SRI LANKA IS REPRESENTED AT THE MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM EXHIBITION (MITT 2019)

IN THIS ISSUE

Engagements of H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Russia

Sri Lanka at international exhibitions in Moscow

Upcoming events in Sri Lanka & other news

On March 12-14, 2019 a number of Sri Lankan companies, operating in tourism and hospitality industries, participated in the Moscow International Travel and Tourism Exhibition (MITT 2019). The Sri Lankan stand was organized by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Russia with the support of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau and officially opened by H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Russia, as well as Mrs. Sanja Jayatilleka and Embassy officials. MITT Exhibition is one of the top five travel exhibitions in the world and the largest one in the sector of tourism in Russia.
H. E. THE AMBASSADOR MEETS HIS SERBIAN COUNTERPART

On February 28, 2019, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka paid a visit to his Serbian counterpart, Ambassador Slavenko Terzić.

The Ambassadors share a common interest in history and political science, both having their background in the academic circles, where they have common friends from the international academic community. The discussion of the new architecture of the political, economic and social international cooperation between sovereign states in Europe and globally proved to be very substantive, and was held in a warm atmosphere of genuine friendship.

Both parties expressed their hope that this visit of Ambassador Jayatilleka will be just the first one, paving the way for many more meetings of the Ambassadors in the future, and creating the opportunities for closer cooperation between their countries. Dr. Slavenko Terzić mentioned that during the recent Prodexpo exhibition in Moscow, there was some interest of business companies to develop trade between Sri Lanka and Serbia, exporting Serbian apples and Sri Lankan tea.

DR. DAYAN JAYATILLEKA MEETS SENATOR KOSTANTIN KOSACHEV

On March 1, 2019 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation H.E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka had a productive luncheon discussion with Senator Konstantin Kosachev, PhD in Law, Russian politician and diplomat, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Federation Council (Russian Parliament's Upper House), who was the disciple and aide to the prominent Russian Foreign Minister, later Prime Minister and Academician Evgeny Primakov.

Doctor Kosachev previously served as head of Rossotrudnichestvo (the Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation).

Ambassador Jayatilleka and Senator Kosachev had a substantive discussion on the global political situation taking the period from 1975 to today, the changing world order and the problems of maintenance of international law.

Senator Kosachev received Order for Merit to the Fatherland, 4th degree, Order of Honour and Order of Friendship for active participation in legislative work, strengthening the rule of law and many years of diligent work.
AMBASSADOR OF SRI LANKA RECEIVES THE AMBASSADOR OF PALESTINE

On March 1, 2019 H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka received H.E. Abdel Hafiz Nofal, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Russia, at the Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Moscow.

H. E. Abdel Hafiz Nofal previously served as Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Republic of South Africa, and Deputy Minister of the Ministry of National Economy.

During the meeting, the Heads of Mission spoke about the current situation with Palestinian people.

AMBASSADOR JAYATILLEKA MEETS THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF THE STATE DUMA OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

On March 6, 2019 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation H.E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka and Madame Sanja Jayatilleka paid a courtesy call on Vyacheslav Nikonov, Doctor in History and Chair of the Committee for Education & Science, who received the guests at his office at the State Duma of the Russian Federation. Dr. Nikonov is the grandson and the biographer of Vyacheslav Molotov, prominent "Old Bolshevik" and Soviet Foreign Minister under Joseph Stalin from 1939—1949 and post-Stalin in 1953—1956.

Dr. Nikonov has been heading the School of Public Administration at Moscow State University, and the Russian World Foundation established by Vladimir Putin to promote Russian language and culture internationally. He is an author of number of books on Russian history and a well-known commentator on national policy & global affairs. Ambassador Jayatilleka and Dr. Nikonov had discussion on the main ideas in Russian history and the current world geopolitical situation from 1960 to date. As the Duma representative of Nizhniy Novgorod, the region which contains Russia’s nuclear weapons manufacturing industry, Dr. Nikonov confirmed President Putin's recent statement that Russia has an impregnable nuclear 'second strike capability' which thereby guarantees strategic stability.
AMBASSADOR OF SRI LANKA MEETS RIAC DIRECTOR GENERAL

On March 7, 2019 Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Russia H.E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka and Madame Sanja Jayatilleka paid a visit to Andrey Kortunov, Director General of the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), who holds a PhD in History and has taught Russian foreign policy at universities around the world and headed several public organizations operating in the fields of higher education, social sciences and social development.

The meeting was held at the RIAC headquarters. RIAC is a non-profit academic and diplomatic think-tank, which activities are aimed at strengthening peace, friendship and solidarity between nations, preventing international conflicts and promoting conflict resolution and crisis settlement. RIAC operates as a link between the state, academic community, business, and civil society in an effort to find foreign policy solutions to complex conflict issues. Ambassador Jayatilleka and Dr. Kortunov had a substantive discussion on global political situation and current foreign policy issues.

