

ANY EXPORT RELATED ISSUE ?

**GET IN TOUCH
WITH
EDB HELP DESK**

071 440 6119

Mr. Indrakeerthi SRP - Director / Trade Facilitation

071 822 0953

Ms. N. Gajanayaka - Export Promotion Officer

077 249 4807

Ms. P. Hewawasam - Export Promotion Officer

helpdesk@edb.gov.lk



EDB

**EXPO
NEWS**

MONTHLY BULLETIN

VOLUME 20 | ISSUE NO. 03

MARCH 2020

READ ONLINE



CONTENTS

AVAILING SERVICES OF SRI LANKA CUSTOMS UNDER THE CURRENT SITUATION

Page # 01



RELIEF MEASURES TO ASSIST COVID-19 AFFECTED BUSINESSES & INDIVIDUALS

Page # 03



GROW BOATING AS A 'SRI LANKAN LIFESTYLE'

Page # 05



Availing services of Sri Lanka Customs under the current outbreak of COVID 19

Sri Lanka Customs has made arrangement to provide services to the importers, exporters and other agencies under the prevailing situation of the country due to COVID 19 pandemic. The following arrangements are applicable for both sea cargo and air cargo processes.

However, please note that these arrangements are made subject to health and safety measures notified by the government, especially to minimize the human gathering thus preventing the spread of this deadly disease. Therefore, the Director General of Customs requests all the persons visiting the Customs premises to strictly follow the health and safety measures notified by the government.

Clearance of Imported Essential Goods

The arrangements have been made to facilitate the clearance of imported essential goods such as food items, perishable goods, medicines, medical devices and related items. Further, bulk cargo such as gas, petroleum, fertilizers, cement etc., and any raw material or commodity intended for the production of essential goods shall also be cleared during this period. Clearance of rest of the imported commodities will be decided in due course after monitoring the pandemic situation of the country.

Clearance of Urgent Exports

The arrangements have been made to facilitate the clearance of urgent exports. However, a limited number of exports will be facilitated per day to prevent unnecessary overcrowdings. Therefore, the exporters are requested to make prior arrangements with the Customs staff at the Exports Facilitation Centre or Air Cargo Village before bringing in the goods to the respective centres.

Clearance of Unaccompanied Passenger Baggage

The clearance of all unaccompanied passenger baggage (UPB) is suspended until further notice.

Other Services

The arrangements have been made to facilitate all the other services such as submission of cargo manifests, renewal of TIN registrations and new TIN registrations related to the clearance of imported essential goods and urgent exports. Therefore, all the related agencies are requested to make prior arrangements with the Customs staff at the relevant working points before visiting the same.

Please contact the following officers to make prior arrangements.

1. Essential Import Documents Processing and Submission of Manifests

Place : Colombo Long Room

Time : 10.00 am - 2.00pm

Contact Person: Mr. Darshana Silva, Director (Imports), 0714458476

2. Essential Import Cargo Examinations

Place : RCT, Orugodawatte

Time : 10.00 am - 5.00 pm

Contact Person: Mr. Perimpanyagam, Director (Cargo Examination), 0777273879

Cont. >>>

3. Urgent Exports

Place : Exports Facilitation Centre

Time : 10.00 am - 5.00 pm

Contact Person: Mr. Senevirathne Banda, Deputy Director (Exports), 0777300372

4. Essential Imports of Air Cargo

Place : Air cargo village, Katunayake

Time : 24 x 7

Contact Person: Mr. Saleem, Deputy Director (Air Cargo), 0777358168

5. Bonding and TIEP Related Matters

Place : Industries and Services Directorate, Colombo

Time : Services are provided on call

Contact Person: Mr. Thilak Arumapperumarachchi, Deputy Director (I&S), 0718024767
Mr. S. D. A. Kumarasiri, Superintendent (I&S), 0718033661

6. BOI – Customs Related Matters

Place : BOI Coordinating Directorate, Colombo

Time : Services are provided on call

Contact Person: Mr. Paninee Wijayawardane, Director (BCD), 0777891806
Mr. K. K. A. R. Kumarasinghe, Deputy Director (BCD), 0714414924

7. BOI Imports Examinations

Place : CVT, Orugodawatte

Time : Services are provided on call

Contact Person: Mr. Perimpanayagam, Director (Cargo Examination), 0777273879

8. TIN Registrations and Renewals

Place : TIN/VAT Registration Unit, Colombo

Time : Services are provided on call

Contact Person: Mr. Gamini Jayawardena, Director (Specialised Services), 0777351847

