

Seventy-five years of Sri Lanka Sweden relations celebrated in Stockholm

Seventy-five years of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Sweden were celebrated in a gracious event at the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Stockholm, Sweden last week. The event was attended by many special invitees representing the Swedish government including the Riksdag (Swedish Parliament) and Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Business Sweden, Business Region Gothenburg, prominent Swedish companies having partnerships with Sri Lanka, Swedish institutions, Sweden-Sri Lanka Business Council, as well as the Sri Lankan community representatives.

In a special video message, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka Vijitha Herath expressed appreciation for Sweden's support in Sri Lanka's development and reaffirmed Sri Lanka's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Sweden. The Minister admired the deep bonds of friendship between the peoples of the two nations as the foundation for the steadily growing multifaceted relationship. He further stated that relations in the political realm, the growing presence of Swedish companies in Sri Lanka, people-to-people connections, as well as the growing number of Sri Lankan students in Sweden as testament to the trust and collaboration between the two nations.

Delivering the congratulatory statement from the Speaker of the Swedish parliament Andreas Norlen, Swedish Member of Parliament and Chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation of Europe (OSCE) Björn Söder highlighted that the longstanding relationship between Sri Lanka and Sweden is defined by friendship and partnership. He stated that Sri Lanka was one of the first countries for Swedish development assistance, including in the health and hydropower sectors. He assured Sweden's commitment to face the future challenges together, and continuing partnership with Sri Lanka.

Welcoming the gathering, Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Sweden Kapila Fonseka, underlined the shared values, including Sri Lanka's long and unbroken democratic tradition since independence, as the cornerstone of the steadfast bilateral relationship between Sri Lanka and Sweden. The Ambassador underscored that the bilateral relations were intensified following the visit of the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka to Sweden in May 2023 and the first bilateral political consultations in November 2023. He reaffirmed Sri Lanka's commitment to further strengthening the relationship.

A short video consolidating the facets of past and present Sri Lanka Sweden relations was screened to the gathering. The event was concluded with authentic Sri Lankan refreshments and Ceylon tea.

Sri Lanka established diplomatic relations with Sweden in 1949. This event was preceded by a series of promotional events conducted by the Embassy to mark the significant milestone.

Embassy of Sri Lanka
Stockholm

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