

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2013

**MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
SRI LANKA**

Contents

	Page No.
Mission Statement	I
Mahinda Chinthana – Vision for the Future	II
Preface	III - V
Progress Reports of Divisions	
South Asia and SAARC Division	1-13
East Asia and Pacific Division	14-23
Middle East Division	24-28
Africa Division	29-35
West Division	36-41
United Nations, Multilateral Affairs, Human Rights and Conferences Division	42-47
Economic Affairs Division	48-52
Protocol Division	53-59
Consular Affairs Division	60-65
Public Communications Division	66-71
Legal Division	72-75
Overseas Administration Division	76-78
General Administration Division	79-80
Finance Division	81-84
Network of Diplomatic Missions Abroad	85
Organization Chart of the Ministry	86

Mission

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

The foreign policy of Sri Lanka has been carefully formulated to promote the country's political, economic, social and cultural interests abroad as well as to protect her national integrity, sovereignty and identity. The Ministry of External Affairs is the institution tasked with Sri Lanka's foreign policy formulation process and implementation since independence, and the year 2013 was no exception.

With the Ministry of External Affairs at the helm of the foreign policy making process, the Government of Sri Lanka made impressive progress in this sphere during the current reporting year. Most prominently, under the guidance of His Excellency the President and the Honourable Minister of External Affairs and with the collaboration of many public and private sector institutions, this Ministry played the leading role in organizing the twenty second Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM 2013) in Sri Lanka. It was widely acknowledged as an outstanding event held in Sri Lanka. The successful conclusion of the Summit with unprecedented grandeur, and the assumption of the chair of the organization by His Excellency the President amidst much negative lobbying, has put Sri Lanka decidedly on the world map in diplomatic and political terms.

During 2013, the Ministry together with all Sri Lanka Missions and Posts abroad, has vigorously pursued the renewed economic thrust of Sri Lanka's foreign policy, in keeping with the policy framework stipulated in *Mahinda Chinthana: Vision for the Future*. The Ministry and Sri Lanka Missions abroad would continue to work with both government and private sector institutions for the promotion of economic interests of Sri Lanka for a prosperous and a brighter future for the people.

During the period under review, Sri Lanka also strengthened bilateral ties with many foreign states and continued to play an active role in multilateral fora. The fruitful visits undertaken by His Excellency the President to Japan, Uganda, China, Tanzania, Seychelles, Belarus and the United Nations in New York during this year and the interactions with his counterparts have been instrumental in further strengthening Sri Lanka's bilateral and multilateral relations. In addition, the visits undertaken by the Honourable Minister of External Affairs, the Honourable Deputy Minister of External Affairs and the Honourable Monitoring Member of Parliament and their interactions with counterparts and key officials played a significant role in boosting Sri Lanka's image in the international arena and further strengthening relations with states. The Ministry of External Affairs contributed to these endeavours and has been assisting in achieving Sri Lanka's foreign policy objectives.

The Ministry of External Affairs also facilitated a large number of visits to Sri Lanka in 2013 by foreign dignitaries including at the Head of State and Government levels. These visits paved the way for greater cooperation between Sri Lanka and the international community, thereby immensely benefiting the people of Sri Lanka.

The Ministry made tremendous progress in finalizing many bilateral and multilateral agreements in the sectors of diplomacy, civil aviation, investment promotion, avoidance of double taxation, maritime security, commerce and trade, judicial cooperation etc. during this year. The Ministry also facilitated Sri Lanka's active participation in a number of international meetings, under the guidance of the Honourable Minister of External Affairs, which demonstrated Sri Lanka's role at the global level and strengthened her relations with the community of nations.

With a view to strengthening bilateral relations through effective diplomacy, the Ministry, under the guidance of His Excellency the President and with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers opened new resident diplomatic Missions in Kampala (Uganda), Abuja (Nigeria), Manama(Bahrain) and Victoria(Seychelles) and a Consulate General in Melbourne(Australia) during 2013. Preparations are underway to open a new resident Mission in Kabul (Afghanistan).

The year under review also saw the Ministry continuing its campaign against the disinformation, distortion of facts and false propaganda carried out internationally by the pro-LTTE Diaspora elements.

The Ministry continued to look after the interests of Sri Lankan nationals residing and working overseas, through its respective Missions abroad. On the part of the Ministry, it endeavoured to provide an efficient and speedy service to the general public through the Consular Affairs Division, the public portal of the Ministry, which is open to the public from 6.00 a.m. on working days. Furthermore, the Ministry assisted a large number of Sri Lankan expatriate workers to obtain compensation and other benefits from the respective countries throughout the year. Adequate resources have been provided to the Consular Affairs Division to provide a prompt and courteous service to the general public.

Last year, the Ministry took action to renovate and construct chanceries and official residences of several Sri Lanka Missions abroad. The Ministry also purchased the chancery buildings of Sri Lanka Missions in Washington D.C., New York and Oman, thereby saving a considerable amount of foreign exchange which was being incurred as rent.

Taking into consideration the importance of strengthening the human resources capacity of the Ministry in order to practice professional diplomacy as well as to provide an efficient service to Sri Lankans both abroad and in Sri Lanka, the Ministry recruited a batch of 25 officers to the Sri Lanka Foreign Service in August 2013 following an Open Competitive Examination. In addition, officers of the Ministry were provided with foreign training opportunities including at the level of post-graduate studies.

With the policy directives enunciated by His Excellency the President, the Honourable Minister of External Affairs and the Ministry are well positioned to face any foreign policy challenge faced by Sri Lanka by working out solutions on a practical and pragmatic basis. The Ministry, as always, is committed with professionalism to do so in order to safeguard and protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and for the wellbeing of its people.

Ministry of External Affairs
Republic Building
Colombo-01

28 May 2014

South Asia & SAARC Division

South Asia Division

Countries covered:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, The Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan

- No. of Resident Missions/Posts : 05 – High Commissions/Embassies: Bangladesh, India, The Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan
03 – Deputy High Commission/Consulates General: India (Chennai, Mumbai) and Pakistan (Karachi)
- No. of Concurrent Accreditations : 02 - Afghanistan and Bhutan from New Delhi

The South Asia Division:

- Continues to monitor major political and economic developments with a view to providing assessment on their implications to Sri Lanka's domestic and foreign policy, in coordination with Sri Lanka Missions in the South Asian region.
- Maintains a healthy, effective working relationship with all South Asian Missions based in Colombo.
- Co-ordinates official visits of His Excellency the President, the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Minister of External Affairs, other Hon. Ministers, Members of Parliament and senior officials.
- Co-ordinates local arrangements for visits of foreign dignitaries to Sri Lanka from the region.
- Arranges for convening of sessions for bilateral structured dialogues including Joint Commissions, Foreign Secretaries Consultations, Joint Working Groups which encompass all aspects of bilateral cooperation with respective countries.
- Follows-up and coordinates activities covering political, educational, scientific and cultural spheres.
- Co-ordinates the finalization of political, science and technology, trade and investment, education, cultural, agriculture and fisheries agreements.
- Processes monthly Political Reports from Missions abroad and transmits such information to relevant authorities.
- Preparation of briefs, speeches/speaking notes for discussions for visits and conferences pertaining to the region.
- Co-ordinates matters related to bilateral free trade agreements and special economic initiatives.
- Assists other Ministries in organizing meetings/conferences which have a regional focus.
- Co-ordinates matters relating to transfer of prisoners with other South Asian countries.

Bilateral Relations

Afghanistan

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan established its resident mission in Colombo on 29 October 2013. Sri Lanka will open its Embassy in Kabul in June 2014.

Bangladesh

Official visits (Inward)

- Mr. M. Shahidul Haque, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a delegation attended the Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) on 21st April 2013. The outcome of the FOC included the key decision to establish the Joint Working Group on Trade and Shipping and Connectivity.
- Hon Abul Maal A. Muhith, Minister of Finance who attended the 6th Meeting of the SAARC Finance Ministers from 29th to 30th August 2013 visited the Hambantota Sea Port and the Mattala Airport during the visit. Discussions are underway to link the Hambantota and Colombo Ports with the Chittagong Port particularly for transshipment.
- An eight-member delegation headed by Hon Abdul Latif, Minister of Textiles and Jute of Bangladesh visited from 21th to 23th June 2013. Discussions were held on developing jute production in Sri Lanka.
- Prof (Dr.) Syed Modasser Ali, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh visited Sri Lanka from 28th to 29th June 2013 to present his candidature for the post of Director of the South East Asian Regional Office of the World Health Organization–SEARO, to the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka.
- Three election observers from Bangladesh visited Sri Lanka for the Central, the North Western and the Northern Provincial Council elections held in September 2013.
- The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November 2013. During the visit, a bilateral meeting was held with His Excellency the President.

Official visits (Outward)

- Hon. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs visited Bangladesh from 13th to 14th February 2013 and held bilateral discussions with Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister and Dr. Dipu Moni, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh on matters related to the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG), Bangladesh being the Chair of the CMAG.
- Hon. A.H.M. Fowzie, Senior Minister for Urban Affairs visited Dhaka to represent the Government of Sri Lanka at the State Funeral of His Excellency Zillur Rahman, President of Bangladesh from 21st March to 23rd March 2013.
- Hon. Neomal Perera, Deputy Minister of External Affairs, visited Dhaka from 12th to 13th March 2013 to attend the 'Global Leadership Meeting on Population Dynamics in the context of the Post: 2015 UN Development Agenda'.

- Hon. Tissa Vitharana, Senior Minister for Scientific Affairs visited Bangladesh as the Guest of Honour of the International Conference on Biotechnology in Dhaka held on 25th and 26th May 2013.
- Hon. Maithripala Sirisena, Minister of Health, visited Dhaka from 08th to 11th April 2013 to explore the possibility of importing pharmaceuticals from Bangladesh on government to government basis. An MoU to import pharmaceuticals from Bangladesh is being negotiated by the two governments.
- Hon. Tissa Karalliyadda, Minister of Child Development & Women's Affairs, visited Dhaka from 17th to 19th June to participate at the 10th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting.

Scholarships

- Following successful discussions, Bangladesh offered 7 medical and dental scholarships to Sri Lanka whilst several training opportunities for defence forces personnel have been offered by Bangladeshi military establishments.
- Sri Lanka offered 2 scholarships for Bangladeshi nationals at the Kotalawela Defence University and 01 at the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology, in addition to the placements under 100 Sri Lanka scholarships offered by the Ministry of Higher Education.

Cultural Relations

- Chief Prelates of the Malwatta and Asgiriya Chapters of the Siyam Maha Nikaya and the Governor of Central Province donated LKR 1.7 million for reconstruction and rehabilitation of temples in Ramu and Chittagong areas, Bangladesh, which were affected during the violence against Buddhist temples and community in September 2012.

Bhutan

Official visits (Inward)

- Ms. Lhaden Pema, Chief Planning Officer, Policy Planning Division of the Ministry of Works and Human Settlements of Bhutan visited Sri Lanka to participate at the 2nd International Water Cooperation Conference, organized by the Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage in Anuradhapura from 15th to 19th August, 2013.

Official visits (Outward)

- Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka visited Bhutan from 22nd to 29th September 2013 on the invitation of the Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan. The visit is significant in the context of Bhutan's transition from a monarchy to a constitutional form of governance with a positive role of the King.

Scholarships

- Nine scholarships were offered to Bhutanese students in Sri Lankan Universities as education remains an important element of the bilateral engagement.

India

Official Visits (Inward)

- A six-member high level delegation of the India Foundation including members of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) undertook a visit to Sri Lanka from 4th to 9th June 2013 as a part of Track II Initiative with India. This Track II level interaction and engagement at the political level is considered as an important strategic initiative.
- Mr. S. R. Rao, Commerce Secretary of the Government of India visited Sri Lanka from 24th to 25th June 2013 for official discussions on trade, investment and commerce. A Joint Communiqué adopted at the conclusion of the visit outlined the present status of bilateral economic cooperation.
- Indian National Security Advisor Mr. Shiv Shankar Menon led the Indian delegation at the Trilateral Meeting of the National Security Advisors on Cooperation between the Maldives, Sri Lanka and India on Maritime Security from 8th to 9th July 2013. An outcome document highlighting the decisions taken at the meeting was signed at the Third Trilateral Meeting.
- Hon. (Prof.) Prasan Kumar Patasani, Member of Lok Sabha from Odisha and three other delegates participated at the International Conference on Water Cooperation for Community Development held on 16th to 18th August 2013 in Anuradhapura.
- Ms. Zohra Chatterji, Secretary/Ministry of Textiles of India visited Sri Lanka to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Development of SMEs in Handloom, Power-loom and Textiles on 9 September 2013.
- A 17-member delegation from the National Defence College of India undertook a strategic neighbourhood tour to Sri Lanka from 8th to 12th September 2013.
- A senior official level delegation undertook a visit to Sri Lanka to negotiate terms for a revised Bilateral Air Services Agreement between India and Sri Lanka from 12th to 13th September 2013 and a revised model was initialled by the two civil aviation authorities.
- The Minister of External Affairs of India, Hon. Salman Khurshid undertook a two-day official visit to Sri Lanka from 7th to 8th October 2013. Several MOUs related to the Trincomalee Coal Power Project and MoU for Technical Assistance in support of the 10-year National Plan for a Trilingual Sri Lanka were signed during the visit.

Official visits (Outward)

- Hon. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs and a delegation visited India for the Eighth India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission held on 22 January 2013. Prof. Peiris called on His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister during the visit. The Agreement on Combating International Terrorism and Illicit Drug Trafficking and the revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement were signed during the visit.
- Hon. Basil Rajapaksa, Minister of Economic Development, visited New Delhi on 5 July 2013 and held discussions with high officials.
- Hon. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs undertook a visit to India on 19 August 2013 to hand over a letter of invitation to His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, from President His

Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2013.

Cultural Relations

- Under the Indo-Sri Lankan Cultural Exchange Programme, Sri Lanka Deputy High Commission in Chennai coordinated with the Andhra Pradesh State Government for the construction of a replica of the Aukana Buddha Statue at the Parwatharama Buddhist Theme Park at Nagarjunasagar in Andhra Pradesh. A Dhamma Bell was also donated to the Parwatharama Buddhist Theme Park.
- Facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at the 12th International Children's Festival of Performing Arts 2013, held in Mumbai on 4th January 2013.
- An eight member Indian Buddhist delegation led by Ven. Dr Bhadant Rahula Bodhi Maha Thero visited Sri Lanka on 22nd February for high level discussions.
- A seven member delegation led by Ven. Dr. Bhadant Rahul Bodi Maha Thero of Sarvodaya Maha Buddha Vihar, Chembur Mumbai and the Coordinator of the Indo Sri Lanka Buddhist Net Work visited Sri Lanka from 26th to 28th September to discuss the plans of installing a life size statue of Dr. Ambedkar in Colombo at the Head Quarters of the Maha Bodhi Society of Sri Lanka and establishing the Ambedkar Cultural and Educational Bhavan in Colombo.

Maldives

Official Visits (Inward)

- Major General Ahmed Shiyam, Chief of Defence Force of the Republic of Maldives visited Sri Lanka from 07th to 11th June 2013.
- The Maldivian Defence Minister Hon. Mohamed Nazim led the delegation at the Trilateral Meeting of the National Security Advisors on Cooperation between the Maldives, Sri Lanka and India on Maritime Security from 8th to 9th July 2013.
- Hon. Dr. Mariyam Shakeela, Minister of Environment and Energy participated at the International Conference on Water Cooperation for Community Development held on 16th to 18th August 2013 in Anuradhapura.
- Hon. Dr. Asim Ahmed, Minister of Education of the Maldives undertook a visit to Sri Lanka to sign the MOU on Cooperation in the field of Education on 25th of September 2013.

