

# Launch of the United Nations Campaign on Sustainable Nitrogen Management

**“Nitrogen for life”**

**23<sup>rd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Colombo, Sri Lanka**



## Associated meetings

**Joint meeting of GCRF South Asia Nitrogen hub working groups, at the  
Taj Samudra Hotel, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2019**

**INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS**

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## I. BACKGROUND

Nitrogen is one of the vital elements for life on earth however our present use of it is driving a web of pollution that threatens health, climate, ecosystems and livelihoods. Humans have more than doubled global nitrogen flows above their natural levels. Nitrogen is polluting our rivers, seas, atmosphere and ecosystems, contributing to climate change and ozone depletion. Urgent action is needed to reduce nitrogen pollution and reach the UN's sustainable development goals.

With a growing population set to reach nine billion by 2050, a coherent strategy to reduce nitrogen waste is needed. The launching of the United Nations Campaign on Sustainable Nitrogen Management "Nitrogen for life" and the Colombo Declaration under the championship of H.E the President of Sri Lanka aims to raise awareness of the nitrogen challenge. The meetings and ceremonial launching of the Colombo declaration invites Environment Ministers to become global champions in helping reduce nitrogen pollution which in turn improves ecosystems, health and wellbeing. As a group of co-operating countries, this event will aim in finalizing and adopting the Colombo declaration as well as preparing for the UNEA-5 in February 2021. Alongside this event will be a joint meeting of the GCRF South Asia Nitrogen hub working groups.

UN environment and H.E. the President of Sri Lanka will host two days of discussions on the nitrogen management agenda and the finalization and adoption of the Colombo Declaration. This will also include the ceremonial launching of the United Nations Campaign on Sustainable Nitrogen Management "Nitrogen for life" and well as the Nitrogen Song. Alongside the event will be the Nitro Innovation Exhibition, addressing reactive N and the environment.

See the list of meetings:

### 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019

10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Inaugural Session
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Press Conference
1:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Science – Policy – Political Dialogue and discussion of the Colombo Declaration
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Nitro Concert

### 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019

9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Science – Policy – Political Dialogue and discussion of the Colombo Declaration
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Closing Session and Official Announcing of the Colombo Declaration

## II. VISITORS TO SRI LANKA

### a. General Information

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is an island country in South Asia, located in the Indian Ocean, separated from the Indian subcontinent by the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait. It is a land of striking landscapes and is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots with an incredible array of flora and fauna. With a documented history spanning 3,000 years, it is also a country of rich cultural history and is home to many cultures, languages and ethnicities. Its geographical location and culture have made Sri Lanka greatly important from the time of the ancient Silk Road to modern times. Sri Lanka's capital city is Colombo with a population of about 5.6 million in the Metropolitan area. Other major cities are Kandy in the midst of the hills of the Kandy plateau, and the port city Galle on the southwestern tip. Sri Lanka is one of the world's most popular tourism destinations attracting millions of tourists over the past years. The country is endowed with attractive tourist sites, rich culture, incredible history, biological diversity and landscapes ranging from beautiful beaches, to wildlife reserves and breath-taking Buddhist temples.

### b. Bandaranaike International Airport (CMB) in Colombo

The airport is located in Katunayake, 32.5 kilometers north of Colombo.

### c. Time Zone

The time zone of Sri Lanka is India Standard Time which is UTC +5:30.

### d. Visas

It is the delegate's own responsibility to obtain a visa for Sri Lanka. The information provided herein acts only as guidance. A valid passport, not expiring for at least six months from date of arrival and with two blank pages is required for entry into Sri Lanka.

A valid entry visa is also required for most countries. Depending on your nationality, you may be eligible for Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) which requires an online application. For other nationalities, you may be required to visit the Sri Lankan embassy in your country of origin or residence. For more information, please visit: <http://www.immigration.gov.lk/>

Delegates from certain countries can apply for Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) and therefore can apply on the following link: <http://www.eta.gov.lk/slvisa/>. Citizens of certain countries that have reciprocal agreements with Sri Lanka may not have to obtain a visa.

#### **e. Health**

Food-borne, water-borne and other infectious diseases (including typhoid, hepatitis, leptospirosis and rabies) are somewhat common with more serious outbreaks sometimes occurring. Please refer to your own countries' health guidelines on Sri Lanka for more information.

Medical costs incurred in Sri Lanka will be the responsibility of the meeting participant directly; it is therefore strongly recommended that you arrange own travel health insurance prior departure from your country and in arrival.

#### **f. Security**

The United Nations Environment Programme and the Sri Lankan Authorities are working closely together to ensure that all precautionary measures are taken for participants' safety and security. However, participants are personally responsible for their movements. Terrorism is a threat throughout the world and this includes Sri Lanka. Since the April 2019 attacks in Colombo, security in the country has increased. Make sure to carry relevant travel and identification documents for any checkpoints. It is also recommended that you carry a form of identification with you at all times.

