

**SRI LANKA LOGISTICS & FREIGHT FORWARDERS ASSOCIATION**

**COUNTRY REPORT**

**FOR**

**51<sup>st</sup> EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

**THE FEDERATION OF ASIA PACIFIC AIR-CARGO ASSOCIATIONS**

## **SRI LANKA LOGISTICS & FREIGHT FORWARDERS' ASSOCIATION**

<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	:	Mr. Channa Gunawardena
<b>VICE CHAIRMAN</b>	:	Mr. Andre Fernando
<b>TREASURER</b>	:	Mr. Shavindra Dias
<b>ADVISORY COUNCIL</b>	:	Mr. Dinesh Sri Chandrasekara Mr. Tony De Livera Mr. Mohan S. Mohanadas Mr. Dushmantha Karannagoda Ms. Tania Polonnowita Wettimuny Mr. Jagath Pathirane Mr. Roshan Silva

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Aitken Spence Cargo (Pvt) Ltd  
DHL Global Forwarding Lanka (Pvt) Ltd  
Expolanka Freight (Pvt) Ltd  
Famous Pacific Shipping Lanka (Pvt) Ltd  
Freight Links International (Pte) Ltd  
GAC Logistics Ltd  
Salota International (Pvt) Ltd  
Scanwell Logistics Colombo (Pvt) Ltd  
Shermans Logistics (Pvt) Ltd  
Speedmark Transportation Services (Pvt) Ltd

### **SECRETARIAT**

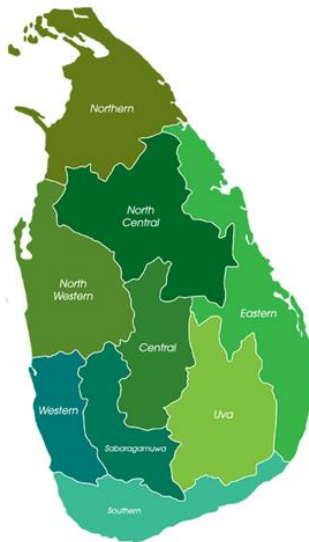
Sri Lanka Logistics & Freight Forwarders' Association  
No. 37 D, Torrington Avenue, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka

## Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



Capital	-	<i>Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte</i>
Commercial Capital	-	<i>Colombo</i>
Official Languages	-	<i>Sinhala, Tamil</i>
Language for inter-ethnic Communication	-	<i>English</i>
Ethnic Groups	-	<i>74.9% Sinhala, 11.2 % Sri Lankan Tamils, 7.2% Sri Lankan Moors, 4.2% Indian Tamils and 0.5% Others.</i>
Independence	-	<i>February 4, 1948 (From the United Kingdom)</i>
Total Area	-	<i>65,610 sq km</i>
Total Population	-	<i>22,409,381 (estimate 2017)</i>

Sri Lanka is divided into 9 provinces: 25 Districts. Each province is administered by a directly-elected provincial council.



## OVERVIEW OF THE ECONOMY

The Sri Lankan economy continued to recover steadily in 2024, achieving a robust 5.0% real economic growth, after two years of annual contraction. This recovery was steady throughout the year, with all four quarters posting positive Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates for the first time since 2017. The road to recovery was difficult, but notably faster compared to most debt-distressed countries.

Inflation eased and the country entered a period of deflation since September 2024 driven largely by energy price reductions. The external sector performance remained strong during the year 2024. The Sri Lanka rupee appreciated under the flexible exchange rate policy. The overall growth is mainly attributable to Industry activities, driven by the revival of manufacturing and construction activities, while services activities also contributed significantly, mainly supported by the sustained growth in accommodation and transport services.

Furthermore, notable improvements in credit were observed in the wholesale and retail trade; financial and business services; communication and information technology; and shipping, aviation, and freight forwarding subsectors, indicating a revival in services-related economic activity.

*(Source – Central Bank of Sri Lanka Economic Report 2024)*

## OVERVIEW OF THE INDUSTRY

In the Services sector, Shipping, Aviation and Freight Forwarding subsectors showed a healthy recovery in 2024, with a 2.4% growth compared to the 0.2% contraction in 2023. The surge in tourism had a positive ripple effect on sectors, including accommodation, food and beverage services, transport, and trade, contributing to this growth. Credit to the Services sector (which accounts for 27.4% of outstanding credit) also showed an expansion, with a y-o-y growth of 12.3% by end 2024.

