

ComBank Among SL's 10 Most Women-Friendly Workplaces

The Commercial Bank of Ceylon was among the top 10 winners at the inaugural Women Friendly Workplace (WFWP) Awards, jointly organised by Satyn, Sri Lanka's first online magazine for women and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) Sri Lanka.

The WFWP Awards were launched to recognise organisations that encourage and empower women at the workplace, add value to the role of women in the workplace and reiterate Sri Lanka's commitment to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 5, which covers gender equality and opportunity.

Commercial Bank's commitment to equal opportunity irrespective of gender and other variables in its Human Resources Management processes, including recruitment policy, benefits and pay, training and development opportunities, and policies on abuse and harassment, contributed towards winning this award.

The WFWP Top 10 Award was



Commercial Bank Deputy General Manager, Human Resource Management, Isuru Tillakawardana and Chief Manager, Human Resources, Pushpa Chandrasiri (extreme left and second from left) with International Finance Corporation's Programme Manager, Women in Work Sri Lanka, Sarah Twigg (centre) at the awards ceremony

accepted by Commercial Bank Deputy General Manager Human Resource Management Isuru Tillakawardana and Chief Manager HR, Pushpa Chandrasiri on behalf of the Bank at a ceremony

held at Cinnamon Grand where the International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Programme Manager-Women in Work Sri Lanka Sarah Twigg was the Chief Guest.

HNB Assurance among the 'Top 10 Women-Friendly Workplaces'



Some of HNBA and HNBGI Staff Members

HNB Assurance PLC (HNBA) has been recognised among the Top 10 Women-Friendly Workplaces in Sri Lanka at Women Friendly Workplaces Awards 2021 organised by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and Satyn Magazine. The event was recently held at Cinnamon Grand, Colombo.

Sharing his thoughts, Chief Executive Officer of HNBA and its fully owned subsidiary, HNB General Insurance Limited (HNBGI), Prasantha Fernando said, "In today's society women play multiple roles, taking on many challenges to support their families and children. However, most women find it both difficult

and challenging to balance responsibilities of their respective profession with the traditionally female-oriented duties required by them at home. Creating a gender equal workplace is not a social imperative but it's all about good business sense".

The Chief Human Resources Officer of HNBA and HNBGI, Dinuka Pattikiriarachchi said, "This recognition is indeed a great honour to all of us at HNBA and HNBGI. The HNBA Group's vision has always been to create a work environment promoting equality, inclusion and diversity and this recognition is a testament to our commitment to women across the country.

NDB introduces ZEE – Digital Youth Account

NDB Zee opens up a world of possibilities for youth of this country between the ages of 18 to 28, with a digitally enhanced offering that will go hand-in-hand with the world as it is now and in the future.

Understanding the technological and digital savvy nature of this particular generation, NDB Bank has provided the means by which Gen Zers can simply open an NDB Zee account through the Video-Know-Your-Customer (VKYC) process from wherever they are, without ever having to visit a branch.

By providing the youth with the necessary tools for success and inspiring them to embark on a journey driven by passion and ambition, NDB Zee aims to pave the way for the Zee account holders and assist them to achieve each milestone in their life. Thus, NDB Zee will reward high achievers. For instance, if an account holder emerges Island 1st in the GCE A/L examinations, they will receive a reward of Rs 100,000 and if they emerge with a District 1st rank, they will get a reward of Rs 10,000. Meanwhile the account holder will also be able to avail themselves of

higher education loans & advisory services when required.

The account holder, on reaching his or her 21st birthday, will be given a complimentary Birthday gift and upon being employed, will also be able to apply for his or her own credit card and Salary Advance. Additionally, all account holders will also be eligible for special card offers, Discount offers from mobile providers, Gym memberships, e-commerce offers and a number of other possibilities as suited to them. Advisory services will also be available for NDB Zee account holders in relation to higher education options, career progression and business start-up and growth. NDB Zee will be with its client in the crucial years as they enter adulthood right until they are established with a steady foundation.

NDB ZEE is a strategic part of the bank's digital journey and is involved in exploring, investing in and developing the digital banking arena, while on the fast track to becoming one of the best Digital Banking providers for the convenience of the country's youth.

SLIC Minimuthu education plans

Sri Lanka has 15 state universities but only about 30,000 students are admitted annually out of the 350,000 who sit the university entrance (GCE A/L) examination every year due to the limited capacity of the country's universities. Around 12,000 students go abroad annually for higher education, with an estimated US\$400 million for the foreign universities.

Considering the growing cost for education and necessity of having funds for the same, the national insurer Sri Lanka Insurance provides insurance solutions allowing parents to secure a bright future for their children.

Sri Lanka insurance Minimuthu Education plans have a range of education plans to choose to fit with parent's requirement it may be protection, financial security or affordability. The Minimuthu Education plans are the one-stop solution to secure the future of children through a disciplined savings habit.

Having their future financially secured with Minimuthu Education



plans will allow them to have access to education and achieve their dreams and goals.

The Minimuthu Education plans offer a range of insurance solutions comprised with Minimuthu Dayada, Minimuthu Children's Policy and Minimuthu Parithyaga.

Minimuthu Dayada insurance plan sets a foundation for the child's future today with the

insurance policy. Specially designed to ensure the child receives highly beneficial returns at an affordable premium.

Minimuthu Children's Policy offers a comprehensive, policy for parents and children that covers an unexpected loss or event, assuring the child a guaranteed future of financial freedom and added benefits. Sri Lanka Insurance insures the child and both parents with the

Minimuthu Children's Policy, where the child can continue to follow their ambitions as a young adult, even though external circumstances are beyond their control.

