

Newsletter

June - July 2015



TAKING SRI LANKA TO THE WORLD

Re-launch of the ICC Newsletter

I am extremely happy to re-launch the Newsletter after a long lapse.

ICC Sri Lanka is the national committee of ICC head quartered in Paris, which has representation in over 130 countries. ICC is known as the World Business Organisation. Our mandate is to facilitate international trade sans barriers. We achieve these goals in three ways.

- Policy formulation
- Rule writing
- Arbitration

ICC SL was founded in 1955, and this is our 60th year that we plan to celebrate in a fitting manner. Last year, we held a truly international event spanning over four days. There were about forty foreign delegates from all over the world attending the World Carnet Council and the World Certificate of Origin Council.

We conduct trade-related seminars and workshops from time to time. We also issue ATA carnets, which enables duty and tax-free exports to 77 countries. Issuance of digital certificates of origin is another service that we provide, and this has become popular with many local exporters. We hope to increase our portfolio this year.

The revival of the newsletter is a part of the plan we have to bring our services closer to you.



Gamini Peiris
CEO

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The biggest gathering of chamber professionals in the world is set to take place on 10-12 June 2015 in Torino under the theme "Community, Identity, Vision"

ATA CARNET SEMINAR

A joint seminar with the Shippers' Academy Colombo is being organised in June to present ATA Carnet as a tool for exporters.

BANKING SEMINAR

ICC Sri Lanka is presenting a seminar for banking professionals on 5th September, 2015 in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Pamunugama.

Moving Forward Strategically...

I am happy to send a message to the ICC Sri Lanka Newsletter, which we believe is a great tool to provide information to you on a regular basis.

Nearly 100 years ago, ICC was founded by business people who called themselves the merchants of peace because they believed that the world of business went beyond the horizon of the bottom line. They felt that business could also contribute to peace and prosperity in the world. In Sri Lanka this year, we are becoming a 60-year old organisation.

ICC is a very large network comprising hundreds of thousands of companies in 130 countries. While this is also composed of international companies, a key reality of ICC is that 90% of our member companies are small and medium-scale enterprises. What these big, small, medium companies have in common is that they are all involved in cross-border trade, and are drivers of the global economy...

We take this opportunity to share the events ICC Sri Lanka and ICC is going to organise in the future. We will allow our members to know our international events and give them an opportunity to participate and broaden their knowledge. In the mean time, we will be formulating some educational programmes that would be held locally for the benefit of our members, as well as all Sri Lankan entrepreneurs.

At the second stage, we will set up a network through the Internet to connect Sri Lankan companies with our extensive global network to help them become modern-day merchants of peace in line with the ethos of the International Chamber of Commerce.



Keerthi Gunawardane
Chairman



ICC HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL ICC ASIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

Following the success of its regional conferences on international arbitration in Miami and Dubai, ICC held its first regional conference in Asia. Focusing on the latest arbitration developments in Asia, the conference featured a series of roundtables, plenary sessions and discussions.

The conference was led by top-class speakers on 25-27 May 2015 in Singapore, the event gathered practising lawyers, corporate counsel, arbitrators, mediators, business professionals and

academics coming from or doing business in Asia.

John Beechey, President of the ICC International Court of Arbitration, said: "It is the ICC International Court of Arbitration's intention to make this conference an annual highlight in the region's arbitration calendar. ICC is a global leader in disputes resolution. It has developed a suite of state-of-the-art rules for arbitration, mediation and expert determination, which are capable of application worldwide."



KIM KIT OW TO LEAD ICC ACADEMY

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) has named former ICC Regional Director for Asia, Kim Kit Ow, as Managing Director of its recently launched ICC Academy.

With extensive experience both as a practising lawyer and in-house counsel, Ms Ow will be responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations of the new Academy, established by ICC to deliver market-leading professional education.

