

Due to tougher quarantine laws

Several local companies pull out of WTM London

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Over 20 travel companies from Sri Lanka will participate in the annual World Tourism Market event from November 1 to 3 in ExCel exhibition centre in London.

The 2020 edition of the WTM was not held due to the COVID Pandemic and the event was entirely held virtually. "2020 year was the first time since the event was launched in 2020 that there was no live event," WTM London's Senior Director Simon Press said.

In 2021 with C-19 settling down and people getting used to living with it and Sri Lanka being ungraded from the COVID Red list to Ampere over 50 travel companies were eagerly waiting to attend the live event.

"With Sri Lanka being taken off the red list there was a surge of



new participating companies," an official from Sri Lanka Tourism said.

However, with England stamping touch quarantine laws and the Sri Lankan Embassy based in London unable to clarify the correct 'ground situation' with regard to the period of quarantine and other valuable and timely advice expected from a foreign mission, several industry stakeholders pulled out.

An Sri Lankan Embassy official had even told them that they

can give any advice and guidance to travellers flying to Sri Lanka and not vice versa!

"Now only 20 Sri Lankans would be participating," the SLTB official said. "Even the Marketing Head handling the London market from SLTB is unable to go due to these issues." However Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority Chairperson Kimarli Fernando who, who was in London for the past few days, would be

attending the WTM. "Most of the local companies who booked stalls with the Sri Lankan Pavilion would be hiring representatives from London to engage in the promotion during the WTM."

When contacted, Minister of Tourism Prasanna Ranatunga said that he is unable to confirm his presence as well.

Cargills among Most Admired Companies in SL

CIMA, ICC Sri Lanka and the Daily FT recognized the winners of Sri Lanka's Most Admired Companies Awards, at an event held at the BMICH recently. The award recognized companies not just for their financial performance but also the value they create for their shareholders, customers, employees and the wider community.

As an essential service provider and a leading food company, Cargills continued to meet the needs of consumers during a challenging year. In 2020 to operating 465 supermarkets outlets and 50 restaurants across the country. Cargills operates 8 manufacturing facilities which produce value added dairy products, confectionery, beverages, culinary products, and convenience food. The Group's main food brands have become leading national brands over time, with a key focus on quality and innovation.

Cargills has given prominence to sourcing its raw materials locally, creating markets for local farmers and



suppliers, staying true to its mission of supporting regional development and bridging disparities across the country.

The Group is the single largest collector of fruits and vegetables in the country and also the leading private sector collector of fresh milk, working with a network of over 23,000 agricultural and dairy farmers. Cargills generated direct income over Rs. 9 billion to the dairy and agriculture farming communities in Sri Lanka last year through its purchases.

With a team of 12,000, Cargills is also a key generator of opportunities for the rural youth. Over 60% of the Cargills team comes from regions outside the Western

Province and more than 70% of the team is under the age of 35. The company invests in developing the skills of its young team through an internal training academy – the Albert A. Page Institute – which provides internationally recognized certifications and training programs.

The company invested Rs 6.4 billion during the last financial year across all its business verticals, to further grow and drive community development. One of oldest companies in the country, with a heritage of 177 years, Cargill continues to stay true to its core values of providing affordable nutrition and serving communities across Sri Lanka.

Home Lands Group of Companies rebrands under new logo

Home Lands Group of Companies, one of the leading real estate companies in Sri Lanka has rebranded and will soon relocate to its new office at Pannipitiya Road, Battaramulla.

Home Lands Group is renowned for its exquisite land plots in great locations and elegant and uncompromising apartments and residences, aimed at the local and international masses, with a 28,000+ customer base.

Founded in 2003, Home Lands Group of Companies has since grown to become the undisputed leader in real estate in the country. With seven branches island-wide and nine well-established subsidiaries, Home Lands presents itself as a 3600 total solutions provider in the real estate industry committed to offering residential and real estate solutions



while exceeding client expectations.

Furthermore, Home Lands Group of Companies provides various essential and complementary property services, all while increasing the quality of life for its clients.

Recognizing that the land market in Sri Lanka is becoming increasingly competitive, and since the company was in the process of realigning with the new changes to come, they believed that rebranding was the best approach to maintain the company's edge, deliver tremendous growth and re-enter the market in a new light.

