

AHK SRI LANKA

Monthly Newsletter

JULY 2024
VOLUME 57

**UNLOCKING GLOBAL
OPPORTUNITIES:
MESSE DÜSSELDORF'S
IMPACT ON SRI LANKAN
BUSINESSES**

**EXHIBIT AT
INTERNATIONAL
GREEN WEEK IN
GERMANY**

**AHK SRI LANKA
BUSINESS
BAROMETER - SPRING
2024: EXPLORING
KEY FINDINGS**



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

 **Partner In Sri Lanka**



CONTENTS

- 1. ECONOMIC DATA OF SRI LANKA & GERMANY**
Take a look at the data and trends in the macroeconomy of Sri Lanka and Germany
- 2. TOURISM NEWS IN SRI LANKA**
Explore exciting tourism updates from Sri Lanka in our newsletter
- 3. UNLOCKING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES**
Interview with Dr. Clemens Schütte, Director of International Business at Messe Düsseldorf GmbH
- 4. NEWS FROM AHK SRI LANKA**
Discover our latest updates and insights
- 5. AHK SRI LANKA BUSINESS BAROMETER - SPRING 2024: EXPLORING KEY FINDINGS**
Interview with Ms. Marie Antonia von Schönburg, Chief Delegate of AHK Sri Lanka
- 6. ABOUT OUR TRADE FAIRS**
Gain insights into the trade fairs we have planned
- 7. NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS**
Stay informed with news from our valued partners

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 accelerated to 2.4 per cent in June 2024 from 1.6 per cent in May 2024. Food inflation recorded 1.9 per cent, while Non-Food inflation recorded 2.7 per cent. Further, the NCPI based core inflation accelerated to 3.9 per cent in June 2024 from 3.1 per cent in May 2024.



Inflation in Germany

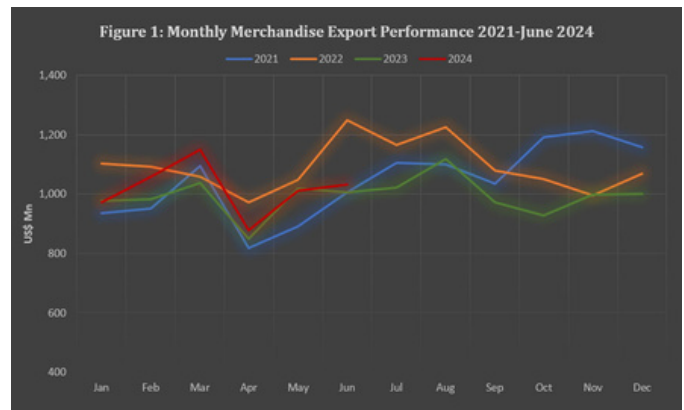
Annual inflation rate in Germany unexpectedly edged up to 2.3% in July 2024 from 2.2% in June, compared to forecasts it would keep steady at 2.2%, preliminary estimates showed. Price growth accelerated for food (1.3% vs 1.1%) and steadied at 3.9% for services while cost of energy declined at a slower pace (-1.7% vs -2.1%). Compared to the previous month, the CPI edged up 0.3%, the most in three months, after a 0.1% rise in each of the previous two months and above forecasts of 0.2%.

Sri Lanka Trade Statistics

As per the provisional data released by the Sri Lanka Customs, the merchandise export performance in June 2024 amounted to US\$ 1,031.2 million, recorded an increase of 2.58 % compared to the month of June 2023. This was mainly due to the increase in earnings from export of Apparel & Textiles, Tea, Rubber based products, Coconut based products, Food & Beverages and Spices & Concentrates.

Total exports for June 2024, including both merchandise and services, were recorded at US\$ 1,354.32 million, increasing 9.42% over the corresponding period of 2023.

Comparison of Monthly Merchandise Export Performance 2021 – June 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 2.6% in June 2024 compared with May 2024. According to provisional data of the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), Germany exported goods to the value of 58.0 billion euros to these countries in June 2024, after seasonal and calendar adjustment.

EU Trade Statistics

Exports to the European Union (EU) which accounts for 24% of Sri Lanka's exports, decreased by 5.28 % y-o-y in June 2024. However, exports to EU increased by 0.02 % during the cumulative period of January to June 2024.

Exports to the top five EU markets were recorded as; Germany US\$ 307.71 Mn (increased by 2.76 %), Italy US\$ 297.63 Mn (decreased by 7.63 %), Netherlands US\$ 181.01 Mn (increased by 6.75 %), France US\$ 130.46 Mn. (increased 2.55 %) and Belgium US\$ 110.83 Mn (decreased by 0.71 %) during the cumulative period of January to June 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 4.22 % y-o-y to US \$ 446.54 Mn in June 2024 compared to June 2023. Additionally, exports of Apparel & Textile to USA increased by 13.28 % in June 2024 compared to June 2023.



Coconut-based Exports

Export earnings of Coconut based products increased by 15.54 % in June 2024 compared to June 2023. Moreover, export earnings of Coconut kernel products and Coconut shell products increased by 30.91 % and 18.06 % respectively in June 2024 compared to June 2023.

