

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2012

**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
- SRI LANKA -**

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Mission

"The promotion, projection and protection internationally of Sri Lanka's national interests, in accordance with the foreign policy of the Government and to advice the government on managing international developments in keeping with the best interest of Sri Lanka"

Subjects and Functions of the Ministry of External Affairs

"Implementation of political plans and programmes in respect of External affairs; representation of Sri Lanka abroad; international Agreements and treaties; foreign government and international organization representation in Sri Lanka; external publicity; diplomatic immunities and privileges and consular functions"

*I will continue Sri Lanka's non-aligned foreign policy.
During the last four years we witnessed the benefits of
maintaining friendly relationship with
India, Japan, China, Pakistan and other Asian countries.
I am committed to continue these friendly relations in the
political, economic, defense, trade and cultural arena.*

*I will ensure that Sri Lanka abides by the global treaties and
agreements on the environment and climate change and will
strengthen Sri Lanka's ties with the UN Agencies.*

*I will maintain the dignity of my country in foreign relations
and will initiate a new programme to forge relations with
countries*

Mahinda Chinthana – Vision for the Future

PREFACE

Sri Lanka's Foreign Policy is fundamentally moulded by a set of political goals which are designed to protect our national interests such as national security, ideological objectives and economic prosperity. Thus, foreign policy becomes an integral part of the overall policy framework of the Government.

In pursuance of the "Mahinda Chintana: Vision for the future" envisioned by His Excellency the President, Sri Lanka follows a non-aligned, free and progressive foreign policy. The Ministry receives the guidance of the Honourable Minister of External Affairs in implementing the Mahinda Chintana.

The Ministry and its network of 64 Missions across the world have been working assiduously to promote and protect the vital national interests of Sri Lanka abroad. The Year 2012 has witnessed significant increase in bilateral visits at various levels. These frequent bilateral visits to Sri Lanka are a reflection of the vibrant relations that Sri Lanka maintains with the rest of the world. During each visit, many Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding were concluded paving the way for the strengthening and deepening of the bilateral cooperation between the countries.

His Excellency the President undertook a number of bilateral visits including State Visits to Pakistan, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Qatar, Cuba, Iran, India and Kazakhstan. These visits have provided unique opportunities to deepen Sri Lanka's engagements with the rest of the world. The President also participated in the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil, the Doha Forum in Qatar and the World Energy Forum in Dubai elaborating Sri Lanka's policy towards Climate Change and Energy Security. His Excellency the President's participation in the First Asia Cooperation Dialogue Summit in Kuwait has reinforced Sri Lanka's commitment to the regional cooperation based on the shared values of Asian civilization.

With a view to addressing the emerging challenges in the Foreign Policy realm, the Ministry of External Affairs has widened its diplomatic network by establishing diplomatic relations with 15 countries in African continent and 13 countries in Central, Latin American and Caribbean region. The Ministry has also taken action to reopen the Mission in Baghdad and new Missions in Ankara and Guangzhou have been established. Preparations were also made to open Embassies in Bahrain and Nigeria as well as a Consulate General in Melbourne, Australia.

In making our representation more effective and determined, the Ministry has constructed new Chancery buildings in Chennai and Canberra. In New York and Washington DC new Chancery buildings have been purchased.

The Ministry has identified the importance of developing capable and quality human resources, which is *sine qua non* for effective delivery of Sri Lanka's Foreign Policy goals. Towards further strengthening the human resources in the Ministry, 14 new officers were recruited to the Sri Lanka Foreign Service in January 2012 and the examination for recruitment of a new batch of officers to the SLFS Grade III was held in May-June 2012. As a capacity building measure, an unprecedented number of 17 officers were sent to foreign training programmes, including those at Masters Degree level.

Plans are underway to relocate the Ministry of External Affairs from its present premises at the Republic Building to a modern and more spacious building befitting Sri Lanka's image as a rapidly modernizing nation.

The Consular Affairs Division, which is the public interface of the Ministry, has been further streamlined to serve the interests of Sri Lankans living, travelling, trading and working abroad in conformity with the people-centered policies of the Government. The Division provides services and consular assistance to approximately 800-1000 people for a day from 6 a.m. The Division has generated revenue amounting to SLRs. 127,364,375.00 million through the authentication of

documents. It has also facilitated next-of-kin to receive SLRs. 208,103,971.37 million as compensation and has arranged the repatriation of 316 human remains of Sri Lankans from abroad this year.

The Public Communications Division - the Ministry's focal point between the Government and external actors in disseminating information and projecting Sri Lanka's image abroad - countered anti-Sri Lanka propaganda campaigns that has been unleashed by overseas LTTE remnants and its front organizations.

In the realm of post-conflict development, it has become the responsibility of the Ministry to strategize Sri Lanka's action in responding to queries raised by the international community in relation to post-conflict developments/allegations related to the conflict and obligatory periodic reporting to the United Nations and multilateral agencies. To this end, the UN, HR & Multilateral Affairs Division of the Ministry was involved in gathering and disseminating information to key organizations and interest groups, such as the Human Rights Council in Geneva, member countries of the United Nations, international civil society representatives as well as the international media. The Division was able to successfully lobby Sri Lanka to be delisted by the UN Secretary-General from Annex II of the UN Security Council resolution 1612, on Children and Armed Conflict. Further, the Division assisted in processing approximately 1800 visas for foreign nationals to visit Sri Lanka in connection various International Conferences and meetings held in Sri Lanka.

The Ministry continues to play a critical role through its Missions abroad in promoting Sri Lankan cultural values, foreign trade, investment and tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development and key State agencies such as Export Development Board, Board of Investment, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, Sri Lanka Tea Board, as well as the private sector, represented by 6 Chambers of Commerce and Industry, to explore new markets for Sri Lankan products and services, foreign direct investment and tourism.

The Ministry has also significantly expanded its diplomatic outreach through visits undertaken by the Honourable Minister of External Affairs to many foreign States including Singapore, Malaysia, Mauritania, India and Pakistan as well as several countries in the African, Latin American and European continents. During these visits, the Minister has been able to engage in a productive dialogue with his interlocutors and articulate Sri Lanka's agenda to rebuild the war-ravaged economy, which would in turn bring about percolation of rapid and sustainable economic development to heal the wounds of conflict and rebuild trust and unity among the different communities in the country and expatriates. The Honourable Minister availed himself of these visits to address multilateral and academic forums to project the government's efforts in reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation.

The Ministry is also diligently preparing for the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be hosted by Sri Lanka in 2013, the largest gathering of Heads of State/Government in Sri Lanka since the NAM Summit in 1976.

The Ministry's prime responsibility is to promote Sri Lanka's interests abroad and it will continue to be guided by the principle of friendship with all and enmity towards none which constitutes the bedrock of Sri Lanka's non-aligned foreign policy.

Ministry of External Affairs, Colombo
31st May 2013

South Asia & SAARC Division

South Asia Division

Countries covered: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, The Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan.

- No. of Resident Missions : 05 (Bangladesh, India, The Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan)
- No. of Concurrent Accreditations : 02 (Afghanistan and Bhutan from New Delhi)
- No. of Multilateral Organizations : 01 (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC))

The main areas of work of the South Asia Division can be broadly categorized as follows:

- In coordination with Sri Lanka Missions in the South Asian region, South Asia Division continues to monitor major political and economic developments with a view to providing assessments on their implications to Sri Lanka's domestic and foreign policy.
- Maintaining a healthy, effective working relationship with all South Asian Missions based in Colombo.
- Co-ordination of overseas visits of H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Minister of External Affairs, other Cabinet Ministers, MPs and Senior Officials.
- Arrangements for visits of foreign dignitaries from the region to Sri Lanka.
- Follow-up and coordination of activities in the Political, Education, Scientific and Cultural spheres within Ministries.
- Co-ordination and finalizing of Political, Science & Technology, Trade and Investment, Education and Cultural Agreements with countries in the region.
- Processing of monthly Political Reports from Missions abroad and dissemination of the information to the relevant authorities.
- Preparation of briefs, speeches and suggested Speaking Notes for discussions during visits and conferences pertaining to the region.
- Co-ordination matters related to bilateral Free Trade Agreements.
- Coordination of matters relating to Prisoner Transfers between Sri Lanka and South Asian countries.

Bilateral Relations

Afghanistan

Official Visits (Inward)

- Visit of H.E. Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, 18-21 December 2012.
- The delegation comprised of H.E. Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Shaida M. Abdali, Non-Resident Ambassador of Afghanistan, Mr. Azizudin Ahmadzada, Director General First Political Division and Mr. Saed Abdul Bashir Sadeet, Deputy Spokesman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan. The visit is the first ever bilateral visit undertaken by an Afghan Foreign Minister to Sri Lanka. During the official discussions, a bilateral agreement for providing professionals and skilled labour to Afghanistan was proposed by Sri Lanka.
- Two Bilateral Agreements on Economic, Educational, and Scientific and Technological Cooperation and the Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation between the two countries were signed by the Ministers.
- The Afghan Foreign Minister agreed to send a delegation representing the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Chamber of Commerce of Afghanistan with a view to exploring avenues for trade expansion. The Foreign Minister extended an invitation by H.E. President Hamid Karzai for H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to visit Afghanistan..

Bangladesh

Official Visits (Inward)

- The Chairman and Member of Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of Bangladesh visited Sri Lanka, during 07-10 April 2012.

Official Visits (Outward)

- The Minister of External Affairs visited Bangladesh to attend the International Conference on "People's Empowerment and Development" from 05-06 August 2012 convened in Dhaka by H.E. Madam Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh.
- Hon. Sumedha Jayasena, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs led a five-Member Parliamentary delegation to Dhaka to attend the "2012 South Asia Women Parliamentarians Conference" held from 08-12 July 2012.

- Hon. Dinesh Gunawardane – Minister of Water Resources and Drainage and Chief Government Whip of the Parliament of Sri Lanka visited Dhaka to attend Bangladesh Convention on “Rainwater Harvesting” from 14-17 June 2012. The Minister paid a courtesy call on H.E. the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
- Hon. Dr. Jagath Balasuriya – Minister of National Heritage visited Bangladesh to attend the “Asia Pacific Regional Ministerial Forum on Culture Diversity” held in Dhaka from 09-11 May 2012.
- Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen – Minister of Industry and Commerce led a Sri Lankan delegation to Bangladesh for the 4th Meeting of “Sri Lanka-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission” held from 07-08 March 2012. Hon Minister also met H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister and Hon. Dr. Dipu Moni, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh on 08th March 2012.
- On the invitation of the Govt. of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka Army Commander Lieutenant General Jagath Jayasuriya, VSV, USP, NDU, PSC visited Bangladesh from 10-16 January 2012.

Bhutan

Official Visits (Inward)

- Chief Justice of Bhutan Hon. Lyonpo Sonam Tobgye visited Sri Lanka as a special guest for the inaugural session of the South Asia follow up Regional Consultations on the UN study on Violence against Children held in Colombo on 28th May 2012.

India

Official Visits (Inward)

- The Minister of External Affairs of India, Hon. S. M. Krishna visited Sri Lanka on 5th January 2012.
- H. E. Abdul Kalam, former President of India visited Sri Lanka from 22-24 January 2012. He was the Chief Guest at the launch of National Action Plan and declaring 2012 as the Year for a Trilingual Sri Lanka
- A Parliamentary Delegation headed by Hon. Sushma Swaraj, Opposition leader of Lok Sabha visited Sri Lanka on 17 April 2012. The delegation consisted of Members of all the parties in the Indian Parliament. The delegation paid visits to the Indian assisted projects such as railway projects, hospital projects and housing projects.

- Hon. Jayram Ramesh, Minister of Sanitation and Drinking water visited Sri Lanka from 11-13 July 2012 to attend a Seminar on Poverty Alleviation. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKIIRSS) of Sri Lanka and the Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS) of India was signed.
- Hon. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industries & Textile of India visited Sri Lanka on 2-5 August 2012.
- Hon. Kumari Selja, Minister of Culture, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation visited as the Minister accompanying the sacred Kapilavastu Relics to Sri Lanka. During her visit she visited the Indian Pilot Phase Housing Project site in the Northern Province.
- The National Security Advisor, Shri Shivshankar Menon visited Sri Lanka on 29th June 2012. He called on H. E. the President and held discussions with the Hon. Minister of Economic Developments and Secretary/Defence.
- On 11th September 2012 an Indian delegation consisting of 25 Military Officers of National Defence College, New Delhi, visited the Ministry of External Affairs and had interactions with Secretary/ External Affairs.
- The Indian delegation led by Mr. Adi Godrej, President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) visited Sri Lanka from 18-20 November 2012. The Indian delegation met H.E. the President and Hon. Minister of External Affairs also.

Official Visits (Outward)

- H. E the President visited Sanchi in Madhya Pradesh on the invitation of the Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan to lay the foundation stone of the Sanchi University of Buddhist and Indic Studies on 21 September 2012. During this visit, H.E. the President had a meeting with the President of India H.E. Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Hon. the Prime Minister.
- An Official Delegation led by Mr. I. Ansar, Additional Secretary/Ministry of External Affairs and consisting officials from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Power & Energy visited New Delhi on 12th October 2012 to discuss a mechanism on notification of an event of nuclear accident and to start negotiations on a Comprehensive Nuclear Cooperation Agreement.
- Hon. Minister of Health & Indigenous Medicine (Western Province) and a delegation visited India from 21st – 27th November 2012. The Ministry of Health (Western Province) is planning to initiate a project to build capacity of the managers and the para medical staff.

The Maldives

Official Visits (Inward)

- Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Foreign Secretary of The Maldives visited Sri Lanka on 25th January 2012.
- H.E. Ms. Dunya Manmoon, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of The Maldives visited Sri Lanka on 19th March 2012.
- H. E Mr. Moumoon Abdul Gayoom, former President of The Maldives visited Sri Lanka on 19-22 April 2012.
- Mr. Abdulla Riyaz, Police Commissioner of The Maldives visited Sri Lanka with a delegation on 10-13 May 2012.
- H. E. Dr. Mohamed Waheed, President of The Maldives undertook a State Visit to Sri Lanka from 23-25 August 2012 with number of Cabinet Ministers. During this visit he had an official meeting with H. E. the President. He addressed Sri Lanka-Maldives Bilateral Business Council organized by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.
- A group of officials from the Academy of the Dhivehi Language visited Sri Lanka on a Study Tour from 12th to 21st November 2012. This was one of the historical research study tours for Maldivian officials.

Official Visits (Outward)

- Hon. Minister of External Affairs Prof. G. L. Peiris visited The Maldives on an Official Visit from 5-8 April 2012.

Pakistan

Official Visits (Outward)

- The Commander of the Sri Lanka Army visited Pakistan, from 1-6 April 2012.
- Hon. Arumugan Thondaman, Minister of Livestock and Rural Community Development visited Pakistan from 19 to 21 March 2012.
- Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Speaker of the Parliament led a Parliamentary Delegation to Pakistan from 11 to 16 March 2012.
- H. E. the President of Sri Lanka undertook a State visit to Pakistan from 10-12 February 2012. During this visit H. E the President held talks with H.E. the President

Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Hon. Saif Yusuf Raza Gilani. MoUs were signed for cooperation in the fields of media, vocational education and for a credit line of US\$ 200 Million.

- Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, MP, Deputy Speaker led Sri Lanka's delegation to the Sixth Conference of the Association of the SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians, Islamabad, Pakistan from 4- 6 November 2012.

Official Visits (Inward)

- On 18th April 2012 a Pakistani delegation consisting of 18 officers from the National Defence University visited the Ministry of External Affairs and had interactions with the Secretary/ External Affairs.

Cultural Relations

Nepal

- A group of Government Representatives including Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, M.P, and Speaker visited Lumbini to mark the 2556th Birth Anniversary of the Buddha and Lumbini Day 2012. (05-07 May 2012)

India

- Hon. Kumari Selja, Minister of Culture of India visited Sri Lanka accompanying the sacred Kapilawasthu relics. Expositions of the sacred relics took place between 19 August to 12 September 2012 throughout Sri Lanka.
- Hon. Kumari Selja, Minister of Culture was also the Chief Guest for the inauguration of the restoration of Thirukadireshwaran Temple in Mannar.

Afghanistan

- Hon. Foreign Minister of Afghanistan visited Sri Lanka from 18th – 21st December 2012. During the visit, a MoU on Cultural Cooperation and Agreement on Economic, Educational, Scientific and Technological Cooperation were signed between the two countries.

Education

Pakistan

- The Government of Pakistan offered 6 placements for Sri Lankan students to pursue higher studies under the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme (PTAP) for the academic year of 2011-2012.
- Under the 100 Undergraduate and Postgraduate Scholarships Programme offered for Foreign Students, the Government of Sri Lanka has offered 3 placements for Pakistani students.

Fisheries

- The 4th Meeting of the Joint Working Committee on Fisheries was held in Colombo on 13-14 January 2012.

Others

- This Division facilitated the signing of MoU between LKIIRSS and Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS) which was signed during the visit of Hon. Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Rural Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation on 12th July 2012.

SAARC Division

Meetings attended by officials of this Division:

Officials of the SAARC Division attended the Meeting to review the principle for upward revision of salaries and allowances of the Secretary General, Directors and General Services Staff, Category-I of the Secretariat" from 27-29 February 2012 at the SAARC Secretariat.

Dr. Rohan Perera, President's Counsel, Chairman - UN Ad Hoc Committee on Terrorism, Mr. Poshitha Perera, Deputy Director, South Asia & SAARC Division, Ministry of External Affairs and Mr. C.N. Wakishta, DIG, Advisor, Department of Police attended the Meeting of the High Level Group of Eminent Experts to Strengthen SAARC Anti-Terrorism Mechanism held in New Delhi on 9-10 February 2012. During the Meeting, the subjects such as the Concept Paper on Countering Terrorism and Strengthening Anti-terrorism Mechanism in SAARC, SAARC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, Intelligence Sharing and Police Cooperation, Specific Measures to Combat Terrorism and Human Resource Development and Relationship Building were discussed. The Meeting recommended Sri Lanka to host next Meeting in 2013. Sri Lanka's suggestion to

prepare a model law together with an explanatory note in consultation with Member States was welcomed at the Meeting. It also recommended Sri Lanka to host a Workshop on combating suicide terrorism in future.

Mr. V. Krishnamoorthy, Director General/SA & SAARC attended the Meeting of National Focal Points to Develop the Terms of Reference to Strengthen SAARC Mechanisms, including the Secretariat and Regional Centers held from 23-24 May 2012 in Bhutan. The Meeting noted that various South Asian entities ranging from constitutional bodies to non-governmental organizations are seeking closer association with or recognition by SAARC. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to consider whether new forms of association need to be created for entities from within the region.

The Second South Asia Forum is scheduled to take place in The Maldives in early 2013. The Steering Committee for the Second South Asia Forum accordingly met at the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, on 6-7 June 2012. Mr. V. Krishnamoorthy, Director General, SA & SAARC represented Sri Lanka at the Meeting. The Steering Committee recalled that the purpose of the South Asia Forum is to provide an open platform for the generation of debate, discussion and exchange of ideas on South Asia and its future development.

