sustainable tourism practices.

The Sustainability Awards Ceremony 2024 was successfully concluded, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees and reinforcing the importance of sustainable practices in shaping the future of Sri Lanka's tourism industry.

**[Click here for more information](#)**

# NEWS FROM AHK SRI LANKA

## Sri Lanka Showcases Healthcare Potential at Medica 2024

The Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka) successfully organised a Sri Lankan business delegation to Medica 2024, the world's leading trade fair for medical technology, in Germany from 11-14 November 2024. This renowned exhibition created a unique opportunity for Sri Lankan medical and health sector stakeholders to network with international partners, share expertise, and discover the latest advancements in the industry.



The Sri Lankan delegation, accompanied by H.E. Varuni Muthukumarana, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Germany, featured leading Sri Lankan companies, including *DIMO Healthcare*, *Hayleys Lifesciences*, *Sunpro Healthcare*, *Mediequipment*, *Nanomedix*, and *Emar Pharma*, many of which are prominent agents or distributors of German and EU medical equipment in Sri Lanka. During the exhibition, these companies engaged in fruitful B2B meetings with existing principals and explored partnerships with potential business collaborators.



Moreover, AHK Sri Lanka facilitated several strategic engagements, including a pivotal meeting with the German Health Alliance (GHA). Mr. Armin Smajilovic, Vice Chairman of the GHA Board, warmly welcomed the delegation and expressed optimism about fostering deeper collaboration. Discussions included the exchange of best practices in regulatory frameworks, potential improvements in registration processes, and the possibility of a fact-finding visit to Sri Lanka by GHA members in 2025.

**[Click here to read the full article.](#)**



## Celebrating Excellence: AHK Sri Lanka Certifies the First Batch of Plant Mechanics



AHK Sri Lanka is thrilled to announce the certification of the first batch of graduates from the 3.5-year Plant Mechanic for Sanitary, Heating, and Air Conditioning Technology training program, conducted by the DIMO Academy for Technical Skills (DATS) in accordance with DIHK standards.

At AHK Sri Lanka, we uphold excellence by following the German Dual Vocational Education System (Category A), fully aligned with the German Vocational Training Act. Our rigorous examination process guarantees internationally recognized certifications that meet the highest industry standards.

If you are seeking a trusted partner to deliver top-tier training programs — whether you're an educational institute or a company seeking to enhance your workforce and achieve global standards — reach out to us today. Together, let's shape the future of skilled professionals!

# NEWS FROM AHK SRI LANKA

## Visit to Silueta (Pvt) Limited Organized by Triumph International Lanka: A Showcase of German-Sri Lankan Innovation and Collaboration

On November 26, 2024, AHK Sri Lanka had the privilege of visiting Silueta (Pvt) Limited, a trailblazer in providing innovative solutions for the apparel industry and a proud member of MAS Holdings. The visit, organized by Triumph International Lanka—a renowned German brand celebrated for its high-quality and cutting-edge fashion products—brought together representatives from various German businesses operating in Sri Lanka.

AHK Sri Lanka were honoured by the presence of H.E. Dr. Felix Neumann, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, who actively participated in the program.

The visit featured an insightful introduction to Silueta's forward-thinking approach to intimate wear, shapewear, sportswear, and protective gear. Attendees were treated to a detailed tour of Silueta's state-of-the-art production facilities, sparking engaging discussions on innovation and sustainable production practices.

Both Dr. Felix Neumann and Marie Antonia von Schönburg, Chief Delegate of the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce, emphasized the strong partnership between Triumph International and Silueta. They lauded the collaboration for producing high-quality, innovative intimate wear that embodies the strengths of German-Sri Lankan cooperation.

AHK Sri Lanka extend our sincere gratitude to Triumph International Lanka and Silueta (Pvt) Limited for facilitating this remarkable and enlightening visit.





# THE GERMAN BRANDS DIRECTORY IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

This comprehensive guide features detailed listings of many German brands active in Sri Lanka, making it the perfect resource for businesses, professionals, and stakeholders looking to connect with industry leaders. Whether you're exploring new business partnerships, expanding your network, or seeking top-quality products and services, this directory is your gateway to success.



Standard Price:  
**LKR 15,000**

Special Price for Committee  
Members: **LKR 12,500**

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# Are You Aware of the Demand for Sri Lankan Spirits?

The European market has shown a strong demand. Exhibiting at ProWein, the international trade fair for Wines & Spirits, will open doors for your business, providing valuable opportunities to connect with consumers and industry leaders, while expanding your reach.