Export earnings from Coconut oil, Desiccated Coconut, Coconut milk powder, Coconut Cream and Liquid Coconut Milk which are categorized under the Coconut kernel products increased by 38.12%, 63.5%, 59.05 %, 42.03% and 9.51 % respectively in June 2024 compared to June 2023.



Rubber-based Exports

Export earnings from Rubber and Rubber finished products have increased by 11.8 % y-o-y to US\$ 82.63 Mn in June 2024, with the strong performance in exports of Pneumatic & Retreated Rubber Tyres & Tubes (3.78 %) and Industrial & Surgical Gloves of Rubber (28.2%).



Tea Exports

Earnings from export of Tea increased y-o-y by 8.1 % to US\$ 687.01 Mn in the period of January to June 2024. This increase was mainly due to the strong performance in export of Bulk Tea (19.15 %).

TOURISM NEWS IN SRI LANKA

Tourist Arrivals in Sri Lanka

As of July 28, 2024, tourist arrivals reached 170,647, up from 113,470 during the same period in June 2024.

In July, Sri Lanka's key source markets included Germany, the Netherlands, India, the United Kingdom, and China. Significant increases in visitors from these countries contributed to the growth of the tourism sector.



German Tourist Arrivals in Sri Lanka

In June 2024, there were only 5,090 arrivals of German tourists, causing to drop from the 5th to the 6th most frequented destination among the top 20. This represents a significant decrease from the 7,495 German tourists in May 2024.

As of July 28, 2024, Sri Lanka recorded 9,410 German tourists, accounting for a 5.5% share of the top ten source markets, representing a notable increase from the 5,090 arrivals in June 2024.



UNLOCKING GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES: MESSE DÜSSELDORF'S IMPACT ON SRI LANKAN BUSINESSES



Introduction

Discover how Messe Düsseldorf, a leading global trade fair organizer, can elevate Sri Lankan businesses through its renowned events. Gain insights from **Dr. Clemens Schütte, Director of International Business at Messe Düsseldorf GmbH**, about the organization's history, the benefits of participating in their trade fairs, and the support provided to first-time exhibitors. Explore recommended exhibitions for Sri Lankan companies and find out how to prepare effectively for a successful trade fair experience. The Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka) serves as Messe Düsseldorf's exclusive representative in Sri Lanka.

1. Could you provide us with an overview of Messe Düsseldorf's history and activities?

Established in 1947, Messe Düsseldorf is a leading global trade fair organizer based in Düsseldorf, Germany. From its post-war beginnings, it has grown into one of the world's top 10 trade fair organizers. The organization operates a network of 77 international offices across 141 countries and runs 40 trade fairs in Düsseldorf and 75 abroad. The Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka) is our exclusive representative in Sri Lanka.

As a partner of industry, we organize 40 trade fairs in Düsseldorf – including 20 leading global trade fairs - and 75 trade fairs abroad as regional satellites of Düsseldorf's No. 1 events. International operations span Asia, the Americas and beyond, supported by subsidiaries in China, India, Singapore, Japan and USA. Key trade fairs cover topics like plastics, print, packaging and medical technology. However, we also organize leisure shows like boot and Caravan Salon.

Our future goals focus on sustainability and technological advancement, ensuring Messe Düsseldorf remains a leader in the trade fair industry, continually adapting to market demands.

2. What benefits do you see for Sri Lankan businesses in participating in trade fairs?

Participating in Messe Düsseldorf trade fairs offers significant benefits for Sri Lankan businesses. As exhibitors, they gain access to an international audience by showcasing products and services to potential clients and partners from Europe and around the world. New sales leads help to enhance marketing and sales efforts and efficiency. Trade fairs effectively enhance the global visibility of Sri Lankan companies.

Direct interactions and networking with industry leaders, experts and potential collaborators foster valuable business relationships and partnerships that lead to growth. Trade fairs thus facilitate entry into new international markets. They promote export opportunities and aid in the expansion of business operations beyond domestic borders. At shows in Düsseldorf, you meet buyers from Europe and the entire world. At our shows in India, ASEAN or China, exhibitors meet and expand their regional customer base.

3. How does Messe Düsseldorf support first-time exhibitors from countries like Sri Lanka?

Messe Düsseldorf provides extensive support for first-time exhibitors, including those from countries like Sri Lanka. As a first point of contact for dealing with any question or challenge, I strongly recommend to contact our representation office in Colombo. They offer for example information on potential subsidies or grants from government agencies. Detailed information packets and personal consultations help exhibitors understand the process, from booth setup to logistics. We offer logistical assistance like support with booth construction, design and turnkey stand options. Our representation gives guidance on shipping procedures and customs regulations to ensure smooth transit of exhibition materials. Looking at marketing and promotion, we publish exhibitor information and contacts in official fair catalogues and online directories to enhance visibility. We also assist with press releases and access to media channels to promote exhibitors' presence. If you need support on-site, you may turn to our support center to provide assistance during the fair. Very helpful are the business matchmaking services in the online portals of our shows. They connect exhibitors with potential buyers and partners.

