

Sri Lanka independence day

Longstanding relations

Admiral Wasantha Karannagoda
AMBASSADOR OF SRI LANKA

On this special occasion of the 66th Anniversary of the Independence of Sri Lanka, I have the honor to convey my sincere and warm greetings and best wishes from the peoples and government of Sri Lanka to Their Imperial Majesties, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the government of Japan and the warm-

hearted people of Japan. I also convey my best wishes to all the Sri Lankan expatriates in Japan, to whom today is indeed an important and auspicious occasion.

Although our diplomatic ties date back over 60 years, recorded history demonstrates that relations between our two countries date back many centuries. Japan and Sri Lanka have maintained and strengthened relations over the past six decades, particularly since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1952, soon after the San Francisco Peace Conference in September 1951. At this Conference, the



then minister of finance of Sri Lanka, J.R. Jayawardene, who later became the president of Sri Lanka, spoke on behalf of the government of Sri Lanka and urged the participating countries to accept Japan in the spirit of the teachings of Lord Buddha. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**



Bilateral friendship: Sri Lankan Ambassador Admiral Wasantha Karannagoda (right) and former United Nations administrator Yasushi Akashi, who serves as the representative of Japan for peace-building, rehabilitation and reconstruction in Sri Lanka, participate in the traditional oil lamp lighting ceremony during the Sri Lanka Festival, which was held Sept. 21 and 22 in Yoyogi Park, Tokyo. EMBASSY OF SRI LANKA

Strengthening freedom

Mahinda Rajapaksa
PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA

On this day, as we celebrate the 66th anniversary of our Independence, we restate our commitment to safeguard the freedom and rights of our people, and decide on our future free of dictates from the re-emerging forces of colonialism.

With our freedom strengthened by the defeat of separatist terrorism, we proceed on our journey towards progress. This requires new social, political and economic strategies that include modern infrastructure such as ports, airports, highways, power and energy and the latest trends in industry, commerce, trade and education. While most of this is already in place, in the new drive for development much more remains to be achieved offering exciting challenges ahead.

It is our belief that the strength of our freedom largely depends

on developing indigenous skills and knowledge, to restore the glories of our past and move ahead to the victories of the future.

As we celebrate our freedom today we should remember with deep gratitude the members of our security forces who courageously stepped forward to defend our sovereignty and territorial integrity when they were under grave threat. We shall always honor and pay tribute to the great sacrifices they made to ensure that we live in freedom and unity.

Our policy of nonalignment, with a commitment to justice and humanity, has brought us friends in the global community who understand our trials in recent decades and are ready to help us go forward in freedom with the assurance of support in international forums.

I share your dream to strengthen the Sri Lankan nation under a single flag in a united country. Achieving this requires hard work, with diligence and honesty of purpose. It calls for patriotism that transcends the barriers of geography and community, with reconciliation in a rich unity of purpose.

This will lay the foundation for the success of our children and future generations who will inherit this land, to live in peace and harmony, bringing the glories of new achievements that inspire us from our past. Let us together pledge to build this future for our land and people in the peace and freedom we have won.

Expect continued growth in wide range of areas

D.M. Jayaratne
PRIME MINISTER OF SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka celebrates her 66th Anniversary of Independence at a time when the country has gained remarkable achievements in the economic, social and cultural spheres, ushered in by the present government during its eight year tenure.



With the defeat in May 2009 of terrorism, which was considered unachievable, normalcy returned to the country, enabling the government to embark on many development projects, which yielded far-reaching benefits to the country and the people.

The war-devastated economy and the social fabric of the north and the east of the country are being speedily restored through the implementation of a multitude of physical and social infrastructure projects. Rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced persons were completed within a short period. The livelihood of the people was strengthened by resuscitating agriculture,

fisheries, small industries, etc. The successful completion of the elections in September 2013 for setting up of the Provincial Council of the Northern Province is a landmark event that augers well for the promotion of reconciliation, understanding and peace among our different communities.