 **16-18 March, 2025**

 **Düsseldorf, Germany**

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Book Your Space**



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Organized by



# transport logistic



2-5 June 2025



Munich, Germany

Visit with us to the World's Leading Trade Fair for  
**Logistics, Mobility, IT, and Supply Chain Management**

This trade fair is your gateway to:

## Forge Powerful Connections

Build lasting relationships with new and existing business partners, industry leaders, and key decision-makers.



## Discover Innovative Solutions

Explore the latest sustainable technologies and strategies to optimize supply chain efficiency and drive growth.



## Boost Your Brand

Enhance your visibility and credibility by collaborating with public agencies, associations, and influential industry multipliers.



## Empower Your Business

Gain valuable insights, share knowledge, and leverage the fair to achieve success and revenue growth in the dynamic logistics sector.





## Join the Sri Lankan Visitor Delegation

Standard Package

**800,000 LKR**

*\*Excluding Govt. taxes*

**EARLY BIRD  
PACKAGE**

**750,000 LKR**

*\*Excluding Govt. taxes*

Valid until  
**2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2025**

## Package Inclusions

- **Hotel Accommodation:**  
Stay for 4 nights and 5 days (1-5 June 2025) at a 3 or 4 star hotel in Munich, on Bed & Breakfast basis.
- **Tailored B2B Meetings:**  
Benefit from up to 4 customized B2B meetings, carefully arranged through individual consultations to align with your business goals.
- **Networking Opportunities:**  
You will be introduced to key industry associations and influential multipliers to expand your professional network effectively.
- **Visitor Passes:**  
Gain full access to the trade fair for all 4 days, ensuring you don't miss any opportunities.
- **Local Travel:**  
Public transportation will be provided for travel between the hotel and the trade fair venue.
- **Exclusive Networking Dinner:**  
Receive an invitation to an exclusive networking dinner with delegation members and industry professionals (subject to confirmation).



Scan the QR code  
for more information

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

PartnerInSriLanka

# AHK Sri Lanka Premier Partners 2024

## PREMIER PLATINUM PARTNERS



**SENOK**

## PREMIER GOLD PARTNERS



## PREMIER SILVER PARTNERS







## **DIMO Healthcare Elevates Cancer Treatment Standards with Siemens Healthineers Advanced CT Simulator**



DIMO Healthcare, DIMO's healthcare arm, together with Siemens Healthineers, has once again demonstrated its commitment to further advancing cancer treatment in Sri Lanka by introducing the latest version of the Siemens CT Simulator, SOMATOM go.Sim, accompanied with AI-enabled tools for enhanced patient outcomes.

The installation of this state-of-the-art CT Simulator at the Ceylinco Cancer Centre represents a major advancement in cancer treatment in Sri Lanka. Ceylinco Cancer Centre, the pioneer of private sector radiotherapy treatment in the country, first entrusted DIMO Healthcare with the installation of a radiotherapy unit in 2007. Since then, DIMO Healthcare's unmatched after-sales service has reinforced this trust, leading Ceylinco Cancer Centre to select DIMO Healthcare for its latest installation.

The new CT Simulator – SOMATOM go.Sim has transformed CT technology to create meaningful, large bore RT planning solutions that unlock key innovations for radiation therapy planning. SOMATOM go.Sim is a single, integrated software and hardware solution that covers the entire CT simulation process through fail safe, reproducible & streamlined workflows. SOMATOM go.Sim delivers image optimization for target delineation, target margins, and even auto contouring – and by integrating the power of AI, this CT simulator removes the problem of variability at the starting point for treatment planning.

The Siemens Healthineers SOMATOM go.Sim CT Simulator transforms care delivery with its large bore assisting doctors in generating comprehensive 3D images of a patient's body, allowing them to accurately detect the tumor. These images are then used to plan treatment, making sure that the radiation from the Varian Clinac iX Linac selects the cancerous tissue with high accuracy while sparing healthy tissue. This blend of imaging and targeted radiation helps provide effective cancer therapy. It supports dual-energy imaging, enabling clinicians to distinguish between different kinds of tissues more effectively, which can be vital in planning treatment for complex cases. The Cinematic Rendering feature offers highly detailed, 3D images of patient anatomy, increasing the visualization of anatomical structures and helping clinicians make better-informed decisions.

