

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Sri Lanka Ankara Embassy attended  
TEKNOFEST 2023 - 03/09/2023**



Ambassador of Sri Lanka met with H.E. Ahmet Yildiz, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye and discussed on bilateral relations as both countries commemorate 75th Anniversary of diplomatic relations this year.

**Sri Lanka participates at the World-food  
Istanbul Trade Fair 6-9 September 2023 -  
12/09/2023**



Sri Lanka Ankara Embassy attended TEKNOFEST 2023: Aviation, Space and Technology Festival in Ankara and met with young people, students and professionals who presented their innovative and technical projects at the Festival.

**Ambassador of Sri Lanka met with H.E. Ahmet  
Yildiz, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
Türkiye - 07/09/2023**



The Sri Lanka Embassy in Türkiye coordinated Sri Lanka's participation at the Worldfood Istanbul Trade Fair at the TÜYAP Fair and Congress Centre in Istanbul from 6th to 9th September 2023.

Ceylon Tea Land Pvt. Ltd, Uniworld Teas Pvt. Ltd., Heritage Teas Pvt. Ltd. and Vintage Teas Ceylon Pvt. Ltd. had their products in the 'Ceylon Tea' Pavilion organized by the Sri Lanka Tea Board supported by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Türkiye.

In addition, representing the tea sector, MJF Exports Pvt. Ltd, Imperial Teas Group of Companies and McCoy Ceylon Commodities Pvt. Ltd. also had their presence at the Fair. Furthermore, NDC Exports Pvt. Ltd. and Manchee De Coco Products Pvt. Ltd exhibited coconut-based food products at the Fair.

In parallel to attending the Worldfood Istanbul to facilitate Sri Lanka's participation, Ms. Thavishya Mullegamgoda, Minister (Commercial) at the Sri Lanka Embassy in Türkiye had mutually beneficial meetings with the Foreign Economic Relations Board

(DEİK), Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, Independent Industrialists & Businessmen’s Association (MÜSİAD), Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TÜRSAB), Turkish Industry & Business Association (TÜSİAD) and the Türkiye Exporters Assembly (TİM), of which offices are all located in Istanbul.



**Ambassador of Sri Lanka paid a courtesy call on Prof. Dr. Guray Alpar, Head of the Institute of Strategic Thinking - 14/09/2023**



Ambassador of Sri Lanka paid a courtesy call on Prof. Dr. Guray Alpar, Head of the Institute of Strategic Thinking and discussed on the programs & functioning of the Institute & bilateral relations between Sri Lanka & Türkiye.

**Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye meets the Minister of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye - 19/09/2023**



Ambassador indicated that among the key activities to celebrate 2023, the Embassy in collaboration with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries and the Turkish embassy in Colombo preparations are underway to issue postal stamps simultaneously on 29th October 2023, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Turkish Republic. Also Mr. Vasantha Perera, a renowned Sri Lankan artist has agreed to design the stamps and he would be visiting Türkiye later this year for an exhibition and to start painting series on Türkiye.

The Minister was appreciated that Ambassador has already visited over 25 ancient archaeological sites in Türkiye within a short period of time. Ambassador and the Minister exchanged views on how to increase bilateral tourism promotion.

Ambassador also indicated in the discussion that a Sri Lanka Film festival in Türkiye would be organized in 2024 with the contribution of Ms. Anomaa Rajakaruna, Cinematographer and renowned Sri Lankan writer and Poet, Ms. Sunetra Rajakarunanayake and Mr. Eranda Mahagama, independent filmmaker and writer and currently persuading his PhD at Istanbul Medeniyet University in Türkiye. Notably, Ambassador also shared the skills of a talented Sri Lanka Foreign Service Officer, Mr. Niluka Kadurugamuwa, currently the Deputy High Commissioner at the Sri Lanka High Commission in New Delhi who has translated 02 novels of the Turkish writer, Orhan Pamuk, "Red Haired Woman" and "My name is Red".

Ambassador also indicated the upcoming Sri Lanka Day events to be held in Adana, Antalya, Bursa and Izmir which would be trade and cultural promotion for Sri Lanka.

**Sri Lanka participates in the World Cultures Festival 2023 in Ankara, Türkiye - 22/09/2023**



The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara participated in the World Cultures Festival 2023 programme organized by the Ebrişem Group and supported by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture of Türkiye, held on 22 and 23 September 2023 at Cermodern premises.

The Embassy of Sri Lanka set up its stall showcasing its unique cultural identity through art, handicrafts, batik, traditional costumes, photographs of nature, culture and Ceylon Tea. Visitors to the stall were mesmerized by the gracefulness of the Sri Lankan traditional dresses and other cultural elements.

