

NEWS LETTER 13

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Promotion of Ceylon Tea in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates successfully hosted an exclusive promotional event to commemorate International Tea Day and to promote the seven regions of Ceylon Tea on 04 June 2026 at Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), United Arab Emirates.

The event was attended by over 75 participants. Dr. Ahmed Mukhtar, United Nations Representative to the Food and Agricultural Organization in the United Arab Emirates, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Senior officials from the UAE, diplomats, tea importers, media personnel, and other stakeholders participated in the event. Dilmah Tea, Ahmed Tea, Akbar Tea, Stassen Tea, and Easwaran Brothers showcased the finest of Ceylon tea.

Product samples provided by the Sri Lanka Tea Board and tea importers were displayed at the venue enabling guests to explore the teas' aromas, textures, diversity, and packaging first-hand.

The event concluded with a networking session, during which guests were served traditional Sri Lankan canapés accompanied by Ceylon teas and tea-based mocktails.





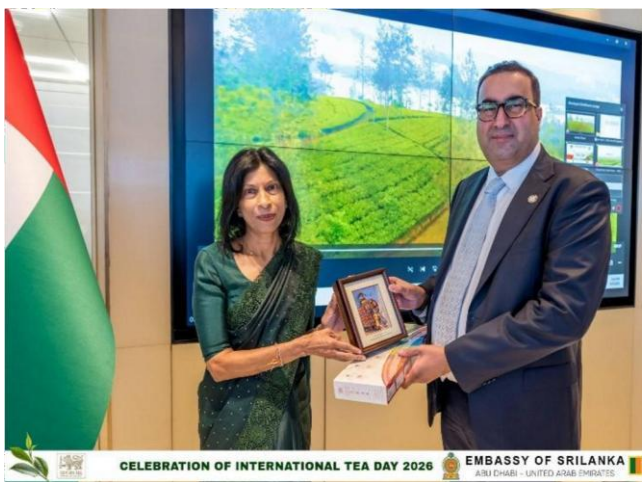
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Port City Colombo's Growth Potential Showcased at Exclusive Dubai Forum

Sri Lanka showcased the transformative potential of Port City Colombo at the “Globalization and the Sri Lankan Opportunity” forum held on 11 June at the Ritz-Carlton DIFC. The event was graced by Mr. Ghanim Al Falasi, Senior Vice President at Dubai Silicon Oasis.

Organized by Port City Colombo in collaboration with the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi and the Consulate General in Dubai, the event brought together senior officials, investors, and thought leaders to discuss Sri Lanka’s evolving role in the global and regional economy. A senior delegation from Sri Lanka including Presidential

Special Envoy for Investment, H.E. Hanif Yusoof, Chairman of Port City Colombo, Mr. Harsha Ameresekera, and senior officials were present to engage directly with potential investors and industry leaders. We hope this platform inspires more partners, investors, and businesses to explore the opportunities within Port City Colombo and be part of Sri Lanka's next chapter of growth.



Ambassador Dr. Arusha Cooray Attends Opening of Thumbay International Research Centre

H.E. Dr. Arusha Cooray, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the UAE attended the opening ceremony of the Thumbay International Research Centre, an initiative that will significantly advance medical research and innovation in the UAE.

The vision behind this state-of-the-art facility, bringing together discovery, diagnostics, and clinical care, marks an important step in strengthening the region's healthcare and academic ecosystem.

She also had the opportunity to meet members of our Sri Lankan community who are contributing to the UAE's hospitality industry and wider service sectors. Their presence and engagement reflect the strong bonds and shared aspirations within our community.



Sri Lanka–UAE Business Council Promotes Investment Links at Exclusive Dubai Presentation

The Sri Lanka–UAE Business Council, under the leadership of President Mr. Suren Swaminathan, hosted an exclusive networking presentation and dinner in Dubai to support the visiting Sri Lankan delegation to further promote investment opportunities in Sri Lanka.

The event, held at The Westin Dubai Mina Seyahi, brought together business leaders, investors, and partners committed to strengthening Sri Lanka–UAE economic ties.

