



For the first time in Sri Lanka on one platform

# Fireside Chat 2019

with leading foreign envoys

*An International Perspective on Sri Lanka's Future*



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## Message from ICC Sri Lanka

ICCSL is honored to partner with CIMA and the Daily Financial Times in organizing "The Fireside Chat 2019," the second in the series, featuring nine foreign envoys in Sri Lanka. ICCSL is the local chapter of ICC Paris. ICC celebrates its Centenary year in 2019. The International Chamber of Commerce is the largest, most representative business organization in the world. The Chamber has 6 million members in over 100 countries having interests spanning every sector of private enterprise. ICC works to promote international trade, responsible business conduct and a global approach to regulation through an unique mix of advocacy and standard setting activities – together with market leading dispute resolution services.

In Sri Lanka the ICC national committee has been in existence for over 60 years. The Chamber engages with the business community to promote good business practices and acts as a voice for the business community on policy advocacy. ICC Sri Lanka also is responsible for issuing ATA Carnets- the Customs document allowing the duty-free temporary import of goods and certificates of origin.

The Fireside Chat 2019 will provide an international perspective of Sri Lanka's future and we hope to share these insights with all the participants. This event will no doubt provide a platform for our professionals to listen to international best practices and exchange ideas.

ICC wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime minister of Sri Lanka for his participation. I wish to thank Mr. Dhammika Perera and the nine envoys and all sponsors for their contributions and support to make this event a success.

**Dinesh Weerakkody**  
Chairman

# Message from CIMA

It's a great pleasure to welcome all of you to Fireside Chat 2019. CIMA is delighted to be partnering the International Chamber of Commerce and Daily FT in bringing Fireside Chat 2019 to the business community in Sri Lanka.

There is much we can learn from such a distinguished panel that comprises leading foreign envoys based in Sri Lanka. Their perspectives on the future of Sri Lanka will provide invaluable insights to the local government and authorities and contribute towards a resilient future for the country.

As we celebrate CIMA's centenary in 2019, we are proud to be stronger together as the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants - the unified voice of CIMA and the American Institute of CPAs. The Association recognises that change is happening at an unprecedented speed and is fundamentally reshaping the environment in which businesses operate. Businesses must therefore be prepared to respond, lead the change and grasp opportunities to thrive in the new environment. In this regard, the Association has a purpose to empower the world's most highly skilled accountants – both CPAs and Chartered Global Management Accountants – with the knowledge, insight and foresight to meet today's demands and tomorrow's challenges.

Sri Lanka is one of the Association's largest markets in the world, being present in this country for more than 50 years. Our commitment is steadfast in developing highly skilled finance professionals who can help businesses navigate change and lead future sustainable success for Sri Lanka. Insights gained from Fireside Chat 2019 will be invaluable to us.

I wish you a pleasant and fruitful evening.

**Venkkat Ramanan FCMA, CGMA**  
**Regional Vice President, Asia Pacific**



# Message from Daily Financial Times

The Daily FT, the first and only national daily business paper in Sri Lanka, is pleased to be associated with ICC Sri Lanka and CIMA, two prestigious professional organizations in a business event eagerly awaited by all. Following the ground breaking Fireside Chat the first ever forum in Sri Lanka last year where six highly successful entrepreneurs who under a single platform outlined their business acumen, success and management styles, this year nine envoys from leading countries will discuss economic policies and perspectives bringing in an international flavor. We are pleased that the Honorable Prime Minister will grace the occasion.

By partnering in this event, the Daily FT is pleased to add value and via the conceptualization and promotion of the event as well as post-event coverage we will be empowering our readers and other stakeholders.

The Daily FT is pleased to express its gratitude to ICC Sri Lanka, CIMA and supporting partners and wish the event all success.

**Nisthar Cassim**  
Editor



# Message from Deloitte

At the outset, I want to thank ICCSL and CIMA for giving us the opportunity to be knowledge partners for the Fireside Chat once again. I take great pride in welcoming you to today's event. This is a great opportunity to gain an international perspective on Sri Lanka's future from leading foreign envoys.

