

EXPORTERS DIGEST

February

2024

Issue-33



* Exporters Digest | 33rd Edition *

63% increase in Sri Lankan Services Exports

Pg: 26

- »» US\$ 3,080.9 MN EARNED
- »» ICT EXPORTS HAS INCREASED BY 13.2 %
- »» CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES EARNED US\$ 203 MN BY THEIR OVERSEAS SERVICES

The month of January brought significant challenges for both the exporting sector and individuals. Nonetheless, our exporters have displayed extraordinary resilience, sustaining their day-to-day operations in the face of various hardships. The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE), as the premier service-oriented entity for exporters, stands ready to serve the exporter community by acting as the unshakable "Voice of the Exporter."

As we begin the second month of the year, we'd like to give you an outline of the Chamber's future activities as well as highlights on the NCE's strong participation in a variety of activities during January targeted at aiding the exporting community.

PCQI Training – February 2024

(Exclusive Training Opportunity for Food and Beverage Exporters Eyeing the U.S. Market)

The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) proudly presents an invaluable opportunity for food and beverage exporters aiming to penetrate the competitive U.S. market. This **February**, NCE announces the upcoming Preventive Controls Qualified Individual (PCQI) Training.

Since its successful launch in 2019, NCE's PCQI Training has been a leader in providing essential insights and skills for exporters navigating U.S. food safety regulations. The comprehensive program equips participants with the knowledge needed to comply with stringent standards and effectively handle the evolving landscape of U.S. food and beverage exports.

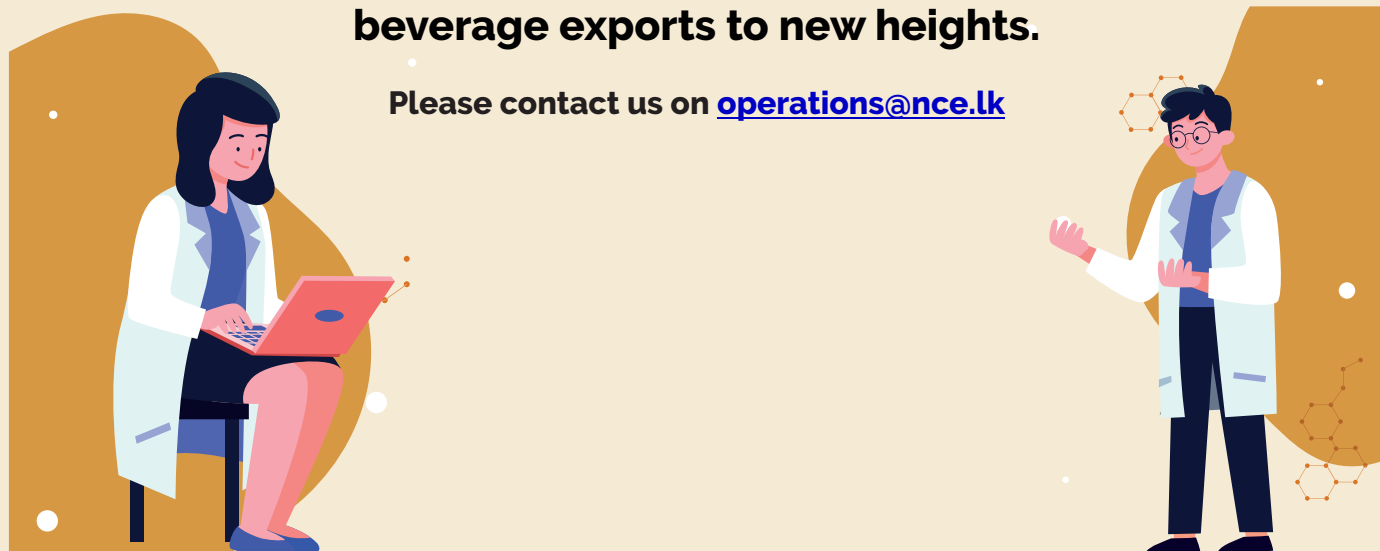
Training Highlights:

- **In-depth understanding of U.S. food safety regulations**
- **Essential skills for maintaining compliance with the highest standards**
- **Strategies for navigating the dynamic U.S. export landscape**
- **By participating, you empower your team to elevate products to meet the highest standards, establishing a robust foundation for success in the U.S. market.**

Having gained acclaim since 2019, NCE's PCQI Training is well-known for effectively preparing exporters for U.S. market challenges. Don't miss this chance to enhance your capabilities and ensure success in the United States.

Secure your spot now for the next intake and take your food and beverage exports to new heights.