At the end of the meeting Dr. Kortunov invited H. E. Dayan Jayatilleka to join RIAC Sessions with other international experts and to share his ideas on issues of global and South Asia interest.

AMBASSADOR JAYATILLEKA MEETS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF ‘RUSSIA IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS’


Fyodor Lukyanov is the Chairman of the Presidium of the Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, Research Director of the Valdai Discussion Club Foundation, and Member of the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC).

As the author of a number of publications on the current international relations issues and Russian Foreign Policy, Fyodor Lukyanov was awarded by the Government of the Russian Federation for his contribution to the international journalism.

Ambassador Jayatilleka and Fyodor Lukyanov had an extensive discussion about the global political situation and the Indo-Pacific region in particular.
H.E. DR. DAYAN JAYATILLEKA VISITS FRIDA KAHLO-DIEGO RIVERA EXHIBITION

On March 04, 2019 Ambassador Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka and Madame Sanja Jayatilleka admired the first large exhibition of two world-famous artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, co-organized by the Fabergé Museum and the Continuity of Times Foundation in Moscow’s Manège.

Among the exhibits hosted by the exhibition entitled VIVA LA VIDA (‘Long Live Life’) was the world-famous painting by Frieda Kahlo “The Broken Column”, and that of Diego Rivera, “The Glorious Victory” (1954) depicting Guatemala after the US-engineered ‘regime change’ of the elected president. Apart from their paintings, the exhibition hosted a collection of life-sized photographs of the duo.

AMBASSADOR OF SRI LANKA ATTENDS MASS IN MEMORY OF HUGO CHAVEZ

On March 5, 2019 Ambassador Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka and Madame Sanja Jayatilleka attended the Service at the Saint Louis Roman Catholic Church dedicated to the 6th death anniversary of el Comandante Hugo Chavez, the late President of Venezuela at the invitation of the Ambassador H.E. Carlos Rafael Faria Tortosa.

President Chavez is well-known for his Catholic faith and description of Jesus Christ as "the first revolutionary and greatest socialist in History."

Ambassadors, Russian Foreign Ministry representatives among whom was the Head of Latin America Department A. Shetinin, Head of the major Russian oil company Rosneft I. Sechin who knew Hugo Chavez personally, Defence Attaches, diplomats and friends of Venezuela, who wanted to pay tribute to ‘el Comandante’, gathered together to commemorate President Hugo Chavez’s death anniversary.

The Service was followed by the speech of the Ambassador of Venezuela who told the audience that during 12 years Hugo Chavez paid 10 state visits on Russia and told Vladimir Putin that “in his face the Russian President could see a true friend, and in Venezuela – a staunch ally”.
March 11, 2019 marked a visit of H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation, accompanied by Madame Sanja Jayatilleka, to the Russian People's Friendship University (RUDN), one of the most popular and widely-known in Sri Lanka Russian higher education institutions.

In the framework of his visit to the Russian People's Friendship University, H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka gave a lecture on ‘terrorism and anti-terrorism’ that was attended by more than 115 students from various countries. Founded in 1960, the Russian People's Friendship University (former Patrice Lumumba University) is one of the most famous Russian higher education institutions with the most internationally diverse community of more than 31 500 students, 9 000 of which come from foreign countries. Over the past 50 years approximately 800 students from the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka graduated from RUDN. The University offers various undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate programs in humanities and social sciences, medicine, construction and engineering, mathematical sciences.

The visit began with a bilateral meeting between H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka and Dr. Larisa I. Efremova, Vice-Rector for International Relations and International Academic Mobility of the Russian People's Friendship University (RUDN), who has also served as First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kalmykia (2001-2003), the Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia.

At the meeting, RUDN University was also represented by Ms. Natalia V. Syulkova, Deputy Vice-Rector for International Relations and International Academic Mobility, Ms. Galina I. Tsvyk, Deputy Head of the Asia Division at the Department for Recruiting and Assistance to International Students, and Dr. Denis A. Degtyaryev, Head of the Department of Theory and History of International Relations at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Vice-Rector also underscored that, as a part of its outreach at establishment and development of ties with its alumni, a RUDN delegation had visited Sri Lanka three years ago to meet with Sri Lankan former alumni, have a round table discussions and give a presentation on the current activities of RUDN and its academic programs. Further, it was noted that, being a very internationally diverse institution, the Russian People's Friendship University supported Buddhist clergy in obtaining higher education and learning more about the Russian culture. As it was mentioned by Dr. Efremova, "the RUDN University organizes events not only to demonstrate the quality of education, but also to lead to understanding" between students of various cultural, religious backgrounds and political affiliations.

H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka, in his turn, thanked the Administration of the Russian People's Friendship University for the invitation to give a lecture to students and reminisced about his first visit to the RUDN during his adolescent years. During his discussions with RUDN representatives, H. E. the Ambassador pointed out that some universities had been able to safely maintain their images overseas through drastic political changes in the region, such as the dissolution of the Soviet Union; however, since the name of the RUDN university was changed from Patrice Lumumba University to Russian People's Friendship University in 1992, there has been confusion about the branding of the university, as many Sri Lankan people had always associated the institution with the name of Patrice Lumumba.

