

# EXPORTERS DIGEST

November

2025

Issue-54



\* Exporters Digest | 54th Edition \*

A futuristic, metallic robotic hand is shown reaching upwards from the bottom left towards a glowing blue globe. The globe is surrounded by several bright, colorful orbital lines in shades of blue, purple, and pink, creating a sense of motion and technology. The background is a dark, stylized city skyline at night with illuminated buildings.

## Embracing **DIGITALIZATION** *for a competitive tomorrow*

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# How Digitalisation Can Save Sri Lanka's Economy

In the high-stakes world of trade and logistics, corruption at Sri Lanka's customs, IRD, ports, and airports is not just an inconvenience — it's a crisis that's crippling the nation's export sector. Outdated, manual systems have become breeding grounds for corruption, where bribery and inefficiency rule, bleeding exporters dry and stifling economic growth. The country stands at a critical juncture, where the only viable path forward is the digitalisation of customs and trade operations.

These antiquated, paper-based customs processes are no match for the demands of the modern global economy, where speed, accuracy, and transparency are paramount. Instead, they are plagued by errors, deliberate delays, and a lack of accountability, allowing corrupt practices to thrive unchecked. As global trade standards become stricter, the need for transparent, secure, and efficient customs operations has never been more urgent.

Digitising Sri Lanka's customs operations offers a clear solution to this corruption crisis. It would drastically reduce clearance times and costs, cut off avenues for bribery, and restore governance within the customs framework. By adopting international best practices and leveraging technology, Sri Lanka can finally break free from the stranglehold of corruption and integrate more effectively into the global digital trade network.

Right now, traders are being held hostage by a system riddled with red tape and graft. Complex licensing, endless documentation, and delays at ports are not just frustrating — they're expensive. Additional costs, like storage fees and demurrage charges, are passed down to consumers, driving up prices and eroding trust in Sri Lankan exports. Without decisive action to root out corruption and modernise these processes, Sri Lanka's export sector will continue to suffer, jeopardising the nation's economic future.

"When Customs officers go on strike or adopt a go-slow approach, the repercussions are immediate and widespread. Importers face delays, leading to storage and demurrage charges that quickly accumulate," said Sean Van Dort, Chairman of the Sri Lanka Shippers' Council. These additional costs inflate prices and contribute to economic strain. The lack of urgency and accountability among customs officers exacerbates these issues. Without Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) or a robust system to monitor and track performance, inefficiencies persist unchecked.

Read more [ceylontoday](#)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Connecting Sri Lanka to the World: Proposed Overseas Trade Delegations for 2025/2026



The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) is pleased to announce a series of overseas trade delegations planned for the 2025/2026 period. These strategic initiatives are organized in collaboration with Sri Lankan diplomatic missions, international trade chambers, and global trade authorities, with the goal of unlocking new opportunities for Sri Lankan exporters in key international markets.

Through a combination of B2B forums and trade missions, NCE aims to strengthen international partnerships, enhance market access, and support member exporters in building sustainable global connections while expanding their international footprint.

### • Upcoming Trade Delegations

EVENT/COUNTRY		SECTOR	DATE
	<b>NCE Trade Delegation to the Maldives B2B Forum</b>	Multi Sector	November 2025
	<b>NCE Trade Delegation to India B2B Forum</b>	Multi Sector	December 2025
	<b>NCE Trade Delegation to Pakistan B2B Forum</b>	Multi Sector	January 2026
	<b>NCE Trade Delegation to Ankara, Turkey</b> This visit will also coincide with the upcoming Boat Show in Ankara	Multi Sector	February 2026

### Each delegation will offer participants:

- ✓ Access to targeted B2B meetings with potential buyers and partners
- ✓ Valuable market intelligence and insights into emerging opportunities
- ✓ Networking opportunities with international trade bodies and business leaders
- ✓ Comprehensive on-the-ground support to navigate local regulatory and commercial environments

These missions form an integral part of NCE's ongoing commitment to promoting export-led growth and positioning Sri Lankan products and services competitively on the global stage. For further details, please send us an email to [nce@nce.lk](mailto:nce@nce.lk)



# Seminar on Navigating the SVAT EXIT

With the removal of the SVAT system from 1st October 2025, exporters will now pay VAT upfront and claim refunds under the Risk-Based Refund Scheme (RBRS).