The surplus in the services account rose to USD 3.4 bn in 2024, compared to USD 3.1 bn in 2023. This growth was driven by strong inflows to key services sectors, including sea and air transport, computer and information technology.

Sri Lanka's services trade, a crucial component in the current account of the country's balance of payments (BOP), has grown significantly, outpacing the expansion of merchandise exports in recent years. As a key contributor to foreign exchange earnings, the growth in services exports is driven by sectors such as port and airport services, tourism, computer and information technology/ business process outsourcing (BPO).

*(Source – Central Bank of Sri Lanka Economic Report 2024)*

## **CIVIL AVIATION**

In 2024, Sri Lanka's civil aviation sector experienced significant growth across passenger, aircraft, and cargo movements, underscoring the country's strengthening position in regional air transport.

The nation's airports collectively handled approximately 8.88 million passenger movements, marking a 17.69% increase compared to 2023. This surge is largely attributed to the expansion of airline services and strategic initiatives aimed at boosting tourism. Notably, Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) served over 30 airlines, including major international carriers.

The total number of aircraft operations reached 56,289 in 2024, reflecting a 20.69% growth from the previous year. Cargo movements also saw a substantial rise, with 192,498 metric tons handled in 2024, representing a 21.13% increase compared to the previous year. This growth underscores the critical role of Sri Lanka's aviation infrastructure in facilitating trade and commerce within the region.

## **PORT SERVICES**

In the Port sector, significant progress was made during the year on the development of the East Container Terminal (ECT) and West Container Terminal-I (WCT-I) at the Port of Colombo. These two strategic infrastructure projects are slated for completion in 2026 and 2027, respectively.

Once operational, ECT and WCT-I are expected to significantly enhance the handling capacity and operational efficiency of the Port of Colombo. This will not only bolster its position as a leading maritime hub in the region, but also enable it to better compete with other regional ports by tapping into emerging opportunities in global shipping and trade.

Moreover, the expansion aligns with the growing demand for container throughput and underscores Sri Lanka's commitment to strengthening its role in the international logistics and supply chain network.

*(Source – Central Bank of Sri Lanka Economic Report 2024)*

## INDUSTRY STATISTICS

### Performance of the Port Services

Item	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (a)	2024 (b)
Vessels Arrived (No.)	4,264	4,728	4,998	4,879	4,874	4,637	4,337	4,180	4,073	4,809	4,562
Colombo	3,742	4,197	4,405	4,329	4,331	4,198	3,806	3,675	3,648	4,237	3,968
Galle	60	72	96	87	84	43	22	14	7	23	6
Trincomalee	127	164	216	233	189	142	135	117	95	102	116
Hambantota	335	295	281	230	270	314	374	374	323	447	472
Total Cargo Handled (mt '000)	74,410	77,579	86,519	93,857	104,934	106,979	102,908	109,369	100,376	103,794	120,239
Colombo	70,794	73,718	81,879	89,035	100,151	101,826	97,681	103,824	96,170	99,674	114,534
Galle	394	542	771	712	729	510	404	106	1.2	0.8	0.4
Trincomalee	2,748	3,027	3,514	3,897	3,560	3,304	3,072	3,190	2,089	2,013	2,613
Hambantota	474	293	355	213	494	1,239	1,750	2,249	2,116	2,106	3,032
Total Container Traffic (TEUs '000) (c)	4,908	5,185	5,735	6,209	7,047	7,228	6,855	7,249	6,862	6,950	7,792
South Asia Gateway Terminal	1,662	1,371	1,632	1,810	2,067	2,052	1,872	1,839	1,752	1,764	2,026
Colombo International Container Terminal	687	1,562	2,003	2,389	2,676	2,894	2,885	3,212	3,184	3,221	3,353
Sri Lanka Ports Authority	2,559	2,252	2,100	2,011	2,305	2,283	2,098	2,198	1,926	1,965	2,413
Transshipment Containers (TEUs '000) (c)(d)	3,781	3,967	4,435	4,826	5,704	5,955	5,765	6,050	5,832	5,960	6,623
South Asia Gateway Terminal	1,325	1,043	1,315	1,434	1,687	1,651	1,607	1,573	1,523	1,571	1,797
Colombo International Container Terminal	540	1,213	1,504	1,769	2,042	2,296	2,291	2,600	2,640	2,632	2,698
Sri Lanka Ports Authority	1,916	1,711	1,617	1,622	1,976	2,008	1,867	1,877	1,670	1,757	2,128
Total Revenue (SLPA) (Rs. million)	36,776	40,164	42,994	42,514	50,124	40,770	38,931	45,455	68,696	63,261	74,567
Operating Expenditure (SLPA) (Rs. million)	24,930	30,985	28,660	27,919	29,980	37,410	29,716	32,899	43,746	47,292	54,582
Employment (No.) (e)	9,598	9,550	9,651	9,377	9,710	9,937	9,484	9,203	8,706	8,243	7,815
Colombo	8,747	8,725	8,856	8,588	8,910	8,975	8,567	8,265	7,838	7,433	7,042
Galle	373	355	348	351	362	384	339	331	315	276	255
Trincomalee	419	417	402	401	400	400	387	381	363	341	327
Hambantota	59	53	45	37	38	178	191	206	190	193	191