On stage Sri Lanka demonstrated traditional Sri Lankan bridal attire and other traditional costumes made with handloom fabrics and batik, which received much accolade from the audience on the first day of the Festival.

The Embassy also made a brief presentation on Ceylon tea highlighting unique features and diversity of Ceylon Tea with depictions of tea cultivation and processing of Ceylon Tea as well as its history of over 155 years. Ceylon tea was served at the Sri Lanka stall at the event as well.

**Sri Lanka and Georgia signed a MoU on cooperation in the field of Tourism in Tbilisi – 27/09/2023**

Sri Lanka and Georgia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of Tourism in Tbilisi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Georgia (resident in Türkiye) H.E. S. Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake signed the MoU on behalf of Sri Lanka & Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia H.E. Alexander Khvtisiashvili signed the agreement on behalf of Georgia.



**Sri Lanka and Georgia signed a MoU between Bandaranayake International Diplomatic Training Institute and Georgian Diplomatic Institute in Tbilisi – 27/09/2023**



Sri Lanka and Georgia signed a Memorandum of Understanding between Bandaranayake International Diplomatic Training Institute and Georgian Diplomatic Institute in Tbilisi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Georgia, H.E. Ms. Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake signed the agreement on behalf of Sri Lankan side and Mrs. Tamar, Deputy Director of Georgian Diplomatic Institute signed the agreement on behalf of Georgia.

### **Sri Lanka evening was organized in Georgia, Tbilisi – 27/09/2023**



First ever mega Sri Lanka tourism promotional event in Georgia was organized in Tbilisi, Georgia on 27th September 2023, coinciding with the World Tourism Day.

The event also marked the celebration of 25 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries and took place at the courtyard of Radisson Red hotel, the former post office converted to a luxury hotel recently.



The Guest of Honour for the occasion, Ms. Medea Janiashvili, Deputy Head at the Georgian National Tourism Administration delivered her thoughts noting that this is the first ever such event in Tbilisi, and the importance of the occasion to promote bilateral tourism cooperation in an effective manner.



Hon. Alexander Khvtisiashvili, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia was a special guest at the event. The event saw over 150 guests with diverse backgrounds with majority from tourism sector, from corporate clientele who have a high potential to seek Sri Lanka for their corporate events, staff retreats and personal holidays, wide range of media representing social media, to print and digital media, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Georgian National Tourism Administration, diplomatic corps, Sri Lankan community and representatives of Sri Lankan students in Tbilisi.

Representatives of leading Sri Lanka tourism agencies, Jetwing Travels (Pvt) Ltd, Cinnamon Hotels and Walkers Tours presented their products through short video clips. Dilmah Tea, which is already popular in Georgia, had a tea promotional video and Ceylon Tea was served by distributors of Dilmah Tea in Georgia. Furthermore, a chef from Jetwing Hotel Group of Sri Lanka joined the event to provide an authentic Sri Lankan culinary experience to the guests.

In addition, a Sri Lankan photo exhibition depicting natural beauty, including wildlife, culture and heritage of Sri Lanka by two professional award winning photographers, Mr. Ravi Ranasinghe and Dr. Umberto Binetti, a selection of paintings of renowned Sri

Lankan artist, Mr. Vasantha Perera was displayed at the venue, providing yet another platform of exposure to Sri Lanka.

A few traditional Sri Lankan dances were performed by professional Sri Lankan dancer, Ms. Poornima Wickramarachchi together with students from Tbilisi State Medical University. In addition, a spot fashion show depicting Sri Lankan clothing, traditional and modern, with batik and handloom, was presented by professional Georgian models.

Traditional and modern Sri Lankan music and songs were performed by a Sri Lankan musician in Georgia, Mr. Amila Jayasooriya and Ms. Ellie Dawson, a British (check name). They also sang some Georgian songs. A Georgian folk dance was also performed by a Georgian ballet group at the venue which added colour to the event and the World Tourism Day.

All guests enjoyed Sri Lankan and Georgian cuisine while networking with each other. There were also opportunities for B2B meetings set up at the far end of the venue for the Sri Lankan and Georgian tourism companies.

The Sri Lanka Embassy in Türkiye, accredited to Georgia, organized the event, supported by the Honorary Consulate of Sri Lanka in Georgia and with generous support by ALFAD Group, Jetwing Travel, Interco, Walkers Tours, Dilmah Tea and Turkish Airlines, Sri Lankan community including the students in Tbilisi.