Nalin Herath said, "Our portfolio of residential development and real estate prop-

erty solutions has never been better, and our continuous innovation will assist expedite the real estate process for our consumers." "Home Lands is a respected and renowned brand with a proven track record of efficiency and innovation. This decision to rebrand will reflect our offering to our loyal and trusted customer base, and is, therefore, the next step in our business's growth."

Through this, he aims to re-emphasize the values and culture that define who Home Lands Holdings is as a company while also gaining renewed customer attention; to capitalize on the chance to establish a solid and revitalized impression on customers despite the obstacles and difficulty of the previous year and a half owing to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Ceylinco Life certified 'Great Workplace' by Great Place to Work

Ceylinco Life has been certified as a 'Great Workplace' in Sri Lanka for a second consecutive year with a five-mark improvement over the overall rating accorded to the life insurance leader last year, following an independent analysis conducted by Great Place to Work a global authority on workplace culture.

The analysis includes an assessment of the employee experience based on five principles (Credibility, Respect, Fairness, Pride, and Camaraderie) through the Trust Index Survey and an assessment of existing people practices through the Culture Audit Management Questionnaire.

The survey which covered 100 per cent of Ceylinco Life's full-time employees revealed that the overall

perception regarding the Company as a workplace is more positive than the collective perception of individual elements of workplace engagement. This was gathered from the employees' responses to feeling most positively about the pivotal and emotive statement "My work has special meaning; this is not just a job."

Furthermore, over 85 per cent of the survey participants awarded 'Great' and 'Fair' ratings to the investigative question that explored how much confidence the employees had in the management team's decisions. This is a testament to the trust that Ceylinco Life has earned over the years and in turn translates to the success of its operation, including

employee engagement and customer satisfaction, the Company said.

Ceylinco Life scored higher than the averages of the 40 Best Workplaces in Sri Lanka in 2020 published by Great Place to Work for the criteria of 'Business acumen' and 'Management clarity.' Additionally, 'Management reliability,' 'Pride' and 'Credibility' emerged as areas of relative strength for the organization.

Great Place to Work also observed that "Long term association with the organization" is the strongest performing Workplace Health Indicator for Ceylinco Life.



intense pressure too, and in their efforts to keep operations going during lockdowns companies can make the mistake of not paying adequate attention to employee concerns. At Ceylinco Life, we recognize that employee confidence and trust are a top priority, and more so in difficult times."

Notably, Ceylinco Life was named a 'Great Workplace' in 2020 too, when the Company first applied for the certification offered by Great Place to Work.

Great Place to Work is the global authority on high-trust, high-performance workplace cultures.

EMS Leisure announces Chatra, first luxury property in Digana, Kandy

EMS Leisure Holdings Pvt Ltd, a Sri Lankan company formed as a partnership between EMS Property and a group of elite Sri Lankan professionals based out of Dubai, announced its first project focused on developing, selling and subsequently operating a Holiday Home Villa cluster in Digana, Kandy, named "Chatra."

Overlooking the Victoria reservoir and the Knuckles Mountain Range, inspired by its location and proximity to nature, Chatra brims with natural beauty and offers a contiguous experience ideal for affluent living. Ranging from 20 perches to 23 perches, each plot will promote a home garden/orchard area for organic gardening of



Vinod K. V. the Group CEO of EMS Leisure

fruits and vegetables, along with a plunge pool to relax in serenity.

The project comprises of waterfront villas, within a gated community environment offering communal

areas and a spa, restaurant, fitness area, a jogging pathway, and other open spaces surrounded by lush greenery. The project features 16 bespoke Villas in 8 unique designs and seeks to build holiday homes for discerning investors, together with a community outreach programme. With sizes ranging from 3,348sqf - 4,435sqf and starting at an investment of US\$ 350,000 per villa, Chatra hopes to open its doors in the last quarter of 2023.

All villas will be fully furnished with premium architectural input and minimalist designs while catering to modern day needs.

Vinod K. V. the Group CEO of EMS Leisure said, "We believe that despite the



current challenging economic climate, Sri Lanka represents a strong opportunity for investment and growth. We want to capitalize on this by providing world class luxury living experiences in one of the most picturesque countries in the world that will prove to be of outstanding value to customers and stakeholders. We also have plans to make further investments into the country."

