

POST-WEBINAR PRESS RELEASE

Subject: Webinar for creating awareness on “Exporting to Sri Lanka”

A webinar was organized by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, Lahore to create awareness on “Exporting to Sri Lanka” on Thursday, the 19th of November, 2020 from 11:00am to 12:50 pm, in collaboration with Consul General of the Democratic socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Karachi, Pakistan’s Trade Mission in Colombo, and Ministry of Commerce, as an effort to explore business opportunities for Pakistani exporters for enhancing exports to Sri Lanka. The purpose of this webinar was to discuss the potential for export of Pakistan’s products, enhancing the bilateral trade relations, and renewing mutual cooperation between the two countries.

2. Keynote speakers of the webinar were Consul General of the Democratic socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Karachi Mr. G. L. Gnanatheva, Trade and Investment Attache High Commission of Pakistan in Colombo Ms. Asmma Kamal and Deputy Secretary Ministry of Commerce Mr. Fahad Raza. The webinar was attended by more than 100 Pakistani exporters from Textiles, Leather, Cement, Plastic, Cosmetics, Pharmaceuticals, Agro products and handicrafts sectors.

3. Ms. Nudrat Hussain Khan, Director General TDAP Punjab welcomed all the guests. She shed light on the brotherly relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in various fields and said that such webinars will pave way for better trade ties between Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

4. Mr. G. L. Gnanatheva deliberated upon the import policy of Sri Lanka and the export potential of Pakistani products in Sri Lanka. Main imports of Sri Lanka are transportation equipment, plastics, edible oil, paper and paperboard, iron and steel, food and beverages, textiles, machinery, fuel (petroleum) and petroleum products. He told that under Pak-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement, 100% duty free access has been provided to Pakistan for 4000+ products on 102 tariff lines. He told that Pakistan can export fish and fish products, dairy products, vegetables, fruits, spices, cereals, oil seeds, natural gums, sugar, fertilizers, silk, wool, cotton, articles of leather, paper and paperboard, hides and skins, photographic goods, soap related products etc. to Sri Lanka.

5. Deputy Secretary Ministry of Commerce, Mr. Fahad Raza shed light on the opportunities available for the exporters under the Pakistan Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement. He told that Pak-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement was the first FTA of Pakistan that was signed with any country in 2002 and Pakistan enjoys trade surplus with Sri Lanka. He also gave a comparison of pre and post PSFTA trade volume between the both countries and the significant increase in it with time.

6. The Trade and Investment Attache, High Commission of Pakistan in Colombo Ms. Asmma Kamal discussed the bilateral trade with special focus on providing guidance to entrepreneurs interested in exporting to Sri Lanka. She told that Portland cement, textile products, rice and pharmaceuticals are traditional sectors for trade with Sri Lanka. As Sri Lanka is going through a recovery and reconstruction phase therefore demand for cement, agro foods and medicaments is higher. She also stressed upon the interventions done for facilitating exports to Sri Lanka.

7. The participants actively participated in the Q&A session and their queries were answered by the speakers. The contact details of speakers were shared with the participants for future assistance. The webinar ended with a note of thanks by DG Punjab with a resolve that more such webinars will be arranged in near future.





Import Policy of Sri Lanka:
Export Opportunities for Pakistan Businesses

G. L. Gnanarathna
Consul General of Sri Lanka
Karachi, Pakistan
18th November 2020

The screenshot shows a video conference interface. The main content is a presentation slide with the title "Import Policy of Sri Lanka: Export Opportunities for Pakistan Businesses" and the presenter's name "G. L. Gnanarathna, Consul General of Sri Lanka, Karachi, Pakistan" dated "18th November 2020". On the right side, there is a vertical gallery of six smaller video thumbnails showing other participants. At the bottom, there is a control bar with icons for mute, video, chat, and other functions.