(a) Revised  
(b) Provisional  
(c) TEUs = Twenty - foot Equivalent Container Units  
(d) Includes re-stowing  
(e) From 2019 onwards, employment data relevant to the ports of Colombo, Galle, Trincomalee were obtained from the SLPA, while that of the Hambantota Port were obtained from the Hambantota International Port Group (Pvt) Ltd.

Sources: Sri Lanka Ports Authority  
Hambantota International Port Group (Pvt) Ltd

### Salient Features of the Transport Sector

Item	Unit	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (a)	2024 (b)
New Registration of Motor Vehicles	No.	429,556	668,907	493,328	451,653	480,799	367,303	202,628	33,850	20,510	27,890	74,410
Buses	"	3,851	4,140	2,685	3,331	2,957	1,613	578	281	404	685	146
Motor Cars	"	38,780	105,628	45,172	39,182	80,776	38,232	21,021	3,495	1,489	1,816	1,644
Three Wheelers	"	79,038	129,547	56,945	23,537	20,063	15,490	7,150	2,093	36	60	94
Dual Purpose Vehicles	"	20,799	39,456	26,887	16,742	16,931	13,459	9,532	771	760	586	1,027
Motor Cycles	"	272,885	370,889	340,129	344,380	339,763	284,301	151,634	8,011	9,060	20,200	65,289
Goods Transport Vehicles	"	5,121	7,142	7,563	11,432	9,371	5,223	3,941	4,432	1,832	523	1,284
Land Vehicles	"	9,082	12,105	13,947	13,049	10,282	7,666	8,302	14,764	6,929	4,020	4,925
Quadracycles and Motor Homes	"	-	-	-	-	656	1,319	470	3	-	-	1
Sri Lanka Railways												
Operated Kilometres	'000	11,075	11,797	11,921	11,679	11,640	11,230	7,990	6,281	10,480	10,450	10,490
Passenger Kilometres	million	6,842	7,407	7,413	7,495	7,710	7,310	3,906	2,158	6,602	7,044	6,000
Freight Ton Kilometres	"	130	130	140	145	120	116	114	162	139	159	172
Total Revenue (c)	Rs. million	5,909	6,335	6,623	6,477	7,413	7,901	4,567	2,679	11,076	16,079	16,839
Operating Expenditure (c)	"	16,943	14,049	13,396	14,081	14,381	15,464	14,618	12,979	23,573	27,842	27,909
Operating Profit (+) / Loss (-) (c)	"	-11,034	-7,714	-6,773	-7,604	-6,968	-7,562	-10,051	-10,300	-12,497	-11,763	-11,070
Sri Lanka Transport Board												
Operated Kilometres	million	371	440	452	448	446	431	309	248	344	364	372
Passenger Kilometres	"	12,717	15,210	16,101	15,810	15,541	14,346	8,623	6,225	14,941	14,272	13,153
Total Revenue (c)	Rs. million	33,665	35,825	40,928	42,163	44,103	43,490	31,233	28,035	66,350	72,163	n.a.
Operating Expenditure (c)	"	35,527	40,555	42,004	40,081	41,935	41,933	33,437	31,089	69,622	76,609	n.a.
Operating Profit (+) / Loss (-) (c)	"	-1,862	-4,730	-1,076	2,081	2,168	1,557	-2,204	-3,054	-3,271	-4,446	n.a.
Sri Lankan Airlines												
Hours Flown	hours	97,319	96,494	96,225	97,213	110,058	106,950	41,585	50,287	84,325	87,025	88,226
Passenger Kilometres Flown	million	12,719	12,747	12,855	14,169	16,180	15,509	3,641	2,868	11,042	12,158	11,517
Passenger Load Factor	%	80	80	81	82	83	83	56	36	74	80	77
Weight Load Factor	%	51	50	56	74	75	74	62	74	64	60	69
Freight	mt '000	96	103	113	124	136	123	56	93	88	79	93

(a) Revised  
(b) Provisional  
(c) Data for 2014 - 2021 period extracted from the CBSL Annual Reports.

