



CLAO!

News Letter

Sri Lanka - Italy Business Council of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce

Trade fairs in Italy 2016

Information from - http://www.eventscye.com/fairs/c1_trade-shows_italy.html

Exhibition Name	Cycle	City / Location	Next Date
MY SPECIAL CAR SHOW <i>Automobile & Tuning Exhibition</i>	once a year	Rimini > Rimini Fiera	09.04 - 10.04 2016
ALPITEC <i>International Trade Show for Mountain- and Winter Technologies</i>	every 2 years	Bolzano > Fiera Bolzano	09.04 - 11.04 2016
PALAKISS SPRING <i>Specialized jewelry exhibition</i>	once a year	Vicenza > Palakiss Business Center	09.04 - 11.04 2016
ANTIQUARIA PADOVA <i>Fine Art and Antiques Show</i>	once a year	Padua > PadovaFiere	09.04 - 17.04 2016
TORINO COMICS <i>Comics Exhibition</i>	once a year	Torino > Lingotto Fiere	10.04 - 11.04 2016
I MEAT <i>Trade show dedicated exclusively to butchers</i>	once a year	Modena > Modena Fiere	10.04 - 12.04 2016
B COME BIMBO <i>Children & Family Fair</i>	once a year	Pordenone > Pordenone Fiere	10.04 - 12.04 2016
IBIC <i>International Conference on Industrial Biotechnology</i>	every 2 years	Bologna	10.04 - 13.04 2016
AGRIFOOD CLUB <i>International Quality Agro-Foods Event. Sol&Agrifood and its initiatives encourage direct contact between producers & trade operators, buyers & catering professionals from pasta to delicatessen meats, confectionery to beer and coffee</i>	once a year	Verona > Verona Exhibition Centre	10.04 - 13.04 2016
ENOLITECH <i>Exhibition for Technologies of Viticulture, Enology and of Technologies for Olive Growing Oil Production</i>	once a year	Verona > Verona Exhibition Centre	10.04 - 13.04 2016
SOL <i>Exhibition of Olive Oil</i>	once a year	Verona > Verona Exhibition Centre	10.04 - 13.04 2016
VINITALY <i>Wine & Spirits Trade Exhibition</i>	once a year	Verona > Verona Exhibition Centre	10.04 - 13.04 2016
EUROCUCINA <i>International Kitchen Furniture Exhibition. EuroCucina runs concurrently with the International Bathroom Exhibition and brings together in the same place the top Italian and foreign manufacturers</i>	every 2 years	Milan > Fiera Milano, Rho	12.04 - 14.04 2016
SALONE DEL COMPLEMENTO D'ARREDO <i>Furnishing Accessories Exhibition</i>	once a year	Milan > Fiera Milano, Rho	12.04 - 17.04 2016
SALONE INTERNAZIONALE DEL BAGNO <i>International Bathroom Exhibition</i>	every 2 years	Milan > Fiera Milano, Rho	12.04 - 17.04 2016
SALONE INTERNAZIONALE DEL MOBILE MILANO <i>Milan Furniture Fair (Salone Internazionale del Mobile) is the world's largest home design exhibition</i>	once a year	Milan > Fiera Milano, Rho	12.04 - 17.04 2016
PHARMINTECH <i>Innovation Exhibition for the Pharmaceutical and Para Pharmaceutical Industries</i>	every 3 years	Bologna > Bologna Exhibition Centre	13.04 - 15.04 2016
COSMOFARMA <i>International Exhibition of Products and Services for Health, Wellness and Beauty offered in the Pharmacy</i>	once a year	Bologna > Bologna Exhibition Centre	15.04 - 17.04 2016
MANUALMENTE <i>Handicrafts & Manual Creativity Exhibition</i>	once a year	Torino > Lingotto Fiere	15.04 - 17.04 2016
UDINE MOTORI <i>Motor Show</i>	once a year	Udine > Udine e Gorizia Fiere	16.04 - 17.04 2016
TEMPO LIBERO / FREIZEIT <i>Trade Show for Sport, Hobby, Leisure and Mountain</i>	once a year	Bolzano > Fiera Bolzano	22.04 - 25.04 2016
A TUTTA BIRRA <i>Beer Fair</i>	once a year	Udine > Udine e Gorizia Fiere	22.04 - 30.04 2016
RADIOAMATORE HI-FI CAR <i>Trade show Equipment for Radio Hams, Transmitters and Transceivers, Antennas and Accessories, Electronic Components, Computers, Hi-Fi Car Equipment</i>	once a year	Pordenone > Pordenone Fiere	23.04 - 24.04 2016
ART - THE HANDICRAFTS TRADE FAIR <i>International Handicrafts Trade Fair</i>	once a year	Florence > Fortezza da Basso	23.04 - 01.05 2016