With global revenues to the tune of US\$43.2B and employee base of 280,000+ professionals worldwide, Deloitte is the largest professional services firm in the world. The host of services we provide range from Tax, Assurance, Financial Advisory, Risk Advisory and Consulting, focusing on 5 core industries and 30 sectors across industries. Deloitte member firms serve 88% of the 2018 Fortune 500 companies. All the facts and figures that talk of our size and diversity and years of experience, as notable and important as they may be, are secondary to the truest measure of Deloitte: the impact we make in the world. So, when people ask, "What is different about Deloitte?" the answer resides in the many specific examples of where we have helped our clients, our people, and the society to achieve remarkable goals, solve complex problems or make meaningful progress.

Our edge lies in our ability to draw upon an efficient globally connected network of client services, to customise and deliver solutions through our 725 local offices, spread across 150+ countries.

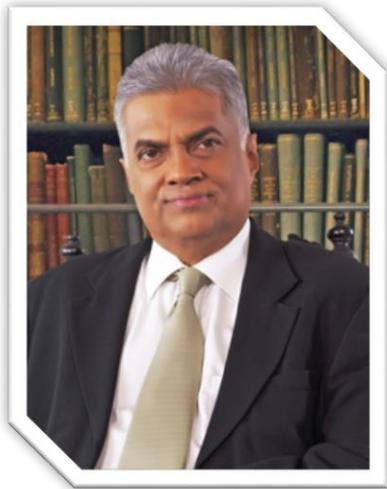
We believe a solution is only as good as its outcome. Our Consulting Practice has a core strength in on ground implementation of solutions to transform organizations across Strategy, Operations, Technology, Human Capital, Infrastructure and other areas. Our work ranges from helping Governments make smart cities and supporting start-ups go live, to enabling business houses redefine their strategies and bring innovation across functions. In Sri Lanka, we have helped several organizations transform and effectively drive their vision, especially in the wake of the hyper dynamic economic landscape of the country today.

In our continued endeavour to "make an impact that matters", we are delighted to be a partner for this event, and hope you have an enlightening evening.

**Romal Shetty**  
**President, Consulting, Deloitte India**



Introducing  
The  
Panelists



## Hon Ranil Wickremesinghe

Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

Hon Ranil Wickremesinghe is a four times Prime Minister. He is the longest serving leader of the United National Party - the largest and oldest political party in Sri Lanka. He has led the party for 24 years. He was first appointed as the Prime Minister on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 1993 and last elected as Prime

Minister on 21st August 2015. Wickremesinghe has been a member of Parliament and a Minister since 1977. He has the distinction of becoming the youngest Cabinet Minister in Sri Lanka.

Wickremesinghe was educated at Royal College, Colombo, and then entered the Faculty of Law at the University of Peradeniya. After graduation, he completed the law exams at the Sri Lanka Law College and took oaths as an advocate in 1972. Wickremesinghe received an honorary doctorate from Deakin University in Australia on February 14th 2017, for his significant contributions in reforms to economy, education and human rights. "Ranil" as we know him, has the foresight and knowledge far superior to most of his colleagues. His knowledge is so vast that he is able to hold his own at any International Forum, and speak knowledgeably on almost any subject. He has distinguished himself with a level of thinking and action for his country which has been unmatched by any of his peers. There may have been more political leaders who fared better at elections, but the fact is that Ranil Wickremesinghe's intelligence and thorough knowledge of world affairs has held him in good stead, and created in him an individual who has the ability to raise Sri Lanka to greater heights.

Outside of politics, he has held office in several historic Buddhist temples, he has written and spoken widely on Sri Lankan history, Buddhism and world politics, but what interests him most is cutting edge developments in all fields of knowledge globally and locally. In addition, Wickremesinghe is a member of International Democrat Union and is a Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Wickremesinghe is married to Maithree Wickremesinghe, a Sri Lankan academic and Professor of English.