Sources: Department of Motor Traffic  
Sri Lanka Railways  
Sri Lanka Transport Board  
Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka

Table 1.6: Performance of the Transport Sector			
Sector	2023 (a)	2024 (a)	Change 2023/2024 (%)
<b>Road Transport (Sri Lanka Transport Board)</b>			
Operated kilometrage (mn)	364	371.7	2.1
Passenger kilometrage (mn)	14,272	13,153	-7.8
<b>Rail Transport (Sri Lanka Railways)</b>			
Passenger kilometrage (mn)	7,044	6,000	-14.8
Goods kilometrage (ton mn)	159	172	8.1
<b>Air Transport</b>			
Passenger movements (in mn) (b)	7.5	8.8	17.8
Of which SriLankan Airlines	3.7	3.5	-6.1
Freight (mt '000)	158.6	195.4	23.2
Of which SriLankan Airlines	79.3	93.0	17.2
<b>Sea Transport (Port of Colombo)</b>			
Container handling (TEUs '000)	6,950	7,792	12.1
Number of Ship arrivals	4,237	3,968	-6.3
(a) Provisional		Sources: Sri Lanka Transport Board	
(b) Excluding transit passengers		Sri Lanka Railways	
TEUs = Twenty-foot Equivalent Container Units		Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka	
		Sri Lanka Ports Authority	

(Source – Central Bank of Sri Lanka Economic Report 2024)

## ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association continued to maintain active dialogue amongst its members and with all other stakeholders associated with the industry, as well as Government and statutory bodies, particularly in relation to maintaining professionalism and efficiency in the freight forwarding industry as a whole.

In addition to its ongoing projects and activities, the Executive Committee focused more on sustaining the Association’s position in matters concerning Ocean freight and Customs, Air freight, Port tariff, Delivery Order charges, and conducted regular discussions with officials of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation, Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA), Sri Lanka Customs (SLC), Airport & Aviation Services (SL) Ltd (AASL), Srilankan Cargo, Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL), Sri Lanka Export Development Board (SLEDB) and the Directorate of Merchant Shipping of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Aviation.

In addition The Executive Committee engaged in discussions with The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Sri Lanka Shippers Council (SLSC) and Ceylon Association of Shipping Agents (CASA). Strengthening the self-regulatory regime introduced by the Association, regular training programs and seminars were conducted for the benefit and betterment of the members.

### Sri Lanka Customs (SLC)

SLFFA and CASA jointly conducted webinar which was held successfully on the topic “Comprehensive Introduction to ASYHUB” with a participation of 600-650 individuals. The ASYHUB system proceeded in two stages, firstly, the registration stage, and subsequently, the parallel stage. Despite the delay, considering the advent of elevating towards a paperless data and information exchange era, the impending DGMT (Digitalizing Global Maritime Trade) aka ASYHUB is almost off the ground and is in its test stage. Sri Lanka Customs has indicated that this may take effect by May or June this year.

The main drivers of the project are the GIZ, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and Sri Lanka Customs. SLFFA contributed by way of knowledge and experience sharing of the best practices in the globe and what it feels is best to facilitate International Trade, leading by way of a significant role in sharing ideas and information in terms of the National Single Window. The

primary aim of this project is to facilitate Advanced Manifesting for both Imports and Exports and Pre-Clearance.

### **Director General of Merchant Shipping (DGMS)**

SLFFA had discussions with DGMS regarding concerns in the industry. This year the DGMS focus turned toward the registration and licensing process of Freight Forwarders and NVOCC Operators. The criteria for registration of the A & B Grade Forwarders will depend heavily on the type of insurance cover and the underwriters.

### **Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA)**

SLFFA has been discussing multiple areas of concern in a bid to be more competitive with the regional hubs such as Singapore in the East and Dubai in the West. SLFFA embarked on a study of the rates, services, infrastructure etc, and has concluded that whilst Sri Lanka is price competitive and are reasonably poised with services from the Port of Colombo towards both the west and east.