Meetings arranged by the SAARC Division with line Ministries/Agenies:

H.E Mr. Ahmed Saleem, Secretary General of SAARC and the delegation visited Sri Lanka during 28-30 May 2012 and paid courtesy calls on;

1. His Excellency the President
2. Hon. Minister of External Affairs
3. Secretary/ External Affairs.

Accordingly all arrangements were made by the SAARC Division in collaboration with the Protocol Division.

The Department of Inland Revenue in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs organized the SAARC Seminar on Corporate Taxation Issues from 20-23 February 2012. The Seminar was most successful and was attended by members of all SAARC countries.

The Regional Workshop Laboratory Networking (28-29 March 2012, Colombo) and the Expert Group Meeting to discuss and finalize the SAARC Regional Strategy on Communicable Diseases were organized, in collaboration with the WHO, in Colombo on 30 March 2012. The SAARC Division of Ministry of External Affairs coordinated with the Ministry of Health to organize both the Meeting and the Workshop. The Meeting and the Workshop was attended by all

SAARC Member States. In addition, representatives from the WHO and the SAARC Secretariat participated at the Meeting.

The Fifth Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was held in Dhaka on 30 January 2012, preceded by the Fifth Meeting of the SAARC Finance Secretaries (Dhaka, 29 January 2012). The Finance Ministers Meeting welcomed the offer by Sri Lanka to host the Sixth Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers in Colombo in 2013.

The First Meeting of SAARC Public Debt Managers' Forum was held from 19-20 July 2012 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Colombo invited a few distinguished debt market stakeholders such as a senior manager from World Bank, Washington D.C., and one professor from Canada. The Ministry of External Affairs coordinated the said Meeting.

The SAARC Cultural Centre (SCC) in Colombo, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs conducted a number of programmes such as: The Symposium on Shared Heritage of Sculpture and Decorative Arts in South Asia; Seminar on Rituals, Ethics and Societal Stability; Film Festival; Conference on Diminishing Cultures; Art Exhibition and Camp. The SAARC Cultural Centre, recently concluded the SAARC Artist Camp and Exhibition of paintings, where artists from the SAARC region gathered together working on site, being creatively inspired by the beautiful surroundings of Sri Lanka. Well known Artists from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, The Maldives and Sri Lanka, were a part of this camp, and their creative works on canvass, are now available for short/long term lease to interested parties.

These amazing works of art, promoted as "SAARC ART" will be lent to interested parties with priority being given to Embassies and Missions of the SAARC Member States and Observer States, Galleries and commercial entities. Interested parties will undertake to have the paintings displayed under suitable display conditions, with due acknowledgement to the SAARC Cultural Centre and the individual artist. The paintings are to be promoted as "SAARC ART" and could be taken as an entire collection, a country-wise selection or an individual artist.

As the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) has the potential in achieving the key objectives of regional cooperation there is a gradual interest shown by the Member States to seek funds from the SDF for conducting important projects in the region. As far as Sri Lanka is concerned SABAH (SAARC Business Association of Home-Based Workers) Association in Sri Lanka is fully functional and it is heartening to note that SABAH Association in Sri Lanka has a client base of approximately 2500, covering 10 administrative districts in Sri Lanka. More than 200 Home-Based workers have been imparted direct technical and managerial training in Sri Lanka and at the Self Employed Women's Association (SEVA) in India. The Projects on "South Asia initiatives to end Violence Against children" and "Access to Water " are currently implemented in Sri Lanka whilst three other Projects to be carried out in Sri Lanka have been approved this year by the Governing Board of the SDF.

Fifteenth Meeting of the Committee on Economic Cooperation was held in The Maldives on 15-16 July 2012. Sri Lanka delegation was led by Mr. Nimal Karunathilake, Director/ Commerce. The Committee on Economic Cooperation met after a gap of more than three years.

Sri Lanka had also been working toward the implementation of the Phase II of the reduction of the Sensitive Lists under the TLP (Tariff Liberalization Process) with effect from January 2012. However, as the Sri Lankan economy has now entered a period of rapid transition after nearly three decades of terrorism, it has become necessary for us to re-consult our stakeholders for the purpose of identifying products to be taken off from our Sensitive List under Phase II. Although this requirement has resulted in some delay, Sri Lanka looks forward to finalizing the list of products to be removed from its Sensitive List as soon as possible.

Fifth Meeting of SAARC Interior/Home Ministers was held in The Maldives on 26 September 2012. The Sri Lanka delegation led by Hon. Mr. W.D.J. Senewirathna, Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs with two senior officials from the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development and the Department of Police. The leaders resolved to root out terrorism, taking into account its linkages with illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and small arms and to make coordinated and concerted efforts to combat terrorism; and, called for an early conclusion of the proposed UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and completion of the ratification of the SAARC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters. At the Meeting, Sri Lanka offered to host the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Interior/ Home preceded by the Sixth Meeting of SAARC Secretaries of Interior/ Home and the Sixth Meeting of SAARC Immigration Authorities in 2013

The Ministry co-ordinated with relevant line Ministries in holding the following SAARC Activities during this period:

1. Ministry of Agriculture

- Training Programme on "New Dimensions in Agriculture Extension Management from 18-29 February 2012 at the National Institute of Agriculture Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad.
- SAARC-Australia project on "Developing Capacity in cropping systems modeling to promote Food Security and the sustainable use of water resources in South Asia", 28 January -4 February 2012 in Sri Lanka
- Post-Harvest Management and Value Addition of Fruits in Production in Catchment of SAARC countries, 14 – 16 November, 2012 – Bhutan

- ICT on Agriculture in SAARC countries, 12 – 15 December, 2012– Bhutan
- Regional Consultation on collective Action for opening Access to Agriculture Information & Knowledge in SAARC countries – 12 – 15 December, 2012 – Bhutan

2. Ministry of Technology and Research

- Workshop on Science and Technology Policies and Planning in SAARC Countries, Islamabad, 6-7 March 2012

3. Ministry of Economic Development

- Training Programme on Restraint of Zoo Animals and their Transport”, Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, 24-28 September 2012
- SAARC Joint Poverty Alleviation Project proposal, 26 – 30 November 2012 – Bhutan
- Workshop on SAARC Development Goals, 20 – 22 November, 2012 – India
- Development strategies to Mitigate Employment Problems in SAARC Region, 18 – 20 December, 2012 – Dhaka
- SABAH Business Plan Meeting, 29 – 30 December, 2012 – India

4. Ministry of Finance & Planning

- Seminar on Finance Website, 26 – 27 November – India
- SAARC Seminar on Tax Project Services, 27 – 30 Nov. 2012 – Nepal
- ICC Workshop on Analysing Market Access Measures in Depth, 3 – 6 December - Chennai
- SAARC STAT Training Programme on Data Editing, 10 – 14 December 2012 – India

5. Ministry of Disaster Management

- SAARC Special Training Programme on Climate Change and Disaster Prevention was held in Korea from 29 March 2012 to 18 April 2012
- Workshop on Flood Risk Management in South Asia held in Islamabad, 9 - 10 October, 2012
- Forest Fire Disaster Management in South Asia, 5 - 9 Nov. 2012 - New Delhi

6. Ministry of Defence

- Regional Capacity Building Workers (Police), 19 – 20 Nov. 2012- Pakistan

7. Ministry of Health

- SAARC Regional Strategy for Elimination/Control of TB – 6 – 7 December, 2012 - Kathmandu

8. Ministry of Culture & the Arts

- SAARC Traditional Handloom Festival, 28 Oct. – 7 November, 2012- India
- Cultural Festival on Traditional Drumming in SAARC Region, 21 – 24 November, 2012 – Bhutan
- Workshop on Joint Production of documentary films for Achieving Development Objectives, 17 – 19 December, 2012 – Islamabad

9. Ministry of Child Development & Women's Affairs

- Regional Capacity Building Workshop (on women & children), 19 – 20 November – New Delhi
- 4th National Action & Coordination Group Meeting on Women & Children, 26 – 28 November, 2012 - Bhutan

10. Sri Lanka Accreditation Board

- First Meeting of the SAARC Expert Group on Accreditation (SEGA), Maldives, 3-4 September 2012 followed by Workshop on 5 September 2012

11. Department of Census and Statistics

- SAARCSTAT Training Programme on Agricultural Statistics, 27-31 August 2012, India
- SAARCSTAT Training Programme on Gender Issues and Gender Statistics- 24-28 September 2012 – India
- SAARC-ADB Workshop on SAARCSTAT Study SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu, 23 June 2012

12. Ministry of Power & Energy

- Renewable Energy Policy Regulation & Grid connecting issues, 21 - 22 November – Bhutan

Postponed SAARC Meetings

1. As per the SAARC Calendar of Activities the Ninth Meeting of SAARC Sub-group on Customs Cooperation was scheduled for second quarter of year 2012 in Colombo, but the Department of Customs didn't make arrangements to hold the said Meeting due to some reasons. (This Meeting is being held in Colombo from 18-21 June 2013)
2. Third Meeting of the Inter-Governmental Core Group (IGCG) on Agriculture Research and Extension was scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka on 3-4 October 2011. On the request of the SAARC Secretariat it was compelled to reschedule in year 2012. The Department of Agriculture had mentioned that due to lack of allocation for 2012, the said meeting could not be held.
3. Seventh Meeting of the Working Group on Energy scheduled for 23-24 November 2012 in Marawila Sri Lanka was postponed for March 2013 upon request of Member States. (This Meeting was held on 15-16 March 2013 in Marawila)

Sri Lanka will host the following Meetings during July/August 2013

1. Workshop on Integrated Coastal Zone Management from Sri Lanka's perspectives experience sharing (SCZMC), 2-7 July 2013 in Negombo.
2. Eighth Meeting of SAFTA Committee of Experts, 22 August 2013 in Colombo
3. Seventh Meeting of SAFTA Ministerial Council, 23 August 2013 in Colombo
4. Sixth Meeting of SAARC Finance Secretaries, 29 August 2013 in Colombo
5. Sixth Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers, 30 August 2013 in Colombo

Fifth Meeting of Interior/Home preceded by the Fifth Meeting of SAARC Secretaries of Interior/Home and the Fifth Meeting of SAARC Immigration Authorities held on 24-26 September 2012, during the Meeting it was agreed to hold the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Interior/Home preceded by the Sixth Meeting of SAARC Secretaries of Interior / Home and the Sixth Meeting of SAARC Immigration Authorities. Nepal has confirmed the dates to this Meeting (11-13 November 2013). The SAARC Meetings mentioned in the Annex "A" had been held in the SAARC Member States during the period under review; 1st October to 31st December 2012.

This Ministry has been in contact with the line Ministries/ Departments in Sri Lanka when delegations from the respective institutes attended the meeting.

Where necessary, the SAARC Division had discussions with the Sri Lanka delegations on a one-to-one basis and provided the following assistance:

- Forwarded all the Agenda and Annotations to the participants attending respective SAARC meetings
- The Division has studied the Agenda Items and has discussed the Agenda Items with the participants in order to ensure that the delegates present their cases in the interest of Sri Lanka and within the SAARC Framework in order to gain maximum benefit for Sri Lanka.
- Provided necessary advise to the delegations on issues which Sri Lanka shares with the SAARC Member countries and the practices adopted by Sri Lanka
- Advised the participants to learn from the experience in the relevant fields from the other SAARC Member countries, with the intention of adopting these practices in Sri Lanka for the benefit of Sri Lanka
- Facilitated the issuance of Have issued relevant SAARC visas for the visits.

Guidance given for the Meetings held/to be held in Sri Lanka

Since SAARC Counter Terrorism Strategic Management Training Programme and the 7th Meeting of the SAARC Working Group on Energy hosted by Sri Lanka in March 2013. A series of meetings held with the officials of the Ministry of Power and Energy and the Department of Police of Sri Lanka to guide the two institutions to conduct the above SAARC events, following the SAARC practice. In this regard, the practices followed when conducting Meetings, the agenda items for the meetings, draft speeches required for the Meetings and liaison with SAARC Secretariat in obtaining confirmation of participation was coordinated by this Division in preparation for the Meetings envisaged for 2013.

Sub Headings / Subject	Brief description	Remarks
Bilateral Relations	-	
Multilateral Relations	-	
Economic Relations	Seminar on Finance Website – 26 – 27 November, India SAARC Seminar on Tax Project Services – 27 – 30 Nov. 2012 – Nepal ICC Workshop on Analyzing Market Access Measures in depth – 3 – 6 December, Chennai SAARC STAT Training Programme on Data Editing - 10 – 14 December, 2012 – India	
Cultural Relations	SAARC Traditional Handloom Festival - India 28 Oct. – 7 November, 2012 Cultural Festival on Traditional Drumming in SAARC Region – 21 – 24 November, 2012 – Bhutan Workshop on Joint Production of documentary films for Achieving Development Objectives – 17 – 19 December, 2012 – Islamabad	
Labour Welfare	-	
Foreign Investment	-	
Tourism Promotion	-	
Trade Promotion	-	
Environment and Disaster Management	Workshop on Flood Risk Management in South Asia held in Islamabad 9 - 10 October, 2012 Forest Fire Disaster Management in South Asia – New Delhi – 5 - 9 Nov. 2012	
Security	Regional Capacity Building Workers (Police) - Pakistan 19 – 20 Nov., 2012	

Political	<p>6th Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers & Parliamentarians Pakistan 3 – 7 November, 2012</p> <p>South, South West, Central Asia Parliamentarian Forum on the MDG's Association – Post 2015 Development Agenda – Dhaka – 9 – 12 December, 2012</p>	
Agriculture	<p>Post Harvest Management and value addition of fruits in Production in Catchment of SAARC countries – Bhutan 14 – 16 November, 2012</p> <p>ICT on Agriculture in SAARC countries – 12 – 15 December, 2012 – Bhutan</p> <p>Regional Consultation on collective Action for opening Access to Agriculture Information & Knowledge in SAARC counties – 12 – 15 December, 2012 – Bhutan</p> <p>Adaptive trials in selected vegetables in SAARC countries – 29 – 30 India</p>	
Energy	Renewable Energy Policy Regulation & Grid connecting issues - 21 - 22 November, Bhutan	
Women & Children	<p>Regional Capacity Building Workshop (on women & children), 19 – 20 November – New Delhi</p> <p>4th National Action & Coordination Group Meeting Con. Women & Children 26 – 28 November, 2012 Bhutan</p>	
Poverty Alleviation	<p>Workshop on SAARC Development Goals – India – 20 – 22 November, 2012</p> <p>SAARC Joint Poverty Alleviation Project proposal – 26 – 30 November – Bhutan</p> <p>Development strategies to Mitigate Employment Problems in SAARC Region – 18 – 20 December, 2012 Dhaka</p> <p>SABAH Business Plan Meeting – 29 – 30 December, 2012 - India</p>	

Administration	2 nd Meeting of the Chiefs of Public/Civil Services Commission of SAARC Member States – 4 – 6 December, 2012 – Islamabad	
Health	SAARC Regional Strategy for Elimination/Control of TB – 6 – 7 December, 2012 Kathmandu	
Livestock	Training Programme for senior zoo personal on Endangered Species Recovery – India 17 – 21 November, 2012	

East Asia & Pacific Division

East Asia and Pacific Division

Countries covered: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, People’s Republic of China, Cambodia, Democratic Socialist Republic of Korea (DPRK), Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, The Republic of Korea (ROK), Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, The Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Vanuatu and Hong Kong SAR

No. of Resident Missions: 11 (Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, ROK, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam)

No. of Consulates: 04 (Australia – Sydney, China – Shanghai, Chengdu, Guangzhou)

Concurrent Accreditations: Canberra (Australia): Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu

Sydney – Tasmania, South Australia

China – DPRK, Mongolia

Singapore – Brunei Darussalam

Thailand – Cambodia, Laos

No. of Multilateral/Regional Organization: ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

No. of other organizations covered: Bali Democracy Forum, Shangri-La Dialogue

The main areas of work of the East Asia & Pacific Division can be broadly categorized as follows:

- Co-ordination of bilateral visits of H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Minister of External Affairs, other Cabinet Ministers, Hon. Members of the Parliament and Senior Officials.
- Arrangements for visits of foreign dignitaries to Sri Lanka
- Follow-up and coordination activities of political, education, scientific and cultural developments.
- Coordination of work between the Parliament of Sri Lanka and counterpart legislatures in the region
- Coordination in formulation and signing of bilateral Agreements/MoUs on political, science & technology, education and cultural spheres.
- Coordination of ARF, SCO, Bali Process activities including attending to both logistical and substantive issues for Summits and other related meetings.

- Coordination of substantive and logistical arrangements for the Shangri-La Dialogue
- Coordination of scholarship programmes
- Processing of monthly Political Reports from Missions abroad.
- Preparation of briefs for visits and conferences pertaining to the region
- Monitoring the travel advisories issued by the countries covered under the purview of this Division
- To advise and provide necessary guidelines/information to Sri Lanka Missions in the region.

People's Republic of China

Sri Lanka Exports to China have increased tremendously reaching 153 million US\$ in 2011. It was a 50% increase from the total value of exports in 2010 which was 102 million US\$.

First Lady visited Beijing and Tianjin to grace/a Special Guest at a teacher training programme conducted by Tianjin Medical University.

Hon. Speaker visited China on the invitation extended by H. E. Wu Bangguo, which was reciprocated by H.E. Wu Bangguo visiting Sri Lanka in September 2012. At the conclusion of this meeting 16 Agreements were signed ranging from visa exemption and marine development to economic and technical co-operation.

Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, was the Guest of Honour at the celebrations organized for the 64th Anniversary of Independence and the 55th Year of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Sri Lanka and China.

The first visit by Defence Minister of China to Sri Lanka, took place in August this year. During his visit an Agreement was signed to grant an Auditorium to Sri Lanka Military Academy in Diyathalawa.

Dr. P. B. Jayasundara, Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Planning visited China to attend the Investment Forum organized by the China Development Bank and attended to the procedure to finalize Project Financing Agreements with the EXIM Bank of China.

Secretary, Ministry of Telecommunications visited China to finalize the design of the Lotus Tower Project on which work had already commenced in Oct 2012.

Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs visited Beijing for the 8th bilateral Political Consultations between the two Foreign/ External Affairs Ministries.

Dates are being finalized to hold the 5th Session of the China-Sri Lanka Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation before the end of this year.

Hon. T.B. Ekanayake, Minister of Culture and the Arts visited Beijing in June 2012 to participate at the 9th Cultural Ministers Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) at the invitation of the Minister of Culture of China. During the visit, a MoU on the Establishment of a China Cultural Center in Sri Lanka was signed.

Facilitated the high level visits to China by Hon. Kumara Welgama, Minister of Transport, Hon. Tissa Vitharana, Senior Minister for Scientific Affairs.

Sri Lanka Tourism promotion road show was organized in Hangzhou and Chengdu and the Embassy was awarded with "Best Organizer" award at the China International Travel Mart (CITM).

The Embassy assisted Sri Lankan students in China in student related matters.

Chengdu

The Parliamentary Delegation led by the Hon. Speaker visited Chengdu enabling closer political economic and cultural ties between Sri Lanka and the Sichuan and Yunnan Provinces of China.

During the visit by the Speaker of the Standing Committee of the NPC of China to Sri Lanka a MOU with Dongfang Electric Corporation to invest in a project on establishing an electric locomotive system from Veyangoda to Kalutara was concluded.

