

INFORMATION RELEASE
SRI LANKA NATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE

The Sri Lanka National Arbitration Centre (SLNAC) is the oldest Institution in the country in the administration of arbitrations for the resolution of commercial disputes having been established and incorporated in the year 1985.

The Arbitration Centre's future role includes efforts to attract international arbitrations to Sri Lanka as a service provider and to make commercial dispute resolution by arbitration expeditiously, cost effective under due process of law.

The long serving Chief Executive Officer / Legal Advisor of the Sri Lanka National Arbitration Centre, eminent Lawyer, Mr. Edgar Cooray who relinquished his duties, served in the capacity of CEO / Governor from its inception. However, at the request of the Board of Governors, he would continue to serve as a Governor.

At the request of the Board of Governors Mr. Hiran de Alwis was appointed Hony. Chief Executive Officer /Legal Advisor of the Sri Lanka National Arbitration Centre from the 1st of September, 2008. Mr. de Alwis is a Legal Counsel in Colombo, holding a Post Graduate Diploma in Law (International Dispute Resolution) from the University of London and is a Chartered Arbitrator, a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators London (MCI Arb.).

SLNAC consists of several distinguished Members of the legal community and several Institutional Members. The Chairman Mr. Romesh de Silva, Presidents Counsel one of the foremost civil and commercial lawyers in the country has appeared as counsel in several commercial arbitration matters in Sri Lanka and overseas and also a Past President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

Institutional Members of the Centre include:

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| 1. Mr. Romesh de Silva, PC | Chairman |
| 2. Mr.Hiran de Alwis | Attorney-at-Law, (Hony). Chief Executive/ Chief Legal Advisor |
| 3. Mr. Nimal Perera | The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries |
| 4. Mr. Jayasiri Samaratunga | National Construction Association of Sri Lanka |
| 5. Mrs. Pansy Joseph | Attorney-at-Law, Bar Association of Sri Lanka |
| 6. Mr. Sujeiva Samaraweera | The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka |
| 7. Mrs. Raneer Ratnayeke | Women's Chamber of Industry & Commerce |
| 8. Mr. Conrad Tissera | Construction Industry Development Authority |
| 9. Mrs.Thushari Ranaweera | Attorney-at-Law, Sri Lanka Banks Association (Gte) Limited |
| 10. Prof. Chithra Wedikkara | Architect/Quantity Surveyor |
| 12. Mr. Ziqufi Ismail | Sri Lanka Gem & Jewellery Association |
| 13. Archt. Bernard Gomez | Sri Lanka Institute of Architects |
| 14. Mr. H D Chandrasena | Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Sri Lanka |
| 15. Mr S T S Arulananthan | The Ceylon Hardware Merchant Association |
| 16. Mr.Naomal Goonewardena | Attorney-at-Law |
| 17. Dr. E M G De Zylva | Engineer |

The fundamental responsibility of the Centre is to popularize the operation and practice of arbitration functioning as a facilitator, Registrar and Coordinator providing accommodation, secretarial services and other attendant facilities. Four fully air conditioned chambers are available for the conduct of sittings with adequate modern comfortable seating along with suitable table arrangements. A lobby, pantry, toilet and ample parking space for vehicles are the other additional facilities at hand. If five star hotels are required for instance, for hearing of International Arbitrations, arrangements are made providing all services.

The Centre is fully operational with an efficient computerized Secretariat manned by a Chief Operations Officer, Registrar and support staff for correspondence and accounts. Minor staff are also employed. A pool of experienced English Stenographers is engaged for the provision of speedy and accurate secretarial services if need be within 24 hours and normally within seventy two hours and the record of proceedings are taken in shorthand and taped by the use of electronic recorders. The services of Sinhala Stenographers and Interpreters are also arranged when required.

The documentation of the arbitral hearing is safely preserved and systematically maintained by the Registrar, certified copies of which could be produced for Court hearings and similar purposes.

A singular and recognized achievement of the Centre is the timely dispatch of the records of proceedings to the Arbitrators, Counsel and parties, within three days or most rarely within a week from the date of sitting, ensuring accuracy, speed and complying with directions and instructions.

On an average the Centre conducts approximately twenty arbitration sittings per week. On a monthly basis the arbitration hearings total to a near hundred.

The Sri Lanka National Arbitration Centre has co-operation agreements with the Giant Triple "A" of the USA, Korean Commercial Arbitration Organization and also with the Australia International Arbitration Centre, Hong Kong and Singapore International Arbitration Centres.

Several new initiatives to make the arbitral process more efficient and thereby assist the business community to resolve commercial disputes and the public and the country to benefit by its dispute resolution mechanism is envisaged.

For further information or assistance you may contact:

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Chief Operations Officer

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