HE James Dauris  
High Commissioner of Britain

James Dauris is the British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and British Ambassador to Maldives, appointments he took up in April 2015.

James joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1995 and served as Ambassador to the Republic of Peru between 2010 and 2014. He has also worked as Deputy Head of Mission in Colombia (2005 to 2009) and in the British Embassy in Moscow (1998 to 2002). He has had various roles at the Foreign Office in London covering European Union, South Asian and maritime policy.

James has a degree in law from the University of Cambridge and worked as a solicitor in the City of London before joining the Foreign Office. He has a long-standing affection for South Asia and first visited Sri Lanka in 1984 while teaching English in India. He is married to Helen Dauris and they have three daughters.



HE Joanne Doornewaard  
Ambassador of Netherlands

Ambassador Joanne Doornewaard has been the Ambassador for the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Sri Lanka since August 2015.

Being a career diplomat she has worked her way up within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1993, serving in countries like Indonesia, Mexico, and Poland.

Ambassador Doornewaard is committed to improve women's rights, preserve our shared cultural heritage, encourage knowledge exchange and further strengthen the economic ties between our countries.



HE David McKinnon  
High Commissioner of Canada

David McKinnon (BA [History], University of Toronto, 1986; MBA, Queen's University, 2002.) Mr McKinnon joined the then Department of External Affairs a trade commissioner in 1987. During his time in Ottawa, he has served in a variety of positions related to the range of Canada's overseas trade, economic and diplomatic interests, including as director for Asia Pacific Policy (2002-2004).

In 2013, he became Executive Director of Strategic Policy and Planning in the Physical Resources Bureau, which looks after Global Affairs Canada's international real property. Since 2015, he has been Director General of Physical Resources. Mr McKinnon's assignments overseas have included postings to Bangkok (1989-92) as trade commissioner, Canberra (1994-98) as an exchange officer to Australian DFAT and as trade commissioner. He was Minister-Counsellor in New Delhi (2004-09) where he was responsible for the delivery of Canada's trade and investment program in India and Nepal. He then returned to Canberra, where he served as Deputy Head of Mission (2009-13), with concurrent accreditation to seven Pacific Island nations. He is married to Victoria Walker and they have two children.



HE Riaz Hamidullah  
High Commissioner of Bangladesh

H.E. Mr. Riaz Hamidullah, High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, did graduation and post-graduation in Economics, respectively from India and Bangladesh.

He joined Bangladesh Foreign Service in 1995. Subsequently, served a sizable part of his career in multilateral economic diplomacy at the headquarters. In respect to postings abroad, he first served in Bangladesh Permanent Mission to UN in New York where he primarily dealt with matters related to UN's administrative and budgetary matters, and economic issues; was a member of Bangladesh Team during Bangladesh membership to the UN Security Council (2000-01); served as an (elected) member at the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund (2000-02).

Over the next six years, he worked on South Asian regional cooperation matters, including a three- and half-year stint at the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu as a Director where he dealt *inter alia* with regional agriculture and rural development, transport connectivity. He then served as the Director General (Multilateral Economic Affairs) (2013-16) *inter alia* covering sustainable development, climate change, migration, development finance, multilateral trade, connectivity, water, blue economy. In 2016, the Government of Bangladesh appointed him as the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Sri Lanka.



HE I Gusti Ngurah Ardiyasa  
Ambassador of Indonesia

H.E. I Gusti Ngurah Ardiyasa joined the foreign services in 1985 and got his first overseas assignment in 1987 – 1988 in Caracas, Venezuela. Afterwards he was assigned to New Delhi, India (1994 – 1998). The next two countries in which He served for the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia as Charge D’Affaires and Head of Chancery were Lisbon, Portugal (2001 – 2004) and Osaka, Japan (2008 – 2012) respectively.