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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2015-2016

President

Ms. Tania Polonnowita Wettimuny
Managing Director
Hellman Worldwide Logistics (Pvt) Ltd

Vice President

Mr. Rajah Abeyasinghe JP
Chief Executive Officer
Hydromec International (Pvt) Ltd

Vice President

Ms. Sonali Liyanamana
Chief Executive Officer
Interglobe - Worldlink Air Services (Pvt) Ltd

Immediate Past President

Mr. Daya Ratnaayake
CEO/Managing Director
Ausafrasia Designer Tiles (Pvt) Ltd

Executive Committee

Mr. Rajeev Aloysius
Jt. Managing Director
The Autodrome PLC

Mr. Mahendra Jayasekera
Managing Director
Lanka Walltiles PLC

Mr. Shamil Mendis
Chairman/ Managing Director
Spear International (Pvt) Ltd.

Mr. Yohan Peries
Vice President - John Keells Holdings PLC
Head of Business Development - Europe
Walkers Tours Limited

Mr. Harsha de Alwis
Head of Remittances and FCBU Operations
DFCC Bank PLC

Mr. Avindra Weerasinghe
Managing Director
Ally Weerasinghe Ltd.

Mr. Anushka Polonowita
General Manager
EuroSports Auto Lanka (Pte) Ltd.,
Subsidiary of Micro Holdings

Mr. Janaka Gunasekera
Director
A Baur & Co. Ltd.



Expo Milan 2015 - Sri Lanka National Day Programme

Expo Milan was a very high profile international event and the Government of Sri Lanka took a decision that leading agencies including Board of Investment of Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka Export Development Board to promote Sri Lanka's image in Italy and in the European Union to this effect Chairman of Sri Lanka Tourism Bureau Dr. Rohantha Atukorala was appointed as a Commissioner General.

The EDB and Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau participated as the main participants along with the participation of BOI and the following agencies:

- Sri Lanka Tea Board
- National Gem & Jewellery Authority
- National Crafts Council
- Sri Lankan Airlines
- Department of Commerce

Objective of BOI's participation at Expo Milan was to target Italian /European investors and address some of the misconceptions about the business and investment climate in Sri Lanka.

- It was important to present correct information on Sri Lanka to key Italian business leaders as well as other potential European investors, as BOI has not conducted an investment promotion programme for a large group of Italian / European investors in the recent past.
- Leading Italian companies have indicated interest in investing in Sri Lanka in the recent past.
- Sri Lanka is an ideal location for Italian /European business seeking to target the large sub continental market. Italian /European companies operating in Sri Lanka for export to India and Pakistan can enjoy a special tariff preference for products manufactured in Sri Lanka under the respective Free Trade Agreement.

BOI was represented by Ms. Nilupul De Silva, Director (Promotion) and in charge of relations with European countries.

BOI was able to obtain access to members of the Milan Chambers of Commerce and (Compagnia Dello Opere) CDO and important business circle in Italy. The forum was the only single platform to meet and address the Italian industry and business interested in doing business in Asia. It was an ideal opportunity to show the Italian/ European industry and business that Sri Lanka is the most preferred destination to invest in this region.

The presentation made by Mr. Marco Carletto, Managing Director of Calzedoniare regarding their success story in Sri Lanka was the highlight at the business forum. Summary of the contents of his speech is given below.

Mr. Marco Carletto firstly reported some figures about the Calzedonia Group:

- Consolidated turnover in 2015 of around 2 billion euros.
- More than 30,000 employees around the world.
- Approximately 4,000 shops in 28 countries.
- A main focus on Europe, but expanding further afield, with projects in Hong Kong, Japan, Brazil and in the near future the USA.



The feedback received by the BOI in Milan from the Italian companies was extremely positive. Many Italian companies indicated interest in investing in Sri Lanka, an inward delegation from CDO is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka in 2016. **In fact Sri Lanka was placed on the international map as a result of Mr. Marco Carletto's, address at the business forum.**

*By Nilupul De Silva, Director (Promotion)
Board of Investment of Sri Lanka*



Understanding Europe

Country	Current Currency	Currency Code	EU Member	SchengenVisa ?
Albania	Lek	ALL	x	✓
Austria	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Belgium	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Convertible Mark	BAM	x	7
Bulgaria	Lev	BGN	x	✓
Croatia	Kuna	HRK	✓	✓
Czech Republic	Koruna	CZK	✓	✓
Cyprus	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Estonia	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Finland	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
France	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Georgia	Lari	GEL	x	x
Germany	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Greece	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Hungary	Forint	HUF	✓	✓
Iceland	Króna	ISK	✓	✓
Ireland (Irish Republic)	Euro	EUR	✓	x
Italy	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Latvia	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Lithuania	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Luxembourg	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Macedonia	Denar	MKD	x	15
Malta	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Moldova	Leu	MDL	x	x
Monaco	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Netherlands	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Norway	Krone	NOK	x	✓
Poland	Zloty	PLN	✓	✓
Portugal	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Romania	Leu	ROL	x	5
Slovakia	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Slovenia	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Spain	Euro	EUR	✓	✓
Sweden	Kroner	SEK	✓	✓
Switzerland	Franc	CHF	x	✓
Turkey	Lira	TRL	x	x
UK	Sterling Pound	GBP	✓	x