Understanding how to qualify as a "Low-Risk Exporter" will be key to ensuring faster refunds and smoother compliance.

To support exporters through this transition, the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE), together with Ernst & Young (EY), is hosting a special seminar to clarify the new process and compliance requirements.



## NAVIGATING THE SVAT EXIT

WHAT EXPORTERS SHOULD KNOW

ORGANIZED BY THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF EXPORTERS OF SRI LANKA

### SPEAKERS



**MR. SULAIMAN NISHTAR**  
Partner – Head of Tax  
Ernst & Young (EY) Sri Lanka  
& Maldives



**MS. SHEHANI  
PARANAVITANE**  
Partner  
Ernst & Young Sri Lanka



**MR. SHAKTHIVEL  
VELAUTHAPILLAI**  
Principal  
Ernst & Young Sri Lanka



Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025



3:00 P.M. – 6:00 PM



Lavender Hall, BMICH

### INVESTMENT

NCE Members – Rs. 5,750 + Taxes

Non-Members – Rs. 6,750 + Taxes

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY  
PARTNER



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



For inquiries & Registrations Please send us an email to [nce@nce.lk](mailto:nce@nce.lk)



The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) is pleased to announce the upcoming Post-National Budget 2026 Forum, a key platform to analyze and discuss the implications of the National Budget on Sri Lanka's export sector and the broader economy.

This year's theme underscores how Budget 2026 serves as a roadmap for transformative economic revival — focusing on fiscal reforms, digital integration, and forward-looking industrial development that drive sustainable growth.

**Date: Wednesday, 26th November 2025**

**Time: 3:00 PM onwards**

### Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding of Budget 2026's policy and fiscal implications for exporters
- Practical insights on leveraging digital, fiscal, and sustainability-driven opportunities
- Strengthened public-private collaboration in advancing export-friendly policies
- Preparation of a Post-Event White Paper summarizing key recommendations to be submitted to the Ministry of Finance

For Registrations: Please email [nce@nce.lk](mailto:nce@nce.lk)

## Seminar on Global Certification Standards (Halal, Kosher & QA)

In today's global market, Halal and Kosher certifications play a vital role in gaining access to key export destinations such as the Middle East, Europe, and North America. Alongside these, testing, inspection, and certification processes are critical in ensuring product quality, credibility, and competitiveness.

Join us for this exclusive Seminar on Global Certification Standards: Halal, Kosher, and Quality Assurance to hear from leading experts and international certification authorities on how your business can benefit from adopting these global standards.

### Event Details:



#### Date & Time

02<sup>nd</sup> December 2025  
Time: 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

### Why You Should Attend

- Gain in-depth knowledge of Halal and Kosher certification systems and their relevance in global trade.
- Understand international testing and inspection practices that enhance product credibility.
- Engage directly with experts, certification bodies, and exporters in a collaborative learning environment.
- Discover how global certifications can boost your export competitiveness and market access.

**For Registrations:**  
Please email [nce@nce.lk](mailto:nce@nce.lk)



# CHAMBER ACTIVITIES

## JETRO Officials Visit NCE to Advance Ethical and Sustainable Trade



On 10<sup>th</sup> October, a delegation from the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), led by the Resident Representative of JETRO Colombo, visited the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) to explore collaborative efforts in advancing ethical and sustainable trade.

The meeting focused on the Chamber's Certificate of Ethical Trading and other sustainability initiatives adopted by Sri Lankan exporters.

Both parties discussed avenues for supporting local exporters, particularly SMEs, in meeting global standards for ethical business practices and sustainability. This engagement marks a significant step toward fostering a more responsible, resilient, and globally competitive export sector.

## NCE Hosts Briefing Session for the Judging Panel of the 33<sup>rd</sup> NCE Export Awards



The NCE proudly hosted a special meeting on 13th October 2025 at the NCE Conference Hall, presided over by Mr. Indhira Kaushal Rajapaksa, President of the NCE.

The session was convened to brief the distinguished Judging Panel of the upcoming 33rd NCE Export Awards, scheduled to be held on 13th February 2026. The panel, comprising eminent professionals and industry leaders, was taken through the detailed evaluation and judging process designed to uphold the highest standards of transparency, fairness, and credibility.