Ms Ow said: "I am thrilled to take up the challenge of leading this pioneering initiative from ICC. My overarching priority is to ensure effective implementation of the Academy's strategy so that our important work of bridging

the global skills gap and making quality professional education accessible worldwide."

Ms Ow holds an LLB (Hons) degree from the National University of Singapore and was called to the Singapore Bar.

She began her career in a leading Singapore law firm, practising as a disputes resolution lawyer. Subsequently she moved into the banking and finance sector.

In 2009, she became Regional Director, Asia for the ICC International Court of Arbitration and ICC Dispute Resolution Services.



CHAMBERS RALLY FOR NEPAL QUAKE RELIEF

Following the disastrous earthquake of 7.8-magnitude that struck Nepal on 24 April, ICC World Chambers Federation (WCF) is rallying its chamber members and the global business community to make donations to "Operation Relief" – an initiative activated by the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) to provide support for relief efforts and for victims.

NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE BANKING COMMISSION

The Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the largest business organization in the world, has appointed Daniel Schmand of Deutsche Bank as Chair of the Banking Commission effective 1 May 2015 for a three-year term.



At Deutsche Bank's Global Transaction Banking (GTB) division, Daniel Schmand is Managing Director and Head of Trade Finance and Cash Management Corporates for Europe, the Middle East and Africa and is also responsible for the global coordination of the bank's trade finance activities.

ATA CARNET SYSTEM WORKSHOP



An international workshop on ATA Carnet was organised by ICC Sri Lanka in collaboration with the World Chambers Federation in November, 2014.

The workshop, which was well received by the business community in Sri Lanka was conducted by members of the World ATA Carnet Council (WATAC).



9TH WORLD CHAMBERS CONGRESS

Chamber, business and government representatives from over 100 countries are expected to participate in the ICC WCF 9th World Chambers Congress, which is a three-day event to network and exchange best practices.

Participating countries range from economic powerhouses and emerging networks to remote economies. A dynamic mix of plenary and workshop sessions have been designed to capture a range of regional needs.



THE 2015 CONGRESS

- ✓ **3 days**
- ✓ **3** plenary sessions
- ✓ **4** competition sessions
- ✓ **20** workshop sessions
- ✓ **2,500 m2** of exhibition area
- ✓ **1,600** chambers of commerce delegates will be attending
- ✓ **120** countries expected to be represented
- ✓ Over **100** speakers
- ✓ **48** sponsored representatives from Least Developed Countries (LDC)

INDONESIA TO OPERATE THE ATA CARNET SYSTEM AS OF 15 MAY



The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) welcomes the entry of Indonesia into the ATA Carnet system following its ratification of the Interna-

tional Convention for the temporary admission of goods.

As the 75th member of the ATA Carnet system, Indonesia's implementation is a major step towards regional integration, and the country is expected to become a major player in the system, both regionally and worldwide.

"By ratifying the convention, the new Indonesian government has demon-

strated a strong commitment to foster economic cooperation and trade ties with Indonesia's foreign counterparts from all over the world," said Lee Ju Song, Director of ICC Asia.

The ATA Carnet, a tool for the temporary duty-free and tax-free admission of goods, removes the need for exporters to provide Customs authorities with the otherwise necessary guarantees required for goods to cross borders.

WCF LAUNCHES CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN SURVEY



Data collected from the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) World Chambers Federation's (WCF) latest worldwide survey on Certificates of Or-

igin (CO) will gather valuable information on how chambers of commerce are using COs to facilitate trusted worldwide trade.

The International Certificates of Origin Survey, which will collect data on the issuance of COs, is part of WCF's work to harmonize CO-related procedures.

This biennial survey maps out trends and opportunities related to CO issuance, and helps WCF work more close-

ly with chambers and their exporters through direct assistance and advocacy for chambers on international trade facilitation matters.

"Organizations such as chambers of commerce are natural partners for customs and trade agencies due to their close proximity to business, and their role as trusted, neutral third parties in the customs business partnership," said Anthony Parkes, WCF Director.

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