(continued on the next page)
Concluding his comment on this issue, H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka suggested re-establishing the former image of the university with the purpose of further familiarization of the Sri Lankan people and restoration of ‘the triangle of associations’, consisting of the Embassy of Russia in Sri Lanka, the Russian Cultural Center in Colombo, and the Russian People’s Friendship University (the former Patrice Lumumba University).

Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka started his lecture to the students by saying that his expertise on the problem of terrorism is unique, since he is probably the only person who has been indicted for terrorism at one point, and then accused of supporting forceful measures to suppress it on another occasion. Being an academician, he studied terrorism in theory, being a diplomat in the public service, he had to face the problem of terrorism in practice.

After elaborating on the history and origin of the use of terrorism – and Russia was the first country, where it was used as the means for achieving some political goals, although the meaning of it was very different from what is known under the name of terrorism now, Dr. Jayatilleka raised very important questions. How ethical is the use of violence in principle, whether it is used by a state to protect its territorial integrity, or by a people aspiring for justice and freedom? Where is the borderline, separating the explicit evil of terrorism from all forms of struggle for social justice or national liberation, which is sometimes called “terrorism” as well? Referring to his book, ‘Fidel’s Ethics of Violence: The Moral Dimension of the Political Thought of Fidel Castro’, Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka stressed that there are examples in history of the moral use of violence. If a state or a movement crosses the red line of willingly targeting unarmed civilians and innocents, that one loses the moral high ground, and loses it all, whatever the outcome of their struggle may be. On the other hand, you may lose your battle, but still win in the end, because of your ethical behavior, which resonates throughout the whole world.

Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka encouraged the students of the RUDN university to study the cases of terrorism in the world and see how they can be defined and categorized. “Terrorism is a pathology,” said Ambassador Jayatilleka, “and it is very important to diagnose it correctly.”

Sometimes you need to make an “inoculation,” in other cases – to remove the malignancy. It is an imperative task of the international community to adopt an ethical code, prohibiting the use of violence against unarmed, innocent civilians, underscored Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka. To develop such a code, and scrupulously implement it – this is an important goal for the young people who want to change the world, said Dr. Jayatilleka. "Obviously, you want to change it for the better, not for the worse."

After the lecture H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka had a round-table discussion with representatives of the Sri Lankan student community at RUDN and talked to them about their academic lives as well as scientific and social achievements gained during their studies in Russia.
13 COMPANIES REPRESENT SRI LANKA AT THE MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM EXHIBITION (MITT 2019)

The Moscow International Travel and Tourism Exhibition (MITT) is one of the top five travel exhibitions in the world and the largest one in the sector of tourism in Russia. Sri Lankan companies have been active exponents at this annually held exhibition over the last few years. At the MITT 2019, the Sri Lankan tourism and travel sector was represented by 13 companies: Let's See Asia, Aitken Spence Travels, Delux Holidays, Siddhalepa Ayurveda and Anarva, Andrew the Travel Company, Deluxe Vacations, RIU Hotel and Resorts, Ceylon My Dream, Existing Travel Holidays, Mount Lavinia Hotels and Resorts, Hikkaduwa Beach Hotel, Onyx Sri Lanka, Cinnamon Hotel and Resort.

On March 12, 2019 H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation, accompanied by Madame Sanja Jayatilleka, officially opened the Sri Lankan Stand, organized with the support of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB). The exhibition will be held from the 12th to 14th of March, 2019.

Mrs. Madubhani Perera, Marketing Director of the SLTPB, and Ms. Sasika Jayaweera, Assistant Marketing Director of the SLTPB, and Sri Lankan delegates joined H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka and Madame Sanja Jayatilleka in lighting the traditional oil lamp. While giving a welcome speech, H. E. the Ambassador underscored the importance of the development of Sri Lanka's tourism sector, as it is one of the main planks of the cooperation between Sri Lanka and Russia. Ambassador Jayatilleka also encouraged Sri Lankan exponents to contribute to the promotion of Sri Lanka as a top destination among Russian tourists and to establish direct connections with the local market of travel and tourism services.

H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka and Madame Jayatilleka held discussions with Sri Lankan delegates on the trends, currently prevailing in the tourism industry of the country, and further strategies the travel agencies intend to implement to expand their operations into the Russian market.
The first day of the 26th Moscow International Travel and Tourism Exhibition successfully ended with the dinner arranged for the delegation of Sri Lankan Participants of MITT 2019. The Dinner was attended by the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation H.E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka and Madame Sanja Jayatilleka, and was hosted by Ms. Chathurika Perera, the Second Secretary (Commercial) of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Moscow.

MITT Exhibition is the largest travel event in Russia and CIS, which attracts tour operators, travel agencies and other companies involved in the tourism industry from many countries of the world. Sri Lanka was represented by the Tourism Promotion Bureau with 13 travel traders this year.