Official visits (Outward)

- Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka visited the Maldives to attend the Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians on 21st to 23rd December 2013. Sri Lanka will assume the Chair of the grouping and will host the next meeting in 2014.

Nepal

Official Visits (Inward)

- Hon. Madhav Kumar, Former Prime Minister and Leader of the Communist Party visited Sri Lanka to attend the 70th Anniversary of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka from 2nd to 7th July 2013.

Official visits (Outward)

- Hon. Dr. Rohana Pushpakumara, Member of Parliament and a 4 member delegation attended the Parliamentary Forum convened during the launch of the South Asia Region-wide Campaign on Sanitation from 18th to 19th March 2013.
- Hon. Wasatha Senanayake, Member of Parliament participated at the "Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity held from 22nd to 23rd March 2013.

Cultural Relations

- Ven. Rev. Halpanvila Palitha Thero, Advisor, Buddhist Religious Affairs and a delegation visited Nepal from 03rd to 04th August 2013, to attend the ordination of students for Buddhist priesthood in Nepal.
- The Government of Sri Lanka, through the Sri Lanka Embassy in Kathmandu, funded SLRs.85 million for the project for renovation of the Dutugemunu Pilgrims Rest & construction of a bridge to Sri Lankaramaya Temple in Lumbini, which is nearing completion.

Pakistan

Official visits (Inward)

- Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani visited Sri Lanka on 4th and 5th April, 2013 for the 3rd Foreign Secretary-level Bilateral Political Consultations in Colombo. During the visit, a MoU between the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations (LKIIR) and the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad was signed.
- General Ashfaq Pervaiz Kiyani, Chief Of Army Staff (COAS) Pakistan visited Sri Lanka and graced as the Chief Guest at the Passing out Parade at the Sri Lanka Military Academy, Diyatalawa on 28th – 30th June 2013.
- A 34-member delegation from the Defence Services Command & Staff College undertook a study tour from 15th August to 26th August 2013.
- The Minister of Water and Power of Pakistan, Hon Abid Sher Ali visited Sri Lanka to participate at the 2nd International Water Cooperation Conference, organized by the Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage in Anuradhapura from 15th to 19th August, 2013.
- Hon. Ashan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning and Development of Pakistan visited Sri Lanka to attend the "Sixth South Asia Summit" on 1-4 September 2013.

- His Excellency Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, attended the CHOGM in November 2013. During the visit, a bilateral meeting was held with His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka.

Official Visits (Outward)

- Hon. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs visited Pakistan from 22nd to 24th August 2013. He called on His Excellency President Asif Ali Zardari, His Excellency Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Minister of Finance of Pakistan on 23rd of August 2013.
- A delegation headed by Mr. Anura Siriwardane, Secretary of Ministry of Industry & Commerce participated in the Commerce Secretary level bilateral consultations on the Free Trade Agreement from 28th to 30th April 2013.

Scholarships

- Eleven scholarships were offered for Sri Lankans students under the Pakistan Technical Assistance Scholarship Programme in the fields of Medicine and Engineering while three scholarships were offered to Pakistan students under the Presidential Scholarships Programme.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Division

Member Countries:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

SAARC Observers:

China, Japan, South Korea, the USA, Iran, Mauritius, Australia, Myanmar and the European Union

Location of the Headquarters: Kathmandu, Nepal

Main Areas of the work of the SAARC Division

1. Assisting Ministries/Departments/Institutions of Sri Lanka to conduct SAARC related meetings in accordance with the norms and procedures of the SAARC Forum.
2. The Division facilitated representatives from different Ministries to attend in SAARC Meetings held in Member Countries.
3. Assisting Sri Lankan delegates to get SAARC Visas for attending SAARC Meetings.
4. Coordinating with the SAARC Secretariat and SAARC Regional Centre.

SAARC Meetings held in the year 2013

In view of the conducive atmosphere prevailing in Sri Lanka in the post conflict period, there is considerable interest shown by SAARC Member States to conduct SAARC meetings in Sri

Lanka. In this context, Sri Lanka experienced an increased number of meetings held in the country during 2013. This Ministry encouraged the line Ministries to conduct the meetings outside of Colombo with the intention of promoting Sri Lanka and to showcase touristic attractions in Sri Lanka among the SAARC Member States and to pave the way for the Sri Lankan hotel industry and its personnel to experience conducting international level conferences. The Ministry of Power and Energy conducted meetings in Waikkala and Koggala.

The meetings indicated below were held under the auspices of the SAARC Division of this Ministry. The logistical arrangements required, guidance, items such as flags, name boards were supplied by the SAARC Division of this Ministry. The Ministry of External Affairs guided the officials of the Ministry of Finance who performed their duties as liaison officer of the Finance Ministerial level meeting.

Preparatory meetings were held with the following line Ministries/Departments, in order to apprise the Ministries on the method of conducting SAARC Meetings.

- a) Ministry of Finance and Planning
- b) Ministry of Higher Education
- c) Ministry of Mass Media and Information
- d) Ministry of Health
- e) Ministry of Power and Energy
- f) Department of Commerce
- g) Department of Animal Production and Health
- h) Department of Police
- i) Department of Customs
- j) SAARC Cultural Centre
- k) Open University of Sri Lanka
- l) Sri Lanka Standards Institute

Ministerial level Meetings held in Sri Lanka during the year 2013

1. Meeting of the SAFTA Ministerial Council, Colombo, 23 August 2013
2. Sixth Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers, Colombo, 30 August 2013
3. Informal Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers, New Delhi, 3 May 2013

Official-level Meetings held in Sri Lanka in 2013

The following meetings, facilitated and attended by the SAARC Division, in coordination with the relevant line Ministry/agency, were held in Sri Lanka in 2013.

1. SAARC Conference on the Role of Media in Conflict Resolution and Peace Building, 24 -27 April 2013, Colombo.
2. Public Private Partnership for Skills Development in the SAARC Region (SHRDC), 28-30 May 2013, Colombo.
3. SAARC Regional Workshop Training on Management Information for Action (MIFA) for Tuberculosis & HIV/AIDS Control Programme, 13-17 June 2013, Colombo.
4. Regional Study on Conservation of Farm-animal Genetic Resources, 5-6 September 2013, Colombo.
5. Counter-terrorism Strategic Management Training Programme, 04-15 March 2013, Colombo.
6. Seventh Meeting of the SAARC Working Group on Energy, 15-16 March 2013, Colombo.
7. The 3rd Training Programme on Custom Matters and the Ninth Meeting of the SAARC Sub Group on Customs Cooperation, 18-21 June 2013, Colombo.
8. Eleventh Meeting of SAFTA Ministerial Council, 23 August 2013, Colombo.
9. Eighth Meeting of SAFTA Committee of Experts, 21-22 August 2013, Colombo.
10. Sixth Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers, 30 August 2013, Colombo.
11. Sixth Meeting of SAARC Finance Secretaries Meeting, 29 August 2013, Colombo.
12. Fifth Meeting of the Governing Board of the SAARC Cultural Centre, 09-10 September 2013, Matara.
13. Regional Workshop on MOODLE Transfer web based study materials for participants from Member States of SAARC, 24-27 September, 2013.
14. Popularizing Multiple Cropping innovations as a means of raise productivity and Farm Income, 31 October- 01st of November 2013, Peradeniya
15. The 3rd Meeting of Sectoral Technical Committee on Jute, Textiles & Leather, 18-19 December 2013, Colombo.
16. Third Meeting of Intergovernmental Core Group on Agricultural Research and Extension, 19-20, December 2013, Colombo.

The meeting on System Certification of Security and Operational Mechanism of the SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk (STOMD) & the SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk (SDOMD) Database, which was to be held on 24 October 2013 in Colombo, could not be held. However, the launch of the secure web portal of the STOMD and the SDOMD was launched on 24 October 2013, in Colombo. The web portal enables all member States to share information. Secretary to the Ministry of Defence graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Meetings held in other SAARC Countries in 2013

Sub Heading	Subject	Remarks
Environment and Disaster Management	Eighth Meeting of the Governing Board of the SAARC Disaster Management Centre, held in India on 30-31 October 2013.	Sri Lanka was represented by Mrs. S.M. Mohamed, Secretary to the Ministry of Disaster Management.
	Tenth Meeting of the Governing Board of the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre, held in the Maldives on 09-10 November 2013	Dr. Anil Premarathne, Director General of the Coast Conservation Department participated at the above meeting.
Trade Promotion	Fifth SAARC Business Leaders' Conclave, held in New Delhi on 16-17 January 2014	Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce participated at this event and held talks with the Commerce Minister of India.
Multilateral Relations	Seventh Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians, held in the Maldives on 21-24 December 2013	A parliamentary delegation led by Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Speaker of the Parliament participated. The Ministry of External Affairs assisted the Parliamentary delegation from Sri Lanka
Education	Fifth Meeting of the Governing Board of the South Asian University, held on 06 th December 2013 in New Delhi	Chairperson of the University Grants Commission, Prof (Mrs.) Kshanika Hiriburegama and Vice Chancellor of the University of Jaffna, Prof (Mrs.) Vasanthy Arasaratnam participated at the Meeting.
	Ninth Meeting of the Governing Board of the SAARC Information Centre (SIC), held on 13-14 November 2013 in Kathmandu, Nepal	
	Fourteenth Meeting of the Governing Board of the SAARC Human Resource Development Centre (SHRDC), held	

	on 21-22 November 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan	
Agriculture/ Food	Sixth Meeting of the Governing Board of the SAARC Food Bank, held in Thimphu, Bhutan on 25-26 November 2013	
Health	Twenty-third Meeting of the Governing Board of the SAARC Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS Centre (STAC), held during 07-08 November 2013 in Kathmandu, Nepal	
Foreign Aid	Seventeenth Meeting of the Governing Board of the SAARC Development Fund (SDF), held on 03-05 December 2013 in Kabul, Afghanistan.	The Following projects are under implementation in SAARC countries under the SDF: 1. South Asian Initiatives to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) with the total budget of USD 410,000. 2. Strengthening the Livelihood Initiatives of Home Based Workers (HBW) in the SAARC Region (SABAH) with a total budget of USD 1.4 million. 3. Implementation of Climate and Energy Use Component of HCFC Phase out Management Plan (HPMP) in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, with a proposed budget of USD 5,500,000. Time period for the project is July 2012 to June 2015. 4. Post – Harvest Management and Value Addition of Fruits in Production Catchments in SAARC Countries, with an estimated budget of USD 4.98 million. 5. Strengthening of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Services in Selected Areas of

		SAARC Countries with a total budget of LKR 119,041,823. 6. Post –Strengthening Maternal and Child Health Including Immunization. This project is already completed.
Other	Forty fourth meeting of the Programming Committee, held during 09-11 December 2013 at the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu, Nepal	Director General of the SAARC Division of the Ministry of External Affairs participated at this meeting. The implementation of the recommendations of the 43 rd meeting as of the programming committee as well as administrative and financial matters relating to the SAARC Secretariat, were discussed.

SAARC Agreements

This Division, in collaboration with the Legal Division of the Ministry, engages with the line Ministries and agencies such as the Ministry of Disaster Management, Ministry of Agriculture, and Sri Lanka Standards Institute in order to finalize the ratification process of the Agreements, which were signed during the 17th SAARC Summit in Addu City, the Maldives in November 2011. The list of the said Agreements is given below.

1. SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response on Natural Disasters
2. SAARC Seed Bank Agreement
3. SAARC Agreement on Multilateral Arrangement on Recognition of Conformity Assessment.
4. SAARC Agreement on Implementation of Regional Standards.
5. Food Bank Agreement

As a result, the SAARC Seed Bank Agreement and the Food Bank Agreement are now being ratified by Sri Lanka.

East Asia and Pacific Division

East Asia and Pacific Division

Countries covered: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Vanuatu and Hong Kong SAR, Solomon Islands

No. of Resident Missions and Posts: 11 Embassies - Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam

05 Consulates
Australia – Sydney and Melbourne
China – Shanghai, Chengdu and Guangzhou

Concurrent Accreditations:

Australia (Canberra) Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands

China Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Mongolia

Singapore Brunei Darussalam

Thailand Cambodia and Laos

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

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 His Excellency the President, the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Minister of External Affairs, other Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament and senior officials.
- Making arrangements for visits of foreign dignitaries to Sri Lanka.
- Follow-up and coordination of activities covering political, education, scientific and cultural spheres.
- Coordination of work between the Parliament of Sri Lanka and counterpart bodies in the region.

- Coordination in formulation and signing bilateral agreements/MoUs on political, science & technology, education and cultural sphere.
- 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 and the Bali Forum.
- 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

His Excellency the President undertook a State Visit to China in May 2013 and held discussions with His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of China, elevating the bilateral relations to a strategic cooperation partnership. During the visit bilateral Agreements in the areas of Economic, Technical Cooperation, Trade, Agriculture and Defence Cooperation were signed.

Sri Lanka National Eye Bank signed a co-operation agreement with Aidi Eye Hospital, Chengdu.

The year 2013 saw the 10th anniversary of signing the Agreement on Sister City Relationship between Colombo and Shanghai. Several activities were organized parallel to the "10th Anniversary of Colombo to Shanghai relations". A delegation from the Hambantota Municipal Council visited Guangzhou and an MoU was signed between the Hambantota Municipal Council and the Guangzhou CCPIT during delegation's visit.

Hon. D.M. Jayaratne, Prime Minister, participated as an honorary guest at the South Asian Commodity Fair held in June 2013.

Hon. Prime Minister participated at the opening ceremony of the 1st China-South Asia Expo in June 2013 held in Kunming and in August 2013 visited Nanjing for the closing ceremony of the 2nd Asian Youth Games. On an invitation of the Ministry of State Security of China, Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence undertook an official visit to China.

Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Mass Media & Information visited China from 18th to 29th October 2013. Hon. Maithripala Sirisena, Minister of Health attended the Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Post-ICPD and the MDG from 22nd to 23rd October 2013.

His Excellency Luo Fuhe, Vice Chairman of the CPPCC visited Sri Lanka in March 2013 for the opening ceremony of the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport.

A 10 member delegation headed by the Chairperson of the Shanghai Women's Federation visited Sri Lanka in March 2013 and called on the First Lady of Sri Lanka, Minister of Child Development & Women's Affairs and women's organization representatives.

Deputy Director General of the Sichuan Department of Commerce visited Sri Lanka in April 2013 enhancing the bilateral trade between the two countries.

The MoU between the LKIIRSS and the Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS) was renewed during the visit of Mr. Zhu Weimin, Deputy Director General of Foreign Affairs of Shanghai in May 2013. The official called on the Mayor of Colombo and senior officials at the Colombo Municipal Council, the LKIIRSS and the BMICH.

The President of the Guangzhou CCPIT and a delegation arrived in Sri Lanka in September 2013 for enhancing the existing cordial relations further.

On an invitation of the Hon. Minister of External Affairs, His Excellency Liu Yunshan, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China visited Sri Lanka in September 2013 exploring new avenues of cooperation between Sri Lanka and China. Madam Meng Xiaosi visited Sri Lanka in September 2013 on an invitation of the First Lady of Sri Lanka.

A delegation headed by the President of the Guangzhou CCPIT visited Sri Lanka in September 2013 for further enhancing the existing cordial relations.

Mr. Yu Ping, Vice Chairman of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, together with a leading business delegation participated in the Commonwealth Business Forum in November 2013.

Several high profile visits including in the defence and education fields took place during 2013 and those visits were facilitated by the Ministry and the Missions/Posts in China.