Please note that you will need to show your passport when entering the BMICH venue on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> for security reasons. Passports will also be required when checking into the Taj Samudra hotel. Please also be aware that the hotel has X-Ray scanners as an extra security precaution.

#### **g. Weather**

The average maximum daytime temperature in Colombo in October is a warm 27°C (81°F). The average night-time temperature is usually a humid 24°C (75°F). There are usually 7 hours of bright sunshine each day. October is in the middle of the second rainy season and is one of the rainiest months in Colombo and it averages around 369 mm of rainfall. Current weather conditions in the area can be found at: <https://www.accuweather.com/en/lk/colombo/311399/current-weather/311399>

#### **h. Electricity**

The electrical currents in Sri Lanka are 230 Volts, 50 Hertz. Kindly, note that Sri Lanka uses the wall switch socket outlet type D with three round pins in a triangular formation. – i.e. as in India and Nepal. Some places will sometimes use type M and G.

#### **i. Official Languages**

The official two languages of the Sri Lanka are Sinhala and Tamil. English), as link language, is also used in government institutions.

#### **j. Money and Banking**

*Currency and exchange rates*

The official currency of the Republic of Sri Lanka is the Sri Lankan rupee (LKR). The current exchange rates are approximately: **1 US Dollar = LKR 181 and 1 EUR = LKR 199**. For more information; <https://www.centralbank.go.lk/rates/forex-exchange-rates/>

Foreign currency can be changed at Bandaranaike International Airport, banks and foreign currency exchange bureaus. Banks with ATM services in major centers across the city are open from 09:00 to 15:00hrs Monday to Friday. Most banks are closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

There are some malls that have banks that operate on Sunday and public holidays. However, ATM services are more widely available at designated booth locations in the various malls, selected convenience stores and gas/petrol stations.

#### **k. ATMs**

ATMs are available country wide with 24-hour access. The major banks in Sri Lanka are the Bank of Ceylon, the Commercial Bank of Ceylon and the Hatton National Bank. International banks with operations in Sri Lanka are HSBC, Habib Bank, ICICI Bank and Standard Chartered.

Major international cards are accepted. Credit card fraud occurs in Colombo as in most other parts of the world. The usual precautions should be taken.

#### **l. Travelers' Cheques**

Travelers' cheques rarely have attractive rates in Sri Lanka You're often much better off exchanging cash or using an ATM.

### **III. Event Information**

#### **a. About the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH)**



The BMICH was established in memory of the Late Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon. S W R D Bandaranaike and now is one of Sri Lanka's biggest and most prestigious conference halls. The BMICH has hosted a range of exhibitions and conferences including previous UN meetings and Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2013 Built in the 1970s the BMICH has facilities to host over 5000 people.

The BMICH has a comprehensive fire safety management system with safety parameters and plans as well as fire safety training for all its staff. Security is also of great importance at the BMICH. Please be aware that you may need to show your passport when entering the conference centre. There are also many facilities at the Centre including onsite banking facilities which includes an ATM.

Also on-site is safe and secure parking for up to 2500 vehicles, available over 3 main locations. Shuttle from the Taj Samudra hotel to the BMICH and back will also be provided.

#### **b. Meals and Refreshments**

Breakfast will be provided at the Taj Samudra hotel for all staying guests. Lunch will be provided on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> during the high-level Segment and Science-Policy-Political Dialogue. Lunch will also be provided on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> during the Hub side meetings. Morning and afternoon light snacks and refreshments will also be provided during the meeting days. If you have any dietary requirements, please indicate this on the registration form for the event and don't hesitate to discuss your dietary requirements with catering staff during the event if you have any concerns. The INMS (International Nitrogen Management System) at [inms@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:inms@ceh.ac.uk) or [sanh-office@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:sanh-office@ceh.ac.uk) are also contactable should you have any further queries or concerns.

#### **c. A Sustainable and Climate – Neutral Event**

Like previous meetings, this meeting will tackle pollution by minimizing the environmental impacts and footprints of this year's gathering.

Plastic water bottle will not be served at the conference location and instead water dispensers are available at the venue. You may bring your own bottle to fill water in *Paper smart* - Participants and delegates are encouraged to bring laptops or iPads, as all documents will be made available online and no hard copies will be provided.

*Recycling* – Participants are also encouraged to recycle any waste wherever possible to help reduce the amount of waste going to land fill.

These steps will reduce the meeting pollution footprint by minimizing waste and its dangerous impacts on the environment and human health.

#### **d. Registration**

Registration for the event must be completed online prior to the event. The online application form is available at: <http://www.inms.international/launch-un-global-campaign-sustainable-nitrogen-management-sanh-registration-meeting-attendance#overlay-context=news>

#### **e. Funding**

If receiving meeting attendance support, you will be notified by INMS/UNEP. Please refer to the guidance booklet received and email INMS (International Nitrogen Management System) at [inms@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:inms@ceh.ac.uk) if you have any further questions.