9. Airport Customs Duty Officer (Arrivals)

Contact Numbers: 0112252404, 0112264458

Airport Customs Duty Officer (Departure)

Contact Numbers: 0112264452

10. ICT Related Issues

ICT Duty Officer

Contact Numbers: 0710889935

For any further inquiry please contact Mr. Sunil Jayarathne, Additional Director General of Customs, 0777484664 (24x7)



**MONETARY BOARD
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA**

24 March 2020

CIRCULAR

No. 04 of 2020

**RELIEF MEASURES TO ASSIST COVID-19 AFFECTED BUSINESSES AND
INDIVIDUALS**

In line with the decision taken by the Cabinet of Ministers at the Cabinet meeting held on 20.03.2020 on the Direction issued by His Excellency the President to provide relief measures to assist businesses and individuals who are adversely affected by the prevailing Covid-19 outbreak, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka hereby issues this Circular to the licensed commercial banks, licensed specialised banks and leasing companies, hereinafter referred to as financial institutions.

1. All such financial institutions shall implement a debt moratorium (on capital and interest) as follows:
 - a. A six-month moratorium on the leasing rentals of all three-wheelers, school vans, lorries, small goods transport vehicles and buses operated by the self-employed;
 - b. A moratorium until 30.05.2020 on personal loans granted to all private sector non-executive employees;
 - c. A three-month moratorium for all personal loans and leasing rentals of value less than Rs. 1 million; and
 - d. A six-month debt moratorium for affected industries in small & medium enterprises, tourism, apparel, plantation, IT and related logistic service providers.
2. Financial institutions shall provide working capital requirements at an interest rate of 4% and waive-off interest payments for at least 6 months for sectors in item 1(d) above. An interest subsidy will be included in refinance.
3. Financial institutions are required to accommodate customers to submit loan applications for items 1 and 2 above until 30.04.2020 and financial institutions are required to finalise the same within 45 days.
4. Financial institutions shall charge a maximum interest rate of 15 per cent on local credit card transactions of value up to Rs. 50,000; the minimum monthly payment on credit cards shall be reduced by 50 percent; and repayment of all credit cards below the limit of Rs. 50,000 to be extended until 30.04.2020.
5. Licensed banks shall extend the validity period of cheques valued less than Rs. 500,000 until 30.04.2020.
6. All branches of licensed banks shall be kept open from 8.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on non-curfew days with a minimum number of employees, and the corporate branches shall be kept open during curfew days to facilitate international transactions relating to food, medicine, travel and other customers.
7. Detailed instructions on foregoing shall be issued on 27.03.2020.