Australia

Bilateral engagement between Sri Lanka and Australia has been further strengthened and consolidated particularly due to the strong cooperation mechanism on irregular migration issues. Australia formally extended the inclusion of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam in the list maintained by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia under the UN Charter Regulations 2002, thus preventing fund raising activities, for a further period of three years from November 2013. Australia has assisted Sri Lanka in the improvement of the dairy sector. Under the loan provided by the Robo Bank of Australia, 500 cattle have been imported from Australia to reduce Sri Lanka's dependence on milk powder.

Several high level visits, such as the visit of Hon. Julie Bishop, Foreign Minister, who was the Deputy Leader of the Opposition of the Australian Federal Parliament and the shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs, accompanied by Hon. Scott Morrison, Minister of Immigration and Border Protection, who was the shadow Minister of Immigration & Citizenship and Hon. Michael Keenan, Minister of Justice who was the shadow Minister for Justice, Customs & Border Protection, from 27th January-01st February 2013, had taken place to Sri Lanka for further enhancing cooperation between the countries.

Hon. Brendan O Conner, who was the Minister of Immigration visited Sri Lanka and had discussions with relevant authorities regarding illegal migration issues. For the purpose of combating and prevention of people smuggling, Australia donated two Bay-class patrol boats to Sri Lanka. Discussions were held on convening the 2nd session of the Joint Working Group on "People Smuggling and Border Security and Law and Enforcement" in order to curtail the growing illegal migration issue.

Hon. Tony Abbott, Prime Minister and Hon. Julie Bishop, Foreign Minister of Australia visited Sri Lanka from 15th-17th November to attend the CHOGM 2013. Commonwealth Business Forum promotion programmes have been conducted in Australia with the intention to achieve maximum participation. Several exhibitions were also organized to promote trade & investment, tourism and tea in Australia. Over 10 major companies from Australia participated at the Commonwealth Business Forum.

The official visit of the Hon. Minister of External Affairs, accompanied by Hon. Namal Rajapakse, Member of Parliament and a parliamentary delegation to Australia took place from 18th to 22nd of June 2013, further consolidated existing relations. Hon. Minister of External Affairs addressed a gathering at the Australian Institute of International affairs during his visit to Sydney. The BOI organized a business forum promoting Sri Lanka in Sydney. During the Commonwealth Business Forum Information Session, the Hon. MEA informed the benefits of the CHOGM and Commonwealth Business Forum 2013. Over 200 businessmen attended this forum. A Ceylon Tea promoting event was also organized during the above event.

Hon. Minister and the delegation attended the opening of the Consulate General in Melbourne. Meetings were arranged for the Minister with the Liberal and the Labour parties to strengthen the existing relations between the countries. A business forum was organized in Melbourne to expand existing bilateral trade, investment and tourism with Australia.

The Hon. Minister of External Affairs also participated at the 13th Council of Ministers' Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in Perth, on 1st of November 2013.

New Zealand

The existing good relations between Sri Lanka and New Zealand were further strengthened with the high level visits from New Zealand during 2013. The Prime Minister of New Zealand visited Sri Lanka to attend the CHOGM 2013. Hon. Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Sri Lanka and held discussions on dairy cooperation. The draft air services agreement was successfully negotiated and finalized in 2013.

Japan

Bilateral relations with Japan continued to grow in 2013 with several high level visits taking place between the two countries. His Excellency the President undertook an official visit in March 2013 to Japan and held fruitful discussions with His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan and with many high dignitaries of the Japanese Government. During the visit, the 43rd Yen Loan package was signed and His Excellency the President gifted two elephants to the Tama Zoo, Tokyo.

The high-level visits from Japan that took place in 2013, included that of Hon. Taro Aso, Deputy Prime Minister and Madam Yuko Obuchi, Senior Vice Minister of Finance in May, Hon. Yoshitaka Shindo, Minister of Internal Affairs & Communication in March, Her Imperial Highness Princess Tsuguko of Takamado in August and Hon. Minoru Kiuchi, Vice Minister of

Foreign Affairs in September, which assisted in further deepening the existing friendly relations with Japan.

Hon. Basil Rajapaksa, Minister of Economic Development visited Japan as a guest of the Government of Japan in September 2013 and had bilateral meetings and engagements with high-level dignitaries of the Japanese Government. The Hon. Minister gifted two elephants during his visit to Yamaguchi. Hon. Susil Premjayantha, Minister of Environment & Renewable Energy participated at the "Minamata Convention on Mercury" held in Japan from 6th to 11th October 2013.

His Excellency Yasushi Akashi made an official visit to Sri Lanka from 8th-13th December 2013 and paid a courtesy call on His Excellency the President. He met with the Hon. Minister of External Affairs and many other high level dignitaries and discussed matters pertaining to bilateral relations.

As a result of several investment promotion campaigns, M/S Bansei Securities Ltd. of Japan acquired a 20% stake in the Pan Asia Bank for a total Rs. 930 million and participated in a number of tourism fairs, activities, trade fairs and exhibitions to strengthen the economic relations between two countries. A 40 member business delegation from the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) visited Sri Lanka in October to explore available investment opportunities in Sri Lanka.

Republic of Korea

Ties with South Korea have grown over the years encompassing areas of economic, political, social & cultural relations. Bilateral Political Consultations between the Ministries of External Affairs of Sri Lanka and Korea were held in July 2013 in Seoul.

His Excellency CHUNG Hong-won, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea visited Sri Lanka from 28 to 30 August 2013. This was the highest level visit of a dignitary from the Government of the Republic of Korea to Sri Lanka. During the visit, the South Korean Prime Minister called on His Excellency the President and the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and had several other official engagements.

Hon. Minister of External Affairs of Sri Lanka met with Hon. Yun Byung-Se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, on the side-lines of the Cyberspace Conference, held in Seoul on 16th-18th October 2013.

A Parliamentary delegation headed by Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Speaker of the Parliament, visited the Republic of Korea from 14th to 18th October. During the visit, the delegation held discussions with the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

An MOU was signed at the conclusion of the consultations, granting traffic rights for Korean Air & Sri Lankan Airlines to operate flights to each other's capitals. Pursuant to the MoU, Korean Air commenced direct flights from Seoul to Colombo with effect from 9th March 2013.

The government of Korea further extended the categories of work permits issued to Sri Lankans to include manufacturing and fisheries sectors; negotiations have commenced to further expand the sectors to include the construction sector.

Thailand

The year 2013 marked an important milestone in the bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Thailand which is reflected in the number of high level visits to and from Thailand.

Reflecting strong bilateral relations Thailand supported Sri Lanka at the 22nd Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva by voting against the resolution on Sri Lanka in March 2013.

The year also marked the 260th anniversary of the establishment of the Siam Nikaya in Sri Lanka. Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand visited Sri Lanka in 2013 to mark this 260th anniversary.

The official visit of the then Prime Minister of Thailand, Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra to Sri Lanka in May, further enhanced the existing good relations between the countries. During the visit of the Prime Minister MoUs in the fields of tourism, technology and trade were signed.

The Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand visited Sri Lanka heading the Thai delegation to the 3rd Session of the Joint Commission, in May 2013. The Governor of Ayutthaya Province also visited Sri Lanka in the same year. These high level visits had a significant impact on further strengthening the bonds of friendship between the countries.

Hon. T.B. Ekanayake, Minister of Culture & the Arts participated at the opening ceremony of the Upali Maha thero Museum in Ayutthaya in December 2013.

The National Discovery Museum Institute of Thailand organized cultural & religious events from 23rd to 24th November 2013 to mark the 260th anniversary of the establishment of the Siam Nikaya. Among those events was a photographic exhibition depicting Buddhist and cultural relations between countries. Several tourism and trade promotion programmes have been organized in Thailand to facilitate Commercial and Business Co-operation between the countries.

Singapore

Bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Singapore have been enhanced both in the economic and defence spheres in the year 2013. Reflecting the strong bilateral relations, Singapore was represented at the CHOGM 2013 in Colombo, by its Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and the Foreign Minister K. Shanmugam.

A high-level delegation headed by Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development participated at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, in May 2013. During the visit, several bilateral discussions were held on the side lines, with high level dignitaries from Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia and Singapore.

Senior officials from the Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau and the Singaporean Ministry of Manpower continued their cooperation with a view to strengthening Government to Government links in the labour sector and to prevent illegal recruitment of labour. The SLBFE officials held discussions with Singaporean lawyers on providing legal assistance to Sri Lankan workers who had sustained injuries during the course of their employment or at road accidents.

An investment promotion seminar was held in Singapore in collaboration with the Singapore Business Federation. Several other trade fairs and exhibitions were also held in Singapore for promoting tea, gem and jewellery.

Philippines

Sri Lanka and the Philippines continue maintains good relations. Reflecting the strong bilateral relations, the Philippines supported Sri Lanka at the 22nd Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva by voting against the resolution on Sri Lanka in March 2013. Sri Lanka also maintains good relations in the field of defence and security fields. Philippines Defence College has offered two placements for Sri Lankan military personnel.

The year 2013 began with a symbolic donation of USD 25,000 by the government of Sri Lanka towards assistance for the reconstruction of homes of the victims of the Typhoon "Bopha" as a token of strong bilateral relations.

A medical relief team, including 11 doctors and 12 nursing officers, was dispatched to the Philippines, to provide medical assistance to the people affected by the devastating typhoon "Haiyan" which hit the Philippines on 08th November 2013, as a humanitarian gesture towards the people of the Philippines by the people of Sri Lanka.

The Hon. Minister of External Affairs visited the Philippines in July 2013 on an official visit to further consolidate on the existing bilateral relations. During the visit, the Hon. Minister met the President of Philippines Chamber of Commerce and Industry and explored ways of promoting leading business companies to visit Sri Lanka to attend the CHOGM Business Forum. Awareness programmes on investment opportunities were conducted among the business community in the cities of Cebu, Davao and in the Free Trade Zones of the Philippines.

For the purpose of further enhancing cultural ties between the countries, it was agreed to exchange scholars, cultural troupes and to seek possibilities to sign a MoU between the Post Graduate Institute of Archaeology in Manila and the Post Graduate Institute in Sri Lanka.

Vietnam

Bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Vietnam were further strengthened with the high level visits. Her Excellency Madam Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, Vice President of Vietnam National Assembly in February and Mr. Nguyen Huy Tang, the Commissioner for External Relations of the Communist Party of Vietnam in April 2013 visited Sri Lanka.

Hon. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Vietnam undertook an official visit to Sri Lanka from 23rd to 26th November 2013 and attended the unveiling ceremony of the Ho Chi Minh statue in Colombo. Hon. Pham Binh Minh also paid a courtesy call on His Excellency the President and held fruitful discussions with several Government Ministers.

The excellent relations maintained between the countries also resulted in Vietnam recording a vote against the Resolution on Sri Lanka at the 22nd Session of UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

During the visit of the Hon. Minister of Justice to Vietnam in April, an MoU between the Ministries of Justice of the two countries on "Legal Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Developing and Further Strengthening Domestic Legal Systems" was signed.

The 2nd Round of the Bilateral Political Consultations between the countries at senior officials' level was held in May, in Hanoi. At the Sessions, the two sides exchanged views on a series

of international and regional issues of mutual interest, while taking stock of the bilateral partnership and identifying new areas of cooperation.

A fisheries and aquatic cooperation project was inaugurated at NAQDA in May, on implementation of the MoU on Cooperation in Aquaculture Development in Sri Lanka for the period 2013-2105. Vietnamese experts inspected potential sites for sea cucumber hatchery, sea cucumber farming, lobster fattening in the North Western, Northern, Eastern and Southern Provinces and finalized sites for four pilot projects.

The Vietnamese Government extended eight scholarship placements for Sri Lankan students to undertake studies in Vietnam, under the Agreement on Education Cooperation signed between the two Ministries of Education.

Malaysia

Ties with Malaysia have grown over the years encompassing a wider variety of sectors of cooperation including economic, political, social & cultural relations. The visit of the Prime Minister Najib Razak to participate at the CHOGM 2013 in Colombo was a reflection of strong bilateral relations. Malaysia continues to be the largest investor in Sri Lanka with over USD 1.4 billion investment into Sri Lanka. Over 80% investments are concentrated in telecommunication sector.

The Hon. Minister of External Affairs headed the Sri Lanka delegation to the 2nd Joint Commission between Sri Lanka and Malaysia held in Kuala Lumpur in October 2013 where both parties had the opportunity to discuss in detail, vital bilateral matters and other matters of mutual importance. During this visit, the Hon. Minister paid a courtesy call on the Hon. Prime Minister and also met with the Hon. Minister of Trade of Malaysia.

Cooperation in the field of education has also been facilitated. An MoU was signed between the University of Malaysia and National Institute of Education in February to enhance exchange of students and expertise between the two Institutions. The government of Malaysia offers training programs through the Malaysian Technical Co-operation Programme (MTCP) and the Malaysian Defence Co-operation Programme (MDCP).

Mr. Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the President, visited Malaysia in September, and several meetings were arranged with high level dignitaries of the Malaysian government. During the visit, views were exchanged on enhancing the capacity of the public sector, sharing of expertise, familiarization visits, cooperation in the field of e-learning, cooperation between the Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) of Malaysia and the SLIDA. During the visit, discussions were also held with Performance Management and Delivery Unit (PEMANDU). The Ministry facilitated the visit of Mr. Ajith Nivard Cabral, Governor Central Bank to Malaysia in June, where the Governor addressed a symposium on "Teaching Transformation in Times of Uncertainty" organized by the SEACEN.

Media familiarization visits to Sri Lanka have been organised for promoting tourism. Further, several trade fairs and exhibitions have also been held for promoting ayurvedic products, gem and jewellery and apparel from Sri Lanka. The Malaysia Sri Lanka Business Council has been reactivated after a lapse of 6 years for the purpose of further strengthening of economic relations between countries.

Deputy Minister of Investment Promotion, Hon. Faiszer Musthapha attended the 4th United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) International Forum 2013, from 2nd-3rd December 2013, organized by the UMNO, the ruling party of Malaysia.

Myanmar

Buddhist cultural linkages have formed the bedrock of the relations between Sri Lanka and Myanmar. In further strengthening these ties, Ven. Prof. Kamburugamuwe Vajira Nayaka Thero was conferred Agga Maha Panditha title by the President of Myanmar in March 2013. The Government of Myanmar gifted a tusker to the Bellanwila Raja Maha Vihara in May 2013. Government of Sri Lanka decided to extend three scholarships for Myanmar students.

The Bilateral relations have further been strengthened with enhanced economic opportunities. In the banking sector, the Commercial Bank and the Sampath Bank explored the possibilities of opening banking services in Myanmar, while many business delegations from Sri Lanka travelled to Myanmar to further commercial activities between the countries. In order to further consolidate on the business relations between the countries, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce submitted an application to open its representative office in Myanmar.

Indonesia

Sri Lanka and Indonesia celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2013 and relations continue to grow. As a sign of strong relations, Indonesia made favourable remarks on Sri Lanka at the 22nd Human Right Council Session in March 2013 and recorded a vote in favour of Sri Lanka by voting against the Resolution on Sri Lanka at UNHRC.

Sri Lanka participated in several high profile events held in Indonesia, including at the VI (6th) Bali Democracy Forum and the International Workshop on the Protection of Irregular Movement of Persons at Sea.

Sri Lanka and Indonesia have cooperated with each other, through regional mechanisms, on combating people smuggling. Hon. Rauff Hakeem, Minister of Justice participated in the Fifth Bali Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, held in April 2013 in Indonesia.

Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry & Commerce participated in the 9th Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization, in Bali from 2nd to 6th December 2013. A delegation headed by Hon. Reginald Cooray, Minister of Minor Export Crop Promotion, participated at the Conference on "Pepper Cultivation and Small Industry Development" held from 17th to 24th October 2013 in Jakarta Indonesia.

