

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
TRADE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF PAKISTAN
LAHORE

**RECORDED NOTES OF WEBINAR ON “WEBINAR FOR CREATING AWARENESS
ON “EXPORTING TO SRI LANKA” HELD ON 19TH NOV 2020 AT 11:00AM.**

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (Lahore) in collaboration with Ministry of Commerce, 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 organized a webinar on “EXPORTING TO SRI LANKA” on 19th Nov, 2020 at 11:00am.

This webinar was organized 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. The webinar was attended by more than 100 representatives of different associations, chambers including Textiles, Leather, Cement, Poultry, Plastic, Cosmetics, Pharmaceuticals, and agro products and handicrafts sectors.

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 formally inaugurated by Ms Nudrat Hussain Khan, Director General, TDAP (Punjab). After the welcome address, Mr. G. L. Gnanatheva was requested to begin his presentation.

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.

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.

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.

Presentations were followed by Question and Answer session, wherein all the queries of the participants were responded thoroughly. After detailed Q/A session the webinar was concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms Nudrat Hussain Khan, Director General, TDAP (Punjab).