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States the no. of days stay with a valid **Schengen multiple-entry** visa, even through they are not part of the area. Conditions apply.

✓

Acceptance of Multiple-entry C-Schengen visas, when entering from Schengen area, within validity. Other financial conditions may apply.



Award Ceremony of Italian Language Course for Beginners - Batch 1

The Award Ceremony to the Students of the first batch of students that followed the eight week Italian Language Course for Beginners was held at the SLITBC AGM on the 27th of July 2015 at Hilton Colombo Residencies. The 12 students that had successfully completed the course received their certificates from the Charge d’Affairs Embassy of Italy, Mr. Giandomenico Milano.



Commencement of Italian Language Course for Beginners - Batch 2

The 2nd Batch of Italian Language Course for Beginners commenced on the 24th of October 2015 with six participants. Ms. Cristiana Cortiana, a qualified and experienced teacher, who conducted the 1st Batch continues to conduct the course.

Christmas Dinner & Welcome Reception for the New Ambassador

The Annual Christmas Dinner & Welcome Reception for the New Ambassador of Italy to Sri Lanka, His Excellency Paolo Andrea Bartorelli, hosted together with the Sri Lanka Italy Friendship Society was held on 1st December, 2015 at Hilton Colombo Residencies.



Siena: Tuscany’s lesser known wonder

Siena is the second great city-state in Tuscany after Florence, and is also famous for its culture, cobblestoned streets and many attractions. Unlike Florence (against which it fought many wars) it is a great hill town, usually paired with Assisi in nearby Umbria in tourist itineraries. It is well connected to Rome’s Tiburtina bus station by the SENA bus (8 times daily, year round), which takes three hours, and costs about EUR16. The train connection (either from Rome Termini or even Fiumicino Airport) takes longer and requires a change at Florence’s Santa Maria Novella station. The train stops at Siena’s small train station, from which you need to get to the old city centre by bus –otherwise a 1.3km climb up a steep hill. Most of the buses arrive/leave from the bus station at the Piazza Gramsci (square) in the centre. From here, it is less than half a kilometre to the cathedral and Piazza del Campo. As with many places in Italy, there are hostels, chain hotels, independent hotels and home-stays for all budgets. While in the city, you are unlikely to need public transport, because everything is within 20 minutes walking distance. For centuries after its defeat by Florence, Siena was a peaceful poor city, and its beautiful medieval buildings were left untouched, with no sign of modernity. After the tourism boom starting about 150 years ago, some new buildings appeared. The city centre remains ready for tourists to take hundreds of photos of views that have not changed for perhaps 500 years. Some portions of the old walls that encircled the city during medieval times have been preserved, and the historical section of the city with narrow streets, once used by horse carts, now allows only pedestrians.

The jewel in the crown of Siena is its cathedral. A combined ticket gives you access to all the connected attractions (EUR 10 off-season, EUR15 during the season). It has a mostly black and white façade and glistens in the sun. The Piccolomini Chapel is where Michelangelo worked for three years, carving the statues in the lower niches. The glorious pulpit is by Nicola Pisano, with bible stories from both testaments. The Baptistry of St. John has an ornate font (1417-1431) by Donatello, Ghiberti, Giovanni di Turino and others, made of bronze, marble and vitreous enamel, along with other great art dating from 1427.

The pilgrim has two other stops. They are the Basilica of San Domenico, also known as Basilica Cateriniana, and the House of St. Catherine, which was made a Sanctuary in 1464. The first is a Basilica which contains her incorrupt head and finger, as patron saint of the city, as well as co-patron of Italy (with St. Francis of Assisi) and co-patron of Europe.

The centre of the city has the imposing Piazza del Campo, with its famous Torre del Mangia (87m, 400 steps), which offers one of the most beautiful views of the city. This is unusual in Italy – most main squares feature a cathedral, or at least a church. All of the most obvious tourist traps can be found in this area, so try and avoid them.

One of the best conservatoires for music is in Siena – the Accademia Musicale Chigiana. Its alumni include great names such as Claudio Abbado, Zubin Mehta, Salvatore Accardo and the film composer John Williams. It was also involved in organising the Vivaldi Week in 1939, that brought back the great baroque master to the modern public.