The NCE Export Awards continue to serve as the benchmark of export excellence in Sri Lanka, honouring exceptional achievements and contributions to the nation's export sector. Through this initiative, the NCE reaffirms its commitment to recognising and promoting excellence among Sri Lankan exporters who drive the country's economic growth.



## Meeting with LX International India Pvt Ltd



The NCE held a productive meeting on 15th October 2025, with representatives from LX International India Pvt Ltd to explore potential avenues for accessing the Sri Lankan market in selected sectors. Discussions focused on identifying mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities, with particular emphasis on industrial collaboration, supply chain linkages, and value-added export sectors. Both parties expressed a strong interest in fostering long-term partnerships that would enhance bilateral trade and contribute to sustainable economic growth.

## MoU Signing with Industrial Service Bureau (ISB)



The NCE formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Industrial Services Bureau (ISB) on 15th October 2025 to strengthen their partnership and jointly promote export development initiatives in the Wayamba Province. The MoU aims to enhance regional export potential through capacity-building programs, business linkages, and support services for SMEs. This strategic collaboration marks an important step toward decentralizing export growth and empowering provincial enterprises to engage more effectively in international trade.

## Meeting with The Management Club (TMC) Official

The NCE engaged in a constructive discussion with The Management Club (TMC) on 15th October 2025 to establish a collaborative platform connecting Sri Lankan exporters, suppliers, and producers. The meeting centered on exploring opportunities to improve access to standard certifications, strengthen supply chain logistics, and facilitate knowledge sharing between management professionals and exporters. Both organizations agreed to work together to promote capacity building and competitiveness within Sri Lanka's export community.





# Strengthening Partnerships for Artisan Empowerment



The NCE met with the Chairman of the National Crafts Council (NCC) on the 16th October 2025 for a productive discussion coordinated by Ms. Himali Jinadasa, Senior Advisor for Development at Artisanal Collective (AC). In collaboration with the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB), National Crafts Council (NCC), Artisanal Collective (AC), and a growing network of regional and international partners, the NCE is working to establish a multi-stakeholder platform that aligns national export strategies with global frameworks, including the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

This initiative aims to empower Sri Lankan artisans by strengthening their engagement with key stakeholders, enhancing their skills and capacities, and expanding their access to international markets. Through this collaborative effort, the NCE reaffirms its commitment to promoting inclusive and sustainable growth within Sri Lanka's vibrant artisanal sector.

## NCE Holds Monthly Management and Council Meetings October 2025



NCE held its monthly Management and Council Meetings on 23rd October 2025. The sessions served as a valuable platform to review key operational matters, discuss sectoral developments, and strategize initiatives to further strengthen the Chamber's growth and efficiency.

During the meetings, CET certificates were awarded to deserving participants in recognition of their achievements. Additionally, newly inducted members were formally welcomed into the NCE community, marking the beginning of their journey with the Chamber.



# Sampath Bank Renews Partnership with NCE to Support Sri Lanka's Export Sector



On 10th October 2025, Sampath Bank reaffirmed its strong commitment to Sri Lanka's export sector by renewing its partnership with the National NCE. The agreement, signed at the bank's head office in Colombo, marks a continued collaboration aimed at promoting ethical trade, sustainable practices, and enhancing the global competitiveness of Sri Lankan exporters.

This renewed partnership highlights the shared commitment of NCE and Sampath Bank to strengthen the export ecosystem and support Sri Lankan businesses in achieving sustainable growth on international markets.

## NCE Hosts Discussion with the Designated First Secretary (Commercial) to the Sri Lankan Mission in Turkey



NCE hosted a productive session with Mr. Dilanga Hettiarachchi, Assistant Director of Commerce, who has been appointed as First Secretary (Commercial) at the Sri Lankan Mission in Ankara, Turkey. Mr. Hettiarachchi will be assuming his new duties by the end October 2025.

The meeting, held on 27th October 2025 at the NCE premises, provided an intimate platform for members to engage directly with Mr. Hettiarachchi and discuss opportunities in the Turkish market—an important destination for Sri Lankan exporters. This session reflects NCE's ongoing commitment to facilitating meaningful engagement between members and international trade representatives, supporting the growth and diversification of Sri Lanka's export sector.