Shanghai

Preliminary discussions are going on for the establishment of a sister city cooperation between Zhejiang Province and the Western Provincial Council of Sri Lanka.

A MoU on Sister City between Hangzhou with Sri Jayawardanepura Kotte was signed.

Facilitated high level visits of Hon. R.A.D Janaka Ranawaka, Mayor of Sri Jayawardanepura Kotte who participated at the Hangzhou International Sister City Mayors' Conference. Vice Mayor of Hangzhou visited Sri Lanka in Oct 2012 to reciprocate the visit of Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte Mayor and for cooperation in the tourism sector.

A Buddha statue was donated by H.E. the President to the Guo Qing Monastery, Taizhou, Zhejiang Province on 27th Dec 2012.

Several exhibitions were also organized to promote Sri Lankan jewellery, gems, cuisine, tea and cosmetics in Shanghai.

Guangzhou

Taking into consideration the tremendous economic development taking place in South China and to facilitate trade, investment and tourism promotion, the Consulate General commenced operations in January 2012 promoting and facilitating tourism including Sri Lanka's participation at the Canton Trade Fair.

Australia

Bilateral engagement between Sri Lanka and Australia was further strengthened with several high level visits to Sri Lanka such as of Hon. Chris Bowen, Australian Immigration Minister in May 2012, Hon. Don Randall, Federal Member of Parliament and the Vice President of Australia-Sri Lanka Friendship Group in September, 2012.

Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Plantation Industries and Special Envoy on Human Rights visited Australia in May 2012, Hon. John Seneviratne, Minister of Public Administration undertook a visit to Australia in April 2012 and Hon. Ranil Wickramasinghe, the Opposition Leader visited Australia in May, 2012.

Australia formally informed in public that they recognize only the GOSL and declined to engage with the TGTE despite many approaches they have made against Sri Lanka.

Both sides are having discussions to convene the first meeting of the proposed Joint Working Group on People Smuggling and Border Security Issues in order to mitigate the growing illegal migrations issue.

Australia has provided AUS \$ 43.6 million in further expanding Australian Bilateral Aid Portfolio. A bilateral Air Services Agreement was signed in May, 2012 to further enhance bilateral connections between Sri Lanka and Australia.

Meetings were arranged with the Hon. Premier of New South Wales and H.E. the Governor of New South Wales to strengthen the existing relations between the two countries and organized cultural activities, trade and tourism promotions to enhance the bilateral cooperation between two countries. Hon. Senator Bob Carr, the Australian Foreign Minister visited Sri Lanka to attend the inaugural Joint Working Group (JWG).

Japan

Sri Lanka and Japan celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2012. The Ministry of Finance of Japan issued a commemorative coin to signify this occasion. H.E. the President visited Japan from 13th to 15th March 2013 to mark this event.

Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Secretary/Defence, Hon. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs, Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Minister of Plantation Industries and Special Envoy on Human Rights, Hon. Navin Dissanayake, Minister of Public Management Reforms, Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Hon. Priyankara Jayaratne undertook visits to Japan.

Meanwhile, Hon. Katsuya Okada, Deputy Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. the Ambassador Yasushi Akashi, Special Representative of the Government of Japan on Peace Building visited Sri Lanka further strengthening our existing relations.

Japan continued to offer significant amount of development aid to Sri Lanka. The ODA assistance was increased to USD 525 million this year. Japan is by far the largest donor nation of Sri Lanka. Japan funded the upper Kotmale Hydro power project which was commissioned in July this year.

Mission briefed the Foreign Office and relevant authorities on the positive development in the context LLRC. Japan made a positive statement at the UPR session held in Geneva in Nov. 2012.

Facilitated the visits of Hon. Minister Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Minister for International Monetary Co-operation, Governor of the Central Bank and Senior Officials of Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance.

Japanese investors confirmed their purchase of Government Security Bonds of Sri Lanka from the secondary market at a value JPY 600 million at the Sri Lankan Investor Day held in Tokyo October 2012.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange expressed their interest to attract listed Sri Lankan Companies to be listed in the TSE.

The Mission is pursuing discussions with Ministry of METI to facilitate more Trade and Economic partnership Agreements between the two countries and to create more job opportunities for Sri Lankans. The Mission facilitated the Investment Mission by JETRO to Sri Lanka.

The 17th Joint Meeting of the Sri Lanka-Japan Business Cooperation Committee was held in Colombo from 5-7 Dec.2012.

Programs were organized to promote Sri Lanka's Trade and Tourism in Japan.

Republic of Korea

Relations with the Republic of Korea (ROK) continued to grow in 2012 with several high level visits taking place between the two countries. H. E. the President undertook a State Visit in April to the ROK and held fruitful discussions with His Excellency President Lee Myung-bak. Bilateral

Agreements were signed in the areas of Information Technology, Economic Development, Technical Assistance in Power and Energy.

The Korean Parliamentary Delegation headed by Hon. Park Hee-tea, Speaker of the National Assembly (Parliament) of the Republic of Korea undertook an Official Visit to Sri Lanka in January 2012 at the invitation of Hon. Speaker Chamal Rajapaksa.

During the visit to ROK of Hon. Rajitha Senarathne, Minister of Fisheries, in August 2012, arrangements were made to seek the possibility of setting up a canned fish factory in Sri Lanka as well as to create a market for seafood exports to Korea.

Liaising with the EXIM Bank, KOICA and the Department of External Resources of Sri Lanka on overseas Deist Association for realizing the projects that are coming under EXIM Bank funds which is a main source of bilateral assistance towards Sri Lanka from Korea.

Facilitated high level visits including those of Hon. Minister of Civil Aviation, Senior Minister for International Monetary Co operation, Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama and Chairman & CEO of ITN. The Embassy represented Sri Lanka in World Green Energy Forum & Global HR Forum 2102. A supplementary Loan Agreement of US\$ 11Mn was signed with the EXIM Bank of Korea for improvement of Peradeniya–Anuradhapura road. The Embassy assisted arrivals of 636 Sri Lankan migrant workers. Discussions were held between Korean Air delegations on commencing direct flights. A web site “e-people” was launched for the benefit of Sri Lankans living in ROK.

Thailand

H. E. the President visited Thailand in May 2012 which strengthened the bilateral relations between the two countries. During the visit a MoU on Bilateral Political Consultations between the two Foreign/ External Affairs Ministries was signed and the instrument of ratification on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters were exchanged. A business and investment forum was also held to facilitate commercial co-operation.

Both sides are in the process of establishing a Joint Working Group to celebrate the historic event of the 260th anniversary of the establishment of the Siam Nikaya in Sri Lanka.

The two Foreign/External Affairs Ministries held the first Bilateral Political Consultations in Colombo in August this year.

Hon. Minister of Culture and the Arts visited as Special Guest for the Thai-Sri Lanka Cultural Festival held in Thailand in August. Thailand has also undertaken to refurbish the Golden Canopy of the Sri Dalada Maligawa.

A delegation led by the Secretary/External Affairs attended the meeting on 260th Siyam Nikaya celebration held in Bangkok, 14 Dec.2012.

A draft agreement was exchanged between the two countries on declaring Ayutthaya in Thailand and Kandy in Sri Lanka as sanctified twin cities. A team of Thai investors visited Sri Lanka from 27th Nov-1st Dec 2012. Several tourism promotion and trade promotion programmes were organized by the Embassy to facilitate Commercial and Business Co-operation between the two countries.

Vietnam

Relations between Sri Lanka and Vietnam were further expanded in 2012. The 3rd Session of the Joint Commission between the two countries was held in July in Hanoi. The bilateral Air Services Agreement was also signed at the JC session. Hon Minister of External Affairs led the Sri Lanka delegation for the JC and had discussions with H.E. the Prime Minister, Hon. Justice Minister and the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, further consolidating our existing relations.

Bilateral Political Consultations between the two Foreign Ministries was held in Colombo in May prior to the 3rd Session of the JC.

Hon Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. T.B. Ekanayake, Minister of Culture & Art, Hon. Dr. Rajitha Senarathne, Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development undertook visits to Vietnam while Hon. Ha Hung Cuong, Minister of Justice and a six member delegation visited Sri Lanka.

The Government of Vietnam has allocated 100,000 USD for Aquaculture Development in Sri Lanka.

Three member Defence delegation led by Chief of Staff of Sri Lanka Army met with the Director General, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Public Security to discuss the Agreement on Preventing and Combating Crimes.

The visit of Secretary Defence & Urban Development took place in Nov 2012 and met with the Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army.

A Buddhist delegation attended the 7th National Buddhist Congress in Nov.2012 and then visited Ho Chi Minh City to attend the religious event.

The Annual Charity Bazaar was organized to promote Sri Lankan foods, Ceylon Tea and Tourism on 25th Nov.2012.

The Philippines

The year 2012 began with a symbolic donation of USD 50,000 towards The Philippine Government Flood Relief Fund on 26th January which led to further strengthening our bilateral relations.

A three member delegation headed by Hon. Erlinda F. Basilio, Undersecretary for Policy undertook an Official Visit to Sri Lanka in May this year on an invitation extended by Hon. Deputy Minister of External Affairs during his visit to Philippines in September, 2011. Hon. Neomal Perera Deputy Minister of External Affairs, Hon. Basil Rajapaksa, Minister of Economic Development had discussions with the Philippine delegation.

A Philippine business delegation headed by Dr. Bernado Villegas Professor, (University of Asia and the Pacific) visited Colombo from 24-28 May 2012 and held successful discussions with the relevant officials of the BOI and EDB.

Sri Lanka supported the Philippine's candidature at the International Court of Justice at the election held on 27th April 2012 in New York.

Sri Lanka donated USD 25,000.00 to "Bopha" typhoon hit Davavo Province, for rehabilitation work. Hon. G.L Peiris invited Secretary, Foreign Affairs of the Philippines to visit Sri Lanka. The Philippines supported Sri Lanka at the 14th Session of the UPR held at Geneva from 22-25 Nov 2012. The Philippines agreed to provide English Teacher training for Sri Lanka and discussions are currently underway. Mr. Nissanka Wijeratne, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Employment Promotion and Welfare participated at the Global Forum on Migration & Development Workshop.

Malaysia

Ties with Malaysia have grown over the years encompassing a wider area of economic, political, social & cultural relations etc. During the visit of Hon. Dullas Allahapperuma, Minister of Youth Affairs and Skills in March, action has been taken to establish a programme to train Sri Lankan skilled workers. Mr. Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Governor Central Bank attended a meeting on the Financial Stability Board Regional Counterpart Group of Asia.

Two high level delegation from National Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Malaysia visited Sri Lanka in July, after a lapse of 20 years, to explore the potential areas for investments, particularly in the ports sector including trans shipment, freight forwarding and bunkering services.

Embarked on a programme to enhance cooperation in the field of agriculture, for the improvement of conditions of expatriate workers based on the MoU signed on Labour Relations between the two countries.

The Mission had several discussions on enhancing bilateral political ties with Malaysian Institutions to obtain their assistance in government's post-war initiatives and also request the support at the UPR session. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture participated in a trade fair and exhibition, for the improvement of the conditions to enhance relations between the (Agri for exports) two countries and to promote Sri Lanka agricultural products in Malaysia.

Indonesia

The 1st Joint Commission between the two countries was held in January marking a significant improvement in bilateral relations. H.E. Dr. Marty Natalegawa, Minister of Foreign Affairs accompanied by senior officials visited Sri Lanka for the JC and multiple areas of cooperation were explored and agreed upon for further co-operation. Two MoUs were signed on Diplomatic Education and Training and on Cultural Cooperation during the JC meeting. In addition an MoU on Bilateral Air Services Cooperation was signed in May 2012 to strengthen connectivity between the two countries.

A fruitful discussion was held between Hon. Prof. G. L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia on the sidelines of the NAM Summit held in August. Hon. Rauf Hakeem, Hon. Dr. Rajitha Senarathne, Hon. Salinda Dissanayake, Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Hon Rishard Bathiudeen undertook bilateral visits to Indonesia.

Facilitated high level visits of Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Mr. Janaka Ratnayake, Chairman of EDB, Hon. Prof. G.L Peiris, Minister of External Affairs and Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka. A delegation from Defence Services Command and Staff College of Sri Lanka undertook a visit to Indonesia in Oct.2012.

Singapore

Bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Singapore have enhanced in many spheres in the year 2012. With the State Visit of H.E. the President Mahinda Rajapaksa in February 2012, existing cordial relations further expanded. During his visit H.E. the President had discussions with President H.E. Tony Tan, Prime Minister H.E. Lee Hsien Loong and Defence Minister H.E. Ng Eng Hen and Signed a MoU on Development of Business and Investment Relations between the two countries. An MOU was concluded for co-operation between the ISAS and LKIIRSS.

Hon. K. Shanmugam, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law visited Sri Lanka accompanied by a business delegation from the Singapore Business Federation.

A high-level delegation from Sri Lanka participated at the Shangri - La Dialogue headed by the Hon. Minister of External Affairs and Secretary of Defence Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa in June 2012.

Initiatives are under way for setting up of a Joint Study Group (JSG) between Singapore and Sri Lanka to identify ways and means to enhance bilateral co-operation in the fields of trade and investment.

In further strengthening trade relations, an Investment Cooperation Agreement was signed in February 2012 between the BOI of Sri Lanka and the Singapore Business Federation.

Sri Lanka – Singapore Forum was held in May 2012 in Colombo as a joint initiative by the High Commission and the Sri Lanka-Singapore Business Council. The Mission facilitated the visit of Singapore Minister of Foreign Affairs and Law.

Hon. Niroshan Perera and Hon. Vasantha Senanayake attended the Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade & Negotiations TFCTN-WTO and Mission facilitated the visits.

Culture, Tourism & Trade promotions were organized by the Mission.

Myanmar

Sri Lanka's relations with Myanmar continued to grow in 2012 in trade, economic, cultural and tourism sectors.

Ven. Pallaththara Sri Sumanajothi Thero of Subadrarama Purana Monastery in Maligaspe, Galle was conferred Agga Maha Panditha Title by the Government of Myanmar in Nay Phi Taw in March 2012.

A delegation from Myanmar participated at the Expo Sri Lanka 2012 held in March 2012 in Colombo.

Middle East Division

Middle East Division

The Middle East Division covers Sri Lanka's political relations with countries in the Middle Eastern Region: **Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Syria and Yemen** in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Missions in these countries and through concurrent accreditation.

Sri Lanka's relations with the Middle Eastern countries have consistently remained cordial and friendly. The Indian Ocean was Arab's gateway to South Asia centuries ago, when business between the indigenous population and visiting Arab traders was brisk and lucrative. After re-gaining Independence in 1948, Sri Lanka's relations with the Middle East countries have intensified, especially with Sri Lanka's active policy response to the major issues in the Middle East.

Key Activities of the Division

- **Monitoring Political Developments** in the countries of the Middle East Region and preparing detailed Reports, Observations and Assessments.
- **Preparation of International Courtesies** namely Invitations, Felicitations, Condolence Messages and Acknowledgement of Messages on behalf of H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Minister of External Affairs to be forwarded to leaders and counterparts in foreign countries.
- **Preparation of Country Briefs and Suggested Speaking Notes** for H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Minister of External Affairs to be used during bilateral meetings.
- **Coordination** of the High Level visits, Negotiations and Finalization of Agreements in collaboration with relevant Ministries and the Sri Lanka Missions abroad.
- **Networking** with Embassies and Honorary Consulates of the Countries representing the Middle East based in Colombo.
- **Coordination of Scholarships and fellowships**, awarded to Sri Lanka by Governments and Agencies in the Middle East Region

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Bahrain

Following approval of H.E. the President and the Cabinet, Sri Lanka will open our first resident Embassy in Manama, Bahrain in February 2013.

Kuwait

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister of Justice visited Kuwait from 13th- 15th March 2012 as a Special Envoy of H.E. the President to discuss matters with regard to the HRC Session and again visited Kuwait from 31st May – 5th June 2012 to participate in the 20th Anniversary of Iraq Islamic Committee.

Hon. Dilan Perera, Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion and Welfare visited Kuwait from 9th -12th May 2012. During the visit the MOU in the field of Labour, Recruitment and Development of Manpower between the two countries was signed.

The first Asian Cooperation Dialogue Summit was held from the 13th – 17th October, 2012 in Kuwait. H.E. the President, Hon. Minister of External Affairs and delegation participated at the Summit. Bilateral Meetings were held with Japan, Thailand and Pakistan on the side lines of the Summit.

Iran

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry & Commerce visited Iran from 08th – 12th December 2013. During the visit he had discussions with several Iranian dignitaries including the Minister of Commerce, Minister of Oil, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Officials of the Central Bank, Mustafasen Foundation & Imam Komeini Foundation.

Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister of Justice & Hon. M.T.Hasen Ali, M.P. visited Iran from 22nd -23rd December 2012. During the visit Hon. Rauff Hakeem had discussions with several Iranian dignitaries/officials including the Hon. Minister of Justice, Head of the Judiciary Branch and the Hon. Speaker of the Parliament.

Iraq

The Sri Lankan Mission was re-opened on the 7th February, 2012 at the level of Charge d' Affaires.

On October 24th, 2012 Acting Head of Mission sought the support from the Government of Iraq is support to Sri Lanka at the 14th Session of the Universal Periodic Review which took place in Geneva on November 01, 2012

Israel

A Parliamentary delegation led by Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management visited Israel from 29th January - 01st February 2012. Hon. Neomal Perera, Deputy Minister of External Affairs was also associated in the delegation.

Oman

H.E. Dr. Mohammed Bin Hamed Al-Rumhy, Minister of Oil and Gas of the Sultanate of Oman visited Sri Lanka from 26th – 28th January 2012. During the visit he met with Hon. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Petroleum Industries and Hon. Basil Rajapaksa, Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Dilan Perera, Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion & Welfare visited Oman from 17th – 19th May 2012. During the visit Hon. Minister met with the Sri Lankan community in Oman, the Minister of Manpower of Oman and Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

A MoU on Bilateral Consultation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman and the Sri Lanka's Ministry of External Affairs was signed in October 2012. Important features of the MoU are: to examine the development of bilateral relations between the two countries and to exchange views on regional and international issues of common interest including in the political, economic, cultural, technological, scientific, and educational spheres.

Qatar

His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar visited Sri Lanka from 15th -16th January 2012 on an invitation extended by H.E. President Mahinda Rajapaksa. It was the first visit by a Head of State of Qatar to Sri Lanka. The high level delegation accompanied by the Qatari Emir comprised of Ministers, senior officials and Group of prominent business leaders.

Making an important milestone in Sri Lanka-Qatari relations, nine (9) Bilateral Agreement/MoUs were signed between the two countries covering investment, economic cooperation, tourism, education, agriculture and in the legal field in addition to the agreement signed for the formation of a high joint committee between Qatar and Sri Lanka.

❖ Agreements/MoUs are as follows:

- MOU on the Establishment of a High Joint Committee
- MOU for Cooperation in Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research
- Agreement on Economic, Commercial and Technical Cooperation
- Agreement of Cooperation in the Field of Culture
- Agreement for Cooperation in the Legal field
- MOU on Tourism Cooperation
- MOU concerning Real Estate Investment Cooperation

On an invitation extended by the First Lady of State of Qatar, Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, Madam Shiranthi Rajapaksa, the First Lady of Sri Lanka visited Qatar from 22nd – 24th January 2012 to attend the Fifth International Shafallah Forum – “Crisis, Conflict and Disability: Ensuring Equality”.

