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MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR



Paolo Andrea Bartorelli
Italian Ambassador to
Sri Lanka and Maldives

I feel honoured to address a message on the Sri Lanka - Italy Business Council news letter, and I gladly recall the warm welcome extended to me by the Business Council upon my arrival to Sri Lanka in 2015.

The Sri Lanka – Italy Business Council has played a great role over many years being instrumental in promoting the bilateral relations, trade, investment, tourism and industrial cooperation, and acting as a bridge between our two business communities.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the Business Council in their unwavering commitment to attain such goals.

I also commend the Business Council on their drive and determination to expand the area and scope of their activities and for having organised Italian language classes for the general public. This will certainly bring about greater mutual understanding and strengthening of ties between our two communities.

Promoting more joint ventures between Italian and Sri Lankan investors would be the challenge for the future and the Business Council could play a vital role in identifying potential local partners from its reliable network of contacts.

I trust that, with your invaluable help and enthusiasm, the cooperation between the Embassy of Italy in Sri Lanka and the Business Council will be ever fruitful and successful and therefore I wish the Sri Lanka – Italy Business Council my very best for their future endeavours.

MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION



Welcome!

The Sri Lanka – Italy Business Council warmly welcomes Ms. Allegra Baistrocchi, Deputy Head of Mission, Italian Embassy in Sri Lanka.

“Dear Members of the Sri Lanka - Italy Business Council,

It is an honor and a pleasure to be appointed to the Italian Embassy as the Deputy Head of Mission in Sri Lanka and to be able to assist the SLIBC in promoting trade between our two nations. Let me tell you a few words about myself. Mage nama Allegra Baistrocchi and although this is my first posting,

I am a fourth generation diplomat. Prior to Sri Lanka, I served in our Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Development Cooperation Directorate (serving both in the Secretariat of the Director General, as well as the unit that oversees projects in Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Middle East). Before entering the diplomatic corps, I worked for 10 years in the private sector – including, lastly, with two of my own companies in London. Besides Italy, I have lived in the USA, Russia, Hong Kong, Thailand, and UK, have travelled extensively and speak four languages fluently. I look forward to meeting each of you.”

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2017/18



Seated Left to right:

Anushka Polonowita, Euro Sports Auto Lanka (Pte) Ltd., Vice President, Sri Lanka – Italy Business Council; Sonali Liyanamana, Interglobe Travels (Pvt) Ltd., Vice President, Sri Lanka – Italy Business Council; His Excellency Paolo Andrea Bartorelli, Italian Ambassador to Sri Lanka; Rajah Abeyasinghe JP, Hydromec International (Pvt) Ltd., President, Sri Lanka – Italy Business Council; Julianne Boulton, Secretariat, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

Standing Left to right:

Yohan Peries, Walkers Tours Ltd.; Avindra Weerasinghe, Ally Weerasinghe Ltd.; Sharmini Mendis, Spear International (Pvt) Ltd.; Janaka Gunasekera, A Baur & Co. Ltd.; Tania Polonnowita Wettimuny, Hellman Worldwide Logistics (Pvt) Ltd., Immediate Past President, Sri Lanka – Italy Business Council; Harsha de Alwis, DFCC Bank PLC; Indika Chandrasekera, JAT Holdings (Pvt) Ltd.;

Not in the picture:

Rajeev Aloysius, The Autodrome PLC; B.T. Tyrell Roche, Lanka Tiles PLC;



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Events

Members' Night 2017

The Sri Lanka – Italy Business Council held a Members' Night on 15th February, 2017 at the Il Ponte, Hilton Colombo. His Excellency Paolo Andrea Bartorelli, Ambassador of Italy in Sri Lanka, Mr. Giandomenico Milano, Charge' D 'Affairs A.I, Embassy of Italy, Representatives of the SLITBC Membership as well as Members of the Sri Lanka – Italy Friendship Society participated at this event.



18th Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka – Italy Business Council

The Sri Lanka – Italy Business Council of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce held its 18th Annual General Meeting at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce on 22nd June, 2017. His Excellency Paolo Andrea Bartorelli, Italian Ambassador to Sri Lanka was the Chief Guest at this occasion.

Mr. D. R. P Abeyasinghe, Chief Executive Officer, Hydromec International (Pvt) Ltd was re-elected as the President of the Council. Mr. Abeyasinghe in his address highlighted the achievements of the Sri Lanka – Italy Business Council during the year 2016-2017 under his leadership.