It is significant that a record number of major development projects in the vital sectors of the economy; such as power generation, water supply, irrigation, shipping, aviation, telecommunication, housing, information technology, transport, etc. were implemented within this eight year period under the visionary leadership of the president. Among these projects, power generation plants at Norochchali and Upper Kotmale, Hambantota Port, South-Colombo Port, Matatala International Airport and two expressways take pride of place. Five new thrust sectors of the economy-maritime, aviation, knowledge, commercial and energy referred to as "new hubs" have been established to propel the country's economic development to greater heights.

The tourism sector has recorded unprecedented improvement with high tourist arrivals

and increased hotel bookings. There is a construction boom in all parts of the country. Beautification of major cities and townships have attracted both local and foreign visitors. The country has achieved self-sufficiency in rice production. The poverty level and unemployment had been brought down below 5% and Sri Lanka is now considered a middle-level income country. We are optimistic that the country will reach a per capita income of U.S.\$4,000 by year 2016.

The country's advancement in diverse spheres could be showcased to the outside world when Sri Lanka hosted quite successfully CHOGM in November 2013. The visiting heads of states marveled at the vast strides the country has taken on many fronts in a short period since the defeat of terrorism. Additionally, at the CHOGM Sri Lanka was elevated to the Chair of the Commonwealth for the next two years which marks a high-point in the country's achievements.

The country is poised to take off for further advancement in the economic, social and cultural spheres by implementing many more ambitious projects to emerge as the "Wonder of Asia" before long. It is therefore

incumbent on all of us, the patriotic citizens of the country, to extend our unstinted support, cooperation and commitment to the government in its endeavor to achieve this objective.

On this day, we celebrate the 66th Anniversary of Independence of our motherland, we resolve to dedicate ourselves to contribute collectively to this laudable task of nation building.

Excellent opportunity to look back on country's remarkable achievements

G.L. Peiris
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SRI LANKA

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka's anniversary of the 66th Independence Day of Sri Lanka is an opportune moment for us to reflect with a sense of satisfaction on the many accomplishments the country has achieved within a brief span of time.

As a country, we are proud of the significant progress that has been made since the defeat of terrorism four years ago, and our people are enjoying peace in a united Sri Lanka. During the past several years, an extraordinary development drive has been undertaken by the government. Numerous mega-development programs are being implemented with the construction of harbors, airports and roads, bringing economic

development to rural areas and connecting them to the larger economic development of the country. The government is committed to ensuring the opportunities gained as a result of these developments are available to all communities, across the country, for the improvement and betterment of their lives.

In the Northern Province, free elections have been held after many years; bringing communities into the political process for the first time; internally displaced persons have been able to return to their homes and have been reunited with their families, and fishing, agriculture, and a multitude of other industries have been reinvigorated to provide livelihood opportunities for people.

The National Action Plan and the recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission are being implemented steadily and substantial resources are being allocated to ensure their objectives. A National

policy is underway to transform the country into a trilingual society.

The policy framework of the government, "Mahinda Chintana: Vision for the future," is steadfast in guiding our development efforts and harnessing the tremendous potential of Sri Lanka, and is helping to revolutionize the country to emerge as a regional hub in aviation, commerce, maritime affairs and knowledge. With these developments, increasing linkages and strong growth, Sri Lanka is a world class travel destination poised to move toward being an upper middle income country. The climate of peace and stability now prevailing in the country is an essential condition for this enhanced economic activity.

Sri Lanka continues to have a strong, vibrant foreign policy and healthy relations in the global arena, guided by principles of nonalignment and friendship with all. We are steadily expanding our diplomatic relations with a large number of countries and

opening new diplomatic missions in different parts of the globe; deepening our ties of friendship amongst the international community of nations. On the international stage, Sri Lanka hosted the 23rd Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November 2013 and will serve as the Chair in Office of the Commonwealth for the next two years. This significant event was a great opportunity for world leaders to see the tremendous progress and unprecedented post-conflict developments taking place in Sri Lanka.

At this time, I express my gratitude to the expatriate Sri Lankan community that has continued to contribute to the economic and social development of the country. On the occasion of our National Day, let us rededicate ourselves to intensify collectively our commitment towards supporting our motherland in our challenges ahead, in order to lead the country toward a brighter future.

