

Introduction

The Council for Business with Britain (CBB) was established with the merger of The Sri Lanka - United Kingdom Business Council and the British Business Association (BBA) on July 18, 2000. The objective of this merger was to promote two-way trade between Sri Lanka and the UK and to maintain and foster a harmonious business relationship between the two countries.

The Council also promotes the exchange of information on trade and investment, and by supporting the business community, which the organization represents, by serving as the recognized representative of the members in matters concerning business relations with Sri Lanka or the United Kingdom.

In this regard, the CBB provides the following services to its members:

- Encourages and arranges discussions, the free exchange of ideas, information and advice pertaining to the interests of its members.
- Organizes awareness programmes on doing business with the UK.
- Supports and encourages the representatives of members of UK companies in the management of their business in Sri Lanka.
- Issues members with letters of introduction when they visit the UK on business.
- Stimulates and aids in co-operation between member companies and other organizations.
- Provides and disseminates information that would be useful to member companies engaged in or considering trade between Sri Lanka and the UK.
- Organizes trade and investment promotion via inbound and outbound missions.
- Introduces members business activities to potential UK trade partners by providing links to their company web sites via the CBB web site.

The British High Commissioner in Sri Lanka is, Ex-Officio, the Patron of the CBB.

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce carries out the administration and secretarial services of the CBB.

The Council has 129 members as at 31st March 2009.

Objectives

1. To promote 2 way trade between Sri Lanka (SL) and the United Kingdom (UK)
2. To maintain and foster a harmonious business relationship between SL and the UK
3. To promote the exchange of information on trade and investment
4. To support the business community which the organization represents by
 - a) Serving as the recognized representative of the members in matters concerning business relations with SL or UK.
 - b) Supporting and encouraging members representatives engaged in the management of their company business in Sri Lanka
 - c) Encouraging and arranging discussions, exchange of ideas, information and advice pertaining to member interest.
 - d) Stimulating co-operation between members, members representatives and other organizations.
 - e) Providing and disseminating information that would be useful to companies and individuals engaged in or considering engaging in trade between SL and UK.
5. To undertake any matters that is incidental or conducive to attaining the above objectives.

Membership

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AITKEN SPENCE TRAVELS LTD
ALLOY FABRICATORS INT. (PVT) LTD
ALMAR INTERNATIONAL PVT. LTD
ALPHA ORIENT LANKA LTD
ALSTOM
ARANXA SOFTWARE (PVT) LTD.,
ASIA POWER (PVT) LTD
ASTRON BPO
ATG CEYLON (PVT) LTD
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AVERY DENNISON LANKA (PVT) LTD
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AWS INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION
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CINNAMON GRAND HOTEL
CITY & GUILDS INTERNATIONAL
CIVARO LANKA LTD
COATS THREAD LANKA (PVT) LTD.,
COLOMBO HILTON
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON LTD
COMPUTER ISLAND (PVT) LTD
CONTACTUM CEYLON (PVT) LTD.

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COURTAULDS CLOTHING LANKA (PVT) LTD
CRUIKSHANKS CEYLON (PVT) LTD
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DE LA RUE LANKA CURRENCY & SEC.PRINT
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DESIGN CONSORTIUM LTD
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DIALOG TELEKOM PLC
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MOHAN NELIGAMA & ASSOCIATES
MORISON SON & JONES (CEYLON) LTD
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NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK
NAWAKRAMA PVT. LTD

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NORTH INDIAN OCEAN TRADING (PVT) LTD.

PAINTS & GENERAL INDUSTRIES LTD.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS
PYXLE (PVT) LTD

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RANMAL INTERNATIONAL AGENCY

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REDITUNE (CEYLON) LIMITED
RICHARD PIERIS & COMPANY LIMITED

SSCOTTWILSON & CO. LTD

SHAW WALLACE DISTRIBUTORS LIMITED
SHELL GAS LANKA LTD
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THE COLOMBO TRADERS LTD
THE GOLDEN KEY INSTITUTE OF COMPUTER
TECHNOLOGY LTD
TRANS ASIA HOTEL

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UNICHELA (PVT) LTD
UNION RESIDENCIES (PVT) LTD

VIRTUSA (PVT) LTD.