Ambassador Jayatilleka, Mrs. Madubhani Perera, Marketing Director of the SLTPB, and the Sri Lankan delegates discussed importance of further development of Sri Lanka – Russia relations in the tourism sphere.

MITT 2019 HIGHLIGHTS
On March 13-15, 2019, Moscow hosts one of the largest events in the tea and coffee industry in Russia and CIS countries, Coffee & Tea Russian Expo (CTRE). It represents the whole production chain from bean and leaf to cup. The event unites key players and representatives of the coffee and tea industry in the Russian market. More than 6,000 professionals from CIS and foreign countries come together at one place and one time to share their art of producing tea and coffee and delivering it to the customer, for indeed, tea and coffee are not just consumer products, it is the art of satisfying all human senses. You have the smell for your nose, taste for your mouth, looks for your eyes, and each box or package contains in a condensed form some very special time of your life in it. It is the time that you will spend with your friends, or the time that you will prefer to spend alone, the time for good thoughts, good feelings, the time to stop and just enjoy yourselves. This is what makes it very special.

This time Sri Lanka Tea Board had the honour to sponsor the Russia 2019 Tea Masters’ Cup, which takes place in the framework of CTRE. There is not only the art of producing and packaging tea, of course, but there is the art of making, serving, and even tasting tea as well. The Tea Masters’ Cup allows tea professionals to compete in the following categories: Tea Preparation, Tea Paring, Tea Tasting, and Tea Mixology. The audience is then given the chance of tasting the final products, sometimes quite exotic, but always very special.

H. E. Ambassador Dayan Jayatilleka and Madame Sanja Jayatilleka visited the Sri Lankan section of the exhibition and met with Mr. Ramaz Chanturya, Director General of Russian Tea and Coffee Association, who is also the Chairman of the organizing committee of CTRE. The position of Ceylon tea in the Russian market, and new ways to further improve the tea trade between Sri Lanka and Russia were discussed during the meeting. Ms. Chathurika Perera, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Moscow, participated in CTRE.
In a new initiative of the United Russia Party, the one with the largest representation in the Russian Parliament and regional assemblies, a meeting of the International affairs Commission was held with the Diplomatic community in Russia on March 13, 2019. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation, H.E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka and Madame Sanja Jayatilleka participated at the meeting.

The meeting commenced with the welcoming speech of Andrei Turchak, Secretary of United Russia Party’s General Council and Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. 'This is the first time in the 18-year history of our Party that we simultaneously meet the leaders of foreign diplomatic missions, which represent the countries, participating in the cross-party dialogue. The number of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors, gathered here today, bears evidence of our Party’s growing authority in the international arena, despite it being relatively young.' - stated Turchak, emphasizing that this was indicative of unconditional authority of Russia and its political leadership in the international arena. Turchak also reiterated that in its international activities United Russia is being governed by the directives, issued by the President of Russia. 'They are absolutely open: this is the building of trust, fight against globally common threats, expansion of cooperation in economics, trade, education, culture, science and technology and removal of communication barriers', - he added. A.A. Klimov, Chairman of the International Activities Commission of the United Russia General Council Presidium addressed the audience and spoke on the main results of the international activities of the Party for 2018 and priority areas for 2019.

E.A. Primakov, Member of International Activities Commission of 'United Russia' and State Duma Committee on International Affairs mentioned that the activity of the Party is focused on maintaining sustainable peace and stable security and pointed out that issues pertaining to counterterrorism, nuclear weapon nonproliferation and ecology could form the groundwork for cooperation. Senator K.I. Kosachev, Member of the High Council of the Party and Chairman of the Federation Council Committee on Foreign Affairs emphasized that interparty ties should become an additional instrument for the development of relations on the level of countries as well as on the level of nations.

The speeches of United Russia Party leaders were followed by the interventions of the Ambassadors highlighting the need for constructive interparty dialogue which will boost the development of cooperation between the countries. During the interactive session Ambassador Jayatilleka made remarks on creating the community of political parties that would transcend right, left and center ideological compartments and the importance of developing political ideas, which could synthesize the best elements in all of them.
The 14th of March was marked by an event of importance to the present and future of bilateral academic ties as well as Sri Lanka studies in Russia. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Sri Lanka to Russia H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka, accompanied by Madame Sanja Jayatilleka, was warmly welcomed at the Institute of Asian and African Studies (IAAS) of the prestigious Moscow State University, the oldest and largest multidisciplinary university of Russia. ISAA is the longest-established higher education institution specialized on Asian and African studies. The Institute was officially established in 1956, however, it has inherited the long-standing traditions of Russia’s oriental studies dating back to early XIX century.

Today, IAAS curriculum and research programs cover Political Studies focused on Afro-Asia, Asian Language studies with renascent Sinhala language program, first in 30 years, and studies of modern and contemporary history of Indo-Pacific where Sri Lankan studies have continued for decades.