Congratulations

to the People of Sri Lanka
on the 66th Anniversary
of Independence

FUJIFILM
Value from Innovation

TOKYO MIDTOWN, 7-3, AKASAKA 9-CHOME
MINATO-KU, TOKYO 107-0052, JAPAN

FUJIFILM Corporation

<http://fujifilm.jp/>

Congratulations

to the People of Sri Lanka
on the 66th Anniversary of
Their Independence

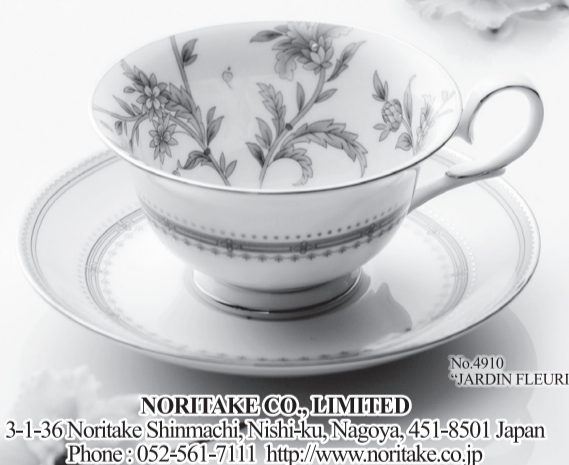


MITSUI & CO., LTD.

Congratulations

to the People of Sri Lanka
on the 66th Anniversary of Independence

NOBORU AKAHANE
Honorary Consul-General of Sri Lanka in Nagoya
(Corporate Adviser, NORITAKE CO., LIMITED)



NORITAKE CO., LIMITED
3-1-36 Noritake Shimomachi, Nishi-ku, Nagoya, 451-8501 Japan
Phone: 052-561-7111 <http://www.noritake.co.jp>

Noritake

Congratulations and
Best Wishes
to the People of Sri Lanka
on the 66th Anniversary
of Their Independence

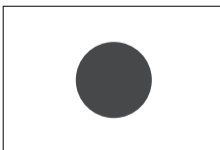
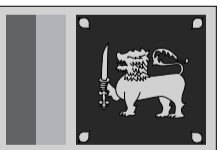
石光商事株式会社
S. ISHIMITSU & CO., LTD.

the global food merchandiser,
promoting CEYLON TEA in Japan

<http://www.ishimitsu.co.jp>

4-40, Iwaya Minami-machi, Nada-ku, Kobe 657-0856
Tel: 078-861-7787 Fax: 078-882-1624

Congratulations



to the People of Sri Lanka
on the 66th Independence Anniversary



KOBE MOTOR COMPANY

President: N.M. ALI

〒222-0036 18-9, Kozukuecho, Kohoku-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken
Tel. 045-349-5855



Best Wishes to the Government and the people of
Sri Lanka on the occasion of the
66th Anniversary of Independence

SRI LANKA BUSINESS COUNCIL OF JAPAN

c/o The Embassy of Sri Lanka, 2-1-54, Takanawa, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0074
Tel. 03-3440-6912 Fax. 03-3440-6914 Website: www.slbcj.com

Patron
The Ambassador of Sri Lanka Admiral (Rtd.) Wasantha Karannagoda

President Niliam Alawdeen

Executive Secretary & Vice President (Kansai) Prince Samuel
Treasurer Jithendra Samarawickrama
Senior Adviser Hubert Jayakody
Vice President (Kanagawa) Jagath Ramanayake
Vice President (Tokyo) Udaya Atukorala
Vice President (Kyushu) Kenichi Watanabe
Vice President (Nagano) Buddhika de Silva

Vice President (Ibaraki) Mohamed Nazeer
Vice President (Nagoya) Nishantha Meegalla
Vice President (Shizuoka) Priyantha Salpitikorala
Vice President (Tochigi) Thilak Perera
Vice President (Saitama) Chandika Perera
Vice President (Shikoku) Velu Karunamoorthy
Vice President (Chiba) Lasantha Nandasari

Ex Officio

The Embassy of Sri Lanka Counsellor (Commercial) D.D. Premaratne
The Embassy of Sri Lanka Personal assistant Chitra Algama
Sri Lanka Airlines Manager Dammika Kulatunge
Honorary Consul-General Osaka D.W. Aluthgamage

The Sri Lanka Business Council of Japan (SLBCJ) was established in line with the policy directions given by the Overseas Business Promotion Program launched by the Ministry of Commerce & Consumer Affairs of Sri Lanka. Its mandate is to expand, develop and encourage bilateral trade between Sri Lanka and Japan while also promoting Japanese investment in Sri Lanka. Its membership is open to Japanese and Sri Lankan business entrepreneurs.

