



Sri Lanka's Geopolitics and Trade Potential

Mr. Kapila Fonseka, Ms. Kimarli Fernando, Mr. Sarinda Unamboowe, Mr. Kalum de Silva and Mr. Asanga Abeyagoonsekara with Dr. Rebecca Strating

Tuesday 29 June: 5pm for 5.30 - 7pm (AEST), 1pm - 2:30pm (SLT) Dyason House, 124 Jolimont Road, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Commonly referred to as the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean', Sri Lanka had a growing economy before the COVID-19 pandemic and has a diaspora of over 170,000 in Australia. With over 2,000 years of trading history with major powers such as China and India, Sri Lanka is today considered an important strategic partner for countries in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond, presenting significant trade and investment opportunities in exports, services and education, as well as being an important security partner for Australia on matters of transnational crime. Sri Lanka's ports are at key locations on global shipping lanes, making



them a key strategic asset, and of interest to many countries. Sri Lanka is also leading the way in developing COVID-safe travel plans to revive its tourism sector in a post-COVID world. As geopolitical tensions continue to rise, particularly between Sri Lanka's neighbours and within the U.S-China relationship more broadly, Sri Lanka faces challenges in sustaining its economic growth and ensuring regional stability.

What are the main export and import opportunities offered by Sri Lanka? What are the two-way trade and investment opportunities between Sri Lanka and Australia? What geopolitical role does Sri Lanka play for the rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific?

AIIA Victoria invites you to join a discussion with Mr. Kapila Fonseka, Ms. Kimarli Fernando, Mr. Sarinda Unamboowe, Mr. Kalum de Silva and Mr. Asanga Abeyagoonsekara moderated by Dr. Rebecca Strating.

This event is supported by the **Consulate General of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Melbourne** and the **Sri Lanka Australia Chamber of Commerce (SLACC)**.

Mr. Kapila Fonseka is the third Consul General of Sri Lanka in Melbourne, with jurisdiction over the States of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

Ms. Kimarli Fernando is the Chairperson of Sri Lanka Tourism, heading the Government's four main Tourism entities; Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, Sri Lanka Conventions Bureau, and Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management.

Mr. Sarinda Unamboowe is the CEO of MAS Kreeda (a major apparel and textile company) and a member of the board of MAS Capital. Prior to this he was a banker, stockbroker and headed a supermarket chain.

Mr. Kalum de Silva is an Australia based finance professional with over 20 years' experience in Private Equity and International Business, and is the National President of the Sri Lanka Australia Chamber of Commerce (SLACC).

Mr. Asanga Abeyagoonsekara is an International Security and Geopolitics Analyst and Strategic Advisor. Previously, he has served the government of Sri Lanka, and presently serves as the Senior Advisor on Security and Geopolitics to the Leader of the Opposition Sri Lanka Parliament.

Dr. Rebecca Strating is the Executive Director of La Trobe Asia and a Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations in the Department of Politics, Media and Philosophy at La Trobe University.

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In-person: AIIA VIC Premium and Student members free; Regular members \$20. Non-members \$30. Student Non-members \$10. SLACC members free.

Webinar: Free for all AIIA and SLACC members. Student Non-Members \$5. Non-Members \$10