His Excellency Harimawan Suyitno, the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Sri Lanka and the Governor of the Indonesian Navy Academy, Rear Admiral Ary Atmaja represented Indonesia at the Galle Dialogue held in November 2013.

Middle East Division

Middle East Division

Territorial Coverage	14 Countries Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen
Number of Resident Missions/Posts	14 Embassies and Consulates General Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia (Riyadh and Jeddah) and the United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi and Dubai)
Number of Concurrent Accreditations	02 Syria - the Sri Lanka Embassy in Beirut Yemen - the Sri Lanka Embassy in Muscat

The Political Affairs Division for the Middle Eastern region of the Ministry covers the work pertaining to Sri Lanka's bilateral relations with countries in the region. Political and other developments that are of concern to Sri Lanka in the countries of the Middle Eastern region are continuously monitored and reported to the concerned authorities. The Division coordinates and facilitates bilateral visits and meetings for His Excellency the President, the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Minister of External Affairs and other Hon. Ministers, Hon. Members of Parliament and senior officials, including preparation of all relevant documents for such visits and meetings.

Kingdom of Bahrain

In May 2013, Sri Lanka ceremonially opened the new resident Embassy in Bahrain with a view to further strengthening the existing bilateral relations with that country. Hon. Neomal Perera, Deputy Minister of External Affairs along with Hon. Ghanim bin Fadhul al Buainain, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain graced this occasion.

The Prime Minister of Bahrain agreed to provide funds for the construction of 200 houses for a housing project for the internally displaced persons of the Northern Province, on the request of the Hon. Prime Minister.

The first ever visit of a Bahraini Parliamentary delegation to Sri Lanka, headed by Hon. Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Dharani, Chairman of the Representatives of the Parliament of Bahrain.

Islamic Republic of Iran

His Excellency the President met the newly elected President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Hassan Rouhani in New York. The Hon. Minister of External Affairs and the Hon. Minister of Petroleum Industries visited Tehran to attend, the inauguration of His Excellency Rouhani in August 2013. The Hon. Ministers had bilateral meetings with their Iranian counterparts in Tehran.

The Hon. Minister of Culture and the Arts participated in the Regional Seminar on Culture and Globalization in Asia in Tehran in February 2013. A delegation led by the Hon. Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development also visited Iran to participate in the First Asian Parliamentary Executive Assembly held in Tehran in May 2013.

His Excellency Hossein Farahi, Deputy Minister of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic of Iran visited Sri Lanka twice last year to further strengthen the bilateral economic relations and to discuss crude oil purchases from Iran. Hon. Ayatollah Muhammad Ali Tashkiri, Advisor to the Spiritual Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Secretary General of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic School of Thought of Iran also visited Sri Lanka and had meetings with the Hon. Prime Minister to strengthen relations between the two countries on religious studies and on cultural cooperation.

Republic of Iraq

Sri Lanka's relations with Iraq received a boost last year when Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Iraq assumed his duties. Sri Lanka and Iraq signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Labour Migration between the two countries, during the visit of the Minister of Labour of Iraq in September 2013. Draft agreements and Memoranda of Understanding on cooperation in various fields such as agriculture, justice, tourism, education, culture, standardization and quality control were initiated between Sri Lanka and Iraq.

Hon. Rishard Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry and Commerce, visited Iraq in February 2013 and held discussions with his Iraqi counterpart. Preparations are underway to hold the 8th session of the Joint Committee on Economic and Trade Cooperation in Baghdad by the Iraqi and Sri Lankan Authorities.

State of Israel

The Hon. Minister of External Affairs visited Israel in February 2013. During the visit, the Hon. Minister called on President Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and had discussions. A business delegation from Israel visited Colombo during the period under review.

State of Kuwait

A meeting between His Excellency the President and the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait was held in New York in September this year. Kuwait has been supporting Sri Lanka at international fora, including at the 22nd Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva in March 2013.

Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs attended the Senior Officials Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue Forum with a view to discussing the proposal for the Structural Mechanism of the General Secretariat of the ACD Forum in March 2013.

Lebanese Republic

Sri Lanka and Lebanon initiated discussions on ways and means of promoting Sri Lankan labour to meet the skilled labour requirement in Lebanon and also on concluding a memorandum of understanding on manpower, during the visit of the Hon. Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion and Welfare with the Hon. Minister of Labour of Lebanon.

Sultanate of Oman

As a sign of further strengthening the bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and the Sultanate of Oman, a fully-fledged Embassy of that country was established in Colombo with effect from 16th June, 2013.

In August 2013, a delegation headed by the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, including senior officials of five domestic banks, visited the Sultanate of Oman and held Investors Follow-up meeting with the officials of the Central Bank of Oman, Bank of Muscat, Bank of Sohar, the National Bank of Oman and Bank Dhofar. This initiative is aimed at strengthening the relations between the banking sectors of the two countries.

State of Palestine

The Hon. Minister of External Affairs visited Palestine in February 2013. During the visit the Hon. Minister called on President Mohamed Abbas and Prime Minister Dr. Salam Fayyad. The Hon. Minister met his counterpart Dr. Riad Al Malki and had bilateral discussions. Hon A.H.M. Fowzi, Senior Minister for Urban Affairs also visited Palestine to participate in the International Islamic Conference at the Bait –al- Muqaddis held in June 2013.

State of Qatar

A meeting between His Excellency the President and the Emir of the State of Qatar was held in New York in September last year. The State of Qatar has been supporting Sri Lanka at international fora, including at the 22nd Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva in March 2013. Trade and economic relations between Qatar and Sri Lanka continue to grow. A delegation from the Qatari Diar visited Sri Lanka in April 2013 and held discussions with the Hon. Deputy Minister of Investment and Promotion and with other senior officials from the BOI and other relevant authorities.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Relations between Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia continued to expand during the period under review. Sri Lanka increased the purchase of crude oil from Saudi Arabia, as Saudi oil is compatible and meets the technical requirements of the Sri Lankan refinery.

The Saudi Fund for Development continued to assist Sri Lanka to implement several projects including the Road Network Development Project, the establishment of an Epilepsy Hospital, and the Moragahakanda and Kaluganga Development projects. The Ministry coordinated meetings between the Saudi Fund for Development and the relevant Ministries and agencies including the Ministry of Finance of Sri Lanka. A delegation led by the Secretary to the Ministry of Finance and Planning visited Saudi Arabia in June 2013 and had meetings with the senior officials of the Saudi Fund for Development.

The Kingdom granted amnesty to all undocumented temporary residents, which included several thousand Sri Lankan expatriate workers, enabling them to either leave the country without being penalized or to regularize their stay. The Ministry provided the required resources including additional staff to the Sri Lanka Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate General in Jeddah to assist those Sri Lankans by issuing necessary documents and by liaising with relevant Saudi authorities.

Syrian Arab Republic

Sri Lanka issued a statement welcoming the framework agreement reached between the Russian Federation and the USA on the time bound safeguarding and the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons, stockpiles, thereby seeking to resolve this issue through peaceful means.

United Arab Emirates

The Hon. Minister of External Affairs visited the UAE in January 2013 and signed the Agreement on the Establishment of the Joint Commission between Sri Lanka and the UAE with His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates. The main purpose of the establishment of the Joint Commission is to further strengthening the existing bilateral relations and to promote co-operation between the two countries in mutually agreed fields.

The Hon. Minister, leading a six-member delegation, visited the UAE in September last year to attend the Third Counter-piracy Conference held in Dubai. On the sidelines of the Conference, the Hon. Minister had bilateral meetings, with his UAE counterpart and other Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

Africa Division

Africa Division

1. Background:

There are 62 countries in the African region, among which only 54 are recognized as sovereign states. Other states are partially recognized, unrecognized states and dependent territories. Sri Lanka has established diplomatic relations with the following 40 African countries.

1. Angola	9. Egypt	17. Mali	25. Nigeria	33. South Africa
2. Algeria	10. Ghana	18. Mauritania	26. Rwanda	34. Swaziland
3. Benin	11. Guinea	19. Madagascar	27. Seychelles	35. Tanzania
4. Botswana	12. Guinea-Bissau	20. Malawi	28. Senegal	36. The Republic of Congo
5. Burkina Faso	13. Kenya	21. Mauritius	29. Somalia	37. Tunisia
6. Democratic Republic of the Congo	14. Lesotho	22. Mozambique	30. Sudan	38. Uganda
7. Eritrea	15. Libya	23. Morocco	31. South Sudan	39. Zimbabwe
8. Ethiopia	16. Liberia	24. Namibia	32. Sierra Leone	40. Zambia
				41. Cote d'Ivoire

The following Sri Lankan Missions in the African region are concurrently accredited to countries in the region as given below:

1. Egypt – Algeria, Eritrea, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia, Sudan,
2. Kenya – Republic of Congo, Malawi, Somalia.
3. South Africa – Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
4. Uganda - Benin, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Tanzania.
5. Nigeria - Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau,
6. Seychelles - Madagascar and Mauritius

Action is being taken to re-open the Mission in Libya at the earliest.

Sri Lanka appointed Honorary Consuls in Botswana, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Nigeria, South Africa (Durban & Cape Town), Tunisia, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Seychelles, Namibia, Mauritius and Mozambique during the period under review.

2. Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and Opening of Missions:

Diplomatic Relations:

- Sri Lanka established formal diplomatic relations with Sierra Leone and Malawi on 16th November 2013.
- Action has been taken to establish diplomatic relations with Cameroon, Burundi and Djibouti.

Opening/re-opening of missions

- During His Excellency the President's visit to Kampala to attend the 7th Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) both leaders attended the opening of the Sri Lanka High Commission in Uganda.
- The newly opened Sri Lanka High Commission in Victoria, Seychelles commenced functioning on 11th December 2013. Preparations are underway to establish the Seychelles High Commission in Colombo in the second half of 2014.
- Action has been taken to re-open the Sri Lankan mission in Tripoli, Libya at the earliest.

3. CHOGM 2013 in Colombo

Participation at the CHOGM 2013 from the African Continent is as follows;

Participation at the level of Heads of Government	Participation at the level of Vice Presidents	Participation at the level of Ministers
Lesotho	Ghana	Botswana
Namibia	Malawi	Cameroon
Rwanda	Nigeria	Kenya
Seychelles	Uganda	Mozambique
South Africa	Zambia	Mauritius
Swaziland		Sierra Leone
Tanzania		

Agreements/MoUs with African Countries concluded on the sidelines of the CHOGM 2013

Sri Lanka and Nigeria signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Strategic Dialogue on 15th November 2013.

4. Bilateral visits inward/outward during the review period:

Kenya

- As special envoys of His Excellency the President, Hon. Neomal Perera, Deputy Minister of External Affairs and Hon. Gitanjana Gunawardena, Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation represented the Government of Sri Lanka at the swearing ceremony of His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta as the President of Kenya in Nairobi on 09th April 2013.
- At the invitation of His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, graced the celebrations commemorating the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of Kenya's Independence on 12th December, 2013 and paid a two day State Visit from 13th to 14th December 2013.

The following MoUs were also concluded during the state visit:

1. Agreement on Establishing Kenya – Sri Lanka Joint Commission for Cooperation,
2. MoU on Bilateral Relations,
3. MoU on Bilateral Trade,
4. MoU on Economic and Technical Cooperation,
5. MoU on Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports,
6. MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism,
7. MoU on Cultural Cooperation,
8. MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Sports,
9. MoU between the Kenyan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
10. Establishment of Sri Lanka-Kenya Business Council

South Africa

- An MoU was signed between the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations & Strategic Studies of Sri Lanka and Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA) and South Africa Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) in Pretoria on 13.05.2013.
- A delegation led by Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, Speaker participated at the Commonwealth, Parliamentary Conference in Johannesburg from 28th August to 6th September 2013.
- The 4th Session of the Senior Officials' Meeting of the Sri Lanka– South Africa Partnership Forum was concluded in Pretoria on 21st May 2013. Sri Lanka delegation was headed by Secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The Chairman and senior officials of the Paramount Group, South Africa's largest privately owned defence and aerospace company visited Sri Lanka from 17th to 22nd August 2013 to further strengthen investment cooperation. The Paramount Group delegation met the Army Commander, the Air Force Commander, Sri Lankan Navy officials, Professor Sangakkara of the University of Peradeniya, officials from the Sri Lanka Institute of Nano-Technology (SLINTEC) and officials from the National Agri-Business Council.
- His Excellency the President visited South Africa on 10th December 2013 to attend the memorial service for Mr. Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa.

Uganda

- At the invitation of His Excellency the President of Uganda, His Excellency the President paid a State Visit to Uganda from 11th to 15th May, 2013 and also participated in the

7th Commonwealth Local Government Forum [CLGF] in Kampala. During the visit both leaders ceremonially declared the opening of the Sri Lanka High Commission in Kampala. His Excellency the President launched the Sri Lanka funded project to upgrade the Masulita Vocational Training Centre, as per the Agreement which was signed during President Museveni's visit to Sri Lanka in 2012.

- Hon. Sarath Amunugama, Deputy Minister of Finance & Planning participated at the "Uganda Investment Forum", held on 11th to 12th April 2013.
- Hon. Susantha Punchinilame, Deputy Minister of Economic Development visited Uganda from 10th to 18th April 2013.
- Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Secretary/Defence & Urban Development visited Uganda from 19th – 24th July 2013.
- A delegation from Uganda headed by Hon. Dr. Sam Lyomoki, Member of Parliament, visited Sri Lanka Parliament from 18th – 25th May 2013.

Tanzania

- His Excellency the President, paid a State Visit to Tanzania from 27th - 29th June, 2013 at the invitation of His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of Tanzania. The visit coincided with the President's participation in the Global 2013 Smart Partnership Dialogue in Dar-es Salaam.
- The MoUs in the fields of Tourism and Cultural Cooperation and an Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation was signed during the visit. Wide ranging bilateral discussion held, focused on cooperation in the areas of development of Tanzania's tea, coconut and textile industries as well as exporting rice. The two sides discussed the possibilities of opening resident Missions in the respective capitals. His Excellency the President extended an invitation to the President and Madam Kikwete to visit Sri Lanka at a mutually convenient date.
- In addition to inaugurating the Global 2013 Smart Partnership Dialogue His Excellency President Rajapaksa, co-moderated the Dialogue Session – *The Smart Partnership Way: Leveraging Technology for Smart Growth in Socio – Economic Transformation* with the President of Tanzania. His Excellency President Rajapaksa held bilateral discussions with the Prime Minister of Malaysia Dato Sri Mohamad Najib Bin Razak and His Majesty Mswati III, King of Swaziland.
- As a follow up action of the State visit by His Excellency the President to Tanzania, the Ministry facilitated visits by a team of experts from Sri Lanka to assist with matters relating to the coconut industry, textile sector and mini-hydro power sector.

Seychelles

- At the invitation of His Excellency James Alix Michel, President of Seychelles, His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa, undertook a State Visit to Seychelles from 29th June to 1st July 2013. During the visit, the two leaders held wide ranging discussions and agreed to enhance relations in the sectors of education, fisheries, trade and investment, judiciary

and health and witnessed the signing of; MoU on Defence Cooperation, Bilateral Air Services Agreement and MoU on Vocational Training and Youth Development.

- His Excellency the President addressed an Extra Ordinary Session of the National Assembly of Seychelles and was the Guest of Honour at a specially convened Business Forum held during his State Visit at the Kempinski Resort.
- Minister of External Affairs Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris visited Seychelles from 24th to 27th March 2013.
- A business delegation headed by Hon. Sajin de Vass Gunawardena, Monitoring MP/MEA visited Seychelles from 4th to 7th August 2013.
- Ms. Caroline Abel, Governor of Central Bank of Seychelles and a team visited Sri Lanka from 11th – 19th May 2013.
- The inaugural flight of Mihin Lanka to Seychelles commenced on 16th November 2013.