4. What exhibitions do you recommend for Sri Lankan exhibitors and visitors?

Sri Lanka is an emerging exhibitor nation with lots of growth potential in our shows in Düsseldorf. Recently we have been welcoming an increasing number of rubber companies and glove manufacturers from your country at A+A (Occupational Safety and Health) and MEDICA (Healthcare). Taatas is the first exporter selling liquor and palm wines from your country at ProWein. Our water sports show boot offers interesting potentials for boat builders, tourist destinations and diving centers. If your export focus is on Asian markets, I recommend to use our leading regional shows in ASEAN, India, China and Japan as springboards for boosting your sales. Our Colombo office will be happy to advise interested companies on the shows which best meet their individual needs.

Trade visitors and buyers will surely also benefit from joining our

world-leading machinery and equipment shows like interpack (packaging), K (plastics) and drupa (printing) which include numerous conferences and seminars. All these exhibitions provide excellent platforms for showcasing products, learning about industry advancements and establishing valuable international connections.

5. How can Sri Lankan companies best prepare to participate in trade fairs organized by Messe Düsseldorf?

Sri Lankan companies can maximize their success at Messe Düsseldorf trade fairs by following some steps in the preparation and follow-up of their show participations:

- **Selection:** Choose the most relevant trade fairs for your industry and target audience. Study past events, attendee profiles and competitor participation to understand the fair's dynamics.
- **Early planning:** Plan your booth design, ensuring it is attractive and represents your brand effectively.
- **Clear objectives:** Define clear goals such as sales, lead generation or brand awareness. Create a strategy to achieve these objectives, including key messages and target metrics.
- **Marketing and promotion:** Announce your participation through various channels (social media, email newsletters, website). Utilize Messe Düsseldorf's promotional tools such as exhibitor directories, press releases and matchmaking tools.
- **Networking preparation:** Schedule meetings with potential clients, partners, and industry leaders in advance. Prepare business cards, brochures, and digital presentations for distribution.

- **Engagement and follow-up:** Engage visitors actively with demonstrations, samples and interactive elements. Collect contact information and follow up promptly with leads after the event.
- **Evaluation and feedback:** Review performance against objectives post-event. Gather feedback from staff and attendees to improve future participation.

By thoroughly preparing in these areas, Sri Lankan companies can enhance their visibility, generate valuable leads, and build strong industry connections at Messe Düsseldorf trade fairs.



Dr. Clemens Schütte
Director of International Business
Messe Düsseldorf GmbH

NEWS FROM AHK SRI LANKA

AHK Sri Lanka Hosts Successful CEOs Dinner with Central Bank Governor

The Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka) successfully hosted its CEOs Dinner on July 1, 2024. This prestigious event brought together leading industry figures for an evening of insightful discussions and valuable networking.

Dr. P. Nandalal Weerasinghe, Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, was the esteemed chief guest, and his profound insights significantly enriched the evening's discourse.

Heartfelt gratitude is extended to all who attended and contributed to the success of this memorable event.



AHK SRI LANKA BUSINESS BAROMETER - SPRING 2024: EXPLORING KEY FINDINGS

Introduction

In Spring 2024, over 95% of German businesses in Sri Lanka reported a favorable business environment, with a significant increase in companies experiencing improvements since Fall 2023. However, the overall performance of the Asia/Pacific region has declined during the same period.

In this exclusive interview, **Ms. Marie Antonia von Schönburg, Chief Delegate of the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka)**, shares insights from the AHK Sri Lanka Business Barometer - Spring 2024. The discussion highlights key findings, the current business climate, and future prospects for German enterprises in Sri Lanka.

1. In spring 2024, over 95% of German brands in Sri Lanka reported a favourable business environment. What factors do you think contributed most to this positive sentiment?

German businesses in Sri Lanka have reported a notably favourable business environment, with more than double the improvement rate since Fall 2023. This positive sentiment is attributed to several key factors. Firstly, the stable political environment after the major instability in 2022 has fostered economic growth and business confidence. Sri Lanka's significant economic reforms, such as enhancing regulatory frameworks, have created a more reliable environment for German companies to plan and invest confidently. The Sri Lankan government has also provided dedicated support for German companies to establish and expand their operations. Consequently, workforce development plans among German businesses in Sri Lanka have increased by almost 8%, and the number of companies planning to reduce employment has dramatically decreased from 23% in Spring 2023 to just 4.3% in Spring 2024.

2. German businesses in the country are more optimistic about local economic development than they were six months ago. What changes have led to this optimism?

It is encouraging to see increased optimism among German businesses regarding local economic development. This positive shift is largely due to the stable political environment, along with several significant changes in the past months. The Sri Lankan government has implemented effective measures to stabilize the economy following a severe economic downturn, including fiscal policies to manage inflation and stimulate growth. Improvements in key macroeconomic indicators, such as better inflation control and increased foreign exchange reserves, signal a more stable and promising economic environment. These developments have strengthened German businesses' confidence in Sri Lanka's economic future. Additionally, the government's renewed focus on promoting exports, diversifying the economy, and reducing import barriers has created new growth opportunities. Reforms aimed at strengthening the financial sector and enhancing the stability of financial institutions have also fostered a more supportive environment for investment and growth.