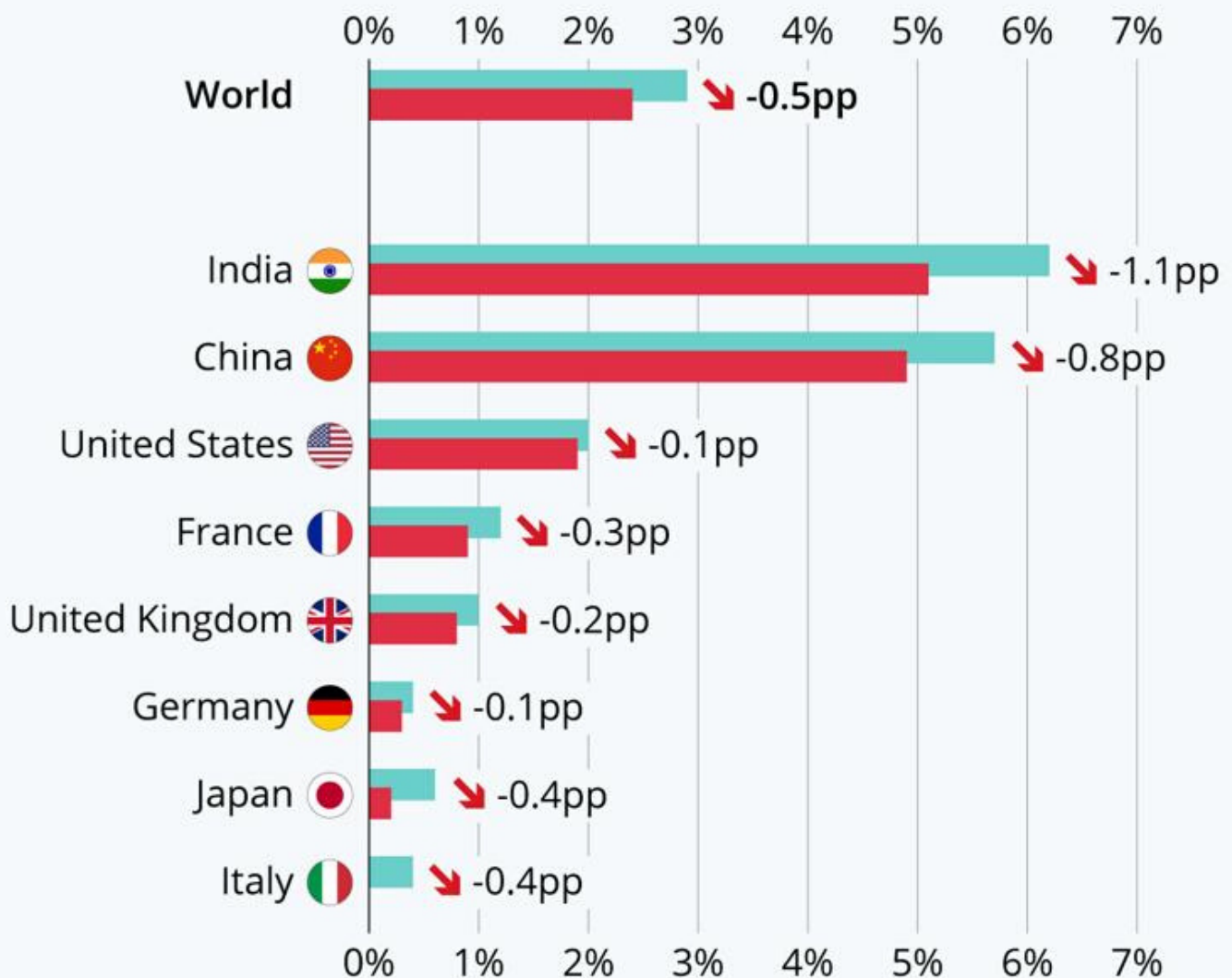
Prof. W D Lakshman

*Chairman of the Monetary Board and
Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka*

Coronavirus: OECD Slashes Forecast for World Economy

GDP growth forecast for the world's largest economies in 2020*

■ November 2019 forecast ■ March 2020 forecast
↘ Change from previous forecast



Source: OECD



GROW BOATING AS A 'SRI LANKAN LIFESTYLE'



Its the 25th largest Island of the world; considering the 1,340 Km of pristine palm-fringed shoreline available for anyone to swim, surf, snorkel or simply soak-up the sun. But why not, especially the Sri Lanka Tourism, think of moving beyond their traditional 3S – Sun, Sea & Sand and eye on the beautiful waters for possible developments.

.Think of a network of 12 Marinas around the Island, a round-trip of Sri Lanka by BOAT for tourists and even to arrange public transport by boat. Considering the richness of marine diversity and the possibility of attracting high-end tourists, Sri Lanka has a huge potential for nautical tourism activities, the experts believe.

Boat building and nautical tourism are interrelated, therefore strategies to develop one sector would naturally benefit the other. Yacht building, Chartering and Yacht Operation in the region and beyond is now getting more attention as a lucrative industry in Sri Lanka. There is a need to diversify country's export basket and the Export Development Board is now taking into account the development of all these relevant activities such as Yacht Chartering, Yacht Parking, Water Sports, other boating and recreational activities when developing strategies for the boating industry.

In support of this effort, Sri Lanka Navy has already started promoting sailing and recreational boating facilities on the territorial waters or the Green Line of Sri Lanka. "Navy's Kayaking Expedition around the Pearl" is one such initiative in which they have marked about 30 interesting locations along our coastlines.