Senegal

- An invitation has been extended to the President of Senegal for a State visit to Sri Lanka in 2014.

Egypt

- Colonel Hussain Mohamed Hussain Hasan of the Egyptian military participated at the Defence Seminar in Colombo 2013 under the theme "Post-Conflict Sri Lanka: Challenges and Regional Stability".
- Sri Lankan artistes participated in the International Drums and Traditional Arts in Cairo from 19th to 25th April 2013.
- The Ministry facilitated participation at the Aswan International Festival for "Cultural Tourism Films" together with the Ministry of Culture & the Arts.
- The Ministry facilitated grant of scholarships at the Al-Azhar University with the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs.
- The Ministry facilitated the 6th session of the International Festival for Religious Chanting and Sufi Music together with the Ministry of Buddha Sasana and Religious Affairs.

Sudan

- A 12 member Sudanese delegation headed by General Abdelrehman Mohamed Zein Ahmed, Secretary General Ministry of Defence of Sudan visited Sri Lanka from 26th to 31st August 2013 to promote defence cooperation.

Burkina Faso

- Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso Djibrill Yipéné Bassolé paid an official visit to Sri Lanka, from 03rd – 06th April, 2013. During the visit, an MoU was concluded on Cooperation between the two Foreign Ministries.

5. Others:

Sri Lanka's application for accreditation with the African Union (AU)

- Action was taken to apply for accreditation in the African Union as a non- African State during the period under review.

West Division

West Division

The Political Affairs (West) Division, which comprises three geographical regions, covers the work pertaining to Sri Lanka's bilateral relations with countries in Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States 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, The United Kingdom and Turkey.

Number of Resident Missions/Posts: 12

Austria, Belgium, France, Germany (Berlin & Frankfurt), Italy, Norway, Poland, Sweden, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom and Turkey

Number of concurrent accreditations: -

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

From Brussels: Luxembourg and the European Union

From Paris: Portugal and Spain

From Berlin: Switzerland

From Geneva: The Holy See

From Rome: Albania, Cyprus, Greece and Malta

From Warsaw: Bulgaria and Romania

From Stockholm: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia and Lithuania

From London: Ireland

Number of multilateral organizations: 02 The Commonwealth and the European Union

In the past one year, while focus was maintained on engagement with European countries, the Division was closely involved in the preparatory work leading up to the CHOGM 2013 in November hosted by Sri Lanka.

In April 2013 the Hon. Minister of External Affairs visited Romania for official discussions with his counterpart. He also met the President of the Romanian Senate and participated at the opening of the Sri Lanka – Romania Business Forum. Highlights of the visit included the signing of the Agreement on Bilateral Consultations between the Ministry of External Affairs of Sri

Lanka and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania as well as the MoU between the Romanian Diplomatic Institute and the LKIIRSS.

The Hon. Minister visited Slovenia from 08th to 10th June 2013 and had meetings with the Slovenian Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, President of the Constitutional Court and President of the National Assembly. During the visit discussions were held on number of areas to strengthen bilateral relations including trade, tourism, investment and cultural relations.

The Minister visited Austria from 10th to 12th June 2013. During this visit, the Minister had meetings with the Austrian Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of European and International Affairs, State Secretary of Foreign Affairs and the Second President of the National Council of Austria. The discussions were focused on bilateral relations and trade, investment and cultural relations.

The Minister of External Affairs visited the Federal Republic of Germany from 12th to 14th June 2013. Meetings were held with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vice President of the German Parliament and other senior German government officials. The bilateral discussions included issues of mutual interest and ways to promote tourism, trade and investment.

On the sidelines of the 68th UNGA in New York, the Hon. Minister held meetings with his counterparts from the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom and discussed bilateral relations.

An official delegation headed by the Hon. Minister of Social Services visited the Vatican City from 17th to 21st March 2013. The Hon. Deputy Minister of External Affairs was also included in the delegation. The delegation attended the Solemn Inauguration of His Holiness the Pope Francis I on 19th March 2013 in the Vatican City.

The Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Hon Minister of Environment and Renewable Energy visited the Czech Republic from 27th to 31st March 2013 and held meetings with their counterparts. The Hon. Minister of Economic Development met with the Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic and discussed issues of mutual interest.

The Chief Minister of Sabaragamuwa Province visited Gaziantep city in Turkey for the signature ceremony of the "Twin City Programme" between the Sabaragamuwa Province and Gaziantep on 27th May 2013. This visit was facilitated to further consolidate and expand relations between the city of Gaziantep and the Sabaragamuwa Province and to enhance people to people contact.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia accompanied by the Under Secretary of Economic and Development Affairs, (Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs) visited Sri Lanka from 14th to 15th February 2013. Meetings were held with Minister of Economic Development, Minister of Ports & Highways, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence & Urban Development, and the Chairman of the Ports Authority. Discussions were held towards promoting trade and investment opportunities between Estonia and Sri Lanka and to exchange high level bilateral visits between the two countries.

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary visited Sri Lanka from 30th January - 05th February 2013. Meetings were held with His Excellency the President, the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Speaker, the Hon. Minister of External Affairs, the Hon. Minister of Economic Development and the Hon. Minister of Water Resources and Drainage. During these meetings

the Hungarian side indicated their interest in increasing cooperation in defence, economic and political areas.

The President of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano / Bozen, Italy visited Sri Lanka during 6th to 10th Jan. 2013, and had meetings with the Hon. Speaker and Members of Parliament.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom visited Sri Lanka during 31st Jan to 02nd Feb. 2013. He had meetings with the Hon. Minister of External Affairs and Hon. Minister of Economic Development and reviewed current bilateral relations. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary also visited the Northern Province.

A United Kingdom Parliamentary delegation led by Hon. (Ms.) Eleanor Laing, MP, visited Sri Lanka from 21st to 27th July 2013 and had meetings with Hon. Ministers and senior government officials, and observed the progress of the UK funded projects.

Lord & Lady Dennis Rogen of Lower Iweagh, Member of the House of Lords, the United Kingdom was in Sri Lanka on a familiarization tour from 24th September to 05th October 2013. Lord Rogen called on His Excellency the President and had meetings with Hon. Ministers and senior government officials.

Ms. Nathalie Goulet, Senator for Orne, France visited Sri Lanka on an invitation extended by the Secretary to the President, from 17th to 21st August 2013 with the objective of enhancing friendship between Sri Lanka and France. In this context, a three year old road map has been formulated and handed over to the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to France. For the first time in the history of the Senate of France, permission has been given to establish a Sri Lanka Friendship Group.

A delegation led by Dr. Asim Guzelbey, Mayor of the Metropolitan Municipality, Turkey visited the Sabaragamuwa Province from 11th to 14th December 2013, under the Twin City Programme signed between the Sabaragamuwa Province and Gaziantep of Turkey.

The European Union

The first meeting of the Sri Lanka-EU Joint Readmission Committee was convened on 18th February 2013, in Colombo, with the participation of Members of the European External Action Service, a member from the European Commission and members from EU member countries. Sri Lanka delegation was led by Additional Secretary (Consular, East Asia & Pacific) who is also the Chairman of the Policy Sub Committee of the National Coordination Committee on Readmission.

A Business delegation led by the Hon. Minister for International Monetary Co-operation and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning visited France from 17th -22nd February 2013. The visit was facilitated by the Sri Lanka –France Business Council (SLFBC) of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the European Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (ECCSL). The main emphasis of the said visit was the “EU-Sri Lanka Business Dialogue” with the overall objective of contributing towards economic co-operation between the European Union and Sri Lanka.

A Sri Lankan Parliamentary delegation visited the European Parliament in Brussels from 26th to 31st May 2013. The delegation was led by the Hon. Deputy Speaker. The Sri Lankan delegation had discussions with the Delegation for Relations with the Countries of South Asia (DSAS) in the European Parliament, His Excellency Martin Schulz, the President of the

European Parliament, Friends of Sri Lanka Group in the European Parliament and MEP Mr. Robert Sturdy-Vice Chair of the International Trade Committee (INTA) and President of the EU-Sri Lanka Business Council.

Subsequently, the DSAS of the European Parliament visited Sri Lanka from 15th to 19th July 2013 and the delegation was headed by Ms. Jean Lambert, Chair of the DSAS of the European Parliament. This visit was instrumental in providing updated information on the ground situation in the country to the MEPs.

Members of European Parliament, Mr. Hans Van Baalen and Mr. Phil Bennion visited Sri Lanka from 28th July to 16th August 2013 and from 11-24 August 2013 respectively and had meetings with the Hon. Deputy Speaker of the Parliament and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Bennion also visited the North.

The 18th Session of the EU -Sri Lanka Joint Commission was held in Brussels on 03rd December 2013. The Sri Lanka delegation to Brussels led by Secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs, consisted of 08 officials from the Ministry of External Affairs, the Department of External Resources, the Attorney General's Department and the Terrorist Investigation Department of the Sri Lanka Police. The Joint Commission meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Working Group on Economic & Trade Cooperation which was held on 2nd December 2013.

The Commonwealth

In view of the CHOGM 2013 in November, a number of visits were undertaken by the Commonwealth Secretariat officials over the past year, to discuss and prepare for the Summit. The highlights were the visits by the Commonwealth Secretary General in February and the Deputy Secretary General in July 2013. In addition to the preparations for the CHOGM 2013, Sri Lanka's collaboration with the Commonwealth was also extensively discussed during these meetings. The Division has also been facilitating various events connected with CHOGM 2013.

His Excellency the President and the Hon. Minister of External Affairs met the Commonwealth Secretary General and the Secretariat officials in New York on the sidelines of the 68th UNGA, to discuss final arrangements for the CHOGM 2013. The Hon. Minister provided an oral presentation on the arrangements for the CHOGM 2013 to Commonwealth Foreign Ministers at their meeting in New York on 26th September 2013.

Hon. MMP led a delegation of the CHOGM 2013 Taskforce Secretariat to the UK in May 2013, to provide details of the administrative and logistical arrangements to London based High Commissioners. A video presentation of the arrangement was made while the Administrative Aide Memoire was also circulated.

As the incoming Chair-in-Office, Sri Lanka chaired the Committee of the Whole (COW) Meeting in London from 17th to 18th October, where the draft CHOGM 2013 Communiqué was discussed for the first time. The Sri Lanka delegation was led by Addl. Secretary (West, United Nations, Multilateral Affairs & Human Rights) / External Affairs.

CHOGM -2013

The 22nd Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was held from 15th -17th November 2013 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The successful hosting of the CHOGM 2013 raised the profile of Sri Lanka in the international arena. This historic event also marked the return of CHOGM to Asia after 24 years. With the hosting of the CHOGM 2013, Sri Lanka has assumed the role of Chair –in- Office of the Commonwealth for the next two years.

The special theme proposed by Sri Lanka for the CHOGM 2013 was "*Growth with Equity: Inclusive Development*" which had relevance to the majority of Commonwealth countries.

The CHOGM was preceded by the pre – CHOGM Foreign Ministers' Meeting held from 13th-14th November and the Senior Officials' Meeting held from 11th– 12th November 2013. In addition to the above meetings, a Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on Small States, which was open to all Commonwealth Foreign Ministers, was held on 12th November.

This Ministry took the lead role in organizing the event, and the West Division undertook the task of substance related matters pertaining to the event including the preparation of briefs for the Sri Lanka delegation for all the meetings referred above.

50 out of 53 member states participated at the CHOGM 2013 while 27 member states were represented at the level Head of Government.

The Commonwealth Leaders endorsed the 2013 Colombo Communiqué and the following three standalone statements which were proposed by the Government of Sri Lanka, and developed by the Commonwealth Secretariat:

- 1) The Colombo Declaration on Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Development
- 2) Magampura Commitment to Young People
- 3) Kotte Statement on International Trade and Investment

The Ministry of External Affairs facilitated all the parallel events of the CHOGM 2013 including the Business Forum, the Youth Forum and the People's Forum. The Commonwealth Youth Forum assisted in establishing the first ever Commonwealth Youth Council. It is an autonomous youth-led body which would serve as the representative voice of 1.2 billion young people in the Commonwealth, and would provide a framework for youth-led development initiatives. In line with the importance given to youth, the Government of Sri Lanka made an offer to host the first Secretariat of the Commonwealth Youth Council in Hambanthota, which was accepted by the Heads of Government.

The Commonwealth Business Forum which was held from 12th to 14th November was attended by 655 international and 749 local participants. The Board of Investment of Sri Lanka has estimated that MoUs / agreements to the value of USD 2.55 billion have been signed during the Commonwealth Business Forum.

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

United Nations, Multilateral Affairs, Human Rights and Conferences Division

The United Nations, Multilateral Affairs, Human Rights and Conferences Division of the Ministry of External Affairs is entrusted with a range of responsibilities covering Sri Lanka's representation and engagement with the United Nations and its affiliated agencies with a view to meeting Sri Lanka's international obligations as a responsible member of the global community.

Matters pertaining to post-conflict developments

A major focus of the Division in the past few years has been in the realm of post conflict developments in Sri Lanka, a matter that has gained international attention since the end of the conflict in May 2009. In this respect, the Division has been responsible for strategizing Sri Lanka's action towards the UN system to respond to various queries raised by the international community in relation to its post-conflict development issues and especially to respond to the allegations related to the conflict with a view to deterring any adverse action by the international community.

To this end, the Division 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 UN, international civil society representatives as well as the international media. The Division also prepares briefing material for Sri Lanka Missions in order that they keep their capitals of accreditation informed of the developments related to HR issues in respect of the country. Several briefings by the Hon. Minister of External Affairs were organized for the diplomatic community, the local as well as international media based in Sri Lanka to explain Sri Lanka's position on the post-conflict development and reconciliation process.

Participation in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

The Division handled preparations for the ongoing 68th Session of the UNGA, which commenced on 24th September 2013, in New York. Sri Lanka Delegation to the High Level Segment of this Session was led by His Excellency the President. The Sri Lanka delegation also included Hon. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs, Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management, Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma, Minister of Youth Affairs and Skills Development, Hon. Sajin de Vass Gunawardena, Monitoring MP, Ministry of External Affairs, Hon. Lohan Ratwatte MP, Mr. Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the His Excellency President and senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Permanent Mission to the UN in New York.

His Excellency the President addressed the General Assembly and High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development during the High Level Segment. On the sidelines of the 68th Session of the UNGA, His Excellency the President also held bilateral meetings with the Secretary General of the United Nations, President of Nigeria, Head of Government of Kuwait, Prime Minister of State of Qatar, President of Cyprus, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Prime Minister of New Zealand, President of Republic of Kenya, President of the Republic of Mozambique and President of Guyana.

The Hon. Minister of External Affairs participated at the Plenary Meeting of Special Event of MDGs, High Level on Nuclear Disarmament, 36th Annual Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of G – 77 and China, NAM Ministerial Meeting, Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers, ACD Foreign Ministers Breakfast Meeting and G – 15 Ministerial Meeting. On the sidelines of the 68th Session of the UNGA, Hon. Minister of External Affairs also held bilateral meetings with the Commonwealth Secretary General, Secretary General of the OIC, President of the ICRC,

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of UK and Foreign Ministers of Australia, Indonesia, El – Salvador, Sudan, Singapore, Gabon, Bangladesh, Iran, Republic of Guinea, Botswana, and the Russian Federation.

The Division coordinated the participation of speeches, briefs and logistical arrangements for this visit with the assistance of the Sri Lanka's Permanent Mission in New York. The Division also provided policy guidance for Committee Stage discussions.

Participation in the sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC)

The UN Division coordinated Sri Lanka participation at the three sessions (22nd, 23rd and 24th sessions) of the Human Rights Council (HRC) which was held in March, June and September 2013. The Division, in coordination with the relevant line Ministries and agencies, contributed both in terms of substance and other resources.