The evening featured Hon. Hanif Yusoof, Governor of the Western Province and Special Advisor for Investment Promotion to the President of Sri Lanka, as the Chief Guest, whose insights highlighted Sri Lanka’s renewed focus on growth and investor engagement, and a presentation by Mr. Revan Wickramasuriya, DG, Colombo Port City Economic Commission.



Sri Lankan Ambassador Meets UAE Minister of Economy to Deepen Bilateral Cooperation

The Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United Arab Emirates, H.E. Dr. Arusha Cooray and Head of Chancery of the Embassy, Ms. Priya Nagarajah, met with His Excellency Abdulla bin Touq Al Mari, United Arab Emirates Minister of Economy and Tourism and delegation from the Ministry.

The discussions focused on opportunities to further strengthen bilateral cooperation, including expanding trade, enhancing tourism flows, and deepening the longstanding partnership between the two nations. It was a productive and forward-looking engagement that reaffirmed a shared commitment to mutual growth and collaboration.



Embassy and Consular Office Facilitate Major Milestone: World CIO 200 Summit Slated for Colombo

The Embassy and Consulate General are pleased to share that its facilitation efforts have led to a major milestone for Sri Lanka's MICE sector. The World CIO 200 Summit, proposed by HTP Global (UAE), is scheduled to take place in Colombo from September 22–24, 2026, bringing together over 200 global CIOs and CXOs from more than 50 countries.

This significant gathering will be organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Digital Economy, the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, SLASSCOM, ICTA, and other key stakeholders, ensuring a high impact event.

This platform will significantly elevate Sri Lanka's profile by showcasing the country's talent, economic direction, and investment potential to a global audience, further strengthening its position as a premier destination for MICE tourism.





The Embassy Celebrates Poson Poya

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi marked Poson Poya with a peaceful observance. Our sincere appreciation goes to Venerable Thero Radawandunne Gnanawimala, the Dayaka Sabha, Daham Pasala, all those who contributed to the dansal, and everyone who supported the commemoration. Your efforts strengthened the spirit of compassion, and unity the Poson embodies.







H.E. Dr. Arusha Cooray Becomes Sri Lanka's First Permanent Representative to IRENA

Her Excellency Dr. Arusha Cooray, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United Arab Emirates, has become the first Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), based in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The Director General of IRENA, Mr. Francesco La Camera, received the Credentials of H.E. Dr. Arusha Cooray, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United Arab Emirates, as the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to IRENA on 30 June 2026, at the Headquarters of IRENA in Masdar City, Abu Dhabi. The Director General of IRENA congratulated the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to IRENA on her appointment, and commended Sri Lanka's commitment to engaging an active representative to work closely with IRENA. Ambassador Cooray reaffirmed Sri Lanka's commitment to advancing renewable energy and achieving sustainability.



Sri Lankan Consul General Welcomes Newly Opened Nepalese Consulate in Dubai

Hari Prasad Odari, Consul General of Nepal in Dubai met with Alexi Gunasekera, Consul General of Sri Lanka to Dubai and Northern Emirates on 03 June 2026 following the opening of the Consulate General office of Nepal in Dubai.

The discussions focused on sharing best practices and experiences gained in Dubai and the Northern Emirates in areas such as investment promotion, trade facilitation, logistics, tourism development, innovation, smart services, and public-private partnerships. Both Consuls Generals noted that these successful models could provide valuable insights for advancing economic growth and development initiatives in Sri Lanka and Nepal.



Consulate General of Lanka in Dubai conducted a consular mobile service in Fujairah on 05 June 2026.



Consul General Mr. Alexi Gunasekera Attends 7th Annual General Meeting of Sri Lanka Professionals' Association

Mr. Alexi Gunasekera, Consul General of Sri Lanka to Dubai and Northern Emirates attended the 07th Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Professionals' Association on 07 June 2026.

Addressing the meeting the Consul General emphasized that Sri Lankan professionals in the UAE are more than successful expatriates, they are strategic partners in Sri Lanka's development. He called on the Sri Lankan Professional Association to leverage its expertise, networks, and influence to attract investment, promote trade, create jobs, support tourism, facilitate joint ventures, share knowledge, provide economic and policy insights, and mentor future generations. He urged members to work closely with the Consulate General and contribute actively to strengthening Sri Lanka's economy, global reputation, and long-term prosperity.