H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of Sri Lanka visited State of Qatar to attend the 12th Doha Forum from 20th– 22nd May, 2012. H.E. the President attended the Forum as an International Guest of Honour at the invitation of the Emir of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani.

U.A.E

Hon. Neomal Perera, Deputy Minister of External Affairs led a 3 member delegation to the UAE to participate in the High Level Public-Private Counter Piracy Conference, in Dubai from 27th -28th June 2012. H.E the President of Sri Lanka visited U.A.E. from 22nd-24th Oct 2012 to attend the World Energy Forum 2012 in Dubai.

Saudi Arabia

Hon. Prof. G.L Peiris, Minister of External Affairs visited Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 12th March 2012 and met with Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Abdulaziz bin Abdullah, Riyadh Governor HRH Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz and President of the Shoura Council Abdullah Al-Asheikh.

A Delegation from the Saudi Fund for Development visited Sri Lanka on 27th -30th October 2012. The delegation consisted of the Hon. Minister of Finance, Saudi Arabia and the Chairman of the Saudi Fund for Development and Managing Director, Saudi Fund for Development

MUTILATERAL RELATIONS

Qatar

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen - Minister for Industry & Commerce and official delegation visited Doha, Qatar to attend the 13th Session of the United Conference on Trade & Development-UNCTAD XIII from 21-26 April 2012.

Post Master General Mr. D.L.P.R. Abeyrathna and four senior officials from the Sri Lanka Postal Services attended 25th Congress of Universal Postal Union (UPU) –Doha – from 24th September to 15th October 2012.

Hon. Wijaya S. Weerasinghe, Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, Agrarian Development Industrial and Environmental, Sourthern Provincial Council, Hon. Nimal Piyatissa, Minister of Agriculture

and Environmental Affairs, Central Province and senior officials from the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of External Affairs and officials from other relevant Ministries /Departments attended UN Climate Change Conference – COP 18, CMP8, Doha – 2012 from 26th November to 07th December 2012

Sri Lankan Army officials attended Falcon (3) 2012 Joint Training/Eagle Resolve-Qatar from 02-04 October 2012.

UAE

Hon. Minister of Industry & Commerce visited Dubai and participated at the Annual Investment Meeting which was held from the 1st – 3rd May 2012. During this visit Hon. Minister and the delegation made presentations on investment opportunities in Sri Lanka.

H.E. the President of Sri Lanka visited Dubai to attend the World Energy Forum 2012 from 22nd to 24th October 2012. The delegation included the First Lady and Hon. Sajin De Vass Gunawardena, Monitoring MP for External Affairs.

Madam Shiranthi Rajapaksa, the First Lady of Sri Lanka attended the First Lady's Summit on Sustainable Development and the Luncheon Meeting on 23rd October 2012 in Dubai.

ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Kuwait

Hon. S.B. Dissanayake, the Minister of Higher Education and an official delegation visited Kuwait and had a meeting with the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development. US\$ 12m has been approved for the Project appraisal mission of the South Eastern University.

U.A.E

Hon. Minister of Industry & Commerce visited Dubai to participate in the Annual Investment Meeting from 1st – 3rd May 2012.

Hon. Minister of External Affairs visited U.A.E and during his visit established a Joint Commission between the two countries. They discussed matters of common interest and ways to strengthen cooperation and bilateral relations between the two countries.

On the sidelines of the World Energy Forum 2012 in Dubai from 22nd to 24th October 2012, H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa met several Ministers in the UAE to discuss important matters of mutual interest.

Saudi Arabia

The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) has released a grant of Rs. 3,000 million for the construction of the National Neuro-Trauma Center in the Colombo National Hospital and US \$ 20 million for the Epilepsy Hospital & Health Centers Project. The SFD has also pledged to provide a loan equivalent to US\$ 46 million for the Kalu Ganga Development Project. The 396 meter-long bridge, was constructed with the financial aid of SR 440 million from the Saudi Government. Saudi Health Investment Company has pledged to construct a nurses' training institute in Sri Lanka at a cost of US \$ 40 million. The Kingdom has also offered financial aid worth SR225 million for the construction of road networks in Sri Lanka.

CULTURAL RELATIONS

Oman

Our mission took part at the Muscat Festival of the Sultanate of Oman from 28th Jan – 03rd Feb 2012. The stall allocated to Sri Lanka displayed a number of products showcasing Sri Lanka. Cultural programmes were presented at the Festival with the support of Sri Lankan Schools in Muscat and the Sri Lankan community residing in Muscat.

Qatar

Sri Lanka Mission in Doha, Qatar held a cultural event at the Qatar Museum Authority Gallery on 06th Sep 2012 which included an exhibition of photographs of Sri Lanka and a stall serving complementary "Ceylon Tea". SriLankan Airlines had also participated at this event.

Saudi Arabia

Our Missions in Riyadh and Jeddah provide necessary assistance to Hajj and Umrah pilgrims. Assistance includes reception at the Jeddah Airport on arrival, attending to the welfare of the pilgrims in Makkah, Madinah, Mina, Arafah during Hajj and assistance during their departure from Jeddah. Saudi authorities have given Sri Lanka a Hajj quota of 3000 pilgrims.

UAE

Hon. Dilan Perera, the Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion and Welfare attended The Rataviru Talent Star program with the aim of recognizing and rewarding talented Sri Lankan expatriate employees in the Middle East countries.

Africa Division

List of African States & Sri Lanka's Diplomatic Relations with Africa

-There are 62 Countries in the African Region. **But only 54 are Sovereign states.** Other States are partially recognized, unrecognized states and Dependent territories.

-Sri Lanka established formal Diplomatic Relations with Rwanda, Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), Republic of Mali on 20th April, 2011, 1st February, 2012 and 19th January 2012 respectively.

-For the establishment of Diplomatic Relations with South Sudan, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval on 17th August 2011 and Sri Lanka awaits a response from the South Sudan authorities on the same.

-From the *15 African Countries approved by the Cabinet of Ministers to establish formal DPL relations, the Ministry was able to conclude the procedures and to establish formal DPL relations with Mauritania on 21st Dec. 2012 and Burkina Faso on 15th Nov. 2012. Therefore, currently we have **formal DPL relations with 37 African Countries (which are marked in bold)** and await concurrence of another 13 countries.

Eastern Africa

Burundi, Comoros, *Djibouti, **Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, *Malawi, Mauritius, Mayotte (France), **Mozambique,** Réunion (France), **Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia****

Central Africa

Angola, *Cameroon, *Central African Republic, *Chad, **Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo (former Zaire), *Equatorial Guinea, *Gabon, São Tomé and Príncipe**

Northern Africa

Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, South Sudan, **Tunisia, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic**

Spanish and Portuguese territories in Northern Africa:

Canary Islands (Spain), Ceuta (Spain), Madeira Islands (Portugal), Melilla (Spain)

Southern Africa

Botswana, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland

Western Africa

Benin, *Burkina Faso, *Cape Verde, *Côte d'Ivoire, *Gambia, **Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, *Mauritania, *Niger, **Nigeria, Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha (UK), **Senegal, *Sierra Leone, *Togo******

There are 4 Sri Lankan Resident Missions in Africa: **Egypt** – Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Sudan, Eritrea, Ghana, Nigeria and Mali: **Kenya** – Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania: **South Africa** – Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe: [**Libya**-Temporarily closed]

Seychelles

On the invitation of H.E. the President Mahinda Rajapaksa, the President of Seychelles H.E. James Alix Michel paid a State Visit to Sri Lanka, from 20th – 23rd August 2012. H.E. Michel was accompanied by Foreign Minister, Hon. Jean-Paul Adam, Natural Resources and Industry Minister, Hon. Peter Sinon and a 15-member high powered delegation. It was the first State Visit from Seychelles to Sri Lanka.

H.E the President Michel declared that Sri Lanka and Seychelles being Island States should work together with other like-minded countries to protect ocean resources. H.E. Michel also invited Sri Lankan business community to visit Seychelles and to enjoy the larger African market through the Common Market for Eastern and South Africa (COMESA) and SriLankan Airlines to fly to Victoria .He also invited Sri Lankan Defence officials to share its expertise and know-how on maritime security and piracy.

H.E. Michel delivered a lecture on 'The Role of the Small Island States in the Global Tapestry' in Colombo. H.E. the President Michel met Sri Lankan business leaders. He also met the Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa and thereafter he graced the occasion of the declaration of the Sri Lanka-Seychelles Friendship Affairs Committee.

H.E. Michel visited the Colombo Dockyard, Colombo International Nautical and Engineering College (CINEC) and the Navy In-shore Petrol Craft Construction Project (IPCCP). Seychelles is to promote Sri Lanka as the 'ship building hub' and to build strong links in the shipping sector with Sri Lanka. The two leaders witnessed the signing of MoU/ Agreement in the fields of Health, Education & Training, Employment of Sri Lankans in Seychelles and Labour Cooperation on Legal Affairs. On 27th Sept. 2012, Cabinet of Ministers granted approval for the establishment of **"Task Force"/ "Follow up committee"** for follow up of the State Visit and **Opening of a Credit Line for Seychelles** by the Bank of Ceylon. "Follow up committee" chaired by the Secretary/ External Affairs was formulated to implement/ follow up the decisions taken during the State Visit.

- Mr. Errol Fonseka has been nominated as the Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka to Seychelles.
- Sri Lanka and Seychelles concluded an Agreement Concerning the Short Stay Visa waiver on 28th September 2012 at New York on the sidelines of the 67th Session of the UNGA.
- Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Dr. Rajitha Senarathne paid a visit to Seychelles 24th to 31st October 2012. During the visit to Seychelles of Hon. Minister, a MoU on Fisheries was concluded in Victoria on 30th of October 2012.
- Chairman/Bank of Ceylon (BOC) and Manger / Foreign Relations of BOC visited Seychelles 14th -20th Oct. 2012, for a feasibility study in establishing a branch in Seychelles and to open a credit line.

- Chief of Defence Forces Seychelles Brigadier L. Payet attended the Galle Dialogue Maritime Conference in Sri Lanka, 10th - 16th December 2012.

Swaziland

On the invitation of H.E. the President Mahinda Rajapaksha, His Majesty Mswati III, the King of Swaziland made a State Visit to Sri Lanka from 13th to 15th August 2012.

He also underscored the importance of exploring possibilities between the two countries to enhance economic cooperation and diversify trade while emphasizing the importance of encouraging the establishment of private public partnerships and interaction between the respective Chambers of Commerce. Sri Lanka could share experience in the areas of agriculture, inland fisheries, higher education, health, civil aviation, Information Technology and mini hydropower generation through formal training placements, exchange programmes and scholarships. Swaziland has a vast potential in energy and would welcome cooperation with Sri Lankan private businesses to invest in this sector. The State Visit would pave the way to enhance political and economic cooperation between Sri Lanka and Swaziland.

Following the bilateral discussions, an Agreement on Economic, Commercial and Technical Cooperation was signed by Hon. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka and Hon. Mtiti Fakudze, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Swaziland. The Swaziland delegation, also comprised the Ministers for Natural Resources and Energy and Commerce, Industry and Trade.

- As a major new development, following on from His Majesty King Mswati III's visit, a Sri Lankan Tractor Company (Edna) has already commenced Tractor Assembly Operations in Swaziland. This is to be graduated to a fully-fledged manufacturing plant in April 2013.
- One of the Sri Lankan companies AKLO Information Technology visited Swaziland for business meetings. The company has registered a South African company "AKLO African Pty. Ltd." to undertake business activities in Africa and has also signed a MoU with a South African company to expand business in Africa.

Uganda

- Mr. V. Kananathan appointed as the first Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka in Uganda.
- Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management visited Uganda for the 126th IPU Assembly, Kampala from 31st March to 5th April 2012.
- Sri Lanka participated for the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITO) Assembly of Parties in Kampala, Uganda from 03rd to 06th July 2012.

State Visit by President of Uganda to Sri Lanka: On the invitation of H.E. President Mahinda Rajapaksa, H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni , H.E. Janet Kataaha Museveni, First Lady & Hon. Minister for Karamoja Affairs and the delegation of Uganda concluded a State Visit from 12th – 15th November 2012.

H.E. President Museveni took the opportunity to thank H.E. President Rajapaksa for allocating US \$ 1.5 million to upgrade the Masulita Institute and to establish “Sri Lanka-Uganda Friendship Vocational and Technical Training Centre (SLUF-VTTC)”, which in turn would assist the human resource development in Uganda.

H.E. President Museveni, during the visit addressed the Sri Lankan business community/chambers at the Export Development Board (EDB) on Business prospects available in Uganda and invited Sri Lankan Business Community to invest in Uganda especially in the Hydropower, Tea and Apparel sectors and highlighted the possibilities of exporting their excess products such as milk powder and related products to Sri Lanka. Further, the Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry also concluded a MoU with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC).

The Presidential delegation visited a processing/value addition plant at Akbar Brothers Pvt. Ltd, the German Technical Training Institute, Lanka Transformers Ltd. (LTL) at Kerawalapitiya in Wattala and the Hayleys-Agro Processing Plant at Biyagama.

Five MoUs/Agreements between the two countries namely, MoU on Establishment of Sri Lanka-Uganda Friendship Vocational and Technical Training Centre (SLUF-VTTC) in Uganda, Agreement on Economic, Commercial and Technical Cooperation, MoU on Tourism Cooperation, MoU on Bilateral Political Consultations and the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Culture were concluded on 13th November 2012. Hon. Minister of External Affairs placed a Cabinet Memorandum on the State Visit by the President of Uganda and on 18th Nov. 2012, covering approval was granted for the MoUs signed during the State visit.

South Africa

- Mr. Harish Mehta was appointed as the first Hony. Consul for Sri Lanka in Durban.
- Mr. Jonathan Jacobs has been nominated as the first Hony. Consul for Sri Lanka in Cape Town.
- In March 2012, Hon. Minister of External Affairs visited South Africa. He met the Minister of the Department of International Relations & Cooperation (DIRCO), Deputy Minister of (DIRCO) and H.E. the President, Jacob Zuma.
- On invitation of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of South Africa Hon. Dr. Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources visited Cape Town, 26th – 30th March 2012 for participation of 06th session of the sub-committee on Aquaculture.

- Hon. Deputy Minister of DIRCO Mr. Ebrahim Ebrahim visited Sri Lanka from 15th – 19th November, 2011 and 07th – 12th August, 2012.
- Eight (8) member business delegation from South Africa participated at Sri Lanka Expo 2012 in March in Sri Lanka. A Diplomatic Fair was organized successfully on 8th & 9th March at Pretoria by showcasing Sri Lanka's unique products and tourism. Participation of a Sri Lankan exporters at SAITEX 2012 was organised in July. A Business Matchmaking Programme was organised in Cape Town in collaboration with the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce and ANC Progressive Business Forum and World Trade Centre Cape Town in July.
- The high-level 30 member Business Delegation of the African National Congress-Progressive Business Forum (ANC-PBF) (membership of over 6000 companies) led by Prof. Hlengiwe Mkhize, Deputy Minister of Economic Development of South Africa visited Sri Lanka from 5th – 9th September 2012. A MOU was signed between the Sri Lanka-Africa & Middle East Business Council of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. They visited the Parliament, FACETS exhibition, BOI, Sri Lankan tea, rubber, garment and porcelain industries, IT Park, Nano Park and also Jaffna peninsula. At the Parliament they met the President of the Sri Lanka-South Africa Parliamentary Friendship Association, Minister of Water Supply & Drainage, Hon. Dinesh Gunawardana and others. They met Minister of Traditional Industries and Small Enterprise Development, Hon. Douglas Devananda and Hon. Minister of External Affairs.
- On the invitation of Institute for Democracy of South Africa (IDASA), a delegation of SLFP Parliamentarians led by Hon. Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva and consisting of Hon. Minister Anura Priyadarshana Yapa and Deputy Ministers Hon. Neomal Perera, Hon. Faizer Musthapa & Hon. V. Muralitharan visited South Africa from 28th Oct. to 03rd Nov. 2012.
- Two Tourism promotion companies in Durban have agreed to incorporate awareness of Sri Lanka into their programmes. A 3rd company based in Johannesburg specializing in Golf Tourism has also been approached and is keen to work in Sri Lanka.
- A twelve company Ceylon Chamber delegation visited South Africa in the last quarter of 2012. Around 200 South African Companies participated in the forums and B 2 B match making sessions held in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town for the visiting delegation.
- In collaboration with the Johannesburg Centre for Software Engineers of South Africa organized seminars, B 2 B match making sessions in Johannesburg and Cape Town for a visiting IT enabled services company delegation. The delegation was enabled the opportunity to visit the technology innovation hub of Cape Town "Barnhofband" to interact with software companies located at the Centre as well as with companies in the Silicon Cape Initiative.

- Organized 2nd visit of a 30 company delegation that participated in the African National Congress (ANC) Progressive Business Forum (PBF) to Sri Lanka to establish business links with EMP holdings Pty Ltd -to market their product range in South Africa. The two companies have finalized a MoU in this regard. Director of Hettigoda Group visited South Africa and held follow up discussions with Creative Concepts, another South African company that had participated in September ANC PBF delegation. A project site in Soweto was visited in order to engage in further negotiations to market and introduce the Siddhalepa brand to the South African market.

Egypt

- Hon. Minister of External Affairs visited Egypt from 09th to 12th May 2012 and had discussions with the Egyptian Authorities.
- The Sri Lankan Embassy in Cairo has launched an awareness campaign to get Sri Lanka expatriates support to take action against human smugglers and traffickers. IOM / Cairo provided the assistance for repatriation of victims of human smuggling.
- Sri Lanka represented the Cairo International Festival for Child Cinema, 15th Session at the Ismalia International Film Festival as well as 20th Universal Competition of memorizing the Holy Qur'an.
- A delegation from Cairo Chamber of Commerce of Egypt attended the EXPO SL 2012. During their visit, a MoU between Cairo Chamber of Commerce and Ceylon Chamber of Commerce was concluded.
- Hon. Minister of External Affairs attended the XV NAM Meeting in Egypt, 6th -10th May 2012.
- The three member delegation from Sri Lanka Army visited Egypt from 03rd to 05th Nov. 2012 to explore the possibilities of obtaining Egyptian Drip Irrigation Technology to Sri Lanka.
- A quotation was obtained from the Egyptian Government owned company named MISR to import Lime Stone, Rock Phosphate, white sand, Urea for the National Fertilizer Secretariat of Sri Lanka.
- 14 meetings were conducted with leading tea importers to collect information to compile a report on market opportunities in Egypt for Sri Lanka tea.

Kenya

- A delegation headed by Hon. Anura Priyadrshana Yapa, Minister of Environment and Sri Lankan delegation visited to Nairobi for 12th Special Session of the Governing Council/

Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 20th to 22nd February 2012.

- A delegation headed by Mr. S.T. Kodikara, Secretary/ Western Province participated at a workshop organized by RAUF CCI at the UN Habitat Headquarters, Nairobi, 29th Oct. - 2nd Nov. 2012.