During the 22nd Session of the Council, the Division was also involved in developing a strategy to deal with the resolution brought against Sri Lanka by the USA (Resolution 22/1) and contributed to the lobbying efforts in the lead up to and during that session. According to the final result, 13 countries supported Sri Lanka by voting against the resolution, and 8 countries abstained while 25 voted for the resolution out of a total of 47 members of the Human Rights Council (Y-25, Ab-8 N-13¹.)

The Division commenced preparations for the 25th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, inter alia, coordinating with relevant line agencies, preparing briefs, facilitating interactions and sending Special Envoys of His Excellency the President to a selected group of countries.

Visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

As part of Sri Lanka's continued engagement with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN human rights mechanism, in April 2011, an invitation was extended to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navaneetham Pillay to visit Sri Lanka. The High Commissioner undertook a visit to Sri Lanka from 26th to 31st August 2013.

During her seven-day visit, the High Commissioner paid a courtesy call on His Excellency the President and held discussions with senior members of the Government, including the Ministers of External Affairs, Justice, Economic Development, National Languages and Social Integration, Youth Affairs and the Minister of Plantation Industries who is also the Special Envoy of the President on Human Rights. She also had meetings with the Hon. Chief Justice, the Hon. Attorney-General, Leader of the House of Parliament, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development, and the Secretary to the President, who is also the head of the Task Force appointed to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC).

During this visit the Government provided the High Commissioner unhindered access which was acknowledged by her. The High Commissioner was able to ascertain first-hand the multi-faceted progress Sri Lanka has made.

¹*Gabon did not use its vote.

Sri Lanka's reporting obligations to UN Treaty Bodies and to other UN mechanisms

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Sri Lanka received a total of 204 recommendations at its second cycle of the UPR held on 1st November 2012. Out of them, 113 recommendations enjoyed the support of Sri Lanka and 91 were rejected. Additionally, Sri Lanka made 19 voluntary commitments. The UPR Report of Sri Lanka was adopted by the Human Rights Council in March 2013 during the 22nd Session of the HRC.

During the review, Sri Lanka presented an overall position on human rights related aspects of the country. Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, Special Envoy of His Excellency the President on Human Rights was vested with the responsibility of undertaking the work for Sri Lanka's participation in the 2nd Cycle of the UPR, especially reporting on progress in the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) and the Report of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC).

CAT

In January 2013, this Division coordinated the submission of Sri Lanka's response to the Concluding Observations of the Committee Against Torture (CAT) after consideration of the 3rd and 4th Combined periodic Reports on Sri Lanka. This Division is in the process of coordinating the submission of Sri Lanka's 5th Periodic Report to the CAT which is due by 25 November 2015.

CEDAW

The Division submitted Sri Lanka's response to the Concluding Observations for Sri Lanka's Periodic Report to the International Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in September 2013.

ICESCR

This Division held two inter-Ministerial meetings in order to compile information to submit Sri Lanka's 5th Periodic Report to the Committee on International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The first draft response has been compiled and is being processed.

Special Mandate Holders

The Division coordinates Sri Lanka's interactions with UN Special Procedures on Human Rights.

The Division, in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, prepared and submitted responses with regard to 463 cases of disappearances brought to its attention by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID)². The Division continues to work with the related line Agencies/ Ministries to respond to alleged disappearances brought to the attention of the Government of Sri Lanka by the WGEID.

Sri Lanka has extended invitations to the following Special Mandate Holders:

² As of 08 Oct 2013(cases responded since January 2013)

- a. Special Rapporteur on IDPs – 02nd to 09th December 2013
- b. Special Rapporteur on Education–15th to 31st January 2013

Visit of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):

This Division coordinated the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Dr. Chaloka Beyani to Sri Lanka from 2nd to 6th December 2013. The Special Rapporteur Dr. Beyani had meetings with Ministers/ Officials / political leaders and also made a field visit to the Northern Province.

Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (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 14th -21th 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 Officials, during this visit, met with a wide range of stakeholders including representatives of the Government of Sri Lanka, representatives of Opposition political parties, members of the diplomatic community and civil society. The officials also undertook a visit to the Northern Province covering Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya and interacted with various stakeholders in those areas. The UN Division coordinated with the relevant UN officers in finalizing the programme and facilitated this visit.

Formulation of Government positions for multilateral fora on matters of interest

The Division has been participating at stakeholders' meetings in formulating the GOSL positions regarding matters of interest to the country such as Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Disarmament, taking into account the political nature of the discourse on these subjects. Also, the Division contributed to Sri Lanka's relations with other UN member countries, by supporting or exchanging Sri Lanka's vote for candidatures, resolutions and other issues of national interest.

Sri Lanka's contribution to UN Peacekeeping

Sri Lanka has been a major contributor to the UN flagship activity of Peacekeeping. The Division coordinates with the Ministry of Defence, Police Department and the three Armed forces as well as PRUN/New York to enhance Sri Lanka's participation in these missions as well as to facilitate troop deployments. Sri Lankan military personnel are currently deployed in many peacekeeping missions such as in Haiti, Iraq, Chad, Central African Republic, Timor-Leste, Sudan, South Sudan, Congo, Western Sahara, Lebanon, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Somalia, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Cyprus, Guinea Bissau , Kosovo, Brindisi (Italy),Mali (Minusma) and Mongolia.

Representations by Sri Lanka at multilateral fora

The Division has been represented in delegations attending environment disarmament and health related UN conferences and has been assisting national focal points in formulating Sri Lanka's position keeping in view global developments in the respective areas. The Division has facilitated and assisted the Ministry of Youth Affairs to mark the International Year of Youth declared by the UN. Additionally, the Division is assisting the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development, in consultation with PRUN/New York in the preparatory work regarding the World Conference on Youth scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka from 6th to 10th

May 2014. The Division also assists the relevant line ministries to facilitate the peer review under the UN Convention Against Corruption. 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 27 letters of credence to these delegates over the last year.

Important event/s hosted by Sri Lanka in the context of multilateral relations

This Division contributed, inter-alia, to the substantive aspect of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held from 10th to 17th November 2013.

Elections to UN bodies

The Division has been active in the following areas regarding the elections to UN bodies:

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

Conferences and Visas

During the period under consideration, the UN & MA Division assisted in processing 1200 Visas for foreign nationals for various International Conferences and Meetings held in Sri Lanka. The division has also provided observations/ approval for visas for expatriate staff assigned to the UN Missions in Sri Lanka. Issuance of visas by Sri Lanka Missions include a substantial amount of coordination work of the 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 foreign funding component to the NGOs concerned.

UN Vacancies & Contributions

This Division forwards the information on receipt regarding different vacancies in the UN to the relevant line Ministries and institutions. This Division coordinates with the relevant Government Ministries and institutions on the respective payments to be made to the UN agencies for Sri Lanka's membership in those institutions.

Economic Affairs Division

Economic Affairs Division

Economic Affairs Division is the focal point of the Ministry of External Affairs which deals with bilateral and Multi-lateral economic and trade activities. In addition, this division is facilitating the arrangement of national and international events such as trade exhibitions, conferences, workshops, in coordination with the line agencies. Economic Affairs division is the coordination point of this Ministry that deals with the Ministry of Finance for the Deyata Kirula Exhibition which is held annually, in parallel to the Independence Day in February.

During 2013, a special assignment was entrusted to this Division; to coordinate with the Commonwealth Business Council (CBF), for the arrangement of the Commonwealth Business Forum (CBF). This is the platform that business communities of the Commonwealth and non-commonwealth countries meet to promote business opportunities.

The Economic Affairs Division also assisted in organizing the "Reflection of Sri Lanka", the trade, investment, tourism and cultural exhibition that took place during the CHOGM, 2013. The Economic Affairs Division facilitated and coordinated organization of international events in Sri Lanka including the 6th South Asia Economic Summit.

Under multi-lateral economic cooperation, this division constantly coordinates activities with international organizations pertaining to a wide range of fields. The World Intellectual Property Organization [WIPO], The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission [IOTC], The World Trade Organization [WTO], The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development [UNCTAD], and The International Labour Organization [ILO] are some of the trade related international organizations which come under the purview of this division. In addition, the Group of 15 [G-15], Group of 11 [G-11], Group of 77 [G-77], the Asia Cooperation Dialogue [ACD], the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [ESCAP], the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation [BIMSTEC], the Indian Ocean Rim Association [IORA] are some of the multi-lateral initiatives where this division coordinates with the respective line agencies.

Addressing the economic security issues, this division plays a vital role on the migration and development initiatives of the UN and other organizations. This is especially because Sri Lanka is highly dependent on the income remitted by Sri Lankan expatriate workers. This division coordinates with the Ministry of Foreign Employment Promotion and Welfare to enhance capacity of foreign employment in order to generate greater foreign exchange for the national economy and on the other hand to take steps to uplift the living standards of the Sri Lankans working in foreign countries by facilitating Man Power Agreements.

Bilateral Relations

Economic Affairs Division is entrusted with activities relating to bilateral trade relations. During the year 2013 Economic Affairs Division facilitated a number of Trade Delegations that participated in Sri Lankan promotional events in foreign countries. Similarly, this Division coordinated visits of foreign trade delegations to Sri Lanka. The following trade delegations participated and conducted Sri Lankan promotional events during the 9 months under consideration.

1. Trade delegation visited Seychelles along with His Excellency the President from 24th June to 1st of July 2013.

2. Special trade delegation headed by Hon. Sajin de Vass Gunawardena, Monitoring MP of External Affairs visited Seychelles from 4th to 6th August 2013. Subsequent to this visit, it was decided to open a Bank of Ceylon branch and Insurance Corporation branch in Victoria, Seychelles.
3. A trade delegation including the BOI and the Tourist Board visited Belarus along with His Excellency the President. During this visit, the trade delegation participated at the Business Forum held in Minsk and made presentations to the Belarusian business community on the potential of Sri Lanka for Investments.

Following business delegations visited Sri Lanka during the same period and the Economic Affairs Division of this Ministry assisted through coordination with the relevant line Agencies.

- a) A trade delegation from Israel visited Sri Lanka from 25th to 31st August 2013. This Ministry coordinated with the Export Development Board to organize a forum and site visits to renowned business enterprises.
- b) A team of experts from Brazil Cooperation Agency (ACB) visited Sri Lanka from 08th to 14th August, 2013. This visit was organized under the Brazil technical assistance programme. A number of meetings were arranged by this Division with the assistance of the Ministries of Minor Crops Promotion, Agriculture and Health. The visiting delegation had an exchange of views with the Sri Lankan experts on dengue eradication mechanisms and the development of small crops.
- c) Hon. Urmas Paet, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia visited Sri Lanka accompanied by a business delegation from 14th to 15th February, 2013. The Division facilitated the meetings by coordinating with the respective chambers in Sri Lanka, and with the Ministry of Ports and Highways.

The Economic Affairs Division coordinated ongoing negotiations with China on the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) along with other government stakeholders such as the Department of Commerce. It also coordinated matters pertaining to implementation of the existing FTAs with India and Pakistan.

Multilateral Relations

The BIMSTEC is a regional organization that consists of 7 countries including Sri Lanka. The main purpose of the establishment of this organization is to create and enhance technical and economic cooperation among member countries. During the period under consideration, following BIMSTEC meetings were hosted by Sri Lanka. These were organized by the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development, in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs.

1. The 6th Joint Working Group (JWG) – Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) Meeting and 3rd sub-group on Intelligence Sharing from 6th to 8th May 2013.
2. 3rd Meeting of the Sub Group on Intelligence Sharing (SGIS) on 6th May, 2013. Sri Lankan delegation participated at the 5th BIMSTEC Joint Working Group (JWG) – Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) Meeting held in New Delhi from 8th to 9th January 2013. During this session, a convention on mutual assistance in criminal matters was negotiated and the text was finalized.

The Economic Affairs Division coordinated activities in relation to the IORA Organization. During the period under review Sri Lanka participated in the following IORA Meetings

1. The first economic and business conference held in Mauritius on 4th to 5th July, 2013. Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry & Commerce attended the above conference with a business delegation.
2. From 20th 21st August, 3rd Bi-annual Committee of Senior Officials Meeting was held in Mauritius. The Ministry of External Affairs was represented by the Director General /Economic Affairs.
3. In the sphere of regional cooperation, the Economic Affairs Division coordinated participation at the Ministerial Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim-Association (IORA) in Perth, Australia

The Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) is a 31 member forum established among the Asian Countries with the intention of building a more cohesive relationship between the countries in the continent to enhance mutual economic development. Hon. Neomal Perera, Deputy Minister of External Affairs represented Sri Lanka for the 11th ACD Ministerial Meeting held at Dushanbe in Tajikistan and the 12th ACD Ministerial Meeting held in Bahrain. Director General of the Economic Affairs Division accompanied the Deputy Minister and assisted in projecting Sri Lankan position.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

The Economic Affairs Division acts as the National Focal Point for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and, along with the National Intellectual Property Office (NIPO) coordinated numerous activities to promote and protect Sri Lanka's intellectual property rights including trademarks, patents and geographical indicators such as Ceylon Tea, Ceylon Blue Sapphires etc. The Division along with the NIPO organized the visit of Dr. Francis Gurry, Director General, WIPO to Sri Lanka in November 2013. This was the first visit of a DG/WIPO in over thirty years to Sri Lanka. The DG/ WIPO held called on His Excellency the President, Hon. Minister of External Affairs and addressed a symposium on intellectual property. As a result of the visit a 10 Point Action Plan was agreed upon between the WIPO and the Government of Sri Lanka for cooperation for the year 2014.

G-15

The Economic Affairs Division is the national focal point for the Group of Fifteen organization of which Sri Lanka is currently the Chair. In collaboration with Sri Lanka Missions in Geneva and New York, the Division made arrangements for the 36th Ministerial Meeting of the Group which was held on the sidelines of the UNGA in New York. The Hon. Minister of External Affairs chaired this meeting and announced Sri Lanka's willingness to host the next Summit. The Division is now making necessary arrangements for the foundation work to host the next G-15 Summit in Sri Lanka which is scheduled for November, 2014. The Summit will bring together 17 leaders and would be another important milestone in Sri Lanka's history. It is expected to be the biggest international event in 2014 to be held in Sri Lanka.

UNESCAP

The Division is the focal point at the Ministry to handle issues related to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The Division was instrumental in coordinating matters related to the delegation and formulation of national policies for the 69th annual session of the ESCAP. In addition, the Division acts as the coordinator between the ESCAP and other local focal points, especially those attached to the three Governing Councils of the Committees in which Sri Lanka is a member. These Committees are; the Committee on Statistics, Committee on Asia Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology and the Committee on the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture. Also, the Division coordinates the participation of Sri Lankan personnel at meetings, workshops, etc. associated with ESCAP.

Colombo Process

The Division was also tasked to be the Ministry's focal point to deal with the Colombo Process, a grouping of nations that look into the rights and privileges of migrant workers and the subject of migration and development.

Other International Organisations

The Division coordinated issuance of short term visit visas to officials of ADB, World Bank, IMF, JICA etc. and also facilitated visas for officials participated in workshops and seminars organized by government agencies. The Division facilitated provision of several short term and long term scholarships to Sri Lankan students, professionals and government officials through the Colombo Plan, the Singapore Technical Cooperation Programme, the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme, the UNESCAP, and the KOICA.