3. Can you give an overview of the current investment landscape for German companies in Sri Lanka?

The AHK Sri Lanka Business Barometer - Spring 2024 edition reveals a positive investment landscape. While most German companies are choosing to maintain their current investment levels, there has been a positive shift, with the percentage of companies without investment plans dropping to 10.6% in Spring 2024, down from 13.8% in Fall 2023. The Sri Lankan government's focus on key sectors such as renewable energy, manufacturing, and tourism presents significant growth opportunities that align well with German expertise. Additionally, reduced import barriers, enhanced trade logistics, and a growing start-up ecosystem offer promising avenues for German investments. Sri Lanka's strategic location along major shipping routes and its proximity to emerging markets in South Asia and the Middle East further enhance its attractiveness as an investment destination, providing a crucial hub for trade and logistics.

4. What is your overall outlook for German business in Sri Lanka over the next 12 months?

I am optimistic about the prospects for German business in Sri Lanka over the next 12 months. Several key factors contribute to this positive outlook:

- **Economic Reforms and Policy Consistency:** The Sri Lankan government's ongoing reforms are expected to bring about more consistent policies, creating a favourable environment for investors. These reforms will likely enhance regulatory stability and predictability, making it easier for German businesses to plan and invest confidently.
- **Digitalization Initiatives:** The introduction of urgently needed digitalization measures by the government will significantly improve the ease of doing business in Sri Lanka. Enhanced digital infrastructure will streamline business processes, reduce bureaucratic delays, and increase operational efficiency, making Sri Lanka more profitable for existing companies and more attractive for new German foreign direct investment (FDI).
- **Debt Restructuring:** The debt restructuring efforts are expected to stabilize Sri Lanka's financial situation, paving the way for increased FDI. With a more stable economic backdrop, new investments will flow into the country, bringing fresh impulses to the economy. German businesses stand to benefit from these developments through new opportunities and an improved business climate.

Overall, the combination of these reforms, digitalization efforts, and economic stabilization measures will create a more conducive environment for German businesses. I foresee a period of growth, with German companies playing a pivotal role in driving economic development in Sri Lanka.

Read more on the AHK Sri Lanka website:
srilanka.ahk.de/publications

Ms. Marie Antonia von Schönburg
Chief Delegate
Delegation of German Industry and
Commerce in Sri Lanka
(AHK Sri Lanka)



**AHK**

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

 **Partner In Sri Lanka**

LIST YOUR BUSINESS IN THE GERMAN BRANDS DIRECTORY!

The German Brands Directory is your gateway to connecting with an extensive list of German brands in Sri Lanka, featuring vital contact information for key decision-makers.

This directory:

- Facilitates engagement with business leaders
- Provides crucial contact details for establishing business connections
- Enhances your visibility in the German business community

It will be launched during our flagship event of the year in September, 'Top German Brands 2024.' This professional networking event gathers business representatives from the German Business Community, delegates, and high-level decision-makers in Sri Lanka.

The directory will also be distributed to the German Embassy and other key multipliers.

Booking Deadline

30th August 2024

**DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE TO
ELEVATE YOUR BUSINESS!**

Contact us for more information:

Call Us: +94-112-314364/67 (Shashi)

E-mail: communication@srilanka.ahk.de

UPCOMING TRADE FAIRS



January 19 - 28, 2024



Messe Berlin, Germany

The 8th edition of International Green Week (IGW) is a leading B2C food and agriculture exhibition. It anticipates 1,400 exhibitors, 1,900+ journalists, and 400,000+ visitors from 61 countries.

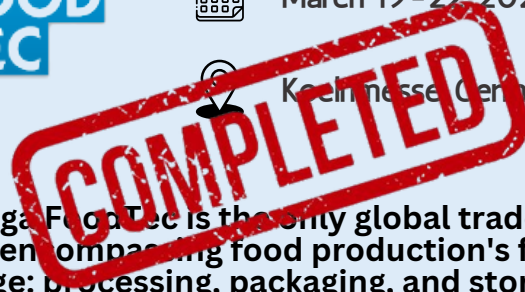


March 19 - 22, 2024



Koeln Messe, Germany

Anuga FoodTec is the only global trade fair encompassing food production's full range: processing, packaging, and storage. It's the top hub for information and procurement in the worldwide food and beverage sector.



May 28 - June 7, 2024



Messe Düsseldorf, Germany

The international print industry will once again meet at Drupa, the world's leading trade fair for print technologies. 1,828 exhibitors from 54 countries, 270,000 trade visitors from 183 countries and 1,824 accredited journalists are expected to participate.



June 19 - 21, 2024



Münchener Messe, Germany

Under the motto 'Connecting Solar Business', Inter Solar has been providing a networking opportunity for key players of the industry for the past 30 years. It focuses on the latest trends, developments, and business models of the industry.