Sri Lanka independence day



Dance moves: A Sri Lankan dance troupe performs at the annual Sri Lanka Festival, which was held Sept. 21 and 22 in Yoyogi Park, Tokyo. EMBASSY OF SRI LANKA

Enduring bilateral friendship

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

He quoted from Lord Buddha's teachings and convinced the world that hatred cannot be overcome by hatred, but only by love and compassion.

Following this initiative, Japan took tenacious and resolute courses of action toward postwar reconstruction. It is most heartening to note that many people in Japan still remember this occasion with a sense of gratitude. This paved the way for the establishment of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Japan in 1952. Sri Lanka stood by Japan because we were of the conviction that Japan had the inner strength to revive from its devastation. This boundless strength of the peoples of Japan would, one day, become a beacon of promise, hope and opportunity, leading to what would be an economic powerhouse not only in Asia but in the entire world. I must further add that what our forefathers foresaw, then, has become a reality.

In 2013, His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, president of Sri Lanka, undertook a four-day official visit to Japan. During this visit, the president called on the Emperor and the prime minister of Japan as well as met with the most senior political spectrum of the country, thus further deepening and strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries. Last year was unique since an unprecedented number of high level visits from both countries took place, which in turn, widened and strengthened the relations.

Today, Japan is the single-largest donor country to Sri Lanka and has always stood by Sri Lanka in good times and in testing times; a friend in need, we say, is a friend indeed. In international forums, Japan has always supported our cause and looked towards the fundamental interests of Sri Lanka as a sovereign democracy. Japan was also one of the first countries to assist Sri

Lanka when the Indian Ocean tsunami struck the island in 2004. In the same manner when the Great East Japan Earthquake struck in 2011, the government of Sri Lanka was quick to assist Japan in every possible way.

Sri Lanka is currently one of the safest places in the world, with permanent peace, security and harmony for all its citizens. Similar to Japan in its postwar era, Sri Lanka also believes that our country and its peoples have the inner strength to emerge and unleash a new era and a new chapter, paving the way to lead the future of South Asia as well as Asia.

Tourist arrivals from Japan to Sri Lanka have increased by 21% in 2013 compared to 2012. Japan is among the highest tourist-generating countries in the East Asian region. Sri Lanka, being a safe haven for the Japanese travelers seeking a "power spot" and a peaceful location for inner revival, among others, is highly sought after by tourists of Japan.

In addition, the large corporates of Japan have expressed interest to commit investments and to be engaged in commercial and trading activity with Sri Lanka, which is today a booming business hub in South Asia. With the 5-hub concept introduced under the visionary leadership of the president of Sri Lanka, the country is, today, a booming maritime hub, aviation hub, commercial hub, knowledge hub, energy hub and tourism hub in South Asia. I am confident these developments and evolutions would further deepen and strengthen the economic, commercial and investment relations between our two countries.

I look forward with confidence and optimism to the enduring friendship between Sri Lanka and Japan, being further enhanced and augmented in the coming years, and to strengthening and deepening of relations between our two countries.



RamaDBK
Japanese Car Exporter

Exported Worldwide

Any type of Vehicles/Parts

Over 20 years of experience

- Over 800 vehicles in online stock
- Directly From Auctions
- Quick shipment to any country
- Superior customer care

Certified JAAEVA Japan Used Vehicle Exporter's Association

Certified YCCI Yokohama Chapter of Commerce & Industry Reg # 11853

RamaDBK Head Office
201 Rama HQ Building
2-1-17, Shinkoyasu
Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama, Japan
Postcode 221-0013
Tel: +81(45) 402 6117
Fax: +81(45) 402 0689

www.ramadbk.com