## NCE Successfully Organizes a Delegation to Galle District



Along with the “Ruhunu Rasa Saraniya” Local Food Processing (School) Provincial Chef Competition and Food Technology Industry Exhibition, NCE successfully organized a delegation meeting on 24th October 2025 at the Galle Town Hall from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

The delegation created a valuable platform for producers, suppliers, and NCE members to engage, exchange ideas, and explore new opportunities within the local food and agriculture sectors. This initiative aimed to strengthen regional industry linkages while promoting innovation and value addition in local food processing and related services.

A total of 30 participants represented the NCE Product and Service Sector, while 93 producers and suppliers showcased their products and services to the visiting delegation.

The event was organized by the NCE in collaboration with the Southern Provincial Ministry of Agriculture and the Southern Provincial Department of Agriculture.

Seylan Bank PLC, a strategic partner of NCE, and Dialog Enterprise, the Digital Technology Partner, also joined the event, conducting brief capacity-building sessions to support producers and suppliers in enhancing their business operations and advancing to the next level of growth.

This joint initiative successfully fostered productive discussions and partnerships, further supporting the development of the local food processing industry and celebrating the culinary and agricultural heritage of the Ruhunu region.



# NCE Partners with University of Jayewardenepura to Connect Graduates with Employers through "Exporters Job Fair"



NCE in collaboration with the University of Jayewardenepura (UOJ), successfully hosted an event on 28th October 2025 to connect final-year students with potential employers. The initiative provided companies with access to a pool of talented graduates ready to fill vacant positions.

Graduates from the Faculty of Management participated, with over 15 NCE member companies taking part in the event. Held at the FMSC New Faculty Building – Proposed Auditorium, the session facilitated one-on-one meetings between students and company representatives, enabling meaningful interactions and potential recruitment opportunities.

This collaboration underscores NCE's commitment to bridging the gap between academia and industry, fostering the professional growth of young talent while contributing to the development of Sri Lanka's workforce.

## Media Coverage Highlights – October 2025

Throughout October 2025, the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) continued to gain national recognition as a leading voice in trade policy advocacy and export development. The Chamber's expert insights and policy perspectives were featured across prominent media outlets, highlighting its pivotal role in advancing Sri Lanka's export-driven growth agenda.

Read more: [The Morning – Article Link](#)

These media features further underscore the NCE's growing visibility as a trusted advocate for Sri Lanka's export community, and its ongoing commitment to building a vibrant, competitive, and future-ready export sector.



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

	 Advantis Express (Pvt) Ltd Licensee of Federal Express Corporation			
				
				
				
				
				



 greenkeepers Let's Eco-Cycle	 HAC HALAL ASSESSMENT COUNCIL	 hSenidBiz EMPOWERING PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER	 IMPERIAL	
 Janet AYURVEDA	 Kandrick EST.1972	 KANDYGS HANDLOOMS	 KEELLS Food Products PLC	 LAUGFS RUBBER
 LUMBINI AQUARIA Living Colours Since 1952	 MABROC	 Multilac	 Maliban Inspiring goodness...	 McLARENS CONTAINERS
 BAM	 Natural Product Network Nagromet (Pvt) Ltd	 NEIL MARINE	 SPECTRI SYNERGIZING LOGISTICS	 TAPROBANE SEAFOODS
 TEXTTRIP (PVT) LTD.	 EXPORT CONTACT DEVELOPERS SRI LANKA	 TROPICAL	 WICHY COCONUT	 Derana Fresh from Sri Lanka
 Noritake Standard of Perfection	 NIDRO	 NPS PACKAGING	 OCEANEEES SRI LANKA	 Overdime
 PANASIA COLOURED YARNS	 PODIE	 PREMIER	 Regency leas	



				
				
				
				
				
				
				

					
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# OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS

**COTECNA**  
Trust for a moving world

**Dialog**  
ENTERPRISE

**D P LOGISTICS**  
consistency throughout...

**EY**  
Shape the future  
with confidence

**EX**  
**PACK** Your carton  
Your way

**HNB**  
YOUR PARTNER IN PROGRESS

**MISL**  
MIS Partner For Global Presence

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BANK**

**SALOTA**  
Promise. Delivered

**Sampath Bank**  
WE PRESENT YOUR FUTURE

**SEYLAN**

**SLECIC**  
Information, Support & Protection

**CEYLON TEA**  
SYMBOL OF QUALITY

**VISA**

## What does Our Strategic Partners say about NCE.



On behalf of MISL Holdings, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to the National Chamber of Exporters (NCE) of Sri Lanka for their unwavering dedication and exceptional service to the nation's export community. As a prominent intermediary between exporters and policymakers, the NCE plays a pivotal role in addressing challenges faced by exporters and fostering an environment conducive to growth. Their commitment to providing innovative solutions, advocacy, and continuous support has been instrumental in enhancing Sri Lanka's export sector.