WNS GLOBAL SERVICES (PVT) LTD

W.S. ATKIN INTERNATIONAL

Executive Committee

2008-2009

CHAIRMAN

Mr. Anil Wijesinghe
A.W.S Institute of Education

VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Nick Nicolaou
HSBC Sri Lanka & Maldives

HONORARY SECRETARY

Mr. Hassan Madani
Shell Gas Lanka Ltd

HONORARY TREASURER

Mr. Shirendra Lawrence
MAS Holdings Ltd

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN

Mr. Peter Simson
Hilton Colombo Residence

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Mr. Mahen Dayananda
Tea Tang Ltd

Mr. Philip Goodstein
Brand Partners (Pvt) Ltd

Mrs. Nirmali Samaratunga
Mackwoods Ltd

BY INVITATION

Ms. Jenny Patterson
The British High Commission

Mr. D. Eassuwaran
National Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Gill Westaway
The British Council

THE SECRETARIAT

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

Activities 2008 - 2009

Annual General Meeting

The Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Council for Business with Britain (CBB) took place on Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at Westminster House - The British High Commissioner's residence. The Chief Guest was H.E. Dr. Peter Hayes the British High Commissioner.

Addressing the membership at the AGM H.E. Dr. Hayes stated that the success enjoyed by the CBB is testament to the efforts and commitment of its membership - and what members make of it. He further added that Britain would make every effort to overcome obstacles and look for new opportunities to strengthen bilateral relations between Britain and Sri Lanka.

Following the AGM, Ms. Gill Westaway, Director, British Council made a short presentation on the CBB's main Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project - the *English Language Teacher Training Programme* that is conducted by the British Council. Ms. Westaway reported that during the pilot project in 2006-2007, 8 Regional English Support Centers were established, 16 mentors trained; 48 teachers granted international certification as a result of which 5120 students had benefitted. She added that the 2007-2009 programme would see those numbers increasing with the Regional English Support Centers growing to 26 with 52 mentors and 456 teachers with international certification benefiting 36,480 pupils.

The Business Council was formed in 2000, the result of a merger between the Sri Lanka United Kingdom Business Council and the British Business Association - Sri Lanka. The Council promotes the exchange of information on trade and investment, and supports the business community, which the organization represents, by serving as the recognized representative of its members, in matters concerning business relations with Sri Lanka and the UK.



(Seated L to R) - Peter Simson (Imm. Past Chairman CBB/Hilton Colombo Residence); Mark Gooding, (Deputy British High Commissioner); H.E. Dr. Peter Hayes, (British High Commissioner); Anil Wijesinghe (Chairman, CBB/AWS Institute of Education); Chamindri Wijayatilake (Manager, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce) and Nick Nicolaou (Vice Chairman CBB/HSBC Sri Lanka and the Maldives)

(Standing L -R) - Hassan Madani (Hon. Secretary CBB/Shell Gas Lanka Ltd.); Shirendra Lawrence (Hon. Treasurer CBB/MAS Holdings); Mahen Dayananda (Ex. Committee Member CBB/Tea Tang Ltd.); Nirmali Samaratunge (Ex. Committee Member CBB/ Mackwoods Ltd.); Gill Westaway (Ex. Committee Member); Philip Goodstein (Ex. Committee Member CBB/Brand Partners Ltd); and D. Eassuwaran (Ex. Committee Member CBB/ Eswaran Brothers Exports (Pvt) Ltd.

CBB Cricket - Sixes, Netball & Badminton Tournament

Principal sponsor Co - sponsors

with face painting, a presentation of beauty tips and good grooming by Nayana Karunaratne of Salon Nayana.

Funds collected from the CBB sports triangular, was donated to the CBB/English Language Teacher Training Project (CBB-ELT).

HSBC was the principal sponsor for the fourth consecutive year, while Aviva Global Services Lanka, Delmege Forsyth & Co, Mackwoods Tea, Shell Gas Sri Lanka, Mackinnons American Express Travels and Virtusa (Sri Lanka) stepped in as co-sponsors of the event. The Electronic Media Sponsor was Yes FM, whilst McLarens Holdings Ltd., was the Official Grounds Sponsor.

The Council for Business with Britain concluded its Eighth Annual Sports Triangular (Cricket, Netball and Badminton) on Saturday, 12 July 2008 at the NCC Grounds. The event brought together approximately 650 representatives of over forty corporates from the business fraternity, on to the playing field.