Ethiopia

- Mr. Fekade Tadesse was appointed as the first Hony. Consul for Sri Lanka in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Sri Lanka has agreed to offer 10 Scholarships in the field of Tourism and Hotel Industry to the Government of Ethiopia.

Nigeria

- Government of Federal Republic of Nigeria opened her resident Mission in Colombo. The first Nigerian High Commissioner resident in Colombo, Femi Akenson Rotimi presented his credentials to H. E. the President on 14th September, 2012.
- A 20 member delegation from Nigerian `National Defence College visited Sri Lanka from 28th April to 05th May 2012 and had interactions with Sri Lankan authorities.
- Nigerian students joined the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) in Malabe.

Senegal

- Six Senegal military expert visited Sri Lanka during the period 07th to 13th April 2012.

Republic of Sudan

- Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa Secretary/Defence & Urban Development visited the Republic of Sudan from 26th – 29th August 2012.

Tunisia

- Mr. Mustapha Trabelsi was promoted to Honorary Consul General from the post of Honorary Consul.
- Obtained quotations from two Tunisian companies which export Phosphate and forwarded them to National Fertilizer Secretariat of Sri Lanka.

Mozambique

- Hon. Minister of External Affairs has approved Mr. Vali Momade Hassam as Sri Lanka's first Honorary Consul in Mozambique on 24th August 2012.

Botswana

- Sri Lanka approved Mr. Chulpathmendra Dahanayake as Sri Lanka's first Hony. Consul in Botswana.

Somalia

- Facilitated the release of Mr. K.A. Sarath Chandra Surasena who was held hostage by Somali pirates since 02nd January 2010.

Eritrea

- The Ambassador in Cairo presented Credentials to H.E. Isaias Afwerki, President of Eritrea 22nd November 2012

Rwanda

- On 01st July 2012, at the invitation of the Government of Rwanda the Hon. Deputy Minister of External Affairs participated at the 50th Anniversary of Independence of Rwanda.

Namibia

- Mr. Sacky Aipinge has been nominated as the first Hony. Consul for Sri Lanka in Namibia.
- Namibia participated at Sri Lanka Expo 2012 in March in Sri Lanka.

Zambia

- Mr. Elmo Jayathilake has been nominated as the first Hony. Consul for Sri Lanka in Zambia.

Other:

- As a special envoy of H. E. the President, in Jan. - March 2012, Hon. Minister of External Affairs paid special visits to Republic of Congo ,Mauritania, Benin, Cameroon ,Botswana, Nigeria, Uganda, Senegal and Burkina Faso and discussed matters related to 19th Session of Human Rights Council.
- As a special envoy of H. E. the President, in March, 2012, Hon. Susil Premajyantha, Minister of Petroleum and Petroleum Resources Development and Hon. Faiszer Musthapa, Minister of Tourism visited Mauritius, Djibouti and Libya respectively, and discussed matters related to 19th Session of Human Rights Council.
- Sri Lanka donated Ten Thousand (10, 0000) Metric Tons of white rice to the famine stricken people in Somalia and Eastern Africa with the assistance on World Food Programme (WFP).
- Sri Lanka donated medical assistance valued 3.3 Million SL Rs. to the people of the Republic of Congo. Hon. Maithripala Sirisena, Minister of Health handed over Medical Supplies to the Hon. Neomal Perera, Deputy Minister of External Affairs.
- Sri Lanka Government offered 100 postgraduate/ undergraduate for Foreign Students including Egypt – 01, Kenya – 01, Nigeria – 01, South Africa – 01 and Tanzania – 01.

Europe, CIS & Americas Division

West Division:

The Political Affairs/West Division covers the work pertaining to Sri Lanka's bilateral relations with countries in Europe, CIS and the Americas.

Europe:

Territorial coverage : 42 Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Holy See, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Turkey.

Number of Resident Missions: 12 Austria, Belgium, France, Germany (Berlin & Frankfurt), Italy, Norway, Poland, Sweden, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Turkey

Concurrent accreditation:

Vienna: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia & Slovenia

Brussels: Luxembourg & European Union

Paris: Portugal & Spain

Berlin: Switzerland

Geneva: Holy See

Rome: Albania, Cyprus, Greece & Malta

Warsaw: Bulgaria & Romania

Stockholm: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia & Lithuania

London: Ireland

Number of multilateral organizations: 02 Commonwealth and European Union

In the past one year, the focus was on maintaining engagement with European countries, with particular emphasis on consolidating our bilateral ties with those in Eastern Europe, some of which had recently obtained membership of the EU.

A number of high level visits were undertaken during the year 2012.

H.E. the President participated in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of HM the Queen in London in June 2012. During the visit, the President also interacted with the British Prime Minister, while he also had a meeting with the Secretary General of the Commonwealth to discuss preparations for Sri Lanka's hosting of CHOGM 2013.

H.E. the President also visited the Holy See in June, and had an audience with His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, and the Secretary of State of the Holy See.

During his visit to Rio de Janeiro to participate in the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) H.E. the President held bilateral meetings with the Heads of State of Montenegro and Hungary.

Hon. Minister/External Affairs visited Hungary in June 2012 on an Official Visit, and held bilateral discussions. This visit paved the way to consolidate relations with Hungary at a time the latter is looking at expanding its relations with Asian countries. During the Hon. Minister's visit in June, Sri Lanka and Hungary signed a MOU on Political Consultations and Cooperation with a view to conducting regular consultations between the two Foreign Ministries. A return visit from the Foreign Minister of Hungary took place in November 2012 following which the Exim Bank of Hungary finalized the funding arrangement for implementing the Labugama-Kalatuwawa Water Purification Project.

Hon. Minister of External Affairs also had a bilateral meeting with the British Foreign Secretary in London, during the Presidential visit to the UK to participate in the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. Subsequently he had a breakfast meeting with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State of UK when he visited the Cambridge University to deliver a lecture in September 2012.

The Minister also held bilateral discussions with the Deputy Foreign Minister of Italy in June while in Rome. Following this meeting, the Foreign Minister handed over a token gift of tea to the Italian Government for the victims of the earthquake in Northern Italy the previous month.

The Hon. Minister also met the Foreign Minister of San Marino while in Rome, where they signed an MOU on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

On the sidelines of the UNGA in New York in September, the Minister had bilateral meetings with his counterparts from the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Romania and Finland.

Hon. Deputy Ministry of External Affairs travelled to the Czech Republic in October for official bilateral consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries.

A number of Parliamentarians and senior officials from Europe visited Sri Lanka during this year.

The Deputy Head of Asia Pacific Division of the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs in February 2012 held discussions with External Affairs Ministry officials.

The Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Sri Lanka, Rt. Hon. Lord Naseby, Member of the Upper House (House of Lords) of the British Parliament visited in March/April 2012. During the visit he called on H.E. the President, had meetings with a number of Ministers and also visited the Northern and Southern Provinces. Lord Naseby presented a report to the House of Lords following his return to the UK.

The State Secretary of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited Colombo in April/May 2012 and held bilateral discussions with the Hon. Deputy Minister of External Affairs and other Ministers.

A British Parliamentary delegation visited Sri Lanka in July/August. They called on H.E. the President and held meetings with a wide range of Hon. Cabinet Ministers and Hon. Parliamentarians, and also visited the Central, Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Bilateral Consultations were held between the Foreign Ministries of Sri Lanka and Bulgaria, in the Bulgarian capital Sofia, in July 2012, which year also marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The Sri Lanka delegation was headed by the Additional Secretary/Political Affairs (West & UN).

In August 2012, the Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Poland visited Sri Lanka. The Undersecretary held bilateral discussions with Secretary/External Affairs, while an MOU was signed between the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies and the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM).

A 04 member Parliamentary delegation from the Czech Republic headed by the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Czech Parliament, visited in November 2012.

The Head of the South Asia Division of the Ministry of Economic Cooperation of Germany also visited Sri Lanka and held discussions with the Ministry of Economic Development to evaluate the progress of ongoing projects implemented in Sri Lanka, while discussions were also held with the External Affairs Ministry.

Those Missions in European capitals with considerable expatriate populations, continued to reach out to the diaspora and sought to correct the distorted propaganda spread by the LTTE rump.

EU

Over the past one year, Sri Lanka worked at reinvigorating its relations with the EU - a key export market for Sri Lanka. Discussions are underway towards seeking the convening of the next EU-Sri Lanka Joint Commission meeting in Brussels in 2013.

The Sri Lanka EU Air Services Agreement was also signed in September 2012.

The establishment of the National Coordinating Committee on Readmission (NCCR) facilitated to work towards convening the Sri Lanka EU Joint Readmission Committee, as stipulated under the Sri Lanka EU Readmission Agreement.

Sri Lanka continued its close engagement with the European Parliament over the past year. Representatives from the Delegation for Relations with South Asia in the European Parliament visited in April/May 2012. This was a follow-up visit to their visit in February 2011. The draft report following the visit acknowledges several positive developments since their first visit. The South Asia Delegation of the European Parliament has also invited a delegation from the Sri Lanka Parliament to visit the European Parliament.

Commonwealth

Sri Lanka's interactions with the Commonwealth intensified over the past year, in view of Sri Lanka's hosting of CHOGM 2013. H.E. the President met the Secretary General of the Commonwealth in June, during the visit to UK for the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. The Secretary General of the Commonwealth also visited Sri Lanka in September 2012 and has commented very positively on the arrangements underway for the CHOGM 2013, as well as the post conflict developments taking place in the country. The Secretary General also visited the East where the Commonwealth envisages to fund a livelihood development project. In addition to the Secretary General, the Commonwealth Secretariat also undertook two visits in April and September 2012, in order to ascertain and discuss arrangements underway for CHOGM 2013.

The CHOGM Task Force Secretariat was inaugurated at the BMICH by the Hon. Minister on 17th September 2012, and will coordinate all preparatory work involved with the CHOGM 2013.

Following the visits of the Secretariat, the Commonwealth Business Council also visited in October 2012 and had a number of meetings with the relevant Ministers in order to identify Sri Lanka's priorities for the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF) 2013. The CBC delegation also called on H.E. the President and discussed the CBF, which was launched to the Sri Lankan business community in October, with a video projecting Sri Lanka's resurgence as a regional economic and trading hub. The launch event was attended by Ministers, the Colombo based diplomatic community, senior Government officials and business leaders, in addition to the CBC representatives. A delegation from the Commonwealth Foundation also visited in November 2012 in connection with arrangements for the Commonwealth Youth Forum.

Americas:

Territorial Coverage: 35 United States of Americas, Canada, Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Honduras, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Number of Resident Missions: 06 United States of America (Washington D.C. & Los Angeles), Canada (Ottawa & Toronto), Cuba, Brazil

Concurrent Accreditation:

Washington D.C. : Mexico

Havana : Venezuela & Jamaica

Brasilia : Argentina, Chile, Colombia & Peru

Over the past year, initiatives were taken towards strengthening Sri Lanka's relations with the Latin American countries, while also maintaining our strong relations in North America. Given the emerging strength of the Latin American region, Cabinet approval was obtained to establish relations with thirteen countries in the Caribbean and Latin American region and action has been initiated in this regard through the Permanent Representative in New York. These countries are Guatemala, Belize, Nicaragua, Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, Honduras, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Haiti and Saint Lucia.

H.E. the President paid an Official Visit to Cuba in June, underlying Sri Lanka's extremely strong relations with that country and held discussions with the President of Cuba. An MOU for development of the coconut industry in the two countries was signed between the Ministry of Agriculture of Cuba and the Ministry of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development Board of Sri Lanka. Initiatives were also made to obtain Cuban technical assistance in health and agriculture fields.

During his visit to Rio de Janeiro to attend the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, (Rio+20) H.E. the President held a bilateral meeting with the President of Chile.

Sri Lanka signed three MOUs/Agreements with Brazil over the past year covering cooperation between the Chambers of Commerce, and Agricultural cooperation.

Sri Lanka continued its close engagement with the USA over the past year. Hon. Minister of External Affairs visited Washington D.C. in May 2012 at the invitation of the US Secretary of State. This visit helped in strengthening the bilateral relationship. Apart from the Secretary of State, the Minister also had meetings with other senior officials of US Administration, Senators, Congressmen and academia.

During his visit to New York leading the Sri Lanka delegation to the 67th UN General Assembly in September, the Hon. Minister held bilateral meetings with the Foreign Minister of Cuba, and also met the US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

Sri Lanka and Chile signed an Agreement in June 2012 on the Exemption from Visa Requirements for Diplomatic and Official Passport holders of the two countries.

A number of visits were undertaken by senior US government officials over the past year demonstrating the multifaceted relationship between Sri Lanka and USA. These included the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs in January; Ambassador at Large for the Office of Global Criminal Justice of the Department of State in February; Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Department of Treasury in February; Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights in February; Senior Deputy Assistant for Administration for Asia of the USAID in March; Assistant Trade Representative for South Asia in March/April and also in June; senior official of the Justice Department of the National Security Council in June/July; staff members of the House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs in August; and the Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs in September; Regional Refugee Coordinator from the Office of Population, Refugee and Migration of the Department of State in October; US Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs in November; and Director, Office of the South and Central Asian Affairs of the State Department in November.

A Parliamentary delegation from Canada also visited Sri Lanka in March 2012.

CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) :

Territorial coverage: 12 Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Number of Resident Missions: 01 Russia

Number of concurrent accreditations:

Moscow: Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine & Uzbekistan

Tehran : Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan

Ankara : Georgia

Political Affairs/CIS Division covers the work pertaining to Sri Lanka's bilateral relations with the Russian Federation and other member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States as well as the Republic of Georgia.

Particular focus has been given to the promotion of our close and cordial relations with Russia while also seeking to strengthen Sri Lanka's relations with other CIS countries and Georgia.

Russian Federation

Sri Lanka further strengthened bilateral relations with the Russian Federation in 2012. This year also marked 55 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The high point of this year was the official visit of Hon. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs to the Russian Federation in May. During the visit, wide ranging discussions were held with Hon. Sergei Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, as well as other senior officials of the Russian Government.

In September, a delegation led by Mr. Konstantin Dolgov, Commissioner for Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law and Ambassador-at-large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation visited Sri Lanka with a view to obtaining briefings on progress achieved by the Government in addressing post-conflict issues, particularly in view of the UPR review process which took place in November 2012 at the UNHCR in Geneva.

In June this year, a delegation from the Department of the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation visited Sri Lanka and participated in negotiations on the draft Re-admission Agreement between the two countries.

Kazakhstan

Significant developments took place in the year 2012 in further strengthening bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Kazakhstan.

Hon. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs visited Kazakhstan on the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. This was the first official visit of a Sri Lankan Foreign Minister to Kazakhstan. Wide ranging bilateral discussions were held and Hon. Prof. Peiris also called on the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan. During the visit, an MoU on Annual Bilateral Consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries was signed.

In September, Hon. Neomal Perera, MP, Deputy Minister of External Affairs visited Kazakhstan to attend the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). This was the first time Sri Lanka participated in the CICA Conference, as a "special guest", on the invitation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and Kazakhstan.

In October, the first round of Annual Bilateral Consultations between the Foreign Ministries of Sri Lanka and Kazakhstan took place in Colombo. The Kazakhstan delegation was led by Mr. Aidarbek Toumatov, Director General, Asia and Africa Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan and Secretary/External Affairs led the Sri Lanka delegation.

H.E. the President visited Kazakhstan in November 2012 on an invitation extended by the President of Kazakhstan and held bilateral discussions with the President of Kazakhstan. An agreement on Tourism Cooperation between the two countries was signed during the visit.

Ukraine

Sri Lanka continued to strengthen its relations with Ukraine during the year under review.

In April 2012, a delegation from the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine visited Colombo for consultations on the proposed Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation; and, in May this year, a delegation from the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine visited Sri Lanka for negotiations on the draft agreement on the Establishment of Joint Inter-Governmental Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation and the draft agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investments.

Georgia

In view of the request made by the Republic of Georgia, Sri Lanka shifted its concurrent accreditation to the Sri Lanka Embassy in Turkey.

Relations with other CIS countries

Sri Lanka continues to maintain cordial relations with all other member countries of the CIS region.

**United Nations, Multilateral
Affairs, Human Rights and
Conferences Division**

United Nations, Multilateral Affairs, Human Rights and Conferences Division

UN General Assembly

The GoSL delegation to the general debate of the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2012 was led by Hon. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs. The Hon. Minister addressed the General Assembly and also held bilateral meetings with counterparts and senior officials from 19 countries.

Human Rights Council

The UN Division coordinated the participation of the Sri Lanka delegation to the Human Rights Council sessions held in March, June and September 2012. Prior to the 19th Session the Division coordinated several Ministerial visits to HRC member countries in Africa, Middle East and Latin America to lobby support for Sri Lanka.

Universal Periodic Review

Sri Lanka was reviewed on 1st November 2012 under the 2nd Cycle of the UPR process where Sri Lanka presented an overall position on human rights related aspects of the country, and briefed on progress made on the recommendations accepted in 2008 which have been implemented. Hon Mahinda Samarasinghe, Special Envoy of H E the President on Human Rights led the Sri Lanka delegation which included representatives from Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of External Affairs.

UN Security Council Resolution

Sri Lanka was able to successfully lobby to be delisted by the UN Secretary-General from Annex II of the UN Security Council Resolution 1612, on Children and Armed Conflict. This is a result of the concerted efforts taken by the GoSL to investigate several cases of child recruitment and comply with the recommendations of the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict and those of the UNSG's Special Representative.

ICCPR

The Division coordinated stakeholder meetings on the draft 5th periodic report of Sri Lanka under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which was submitted to the HRC in October 2012 prior to the UPR on Sri Lanka. The Division also compiled Sri Lanka's response to the Confidential communication from the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on the Women's Human Rights in December 2011.

WGEID

The Division in consultation with the relevant stakeholders prepared and submitted the responses on 59 cases of alleged disappearances brought to the attention of the GoSL by the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID). Progress on investigations into 100 more cases of alleged disappearances was submitted to the WG on 24th October 2012, prior to the UPR on Sri Lanka. The UN Division continues to work with relevant line agencies/ Ministries to respond to alleged disappearances brought to the attention of the GoSL by the WGEID.

Visit of the OHCHR

Officials of the OHCHR led by Mr. Hanny Megally, Chief, Asia Pacific, Middle East and North Africa Branch undertook a visit to Sri Lanka from 14-21 September 2012 as a precursor to the visit of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to whom an invitation had been extended by the Government of Sri Lanka in April 2011. The Division coordinated a comprehensive programme for the delegation.

Visit of the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) team (New York)

Mr. Hitoki Den, Chief of Asia and the Pacific Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the UN and Mr. Jung Hwan Lee, Political Affairs Officer, Asia and the Pacific Division visited Sri Lanka in December 2012. The senior UN official toured the Northern Province where development activities are taking place and met the relevant officials to appraise the progress made in the post-war reconstruction activities.

NAM

The UN Division also coordinated the participation of the GoSL in the 16th NAM Summit which was held in Tehran, Iran from 30-31 August 2012, preceded by the Ministerial Meeting held on 28 and 29 August 2012. Sri Lanka delegation was led by H.E. President Mahinda Rajapaksa who held bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Summit with 5 Heads of State. Hon. Minister of External Affairs participated at the NAM Ministerial meeting in Sharm-El – Shiekh, Egypt in May 2012 and held 4 bilateral meetings.