If you are visiting in summer, you can see Il Palio, which is a horse race that is held on July 2 (“Palio di Provenzano”) and August 16 (“Palio dell’Assunta”) – both with religious significance. Ten horses and riders, bareback and dressed in the appropriate colours, represent ten of the seventeen city wards.

The city’s best museum is (arguably) the Pinacoteca Nazionale, which contains great works of art from the medieval to renaissance times. Other than these obvious sights, the city itself is the attraction – just walking to the streets and exploring its other museums, churches and buildings and going to view points over the surrounding valley will enrich any holiday beyond the mundane.



By Rajeev Aloysius



Biometric Requirement for Schengen Visas since 2nd November, 2015

On 2 November 2015, the Visa Information System (VIS) will start operations in the so-called "20th region", comprising all South Asian countries – India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives.

As of November 2, 2015 it is required that applicants for a Schengen visa type C (Duration less than 90 days) will need to provide biometric data (fingerprints) when submitting an application. This will be required for all C-visas, whether Business (Affari) or Tourist (Turismo). The biometric data of persons applying for a Schengen visa will be stored in a new Visa Information System (VIS). The biometric data are stored for a period of 59 months and can possibly be reused.

Exemptions for the fingerprinting requirements are only granted to:

- Children under the age of twelve.
- Persons for whom the collection of fingerprints is physically impossible.
- Heads of State and members of National Governments and their accompanying spouses, as well as the members of their official delegation when invited by Member States' governments or by international organizations for an official purpose.

Frequent travelers to the Schengen Area do not have to give new finger scans every time they apply for a new visa. Once finger scans are stored in VIS, they can be re-used for further visa applications over a 5- year period.

As of 2 November 2015, each individual applying for a Schengen visa at the Embassy of Italy in Sri Lanka, must appear in person at a Visa Facilitation Centre, so that the necessary biometric data (ten fingerprints) can be collected.

The Visa Information System: The VIS is a central database which supports the exchange of data on short-stay visas

between Schengen States, in particular between consulates, central visa authorities and border guards. It is a key element of the EU common visa policy and provides Schengen States with a modern and efficient visa application system and represents a major step forward to enhance legitimate mobility and increase security of Sri Lankan citizens when they travel to the EU. The implementation of the VIS is not specific to your Sri Lanka. The VIS has already started in nineteen regions since October 2011 (North Africa, the Near East, the Gulf region, West and Central Africa, East and Southern Africa, South America, Central Asia and South-East Asia, in Central and North America, the Caribbean, and Australasia, in Turkey and the Western Balkans, in the Eastern Partnership countries, and in Russia) and the roll-out of the VIS in East Asia and South Asia (including Sri Lanka) will be in October and November 2015, respectively. By end-November 2015, the VIS will be deployed in all Schengen consulates worldwide. All Schengen States' consulates will be connected to the VIS and register data on short-stay visa applications in the system together with the decisions taken by the visa authorities on these applications.

EVENTS

Please see

<http://www.srilankaitaly.com/next>

for our next event.

Thank you for your support.

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Farewell to the Ambassador His Excellency Fabrizio Arpea

A Farewell Reception for His Excellency Fabrizio Arpea, to acknowledge and appreciate the unstinted support and encouragement extended to the Sri Lanka - Italy Business Council during his tenure here in Sri Lanka was held on 08th June, 2015 at Hilton Colombo Residencies. This was organized by the Council, together with the Sri Lanka Italy Friendship Society. The event attracted over 70 participants.



Expo Milan - Update & Way Forward

The Sri Lanka Export Development Board, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka - Italy Business Council of The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce together with the Commissioner General of Expo Milan 2015 Secretariat organised a seminar on "EXPO MILAN 2015" on 14th July 2015 at the Auditorium of the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management, to update and discuss benefits to the participants.

The seminar was conducted by Mr. Rohantha Athukorala, Commissioner General - Expo-Sri Lanka, Mr. Giandomenico Milano, Charge D' Affairs A.I - Embassy of Italy in Sri Lanka and Mr. Bandula Egodage, Chairman - Sri Lanka Export Development Board.

The 16th Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka – Italy Business Council

The 16th Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka – Italy Business Council was held on 27th July, 2015 at the Hilton Colombo Residencies. Mr. Giandomenico Milano, Charge' D' Affairs A.I, Embassy of Italy was the Chief Guest at the Event. The Committee for the year 2015/16 was elected along with Mrs. Tania Polonnowita Wettimuny, Managing Director, Hellmann Worldwide Logistics (Pvt) Ltd being re-elected as the President of the Council.