SLFFA has participated in discussions and knowledge sharing in developing the import manifesting processes and validation of the Delivery Orders of all tiers from the main tier to the sub tiers. The developers technical team on the NAVIS platform deliberated with SLFFA together with CASA and have shared sufficient information that will assist in the implementation of an upgrade, that will be a part and partial of the envisaged Port Community System (PCS).

### **Air/Air Transshipment Manifest issue**

SLFFA has been participating in extensive discussions with Sri Lanka Customs and Srilankan Airlines to establish a system for all transshipment nature codes, which has been hampering operations. Sri Lanka Customs has now implemented the system, and Srilankan Airlines is currently working on integrating their system with the Customs ASYCUDA system.

### **Meeting with the Newly Appointed AASL Chairman**

SLFFA Chairman along with a few committee members met with the newly appointed Chairman of AASL to discuss matters of mutual interest and concerning the industry. SLFFA followed up by submitting its proposals for the development of the Air Cargo Village(ACV) on short, medium and long term basis.

### **Additional Sur-charges Implemented by Airlines.**

SLFFA has raised its objections with Qatar Airways for implementation of additional screening charges and Emirates Airlines for introduction of penalties for booking cancellations, as these measures would increase costs for exporters from Sri Lanka, potentially making their products less competitive in the global market.

### **Cargo Account Settlement System (CASS)**

SLFFA has strongly voiced its objection and has filed a writ application in the Court of Appeal against the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the Monetary Board for attempting to introduce CASS in Sri Lanka, through our National Carrier Srilankan Airlines, thereby threatening the credit periods enjoyed by the exporters for their air cargo shipments.

SLFFA has voiced its displeasure to the unilateral change in the payment cycle as it would severely and adversely affect the business of our exporters and freight forwarders, who would in turn, be pressurized for lesser credit periods in line with the settlement cycle. Thus, SLFFA has voiced its objection to using CASS whilst there is also no value addition to the industry by bringing in CASS during the current economic crisis seriously affecting the entire country.

### **Colombo International Maritime & Logistics Conference 2024**

SLFFA endorsed the Colombo International Maritime & Logistics Conference 2024 as the strategic partner. The event was organized by the CIMC events & Shippers Academy International. The event's objective was to promote Sri Lanka as a destination for investment in Shipping & Logistics & also help the process of economic recovery.

### **Consultative Forum on Private Sector Corruption organized by Verite Research**

SLFFA was represented at the Verite Research consultative forum where they shared their research findings on the legal framework around the Private sector corruption and supplement and validated it with the knowledge and insight of those from the industry on the subject.

### **Awareness-Building Workshop on Trade National Single Window System Project**

The Department of Trade and Investment Policy, Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies in partnership with the USAID, organized an Awareness-Building Workshop on Trade National Single Window System Project (TNSWSP), which SLFFA participated and shared its views. The project was organized to establish an interconnected digital platform for facilitation of international trade flows.

### **Workshop on National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) Best Practices & National Trade Facilitation Roadmap for Sri Lanka**

SLFFA was represented at the 'workshop on NTFC Best Practices & National Trade Facilitation Roadmap for Sri Lanka'. The workshop was held for the purpose of (a) assessing the current implementation status of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in the country, (b) prioritization of the country's trade facilitation commitments and (c) providing recommendations to strengthen the NTFC.

The key objectives of this session was to, learn from the experiences of NTFCs in other countries to strengthen the NTFC in Sri Lanka, and to present the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap for Sri Lanka and to validate it.

### **Validation of Maritime Spatial Planning-Blue Investment Opportunity Maps**

SLFFA was represented at the above workshop organized by the Ministry of Finance, Economic stabilization & National policies - Sri Lanka and the United Nations Development Program - Sri Lanka. The workshop aimed to validate the advanced GIS grid-based coastal and EEZ spatial opportunity map in its efforts to unlock public and private capital towards the development of blue economy.

### **Meeting with HE the President**

A meeting with His Excellency the President was held to raise awareness and discuss sector-specific concerns and challenges, as well as to present proposals aimed at increasing the country's export potential. SLFFA actively participated in this session and made a significant contribution by highlighting key industry issues and suggesting actionable strategies to support national export growth.