Foreign Investments

A delegation headed by the Managing Director of the Ghantoot Group, with the facilitation of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi, visited Sri Lanka. The Division assisted the visiting delegation to meet with the relevant government agencies. Similarly with the facilitation of the Sri Lanka Embassy in Doha, the real estate arm of the government of the State of Qatar, Qatar Diar, which had the interest of investing in the hotel sector, visited Sri Lanka. The Division assisted the visit of the fact finding team with the assistance of the BOI. At present, discussions are ongoing with the Thayab Group, a UAE company as a potential investor in the Sector of Power Generation sector.

Trade Promotion

As the focal point of the Ministry of External Affairs for the Commonwealth Business Forum activities, the Division played a vital role in the promotion of the Forum.

All the promotional material for the Business Forum was disseminated by the Economic Affairs Division to Sri Lanka Missions abroad. Also, the coordination meetings of the CBF sub-committee were convened and facilitated by the Division.

In general, the Division disseminated information on Sri Lankan trade promotion events through Sri Lankan Missions Abroad. Similarly, information on foreign trade promotion events are informed to interested parties in Sri Lanka through the Chambers of Commerce.

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 Mission 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 Division deals with logistical and protocol arrangements necessary for facilitating visits by the Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers, Senior officials and other dignitaries to Sri Lanka. It is also the responsibility of this Division to provide required assistance to events hosted by His Excellency the President, the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of External Affairs to foreign dignitaries. When foreign Diplomatic Missions and countries are involved, necessary protocol assistance is extended to 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	- 13
Heads of UN & other International Organizations	- 03
Special Envoys	- 03
Foreign Ministers	- 06
Cabinet Ministers	- 11
Other foreign dignitaries	- 40
Delegation for meetings/conferences	-04

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

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

2.2.1 Visits by Sri Lankan VVIP

State visits by His Excellency the President	- 10 (Details are at Annex B)
Visits by the Hon. Prime Minister	- 03 (Details are at Annex C)
Visits by the Hon. Minister of External Affairs	- 23 (Details are at Annex D)

4. Privileges and Immunities

- 4.1 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:

4.2.1	Issuance of clearance certificates	-	1965
4.2.2	Customs facilities extended to Foreign Missions in Sri Lanka and members of their staff during arrival and departure	-	135
4.2.3	Diplomatic vehicles		
	Sale of vehicles	-	265
	Registration of vehicles	-	078
	Issuance of revenue licenses	-	895
	Issuance of driving licenses	-	53
	Issuance of petrol coupon books	-	366
4.2.4	Visas (for Foreign Missions & UN Organizations)	-	1432
4.2.5	Airport Passes (permanent & temporary)	-	149
	VIP lounge permits	-	1496
4.2.6	Diplomatic clearance (Foreign Aircraft & Ships)	-	174
4.2.7	Preparation of National Day felicitation messages	-	82

5. 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 Division during the period under review are as follows;

- 5.1.2 Identity Cards (Diplomatic – 338 & others – 326)
- 5.1.2 Appointments of Foreign Heads of Mission to Sri Lanka - 32

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 Division closely coordinates 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.

1. 08th Meeting of SAFTA COE from 22nd August 2013.
2. 7th Meeting of SAFTA Ministerial Council, 23rd August 2013.
3. 06th Meeting of SAARC Finance Ministries and Finance Secretaries, 29th August 2013
4. 2nd Federation International Corps Associations of Consuls, South Asia Consular Conference, 11th -14th August 2013.
5. 13th CHOGM – 10th -17th November 2013

Heads of State/Prime Ministers & Other VVIP - 12

- 1) Visit of His Excellency Dr. Laszlo Kover, Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary from 30th January – 05th February 2013.
- 2) Visit of His Excellency Taro Aso, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Japan 1st to 2nd May 2013.
- 3) Visit of His Excellency Khalifa Al Dhahrani, Speaker of the Majlis Al-Nuwab of Baharain (Council of Representatives -2nd Chamber) 23rd to 28th April 2013.
- 4) Visit of Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand from 31st May 01st June 2013.
- 5) Visit of His Excellency Surapong Tovichaiikul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand – 2nd to 4th May 2013 and the 3rd Joint Commission between Sri Lanka and Thailand, 30th April – 04th May 2013.
- 6) Transit Visit of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda from 29th May and 03rd June 2013.
- 7) Visit of the First Lady of Georgia to Sri Lanka from 17th to 22nd June 2013.
- 8) Visit of His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Waheed Hassan, President of the Republic of Maldives from 05th -07th July 2013.
- 9) Visit of Her Imperial Highness Princess Tsuguko of Takamado of Japan and Delegation from 19th to 23rd August 2013.
- 10) Official Visit of His Excellency Chung Hang Won, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea to Sri Lanka from 28th to 31st August 2013.
- 11) Visit of His Excellency Mohamed Nasheed, former President of Maldives and delegation from 17th to 18th August 2013.
- 12) Visit of His Excellency Salman Khurshid, Minister of External Affairs of India from 07th to 08th October 2013.

Heads of UN & Other International Organizations – 03

- 1) Visit of Pakistan delegation for the joint seminar organized by LKIRSS from 09th to 12th February 2013.
- 2) Visit of Commonwealth Secretary General and delegation to Sri Lanka from 06th to 13th February 2013.
- 3) Visit of Commonwealth Foundation staff for arrangements for the CHOGM People's Forum from 23rd to 29th August 2013.

Special Envoy - 03

- 1) Visit of Mr. S. Swamy, Special Guest of the Ministry of External Affairs and a 02 member delegation from India.
- 2) Visit of Mr. Asfandiar Rashmi Machaei, Advisor to the President of Iran and Chairman, the NAM Secretariat.
- 3) Visit of Lord and Lady Rogan of Lower Leigh, Member of the House of Lords and Members of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Sri Lanka in the UK Parliament from 24th to 5th October 2013.

Foreign Ministers - 06

- 1) Visit of His Excellency Urmas Paet, Minister of Foreign Affairs and delegation to Sri Lanka from 14th to 15th February 2013.
- 2) Visit of His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi, Iranian Foreign Minister from 15th - 16th March 2013.
- 3) Visit of His Excellency Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan from 5th to 7th May 2013.
- 4) Visit of Hon. Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand from 4th– 5th June 2013.
- 5) Visit of Hon. Hamadi Ould Baba Ould Hamadi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mauritania from 29th to June 2013 01st July 2013.
- 6) Visit of Hon. Muray Mc Cully, Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand 29th to 30th August 2013.

State visits by His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka - 10

- 1) Visit to India from 08th to 09th February 2013
- 2) State visit to Japan from 12th to 15th March 2013
- 3) State visit to Uganda from 11th to 15th May 2013
- 4) State visit to China from 27th to 30th May 2013
- 5) State visit to Tanzania from 27th to 29th June 2013
- 6) State visit to Seychelles from 29th June to 01st July 2013
- 7) State visit to Belarus from 25th to 28th August 2013
- 8) Visit to New York to attend the UNGA from 22nd to 27th September 2013

Consular Affairs Division

Consular Affairs Division

The Consular Affairs Division established by the Consular Functions Act No. 4 of 1981 (amended by Act No. 18 of 2006); is the most known Division of the Ministry of External Affairs as far as the general public is concerned.

The Division facilitates documentary and other requirements that are necessary for Sri Lankans prior to and after their departure to foreign countries.

The Consular Affairs Division is air-conditioned for the comfort of the visiting public and since 2011 has been computerized to provide speedy service. In addition, television sets have been installed for the benefit of public.

The Consular Affairs Division is the only division in the Ministry that generates income. A total of SLRs. 328,840,091.38 was collected up to 31st December 2013.

The Consular Affairs Division is divided in to the following sections.

- (1) Document Authentication Section
- (2) Compensation Section
- (3) Death Section
- (4) Repatriation Section
- (5) Education Section
- (6) Miscellaneous Section (Fishing vessels, Birth Registration & others)

Document Authentication Section

A large number of people visit the Document Authentication section on a daily basis in order to get their documents authenticated. A wide range of documents issued by Sri Lankan authorities including birth, marriage, death, medical & educational certificates, police clearance reports, export documents, affidavits and power-of-attorney documents are some of the most frequently authenticated documents. Total revenue of SLRs. 101,541,000.00 was collected during the period under consideration.

Compensation Section

The Compensation Section is responsible for the facilitation of court cases in order to obtain compensation. This Division also mediates labour disputes in connection with non-payment of salaries and ill-treatment. In the event a Sri Lankan is murdered or faces physical harm or faced distressing situations at the hand of an employer or co-workers in a foreign country, the compensation section takes action to take them to task and obtain compensation, salary dues, donations or insurance coverage. Blood money is obtained in the event of murder from the murderer. At present there are two prominent cases seeking high amounts of blood money.

One is Amaralatha Slaten murder trial where an American murdered his Sri Lankan wife; Blood money set at USD 1 million. The other case is in which H.A. Champika Thushara was murdered by Bemina Hennadige Sujith Michael Jayantha Pieris; Blood money for that case was set as SLRs. 10 Million.

Payments are also obtained as compensation for illnesses caused by work related circumstances, for natural or accidental death while working, accidental death outside working hours. A large payment of compensation was obtained from Korea during the period under review for two people who were burnt to death while sleeping in a container modified house where the fire started due to faulty electrical wiring.

Unpaid salaries, donations etc. also solicited on behalf of workers. All documentations are drafted at this section and processed. Competent lawyers are retained on a fee sharing basis from the receiving country. Currently, the division offers fees starting from 1% to 20%. Upon winning cases, over Rs. 213 million was collected up to 31st of December 2013. The highest individual payment of Rs. 7,767,442.00 was received on account of a death reported from Kuwait.

Death Section

The Death Section's primary function is to identify the next of kin (NOK) and to facilitate the transportation of human remains to the NOK in Sri Lanka. Alternately, burial or cremation instructions are also issued if that is the wish of the NOK. Total of 501 bodies have been brought during the period under review. Highest number of deaths from a single location was reported from Saudi Arabia which is 159, followed by Qatar 61, Kuwait 51, Italy 48, UAE 41, India 4 and all other countries combined 137. Out of the 501 deaths, 270 were due to illnesses, 103 due to accidents, 28 due to suicide, 12 due to murder and 88 due to unspecified reasons.

Repatriation Section

Repatriation of stranded/detained or arrested Sri Lankans is an important task handled by the Consular Division with the assistance of Sri Lanka Missions abroad, the International Organization for Migration or other organizations.

The statistics related to repatriation cases handled by this Section during the period under review are as follows;

Personal or health reasons	-	Reported 802,	Settled 268,	Pending 534
Detained/arrested or jailed	-	Reported 371,	Settled 98,	Pending 230
Total	-	1173	366	764

Education Section

This Section authenticates GCE O/L and GCE A/L certificates issued by the Testing and Evaluation Services, Department of Examinations of Sri Lanka. In addition, it accepts payments with regard to birth and death registration, export documents and others. The income generated from this section for the period under review is SLRs. 13,710,250.00.

Miscellaneous Section

This Section covers all matters that do not fall under the previous 5 sections. Even though it is called a Miscellaneous Section, the duties that are assigned to it vary and a high volume of cases are processed on a daily basis. In the event of a murder and both parties are Sri Lanka citizens; while the Compensation Section looks after the interest of the aggrieved party, it is the Miscellaneous Section that looks after the interest of the accused.

This Section also handles cases related to the drift boats and fishing vessels. There were 63 fishing vessels under detention in India with 333 crew members who were under arrest. Every possible action has been taken to release them and as a result 23 fishing vessels and 121 crew members were released during the period under review. This Section also handles cases related to Sri Lankan seafarers and fishermen captured by Somali pirates. During the period under review there are 6 crew members of MV Albedo sailing under Malaysian flag (Penang – Pulau – Malacca, Malaysia) captured. Their date of capture is 26.11.2010 and the case is pending as pirates demand ransom for their release. This Section also processes cases related to Sri Lankans facing death sentences, life imprisonment and long jail terms abroad.

A total of 1326 birth certificates issued by our Missions to children born to Sri Lankan parents abroad were received by the Miscellaneous Section during the period under review.

Annex I**Authentication and Verification Section**

Month (2013)	Revenue (SLRs.)
1. January	10,340,750.00
2. February	8,578,750.00
3. March	8,603,750.00
4. April	7,766,500.00
5. May	7,764,000.00
6. June	8,345,500.00
7. July	8,604,750.00
8. August	7,852,250.00
9. September	8,321,500.00
10. October	8,739,750.00
11. November	8,370,250.00
12. December	9,088,625.00
TOTAL	101,541,000.00

Annex II**Compensation Section**

Ref.	Country	Amount (SLRs.)
1	Saudi Arabia	39,612,512.78
2	Qatar	30,445,670.00
3	UAE	20,170,988.44
4	Kuwait	30,771,284.00
5	Lebanon	2,221,875.00
6	Jordan	17,119,407.90
7	Oman	5,041,398.47
8	Kenya	135,389.10
9	South Korea	1,252,496.53
10	Singapore	5,359,206.24
11	Rome	2,559,942.00
12	Bahrain	115,580.00
13	Dubai	7,678,097.00
14	Jeddah	5,380,566.44
15	Jordan	1,084,200.00
16	Kenya	68,302.72
17	Kuwait	18,100,680.00
18	Qatar	20,605,710.00
19	Riyadh	5,223,984.46
20	Malaysia	USD 4927.31
Total		213,588,841.38

Deaths Reported up to 31st December 2013

Country	No. of death
Riyadh(KSA)	115
Jeddah(KSA)	44
Kuwait	51
Qatar	61
Rome	48
India	04
UAE	41
Other countries	137
TOTAL	501

Cause of death	No. of death
Accident	103
Illness	270
Suicide	28
Murder	12
Unknown cause	88
Total	501

No. of Deaths 2009 - 2013

No. of Death cases in 2009 - 435

No. of Death cases in 2010 - 474

No. of Death cases in 2011 – 430

No. of Death cases in 2012 – 431

No. of Death cases in 2013 – 501

Public Communications Division

Public Communications Division

The Public Communications Division (PC 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.

Activities by PC Division during the year 2013:

Coverage for VVIP/VIP visits

1. The Division assisted media coverage of His Excellency the President's Visits to Kazakhstan in February, Japan in March, Uganda & China in May, Tanzania in June, Seychelles in July, Belarus in August, Kenya and South Africa in December 2013
2. The Division also coordinated the media coverage of official visits of the Hon. Minister of External Affairs to UAE and India in January; Brazil, Bangladesh, Singapore, Israel & Palestine in February; Japan and Seychelles in March; Maldives, Romania and the UK in April; Uganda and China in May, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Australia, the Netherlands, Tanzania and Seychelles in June, Philippines, Singapore and Iran in July; India & Pakistan in August; UK, UAE and USA (NY UNGA General Sessions) in September; South Korea and Malaysia in October and Australia in November 2013.
3. This Division facilitated media coverage of visits of VIPs to Sri Lanka(details are at Annex I)

Official delegations:

4. The Division also facilitated the media coverage of 26 visits of official delegations to Sri Lanka from other countries (details at Annex I).

Visits of Foreign media personnel and film crews:

5. The Division facilitated 473 visits of foreign media personnel for news coverage and 50 filming projects. The Division follows on the work carried out by the visiting journalists for future reference (details at Annex II).
6. The Division also coordinated appointments for visiting media personnel with the VVIP and other government officials.

Media and Diplomatic Briefings:

7. In the period under review, the Division organized 8 diplomatic briefings and 23 press briefings and issued 240 press releases on behalf of the Ministry and the Sri Lanka Missions. Transcripts of some of the media briefings have also been provided to the relevant Divisions and Missions.