Unichela emerged champions in the Cricket Tournament for the third consecutive year beating Paxar; whilst Commercial Bank emerged Champs in Netball beating HSBC. The overall Badminton trophy was awarded to HSBC for winning the Women's Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles beating Aviva Global.

The day included much fun and excitement for the entire family, with a fashion show by the Hidramani Group, a kid's corner



This event is the most popular one on the corporate calendar of members of the CBB.

Luncheon Meetings & Fellowship Events

July 2008

Visit to Parliament & and Audience with the Hon. Speaker

CBB members visited Parliament and were also able to view a working session. Subsequently they met with the Hon. Speaker W.J.M. Lokubandara who very kindly hosted them to tea. Members got an opportunity to inform the Speaker about CBB activities. The Hon. Speaker donated a book authored by himself to the British Council Library.



August 2008

How to Stay on Top of Credit Card Fraud

Nilantha Bastian, Head of Cards and Consumer Assets at HSBC addressed the membership on How to Stay on Top of Credit Card Fraud - a topical subject that is of growing concern to all Credit Card users.

The luncheon meeting took place on August 14, 2008 at the Union Ballroom of the Hilton Colombo Residence. Through his presentation, Mr. Bastian gave an overview of the Card Industry; discussed Credit Card fraud, and trends and solutions on how to avoid being a victim of Credit Card fraud.



September 2008

Tour of the New British High Commission

The first fifty members who registered were given a rare opportunity of touring the new premises of the British High Commission on September 17, 2008.

Members also availed themselves of the chance to meet with the British High Commissioner, H.E. Dr. Peter Hayes and Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Mark Gooding. Dr. Hayes welcomed the members and gave an introduction to the significance of the various architectural ingenuities and the story behind the building's construction.

The tour concluded with an hour of fellowship where they met with the new Head of Trade and Investment, Mr. Peter Millman, who was standing in for Ms. Jenny Patterson until her return from maternity leave.

October 2008

The Global Financial Crisis & Its Impact on Sri Lanka & the UK

The Council organized a luncheon meeting on a topical issue, that being the Current International Financial Crisis and Its Impact on the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka. Clive Haswell - Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank in Sri Lanka made the presentation to over forty members and their guests who participated.

The luncheon meeting took place on October 15, 2009 at the Dukes Court, Trans Asia Hotel in Colombo.

December 2008

An Evening of Christmas Carols & Fellowship to Support the English Language Teacher Training Programme

The Council for Business with Britain (CBB) held its annual Christmas get-together for its members on December 10, 2008 at Westminster House - the residence of H.E. Dr. Peter Hayes, British High Commissioner.



This evening of community carols organized by the CBB for its members, non-members, family and friends, was accompanied by the Elizabeth Moir School Choir. The programme consisted of members and family reading some Christmas selections for the enjoyment of those present. More numbers than previously anticipated attended. Mulled wine, beer and traditional Christmas eats were served to the crowd. Hilton Colombo Residence sponsored the Christmas eats, while the wine was part-sponsored by Alpha Orient Lanka Ltd.

Mr. Nick Nicolaou, CEO HSBC for Sri Lanka & Maldives who serves as Vice Chairman of the CBB was master of ceremonies.

Proceeds from this event went to the CBB/English Language Teacher Training Programme (CBB/ELT), a project aimed at giving English language training for teachers in rural areas.



Mr. Anil Wijesinghe, Chairman of the CBB took the opportunity to inform the forum about the *Sponsor-a-Teacher Programme*, a more affordable scheme through which to support the CBB's primary CSR project.

The CBB Web site



In December 2007, the Council re-launched the CBB website - <http://cbb.lk/> - the Council's official website. The website is comprised of details regarding the formation of the Council, its membership, upcoming events, and membership applications. The website is targeted towards promoting the Council's objective of fostering, promoting and strengthening trade ties between the two countries.

Being a dynamic source of information, the web site offers updates on Council activities and exchange rates. In addition to this, the website has also established links with the following: Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, the British High Commission in Colombo, the Sri Lankan High Commission in the United Kingdom, Friends of Sri Lanka, The London Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and the British Chambers of Commerce to name a few.

The Council website now includes two new web pages - that of the Membership Drive and Monthly Report page for the CBB/ELT programme.