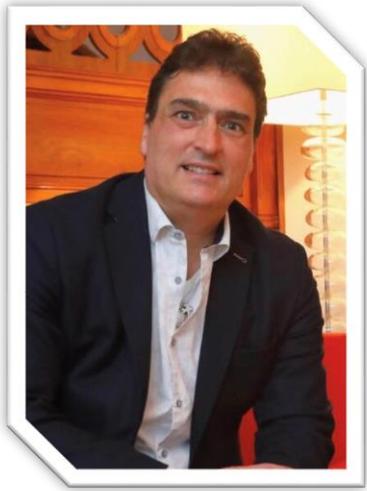
Before appointed as the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Sri Lanka and Maldives in 2017, He served as the Director of Diplomatic Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, since 2013. At the Ministry He was also previously appointed as Deputy Director, Directorate of Central and Eastern European Affairs; Deputy Director, Directorate of International Trade; and Head of Section for International Taxation Affairs, Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Economic Services.



HE Tan Yang Thai  
High Commissioner of Malaysia

His Excellency Tan Yang Thai is the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Sri Lanka and concurrently accredited to the Republic of Maldives. He has vast experience in diplomacy and foreign affairs.

He got his Bachelor Degree from United Kingdom and Master Degree from Japan. He started his career as a Diplomat in 1995 and has been previously posted to Uzbekistan, Russia and China.



HE Hanspeter Mock  
Ambassador of Switzerland

Born on January 13 1966 in Mexico-City, Hanspeter Mock joined the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in 1993, initially serving as a human-rights legal advisor at the Directorate of Public International Law. Following a posting to Lisbon, Portugal (1996-1997) in the diplomatic service in March 1997 he joined the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs “Task Force Switzerland—Second World War” as Deputy Head of the Political Section. From 2001 to 2005, he was posted in Paris, where he was in charge of political, legal and press affairs at the Swiss Embassy.

Later in 2005, he was appointed Diplomatic Counsellor in charge of legal cooperation and press affairs at the Swiss Mission to the European Union in Brussels. In 2007 he became Second Deputy Head of Mission with the title of a Minister. From 2009 to 2012, he was Deputy Head of the European Integration Office of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the Federal Department of Economic Affairs (FDEA) in Bern, in charge of political coordination.

In 2013, he received the title of Ambassador and was appointed Vice Director of the Directorate for European Affairs (DEA) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). From 2014 to 2018, he served as the Ambassador of Switzerland to Argentina.

He is currently Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Switzerland to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as well as to the Republic of Maldives. Hanspeter Mock is married and father of two sons.



HE Hu Wei  
Deputy Chief of Mission &  
Political Counsellor of China

Hu Wei has a Masters of Law from the South- central University of Economics and Law. He accounts for over 15 years of experience, having joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2003. He served as the Third Secretary, Embassy of People’s Republic of China in the Kingdom of the Netherlands from 2004-2008.

He was then attached to the Department of Personnel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Third Secretary from 2008-2009. There after he served as the Third Secretary, Second Secretary, Deputy Division Director, First Secretary and Division Director with the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until 2019.

He took over his current assignment here in Sri Lanka as the Deputy Chief of Mission/ Political Counsellor in 2019. . He has been a senior visiting Scholar with the Georgetown University in 2017.



HE Thorsten Bargfrede  
 Head of Political, Trade and  
 Communication/  
 Deputy Head of Mission of the EU  
 Delegation

Thorsten Bargfrede is the First Counsellor and Head of the Political, Trade and Communications Section of the European Union Delegation to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Mr. Bargfrede is a senior official of the European External Action Service (EEAS), the diplomatic service of the European Union. He comes with a broad background and experience in the field of diplomacy, conflict prevention, security and defense issues as well as economic affairs and development.

From September 2015 to August 2018, he served as the Lead on Trade and Finance Cooperation of the Iran Task Force at the headquarters of the EEAS in Brussels. Prior to this assignment he was a Senior Strategic Planner with the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD). His responsibility covered in particular the EU Naval Mission EUNAVFOR Atlanta and the fight against maritime piracy.

From 2007 to 2011, he was Head of the Regional Political Section of the Delegation of the European Union in Nairobi, where he worked on peace and security related issues in the Horn of Africa. During 2003 to 2007, Mr. Bargfrede served as First Secretary in the EU Delegation in Islamabad, with responsibility for development cooperation, education and earthquake reconstruction.