During the visit, H. E. the Ambassador met with Dr. Igor I. Abylgaziev, acting Director of the Institute of Asian and African Studies and Head of the IAAS Chair of Political Science as well as Prof. Alexandra L. Safronova, Head of the Chair of South Asian History and key expert in Sri Lanka's history at IAAS, Dr. Natalia S. Kuleshova, Deputy Director of the Institute and Deputy Head of Chair of Political Science, Dr. Boris A. Zakharyin, Head of Chair of Indian Philology, Dr. Boris M. Volkhonsky, Assistant Professor, Chair of Indian Philology. The Institute was also represented by Dr. Lyudmila V. Khokhlova, leading professor of South Asian linguistics, Dr. Anna V. Bochkovskaya, leading professor of South African history, and Prof. Alexey A. Vgasin, leading professor at the South Asian History Chair.

Ambassador Jayatilleka and the acting Director of the MSU Institute of Asian and African Studies talked about the relations that had existed between the USSR and Sri Lanka in the 1970s-1980s, as both officials crossed paths at the International Festival of Youth and Students in 1985. H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka and Dr. Igor I. Abylgaziev also touched upon the issues of the modern world order, having come to a mutual agreement that there should be exchange of experiences not only between regions, but continents, so that countries could "join efforts towards ensuring peace in the world".

Further, Dr. Igor I. Abylgaziev pointed out the importance of the role that shall be played by the young generation in the development of the Sri Lanka-Russia cooperation, who would "create a new era of friendship between the two countries". He also assured H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka of the readiness of the Institute of Asian and African Studies and the Lomonosov Moscow State University on the whole to cooperate with Sri Lankan universities on the subject of exchange of students, thus contributing to the strengthening of bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Russia.

Ambassador Jayatilleka, in his turn, underscored the significance of preservation of the prestigious image of Russian higher education, so that high performing Sri Lankan students could become more familiarized with the world-class level of academic programs, taught at the leading Russian universities.

After the meeting with senior representatives of the MSU Institute of Asian and African Studies, H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka delivered a lecture that was attended not only by IAAS students, but also by those from other top universities of Russia, including the Higher School of Economics.
On March 15, 2019 His Excellency Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation, joined by Madame Sanja Jayatilleka, attended the roadshow in Moscow, organized by the Sri Lankan Tourism Promotion Bureau with the assistance of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Russia, to promote Sri Lanka as a top tourist destination in the Russian market. A similar event will be held in St. Petersburg, the cultural capital of the Russian Federation.

The roadshow is a very useful platform for representatives of tourism sectors of both countries – Sri Lanka and Russia – to establish direct cooperation with each other, learn more about the respective markets and explore opportunities for mutual contribution towards further growth of the number of Russian tourists, visiting Sri Lanka.

The event began with the lighting of a traditional oil lamp by H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka, Madame Sanja Jayatilleka, Mrs. Madubhani Perera, Marketing Director of the SLTPB, Mr. Mahen Kariyawasam, Former President of the Sri Lanka Inbound Tour Operators Association, and Mr. Alexander Delezha, Deputy Head of the External Affairs Department at the Rossiya Airlines.

While welcoming more than 40 representatives of Russian travel agencies as well as 13 delegates of Sri Lankan destination management companies (DMC) and hotels that gathered at the seminar, Ambassador Jayatilleka drew particular attention to a huge potential of the Russian market as a destination, in which the SLTPB should carry out promotional activities. Ambassador Jayatilleka also encouraged the Russian tour operators and Sri Lankan travel agents to work closely together, as they represent one of the major ties between the two countries.

Further, Mrs. Madubhani Perera, SLTPB Marketing Director, delivered a presentation on the appeal of Sri Lanka as a tourist destination due to its cultural and historic heritages and various types of leisure, offered to visitors of the island. The official part concluded with Mr. Alexander Delezha addressing the gathering with a presentation.

The second part of the occasion was dedicated to B2B meetings between Sri Lankan and Russian travel agents and DMCs.
AMBASSADOR JAYATILLEKA MEETS THE HEAD OF THE FOUNDATION FOR HISTORICAL OUTLOOK IN MOSCOW

On March 19, 2019 His Excellency Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to Russia, accompanied by Madame Sanja Jayatilleka, paid a call on Ms. Natalia Narochnitskaya, Doctor of Historical Sciences, who previously was Vice-Chairman of the Duma's Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman of the Committee for the Study of the Practice and Implementation of Human Rights and Civil Liberties, worked as an editor at the Secretariat-General of the United Nations in New York, and now is the President of the Foundation for Historical Outlook in Moscow and the Head of Russia-founded Institute of Democracy & Cooperation in Paris.

The meeting was held at the Foundation for Historical Outlook, an intellectual center for research and analysis which aims to combine efforts of experts and specialists in the spheres of international affairs, geopolitics, history, information and mass media to get solutions for the global issues of concern.