September 4 - 6, 2024



Hong Kong

ASIA FRUIT LOGISTICA covers the entire fresh produce industry value chain and its service support companies, as well as the latest, innovative products and ideas. It offers a totally unique opportunity to develop new business, make new top-level contacts, and gather essential market information on every aspect of the fresh produce trade.



November 11 - 14, 2024



Düsseldorf, Germany

MEDICA is one of the largest medical B2B trade fairs in the world. A wide range of innovative products and services from the fields of medical imaging, laboratory technology, diagnostics, health IT, mobile health as well as physiotherapy/orthopaedic technology and medical consumables are presented here.

For more information on trade fairs, please contact:

Mr. Malintha Gajanayake, Head of Corporate Affairs & Export Promotions via malintha@srilanka.ahk.de



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

PartnerInSriLanka



Where healthcare is going
Düsseldorf, Germany 11–14 November 2024

Member of MEDICAlliance

MEDICA in Düsseldorf hosts **5,300 exhibitors** from nearly **70 countries** and **83,000 visitors**, showcasing innovations in medical imaging, diagnostics, health IT, and more. It features forums, conferences, and special shows facilitating presentations, discussions, and product pitches.



Join as a visitor

- Supporting documents endorsed by AHK Sri Lanka for visa submission
- Tailor-made B2B meetings
- Introduction to German Health Alliance (GHA) and its members
- Accommodation on single bed & breakfast basis for 5 nights and 6 days (10th November – 15th November)
- Inland travel on public transport
- Visitor passes to the trade fair
- Networking dinner for the delegation
- Special visit to pharmaceutical manufacturing sites *TBC

Package: LKR 780,000
Excluding Govt. Taxes

Registration deadline: **8th of August 2024**

**Terms and Conditions Apply*

Be an exhibitor



**Row stand
(1 side open)**
285.00 €/sqm



**Corner stand
(2 sides open)**
296.00 €/sqm



**End of block stand
(3 sides open)**
303.00 €/sqm



**Island site
(4 sides open)**
313.00 €/sqm

**excluding the construction fee*

Contact us for more information



Contact number:
+94-112-314364/67 (Malintha)

E-mail:



malintha@srilanka.ahk.de
intern@srilanka.ahk.de

Exhibit at International Green Week in Germany

From 19-28 January 2025

The Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka) is organizing a 10-day Sri Lankan pavilion at the International Green Week trade fair, set to take place in Berlin, Germany. This initiative presents a unique opportunity for Sri Lankan businesses and entrepreneurs in the food, agriculture, and horticulture industries to showcase their products on an international stage and sell directly to end customers.

Event Highlights

- **World's Largest B2C Trade Fair for Food & Agriculture:** A premier event for the food, beverage, and agriculture industries.
- **400,000 Visitors:** Attracting a massive audience, providing unparalleled exposure and sales.
- **1,400+ Exhibitors from 61 Countries:** A diverse range of international participants showcasing innovative products.
- **1,900 Journalists from 25 Countries:** Extensive media coverage ensures high visibility and global reach.

Who Should Participate

- **Exporters:** Companies involved in exporting all types of food, beverages, and agricultural products, including both organic and conventional produce.
- **SMEs and Start-ups:** Ideal for small and medium enterprises or new businesses seeking to explore international markets and understand product acceptance.
- **Growers and Producers:** Farmer networks, related associations, and multipliers.
- **Fast Food Suppliers:** Providers of prepared and ready-to-eat products.
- **Specialty Products Suppliers:** Authentic Sri Lankan products, including handicrafts.

Benefits of Participation

- **B2C Engagement:** Ability to sell your products to consumers over the counter and receive immediate feedback.
- **Investment Recovery:** Recover your investment through direct B2C sales.
- **Brand Visibility:** An excellent opportunity to raise awareness of your products and promote the 'Made in Sri Lanka' tagline.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Meet international buyers, distributors, and wholesalers.
- **Knowledge and Innovation Exchange:** Learn about the latest trends, technologies, and best practices in the agricultural and food sectors.

How to Apply

If you are interested in participating in the Sri Lankan pavilion, please email your company profile and main products, along with your contact details, to malintha@srilanka.ahk.de. We will review your submission and follow up with you accordingly.

For further information, please contact: Malintha Gajanayake, Head of Corporate Affairs & Export Promotions.
Phone: +94-112-314364/67
Email: malintha@srilanka.ahk.de



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





Heritage Kandalama Celebrates 30 Years of Iconic Hospitality and Sustainability Excellence

Heritage Kandalama, the celebrated flagship property of Heritage Hotels and Resorts by Aitken Spence Hotels, marked its 30th Anniversary on June 24th 2024. Nestled within the rich tapestry of Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle, Heritage Kandalama stands as the leading eco-retreat in the region, blending seamlessly into its natural surroundings while offering immersive experiences.