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

H.E. the President led Sri Lanka's delegation to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) which was held in June this year and held 7 bilateral meetings with other Heads of State. The Rio + 20 Conference, concluded with an Outcome Document titled "The Future We Want" where many important foundations were laid to determine the future agenda of sustainable development. In this regard, several processes will be initiated subsequent to the United Nations General Assembly this year.

United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) Review process

Sri Lanka continues to take necessary measures to ensure the implementation of its obligations under the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). In keeping with the state obligations under the UNCAC, the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption initiated the conduct of a 'gap analysis' in order to identify gaps between the Convention and the existing laws relating to corruption in Sri Lanka.

The Division coordinated the review process and also participated at the Video conferences held at the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption with the reviewing State Parties in 2012.

18th Conference of Parties (COP 18) and the 8th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 8)

The eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 18) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 8) was held in Doha from 26th November to 8th December 2012. The Division coordinated the participation of the Sri Lanka delegation at the above Conference.

Other multilateral representations by Sri Lanka

The Division has been represented in delegations attending environment and health related UN conferences and has been assisting national focal points in formulating Sri Lanka's position on key issues keeping in view global developments.

The Division has facilitated participation from other Ministries/focal points to make representations at various international meetings, conferences, workshops. In this respect the Division has issued 38 letters of credence to these delegates during the year.

Elections to UN bodies

The Division has been engaged in the following activities regarding the election to UN bodies:

- Instructing Missions on all elections in UN
- Coordinating with relevant Government Ministries in taking decisions on the elections/ posts within the UN
- Maintaining a database on Sri Lanka's voting pattern at the elections to UN bodies

Conferences and Visas

During the period under consideration, the UN & MA Division assisted in processing 1800 Visas for foreign nationals to visit Sri Lanka for various International Conferences and Meetings held

in Sri Lanka. The Division has also provided observations/ approval for visas for expatriate staff assigned to UN Missions in Sri Lanka.

Issuance of visas by Sri Lanka Missions include a substantial amount of coordination work of UN Organizations/ other International Organizations and the Missions which the Division continues to carry out as a part of its routine work.

Registration of NGOs

This Division has received NGO registration applications from the Centre for Non- Governmental Section (CNGS) established under the Department of External Resources (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance & Planning, and the National Secretariat for Non- Governmental Organizations.

The Division also provides observations on matters relating to the registration of NGOs in Sri Lanka when there is a foreign funding component to the NGOs concerned

UN Vacancies

This Division forwards the information on receipt regarding different vacancies in the UN to relevant line Ministries and institutions.

UN Contributions

This Division coordinates with the relevant Government Ministries and institutions on the respective payments to be made to the UN agencies on Sri Lanka's voluntary and mandatory contributions/payments to the respective agencies/ institutions.

Economic Affairs Division

Economic Affairs Division:

The Economic Affairs Division is entrusted with activities relating to bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation. It also facilitates arrangement of national and international events and forums such as the DeyataKirula Exhibition, Trade Exhibitions, Conferences and arrangements for the Commonwealth Business Forum - 2013.

Under bilateral economic cooperation, the Division facilitates negotiations, conclusion and implementation of economic related MOUs and Agreements with other countries. Currently the Division is coordinating negotiation of MOUs and Agreements with other countries such as Hungary, Poland, Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia.

Under multilateral economic cooperation, the Division is facilitating Sri Lanka's active participation and contributions for better global and regional presence of Sri Lanka in several organizations such as World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Group of Fifteen (G-15), Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Colombo Plan, Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Group of Eleven (G-11), World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations Cooperation on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Group of 77 (G-77) and International Labour Organization (ILO).

The Economic Affairs Division also addresses economic security issues. Amongst these issues a priority issue was Migration and Development. The Sri Lankan migrant workers contribute to the national economy 1/3 of foreign exchange which is 8% of the GDP.

The Economic Affairs Division contributes to the protection and promotion of Sri Lanka's interests in the sphere of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) at the international, regional and national levels. The Division liaised with the National Intellectual Property Office and several line Ministries to ensure the participation of experts in the relevant fields of IPR relating to copyrights, trademarks, patents, geographical indicators, development, genetic resources, traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions, among others. This has contributed to safeguarding Sri Lanka's interests as well as contributing to the national policy making initiatives in the relevant fields. The Division also supports Sri Lanka's Permanent Mission in Geneva in relation to pursuing Sri Lanka's interests at WIPO.

BIMSTEC is an international organization of seven countries including Sri Lanka and created for enhanced technical and economic cooperation among member countries. The Division facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the Senior Officials Meeting on "The Establishment of BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat" which was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh this year.

The IOR-ARC is a regional organization of the countries that share the Indian Ocean. The Division facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the 12th IOR-ARC Council of Ministers Meeting held in November 2012 in Gurgaon, India. Hon. Prof. G L Peiris, Minister of External Affairs headed the Sri Lanka Delegation and called upon the organization to formulate specific projects for the benefit of the people of the region. At the above meeting, the Union of Comoros joined the organization as the twentieth member whereas the United States joined as a dialogue partner. The Division also ensured participation at several IOR-ARC projects in other countries.

The Colombo Plan is one of the oldest regional inter-governmental organizations and its Secretariat is headquartered in Sri Lanka. The Colombo Plan was conceived at the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Conference held in Colombo in January 1950 to enhance economic and social development of the countries of the region and Sri Lanka was one of the seven Founding Members of the Colombo Plan. The Colombo Plan offers several training programmes and capacity building programmes for the public and private sector officials in the developing countries. The Division facilitated participation of Sri Lanka delegation at the Consultative Committee Meeting of the Colombo Plan in October 2012 in Indonesia. Several member countries pledged continuous support to the organization.

The G-15 is an 18-member organization of developing countries that was initiated to collectively respond to the views of the G-8. The G-15 has a Technical Support Facility in Geneva. Sri Lanka assumed the Chairmanship of the G-15 at the last Summit held in Tehran, Iran. The Division together with the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka in Geneva coordinated the works relating to Sri Lanka's Chairmanship at the G-15. The Division also facilitated arrangement of G-15 Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the UNGA in September 2012 in New York.

The Division coordinated the participation of Foreign Missions based in Colombo at the Deyatakirula National Development Exhibition in the Anuradhapura District in February 2012. The Missions were encouraged to display their cultural, tourism, educational and trade opportunities as well as historical ties with Sri Lanka which attracted a large public audience at the exhibition. The Division had also ensured participation of international organizations such as UNDP at the exhibition.

The Asia Cooperation Dialogue [ACD] is a 31 member forum which aims to build an Asian community. This Division coordinated Sri Lanka's participation in several ACD activities such as the Second ACD Senior Officials' Meeting on Cultural Cooperation which was held in New Delhi, India in April 2012 and the ACD Workshop Meeting on Financial, Economic and Trade Cooperation held in Kuwait in May 2012. The Division also facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the ACD Ministers Meeting held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2012. The 1st Asia Cooperation Dialogue [ACD] Summit was held in Kuwait in October 2012. The Division facilitated participation of Sri Lanka delegation which was headed by H.E the President Mahinda Rajapaksa. The Division also coordinated with other line agencies on Sri Lanka's contribution to ACD as Co-Prime Mover on SME and e-education sectors.

The Division coordinates all the activities of UNESCAP. During the period under review the Division has actively participated in the events organized by the UNESCAP and has made appropriate interventions. The Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) in collaboration with UNESCAP has organized the Regional Expert Consultation on Connecting Asia-Pacific's Digital Society for Resilient Development from September 05-06, 2012 in Colombo. Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum was held in Colombo from 30-31 October 2012. The 68th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was held from May 17-20, 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand. The 3rd Session of the UNESCAP Committee on Transport was held in Bangkok, Thailand from October 10-12, 2012. At this Session Draft Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry-Port was adopted. The 8th Session of the Technical Committee on United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agriculture Engineering and Machinery was held in Peradeniya from October 23 -25, 2012.

The Division facilitated visits of several trade and economic missions from/to Sri Lanka including visit of High Level Business Delegation from the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia in July 2012 and visit of Sri Lanka Business delegation to Vietnam in August 2012. The Division also facilitated arrangement of several Business Forums in Sri Lanka during high level visits such as State Visits of the Presidents of Seychelles, Swaziland and The Maldives.

The Government of Sri Lanka has decided to implement a scheme to offer 100 under graduate and post graduate scholarships for foreign students commencing from the academic year 2011/2012. The Division coordinated with the Sri Lanka Missions to implement this programme successfully and receive applications of foreign students.

This Division coordinated distribution of export promotional publications (Economic Review, The Exporter Magazine, Talking Economic Digest, Step by Step to doing Business in Sri Lanka etc.,) to the Sri Lanka Missions abroad. The Division also sent special publications of ICTA and Chambers and promotion materials on 'Touch Your Future', FACETS & Gem and Jewelry exhibitions to the Sri Lanka Missions for distribution among interested parties.

Facilitation of short term visas for Foreign Experts from international institutions/agencies such as JAICA, ADB, World Bank and IMF was also handled by the Economic Affairs Division. The Division coordinated issuance of several such visas in 2012. The Division also coordinated implementation of Electronic Travel Arrangement (ETA) by the Department of Immigration and Emigration.

Protocol Division

Protocol Division,

- 1) The work of the Protocol Division can be categorized into the following main areas:
 - a) Performing Ceremonial Functions
 - b) Facilitating and according diplomatic privileges and immunities to the foreign Diplomatic Representations and International Organizations accredited to Sri Lanka.
 - c) Facilitating arrangements for Heads of Missions accredited to Sri Lanka (based in Colombo and concurrently accredited from other stations)
 - d) Facilitating logistical and protocol arrangements for international conferences held in Sri Lanka.

2) **Ceremonial Functions:**

2.1 The Protocol Division is the main focal point for performing ceremonial functions. The Protocol Division deals with logistical and protocol arrangements necessary for facilitating visits by Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers, Senior officials and other dignitaries to Sri Lanka. It is also the responsibility of the Protocol Division to provide required assistance to the events hosted by H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Minister of External Affairs to foreign dignitaries. When foreign Diplomatic Missions and countries are involved, necessary protocol assistance is extended to the ceremonies organized by the relevant line Ministries, at their request.

2.1.1 Handling VVIP/VIP visits to Sri Lanka (Details are at Annex A)

Heads of State/Prime Ministers & Other VVIP	- 15
Heads of UN & Other International Organizations	- 09
Special Envoy	- 04
Foreign Ministers	- 18
Cabinet Ministers	- 10
Other Foreign Dignitaries	- 25
Delegation for meetings/Conferences	- 20

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 2.1.2 Appointments of Sri Lanka Honorary Consuls Abroad | - 19 |
| Honorary Consuls in Sri Lanka | - NIL |

2.2 When the visits by H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Minister of External Affairs are arranged, the Protocol Division plays an active role in liaising with the relevant Sri Lankan Missions abroad and counterpart agencies of foreign countries to ensure smooth coordination of all protocol and logistical arrangements:

2.2.1 Visits by Sri Lankan VVIPs

State Visits by H.E the President -14(Details are at Annex B)

Visits by Hon. Prime Minister - NIL

Visits by Hon. Minister of External Affairs - 26 (Details are at Annex C)

3. Privileges and Immunities

3.1 The Protocol Division is responsible for according and facilitating Privileges and Immunities to Diplomatic Missions, International Organizations and their staff, in terms of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963, the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 1946 and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 1947.

The functions performed by the Privileges and Immunities Section of the Protocol Division during the period under review are as follows:

1.1.1	Issuance of clearance certificates	-1965
1.1.2	Customs facilities extended to Foreign Missions in Sri Lanka and the members of the staff during their arrival and departure	- 135
1.1.3	DPL Vehicles	
	Sale of vehicles	- 285
	Registration of Vehicles	- 98
	Issuance of Revenue Licenses	- 980
	Issuance of Driving Licenses	- 58
	Issuance of Petrol Coupon Books	- 402
1.1.4	Visas (1222 – for Foreign Missions & UN Organizations)	
1.1.5	Airport Passes (Permanent & Temporary)	- 162
	VIP Lounge Permits	- 1400
1.1.6	Diplomatic Clearance (Foreign Aircrafts & Ships)	- 174
1.1.7	Conveying National Day felicitation Messages	- 102

4. Accreditation

The Protocol Division is responsible for arranging ceremonies for presentation of Credentials by foreign Ambassadors accredited to Sri Lanka, seeking Agrément for Sri Lankan Ambassadors/High Commissioners appointed to other countries, issuing identity cards for foreign diplomats based in Sri Lanka and their departure formalities. Functions performed by this section during the period are as follows;

4.1.2 Identity Cards (Diplomatic – 277 & Others – 216)

4.1.2 Appointments of Foreign Heads of Missions to Sri Lanka -22

5. International Conferences

5.1 As far as logistical and protocol aspects are concerned, **the Protocol Division continues to play a key role in promoting Sri Lanka as an attractive venue for holding International Conferences.** In this context, the Protocol Division closely coordinates the necessary arrangements with the relevant line Ministries and Departments.

5.2 The Protocol Division also provides necessary assistance and guidance to the staff members of the relevant line agencies to perform protocol and logistical functions related to such international conferences. The following International Conferences were held in Sri Lanka with the assistance of the Protocol Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.

1. Hon. James Wharton, MP, Member of the U.K. Parliament - 03 - 05 January 2012
2. Commonwealth Local Government Forum Symposium - 24 -25 April 2012
3. Visit of delegation from China People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Hangzhou Committee to Sri Lanka - 24 -27 April 2012
4. Residential Workshop for Sri Lankan Heads of Mission abroad at Sri Lanka Military Academy, Diyatalawa and field visit - 06 -10 July 2012
5. CHOGM Planning Team - 06-13 September 2012
6. 58th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Conference, Colombo - 07 -05 September 2012
7. In addition, the Protocol Division actively assisted in the exposition of Kapilawasthu Sacred Relics -20 August – 12 Sept. 2012

Annex A

Heads of State/Prime Ministers & Other WVIPP - 15

- 1) Visit of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar from 15th – 16th January 2012
- 2) Visit of Vice President of The Maldives from 22nd February 2012
- 3) His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar from 22nd -24th February 2012
- 4) Visit of H.E. Mohamed Nasheed, President of the Republic of The Maldives from 20th – 22nd March 2012
- 5) State Visit of H.E. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine from 15th -17th April 2012
- 6) Visit of H.E. Awn Khasawneh, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Jordan from 7th – 10th May 2012
- 7) Visit of H E Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Former President of the Republic of The Maldives from 19th -22nd April 2012
- 8) Visit of H.E. Katsuya OKADA, Prime Minister of Japan from 4th – 5th May 2012
- 9) Visit of His Majesty Mswati III, King of the Kingdom of Swaziland from 13th -15th August 2012
- 10) Visit of H.E. Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC of China from 15th -18th September 2012
- 11) Visit of H.E. James Alix Michel, President of the Republic of Seychelles from 20th -22nd August 2012
- 12) Visit of H.E. Dr. Mohamed Waheed , President of the Republic of The Maldives from 23rd – 25th August 2012
- 13) Visit of H.E. Prof. Dr. Boddiono, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia from 28th August -2nd September 2012
- 14) Visit of H.E. the President of Uganda from 12th – 15th November 2012
- 15) H.E. Dmytro Slamatin, Minister of Defence of Ukraine 17th -19th December 2012

Heads of UN & Other International Organizations - 08

- 1) Mr. Lars Thunell, Executive Vice President (IFC) World Bank from 21st – 24th February 2012 and further visit from 29th – 30th March 2012
- 2) Visit of H E Dr. Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed, SG of SAARC from 20th – 23rd June 2012
- 3) Visit of MMC Jang Zehui, President of China Floor Association from 17th – 21st November 2012

- 4) Visit of Hon. Saleem H. Mandiviwalla, Minister of State /Chairman of Board of Investment of Pakistan from 26th - 28th December 2012
- 5) Visit of H.E. Ahmet Uzumcu, Director General of Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), The Hague
- 6) Visit of H.E. Ms. Katalin Vogyay, President of the UNESCO General Conference from 2nd - 10th November 2012

Special Envoy - 04

- 1) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Former President of India from 21st – 23rd January 2012
- 2) Visit of Mr. Yashushi Akashi, Special Envoy of Japan from 21st – 26th August 2012
- 3) Visit of Mr. Cassam Uteem, Former President of Mauritius from 5th -8th September 2012
- 4) Visit of the Director General for the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) from 7th – 10th October 2012

Foreign Ministers - 18

- 1) Visit of Hon. (Dr) Riad Al Malki. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine from 2nd – 03rd January 2012
- 2) Visit of H. E. R.M. Marty Natalegawa. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia from 25th – 26th January 2012
- 3) Visit of Hon. S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs of India from 16th – 19th January 2012
- 4) Hon. Victor Mayko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine from 19th – 21st January 2012
- 5) Visit of H.E. Mr. Mohamed Naseer, Foreign Secretary of the Republic of Maldives from 25th – 27th January 2012
- 6) Visit of H.E. Yusuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Foreign Minister of Oman from 30th October to 01st of November 2012
- 7) Visit of H E Dr. Janos Martonyi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary from 7th – 8th November 2012
- 8) H.E. Dr. Victor Mayko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and Ukraine Delegation for Annual Bilateral Consultations from 21st -22nd March 2012
- 9) H.E. Basile IKOUEBE, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation of the Republic of Congo from 21st -24th March and 29th – 30th March 2012
- 10) Visit of H.E. Mr. K. Shanmugam, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore from 29th May – 1st June 201
- 11) Visit of His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyn, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the UAE, 13th May 2012

- 12) Visit of Hon. Tomas Dub, MP, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic from 19th -21st April 2012
- 13) Visit of Mr. George Yeo, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore from 28th – 30th April 2012
- 14) Visit of Hon. (Dr.) Abbas Araghchi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran for Asia & Pacific and Special Envoy of the President
- 15) Visit of H.E. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan from 1st -3rd August 2012
- 16) Visit of H.E. Oreyem Okello, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uganda from 4th -9th September 2012
- 17) Visit to Sri Lanka by H.E. Bob Carr, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia, 14th – 17th December 2012.
- 18) Visit of H.E. Dr. Zalmal Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Sri Lanka, 18th -20th December 2012

Annex B

State Visits by H.E the President of Sri Lanka - 14

01. State Visit of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to Pakistan from 10– 12 February 2012
02. State Visit of the H.E. President of Sri Lanka to Singapore from 14-17 February 2012
03. State Visit of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to South Korea from 23-27 April 2012
04. Visit of H.E. The President to the State of Qatar to attend the 12th Doha Forum from 18-22 May 2012
05. Visit of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to the 9th International Conference and Celebrations of UN Day of Vesak from 29 May – 2 June 2012, India
06. Visit of H.E. the President to the UK to attend the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II from 3– 7 June 2012
07. Visit of H.E. the President to the Vatican from 7 – 9 June 2012
08. Visit of H.E. the President to Cuba from 14 – 18 June 2012
09. Visit of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio-de Janeiro, Brazil from 19- 25 June 2012
10. Visit of H. E. the President to Iran to attend the XVI Non Alignment Movement (NAM) Summit from 29 – 31 August 2012
11. Official Visit of H.E. the President to India from 19-22 September 2012
12. State Visit of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to Kuwait from 15–17 October 2012
13. State Visit of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to the U.A.E. from 21– 24 October 2012
14. State Visit of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to Kazakhstan from 19–22 November 2012

Annex C

Visits by Hon. Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka - 26

1. Official Visit to Senegal, Burkina Faso and Mauritania, 08th to 15th January 2012
2. Official Visit to New Delhi, 22nd – 24th January 2012
3. Official Visit to South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Cameroon and Congo, 27th Jan. – 03rd Feb. 2012
4. Official Visit to Jordan & for the State Visit to Pakistan, 08th – 12th February 2012
5. State Visit to Singapore, 14th – 17th February 2012
6. Official Visit to Switzerland, Uganda, Nigeria, Botswana & South Africa, 20th February to 07th March 2012
7. Official Visit to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 11th March to 13th 2012
8. Official Visit to Geneva (Switzerland)
9. Official Visit to The Maldives, 5th 8th April 2012
10. Official Visit to The Maldives, 11th 15th April 2012
11. For the State Visit to The Republic of Korea, 23rd– 25th April 2012
12. Private Visit to Singapore, 2nd -6th May 2012
13. Official Visit to Egypt 07th 10th May 2012
14. Official Visit to The USA, Qatar, Kazakhstan & Russia, 14th 27th May 2012
15. Official Visit to Thailand & Singapore , 31st May to 02nd June 2012
16. For the State Visit to The UK & The Vatican, 04th to 10th June 2012
17. Official Visit to Hungary, 10th to 14th June 2012
18. For the State Visit to Cuba & Brazil, 14th to 24th June 2012
19. Official Visit to Tohoku, Japan, 01st to 05th July 2012
20. Official Visit to Vietnam, 16th to 18th July 2012
21. Official Visit to Bangladesh, 04th to 07th August 2012
22. For the State Visit to Iran, 26th to 31st August 2012
23. Official Visit to the UK, 01st to 05th September 2012
24. For the State Visit to India, 19th to 22nd September 2012
25. For the Official Visit to the USA, 23rd September to 05th October 2012

Consular Affairs Division

Consular Division

Territorial Coverage	- All Countries
Number of Resident Missions	- 61
Number of Concurrently Accredited Mission	- 87
Number of Honorary Consuls	- 68

Consular Division has the following Sub division

1. Document Authentication Section

Following the computerization of the Document Authentication Section with the assistance of the IOM in 2011, the Document Authentication Section is now in a position to authenticate 800- 1000 documents daily in an efficient and timely manner. The Consular Division certifies wide varieties of documents such as Birth, Marriage, Medical, Educational, and Unmarried Certificates etc. issued by the Sri Lanka authorities as required by the foreign countries.

