

# **Sri Lanka**

## **in Brief**

**What we do**

**What we need**

***13 October 2011***

**On the Occasion of the Diplomatic Reception hosted by  
H. E. Mr. A. L. A. Azeez, Ambassador and Permanent Representative**

**Embassy and Permanent Mission  
of Sri Lanka, Vienna**

**Website: [www.srilankaembassy.at](http://www.srilankaembassy.at)  
Email: [embassy@srilankaembassy.at](mailto:embassy@srilankaembassy.at)**

## **SRI LANKA**

### **IN BRIEF**

A beautiful island on the Southern tip of India, Sri Lanka is fast emerging as an attractive tourism and investment destination in the post-conflict phase. With all areas of Sri Lanka experiencing economic development, the country has registered a growth rate of 7.9% to date.

The Times Magazine has flagged Sri Lanka as world's best tourist destination in 2010.

### **PATH TO PEACE, STABILITY AND RECONCILIATION**

H.E. the President of Sri Lanka, addressing the General Debate of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2011 summed up:

**"My country must be afforded the time and space to seek its destiny"**

Sri Lanka's current trajectory is towards peace, reconciliation and prosperity. The President of Sri Lanka announced in August 2011 the lifting of the State of Emergency, followed by the adoption of a Human Rights Action Plan by the Government of Sri Lanka. The Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) is due to submit its comprehensive report in November 2011.

In a further manifestation of normalcy and stability returning to Sri Lanka, elections to the Local Government Bodies were completed in the entirety of the North and the East in July 2011.

This was after a hiatus of almost three decades. This has expanded the opportunity available to the people in the North and the East to participate effectively in the decision making processes in the respective regions.

Reconciliation is continuing apace with the ongoing development, reconstruction and resettlement. Discussions between the Government and the Tamil political parties are on track. A Parliamentary Select Committee is being established to evolve a national consensus consolidating peace and unity.

All these have been achieved within a period of 2 1/2 years, against the backdrop of a conflict that had lasted almost three decades.

It is in this context that the call by Sri Lanka that it must be afforded the time and space to seek its destiny becomes more pertinent.

### **SRI LANKA'S REPRESENTATION IN VIENNA**

Sri Lanka's diplomatic presence in Vienna epitomizes the country's unswerving commitment to engaging the international community in areas of shared concern and interest – a constructive engagement and cooperation through informed dialogue and pro-active participation.

Sri Lanka attaches great importance to the International organisations based in Vienna, and works closely with each of them, contributing to their work and deliberative processes with a view to maximising benefits for all.

Sri Lanka deeply values its warm and friendly relations with Austria, and with other countries to which the Sri Lanka Mission in Vienna is accredited. That the Capital City of Austria, Vienna, is viewed as a hub in Sri Lanka's foreign relations within this region adds to the importance of this bilateral relationship. Sri Lanka's relations with all accredited countries are special and date back to the period of its foray into the United Nations and its embrace of the principles of non-alignment, peace, cooperation and friendship with all.

#### **WHAT WE NEED NOW**

- A continued understanding, goodwill and sympathy as Sri Lanka is fast emerging from the post-conflict phase into stability and prosperity.
- Time and space for ongoing national peacebuilding and reconciliation processes to yield results, which could be owned by all Sri Lankans.
- Support and encouragement for moving forward on the ongoing trajectory towards peace, reconciliation and economic development.
- Aid for Trade, and encouragement of tourism and foreign investment.
- No support, no recognition, direct or indirect, for the remnants of the LTTE or its front organisations abroad.

## **UN AND SRI LANKA**

Sri Lanka has contributed productively to the work and deliberations of the intentional organisations through active participation and sustained commitment.

Many distinguished Sri Lankans have given leadership to, or participated in, substantive processes in the areas of Law of the Sea, Disarmament and Nuclear Non-Proliferation, Trade and Development, Human Settlement, Environment and Sustainable Development, Peacebuilding, Outer Space Affairs, International Law etc.

The Vienna-based International Organisations (VBOs) have in their staffs today, some of the more industrious and competent Sri Lankans. This is so even when the overall representation of Sri Lankans in the professional categories across the system remains at less than desirable level – a matter which the Sri Lanka Mission in Vienna strives hard to have redressed.

Compared to other fields in general, it is pertinent to note that Sri Lanka's contribution to the development of International Law remains all the more significant, measured by developing country standards. Sri Lanka takes pride in having produced some of the best legal experts on the international scene.

## **SRI LANKA'S CANDIDATURE TO THE UN**

It is in recognition of the eminent role played by an International Law luminary, Dr. Rohan Perera, Sri Lanka has presented his candidature for re-election to the International Law Commission (ILC) for another term. Elections to the ILC are scheduled to take place at the UN General Assembly in New York in November 2011. Dr. Rohan Perera has distinguished himself, among others, as the former Legal Advisor to the Ministry of External Affairs, Chairman of the UN Ad-hoc Committee on Counter Terrorism, and a member of the International Law Commission. He is currently serving as a member of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC).

The Sri Lanka Mission in Vienna would much appreciate the support of UN Member States for his candidature to ILC. His continued membership in ILC would no doubt bring fresh perspectives and enrich the ongoing deliberations and work of the Commission.

**SRI LANKA EVENTS: *NOTE THE DATE***

Reception Dinner for Sri Lankan Diaspora	-	12 November 2011
UN Women's Guild Bazaar	-	3 December 2011
Spirit of the Season : "Meet Sri Lanka"	-	16 December 2011
SL Mission moves to its own premises	-	In November 2011