

Eminent Speakers to Share Views on Current Economic Challenges

This year's CACCI Conference promises to provide another valuable opportunity for members to listen to and exchange views with eminent personalities on current global and local economic issues and their implications on future growth and development of the Asia-Pacific region.

Experts from the government, the academe, and the business sectors have been invited to share their insights and perspectives on issues surrounding the Conference theme "Facing Global and Local Challenges: The New Dynamics for Economic Development". They are expected to discuss the current challenges faced by economies in the Asian region, identify priorities on which countries and companies need to focus that can contribute to their competitiveness, and recommend some policy responses to the changing conditions at home and abroad that governments, international organizations, and private sector participants can adapt to ensure growth and macroeconomic stability in Asia over the medium term.

Climate Change

Session One will address the topic "Climate Change: Mitigating its Impact on Business and Economic Development." Four experts have been invited to speak during this session, namely: **Mr. Takashi Hongo**, Special Advisor and Director General for Environment Finance Engineering Department at the Japan Bank for International cooperation; **Mr. Renton de Alwis**, Former Chairman, Sri Lanka Tourism Board; **Ms. Shirani**

Yasarathne from the International Union for Conserving Nature; and **Dr. Mehdi Fakheri**, Vice President for International Affairs, Iran Chamber for Commerce, Industries and Mines.

The invited speakers will share their views on the importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation to ensure the region's sustained economic growth; discuss issues surrounding climate change and their implications for business and economic development; and recommend policy measures and stimulate actions that need to be taken by the private and public sectors to reduce those impacts. They will also be requested to examine how business can play a key role in the mitigation of climate change, through decisions to invest in researching and implementing new energy technologies and energy efficiency measures, among others.

This session will be chaired by **Mr. Annisul Huq**, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry and concurrently Chairman of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Human Capital and Technology

Session Two will focus on "Investing in Human Capital and Technology for Sustainable Economic Growth." The speakers who have been invited to share their perspectives on issues surrounding this topic include **Hon (Dr.) Sarath Amunugama**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance and Planning; **Dr. Hyeun-Suk Rhee**, Director, United Nations Asia Pacific Training Centre for Information

and Communication Technology for Development (UN-APCICT); **Mr. Ravi Peiris**, Director General of the Employers Federation of Ceylon; and **Mr. Chak Wong**, Director of Marketing, Enterprise Solution Sales & Intel World Ahead Program., Intel Asia Pacific.

The invited experts have been requested to examine how the private sector and governments in the region can invest increasingly in human resources and technology to address the emerging skills requirements associated with the changes in production patterns, including capabilities in the management of technical, financial and human resources enterprises.

Session Two will be chaired by **Mr. Sergey Vasiliev**, Director, International Cooperation Department, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation.

Food Security

Session Three will cover the topic "Issues on Food Security and Opportunities in Innovative Agriculture/Plantation." The invited speakers include **Ms. Rebecca Cohn**, Mission Director, USAID, Sri Lanka; **Prof. Shabd Swaroop Acharya**, Honorary Professor, Institute of Development Studies, India; **Dr. Anura Ekanayake**, Chairman, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce; and **Mr. Darren Lee**, Board Director, Ten Ren Tea Co. Ltd.

The invited speakers have been requested to share their views on major issues that impact on global

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food security; and to generate recommendations for long-term policy planning, identifying priority areas for investments, research and capacity required to increase agricultural production.

The Chairman for this Session will be **Dr. Mehdi Fakheri**, Vice President for International Affairs, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines

Aging Population

Session Four will address the topic "Economic Implications of an Aging Population: Challenges and Opportunities" The experts who have been invited to share their insights on this topic include **Dr. W. Indralal de Silva**, Professor and Head, Department of Demography, University of Colombo; **Prof. Alfred Chan Cheung Ming**, Professor and Director, Asia-Pacific Institute of Aging Studies, Hong Kong; **Dr. A.T.P. L Abeykoon**, Senior Fellow, Institute for Health Policy, Sri Lanka; and **Mr. Tariq Sayeed**, Former Chairman, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry

CACCI members and other delegates will exchange ideas with the invited speakers on how the trend towards aging population will affect economic growth, savings, investment, consumption, labor markets, pensions and taxation. They will also to address how this phenomenon will influence living arrangements, housing demand, migration trends and the need for health care services, and what their implications are for governments and the business communities.