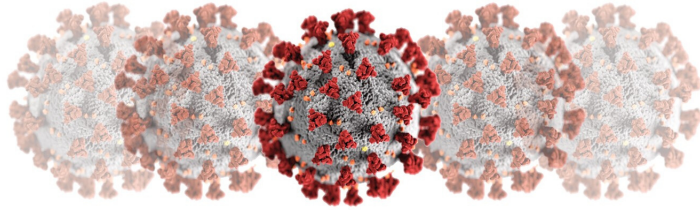
According to stats in the year 2018, with 2.3 million tourist arrivals (approx) more than 11 billion USD was contributed to the GDP from Sri Lankan travel and tourism sector. Based on such figures and the 'Tourism Multiplier Effect', one could forecast on the potential of growth and importance of developing Boating as a "Sri Lankan Lifestyle".

~ Based on information gathered at a recent conference on "Boating as a lifestyle in Sri Lanka", BMICH, Colombo ~



SCHEDULE
RATES OF EXCHANGE
EFFECTIVE FROM 23.03.2020 TO 29.03.2020

	Country	Country Code	Currency	Currency Code	Rate of Exchange (Rs.)
1	Australia	AU	Dollar	AUD	111.9613
2	Bahrain	BH	Dinar	BHD	502.8535
3	Bangladesh	BD	Taka	BDT	2.2383
4	Brazil	BR	Brazil Real	BRL	37.2605
5	Brunei	BN	Brunei Dollar	BND	131.0585
6	Canada	CA	Canadian Dollar	CAD	131.9235
7	China	CN	Renminbi	CNY	26.8120
8	China	CN	Offshore	CNH	26.7380
9	Czechoslovakia	CZ	Koruna	CZK	7.3439
10	Denmark	DK	Kroner	DKK	27.3103
11	Egypt	EG	Pound	EGP	12.0557
12	Euro Zone		Euro	EUR	204.0708
13	Ghana	GH	Cedi	GHS	33.8764
14	Hongkong	HK	Dollar	HKD	24.4637
15	Hungary	HU	Forint	HUF	0.5702
16	India	IN	Rupee	INR	2.5389
17	Indonesia	ID	Rupiah	IDR	0.0119
18	Iran	IR	Riyal	IRR	0.0045
19	Japan	JP	Yen	JPY	1.7251
20	Jordan	JO	Dinar	JOD	267.8103
21	Korea	KR	Won	KRW	0.1510
22	Kuwait	KW	Dinar	KWD	610.3031
23	Macau	MO	Pataca	MOP	23.7258
24	Malaysia	MY	Ringgit	MYR	43.1540
25	Maldives	MV	Rufiya	MVR	12.2819
26	Mauritius	MU	Rupee	MUR	4.8875
27	Myanmar	MM	Kyat	MMK	0.1328
28	Nepal	NP	Rupee	NPR	1.5804
29	New Zealand	NZ	Dollar	NZD	109.9960
30	Nigeria	NG	Naira	NGN	0.6195
31	Norway	NO	Kroner	NOK	17.0526
32	Oman	OM	Riyal	OMR	493.2524
33	Pakistan	PK	Rupee	PKR	1.1981
34	Papua New Guinea	PG	Kina	PGK	55.5392
35	Philippines	PH	Peso	PHP	3.7319
36	Poland	PL	Zloty	PLN	44.5680
37	Qatar	QA	Riyal	QAR	52.1498
38	Russia	RU	Rouble	RUB	2.4020
39	Saudi Arabia	SA	Riyal	SAR	50.4893
40	Seychelles	SC	Rupee	SCR	14.1347
41	Singapore	SG	Dollar	SGD	131.0585
42	South Africa	ZA	Rand	ZAR	10.9544
43	Sweden	SE	Krona	SEK	18.3810
44	Switzerland	CH	Francs	CHF	193.6241
45	Taiwan	TW	Dollar	TWD	6.2526
46	Thailand	TH	Baht	THB	5.8550
47	U.A.E.	AE	Dirham	AED	51.6934
48	United Kingdom	GB	Sterling Pound	GBP	221.0934
49	United States of America	US	Dollar	USD	189.8775
50	Zambia (Old)	ZM	Kwacha	ZMK	0.0365
51	Zambia (New)	ZM	Kwacha	ZMW	11.2022
52	Zimbabwe	ZW	Dollar	ZWD	0.5003



LET'S PLEDGE TO FIGHT AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

STAY INDOOR STAY SAFE



EDB

SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**ISO 9001
2015
CERTIFIED**



ISSN 2579-1680

EXPO NEWS

MONTHLY INFORMATION BULLETIN FOR SRI LANKAN EXPORTERS

Compiled By :

Chandima Wanniarachchi

Tel : 011 2300705-11 (Ext. 317)