## OCTOBER 2023

**Courtesy call on H.E.Yavuz Selim KÖŞGER, Governor of Adana by Ambassador – 13/10/2023**



Ambassador Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake called on the Governor Mr. Köşger and areas for collaboration, trade, and investment including garment, IT, renewable energy, and agricultural sectors were discussed. Governor noted a Turkish idiom "one knows who real friends are at times of peril and disasters" noting how Sri Lanka helped Türkiye in the aftermath of the earthquake and how Türkiye helped Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the tsunami.

## Sri Lanka evening in Adana – 13/10/2023



The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Türkiye arranged a Sri Lanka tourism and cultural promotional event in Adana commemorating Sri Lanka's 75th Anniversary of Independence celebrated on 4th February 2023, establishing the Republic of Türkiye on 29th October 2023 and the 75th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Türkiye in 2023.

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Türkiye decided to organize the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Independence Day of Sri Lanka under the theme "At 75: Sri Lanka Moving Forward with Nature-based Solutions for Global Climate Change".

Eight months after the earthquake, the first such event was arranged by the Embassy together with the Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka in Adana on 13th October 2023 at Adana HiltonSA.

While welcoming all guests, Mr. Beşir Uğur, Hony. Consul of Sri Lanka in the Mediterranean Region, Adana, Türkiye shared his experiences about Sri Lanka as a business and tourist destination as Mr. Uğur started his business relations with Sri Lanka in the tea sector in the early 1980s as the owner of BETA Tea in Türkiye.

Mr. Yavuz Selim Köşger, the Governor of Adana delivered his remarks, as the Chief Guest. He highlighted the importance of arranging such an event in Adana to cherish the similarities and understand and embrace the differences between cultures that enrich our lives and to continue to promote tourism and culture as a means of bridging gaps to promote understanding and peace among people.

The event was attended by over 150 invitees attracting diverse attendees, primarily comprising officials from the public sector, including MPs from the National Assembly and local government, heads of chambers and leading private sector organizations in Adana, representatives from the tourism sector in Adana and media.

Tourism presentations, videos, Sri Lankan music, batik décor, and banners all provided a beautiful Sri Lankan ambiance.

In addition, a Sri Lankan photo exhibition depicting nature and climate change impact and culture with photos by professional award-winning photographers, Mr. Ravi Ranasinghe & Dr. Umberto Binetti and a selection of paintings by renowned Sri Lankan artist, Mr. Vasantha Perera were displayed at the venue, together with a display of Sri Lankan gem-studded jewellery.

As the sponsor of the event, BETA Tea Company in Türkiye, served Ceylon tea at the event and showed a video clip introducing BETA tea.

Guests were also treated to sumptuous Sri Lankan delicacies together with Turkish food during the networking session while enjoying traditional and modern Sri Lankan music and songs.

### **Sri Lanka Evening in Antalya – 16/10/2023**



The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Türkiye arranged a Sri Lanka tourism and cultural promotional event in Antalya. The event was arranged by the Embassy together with the Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka in Antalya recently on 16th October 2023.

The Ambassador mentioned that Ceylon cinnamon and Ceylon tea are two of Sri Lanka's unique products offered to the world.

Mr. Mustafa Hulusi Arat, the Deputy Governor of Antalya graced the event as the guest of honor.

The event was attended by nearly 125 invitees attracting diverse attendees, primarily comprising officials from the public sector, including Antalya local government, chambers and leading private sector organizations in Antalya, representatives from the tourism sector in Antalya, and media.

Tourism presentations, videos, Sri Lankan music, batik décor, banners and Sri Lankan photo exhibition all provided a beautiful Sri Lankan ambiance.

Guests were also treated to sumptuous Sri Lankan delicacies together with Turkish food during the networking session while enjoying traditional and modern Sri Lankan music and songs. Ceylon tea was served throughout the event.

Following the event, the Ambassador also visited CW ENERJİ Company and its factory and had a discussion on possible joint ventures in solar energy and IT sectors. Ms. Thavishya Mullegamgoda, Minister (Commercial) of the Sri Lanka Embassy in Türkiye also joined the factory visit together with Mr. Sahan Moratuvage, founder-CEO of ZENZ Global İnc. Antalya, Türkiye.

### **Meeting between Governor of İzmir, H.E. Mr. Süleyman Elban & Ambassador of Sri Lanka in**

## Türkiye – 18/10/2023



Meeting was held with the Governor of İzmir, H.E. Mr. Süleyman Elban. The context of the meeting was the infinite potential for cooperation in tourism, textile & IT sectors between İzmir & Sri Lanka.

## Meeting between Deputy Mayor of İzmir and Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye – 18/10/2023



Meeting was held with the Deputy Mayor of İzmir. Similarities between İzmir and Galle port cities with great histories, possibilities for collaborations in trade & tourism were discussed.

