



*Sri Lanka
shines*



in Türkiye....



*News & Events
November - December
2022*



*Embassy of Sri Lanka
Türkiye*

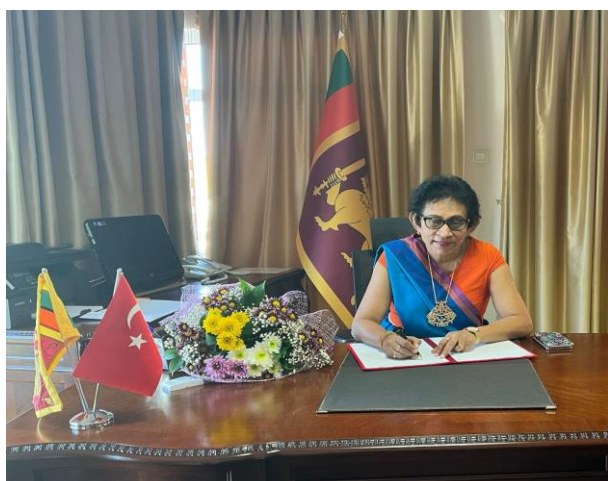


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NOVEMBER 2022

Assuming duties by the Ambassador-designate of Sri Lanka to Türkiye – 01/11/222



The Ambassador-designate of Sri Lanka to Türkiye, Ms. S. Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake, assumed duties at the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara on 01 November 2022.

She is a career diplomat with over 26 years of experience in the Sri Lanka Foreign Service having

served in Sri Lanka Missions in Japan, Sweden, Italy, China and Viet Nam. Her last tenure abroad was as the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Viet Nam from 2015 – 2019.

In Colombo, she has served in several Divisions at the Foreign Ministry and was the Additional Secretary for Ocean Affairs, Environment and Climate Change at the Ministry prior to taking up duties in Ankara.

Presentation of Open Copy of Letter of Credence by Ambassador-designate of Sri Lanka to Türkiye - 02/11/2022



Ambassador -designate of Sri Lanka to the Republic of Türkiye, Ms. S. Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake, presented the Open Copy of her Letter of Credence to Ambassador Tunca Özçuhadar, Director General of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye on 02 November 2022.

Ambassador and the Director General of Protocol had interesting conversations on Japan where both have served simultaneously as well meeting later during Ambassador Özçuhadar tenure in Colombo. Given the mutual background, interests and experience of the two, conversation also focused on how the two countries could collaborate on archaeological research, conservation and heritage management which would also contribute to boost tourism both ways.

The Ambassador-designate of Sri Lanka, meets Ambassador Oguzhan Ertuğrul, Director General of South Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye - 15/11/2022



The Ambassador-designate of Sri Lanka met with Ambassador Oguzhan Ertuğrul, Director General of South Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye recently and had a fruitful discussion on strengthening bilateral relations in the fields of Political, Economic, Culture and Environment relations.

Noting that COVID-19 pandemic has affected much in interactions between countries, including between Sri Lanka and Türkiye, both discussed how best relations can be enhanced for mutual benefit, particularly in the economic front. Both Ambassadors agreed to work closely to convene early the Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation & Economic and Technical Cooperation.

It was noted that 2023 is a bilaterally a special year with an increased number of activities as in 2023 while Türkiye celebrates its 100th anniversary of Independence, Sri Lanka celebrates its 75th anniversary of independence; moreover, 2023 also marks the 75th anniversary of establishing bilateral relations.

The Ambassador-designate of Sri Lanka welcomes Dr. Zameer Careem, the first Sri Lankan academic who was awarded a KATIP scholarship -18/11/2022



The Ambassador-designate welcomed Dr. Zameer Careem, the first Sri Lankan academic who was awarded a KATIP scholarship by the Office of the Presidency for Turks abroad (funded by the Government of Türkiye). Dr. Careem is currently pursuing his course at the Ankara Haci Bayram Veli University (Ankara haci Bayram Veli Universitesi) with the foreign public officials, diplomats, academic and researchers from different countries who are interested in learning Turkish language and history of Türkiye.

It is a part of Turkish soft diplomacy initiatives and it was the first time that Sri Lankan joined the course under this programme.

Sri Lanka already has a MoU with Ankara Haci Bayram Veli University and it was discussed how the Embassy could activate the MoU starting with enhancing engagement with the exchange students.

The Ambassador-designate welcomes the Sri Lankan students and alumni currently residing in Ankara and Istanbul - 21/11/2022



The Ambassador of Sri Lanka welcomed some of the Sri Lankan students (high school exchange students and university students) and alumni currently residing in Ankara and Istanbul at the Embassy.

The Ambassador assured that the Embassy would do its utmost to assist them whenever they need any assistance and not to hesitate to reach out to her or other staff members.

Further, some of them explained the promotional work the students have been doing with the Embassy and also independently to promote Sri Lanka. The Ambassador appreciated their contribution and requested to for their assistance in the future as well to promote Sri Lanka. Ambassador requested them to convey any such opportunities not only in their educational establishments, but also in their city.

Further, the Ambassador indicated future collaborations to be initiated to create more opportunities for Sri Lankan students, teachers/lecturers enabling them to pursue their higher studies in Türkiye through scholarship and exchange programmes.