Ambassador Jayatilleka and Dr. Narochnitskaya had an in-depth discussion on the philosophical aspects of the civilizations, ethics and history. At the end of the meeting Dr. Narochnitskaya presented Ambassador Jayatilleka her books and extended her thoughts for cooperation in the framework of international conferences.

AMBASSADOR OF SRI LANKA MEETS PROF. ALEXANDER FILIPPOV

On March 21, 2019 H.E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka and Mrs. Sanja Jayatilleka had a discussion over coffee with Prof. Alexander Filippov, a renowned sociologist and a thinker, who holds a Doctoral Degree in Theory, History and Methods of Sociology, and PhD in History of Philosophy.

Prof. Filippov is a Member of the Academic Council, a Full Professor with National Research University–Higher School of Economics (HSE) and Head of the Center of Fundamental Social Science of the Poletayev Institute of Humanitarian Historical and Theoretical Studies. He is the author of more than 150 publications, including widely quoted monograph 'Sociology of Space'. Ambassador Jayatilleka and Prof. Filippov who discovered many areas of common interests had a lengthy discussion on politics, sociology, philosophy, issues of legitimacy and approaches to the world order. Prof. Filippov shared his critical thoughts on the basis of Niklas Luhmann's theory of society and philosophy of social science.

Prof. Filippov mentioned that he had read H.E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka's book entitled 'The Fall of Global Socialism' and expressed his opinion that it should be translated into Russian. Being the Editor-in-Chief of the 'Russian Sociological Review' academic quarterly journal, Prof. Filippov invited Ambassador Jayatilleka to submit an article, which he said would be a significant contribution to the journal.

www.srilankaembassy.ru
AMBASSADOR JAYATILLEKA MEETS HIS INDONESIAN COUNTERPART

On March 21, 2019 Ambassador H.E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka paid a courtesy call on the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the Russian Federation H.E. Mohamad Wahid Supriyadi, who previously served as Consul General in Australia and as Head of Mission in the United Arab Emirates, was appointed as Expert Staff for Economics and Socio-Cultural Affairs at Foreign Ministry, spokesperson of Indonesia’s and Director for Information and Media Services Department of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Jayatilleka shared his memory of his father’s friendship with Dr. R. Subandrio, the Foreign Minister of President Sukarno. Ambassador Jayatilleka also recollected his first visit to Indonesia at the age of 8 in 1965 just before the coup d’état when he accompanied his parents, who were invited by Dr. Subandrio for the Afro-Asian Journalists Conference that year. The Indonesian Ambassador pointed out that Dr. Subandrio was Indonesia’s first Ambassador to the Soviet Union and that his name is on a plaque in the building.

The two Heads of Missions had a long discussion on current economic and political situation with reference to Indo-Pacific region, and Sri Lanka and Indonesia in particular. The Indonesian Ambassador explained his country’s aversion to federalism as it could encourage separatist sentiments, while adding that Indonesia has adopted a halfway house, so to speak, in that over half of the national budget goes to the regions.

AMBASSADOR ATTENDS PAKISTANI NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

On March 25 Ambassador Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka and Madame Sanja Jayatilleka attended the reception held on the occasion of the Pakistan Day. The National Day reception was attended by representatives of Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Russian State Authority, Heads of Diplomatic Missions and Defence Attaches.

The audience was addressed by the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Qazi Mohammad Khalilullah who mentioned the unprecedentedly high level of foreign direct investment in Pakistan by the Russian Federation and said this reflected the relationship between the countries. He also pointed out the role of Russia in the establishment of regional stability.

H.E. Zamir Kabulov, Director of the Second Department of Asia, Russian MFA and Special Envoy of the Russian President to Afghanistan was Chief Guest at the reception. H.E. Zamir Kabulov spoke about the strength in the relations between the countries and in the issues of peace settlement in Afghanistan.
AMBASSADOR OF SRI LANKA VISITS THE PUSHKIN STATE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

On H.E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka and Madame Sanja Jayatilleka participated in the tour of the State Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA) named after Pushkin organized by the State Protocol Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on March 25.

The Heads of Diplomatic Missions accredited in Moscow with their spouses were welcomed by the Deputy Director of the Russian MFA State Protocol Department Mr. Kuznetsov and the Director of the Museum Mrs. Loshak, who spoke about the 111 years-long history of the museum and highlighted that the Museum is open to expositions from different states that may also help to develop cultural cooperation between the countries.

The official part of the event was followed by the excursion through the main exposition of Impressionism (from the collection of the museum), which included works by Claude Monet, Édouard Manet, Edgar Degas, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Paul Cézanne and Paul Gauguin and other masterpieces on display at the museum.

Apart from the Italian and French works of art, this is the first time in Russia that viewers can get acquainted with a unique and very important chapter in the history of modern British art: the "London School" including most notably, Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud, with 80 paintings and graphical works from the Tate Gallery.