The architect for this project is Sanath Liyanage who

is the founder of Earth & Space Architects, a comprehensive and award-winning architectural practice that collaborates with several specialist teams from different disciplines, who is also currently handling different aspects of the project.

Incorporated in 2019, EMS Leisure's origin strategically brought together specialist partners from Travel, Hospitality, Sales & Marketing, Accounting and Construction.

Overseas Realty appoints Ajit Jayaratne as Chairman

Overseas Realty (Ceylon) PLC announced the appointment of Ajit Mahendra De Silva Jayaratne as the new Chairman of the Company with effect from October 27, 2021, following the demise of S P Tao, the Founder and Chairman of Overseas Realty (Ceylon) PLC. (1991-2021)

Prior to being appointed as Chairman of the Company, Ajit Jayaratne was an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Company since 2005. He is also the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

He served at Forbes & Walker Limited for most of his working life, culminating in being appointed as the Chairman of the Company, a position he held for several years. He also served as the Chairman of the



Ajit Jayaratne Chairman

Colombo Stock Exchange, Finance Commission and Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. Upon retiring from the private sector, he was appointed as Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Singapore. Upon completing his term in Singapore and returning to Sri Lanka, he

continues to serve on the Boards of several public companies.

Furthermore, the Company announced the appointment of Ben Nien Tao, the son of S P Tao, as a Non-Executive Director of Overseas Realty (Ceylon) PLC with effect from October 27, 2021. Mr. Ben Tao is a director of the Shing Kwan Group of Companies and holds an indirect shareholding of 1,063,519,897 shares in the Company. Ben Tao served as the Alternate Director to Shing Pee Tao and upon his demise he ceased to be an Alternate Director with effect from August 24, 2021.

The Singapore based real estate specialists, Shing Kwan Group are the majority shareholders of Overseas Realty (Ceylon) PLC.



Colombo City Centre brings you the chance to enjoy an elevated experience with the 'I Love Colombo' campaign, dedicated towards introducing new and unique elements to Colombo City Centre for the enjoyment of all shoppers and as a value addition for tourists visiting Sri Lanka.

Being at the heart of the commercial capital, Colombo City Centre embarked on a new journey to enhance the Colombo experience. A new signage featuring 'I LOVE CMB' was recently unveiled on Muttiah Road, as an eye-catching landmark signifying the location of Colombo.

Inspired by similar signages

'I Love Colombo' campaign at Colombo City Centre

across the world, like the 'I Love Amsterdam' and 'I Love NY' signages, this unique icon can be used to capture amazing photos with friends and family as well as create lasting memories, whether you're a local or a tourist.

An interesting history lies behind these significant signages. The 'I Love NY' logo was initially created as a part of an advertising campaign that aimed to boost tourism and attract more visitors to the city of New York, by displaying large signages with their

signature icon in prominent locations, along with merchandise that visitors could purchase as mementos of their trip to New York.

Visitors to Colombo City Centre are warmly invited to come witness the uniqueness of the 'I LOVE CMB' signage and create wonderful memories by capturing photos with this iconic design.

A new signage can also be found at the main entrance of Colombo City Centre, thereby making it extremely easy for shoppers to

locate and identify the building, especially for visitors who are travelling from areas out of Colombo.

Another unique addition to the list of landmarks is a signage featuring two hands that signify 'I Love Colombo' in a distinctive yet easily understandable design.

Visitors can also make full use of the new and improved concierge desk, conveniently located on the Ground Floor, near the entrance of the Mall. Dedicated towards providing the best cus-

tom experience in Colombo for every single shopper, this is your go-to place for all customer enquiries and services.

A few vintage cars will be displayed inside the Mall at Colombo City Centre, which has been inaugurated with the exhibition of an Austin 7. This car was first introduced in 1922, as a representation of freedom on the open road, where you could go to places that weren't accessible via public transport.

The Austin 7 went through many modifications and later

achieved great popularity not only in Britain, but also in Germany, France, Japan and America. The Austin 7 also served a stint as a racing car, paving the way for success in many inaugural motor races of the past.

All details of the 'I Love Colombo' campaign can be found on the Colombo City Centre Facebook and Instagram pages, where constant updates are shared along with the opportunity to win valuable CCC Gift Vouchers.

Colombo City Centre is always committed towards providing the safest environment for visitors to shop, dine and enjoy world-class entertainment.