The Session will be chaired by **Amb. Benedicto Yujuico**, CACCI Executive Vice President.

Sri Lanka Economic Summit

This year's 24th CACCI Conference will be held jointly with the Sri Lanka Economic Summit 2010, which is the mega event organized annually by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.

The Sri Lanka Economic Summit

2010 will take a close look at the current economic conditions in Sri Lanka and prospects for growth and development following the end of its 30-year civil war.

Scheduled on July 7, the full-day Summit will feature four sessions. The session topics and the respective invited speakers include the following:

Foreign Direct Investment Opportunities in Asia and Pacific

This session will discuss strategies to attract foreign investment, setting up of investment promotion zones vis-à-vis industrial promotion zones and how to overcome the impediments faced by foreign investors. The speakers who have been invited to share their experiences on how to plan and strategize to draw foreign investments, as well as their experience in investing in Sri Lanka, include: **Hon. Basil Rajapaksa**, Minister of Economic Development; **Mr. Atu Bindal**, President, Mobile Services, Bharti Airtel Limited; and **Mr. Jegathesan**, CEO, JJ International Consultants.

The Session will be chaired by **Mr. Asite Talwatte**, Country Managing Partner, Ernst & Young Sri Lanka.

Accelerating Infrastructure Development

This session will highlight infrastructure development opportunities in Sri Lanka. Speakers have been invited to share their experiences on mechanisms that are required for structuring of projects to draw private sector investments, and discuss how facilitation support should be provided by the government. The invited speakers include **Dr. P. B. Jayasundara**, Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development; **Mr. Richard W. A. Vokes**, Country Director and Resident Representative, Asian Development Bank, Sri Lanka Resident Mission; **Mr. Gajendra Haldea**, Adviser to DCH (Infrastructure), India; and **Mrs. Anna Roy**, Ministry of Finance, India.

The Session Chairman will be **Mr. J. D. Bandaranayake**, Past Director General of the Board of Investment Sri

Lanka.

Fast Tracking the Economy

Industry leaders from key sectors have been invited to elaborate on the opportunities and challenges for business in their respective sectors and what can be done to overcome the challenges in light of the current economic situation.

This session is divided into two panel discussions.

The first panel discussion will feature **Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe**, Minister of Plantation, as the Keynote Speaker. The other invited speakers and their respective topics are: **Mr. Samantha Ranatunga**, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, CIC Colombo PLC (Export Agriculture); **Mr. Indra Ranasinghe**, Director-General, Ministries of Fisheries (Fisheries); **Mr. W.K.H. Wegapitiya**, Chairman, LAUGFS Holdings Limited (Industrial Sector); **Mr. Madu Ratnayake**, Vice President and General Manager, Virtusa Pvt. Ltd. (It/BPO); **Dr. Rohan Fernando**, Director, Aitken Spence PLC; Head, Business Development & Plantations, Aitken Spence Plantations (Plantation Industry); **Mr Hiran Cooray**, President, Sri Lanka Tourist Hotel Association/Chairman PATA International. Serving as moderator will be **Ms. Savithri Rodrigo**.

The second panel discussion will have **Mr. Nivard Cabraal**, Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka as Keynote Speaker. The invited speakers and their respective topics include: **Mr. A Sukumaran**, Chairman, Joint Apparel Association Forum (Apparel); **Mr. Nick Nicolaou**, Chief Executive Officer, The Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. (Banking and Finance); **Mr. Rohan Tudawe**, Managing Director, Tudawe Brothers Ltd. (Construction); **Dr. Uditha Liyanage**, Director, Postgraduate Institute of Management (Developing Managerial Skills); and **Mr. Mohan Pandithage**, Chairman and CEO, Hayleys PLC (Port and Shipping).

The session moderator will be **Mr. Arun Dias Bandaranayake**. ■