#### **f. Flights and travel**

You will have received information on this via email and if you have any extra queries please contact the INMS (International Nitrogen Management System) at [inms@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:inms@ceh.ac.uk) or [sanh-office@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:sanh-office@ceh.ac.uk). Transfers to and from the airport will be organized by the hotel, if the participant is receiving Meeting Attendance Support. Otherwise it is the participants' own responsibility to organize their airport transfers.

#### **g. Sri Lankan local laws and customs**

Sri Lanka may have some different local laws and customs compared to your home country. Sri Lanka has a majority Buddhist population with significant Hindu, Islamic and Christian communities. In Sri Lanka, it is against the law for women to sell alcohol. It is also illegal to bring more than one carton of cigarettes into the country; however, they can be purchased whilst in Sri Lanka. (The usual amount is around 10% of the bill.) It is recommended that participants research local laws and customs in Sri Lanka and more information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/sri-lanka/local-laws-and-customs>.

**h. Wi-Fi**

Free Wi-Fi is available at the Taj Samudra Hotel and at BMICH

**i. Accessibility**

Accessibility for participants will be provided as much as possible. If any participant has any accessibility requirements, they are invited to indicate this on the registration form or contact INMS (International Nitrogen Management System) at [inms@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:inms@ceh.ac.uk) directly to discuss this further. Please kindly note that translation assistance is unavailable for this event.

**j. Emergency numbers:**

- 110 Fire and Rescue (Ambulance)
- 112 Police (mobile)
- 117 Disaster Management Call Centre
- 119 Police (landline)

## IV. ACCOMODATION

**a. Taj Samudra Hotel**

Hotel accommodation at the Taj Samudra will be provided for participants who are receiving Meeting Attendance Support. For all other participants, a booking link for the Taj Samudra will be provided for them to be able to book their own rooms.

The Taj Samudra Hotel is a 5-star hotel located on Galle Face Centre road, close to Colombo's central business district. The hotel overlooks the Indian Ocean and hosts 300 rooms in 11 acres of gardens. The hotel is a short walk from the city centre and 34 km (21 miles) from the airport.

The hotel has many eating facilities including the Indian restaurant Navratna, a Chinese restaurant called the Golden Dragon, the Japanese restaurant Yumi and an all-day diner called Latitude. There are also pool and 24-hour gym facilities as well as complimentary Wi-Fi. There are options of smoking and non-smoking rooms and 24 hour in-room dining. Further facilities include a travel desk, car rental services, currency exchange, safe deposit lockers and 24hr laundry. There is also a 24hr business centre with 7

meeting rooms and multiple workstations. The Taj Samudra has multi-lingual staff as well as facilities for the disabled. Please also kindly note that all other occurring costs that are not covered by the meeting attendance support such as minibar, telephone, parking and other charges will need to be settled by each individual participant upon their departure. Passports will also be required when checking into the Taj Samudra hotel. Please also be aware that the hotel has X-Ray scanners as an extra security precaution.

Check in is from 2 PM local time and check out is at 12 PM. The hotel accepts American Express, Diner's Club, Master card, Visa and JCB International. Pets are not allowed.

The address for the hotel is No 25, Galle Face Centre Road, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The contact number for the hotel is +94 11-2446622 and the email address is [reservations.samudra@tajhotels.com](mailto:reservations.samudra@tajhotels.com).

If participants want to make their own hotel reservation closer to the BMICH that is possible and eligible participants will be reimbursed. If you intend to stay in a hotel, you are advised to choose accommodation from a reputable hotel and be cautious of safety and security. Other recommended hotels are as follows:

1. Shangri-La Hotel Colombo – +94 11 788 8288 - <http://www.shangri-la.com/corporate/contact-us/worldwide-reservations/>
2. Kingsbury - [+94 112 421 221](tel:+94112421221) - [reservations@thekingsburyhotel.com](mailto:reservations@thekingsburyhotel.com)
3. Cinnamon Grand - +94 11 2161161  
<https://www.cinnamonhotels.com/cinnamongrandcolombo>
4. Galadari - [info@galadarihotel.lk](mailto:info@galadarihotel.lk) - +94 11-2544 544
5. Hilton - +94-11-249-2492 - [colombo.reservations@hilton.com](mailto:colombo.reservations@hilton.com)
6. Movenpick - [+94 117 450 450](tel:+94117450450) - <https://www.movenpick.com/en/contact/booking-enquiry/>
7. Galle Face Hotel - +94 11 254 1010 - [information@gallefacehotel.net](mailto:information@gallefacehotel.net)
8. Jetwing - +94 11 470 9400 [reservations@jetwinghotels.com](mailto:reservations@jetwinghotels.com)

**b. Shuttle and Taxi Services**

Shuttle to and from the Taj Samudra hotel to the BMICH will be provided.

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