Designed by Deshamanya Geoffrey Bawa, the resort holds the distinction of being the first LEED certified resort and the first Green Globe 21 certified resort in Asia, a testament to its commitment to environmental stewardship and Sri Lanka's longest-certified ISO 14001 Environment Management System.

Constructed amidst initial community resistance and misinformation in the early 1990s, Heritage Kandalama opened its doors in 1994, overcoming significant environmental and cultural concerns. Criticisms primarily focused on potential disruptions to wildlife habitats and perceived impacts on local culture and community. In response, Heritage Kandalama implemented robust measures in its architectural design. Elevated on columns, the design was specifically crafted to facilitate natural replenishment of the lake by rainwater and to enable wildlife to thrive freely, thus minimizing environmental disturbance.

The resort's commitment to biodiversity conservation is evident in its 211-acre eco-forest reserve, harboring 128 documented species of native flora, 64 butterfly species, 183 bird species, 19 reptile species, and 17 mammal species, nurtured by 11 protected natural streams.

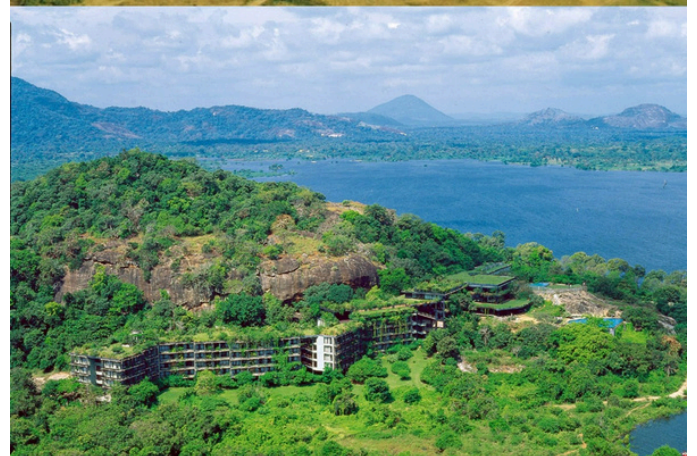
Today, Heritage Kandalama stands tall not only as an architectural marvel, but also as a beacon of sustainability best practices. The resort is deeply ingrained in its community, employing over 60% of its workforce from within a 20-kilometer radius and sourcing supplies and services including fruits and vegetables locally adding to the local economy. Culinary experiences at Heritage Kandalama are equally remarkable, from the revered Bawa Dinner paying homage to Geoffrey Bawa to the enchanting Cave Dinner set within a centuries-old cave, offering guests an immersive journey through Sri Lanka's culinary and cultural heritage.

Sharing her thoughts, Stasshani Jayawardena, Jt. Deputy Chairperson and Jt. Managing Director of Aitken Spence Hotel Holdings stated "We are incredibly proud to reach this significant milestone in our journey. Heritage Kandalama embodies our enduring dedication to sustainability, environment, and unparalleled guest experiences. By balancing conservation with community support, Heritage Kandalama exemplifies how responsible tourism can flourish,

preserving natural ecosystems and cultural heritage. As we celebrate 30 years, we renew our pledge to preserve the natural beauty of Kandalama and narrate meaningful stories for generations to come."

Aitken Spence Hotels Jt. Managing Director, Susith Jayawickrama stated, "At Heritage Kandalama, we believe that our responsibility extends beyond providing exceptional hospitality. We are deeply committed to being an integral part of the community and empowering its people. As we celebrate 30 years of excellence, we reaffirm our dedication to sustainable tourism practices that not only enrich the guest experience but also uplift the lives of those in our community. Through initiatives such as local sourcing, employment opportunities, and community outreach programs, we strive to create a positive impact that extends far beyond our resort's walls."

In celebration of its 30th Anniversary, a special journey gallery will be displayed at Heritage Kandalama from 24th June onwards, narrating its 30-year journey and the voices of Heritage Kandalama.



Heritage Kandalama then and now



HERITANCE
KANDALAMA

30 YEARS

OF ICONIC HOSPITALITY AND
SUSTAINABILITY EXCELLENCE



Aqua Dynamics: Endeavor Towards Greatness

Aqua Dynamics (Pvt) Ltd has once again solidified its position as a premier workplace by securing the prestigious Great Place to Work certification for an unprecedented fourth consecutive year in April 2024. This extraordinary achievement is a testament to the company's unwavering commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive work environment. The company's exceptional people-centric culture is underscored by an impressive employee trust index survey, garnering over 80% positive responses, and culminating in Aqua Dynamics being named among Sri Lanka's Best 50 Workplaces.





DIMO Successfully Concludes Mercedes-Benz Flying Doctor Service Clinic



As Sri Lanka enforces vehicle import restrictions, the chance to upgrade to new cars is limited. Mercedes-Benz AG Global Technical Expert, Mr. Saurabh Singh, emphasizes the necessity of adhering to manufacturer-recommended service intervals and maintenance to ensure the performance and safety of existing vehicles in the country.