Authentication and Verification of documents – Total revenue generated –
SLRS 127,364,375.00

2. Compensation Section

This section is responsible and facilitates the securing of compensation, salary dues, donation or insurance coverage claims of Sri Lankans entitled to receive such claims. These payments are given for natural or accidental death while working, accidental death after office hours or homicide. The highest individual compensation/payment of Rs. 16,227,355.00 was received on account of a death which occurred in Dubai.

Compensation and issues pertaining to next of kin –
Total payments paid for this year SLRS 208,103,971.37

3. Death Section

There are over 1.5 million Sri Lankans employed abroad and an average of about 350 deaths are reported annually. Of the 431 deaths were reported up to 31st December 2012, 223 of those are from natural causes, 105 from accidents, 6 from homicides and 23 from suicides. The Consular Division assisted the next of kin to repatriate the human remains to Sri Lanka. There are 18 pending cases currently been handled. Some of the main reasons for the delay in resolving the cases are absence of sponsors due to illegal migrations, the NOK unable to pay cost of dispatching the remains and pending police/ judicial investigations for such cases.

Death Section – processed 413 deaths up to December 31st 2012.

4. Repatriation section

Repatriation of stranded or arrested Sri Lankans is an important task handled by the Consular Division in collaboration with diplomatic missions with the assistance of the IOM and other organizations.

Normal Cause		
	Reported	– 591
	Closed	– 240
	Pending	– 351
Detained/ Arrested/ Jailed		
	Reported	– 262
	Closed	– 75
	Pending	– 187
Grand Total		
	Reported	– 853
	Closed	– 315
	Pending	– 538

The large pending number is due to the following reasons

- (i) The NOK are requesting the repatriation while the person in abroad has already settled the matter with the sponsor.
- (ii) Those who have not fulfilled the eligibility criteria for repatriation.
- (iii) Those who are detained abroad pending investigation/ Court cases.
- (iv) Those, whose sponsors are not agreeable to repatriate them prematurely without recruitment cost.
- (v) Those who victimized by the human traffickers.

5. Education Section

The Consular Division authenticates education certificates (O/L, A/L) issued by the Examination Department of Sri Lanka as requested by foreign countries.

The revenue generated from this section is totaling up to SLRS 8,585,875. 00

6. Miscellaneous Section

- This Division covers stranded fishing vessels and fishermen.
- A total of 110 fishermen were repatriated of a total of 22 fishing vessels.
- Apart from the stranded boats, the fishing vessels captured by Somali pirates comes under the purview of the section.
Many other miscellaneous cases are also being handled. Of the 41 such cases reported in 2012, 03 were resolved.
- Issuance of Birth Certificates
1250 Birth Certificates were received.
550 handed over to applicants
- Police clearances from other countries
43 applications received
35 were cleared

Public Communications Division

Public Communications Division

The Public Communications Division is an operational Division and is the interface between the Government and external actors in terms of information dissemination and projection of Sri Lanka's image abroad. Its activities depend on events/situations that take place in the Ministry and the country in general with regard to Sri Lanka's foreign policy and international relations.

1. The Division coordinated media coverage of H.E. the President's Visits to Pakistan and Singapore in February, South Korea in April, Qatar in May, Thailand, UK, Italy (Vatican), Cuba, Brazil in June, Iran in August and India in September, Kuwait and Dubai in October and Kazakhstan in November 2012.
2. The Division also coordinated media coverage of Official Visits of Hon. Minister of External Affairs to Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, India, Cameroon and Congo in January; Jordan, Pakistan, Singapore, Switzerland, Uganda, Nigeria, Botswana in February; Saudi Arabia and Singapore in March; The Maldives and Korea in April; Egypt, The USA, Qatar, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Thailand and Singapore in May; Cuba, Brazil, UK, Italy and Hungary in June Vietnam in July; Iran, The UK and Bangladesh in August; and India and the USA in September.
3. The Division facilitated media coverage of 31 visits of official delegations to Sri Lanka from other countries.
4. The Division facilitated 159 visits of foreign media personnel for news coverage and 40 filming projects .The Division follows on the work carried out by visiting journalists for future reference.
5. The Division also coordinated appointments for visiting media personnel with VVIPs and government officials.
6. In the period under review the Division had organized 01 diplomatic briefing and issued 81 media releases on behalf of the Ministry. Transcript of the media briefing has also been provided to relevant Divisions and Missions.
7. In his capacity of the Ministry Spokesperson, the Director General of the Public Communications Division provides information and responds to queries from local and foreign media.

8. The Division monitors major local newspapers in all three languages and websites on a daily basis and compiles a daily report on coverage of Sri Lanka for Hon. Minister of External Affairs, Hon. Dy. Minister of External Affairs, Hon. Monitoring MP, Secretary/External Affairs and the Divisions, Sri Lanka Missions abroad and selected officials of line agencies.
9. When deemed necessary, the Division coordinated with relevant government organizations and institutions in Sri Lanka in providing information on current developments, progress on the implementation of the LLRC recommendations, post conflict activities, labour welfare, culture and tourism etc to Sri Lanka Missions to counter adverse propaganda.
10. The Division regularly updated Missions on events taking place in Sri Lanka and disseminated government statements/media release, so as to respond to queries on Sri Lanka.
11. The Division coordinated the dispatch of important publications from Sri Lanka to Missions abroad on a regular basis.
12. The Division prepared, special publications/reports and audio visual material for Deyata Kirula, National Day and Wesak. The Division also prepared special briefing papers to Parliament, report on the Ministry Budget, preparatory work/documents for CHOGM 2013 and Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in September 2012 related to media.
13. The Division coordinated the setting up of the Ministry of External Affairs exhibition stall at 'Deyata Kirula', from 4th to 10th February 2012 at Oyamaduwa, Anuradhapura
14. In line with the UN e-Government Development Index criteria, this Division revamped and launched the Ministry website on 18 July 2011 under the domain name www.mea.gov.lk. Trilingual information/data have been introduced and added to the Ministry web site and GIC (Government Information Centre -1919 services). The Ministry web page is updated on a daily basis with Ministry activities, including press releases and Mission activities.
15. The 2nd stage of the e-Governance initiative of ICTA has been completed and the Division continues to maintain the web page of the Ministry in the GIC website under ICTA domain. This Ministry is among the six Ministries that will be featured in 2013 e-Governance compilation.

16. The Division continues to maintain the Information Resource Base (IRB) as a depository for files on LTTE activity, APRC etc for easy reference. The Terrorism segment of the Information Resource Base (IRB) is regularly placed on-line, enabling researchers and other concerned parties to browse IRB material on-line.
17. In the Ministry's bid to strengthening communication links and information sharing with Missions abroad, the Division initiated a Document Management System (DMS), which is now in its final stage.
18. The Division also monitors country Travel Advisories and coordinates with Missions abroad on negative reporting with a view to amending such travel advisories through bilateral discussions with the host country.
19. The Division coordinates with line agencies and Sri Lanka Missions abroad in organizing film festivals, cultural events and tourism related activities.
20. The Division facilitates requests for Sinhala and Tamil translations of the Ministry.
21. On the approval of the Cabinet, the Division recruited two Communication officers and two Information Officers to the Division.
22. The Division is contemplating to Micro Film, sensitive and valuable records and archival documents for safe keeping for future reference, that are at present stacked in the Division for lack of storage space. In this regard, the service of a reputed company was obtained to assess the work load and provide a cost estimate. The quotation submitted is under consideration and once funds are made available the task could be completed.
23. The Division is in the process of establishing a Data Base of visiting journalists to Sri Lanka, which is expected to facilitate easy reference and reduce storage of files.

Legal Division

Legal Division

A general description of the core areas of the functions of the Legal Division

The Legal Division of the Ministry of External Affairs was established in 1967. The function of the Legal Division is to furnish legal advice on matters of International Law to the Minister through the Ministry's Secretary, to the other Divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs, to the Sri Lankan Missions abroad, to the Foreign Missions in Sri Lanka as well as to other Ministries.

Principal areas in which advice is given by the Division

The Legal Division provides advice on legal aspects of all policy decisions and particularly international issues arising from time to time, such as territorial claims and boundaries, recognition of treaty relations, diplomatic immunities and privileges etc.

The Legal Division also advises on matters of International Law to all other Ministries and Government Departments involved in foreign transactions covering a wide range of subjects such as Shipping, Civil Aviation, International Trade and Investment. Further, the Legal Division is also involved in convening, holding negotiations and finalizing treaties on Judicial Cooperation such as Extradition, Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal, Civil and Commercial matters, Avoidance of Double Taxation, Investment Protection and Promotion, Transfer of Prisoners, Readmission, Migration, Labour and Manpower and Law of the Sea.

Interpretation of Ministry Instruction Series relating to Sri Lanka Overseas Service, contracts and agreements entered into by Sri Lanka's Mission abroad, local recruitment of labour by our Missions, issues relating to Diplomatic and Consular Privileges and Immunities of Sri Lanka's Missions abroad as well as Foreign Mission in Sri Lanka are few of the areas in which the Division is consulted.

In all bilateral meetings of the Ministry of External Affairs, the Legal Division plays an important and active role and leads bilateral negotiations on the areas such as Investment Protection, re-admission etc.

Air Services

During the year, the Legal Division assisted in the bilateral Air Services negotiations with the following countries.

Japan

At the negotiations, the Parties agreed to increase number of flights up to 7 times immediately from Colombo-Narita and Narita – Colombo and thereafter from summer 2013 to increase up to an unlimited number of frequencies. Therefore Sri Lanka was granted unlimited frequencies to all other airports in Japan. They also granted Sri Lanka with fifth freedom traffic rights to operate through one intermediate point and one beyond point.

Indonesia

The existing Air Services Agreement was amended to suit the current requirements. Therefore, the capacity and frequencies of flights were increased from 6 to 14 times a week in a phased-out manner at the negotiations.

Investments Promotion

During the year, a reciprocal Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement was signed with the State of Qatar. Since major developments have taken place in this area of law, a decision was taken by the Ministry to redraft the model text of the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement used for negotiations. A committee consisting of officials from the Attorney General's Department, BOI, Ministries of Economic Development and External Affairs was formed under the chairmanship of the Legal Advisor for redrafting of the new model text. It was decided to consult Dr. Rohan Perera, former Legal Advisor in drafting the new text. The draft model text will be ready before 31st December 2012. Pending the finalization of the model text, negotiations with several countries have been postponed.

Double taxation

During the year, Sri Lanka has entered into Double Taxation Agreement with the State of Palestine. The Legal Division representative was present at all DT negotiations held during the year.

Readmission

During the year Sri Lanka has negotiated Readmission Agreement with the Russian Federation. The focal point at the Ministry for the National Coordinating Committee on Readmission (NCCR) is the Legal Division.

The Legal Division plays an active role in implementing Readmission Agreements such as European Readmission Agreement.

Maritime /Law of the Sea

The Legal Division has been actively participating in all maritime negotiations and has taken special interest with regard to Continental Shelf Submissions before the United Nations. The Legal Division participated at the State Parties Meeting of the Continental Shelf Commission and 30th Anniversary of Opening for signature of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea held in New York this year.

Currently, the Legal Division is engaged with the National Ocean Affairs Committee (NOAC) in finalizing Sri Lanka's oral submission to be made before the Commission in the year 2025.

During the year, the Legal Division also coordinated and the negotiations on the Admission of Warships to Sri Lankan Ports with the Russian Federation.

Commerce and Trade

This Division has been closely associated with the Department of Commerce in negotiating bilateral and multilateral agreements in the areas of commerce and trade. During the year, the Legal Division was involved in preparing the legal submissions needed to make an application for the GSP+ concession from the year 2014.

Judicial Cooperation and Extradition

During the year, a number of agreements were negotiated and finalized for effective implementation of judicial cooperation and extradition. These negotiations are carried out with the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's Department. All applications for Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance are channeled through the Legal Division of the Ministry.

In addition, Service of Summons abroad and Service of Foreign Summons in Sri Lanka are channeled through and monitored by the Legal Division with the assistance of the Ministry of Justice.

United Nations

The Legal Division being a Member of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions 1267 & 1373 took steps to gazette the respective Regulations for implementation during the year. It also initiated the amendments to the Convention on Suppression of Terrorist Financing Act in order to comply with the requirement of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The Preparation of Briefs stating the Country Position for the 6th Committee of the UNGA for the 68th UNGA Session was a task of the Legal Division.

National IHL Committee

The Legal Division of the Ministry is the focal point for the implementation of IHL activities through other Ministries. The 12th South Asian Teaching Session (SATS) on Humanitarian Law Programme for the first time was held in Colombo by ICRC with the assistance of the Legal Division, which enable large number of officials to participate. This being a regional training programme, there were participants from the SAARC Countries as well.

Depositing of Treaties

The Legal Division being the Depository of all Treaties signed by the Government of Sri Lanka maintains an up to date electronic data base of the treaties. During this year, it was decided to handover the originals of all treaties signed by the Government of Sri Lanka up to 1986 to the Department of National Archives for safe keeping after making an electronic copy for reference.

Following is the list of Agreements that Sri Lanka has entered during the year with other Countries and Agencies which was facilitated by the Legal Division.

Attachment: The list of Agreements that Sri Lanka has entered during the year with other Countries and Agencies.

Place of Signature	Date of signature	Parties	Title	Category	Organization	Other State Party
Colombo	15-Jan-12	BILATERAL	MOU Concerning Investment Cooperation between the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka and Qatar Holding LLC	Investment Cooperation		Qatar
Colombo	15-Jan-12	BILATERAL	Air Services Agreement between the State of Qatar and Sri Lanka	Aviation		Qatar
Colombo	15-Jan-12	BILATERAL	Agreement of Cooperation in the Field of Cultural bet. Government of DSR of Sri Lanka and the Government of State of Qatar	Culture		Qatar
Colombo	15-Jan-12	BILATERAL	Agreement on Economic, Commercial and Technical Cooperation bet. The Government of DSR of Sri Lanka and the Government of State of Qatar	Economic, Commercial and Technical		Qatar
Colombo	15-Jan-12	BILATERAL	MOU for Cooperation in Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research bet. Sri Lanka and Qatar	Education		Qatar
Colombo	15-Jan-12	BILATERAL	MOU on the Establishment of a High Joint Committee betw. Government of the DSR of Sri Lanka and Government of the State of Qatar	High Joint Committee		Qatar
Colombo	15-Jan-12	BILATERAL	Agreement for Cooperation in the Legal Field bet. The Government of DSR of Sri Lanka and the Government of State of Qatar	Legal Field		Qatar
Colombo	15-Jan-12	BILATERAL	MOU Concerning Real Estate Investment Cooperation between BOI of Sri Lanka and Qatari Real Estate Investment Company	Real Estate Investment		Qatar
Colombo	15-Jan-12	BILATERAL	MOU on Tourism Co-operation between the Government of the DSR of Sri Lanka and the Government of the State of Qatar	Tourism		Qatar
Colombo	17-Jan-12	BILATERAL	MOU between Government of DSR of Sri Lanka and the Government of	Agriculture		India

Place of Signature	Date of signature	Parties	Title	Category	Organization	Other State Party
			the Republic of India on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture			
Colombo	17-Jan-12	BILATERAL	MOU between the Government of the DSR of and Government of India for implementation of Indian grant assistance for 49,000 housing units in Northern, Eastern, Central and Uva Provinces of Sri Lanka	Economic Development	Housing Project	India
Colombo	17-Jan-12	BILATERAL	MOU between the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, Sri Lanka (TRCSL) and The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)	Telecommunication		India
NewYork	19-Jan-12	BILATERAL	Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Republic of Mali	Diplomatic Relations		Mali
Colombo	26-Jan-12	BILATERAL	MOU bet. The Government of the DSR of SL and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on Cultural Cooperation	Cultural Cooperation		Indonesia
Colombo	26-Jan-12	BILATERAL	MOU bet. The Ministry of External Affairs of the DSR of SL and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia on Diplomatic Education and training	Education (Diplomatic Education Training)		Indonesia
Colombo	26-Jan-12	BILATERAL	Agreed Minutes of the First Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation bet. The Government of the DSR of SL and the Republic of Indonesia	Joint Commission		Indonesia
Brazzaville	01-Feb-12	BILATERAL	Agreement on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Republic of Congo	Diplomatic Relations		Congo