## Meeting between Governor of Bursa, H.E Mr. Mahmut Demirtaş and Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye – 19/10/2023



Meeting was held with the Governor of Bursa, H. E. Mr. Mahmut Demirtaş. Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka for Bursa, Mr. Ahmet Yıldız also joined the meeting.

Ambassador discussed, among others, on potential areas for collaboration in trade, investment and tourism sectors between Sri Lanka and Bursa, Türkiye.

The Governor noted that Bursa is one of Türkiye's

most developed cities in economic terms, is also important with its natural and historical riches. Bursa was the first capital of the Ottoman Empire. In term of population, Bursa is the 4 th largest city in Türkiye.

Bursa is one of the most important industrial cities of Türkiye and the largest automotive production centre. Türkiye’s first organized industrial zone was established in 1961. Bursa is well known for its automotive, textile, machinery and food industries. It is said that the first towel production in history took place in Bursa. Türkiye’s first olive oil laboratory was also established in Bursa.

During the meeting, Ambassador elaborated potential in Sri Lanka in areas such as tourism, apparel & textile, IT services, rubber-based products, coconut based products and other agricultural products. She added that Sri Lanka has highly trained human resources, natural resources.

**Meeting with Mr. Gökhan Dinçer, the Deputy Mayor of Bursa – 19/10/2023**



Ambassador had a successful meeting with Mr. Gökhan Dinçer, the Deputy Mayor of Bursa and his team. Discussion focused on possible cooperation between Bursa and Sri Lanka to increasing the business relations, tourism and cultural cooperation.

During above meetings it was agreed that textiles, agriculture, tourism and IT services could be some potential areas for trade and investment

collaborations between Sri Lanka and Bursa in future. Mr. Ahmet Yildiz, Hony. Consul of Sri Lanka in Bursa and Ms. Thavishya Mullegamgoda, Minister (Commercial) of the Sri Lanka Embassy in Türkiye were also associated with the meetings.

**“SRI LANKA in Bursa” – 19/10/2023**



The third tourism and cultural promotional event was arranged by the Embassy together with the Hony. Consul for Sri Lanka in Bursa and was held on 19 th October 2023 at hotel Anatolia in Bursa.

While welcoming guests, Mr. Ahmet Yildiz, Hony. Consul of Sri Lanka in Bursa, Türkiye mentioned that the objective of organizing the event was to increase bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Bursa, Türkiye in economic and cultural spheres. He further mentioned that the idea was to bring together businessmen, travel agencies, and hoteliers who already do, or want to do business with Sri Lanka in Bursa, with the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Türkiye, and



to establish a bridge of love and understanding.

Speaking at the event, Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Deputy Mayor, Mr. Gökhan hoped for increasing bilateral cooperation to bring mutual benefits, through different kinds of activities and interactions.

Expressing his views on the occasion, Bursa Deputy Governor Mr. Halil Serdar Cevheroğlu noted that for Turks, when you mention Sri Lanka, what comes to mind is the renowned Ceylon Tea and Turkish people appreciate it much.

Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake, the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye delivered the keynote address with a PowerPoint presentation, briefly introducing Sri Lanka's history up to 1948 and past 75 years, Sri Lanka's unique export basket, bilateral relations as well as an introduction to Sri Lanka's tourism potential.

She further noted that the direct flights to operate between the two countries by Turkish Airlines starting from November 2023 would increase connectivity and contribute to the growth of mutually benefiting bilateral economic cooperation, particularly tourism that would bring about closer interactions between the two peoples.

The event was attended by over 100 invitees attracting diverse attendees, primarily comprising officials from the public sector, including Antalya local government, chambers and leading private sector organizations in Bursa, representatives from the tourism sector in Bursa and media.

Tourism presentations, videos, Sri Lankan music, batik décor, banners and Sri Lankan photo exhibition all provided a beautiful Sri Lankan ambiance. Guests were also treated to sumptuous Sri Lankan delicacies together with Turkish food and Ceylon tea.

**Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye called on the Governor of Trabzon, H.E. Mr. Aziz Yildirim – 26/10/2023**



Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye called on the Governor of Trabzon, H.E. Mr. Aziz Yildirim with the Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka for Trabzon, Mr. Atilla Ataman. Deputy Mayor of Trabzon city and had interesting discussions for collaboration on trade and tourism.

**Paying respect to the founding father of the Turkish Republic, Veteran Mustafa Kemal Atatürk at Anitkabir – 28/10/2023**



**Extended felicitation on the occasion of the Centenary of the Republic Day of Türkiye – 29/10/2023**



H.E. the Ambassador of Sri Lanka extended her warm felicitation wishes to His Excellency, President of the Republic of Türkiye on the occasion of the Centenary of the Republic Day of Türkiye.

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