MISL Holdings values the NCE's efforts in creating a robust platform that not only represents the interests of exporters but also empowers businesses like ours to thrive in an ever-evolving global marketplace. We look forward to further collaboration, strengthening Sri Lanka's position as a competitive player in international trade.

**Mr. Kapila Weerakkody**  
Chief Executive Officer  
MISL Holdings

**MISL**  
MIS Partner For Global Presence



## NEW MEMBERS

The following export-oriented organizations joined the Chamber during the month of October 2025

### Ordinary/ Associate Members

Company	Product/Service Sector
Explic Ceylon (Pvt) Ltd. - (Ordinary Member)	Manufacturing based exporter of rubber and plastic products
Alpex Marine (Pvt Ltd.) – (Ordinary Member)	Sea Food Exporter
Aitken Spence Cargo (Pvt) Ltd. - (Associate Membership)	Freight Forwarding
Virtusa (Pvt) Ltd. (Associate Member)	Information Technology Services

### Aspiring Exporters

Company	Product/Service Sector
Inspirano Pvt Ltd	Business Consultancy and Trading
A AND I Enterprises	Distribution/manufacturer/trade
Kuvi International Pvt Ltd	Tea, Coconut products, spices exporting
DJ Products	Food and Textiles
Keen Global Expo Pvt Ltd	Dehydrated food, spices and herbal teas
Dualink International Pvt Ltd	Bottled Drinking Water Production
The Flavoured Cakes World Pvt Ltd	Food
New Lloyds Foods (Pvt) Ltd	Food



## MAIN SERVICES OF THE CHAMBER

- **Unique Membership Certificate\*\*** – Establish your credibility as a distinguished member of Sri Lanka's premier export chamber.
- **Lobbying & Advocacy\*\*** – NCE represents your interests at trade forums and engages with policymakers to address industry concerns.
- **Market Information & Insights\*\*** – Stay ahead with trade-related updates, market trends, and business opportunities.
- **Training & Development\*\*** – Enhance your expertise through seminars, webinars, and industry-led workshops.
- **"Sri Lanka Exporter" Magazine\*\*** – Showcase your products and services in a leading trade publication, available in print and digital formats.
- **Export Documentation Services\*\*** – Obtain certified export documents, including Certificates of Origin, at exclusive member rates.
- **Professional Courses (NIOE)\*\*** – Gain valuable skills in International Trade Management through accredited programs.
- **Trade Fairs & Delegations\*\*** – Expand your global presence with access to international trade fairs, B2B meetings, and market entry programs.
- **Producer-Exporter Linkages\*\*** – Connect with suppliers and regional producers to strengthen your export network.
- **SME Exporter Support\*\*** – Special membership for SMEs (Aspiring Exporters) with free advisory services to help them become future exporters.
- **Certificate of Ethical Trading (CET)\*\*** – Get recognized for ethical business practices with an internationally accepted certification.
- **PCQI Certification\*\*** – Train and certify food sector professionals under US FDA preventive controls regulations.
- **NCE Annual Export Awards\*\*** – Gain industry recognition at Sri Lanka's most prestigious export awards ceremony.



# THE NCE SECRETARIAT

WE ARE HERE  
TO SERVE  
YOU!



**Shiham Marikar**  
Secretary General/Chief  
Executive Officer



**Dilini Gamlathge**  
Asst. Director - Member  
Services & Operations



**Sandun Koswattage**  
Manager Finance



**Susantha Rupatunge**  
Senior Executive -  
Member Services



**Stephanie John**  
Administrative Executive



**Nehkala Lakshmanan**  
Junior Operations  
Executive



**Dinu Bhashika**  
IT Executive



**Anuradha Sewwandhi**  
Account Executive



**Deandra Weinman**  
Senior Executive -  
Business Development



**Hashini Adhikari**  
Executive Member  
Services



**Hashen Madhusa**  
Operations Assistant

## The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka

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