Place of Signature	Date of signature	Parties	Title	Category	Organization	Other State Party
Islamabad	11-Feb-12	BILATERAL	MOU bet. The Government of the DSR of SL and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on a Credit Line up to a sum of US\$ 200 Million	Credit line		Pakistan
Pakistan	11-Feb-12	BILATERAL	MOU between National Vocational and Technical Training Commission and Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission of Sri Lanka	Education		Pakistan
Islamabad	11-Feb-12	BILATERAL	MOU for Cooperation in the Field of Media bet. The Ministry of Mass Media and Information of the DSR of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan	Media		Pakistan
Singapore	15-Feb-12	BILATERAL	MOU bet. The Board of Investment of SL the Government Investment Promotion Agency (Established under the BOI Law No. 4 of 1978 of SL) and the Singapore Business federation (Established under the Singapore Business Federation Act, 2001	BOI		Singapore
Moscow	26-Mar-12	BILATERAL	Air Services Agreement bet. SL and the Government of the Russian Federation	Aviation		Russian Federation
Colombo	16-Apr-12	BILATERAL	Agreement bet. SL and the State of Palestine for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect of taxes on Income	Avoidance of Double Taxation		Palestine
Colombo	16-Apr-12	BILATREAL	Protocol on Political Consultation bet. SL and the State of Palestine	Political Consultations		Palestine
Seoul	24-Apr-12	BILATERAL	MOU to Promote Economic Development bet. the Ministry of Power and Energy of the DSR of SL and the Ministry of Knowledge Economy of the Republic of Korea for an Electric Power Partnership	Power and Energy		Republic of Korea

Place of Signature	Date of signature	Parties	Title	Category	Organization	Other State Party
Seoul	24-Apr-12	BILATERAL	MOU bet. the Ministry of Finance and Planning of the DSR of SL and the Ministry of Strategy & Finance of the Republic of Korea on the Economic Development Cooperation Fund	Economic Development Co. Fund		Republic of Korea
Seoul	24-Apr-12	BILATERAL	MOU bet. the Ministry of Telecommunication and information Technology (MOTIT) of the DSR of SL and the Ministry of Public Administration and Security (MOPAS) of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in the Area of Informatization	Informatization		Republic of Korea
Colombo	03-May-12	BILATERAL	Agreement bet. Government of DSR of Sri Lanka and the Government of Australia relating to Air Services	Aviation		Australia
Kuwait	10-May-12	BILATERAL	MOU on Field of Labour, Recruitment and development of Manpower bt. The Government of DSR of SL and the Government of the State of Kuwait	Labour		Kuwait
Doha	22-May-12	BILATERAL	Agt. Bet. the DSR of SL and the Government of the State of Qatar for the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments	Investment Promotion and Protection		Qatar
Astana	24-May-12	BILATERAL	MOU on Bilateral Consultations bet. the Ministry of External Affairs of the DSR of SL & the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Bilateral Consultations		Kazakhstan
Bangkok	30-May-12	BILATERAL	Instruments of Ratification for the Treaty between Government of the DSR of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	Mutual Legal Assistance in CM		Thailand
Bangkok	30-May-12	BILATERAL	MOU bet. the Ministry of External Affairs of the DSR of SL and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the	Political Consultation		Thailand

Place of Signature	Date of signature	Parties	Title	Category	Organization	Other State Party
			Kingdom of Thailand on Bilateral Political Consultations			
Beijing	04-Jun-12	BILATERAL	MOU bet. the Government of the DSR of Sri Lanka and the Government of the PR of China on the Establishment of a China Cultural Center in Sri Lanka	Cultural Center		People's Republic of China
Rome	07-Jun-12	BILATERAL	Agreement between the DSR of Sri Lanka and the Republic of San Marino on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations	Diplomatic Relations		San Marino
Budapest	11-Jun-12	BILATERAL	MOU on Consultations and Cooperation bet. Sri Lanka and Hungary	Consultations and Cooperation		Hungary
Havana	18-Jun-12	BILATERAL	MOU between the Ministry of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development of the DSR of SL & the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Cuba on Cooperation in the Development of Coconut Industry	Coconut		Cuba
Colombo	26-Jun-12	BILATERAL	Agreement between the Government of DSR of SL and the Government of the Republic of Chile on Exemption from the Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic and Official/Service Passports	Visa		Chile
Hanoi	17-Jul-12	BILATERAL	Air Services Agreement between Sri Lanka and Vietnam	Aviation		Vietnam
Hanoi	17-Jul-12	BILATERAL	Agreed Minutes of the Third Meeting of Sri Lanka and Vietnam Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation	Joint Comm. On Eco. Sci. and tech. Cooperation		Vietnam
Colombo	10-Aug-12	BILATERAL	MOU bet. the LKIIRSS of Sri Lanka and the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PIMS), Republic of Poland			Poland

Place of Signature	Date of signature	Parties	Title	Category	Organization	Other State Party
Colombo	14-Aug-12	BILATERAL	Agreement on Economic, Commercial and Technical Cooperation bet. the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland	Economic, Commercial & Technical Cop.		Swaziland
Colombo	21-Aug-12	BILATERAL	MOU on Education and Training bet. the Ministry of Education of the DSR of SL and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Seychelles	Education & Training		Seychelles
Colombo	21-Aug-12	BILATERAL	MOU bet. the Ministry of Health of the DSR of SL and the Ministry of Health of the R of Seychelles on Cooperation in the Field of Health	Health		Seychelles
Colombo	21-Aug-12	BILATERAL	MOU on Labour Cooperation on Legal Affairs bet. the GoSL and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles	Labour		Seychelles
Colombo	21-Aug-12	BILATERAL	Agreement bet. the Government DSR of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles concerning the Employment of Sri Lankan Manpower in the Republic of Seychelles	Labour/Manpower		Seychelles
Rio de Janeiro	09-Apr-12	BILATERAL	MOU between the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and Foreign Trade Chambers Federation Rio de Janeiro – Brazil	Trade		Brazil
Colombo	17-Sep-12	BILATERAL	MOU bet. the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development in the DSR of SL and the State Oceanic Administration of the PR of China on Coastal & Marine Cooperation	Coastal & Marine Cooperation		People's Republic of China
Colombo	17-Sep-12	BILATERAL	MOU bet. Ministry of Transport (MOT) Sri Lanka Railway (SLR) Sri Lanka and Dongfang Electric International Corporation (DEC) People's Republic of China on the Project for Railway Electrification from Veyangoda to Kalutar South (PROJECT)	Railway		People's Republic of China

Place of Signature	Date of signature	Parties	Title	Category	Organization	Other State Party
Colombo	17-Sep-12	BILATERAL	Agreement between the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Government of the people's Republic of china on Mutual Visa Extention for Holders of Diplomatic, Service or Official Passports and Passports for Public Affairs	Visa		People's Republic of China
Brussels	27-Sep-12	MULTILATERAL	Agreement bet. the Government of the DSR of Sri Lanka and the European Union on Certain Aspects of Air Services	Aviation		Brussels
New York	28-Sep-12	BILATERAL	Agreement between the Republic of Seychelles and the DSR of Sri Lanka on the Short-Stay Visa Waiver	Visa		Seychelles
Brussels	01-Oct-12	MULTILATERAL	Agreement between the European Union and Sri Lanka on certain Aspects of Air Services	Air Services	European Union	
Colombo	31-Oct-12	BILATERAL	Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Consulations between the Ministry of External Affairs of the DSR of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman	Bilateral Consulations		Oman
Colombo	13-Nov-12	BILATERAL	Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Culture between Sri Lanka and Uganda	Culture		Uganda
Colombo	13-Nov-12	BILATERAL	Agreement on Economic, Commercial and Technical Cooperation Bet. SL and Uganda	Economic, Commercial and Technical Cooperation		Uganda
Colombo	13-Nov-12	BILATERAL	MOU Between Sri Lanka and Uganda on Bilateral Political Consulations	Political Consulations		Uganda
Colombo	13-Nov-12	BILATERAL	MOU on Tourism Cooperation between Sri Lanka and Uganda	Tourism Cooperation		Uganda
New Delhi	15-Nov-12	BILATERAL	Agreement on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between	Diplomatic Relations		Burkina Faso

Place of Signature	Date of signature	Parties	Title	Category	Organization	Other State Party
			Burkina Faso and Sri Lanka			
New York	16-Nov-12	BILATERAL	Joint Communique on the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Sri Lanka and Suriname	Diplomatic Relations		Suriname
Astana	20-Nov-12	BILATERAL	Agreement Between Sri Lanka and Kazakhstan On Cooperation in the Field of Tourism	Tourism		Kazakhstan
Colombo	10-Dec-12	BILATERAL	Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of diplomatic Relations Between the Government of the Republic of El Salvador	Joint Communiqué		El Salvador
New York	14-Dec-12	BILATERAL	Joint Communiqué on the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Sri Lanka and Haiti	Diplomatic Relations		Haiti
New York	19-Dec-12	BILATERAL	Joint Communiqué on the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Sri Lanka and Grenada	Diplomatic Relations		Grenada
New York	21-Dec-12	BILATERAL	Joint Communiqué on the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Sri Lanka and Mauritania	Diplomatic Relations		Mauritania

Overseas Administration Division

Overseas Administration Division

Overseas Administration Division (OAD) is responsible for the regular management of the 64 Sri Lanka Missions overseas in supervision of administrative functions and personnel of the Missions, conducting of the open competitive examination for recruitment to the Sri Lanka Foreign Service and recruiting Public Management Assistants and Personal Assistants (PA) to serve in Missions abroad and opening of new Missions.

Recruitment to the Sri Lanka Foreign Service

- A new batch of 14 officers were recruited to the Sri Lanka Foreign Service Grade III in January 2012 following the examination held in 2011. They were provided with extensive training and familiarization opportunities through a number of programs, and currently has been attached to the Divisions in the Ministry.
- The Examination for the recruitment of SLFS Grade III officers was held in May-June 2012 by the Commissioner General Department of Examinations. Upon the results of the above written examination, interviews were held on 07th – 9th March 2013 for 64 candidates who got through examination.
- In consultation with the Examinations Department, the Efficiency Bar Examination 2011 was held in February and March 2012 and the results were dispatched to the applicants. Arrangements have been made to hold the next Efficiency Bar Examination in 2013.

Appointing new Heads of Mission

Fourteen (14) Heads of Mission were appointed during the year 2012. These Heads of Mission-designate were provided with comprehensive training and familiarization opportunities through a number of programs conducted in collaboration with the line Ministries, government institutions and the private sector organizations.

Transfer of SLFS officers

Nineteen (19) officers of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service were transferred from the Ministry to Missions abroad and vice versa. During this period, ten (10) other officers of diplomatic rank were appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers to serve in Missions abroad on contractual basis. The Overseas Administration Division facilitated the officers with logistical arrangements in the Missions.

Selections and Transfer of the Officers of Public Management Assistants' Service (PMAS) and Personal Assistants (PAs)

- Forty Nine (49) PMAS officers selected from the open Competitive Examination held in January 2011, were appointed to Sri Lanka Missions abroad.
- Competitive Examination for filling vacancies in the Home Based Management Assistants' Service Cadre in Sri Lanka Missions abroad – 2012 was conducted on 17 and 18 of November 2012 by the Department of Examinations and 50 candidates were selected through the process.
- The interviews for the selected 50 PMAS candidates were held on 19 March 2013 by the Ministry and the seek assignments are being processed.
- Twenty Two (22) Personal Assistants (PAs) were selected and appointed for the vacancies in Missions abroad following the Limited Competitive Examination held in 2012.
- Thirty Four (34) persons were recruited to the various Missions abroad on Home Recruited Contractual basis (HRC).

Scholarships/training facilities for SLFS officers:

The Overseas Administration Division has facilitated 16 SLFS officers to undertake training programs/workshops held in countries including Australia, Israel, Malaysia, India, Bangladesh, the United States, Belgium, Thailand, Germany, China, Nepal, South Korea and Malta. These programs were designed to cover several areas ranging from bilateral & multilateral diplomacy, international law, human rights and security studies and international trade and negotiations with the purpose of enhancing career development of diplomatic officers.

Further, two (02) officers have been selected for post-graduate studies under the Australian Development Aid Programme and they will be pursuing their studies in renowned universities such as Australian National University and Monash University. Also, one officer (01) has been awarded with Lee Kuan Yew Fellowship for Master in Public Management (MPA) to be followed in Singapore.

Opening of new Diplomatic Missions

The following new Missions were opened during the year 2012.

- Embassy of Sri Lanka/Ankara/Turkey
- Consulate General of Sri Lanka/Guangzhou – China
- Embassy of Sri Lanka/ Baghdad/ Iraq (reopened on 07/02/2012)

The Division also has initiated action to open the under mentioned Missions:

- Embassy of Sri Lanka/Abuja, Nigeria
- Embassy Sri Lanka/Manama, Bahrain
- Consulate General of Sri Lanka Office/Melbourne, Australia
- Consulate General of Sri Lanka/Milan, Italy
- Consulate General of Sri Lanka/Dammam, KSA

Purchase and construction of buildings for Sri Lanka Missions Abroad

Action has been initiated for the construction of the buildings and to purchase the properties at the following stations and the progress is as follows:

- Construction of the Chancery and the Residence of the Deputy High Commission in Chennai, India (completed).
- Construction of Sri Lanka High Commissioner's Residence in London (in progress).
- Construction of the Chancery for the Sri Lanka High Commission in Canberra, Australia (completed).
- Construction of the minor employee's quarters of the High Commission in New Delhi, India (completed).
- Purchase of a property for Permanent Mission in New York (completed).
- Action has been taken to purchase properties for the Missions in Oman and Washington D.C.
- Approval of the Cabinet has been granted to reach a rent purchase agreement between the Ministry of External Affairs and SLBFE at an annual rental of Rs.25,497,600/- (RO 76,800) for 20 years. However, Ministry of External affairs will pay only Rs.15,298,560/- (RO 46,080) annually to SLBFE under the rent purchase agreement with the balance Rs.10,199,040/- (RO 30,720/-) deemed to be the share of SLBFE for using the premises.

Rehabilitation of Buildings and Acquisition of Capital Assets

Rehabilitation and refurbishment works in many Missions has been performed.

Purchase of Vehicles for Missions – twenty three (23) Missions were provided with new vehicles and two (2) Missions were provided vehicles on leased basis – Washington D.C. (1) and New York (1).

Functions of the Travel Unit

The Travel Unit assisted a large number of Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and Members of the Parliament, other political representatives and government officials when they were undertaking official travels abroad. This unit also has assisted Sri Lankan delegations participating at conferences and meetings of the UN, SAARC, IORARC, BIMSTEC, CHOGM and other international organizations.

General Administration Division

- The General Administration Division (GAD) is responsible for matters relating to Human Resource Management, Parliamentary Questions and Cabinet Memoranda, provision of logistics, maintenance of buildings and equipment, procurement, transport, communication facilities and training and all other interconnected activities of the Ministry.
- With respect to Human Resource Management, the GAD facilitated obtaining staff required for the Ministry and providing training opportunities for staff members of different categories in order to develop their skills during the year. Action was taken to create 50 posts of Development Officers to facilitate the recruitment of graduates for the Ministry due to the existing shortage of staff. Significant progress was made with regard to the preparation of Schemes of Recruitment as per Public Administration Circular 06/2006. The GAD also facilitated reviewing and finalizing the cadre of the Ministry in consultation with the National Salaries and Cadre Commission and the Department of Management Services.
- During 2012, the GAD has facilitated the completion of major construction work of the Republic Building premises to the Ministry, which involved the preservation of the outer walls and construction of new rest/wash rooms, renovation of the official residence of the Hon. Minister, repairing the reception area, replacement of the red carpets and other related work at a total cost of approximately Rs. 38 million.
- Apart from the facilitation of the regular Ministry requirements, the GAD has made a significant contribution to the establishment of the Task Force Secretariat for Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2013 by procurement of related services and equipments. The Ministry participation in the Deyata Kirula Exhibition 2012 held at Anuradhapura depicting the achievements of the Ministry was another main project facilitated by the GAD.
- Provision of transport and other related logistics for Credentials Ceremonies of Foreign Ambassadors and High Commissioners-designate, State Visits and visits by VVIPs and other foreign delegations has also been facilitated by the GAD. During 2012, it has facilitated 05 Credentials Ceremonies and 101 visits including 15 State visits and international conferences held in Sri Lanka.
- The GAD negotiated with the General Treasury for the replenishment of the vehicle fleet of the Ministry and was able to obtain 22 vehicles during this period, while disposing 11 used vehicles by which nearly Rs.7 million has been credited to the government revenue.
- The GAD has also attended to submission of 60 Cabinet Memoranda and answers to 10 Parliamentary Questions during the year 2012.

Finance Division

The Finance Division is entrusted with the responsibilities of providing auxiliary services for the management and financial planning of development activities of the Ministry. It also maintains the set of accounts related to financial transactions of the Ministry and Overseas Missions, which are reported to the General Treasury.

Functions

- Assist the Secretary of the Ministry who is Chief Accounting Officer to fulfill the necessary financial obligations.
- Ensure that the government financial rules and regulations are followed
- Undertake financial planning and budgeting
- Establish and maintain accounting systems including cash management
- Ensure timely and accurate financial reporting
- Co-ordinate with the Treasury and other agencies under the Ministry and Divisions of the Ministry to prepare/update/review and finalize financial reports and budgetary requirements

For the financial year 2012 budgetary provisions have been allocated for the Ministry as follows

(1). Expenditure against provisions of the year 2012

a. Recurrent

Description	Total Provision Rs.	Total Expenditure as Rs.	Percentage of Expenditure on provision
Personal Emoluments	4,119,298,620	4,105,974,257	100
Other Recurrent Expenditure	3,210,796,330	3,199,425,865	100
Total	7,330,094,950	7,305,400,122	100

b. Capital

Object Code	Description	Total Provisions Rs.	Total Expenditure as at 31.12.2012 Rs.	Percentage of Expenditure on provisions
Rehabilitation and Improvements of Capital Assets				
2001	Buildings and Structures	111,200,000	70,232,650	63
2002	Plant, Machinery & Equipment	6,000,000	2,646,850	44
2003	Vehicles	21,361,200	20,134,080	94
Acquisition of Capital Assets				
2101	Vehicles	127,963,900	120,371,928	94
2102	Furniture & Office Equipment	90,402,255	83,950,301	93
2103	Plant, Machinery & Equipment	18,597,745	13,596,178	73
2104	Buildings & Structures	825,000,000	680,668,807	83
Human Resource Development				
2401	Knowledge Enhancement & Institutional Development	4,000,000	3,820,250	96
Other Capital Expenditure				
2502	Investments (Facilitating in Promotion of External Trade & Tourism)	-	-	-
	Total	1,204,525,100	995,421,044	83

(2). Actual against Prescribed Limits in case of Advance Account

Description	Maximum Debit	Minimum Credit	Maximum Credit Balance
Prescribed Limit	21,000,000	18,000,000	110,000,000
Actual Amount up to 31.12.2012 – 1120011	17,878,927	24,715,933	94,760,576
Actual Amount up to 31.12.2012 – 1120012	8,098,294	8,907,940	

Network of Diplomatic Missions Abroad



New Missions Will be opened in 2013

1. Melbourne – Australia
2. Abuja - Nigeria
3. Manama - Bahrain
4. Kampala - Uganda

ORGANIZATION CHART

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