Please contact us on operations@nce.lk



Very Important Seminar on Export Related Subjects -15th February

The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) is pleased to inform you of an upcoming seminar tailored to address three critical topics currently dominating discussions and raising concerns within the Exporters community.

Impact of the New VAT Increase on Exporters

- Presentation by Mr. Suresh Perera- Principal, Head of Tax & Regulatory Division, KPMG

TIN Registration and Implications of Company Registration for Tax

- Presentation by Mr. P.N.Kumara-Senior Deputy Commissioner, Sri Lanka Inland Revenue Department

Effective Utilization of the Temporary Import for Export Processing (TIEP) Scheme for Optimal Benefits

- Presentation by Mr. R.H.R.W. Kamalsiri-Director of Customs, Industries and Services Division, Sri Lanka Customs

Event Details:

- Venue- Hotel Galadari, 64 Lotus Rd, Colombo 01
- Date- 15th February 2024 (Thursday)
- Time- 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm (including a 15-minute tea break)

Per Head Cost:

- Member Rate: Rs. 4750/=
- Non-Member Rate: Rs. 5750/=

Registration: To secure your spot, please contact us at 011-4344661 or email us at nce@nce.lk



NCE Exporters' Delegation Heads to Melbourne, Australia - March 11th to March 16th

The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) will be leading a Trade Delegation to Melbourne, Australia, from the 11th to the 16th of March 2024.

This exclusive trade mission is poised to provide our members with unparalleled opportunities to explore and expand their global footprint. As we delve into the heart of Melbourne's thriving business landscape, participants can anticipate a week filled with networking, collaboration, and knowledge exchange.

Key Details:

- **Event: NCE Exporters Delegation to Melbourne, Australia**
- **Dates: March 11th to March 16th, 2024**

For more information, you can contact the Chamber Secretariat at nce@nce.lk

NCE Welcomes the Year 2024



To mark the beginning of the new year, the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) commenced its activities with a traditional oil lamp ceremony, succeeded by a New Year breakfast attended by the NCE president, Special invitees and other members of the Management Committee. At this gathering, the NCE reiterated its dedication to supporting Sri Lankan exporters and expressed its commitment to working in tandem with them to address challenges in the upcoming year.

As we embark on this new chapter, the NCE extends heartfelt wishes to Sri Lankan exporters for a journey filled with success and prosperity. May your trade excellence continue to shine on the global stage throughout 2024.

Stakeholders Consultation Meeting on the Economic and Technology Corporation Agreement (ECTA) between Sri Lanka and India

NCE represented the Stakeholders Consultation Meeting on the Economic and Technology Corporation Agreement (ECTA) between Sri Lanka and India held on 23rd January 2024. During this meeting, the Chief Negotiator shared crucial insights into the ongoing discussions, highlighting the importance of the contribution of the exporters to shaping the agreement.



Exploring Collaborative Opportunities with JICA to Support Exporters.



The Officials from the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) engaged in a productive meeting with representatives from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on January 10th. The primary objective of this meeting was to provide JICA officials with a comprehensive overview of the upcoming activities planned by the Chamber for the benefit of exporters.

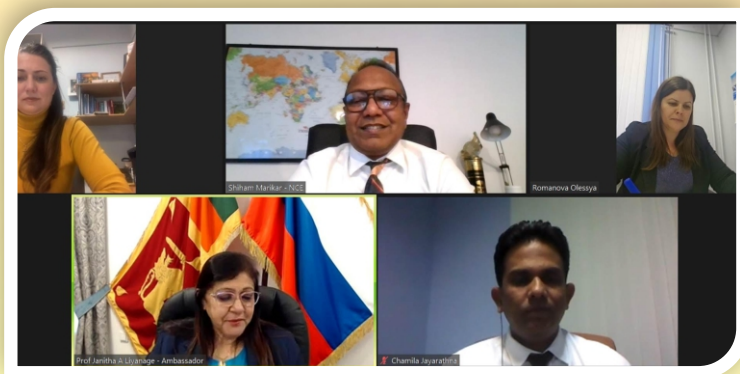
During the meeting, the NCE officials had the opportunity to brief JICA representatives on the diverse range of initiatives and programs that the Chamber has lined up to support and enhance the capabilities of exporters. The discussion delved into the potential areas of collaboration between the NCE and JICA, with a focus on leveraging mutual expertise to assist exporters in ongoing activities and exploring new opportunities in the export sector.

The dialogue emphasized the shared commitment to fostering growth and sustainability within the export community. Both parties recognized the significance of collaboration in addressing the challenges faced by exporters and creating an environment conducive to their success.