CBB English Language Training (ELT) Project

The Council sponsors the English Language Teacher Training programme, also known as the CBB-ELT project. The British Council manages it on its behalf. It is run in association with the National Institute of Education (N.I.E) and the Ministry of Education and has been built up and refined over a number of years. The programme is now working extremely well and is into its *fifth* year.

Project Overview

The project aims to upgrade the English language skills of pupils in schools throughout Sri Lanka.

This is achieved by building the capacity of local English teachers so that they deliver lessons more effectively. This is done, via a cadre of teacher-trainers. These teacher-trainers act as mentors to the teachers who work on a three modular distance-learning teacher-training course. We use as a benchmark of achievement the internationally renowned Cambridge University Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT). In addition, graduates receive a Certificate of Teaching from the Council for Business with Britain and British Council Sri Lanka.

Therefore, the project functions on two levels:

- training teachers through a distance-learning teacher-training course
- training mentors to facilitate the course and to aid the teachers on the course.

CBB Funding

Funding paid for the following: TKT workshop fees, exam fees and textbooks; travel and lunch allowances for course and exams; payment and training for mentors; RESC visits; distance materials and posting.

Budget: Sponsorship status to date

Below are the costs to date and predicted costs. CBB continues to seek sponsorship to fund this project from its member companies.

Actual Cost	Sterling	Rupees
20 Mentors in total - July - Dec 2007	£4,418.72	932,350.00
48 teachers in training - Sept - Feb 2007 -08	£4,882.88	1,030,288.00
	£9,301.60	
Predicted costs		
48 teachers in training - Jan-June 2008	£5,044.36	
60 teachers in training - Jan - June 2008	£6,162.09	
20 mentors in training - Jan - June 2008	£4,540.76	
60 teachers in training - July - Dec 2008	£7,086.40	
60 teachers in training - July - Dec 2008	£7,086.40	
60 teachers in training - July - Dec 2008	£7,086.40	
60 teachers in training - Jan - June 2008	£7,086.40	
60 teachers in training July 2009 - Dec 2009	£8,149.36	
Sub total	£52,242.17	
Actual + predicted	£6,1543.77	13,170,366.78

Objectives for the future

CBB is continuing to seek partnership funding for the remainder of the project until December 2009. The objective will be to train an additional 300 teachers with the currently trained mentors. This will impact on schools and pupils nationwide given the geographical spread of the RESCs. The ultimate aim, beyond the initial training courses, is to make the RESCs independent, and capable of running the Distance Training Course as a sustainable venture.

Representation on other bodies

Mr. Mahen Dayananda represented the Council for Business with Britain in the Employer's Federation of Ceylon.

Meetings of the Council

The Council for Business with Britain met on twelve (12) occasions during the period under review, to discuss industry matters and issues pertaining to the Council.

Details of Accounts of the CBB

Membership Subscriptions

The Council is pleased to present the following revenue collected as membership subscriptions for the year under review.

Year 2006/ 2007	-	Rs. 620,000.00
Year 2007/2008	-	Rs. 515,000.00
Year 2008/2009	-	Rs. 696,000.00

Luncheon Meetings

For the period under review there were two luncheon meetings held with an average participation of between 35-40 members at each luncheon meeting. The Council earned an income of Rs.220,743.00 and incurred expense totaling to a sum of Rs. 174,850.00 which included the expenses incurred for the members lunch, hiring of equipment and the Secretariat.

