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Global Parliamentarians Forum on Evaluation Inaugurates EvalColombo2018

Paving the way for good governance, transparency and accountability.

Colombo, Sri Lanka. EvalColombo2018 Conference held its inaugural event at the Hilton Colombo on the 17th September 2018. It is the first major global event hosted by the Global Parliamentarians Forum on Evaluation. The conference brought together over 150 delegates from legislatures, governments and development agencies across the globe to discuss the role of evaluation and parliaments in the pursuit of Agenda 2030.

Present at the inaugural event was His Excellency Maitripala Sirisena, The President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka who was the chief guest at the event. The President was joined by Hon Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Members of Sri Lanka Parliament, Members Global Parliamentarians Forum on Evaluation from over 83 countries, evaluation experts, development partners, civil society members and other stakeholders.

Addressing the gathering, President Maitripala Sirisena spoke of the importance of efficient Parliamentarians and its implications on a competent workforce in the government sector and the development of the country. He also reiterated the importance of female representation in Parliament to bridge the gender inequality across policy platforms.

"Evaluations are decisions based on credible, useful, evidence-based information that allows parliamentarians to receive findings, recommendations and lessons learned for the decision making process on National Policy and Legislations."

Hon. J.M. Ananda Kumarasiri - Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, Chair, Sri Lanka Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation

Policy without Evaluation burdens the citizens and implementing evaluation processes requires a cultural change said, The Hon. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in his opening remarks. He requested that the members of Parliament take the learnings of the conference and work towards introducing systems of evaluation in their own countries.

"Both sides in government and opposition have to work together to serve the country, and they can do that much better with evidence than opinion based information."

Caroline Heider - Director General and Senior Vice President, World Bank Group

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
18TH SEPTEMBER 2018
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA



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Following the event, The Hon. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe hosted the delegates at his official residence, the Temple Trees, where the National Evaluation Policy of Sri Lanka was launched. Joining the few countries in the world that has a National Policy on Evaluation, Sri Lanka is the first country in the South Asian region to introduce a National Evaluation Policy. With the blessings of His Excellency, the Department of Project Management and Monitoring is in the process of developing a strategic framework to implement this policy.

The EvalColombo2018 Conference will continue until the 19th of September. The concluding program will be held at the Parliament of Sri Lanka, where multiple panels of Global and Sri Lankan Parliamentarians will discuss the importance of evaluation. At this event, the participating Parliamentarians will pledge their commitment to a way forward on the Colombo Declaration which will include the country commitments for National Evaluation Policies/ Systems and Voluntary National Reviews.

EVALCOLOMBO2018 IS ORGANISED BY THE GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARIANS FORUM FOR EVALUATION (GPFE) AND SRI LANKA PARLIAMENTARIANS FORUM FOR EVALUATION (SLPFE) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE OF SRI LANKA, MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT, PARLIAMENT OF SRI LANKA, AND THE SRI LANKA EVALUATION ASSOCIATION (SLEVA).

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