We look forward to the potential positive outcomes that may arise from this collaboration and remain committed to fostering an environment that promotes the growth and prosperity of exporters.

NCE Explores Trade Collaboration with Russia

On January 24, 2024, the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) engaged in a Zoom meeting with officials from the Sri Lankan Mission in Russia to explore the possibility of organizing a collaborative trade delegation.



The primary focus of this discussion was to strengthen economic ties and create mutually beneficial trade opportunities between our two nations. The proposed trade delegation aims to serve as a platform for businesses in both Sri Lanka and Russia to connect, explore collaborations, and build robust trade networks.

The NCE is keen about fostering a more significant economic partnership and is committed to working closely with the Sri Lankan Mission in Russia to ensure the success of this initiative. We believe that this collaboration will not only contribute to the expansion of bilateral trade but also exemplify the enduring friendship between our nations.

For any inquiries or additional information, please feel free to contact at nce@nce.lk

NCE and LMD collaboration for the Advancement of the Exporter Community



Recently, representatives from the National Chamber of Exporters (NCE) had the pleasure of meeting with officials from LMD Magazine. The purpose of this meeting was to initiate discussions on potential collaboration for the mutual benefit of our respective organizations and, more importantly, to enhance the support and services provided to the Exporter Community.

The meeting provided an insightful platform for an exchange of ideas and perspectives on the challenges faced by exporters in today's dynamic global market. Recognizing the synergy between our organizations, we believe that a strategic partnership between the NCE and LMD Magazine could significantly contribute to the growth and prosperity of the Exporter Community.

NCE and giz joined forces to empower Sri Lanka's Export Community

In a recent noteworthy development, officials from the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) engaged in a highly productive meeting with representatives from giz Sri Lanka. The primary focus of this collaborative encounter was to explore meaningful opportunities aimed at bolstering support for exporters.



A key objective of the meeting was to provide giz officials with a comprehensive overview of the upcoming activities planned by the Chamber, with a special emphasis on the impending Due Diligence initiative and the critical need to raise awareness about it within the Exporter Community.

The discussion delved into potential areas of collaboration between the NCE and giz particularly concentrating on the strategic use of mutual expertise to assist exporters in their ongoing activities and to explore innovative opportunities within the dynamic export sector.

Meeting with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



Officials from the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) met with the H.E the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The purpose of this meeting was to present a gesture of gratitude, acknowledging the Netherlands as a preeminent buyer whose significant contributions have positively impacted the economic landscape of Sri Lanka. This token of appreciation underscores the collaborative efforts and the mutually beneficial economic relationship between the two nations.

Awarding of Certificate of Ethical Trading



During the 1st Council Meeting of the NCE, Kandygs Handlooms Exports (Pvt) Ltd was honored with the Certificate of Ethical Trading (CET). This recognition was granted in acknowledgment of their successful completion of the evaluation process based on the eight principles, rendering them eligible for the prestigious certificate.

The 01st NCE Council and Management Committee meeting for the year 2024



The 01st Management Committee & Council and meetings of the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE), for the year 2024 took place on the 23rd of January 2024 at the NCE Secretariat where various Sectoral Matters were discussed in detail.

Updates on important Meetings represented by NCE

The National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC)

The National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) of Sri Lanka, since its establishment in June 2014, has played a pivotal role in coordinating interagency efforts for the implementation of the TFA and other trade facilitation initiatives in the country. Comprising Twelve (12) Government Agencies and Seven (7) Private Sector Chambers, the committee, in line with Sri Lanka's commitment to the WTO-TFA, actively engages public and private sector stakeholders involved in cross-border trade.

National Chamber of Exporters (NCE) is an active member of the said committee. The NTFC has been instrumental in facilitating quarterly meetings to discuss progress and developments. The recent Third and Fourth Quarterly Meetings in January 2024 focused on updating members about the digitization status of government agencies through a new reporting tool.

Trade National Single Window System Project

As part of Sri Lanka's commitment to the WTO-TFA, the establishment of the National Single Window System has been recognized for its importance in streamlining internal trade flows. In 2022 the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization, and National Policies received approval from the Cabinet of Ministers which led to the formation of a High-Level Steering Committee (HLSC) for the National Single Window Project, chaired by the Secretary to the Treasury.

The National Chamber of Exporters (NCE) actively participates in the High-Level Steering Committee, contributing to discussions on the most suitable approach for the implementation of the National Single Window (NSW) project. In this regard, a recent meeting addressed the establishment of the Project Implementation Unit, marking a significant step forward in realizing the goals outlined by the WTO-TFA and the national priorities of Sri Lanka.