He was sharing these insights at the Mercedes-Benz Flying Doctor Service Clinic organized by DIMO, the authorized distributor for Mercedes-Benz in Sri Lanka from 10th – 14th June 2024. The Flying Doctor Service Clinic offered DIMO | Mercedes-Benz Owners personalized interactive expert guidance on maintaining their vehicles straight from the Manufacturer. The 30 available slots were snapped up within a mere two days, highlighting the immense interest from the customers.

Mr. Singh, also known as the “Flying Doctor,” shared his extensive knowledge and said “Delaying repairs can lead to further damage and unforeseen major repairs, impacting vehicle's safety and performance. Regular service with manufacturer-recommended software updates and Genuine Parts not only ensures optimal performance but also enhances the vehicle's resale value.

At a time when durability is paramount, entrusting Mercedes-Benz cars to the authorized service dealer, who performs servicing according to manufacturer guidance with recommended tools rather than way-side garages, guarantees the quality and expertise necessary to uphold the exceptional standards.

Given the import restrictions, many customers are considering pre-owned Mercedes-Benz options for upgrading. Focusing on agent-maintained vehicles with a proven track record of timely servicing using Genuine Parts is important when selecting pre-owned Mercedes-Benz. Opting for a DIMO-maintained pre-owned car provides the added benefit of a comprehensive 360-degree inspection and readily available service records. A complete service history from DIMO will give potential buyers peace of mind, he added.

In addition to the expert guidance from the manufacturer, DIMO elevates the Mercedes-Benz ownership experience with exceptional service throughout Sri Lanka with Mercedes-Benz Service 24-hour island wide roadside assistance for peace of mind in any situation. All Mercedes-Benz vehicles will be meticulously served by a team of Mercedes-Benz AG-trained technicians who possess in-depth knowledge of all Mercedes-Benz models. DIMO utilizes all Mercedes-Benz AG-recommended special tools and equipment, guaranteeing the most precise and efficient services. They further ensure Mercedes-Benz vehicles stay at the forefront of technology by providing regular software updates directly from Mercedes-Benz AG.



Carpenter Training Initiative by Hafele

Hafele Sri Lanka recently held another successful carpenter training event at the Häfele Design Centre in Kandy.

Carpenters from twelve prominent kitchen and wardrobe manufacturers in Kandy were present at the event. Participants had the opportunity to explore Hafele's latest product offerings and engage in a hands-on practical training session to learn how to use them.

The event commenced with the arrival of guests, who were warmly greeted by the Hafele team, followed by a guided tour of the showroom to showcase the Hafele product range.

The Hafele team actively proposed solutions to some of the technical points raised by the carpenters and extended the team's utmost support.

www.hafele.lk | srilanka@hafele.lk | Connect on WhatsApp 755-HAFELE (755-423353)



JULY 2024



THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE 100ML LIQUID RESTRICTION AT SIX UK AIRPORTS

As of June 9, restrictions on carrying over 100 ml of liquid per container in hand luggage have been reinstated at six UK airports: Newcastle, Leeds Bradford, London City, Aberdeen, Southend, and Teesside. These airports had previously lifted the ban by using advanced scanners to check liquids within baggage. The restrictions, covering toiletries, cosmetics, pastes, creams, gels, liquid or semi-liquid foods, and drinks, originated in 2006 after attempted terrorist attacks involving liquid explosives.

Passengers must place 100 ml containers in a clear, sealable bag (up to 20x20 cm), with only one bag allowed per person. Clear bags are usually available for free at airports. The exception was Birmingham airport, where robust scanning allowed for liquids to remain in hand luggage. However, Birmingham now follows the 100-ml limit, warning passengers of potential delays if they carry excess liquids.

The Department of Transport stated the ban is temporary for equipment upgrades, with no specified end date. Other airports like Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Luton, and Manchester still enforce the 100-ml rule as they haven't installed the necessary scanners. Airports were given a deadline of June 1, 2024, to install the equipment, with many requesting extensions to accommodate building modifications.

THAILAND INTRODUCES VISA-FREE ENTRY FOR SRI LANKAN TOURISTS.

Thailand's cabinet has approved new visa promotions to attract more tourists, including those from Sri Lanka. Under this initiative, Sri Lankan tourists can now enter Thailand without a visa and stay for up to 60 days. The date of implementation of the new scheme will be announced soon. This measure is part of broader efforts to make Thailand more appealing to international visitors, according to the Bangkok Post. The Foreign Ministry proposed these measures to maximize visitor numbers, said government spokesman Chai Wacharonke. With these changes, the number of countries eligible for visa-free entry has risen from 57 to 93. Newly added countries include Sri Lanka, Laos, Albania, Cambodia, China, India, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Morocco, Panama, Romania, Uzbekistan, and others