Other:

8. In his capacity as the Ministry Spokesperson, the Additional Secretary/Director General of the Public Communications Division provides information and responds to queries from local and foreign media.
9. 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 the Hon. Minister of External Affairs, the Hon. Dy. Minister of External Affairs, the Hon. Monitoring MP, Secretary/External Affairs and the Divisions, Sri Lanka Missions abroad and selected officials of line agencies.
10. When it was deemed necessary, the Division coordinated with the 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, tourism and etc to Sri Lanka Missions abroad to counter adverse propaganda.
11. The Division regularly updated the Missions on events taking place in Sri Lanka and disseminated government statements/media releases, so as to respond to queries on Sri Lanka.
12. The Division coordinated the dispatch of important publications from Sri Lanka to Missions abroad on regular basis.
13. The Division prepared, special publications/reports and audio visual material for Deyata Kirula and the National Day. The Division also prepared special briefing papers to the Parliament and report on the Ministry Budget.
14. The Division coordinated the setting up of the Ministry of External Affairs exhibition stall at the 'Deyata Kirula 2013', from 23rd to 30th March 2013 at Ampara.
15. 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. The Ministry web page is updated on a daily basis with Ministry activities, including press releases and Mission activities.
16. 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 were featured in 2013 e-Governance compilation.
17. The Division continues to maintain the Information Resource Base (IRB) as a depository for files on LTTE activity, APRC, Visit of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Channel 4 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.
18. In the Ministry's bid to strengthening communication links and information sharing with Missions abroad, the Division initiated a Document Management System (DMS).

19. 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. 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 the requests for Sinhala and Tamil translations of documents of the Ministry.
21. The Division is maintaining a Data Base of visiting journalists to Sri Lanka, which is expected to facilitate easy reference and reduce storage of files.
22. The Ministry of External Affairs extensively involved in the work related to CHOGM which was held in Sri Lanka from 15th to 17th November 2013 and the Public Communication Division assisted in the process, specifically on issues relevant to foreign media personnel who visited the country to cover the event.

Annex I

VVIP Visits – 2013

1. Visit of His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, 28th May – 03rd June 2013
2. Visit of Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, 31st May – 1st June 2013
3. Transit visit of His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, 04th June 2013
5. Visit of His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Waheed Hassan, President of the Republic of Maldives and Madam Ilham Hussain, First Lady, 05th- 07th July 2013
6. Visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand, 18th – 22nd August 2013
7. Visit of Her Imperial Highness Princess Tsuguko of Takamado of Japan, 19th - 23rd August 2013
8. Visit of His Excellency Chung Hong – Won, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, 28th – 30th August 2013

VIP Visits – 2013

1. Visit of the Hon. Minister of External Affairs , Burkina Faso, 3rd – 5th April 2013
2. Visit of Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani, Pakistan Foreign Secretary, 4th -5th April 2013
3. Visit Of Mr. Md. Shahidul Heque, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary, 21st April 2013

4. Visit of His Excellency Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan to Sri Lanka, 5th – 8th May 2013.
5. Visit of Ms. Nathalie Goulet, Senator for Orne, France to Sri Lanka, 17th – 21st August 2013 Visit of the Hon. Salman Khurshid, Minister of External Affairs, India, 07th-08th October 2013.
6. Visit of Hon. Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister, Vietnam, 24th-26th October 2013.
7. Visit of Hon. Jan Kohout, Foreign Minister, the Czech Republic, 06th-07th November 2013

Visit of Delegations – 2013

1. Visit of Romanian Delegation, 06th June 2013
2. Visit of the UK Parliamentary delegation, 21st – 27th July 2013
3. Visit of Brazilian Cooperation Agency to Sri Lanka, 08th – 14th August 2013
4. Visit of Delegation of the Communist party of China, 14th – 23rd August 2013
5. Visit of Indian Delegation, 07th-08th October 2013
6. Visit of Dr. Chaloka Beyani, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced persons (IDPs) to Sri Lanka (2nd-6th December 2013)
7. Visit of Mr. Yasushi Akashi of Japan (8th-13th December)

Annex II

Subject	Description	Remarks
Media Accreditation for foreign media personnel	This Division issues recommendation to visiting foreign journalists / media personnel and film crews	The Division had recommended media accreditation for 473 journalists / media personnel.
Facilitating film groups	This Division assists film crews who visit Sri Lanka by obtaining necessary clearance for their filming by liaising with line agencies.	This Division had assisted 50 filming groups during the period under review.
Issuing media releases & organizing press briefing	This Division organizes media coverage for Ministry related activities, press briefings etc. and issue Press Releases on behalf of the Ministry	The Division had organized 8 diplomatic briefings and 23 media briefings and issued 240 media releases on behalf of the Ministry during the period under review.
Media coverage for VIP and VVIP visits	The Division organizes media coverage for VVIP visits and provides assistance to accompanying media delegations.	This Division had organized 23 media coverage, 08 VIP visits, 08 VVIP visits, 07 Visits of delegations.

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 other Divisions of the Ministry of External Affairs, to 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 Foreign Service, contracts and agreements entered into by Sri Lanka's Missions 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 Missions 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 promotion & protection, re-admission and visa exemption.

Air Services

The Legal Division assisted in the bilateral air services negotiations with India, New Zealand, Kenya, Greece, Spain, Ethiopia, Finland, Norway and the UAE. During bilateral negotiations with South Korea, delegations agreed on the increase of frequencies. During negotiations with Seychelles, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and India delegations were able to reach agreement on the texts of new Air Services Agreements and increase of frequencies.

Investment Promotion

Taking into account the major developments that has taken place in this area worldwide; a new model text on Reciprocal Investment Promotion and Protection was drafted. A committee consisting of officials from the Attorney General's Department, BOI, Ministries of Economic Development and External Affairs drafted the model text under the chairmanship of the Legal Advisor. Dr. Rohan Perera, former Legal Advisor was consulted in drafting the new text. This text has been forwarded to political desks to forward to appropriate countries.

Avoidance of Double Taxation

During the year, Sri Lanka has entered into Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements with India, Luxemburg and Belarus. The Legal Division representative was present at all double taxation negotiations held during the year in Sri Lanka, including those with Oman.

Readmission

The focal point at the Ministry for the National Coordinating Committee on Readmission (NCCR) is the Legal Division. The Legal Division is represented in two of the sub-committees appointed for the implementation of NCCR activities. The Legal Advisor is also the Chairman of the Policy Sub-Committee. The Legal Division played an active role in the first Joint Readmission Committee Meeting held in implementing Readmission Agreements with the European Union. During the year the Legal Division actively engaged in inter-Ministerial discussions in order to finalize the Protocols to the EU Readmission Agreement. Observations on the Implementing Protocols with France, Benelux countries were already submitted. Also, the observations on the Agreements and Implementing Protocols with Switzerland and Russia were finalized.

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.

Currently, the Legal Division is consulting relevant officials/authorities in working out a possible strategy with regard to handling of future work on making an initial presentation to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) and defending the submission made by Sri Lanka either in 2025 or before that.

The Second Round of negotiations concerning the Agreement on Admission of Warships to the Ports of the Sri Lanka from the Russian federation was held and the text of the Agreement was finalized under the chairmanship of the Legal Advisor.

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, Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Transfer of sentenced persons 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 and the Legal Division actively engages in negotiating these agreements.

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 participates in monthly meetings held at the Ministry of Defence and actively engages in discussions in implementing the regulations.

The Legal Division is the representative of the Ministry of External Affairs to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU). In order to address the deficiencies identified by the Asia Pacific Group (APG) on Money Laundering Legislation and to facilitate the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) the Legal Division, on the recommendation of the Legal Review Committee appointed by the Advisory Board of the FIU, coordinated the amendment Act No.3 of 2013 to the Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Financing Act.

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.

International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

The Legal Division is the focal point for the International Humanitarian Law Committee, which is an inter-Ministerial Committee. During the year, the Committee met and finalized the unofficial translations of the Geneva Conventions and two of its protocols, which will be published by the International Committee of Red Cross and distributed among the academia and IHL practitioners.

The Committee with the assistance of the ICRC decided to commission a research officer to do a gap analysis with regard to implementation of IHL Conventions to which Sri Lanka has acceded. The purpose of this is to prepare a National Action Plan with regard to drafting of implementing legislation.

Having considered the information available on the EHL Programmes of ICRC, the Committee decided to commence discussions with the Ministry of Education to include teaching IHL principles at the primary and secondary levels.

Bilateral/Multilateral/Regional Agreements

List of Agreements/MoUs signed during the period on which the Legal Division has provided observations and prepared the final texts for signature is attached.

OVERSEAS ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

Overseas Administration Division (OAD)

The primary function of the Overseas Administration Division (OAD) is to assist Sri Lanka's Missions/Posts abroad by providing required resources, including personnel and guidance with regard to their administrative functions. The Division facilitates conducting the open competitive examination for recruitment to the Sri Lanka Foreign Service and the examinations for selection of Public Management Assistants and Personal Assistants (PA). The officers selected through these examinations are assigned to serve at the Ministry and Mission/Posts abroad.

Recruitment to the Sri Lanka Foreign Service

A new batch of 25 officers were recruited to the Grade III of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service in August 2013 through the examination held in May – June 2012. The Division arranged training and familiarization programmes for them in order for them to be assigned to various Divisions of the Ministry.

In consultation with the Examinations Department, arrangements have been made for recruitment to the Grade III of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service and to hold the Efficiency Bar Examination for SLFS officers in 2014.

Appointing new Heads of Mission

Fifteen (15) Heads of Mission were appointed in 2014. These Heads of Mission were provided with comprehensive training and familiarization programmes in collaboration with line Ministries, government institutions and private sector organizations.

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

Interviews were held in March 2013 for the successful candidates from the Open Competitive Examination for filling vacancies in the Home Based Management Assistant Service Cadre in Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad and appointments were made accordingly.

Arrangements were made in consultation with the Department of Examinations to hold the examinations for selection of Public Management Assistants and Personal Assistants (PA) in 2014. The Division facilitated recruitments to Missions/Posts abroad on Home Recruited Contractual basis (HRC).

Scholarships/training facilities for SLFS officers:

The Overseas Administration Division has facilitated SLFS officers to undertake foreign training programs/workshops. 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. Arrangements were also made for post-graduate studies under the Australian Development Aid Programme in universities such as the Australian National University and Monash University. Participation of an officer for Master's degree in Public Management at the Lee Kuan Yew Fellowship in Singapore was also facilitated.

Opening of new Diplomatic Missions

The following new Missions and Posts were opened in 2013

- Consulate General of Sri Lanka – Melbourne/Australia
- High Commission of Sri Lanka – Kampala/Uganda
- High Commission of Sri Lanka - Abuja/Nigeria
- Embassy of Sri Lanka - Manama, Bahrain
- High Commission of Sri Lanka – Seychelles

The Division also has initiated action to open the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Kabul, Afghanistan

Purchase, construction and renovation of buildings for Sri Lanka Missions Abroad

The Division in consultation with Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad takes action to purchase properties and to renovate properties that are owned by the Government of Sri Lanka. Required funds are arranged through the Treasury, the Central Bank and the SLBFE as per the decisions of the government.

Acquisition of Capital Assets

The Division in consultation with the Treasury facilitates purchase of vehicles for Missions/Posts abroad as and when the existing vehicles require replacement or new vehicles for newly opened Missions.

Audit Inspections

Regular audit inspections at Missions/Posts abroad, in consultation with the Internal Audit Division, are facilitated by this Division.

Functions of the Travel Unit

The Travel Unit facilitated official visits of Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Councils, other representatives and senior government officials.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

General Administration Division

- The General Administration Division (GAD) is responsible for matters relating to human resources management, parliamentary questions and Cabinet Memoranda, provision of logistics, maintenance of buildings and equipment, procurement, stores maintenance, transport, communication facilities, staff training and all other related activities of the Ministry.
- With respect to human resource management, the GAD has facilitated recruitment and transfer of staff required for the Ministry and providing training opportunities for staff members of different categories in order to develop their skills, during the year 2013. 11 such training programmes for Heads of Branch, Public Management Assistants, Development Officers, OES and drivers have been conducted during the year. 10 Information Technology Officers and 5 Protocol Assistants were recruited to mitigate the shortage of such staff in the Ministry. Significant progress was made with regard to updating existing schemes of recruitment and preparation of new schemes of recruitment as per Public Administration Circular 06/2006 as there were many issues related to schemes of recruitment of different categories of the staff.
- During 2013, the GAD has completed work such as expansion of canteen, renovation work at the official residence of the Hon. Minister, fixing counters at the Consular Division and renovation of the Protocol Division. The facilitation of erecting a statue at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations was also a significant achievement of the GAD. The cost for the above work is approximately Rs. 12 million.
- Apart from the facilitation of the regular Ministry requirements, the GAD has made a significant contribution to the CHOGM held from 10 to 17 November 2013 in Sri Lanka by providing logistics, transport, telecommunication facilities, procurement of related services and equipment. The Ministry participation at the Deyata Kirula Exhibition 2013 held at Ampara, portraying the achievements of the Ministry was another main project coordinated 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 VVIP and other foreign delegations have also been facilitated by the GAD. During 2013, it has facilitated 07 Credentials Ceremonies and 80 visits including 13 State visits and 05 international conferences held in Sri Lanka.
- The GAD has also attended to submission of 62 Cabinet Memoranda and answers to 16 parliamentary questions with the assistance of relevant divisions during the year 2013.

FINANCE DIVISION

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 two sets of accounts related to financial transactions of the Ministry and Overseas Missions, which are reported to the General Treasury.

Functions

- * Assisting the Secretary of the Ministry who is the Chief Accounting Officer to fulfill necessary financial obligations.
- * Ensuring that the government financial rules and regulations are followed
- * Undertaking financial planning and budgeting
- * Establishing and maintaining accounting systems including cash management
- * Ensuring timely and accurate financial reporting
- * Coordinating 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

(1) Expenditure against provisions of the year 2013

(a) Recurrent :-

Description	Total Provision as at 31.12.2013 Rs.	Total Expenditure as at 31.12.2013 Rs.	Percentage of Expenditure on provision
Personal Emoluments	4,484,457,400	4,480,234,886	100
Other Recurrent Expenditure	3,233,913,550	3,221,906,861	100
Total	7,718,370,950	7,702,141,747	100

Object	Description	Total Provision as at 31.12.2013 Rs.	Total Expenditure as at 31.12.2013 Rs.	Percentage of Expenditure on provision
	Rehabilitation & Improvements of Capital Assets			
2001	Buildings & Structures	165,325,000	56,957,426	34
2002	Plant, Machinery & Equipment	6,100,000	1,730,517	28
2003	Vehicles	23,395,000	21,360,303	91
	Acquisition of Capital Assets			
2101	Vehicles	39,637,250	37,873,354	96
2102	Furniture & Office Equipment	72,123,350	71,593,693	99
2103	Plant, Machinery & Equipment	17,271,700	17,270,667	100
2104	Buildings & Structures	1,003,501,800	1,002,722,980	100
2105	Lands and Land Improvements	0	0	0
	Capital Transfers			
2201(01)	Lakshman Kadiragamar Institute for International Relation & Strategic Studies	10,000,000	9,189,154	92
	Human Resource Development			

2401	Staff Training	773,000	772,604	100
	Other Investment			
01-2502	CHOGM	1,083,839,200.00	1,083,839,156	100
	Other Capital Expenditure			
2502(01)	Facilitating Promotion of External Trade & Tourism	0	0	0
	Total	2,421,966,300	2,303,309,854	95

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

Description		Maximum Debit	Minimum Credit	Maximum Debit balance
Prescribed Limit		30,000,000	18,000,000	125,000,000
Actual Amount up to 31.12.2013 - 1120011		16,863,247	24,333,895	87,289,928
Actual Amount up to 31.12 .2013 - 1120012		12,950,762	8,041,491	4,909,270

Network of Diplomatic Missions Abroad



Organization Chart

Ministry of External Affairs