EU-Sri Lanka Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation (WGTEC)

In anticipation of the forthcoming session of the EU-Sri Lanka Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation (WGTEC) scheduled for February 6, 2024, conducted virtually, a crucial preparatory meeting took place on January 29, 2024, at the Department of Commerce. The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) attended this preliminary meeting representing the exporter community

The agenda for the WGTEC session is comprehensive, encompassing crucial discussions on the overview of economies, market access issues, proposals to enhance bilateral trade flows, and the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Scheme, among other pertinent matters. The preparatory meeting served as a platform for stakeholders, including the NCE, to express concerns and provide valuable input that directly impacts the exporter community



**Ethical Trading
Certification**

A unique Certificate Exclusively for NCE Members

Be an
**Ethically
Certified
Exporter**

The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) issues the "Certificate of Ethical Trading (CET)" in collaboration with INDEXPO certification Limited to member exporters of NCE who follow Ethical Trading and Conformity to Good Environmental and Social Practices, based on 08 principles which have been developed and followed by the chamber.

MAIN BENEFITS

- A Credible Certificate of value from the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka.
- Comply with international standards on ethical behavior, labour, environment etc.
- Confirms adherence to Good Trading Practices.
- Provides your enterprise a competitive advantage in international markets.
- Serves to attract the attention of stakeholders in the international market place, particularly buyers.
- Recognized by various Government and Private sector stake holders

ENDORSED BY



APPLY NOW!

Contact us on +94 114344661 or email to nce@nce.lk

For more information visit <https://nce.lk/certificate-of-ethical-trading/>



NATIONAL CHAMBER OF EXPORTERS OF SRI LANKA

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More Info

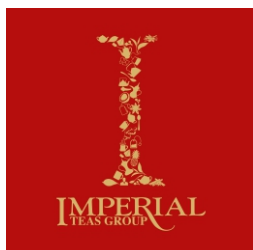


The following NCE Members have been awarded the Certificate of Ethical Trading and conform to changing regulatory needs and consumer preferences through good practices related to Trade, Labour, Ethical Behavior, Environment & Society



SILK ROUTE VENTURES







OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS



OUR CO-PARTNERS



NEW MEMBERS

The following export-oriented organizations joined the Chamber during the month of January 2024.

General Members (Ordinary / Associate)

Company	Product/Service Sector
Suren Cooke Agencies (Pvt) Ltd (Associate Member)	Service Provider to Exporters
Capital Corp (Pvt) Ltd.	Food Products Sector
Cey Coir Substrates Pvt Ltd	Coconut & Coconut Based Products



SRI LANKAN BRANDS IN THE GLOBAL MARKET



SOME OF THE LEADING SRI LANKAN BRANDS IN THE GLOBAL MARKET



Main Services by the Chamber

PUBLICATION OF THE “SRI LANKA EXPORTER” MAGAZINE

The Magazine is published quarterly and carries valuable articles of current interest to Exporters such as, trade information, export statistics, export market trends, export performance indicators etc. It is distributed among Member companies of the Chamber and to all trade points in Sri Lanka and overseas markets and also to leading corporate clients. The Magazine is also a powerful platform for Exporters and services providers to exporters to advertise and create awareness of their products and services.

EXPORTER DIGEST

Exporter Digest is a monthly publication released on the first of each month that highlights Chamber activities and provides brand recognition to our Exporters and Strategic Partners. This publication also includes an outline of the Chamber's upcoming events.

ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN AND RELATED EXPORT DOCUMENTS

The NCE is a designated Chamber by State authorities to issue Certificates of Origin (CO) and related documents to Sri Lankan Exporters. COs issued to both member and non-member exporters and all Members are entitled to concessionary rates that can be obtained manually or digitally.

RECOGNITION OF EXPORT PERFORMANCE

The Annual NCE Export Awards, the flagship event of the Chamber serves to recognize and reward export performance of Sri Lankan Exporters of Goods and Services, and Service Providers to Exporters. It is open for both member and non-member exporters in Sri Lanka. It is the most prestigious event in the Sri Lankan business calendar.

DISSEMINATION OF TRADE INQUIRIES AND TRADE LEADS

Trade inquiries and trade leads received from Sri Lankan missions overseas, foreign trade Chambers, and other trade organizations are disseminated to members on a timely basis. Specific trade inquiries are provided exclusively to members in the relevant sectors.

CONDUCT OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND WORKSHOPS

Conduct Training Programmes on export related subjects for the benefit of members and non members

PARTICIPATION IN TRADE FAIRS, EXHIBITIONS, TRADE DELEGATIONS ETC.