AMBASSADOR JAYATILLEKA MEETS THE CCEIS DIRECTOR

On March 26 Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka and Madame Sanja Jayatilleka met Dr. Timofey Bordachev, Director of the Centre for Comprehensive European and International Studies (CCEIS), Programme Academic Supervisor at the Council for Foreign and Defence Policy and Head of the Eurasian programme at Valdai Discussion Club Foundation. Dr. Bordachev is Associate Professor at the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs, National Research University-Higher School of Economics (HSE).

Prof. Bordachev is the author of the book 'New interventionism and contemporary peace-building', which was the first fundamental research of that subject in Russia. Prof. Bordachev is the co-author of more than 200 analytical works on the European internal development done for Russian State Authority. Prof. Bordachev was the chief of the group appointed in 2014, working under the supervision of Prof. Sergei Karaganov on the issues relating to 'One Belt One Road' initiative.

Ambassador Jayatilleka and Prof. Bordachev had in-depth conversation on Indo-Pacific Region, Russia-China relations and the notion of internal and international justice.
On March 26 Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation H.E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka and Madame Sanja Jayatilleka attended the celebration of the 49th Independence and National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh at the invitation of the Ambassador H.E. Dr. S. M. Saiful Hoque and his spouse Dr. Gopa Chokroborty. The reception was held at the Bangladesh House.

Ambassador H.E. Dr. S. M. Saiful Hoque welcomed the gathering, represented by officials from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Russian State Authorities, Heads of Diplomatic Missions accredited in Moscow and Defence Attaches. Ambassador H.E. Dr. S. M. Saiful Hoque spoke about the long-term relationship between Bangladesh and the Russian Federation, being the successor to the Soviet Union, established in 1971 when the Soviet Union supported Bangladesh in its fight for independence. The Head of the Bangladeshi Mission expressed gratitude to Soviet navy soldiers, who sacrificed their lives in cleaning the Chittagong harbour of mines and drowned ships.

Ambassador H.E. Dr. S. M. Saiful Hoque mentioned new achievements in the cooperation between Bangladesh, Russia and India, and the trilateral memorandum of understanding signed on the nuclear power plant construction this year. The Ambassador also announced that Bangladesh now has the second highest growth rate in the world.

H.E. Zamir Kabulov, Director of the Second Asia Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chief Guest of the reception addressed the audience. During his speech H.E. Zamir Kabulov underlined the importance of strongly developed Russia-Bangladeshi cooperation in political, economic, cultural and educational spheres.

The speeches were followed by the invitation to enjoy Bangladeshi national cuisine.
MEETING WITH THE RUSSIA-SRI LANKA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

On March 27 H. E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Russia, and Madame Sanja Jayatilleka met with representatives of the Russia-Sri Lanka Friendship Society to discuss initiatives to be implemented through the Society in the framework of fostering of the bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and the Russian Federation.

The Russia-Sri Lanka Friendship Society was represented by Mr. Vladimir Polozkov, Deputy Chairman of the Russia-Sri Lanka Friendship Society, as well as other members of the Russian side of the Board of the Society Ms. Marina Korosteleva, the First Deputy to the Secretary General of the Russian Association of International Cooperation (RAIC), Mr. Vladimir Grishko, representative of the Republic of Komi in Moscow, and Mr. Alexander Trukhachev, Head of RAIC Sports Programs.

During the meeting several joint projects were proposed with the aim of promotion of Ceylon tea on the Russian market, exchange of expertise in jewelcrafting, organization of art exhibitions, such as “Sri Lanka through the eyes of Russian artists” and “Russia through the eyes of Sri Lankan artists”, as well as cooperation between educational institutions, including opportunities to visit the space programme. Also, the agenda of the meeting included a discussion of an idea of considering several cities in Sri Lanka and Russia for the twin towns program.

Lastly, the representatives of the Russia- Sri Lanka Friendship Society expressed their hope for active involvement of Madame Sanja Jayatilleka in the ‘Female Face of Diplomacy’ initiative that would highlight the role and contribution of spouses of Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Moscow and include organization of thematic events, attended by women, holding senior positions in diplomatic corps, government authorities and business communities.

Concluding the meeting, the Russia-Sri Lanka Friendship Society underscored its readiness to contribute to implementation the ideas, brought up during discussions, and development of the cooperation between the two countries on the whole.
RUDN UNIVERSITY AWARDS
SRI LANKAN STUDENTS

On March 27 five Sri Lankan students of the Russian People's Friendship University (RUDN) were awarded appreciation certificates for their active assistance and participation in the University's common activities, during a meeting organized for Asian Diplomatic missions' representatives in Moscow, after RUDN announced the admission of foreign nationals for the academic year of 2019/2020.

The meeting was held at the RUDN Academic Council Hall with the aim of discussing the prospects for developing cooperation in the education sector, and discussing some practical matters, related to the RUDN procedure for admitting the foreign nationals to the University.

The meeting was attended by RUDN's Deans, who presented their faculties, chairs, and courses for the foreign students to the representatives of Asian Diplomatic Missions, spoke about necessary visa procedures, and the University's structure, educational and research facilities, libraries, laboratories, medical and accommodation facilities etc.