Equipped with advanced AI-driven automation tools, the SOMATOM go.Sim CT Simulator streamlines image acquisition and treatment planning, reducing the workload on clinicians and ensuring greater accuracy. Its user-friendly interface, mobile workflow and intuitive touch-based controls make it simpler for technologists to operate, while features like automated patient positioning and setup further optimize the workflow.

## **HAFELE** Hafele Knowledge Sharing Session with UDA

The Hafele team recently conducted a knowledge sharing session with Urban Development Authority (UDA) Architects, Designers and other key decision makers. Participants were informed of Hafele's latest product offerings, application of the products in building projects, value additions of Hafele solutions, certification and compliance standards, followed by a very interactive Q & A session.

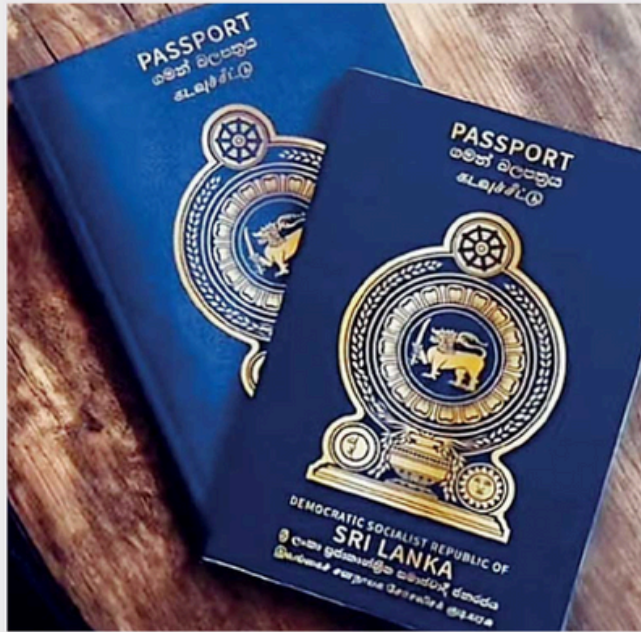
The event was organized together with UDA as a part of Hafele's ongoing efforts to create awareness of new trends in architecture, where the whole focus is on maximizing the value of space, together. Hafele as a global brand makes it a practice to empower the local industry by knowledge sharing, training and creating awareness on new global trends in construction and design.

[www.hafele.lk](http://www.hafele.lk) | [srilanka@hafele.lk](mailto:srilanka@hafele.lk) | Connect on WhatsApp 755-HAFELE (755-423353)





## SRI LANKA INTRODUCES NEW 'P' SERIES PASSPORT WITH ADVANCED SECURITY FEATURES



Effective from October 22, 2024, the Department of Immigration and Emigration has launched the newly imported 'P' series passport, featuring enhanced security elements and a refined design. The department successfully issued approximately 1,100 new passports through its one-day service, showcasing the new Navy Blue cover of the 'P' series travel document, in contrast to the previous Maroon 'N' series passport, which is now in limited supply.

The distribution of the new 'P' series passport will proceed smoothly, prioritizing applicants who choose the one-day service at a fee of Rs. 20,000. This new machine-readable passport (MRP) is slimmer, containing 48 pages, compared to the former 64-page 'N' series passport, and it incorporates state-of-the-art security features.

Thales DIS Finland Oy, a reliable partner for Finnish authorities in passport, ID card, and driving license production, has secured the contract to supply 750,000 machine-readable passports. This follows a previous order for five million e-passports, which has been suspended due to a Court of Appeal injunction until November 6.

In the first shipment between October 15 and 20, 47,500 passports were imported, while a second batch of 100,000 new passports is expected to arrive by the end of November. Initially, 10,000 passports will be delivered, with the latest consignment arriving on October 19. The remaining 'N' series passports, totaling just over 1,200, will be issued to those who have already applied under the standard service, for a fee of Rs. 10,000.

## VFS GLOBAL TO LAUNCH E-VISA ON ARRIVAL FOR INDONESIA

Indonesia has selected VFS Global as the sole provider for its new e-Visa on Arrival (e-VoA) service, set to commence in December 2024. This initiative aims to streamline the visa process and enhance tourism by allowing travellers from 97 eligible countries to apply online for their e-VoA, thus making travel to Indonesia more convenient.

Through an agreement with Indonesia's Directorate General of Immigration, VFS Global will exclusively manage the e-VoA process for the designated countries. This partnership is designed to increase inbound tourism, attract investment, and improve the overall experience for visitors. The e-VoA system enables travellers to complete their visa applications online, eliminating the need for lengthy queues or paperwork upon arrival.