Deposits

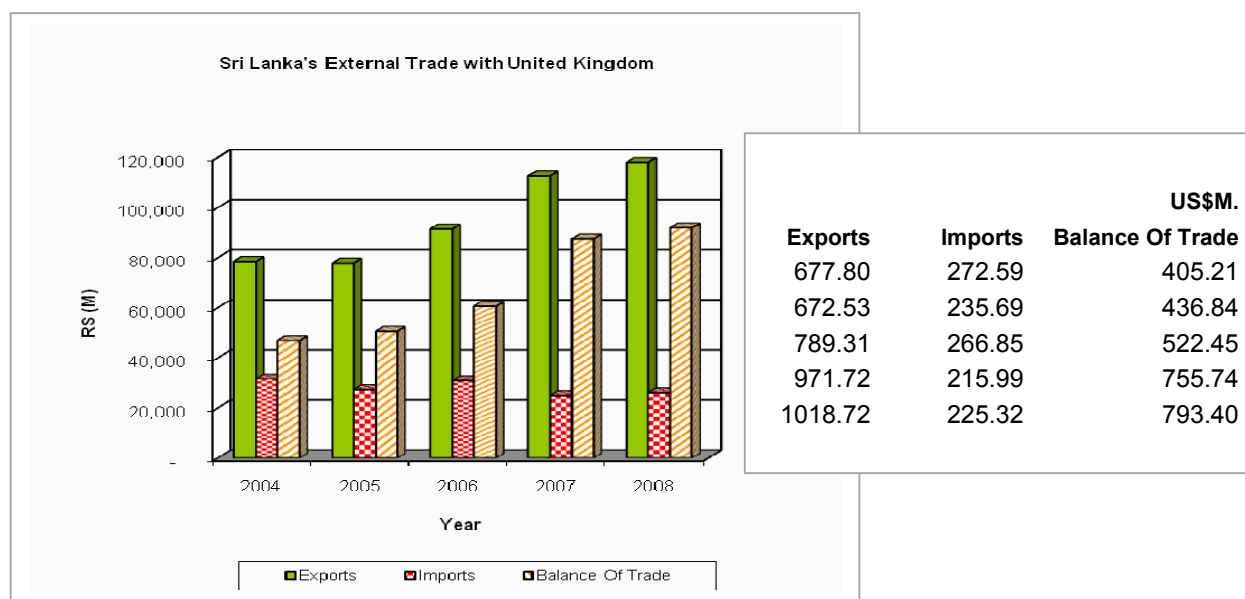
The Council's Deposits	Rs.	Cts.
Year 2006/2007	3,000,000.00	
Year 2007/2008	5,000,000.00	
Year 2008/2009	1,200,000.00	

The above deposit of Rs. 5,000,000/- includes the sponsorship received for the CBB-ELT Project.

Interest rates on deposits

18%

Trade between Sri Lanka and United Kingdom



Main items Exported from Sri Lanka to UK - 2008

	Rs.M.	%	US\$M.
Apparel & clothings - knitted or crocheted	51,590	43.71	445.25
Apparel & clothings - not knitted or crocheted	42,365	35.89	365.63
Fish & Crustaceans	4,763	4.04	41.11
Rubber & rubber products	3,262	2.76	28.15
Bicycles & other cycles	2,295	1.94	19.81
Products of Printing Industry	2,209	1.87	19.06
Black Tea	1,226	1.04	10.58
Food Preparation - Other	917	0.78	7.91
Electrical Machinery & Equipments	782	0.66	6.75
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	661	0.56	5.70
Other	7,968	6.75	68.77
Total	118,038	100.00	1018.72

Main items Imported to Sri Lanka from UK - 2008

	Rs.M.	%	US\$M.
Precious or Semi-Precious Stones	4,927	18.87	42.52
Paper & Paperboard	3,756	14.39	32.42
Knitted or Crocheted fabrics	2,159	8.27	18.63
Machinery & Mechanical Appliances	1,891	7.24	16.32
Electrical Machinery & Equipment	1,809	6.93	15.61
Plastic & Plastic Products	813	3.11	7.02
Articles of Iron & Steel	806	3.09	6.96
Medical & Surgical Accessories	635	2.43	5.48
Tanning or Dyeing Extracts	629	2.41	5.43
White crystalline cane sugar	596	2.28	5.14
Other	8,087	30.98	69.79
Total	26,108	100.00	225.32

Source - Sri Lanka Customs

Investment

Total number of Projects in Commercial Operation as at end December 2008 - 114

Total Investment Foreign - Rs. Mn. 46,260.016

Total Investment Local - Rs. Mn. 25,089.436

Source - Board of Investment of Sri Lanka

Tourism

Tourist arrivals from United Kingdom (Number of Visitors)

2007 94,060

2008 81,331

Source - Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority

Secretariat

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce continued to provide Secretarial Services to the Council for Business with Britain.

Auditors

M/s. KPMG Ford Rhodes Thornton & Co. was appointed as Auditors of the Council for Business with Britain for the Financial Year 2008 - 2009.

By Order of the Committee

Andrea David
For Secretary

May 29, 2009.