Participates in overseas and local Trade fairs & Trade Exhibitions and Organizes Trade Promotion Programmes and Trade Delegations, as well as Inward Buying Missions.

ETHICAL TRADING CERTIFICATION (CET) - A unique certificate Exclusively for NCE Members

The Chamber issues the 'Certificate of Ethical Trading' to Member Exporters who follow Ethical Trading and Conformity to Good Environmental and Social Practices, based on 08 Principles which have been developed and followed by the Chamber. The certification confirms that the Member Complies with international standards on ethical behavior, labour, environment etc. The CET Provides a competitive advantage in international markets.

Main Services by the Chamber

Continued..

WEBSITE FACILITIES (www.nce.lk)

The website provides free listing for member companies and frequent updates on chamber activities and Trade related information.

SECTORAL MEETINGS

The Chamber organizes monthly Sectoral meetings for members under the leadership of the Sectoral Heads in the Council of the Chamber, in order to prepare strategic plans for the sectors, and to highlight policy and operational issues which need resolution.

REPRESENTATION OF MACRO AND INDIVIDUAL ISSUES

Represents and supports individual as well as macro issues faced by members, at the relevant State Institutions and Forums, with a view to resolving them.

DISSEMINATION OF MARKET INFORMATION, TRADE STATISTICS AND BUYER INFORMATION

Trade related information sent by partnering Chambers , Sri Lankan Missions and other sources such as retailers , whole sellers and import houses are disseminated to members.

AUDITORIUM FACILITIES

Provides Auditorium Facilities to members as well as non-members to conduct meetings, workshops and training programs.

LINKING OF PRODUCERS WITH MEMBER EXPORTERS

The Chamber has a programme to link producers of agricultural fisheries and many other products especially from the Northern Province with member exporters of the Chamber, to facilitate marketing of their products in International Markets.

SUPPORTS SME'S UNDER THE 'ASPIRING EXPORTERS' PROGRAMME

The Chamber has a special 'ASPIRING Exporters' Programme to support SME's with Export Potential, providing free advisory services and specific assistance for a period of one year, to develop them to be future exporters.

THE NCE SECRETARIAT

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!



**MR.SHIHAM
MARIKAR**
SECRETARY
GENERAL/CHIEF
EXECUTIVE OFFICER



**MS.DILINI
GAMLATHGE**
SENIOR MANAGER
MEMBER SERVICES
/ OPERATIONS



**MR.SANDUN
KOSWATTE**
MANAGER FINANCE



**MR.SUSANTHA
RUPATUNGE**
SENIOR EXECUTIVE



**MS.RUKMI
HETTIARACHCHI**
SENIOR EXECUTIVE -
MEMBER SERVICES



MS.STEPHANIE JOHN
ADMINISTRATIVE
EXECUTIVE



**MS.ANURADHA
SEWWANDHI**
ACCOUNT
EXECUTIVE



MR.VIJIN SANDEEPA
OPERATIONS
ASSISTANT

National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka

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63% increase in SL services exports

- »» US\$ 3,080.9 MN »» ICT EXPORTS HAS EARNED INCREASED BY 13.2 %
- »» CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES EARNED US\$ 203 MN BY THEIR OVERSEAS SERVICES

Sri Lanka's services exports witnessed significant growth in 2023, totaling US\$ 3,080.9 million, marking a remarkable 63.1% increase from the previous year. These exports, monitored by the Export Development Board (EDB), encompass a variety of sectors including ICT/BPM, Construction, Financial services, and Transport & Logistics. Notably, ICT exports surged by 13.2% to US\$ 1,259.6 million, attributed to increased outsourcing by international companies to Sri Lanka.

The Construction sector also experienced a substantial revenue boost, soaring from US\$ 9 million in 2022 to US\$ 203 million in 2023. Moreover, expectations are high for increased revenue from ship and yacht building, particularly targeting the European market. Anticipations are also set for a resurgence in apparel sector exports starting from mid-2024, after a recent increase witnessed in December. Looking ahead to 2024, forecasts suggest further growth in Construction, and Transport & Logistics services exports. In another domain, tea exports, which constitute a significant portion of merchandise exports, rose by 3.57% in December 2023. This uptick is mainly attributed to increased exports of tea packets and tea bags.

Despite global conflicts, the Sri Lanka Tea Board remains optimistic about sustained growth in tea exports, underscoring that major export destinations are not significantly affected by these conflicts.

Summarized Ver. Source: [Dailynews](#)