Beyond Borders: Tailored Tours to Explore Destinations



BUDDHIST PILGRIMAGE
11N/12D
LKR 395,000



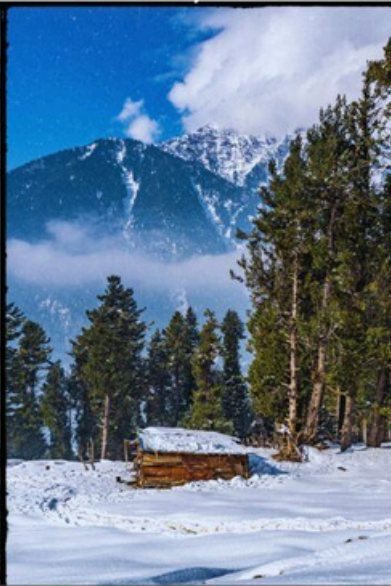
MALAYSIA
4N/5D
LKR 250,000



CHINA
9N/10D
LKR 675,000



LOURDES
5N/6D
LKR 580,000



KASHMIR
8N/9D
LKR 495,000



JAPAN
8N/9D
LKR 1,145,000



CONTACT US:

+94 776 982 169 | +94 772 598 468

belinda.desilva@aviation.hayleys.com | harindu.ariyawansa@aviation.hayleys.com

★ **ADVANTIS**

HAYLEYS TRAVELS JULY 2024

Pioneering for You

wilo

Premium pump systems “Made in India”

Wilo Group opens new main production site in Kesurdi, India

The multinational Wilo Group has opened a new plant in India. In Kesurdi in the west of the country, a sustainable and ultra-modern high-tech production complex has been built on a 94,000 square metre site. Here, the technology group manufactures premium pump systems for water management in India, the Middle East, Africa and South-east Asia.



export.in@wilo.com

<https://www.wilo.in/>

Visit us at [fb https://fb.watch/my-dqkMXLU/?mibextid=GC6XAW](https://fb.watch/my-dqkMXLU/?mibextid=GC6XAW)

WÜRTH LANKA SPONSORS CERTIFICATE AWARDING CEREMONY AT JAPAN TECH!

Würth Lanka proudly sponsored the Certificate Awarding Ceremony 2024 at the Automobile Engineering Training Institute, Orugodawatta, commonly known as Japan Tech. This event celebrated the achievements of students specializing in various automotive disciplines, including automobile mechanics, electricians, painters, and technicians, etc.

Held with much enthusiasm, the ceremony saw an impressive turnout, underscoring the importance and recognition of the skills acquired by the graduates. As the leading No. 1 partner in the automotive industry, Würth Lanka took pride in supporting this milestone event and recognizing the top achievers of the institute. The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the prestigious Batch Top Awards 2024, exclusively sponsored by Würth Lanka. The recipients of these awards were honoured not only for their academic and practical excellence but also for their potential to meet the global manpower demands of the automotive industry. Each awardee was presented with high-quality Würth branded automotive products, ensuring they have the best tools to excel in their future careers.

Würth Lanka's commitment to the development of skilled professionals in the automotive sector is unwavering. By supporting events like the Certificate Awarding Ceremony at Japan Tech, the company reinforces its dedication to enhancing the capabilities and competencies of the automotive workforce in Sri Lanka. The event also provided a platform for Würth Lanka to showcase its premium products, trusted by automotive professionals in the country.

Würth Lanka's involvement in this event underscores its strategic focus on education and professional development within the automotive industry. The company's support extends beyond providing products as it includes creating a culture of excellence and dedication among future automotive professionals.

The Certificate Awarding Ceremony at the Automobile Engineering Training Institute, Orugodawatta, was not just a celebration of achievements but also a testament to the collaborative efforts between industry and educational institutions in nurturing talent. Würth Lanka's contribution to this event reflects its broader mission of supporting the growth and advancement of the automotive industry in Sri Lanka and beyond.





TOP GERMAN BRANDS IN SRI LANKA

9th Edition - 20th September 2023

Organized by



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

Supported by



Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
Colombo



About AHK Sri Lanka



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

Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action

on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag

Follow Us On:



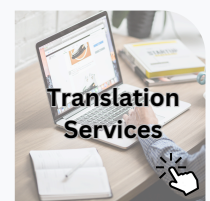
AHK Sri Lanka is part of the German Chamber Network supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK). With 150 locations in 93 countries around the world, the members of the German Chamber Network (AHKs) offer their experience, connections and services to German and companies of the respective partner countries.

Office Address

Delegation of German Industry and Commerce
in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka),
127 W A D Ramanayake Mawatha | 15th Floor,
Colombo 2,
Sri Lanka

Tel. (+94) 11 2314364 | www.srilanka.ahk.de

Services offered by AHK Sri Lanka



Our Team



Ms. Marie Antonia von Schönburg
Chief Delegate



Mr. Harsha Dinesh
Accountant



Mr. Malintha Gajanayake
Head of Corporate Affairs / Export
Promotion



Ms. Shashi Jayakodi
Administration Officer



Ms. Tharangani Kulathunga
Vocational Training Manager



Ms. Keshala Dias
Marketing and Communications
Manager



Ms. Sabrina Kolb
Projects Manager

We want to assure you that in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), none of these email addresses will be distributed for purposes other than our newsletter. Your email address will only be used to send you the newsletter and will not be shared with any other individuals or for any other purposes.