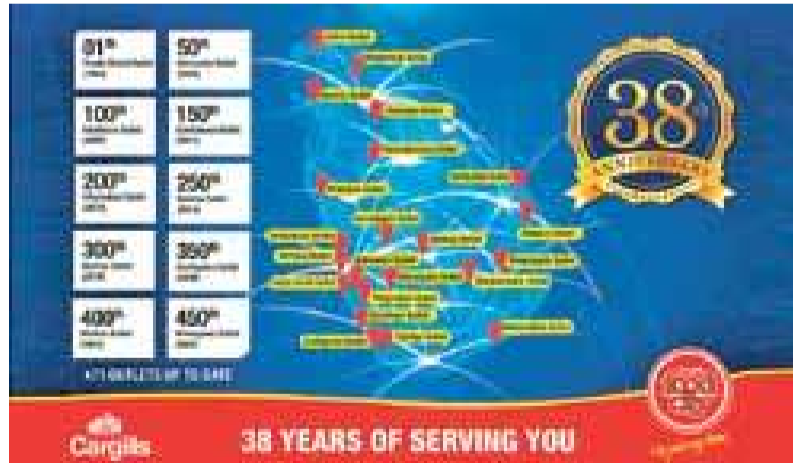
Minimuthu Parithyaga Children's Plan, supports the responsibility in securing total protection for the child with a low, highly affordable premium allowing parents to gift their child their dream for a brighter future.

Cargills Food City turns 38

The story of Cargills Food City is one of creating markets for farmers and small entrepreneurs, while offering customers higher value at the lowest price. Starting operations in 1983, during an era where supermarkets catered to the elite, Food City has changed this phenomenon by making modern trade accessible to all. Since its inception, the mission of Food City has been to reduce the cost of living for consumers.

Significant investments have been made to achieve this goal and the company currently operates 471 outlets, serving all 25 districts in Sri Lanka. The first outlet was opened at Staples Street, Colombo in 1983, the 100th outlet in Kalutara in 2007, 200th in Piliyandala in 2013, 300th in Elpitiya in 2016, and 400th in Wattala in 2019.

Cargills has expanded its retail chain to include three different formats - Food City supermarkets, Cargills Express convenience stores, and the Cargills Foodhall Gourmet store. The company also launched its e-commerce operation Cargills Online in 2020 to cater to growing online demand. Today, Food City has become a household name, trusted for quality, availability, convenience, and the best prices across Sri Lanka. Food City's assurance of the lowest price has



become the benchmark for pricing in the country.

A visit by company officials to Hanguranketa in 1999, to listen to the challenges faced by the farming community, moved the retail chain to forge direct links between local farmers and its supermarkets. Since then, Cargills Food City has developed a farmer outgrower programme with extension services, which have made it the single largest collector of fruits and vegetables in Sri Lanka today, sourcing farm fresh produce from a network of 11 collection centres spread across the country, which are delivered to its outlets within 24 hours. Over two per cent of the national production of fruits and vegetables are sold through its supermarkets. Cargills collects

over 120 metric tons of fresh produce every day.

In addition to creating a marketplace for farmers, the company has made considerable investments to improve agriculture production. Through its agriculture modernisation project, Cargills Food City promotes good farming practices which produce higher yields and higher incomes for farmers and a cleaner, more nutritious harvest. The company invests in providing training programmes for farmers, including providing them with exposure to international agricultural best practice through overseas visits. One key outcome of the agri-modernisation project is the 'Good Harvest' branded fresh produce sold at Food City outlets, which are grown based on

globally accepted standards by farmers who have obtained the GAP (Good Agriculture Practices) certification. Food City also makes 100% agrochemical free fresh produce available to consumers through its 'BeeSafe' branded vegetables.

Cargills also supports the families of the farming communities through a fund which provides laptops and educational scholarships to farmer children, while providing a credit insurance scheme for farmers to protect them against crop failure.

The retail chain supports regional development in different parts of the country through continuous investments in creating more markets, thereby increasing demand and supporting the livelihoods of local farmers and entrepreneurs. It is also an important employment generator for the local youth, who receive access to internationally recognised certifications and training programmes offered through the Cargills training academy, known as the Albert A. Page Institute. Backed by the support and contribution of all stake holders, the company aims to widen its reach and engage closely with customers, while delivering better nutrition and value for money to customers.

Dankotuwa launches porcelain bathroom accessories

Dankotuwa Porcelain PLC, renowned for its luxurious and elegant porcelainware recently introduced a series of innovative giftware - their very first porcelain bathroom accessories - thus moving away from traditional tableware. This bathroom accessory set which consists of four distinctive items, a vanity tray, tumbler, soap dish and soap/shampoo bottle adorn each bathroom enhancing the level of sophistication and glam to the normal bathroom setting.

Renowned for its innovations and introduction of elegant trends in both the local and global markets, Dankotuwa takes pride in innovating new and current products that are relevant to today's themes. The all - new bathroom accessories set is one such example

of the Company not only increasing its product portfolio but also venturing into the non - tableware category.

The Dankotuwa bathroom accessory can be purchased either in pristine white or in ivory off - white. It can also be purchased as a set or as individual pieces. Products are available at all Dankotuwa showrooms - namely Signature Showroom at Guilford Crescent, Colombo 7, One Galle Face Mall, Colombo 1, Kirulapone, Negombo and Dankotuwa. This porcelain set is recently priced, especially for the quality. It is durable for everyday use, but it still feels refined and classy enough. The new bathroom accessory sets have been restricted to white and off white due to their aesthetic appeal, resilience, and practicality.