The e-VoA allows eligible travellers to stay in Indonesia for up to 30 days, with the option to extend for an additional 30 days, making it a suitable choice for both tourists and business visitors.





# Beyond Borders: Tailored Tours to Explore Destinations



**AZERBAIJAN**  
15TH DECEMBER  
LKR 462,000



**EGYPT**  
22ND NOVEMBER  
LKR 765,000



**SHIMLA & MANALI**  
20TH JANUARY  
LKR 305,000



**NEPAL**  
18TH DECEMBER  
LKR 385,000



**VIETNAM**  
2ND DECEMBER  
LKR 538,000



**NORTHERN LIGHTS**  
4TH FEBRUARY  
LKR 1,528,000

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HAYLEYS TRAVELS NOVEMBER 2024





## Noyon Celebrates over a Century of Lace Heritage and 20 Years of Design and Craftsmanship in Sri Lanka

Noyon Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, a leader in lace design and sustainable textile manufacturing, marked its 20-year anniversary in Sri Lanka with a special event under the theme *100 Years of Lace Heritage, 20 Years of Design and Craftsmanship*. Noyon, a globally renowned lace design to delivery solutions provider, celebrated this occasion at its Headquarters in Biyagama. The event brought together Mahesh Amalean, Chairman of MAS Holdings, Sharad Amalean, Deputy Chairman, and Olivier Noyon, Former President of Noyon Calais, key drivers of the collaboration between MAS Holdings and the French lace manufacturing company, Noyon Calais, over twenty years ago. Also gracing the event were Marie Noelle, acting Ambassador of the French Embassy of Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Kithsiri Kumarasinghe, Director - Board of Investments, Biyagama Free Trade Zone, Suren Fernando, CEO of MAS Holdings, and Husni Salieh, CEO of Noyon Lanka.



From right to left - Sharad Amalean (Co-founder, MAS Holdings), Olivier Noyon, Shaila Amalean, Mahesh Amalean (Chairman and co-founder, MAS Holdings), HE Marie-Noelle



Mahesh Amalean (Chairman and co-founder, MAS Holdings), Olivier Noyon with Husni Salieh (CEO, Noyon Lanka)

Reflecting on the early vision for Noyon, Mahesh Amalean expressed, "When we first envisioned Noyon Lanka, it was about bringing the delicate art of French lace to a new frontier. Today, we've placed Sri Lanka on the global map for textile manufacturing with tremendous progress, diversifying and excelling beyond lace."

Olivier Noyon, commenting on the company's evolution since the partnership began, said, "Noyon Lanka has achieved remarkable success while maintaining the spirit of French lace craftsmanship. Their excellence and growth continue to set the highest standard in the industry."



Suren Fernando (CEO of MAS Holdings) welcoming HE Marie-Noelle Duris (Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Embassy of France in Colombo)

With a presence that spans across, Europe, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and China, Noyon Lanka uses the latest in technology to expand its capabilities beyond lace, enabling a diverse range of intimate wear, and activewear products, whilst offering breakthrough innovations such as the 100% natural dye solution – Planetones to the world's leading brands.

Husni Salieh shared insights into the company's future, "As Noyon moves forward, our focus will broaden beyond lace, to become the most innovative warp knit solutions provider to the world. We are excited to lead the way in innovative, sustainable manufacturing, while supporting the communities in which we operate."

The event served not only to celebrate Noyon's Lanka's significant '20-year milestone in Sri Lanka but also to honor the 105-year legacy of the Noyon brand which was acquired by Noyon Lanka last year.



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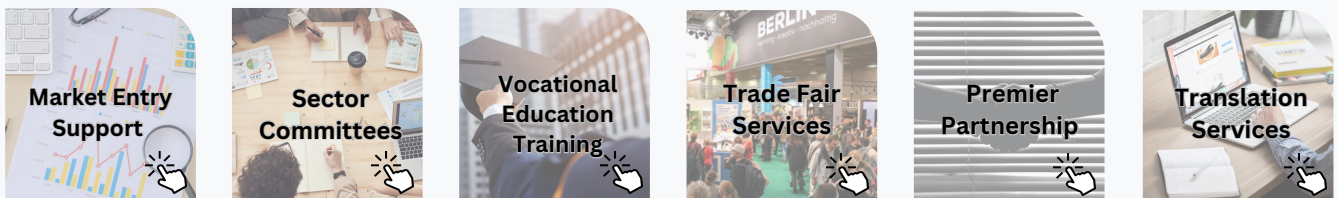
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