Events

Presentation of Certificates to Italian Language Course Students

His Excellency Paolo Andrea Bartorelli presented Course Certificates to successful students of the 3rd Batch of Italian Language Course for Beginners and the 1st Batch of the Italian Language Course for Advanced Learners of the Council after the Council's 18th Annual General Meeting.



Breakfast Meeting with Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy

Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy, Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka was the Guest Speaker at a Breakfast Meeting organized by the Sri Lanka – Italy Business Council of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, recently. The Breakfast Meeting was well attended by high ranking officials from the Sri Lankan Business Community.

The Breakfast Meeting which was held under the topic “International Monetary Fund (IMF) Monetary Policies on Sri Lanka” commenced with the Welcome Address by Mr. D R P Abeyasinghe, President, Sri Lanka – Italy Business Council. Dr. Coomaraswamy explained in detail, on how IMF loans are granted and the monitoring process. Dr. Coomaraswamy's address was followed by an interactive Question and Answer session.





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September 2017

SORRENTO – A BASE FOR AMALFI

By Rajeev Aloysius

Sorrento is well known for being the gateway to the famous Amalfi Coast (Costiera Amalfitana – as usual it sounds better in Italian), in the west of Italy, as well as the Isle of Capri, all of which have been idealised in song for many centuries. It is also a good base to go and see Pompeii in a very short time. It is familiar to many people as the town idolised in "Torna a Sorrento" (Come Back to Sorrento), a 1902 Neapolitan song by Ernesto De Curtis to words by his brother, the poet Giambattista De Curtis. It can be reached by coach from Naples (Napoli) airport; by Alilauro Hydrofoil from Naples' Molo Beverello pier; or by train from Napoli's Garibaldi station on the Circumvesuviana line. The Circumvesuviana is a suburban line, on which Eurail passes are not valid. The latter is the cheapest way, and costs just EUR4.50 one way (2017). The train station is only a short walk from the town, and a short walk will take you on the steep walk down to the Port where you can see the large ferries departing for Napoli. The first thing that you might notice is the old Roman walls which surround the old part of the town. These can be explored on foot, and at higher elevations gives you a good view of the incredible blue colour of the Tyrrhenian Sea (Atlantic Ocean). Perhaps the grandest hotel in town is the Palazzo Correale. There are many other luxury to budget options, ranging from the Hotel Antiche Mura, to the Green House, a basic guest house.

Even though it is a city, it has a small town charm that should be experienced. It is very touristy, as you may notice many signs only in English. There are many very good restaurants, including an upmarket one named after that great tenor and exponent of Neapolitan songs, Enrico Caruso. After the meal, try the Limoncello, a liqueur and digestive served ice cold, and famous for its neon-yellow colour from the infusion of the skins of locally grown lemons in pure alcohol. Native to the Sorrento and Amalfi, it is today second only to Campari in popularity in Italy.

Those who are keen on photos should head to the Piazza della Vittoria, where you can get spectacular views of the Marina Grande, and the treelined path of the Via Ariello Calitano with *impressione*. In the centre of town, the city's main thoroughfare the Corso Italia, is where the local Cathedral and the historic Sedile Dominova building are situated.

Sorrento is the gateway to both the Amalfi Coast, and Capri. The isle of Capri, is only 20 minutes away by high speed ferry (alilauro), and the return fare is EUR36.70 (2017). The views from the top of the funicular are spectacular, and the small narrow paths are similar to one of the great hill towns of Tuscany, except with views of the ocean from many different vantage points. The Marina Piccola is the Siren's Cove, where legend has it Odysseus was lured on shore by Sirens in Homer's Odyssey. Other attractions include the Blue Grotto, which is accessible by small boat.

The main tourist draw of the entire area are the winding roads down some of the most stunning coastlines in the world. An adventurous driver would hire a car and make the drive all the way to Salerno for the day. Buses, priced at EUR6.80 for the day (2017) depart from in front of the Circumvesuviana station for Positano (with its multicoloured cliff hanging houses, similar to Santorini in Greece), and Amalfi. From Amalfi, you need to take the Sita coach to Ravello, to see its famous cathedral. If you have a car, you may even have time to go further down, halfway to Salerno, where you will find the gastronomic capital of Cetara, in Campania. An ancient lookout point can be seen on the way, the Cerniola Tower which is on the beach in Erchie.

The Amalfi Coast with its plethora of interesting places which is only briefly listed here, is much better known than the Adriatic coast in the East of Italy, and it has many more resorts and beaches. Its popularity is only rivalled by the Italian (Ligurian) Riviera, of which Levanto (just north of the villages of the Cinque Terre), is similarly the very charming gateway.