DECEMBER 2022

The Embassy of Sri Lanka organizes an Online Introductory Session between the OSTIM Technical University in Ankara, Türkiye and University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka - 01/12/2022



The Embassy of Sri Lanka organized an Online Introductory Session facilitating interaction between the OSTIM Technical University in Ankara, Türkiye and University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka on exploring possible collaboration on Drone and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology between the two countries.

Professor Alpaslan Durmus led the team from the OSTIM University while Professor Rohan Munasinghe led the Sri Lanka team from the University of Moratuwa.

Meeting with H. E. M. Aden Houssein Abdillahi, Ambassador of Djibouti and the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps – 01/12/2022



The Ambassador-designate of Sri Lanka meets with a Turkish labour recruiting company, AST human resources employment agency - 02/12/2022



The Ambassador of Sri Lanka met with a Turkish labour recruiting company, AST human resources employment agency, and discussed on recruitment of employees from Sri Lanka. The Embassy is in the process of liaising with the Foreign Employment Bureau to complete necessary procedures.

Professors from Haci Bayram Veli University in Ankara and representative from the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities visits the Embassy - 02/12/2022

Yurtdışı Türkler ve Akraba Topluluklar Başkanlığı – YTB (The Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities) fulfills the task of coordinating the studies for Turks living abroad, cognate and relative communities and international scholarship students studying in Türkiye.

A represented from YTB and Professors from Haci Bayram Veli University in Ankara visited the Embassy to discuss mutual collaborations to promote understanding about the two countries through exchange of students and staff.

Possibilities of more Sri Lankans from diverse ethnic backgrounds to come and study a range of subjects in Türkiye and launching a multi-faceted joint research publication to commemorate the 75 years of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries were discussed.



Meeting with H.E. Mr. George Janjgava, Ambassador of Georgia – 05/12/2022

Ambassador-designate called on the Ambassador of Georgia in Ankara as she is also accredited to Georgia with residence in Ankara.

Discussions were focussed on how to develop bilateral relations in the post-COVID-19, noting that both countries celebrating 25 years of diplomatic relations this June.

Expressing condolences on the demise of former Chinese President Jiang Zemin and meeting H. E. Liu Shaobin, Ambassador of China - 05/12/2022



Hasanthi Urugodwatte Dissanayake, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye Presents Credentials in Ankara - 27/12/2022



The newly appointed Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Republic of Türkiye, Her Excellency Saranya Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake, presented Credentials to His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye on Tuesday, 27 December 2022 at the Presidential Complex in Ankara, accrediting her as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Republic of Türkiye.

During the meeting President Erdoğan, extended his greetings to His Excellency Ranil Wickremasinghe, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. He further recalled Sri Lanka's long standing bilateral relations with Türkiye with connections dating back to around 09th Century during the Ottoman Empire. He noted that first formal relations began with the Ottoman Empire appointing an Honorary Consul to Sri Lanka in 1864 with residence in Galle.

President Erdoğan also recalled his visit to Sri Lanka in 2005 as the then Prime Minister of Türkiye and noted the humanitarian assistance extended by the Government of Türkiye to Sri Lanka as well as the donation of medical supply to Sri Lanka in August 2022.

Ambassador Dissanayake thanked President Erdoğan for his remarks and stated that as a senior career diplomat, and being mandated by the President of Sri Lanka, she remains firmly committed to further strengthen the longstanding and cordial bilateral relations between the two countries.

Ambassador Dissanayake expressed inspirations she has drawn from the visionary founding father of the Republic of Türkiye, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk who modernized the nation with secular, pluralist democratic features, and realizing that empowerment of women is a pre-requisite for development.

Ambassador Dissanayake further stated that this has also been the commonality of the shared vision of the two countries during its longstanding friendship. Ambassador also stated that she is closely collaborating with the Turkish Ambassador in

Colombo and Turkish Airlines on a range of economic cooperation activities and that she is looking forward to holding the 3rd Session of the bilateral Economic and Technical Cooperation in Ankara.

Wreath-Laying Ceremony at Anıtkabir Mausoleum by the Ambassador of Sri Lanka - 29/12/2022



Following the Ceremony of presentation of the Letters of Credence to the President of the Republic of Türkiye, Ambassador of Sri Lanka, S. Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake participated in the Wreath Laying Ceremony at Anıtkabir Mausoleum in Ankara.

The Ambassador was welcomed by the Chief of Protocol of the Anıtkabir and the Ceremony consisted of wreath-laying at the Mausoleum, observance of one minute's silence, signing of the "Book of Honour" by the Ambassador and visiting the Atatürk Museum & the Independence War Museum.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is father of the Republic of Türkiye, who modernized the nation with secular, pluralist democratic features, which is a part of the "Kemalist" ideology, which led to the empowerment of women as imperative for progress.

In signing of the "Book of Honour", the Ambassador wrote "The founding father of the Turkish Republic, Veteran Mr. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's legacy is indeed phenomenal globally. He led Türkiye's modernization process, while advocating pluralism, democracy and secularism. Above all, as a female citizen of the planet earth, I see him as a visionary in understanding the role of women in society, which is a prerequisite for development of any human society."

Further she wrote that "Veteran Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is a shining example for developing states like my country, how determination and resilience can achieve rapid development, while retaining cultural characteristics in a contemporary manner".