Founded in 1960, the Russian People's Friendship University (former Patrice Lumumba University) is one of the most famous Russian higher education institutions with the most internationally diverse community of more than 31,500 students, 9,000 of which come from foreign countries.

The first students from Sri Lanka joined the Peoples' Friendship University named after Patrice Lumumba in 1965. Since that time, over 806 Sri Lankan students graduated from the University, to make an important contribution to the development of Sri Lanka's industry, trade, education and healthcare systems, and other sectors of economy. Currently, there are 59 students pursuing their undergraduate or postgraduate programs at RUDN. Notably, Sri Lankan students have one of the highest exam passing rates at the University, which is over 87%.

Mr. Dulmith Waruna, First Secretary, and Ms. Nayomi Chandrasiri, Officer responsible for Consular and Education, participated at the above meeting representing the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Moscow.
On March 29, 2019 Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation H.E. Dr. Dayan Jayatilleka had a bilateral meeting with his Italian counterpart H.E. Pasquale Terracciano, a veteran diplomat, who served as Diplomatic Adviser to the Italian Prime Minister and Prime Minister’s G8 and G20 Sherpa Representative, Chief of Cabinet to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Head of Information and Press Office and Spokesman for the Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Spain and Great Britain before he assumed his duties as Head of Diplomatic Mission in Moscow.

The two Ambassadors discussed the current political situation and configuration in Italy, and its historical evolution as well as the ideas of the Italian political thinker Antonio Gramsci, the eminent figure of international communism and the labor movement and founder of the Italian Communist Party, who was imprisoned by Benito Mussolini’s Fascist regime. Ambassador H.E. Pasquale Terracciano informed Ambassador Jayatilleka that there will be an Exhibition displaying the original manuscripts of Gramsci’s famous ‘Prison Notebooks’ later this year in Moscow. Gramsci’s grandson, who is living in the Russian capital city, will also share some of the materials from the family collection. Ambassador Terracciano said he wished to invite the Ambassador and Madame Jayatilleka to attend the exposition, which Ambassador Jayatilleka gladly accepted.
In March the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Russia launched its #DailyFactsSriLanka initiative! Follow us on Twitter (@SLinRussia) to receive interesting and unique facts about Sri Lanka on a daily basis! Every day is a chance to discover the island from a different perspective!

#DailyFactsSriLanka: The coastline of Sri Lanka is approximately 1340 kilometers long. Much of that coastline is made up of sandy beaches well-suited to snorkeling, scuba diving, and surfing.

#DailyFactsSriLanka: The name “Sri Lanka” is Sanskrit for “resplendent island”.

#DailyFactsSriLanka: The first female prime minister in the world was the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. Back in 1960, Sirimavo Bandaranaike served for three non-consecutive terms.

#DailyFactsSriLanka: Sri Lanka is often referred to as the “Pearl of the Indian Ocean” and “Teardrop of India” due to its geographic location and unique shape.

#DailyFactsSriLanka: Because of its history, the cuisine of Sri Lanka is an interesting mixture of Indian, Dutch, Persian, Arab, British, and Portuguese influences. It is recognized as being among the spiciest food in the world.

#DailyFactsSriLanka: The national flower of Sri Lanka is the Nil Mahanel, known to botanists as Nymphaea Stellata. It is known in English as the beautiful Water Lily.
Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave 2019

Explore • Network • Capitalize

18th – 20th June 2019 | Cinnamon Grand Colombo, Sri Lanka

Organized by

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

Why Sri Lanka

Gateway to the world – located in dynamic Asia with easy access to air and sea routes of the world.

Opportunities to further enhance the outreach to promote products once the proposed FTAs are in operation with China, Malaysia, Japan and Thailand in addition to existing FTAs with India, Pakistan and Singapore.

Growing economic Hub with favourable policies – Colombo Port City Project

Fast developing infrastructure - opportunities through the Western Region Megapolis Project

Strong policies in place for protecting international investors and business partners

High quality of Life

Sri Lanka’s proposed Financial City aims to become the prominent financial hub in the region and it has commenced to attract foreign investments from Indian, South Asian, and Middle East region as well as from European countries

Educated and Adaptable Workforce

New urbanization initiatives with new opportunities for investment

One of the lowest corporate tax rates in the region

Colombo has the potential to serve as a subsidiary market for eastern and western giants since it is located midway between the major financial markets such as London, Frankfurt, Dubai to the West and Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore and Sydney to the East.
Colombo International Logistics Conference
The Indian Ocean’s Emerging Mega Maritime, Logistics and Distribution Centre
1st & 2nd August 2019 - Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka - A location that Connects:
markets & continents,
giving speed & access to supply chains,
reducing lead time & cost of unit operations of logistics

Access to 2 Billion+ people in the fastest growing Asian reigon

Port visits, Free Zone visits etc

Website: www.cimc.lk  e-mail: info@cimc.lk