Mr. Dhammika Perera  
Founder, Chairman, Managing Director  
Vallibel One Group

Mr. Dhammika Perera is a prominent entrepreneur and investor in the Sri Lankan business landscape. He is the driving force behind a syndicate of companies in the country.

His business interests include Hydropower Generation, Shipping, Manufacturing, Hospitality, Entertainment, Banking and Finance. His holding company, Vallibel One Group, has stakes in all these sectors, through its various subsidiaries, which employ 60,000 people, with 1880 based in countries other than Sri Lanka. Apart from the already existing Vallibel One, Mr. Perera has the ambition to expand and build other companies of similar magnitude.

He made his first business profit by investing with a street hawker at the age of 19. He spent the next few years investing in slot machines. At 22, he was a millionaire. Post that, he invested in multiple businesses and experienced tremendous growth.

1995 was a pivotal year for him, as Vallibel was formed. In 2013, he was featured in Forbes Asia Magazine.

Apart from the Corporate Sector, Mr. Perera has also made significant contributions in the public domain, and has held the positions of the Chairman of Sri Lanka's Board of Investment, Sri Lanka's Secretary of Transport and Board Member of the Strategic Enterprise Management Agency. He enjoys spending his leisure time studying the business models of companies around the world.





Mr. Vishwas Udgirkar  
Partner, Deloitte India

Vishwas is a Partner with Deloitte and leads 'GUIDe: Government Utilities and Infrastructure Development' Practice in India. His areas of expertise include business planning, Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), bankability studies, commercial due diligence, and project finance. He has about 30 years of experience working closely with public, private and international development agencies across infrastructure sectors- roads & highways, energy, ports, railways, logistics, airports, housing, health and education. He has been involved in advising governments and infrastructure clients in South and South East Asia, Africa, Russia and Japan.

In the Infrastructure and PPP domain, Vishwas has to his credit more than 30 projects involving development of PPP related Policies, Guidelines, Model Contracts, and capacity development. He has undertaken more than 50 PPP Transaction Advisory engagements for various Governments, and more than 30 PPP Transaction engagements with the private sector. Vishwas has been a trusted advisor to the nodal Roads & Highways development agencies in India and abroad (both public and private). He has been a part of the key innovations in the roads sector in India, starting from the initial PPP projects up to development and rolling-out of the latest Hybrid Annuity model. With his deep knowledge of infrastructure project finance, he has advised on numerous complex projects involving debt syndication and equity arrangements required in PPP project financing. Vishwas has also managed public issue of deep discounting/ infrastructure bonds and initial public offerings in India. Vishwas is an active thought leader and writes regularly on PPPs, and infrastructure finance in well-known business publications and social media platforms.

## Mr. Dinesh Weerakkody

Chairman, ICC Sri Lanka



Dinesh Weerakkody is the Chairman of Hatton National Bank PLC, Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka, National Human Resource Development Council of Sri Lanka and Cornucopia Sri Lanka. He holds several honorary Advisory roles in the current government. He is the recipient of a Jaycees Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award in 1999 and an International Associations of Lions Clubs National Achievers Award in 2008 for the

advancement of good governance in the public sector.

Mr. Weerakkody has published widely on Economics, Banking and Finance, HR, Leadership, Management, International Relations and development issues. He is an author of six books and is a regular business speaker/commentator.

## Mr. Nisthar Cassim

Editor, Daily FT



Mr. Nisthar Cassim is one of the most prominent figures in the newspaper industry of Sri Lanka.

He is the former editor of the Daily Mirror. For pioneering business journalism, he was awarded with the first ever 'Business Journalist of The Year' award by the Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka. Mr. Cassim is currently the editor of the Daily financial Times the popular business paper of Sri Lanka.

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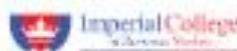
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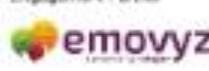
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