### **AI Asia Summit 2024**

SLFFA endorsed the AI Asia Summit 2024 as the Ecosystem Partner. The event featured an impressive panel of both local and international speakers, alongside a diverse agenda covering key AI-related aspects across major industries in Sri Lanka such as Banking & Finance, Manufacturing, Agriculture and Hospitality.

### **Exclusive Discussion with World Bank on Sri Lanka's Economic Outlook**

SLFFA was represented at the launch of "Sri Lanka Development Update", a bi-annual report published by the World Bank, with its latest edition launched in October 2024. The report highlighted the country's current economic outlook with emphasis on critical policy issues, sector-specific impacts

on growth, exports and untapped trade potential, and the need to address key challenges through reforms. The launch provided a platform to all who participated to directly engage with the team of Economists from the World Bank who authored the report and hear their views of the economic realities firsthand. The discussion propelled the exchange of valuable perspectives on the key areas covered where SLFFA shared sectoral insights, voiced concerns, and gained an understanding of future projections and the way forward.

### **Meeting with Deputy Minister of Ports, Shipping & Aviation**

SLFFA along with other industry stakeholders was represented at a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Aviation. During this meeting, SLFFA took the opportunity to present a comprehensive set of recommendations outlining both short-term initiatives and long-term strategic plans aimed at addressing pressing industry challenges and enhancing the overall competitiveness of the sector. The short-term proposals focused on immediate interventions that could bring swift improvements, while the long-term plans were designed to support sustainable development and align with the Government's broader vision for the maritime and aviation sectors.

### **Submission of Proposals for the National Budget 2025**

SLFFA submitted its proposals for the National Budget 2025, focusing primarily on two key areas: the exemption of the Social Security Contribution Levy (SSCL) for Freight Forwarders and the facilitation of exports. These proposals were aimed at easing the cost burden on the industry and enhancing Sri Lanka's export competitiveness in the global market.

### **National Single Window Implementation – Need Assessment**

SLFFA took part in the assessment of the Trade National Single Window System (TNSWS) Project, a three-year initiative led by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, Policy Formulation, Planning, and Tourism, with a dedicated Project Implementation Unit (PIU) overseeing its execution.

As the first step in this initiative, the PIU conducted a need assessment survey where SLFFA contributed to evaluating the current status of Government agencies, identifying gaps, and assessing their readiness in areas such as business processes, physical and human resources, and overall capacity. The objective was to offer practical guidelines and recommendations aligned with global best practices to support the future implementation of the National Single Window system.

### **International Customs Day**

SLFFA was invited to the International Customs day graced by HE the President under the theme "Customs Delivering on its Commitment to Efficiency, Security & Prosperity". The event brought together key industry stakeholders and government officials, highlighting the vital role of Customs in trade facilitation and national development.

### **Webinar to Promote Cooperation in Shipping & Logistics Sector of Sri Lanka & Vietnam**

The Sri Lanka Export Development Board in collaboration with the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Vietnam organized the above event to which SLFFA represented. The event focussed on Sri Lanka's strategic location in major shipping routes, the absence of a marine hub between Dubai and Singapore, the location of major ports such as Colombo, Hambantota and Trincomalee.

### **Meeting with the Hon. Deputy Minister of Ports & the Director General of Merchant Shipping to Discuss Industry matters**

SLFFA was represented at the above meeting, where key industry matters were discussed with the Hon. Deputy Minister and the Director General of Merchant Shipping. During the discussion, SLFFA submitted a set of industry-related concerns along with proposed solutions, which were positively received and acknowledged by both authorities.

**2025-1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Stakeholder Meeting**

SLFFA participated in the 2025 First Quarter Stakeholder Meeting organized by Sri Lanka Customs, where we presented a number of industry-related concerns along with practical solution-oriented suggestions for consideration.

**Regional Conference – “Riding the Indian Wave - The World’s 5th Largest Economy on Sri Lanka’s Shores”.**

SLFFA was represented at the conference organized by Verité Research with the support of the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka. The event featured insightful discussions on how Sri Lanka can strategically leverage its location along key shipping routes in the Indian Ocean, as well as its close proximity to the rapidly growing Indian market, to enhance trade, attract investment, and promote regional collaboration—key factors in driving a sustainable economic recovery for the country.

**SECRETARIAT**

The SLFFA Secretariat continues its daily operations from its location at the office of SLFFA Cargo Services Ltd at No. 37D, Torrington Avenue, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.