

Progress is a sequence of diligence and steady steps towards what we call a common goal. Shared by each member of our team, we have an outlook for the future that looks to the infinite horizons of possibility, even amidst the uncertainty and negativity of the new normal. And with a new year for SLFFA, we will continue to stay true to our strategy of providing quality and value through strong and steady teamwork.

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# INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT





During a year which presented extraordinary challenges to the global Logistics industry, the Sri Lanka Logistics & Freight Forwarders Association celebrated 40 years of service to the local industry, whilst marking many significant milestones. This Annual Report is a testament to the resilience, determination and commitment of SLFFA and its members that constantly and continuously adapted, innovated and evolved to ensure that, we remain 'Strong and Steady' as an Association, Industry and a Nation.

## **VISION**

To be the leading force in the advancement of Freight and Logistic Services in Sri Lanka.

## **MISSION**

To promote professionalism and excellence and strengthen the freight forwarding and logistics Industry, SLFFA to serve and lead its diverse membership through advocacy, innovation, and information sharing.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

**Economic Vitality:** Expand the industry such that members can strengthen the economy and the business Communities they serve.

**Advocacy:** Influence and educate decision makers of government and other organisations to assist and shape policies that are favourable for the industry.

**Image:** Improve the overall image and perception about the industry.

**People and Organisations:** Build capacity through training and development to create more effective organisations in the industry.

**Association Development:** Strengthen SLFFA such that members are served better.



Annual Report 2020/21

Sri Lanka Logistics and Freight Forwarders Association



It has been a Historic year for SLFFA, and as its Chairman, it gives me Great Honour and Pride to present the Annual Report for 2021 at the 40th Annual General Meeting of SLFFA. This report is an account of the challenges that we faced as an industry and how we not only survived but thrived amidst adversity.

In order to better appreciate where we are today in SLFFA's Ruby year, I believe that it is prudent that we briefly look at how we got here. Since its inception in 1981, where it introduced much needed direction and standards to a promising but disorganised and unstructured logistics industry, SLFFA has been championing the cause of the logistics industry in Sri Lanka. SLFFA's achievements during the last 40 years, is a proven testament to its Vision, and unwavering commitment towards

enhancing the value of an industry that has been long been ignored. Over the last 4 Decades, Sri Lanka and the logistics industry have been through Civil War, Terrorist attacks, a Tsunami and of course the ongoing Global Pandemic, all which posed its own unique challenges to the logistics industry. It is interesting to note that SLFFA continued to work tirelessly with its members through thick and thin, overcoming many challenges on both the Micro and Macro scale while adding many accolades to its history, a very Rich and Proud history, which we believed should not be ignored and indeed needs to be celebrated.

In light of the 40th Year Anniversary, we are launching the 'SLFFA Coffee Table Book - The Way Forward' which is, part Time-machine and part Crystal ball, in that its pages take us back in history,

starting from the inception of SLFFA, through formidable times right up to the present day and also gives us a glimpse of what is to come. Putting together this Coffee Table Book has been One of the most interesting experiences in my career as a logistician as it was for the whole team involved in the project. We have uncovered information that was buried in history and encountered personalities and characters whom we knew very little about and sometimes knew nothing about at all. Documenting the colourful history of SLFFA put us in a unique position and gave us the opportunity to listen and learn from industry pioneers and legends, about how things were done 'back in the day' and about the 'larger than life' personalities who have both directly and indirectly contributed Greatly to the development of the industry.

Four Decades is a considerable amount of time, over which SLFFA has continued to adapt, grow and evolve into the body with the Largest membership in the Logistics industry, which at the time of writing is 136. Initially opening its doors to Air Freight companies, SLFFA went a step ahead and opened its doors to Ocean Freight Forwarders in 1991, with the liberalisation of the Shipping industry. Having not looked back since, SLFFA stands today as the leading association within the logistics industry, adding member representation from Consolidators, and Customs Warehouse brokers as well.

We at SLFFA find ourselves in a very unique position where we stand between liners, both Ocean and Air, and the shippers. Given the inherent challenges and complications involved, SLFFA has been mindful to strike a balance and has always maintained its unbiased opinion

and created the opportunity for broader discussion among all operational parties within the industry and the country. SLFFA's commitment to creating genuine and transparent bonds between all industry stakeholders is based on the belief that anything can be achieved through mutual respect for, and trust between transacting parties.

The success of any organisation relies on the efficient working structures within it and its commitment to effectively implementing and upholding this structure. SLFFA has seen tremendous improvements in the effectiveness and efficiency of its internal activities with the formation and introduction of the Sub-Committee structures. In addition to streamlining association activities and processes, the introduction of working sub-committees has also increased accountability among its members.

As members of an industry that has always played a 'behind-the-scenes' role in the economy with relatively less fanfare and attention compared to the huge contribution it actually makes, Logisticians rarely get a 'pat on the back' which they most greatly deserve. Having realised the need for recognising and celebrating the unsung heroes of the industry, the 'National Logistics Awards (NLA) by SLFFA' was born. The brainchild of the SLFFA leadership, NLA aspires to be the Quintessential event and awards ceremony of the Sri Lankan Logistics industry. We believe that this event will serve to unite all industry stakeholders and eventually uplift the overall standards of the local logistics industry. The inaugural NLA 2021 will award top performing companies across 6 main operational sectors in the logistics industry with more sectors to be added

going forward in future editions of this biennial event. The event has garnered a multitude of Sponsors and Endorsements and consists of an eminent panel of Judges comprising of prominent industry experts.

SLFFA believes that the backbone of our industry are the people who work tirelessly to ensure its smooth operation. Hence, we are passionate about educating and empowering the logistics workforce with knowledge and technical know-how, which in-turn will ensure that the overall industry standards will be maintained and raised over time. We have focused greatly on our training arm AITT which has achieved tremendous success during the last year and has managed to effect a complete turnaround with regards to conducting of courses, student enrollment and graduation numbers, since 2020. The AITT team adapted quickly and effectively to the Virtual classroom setup demanded by the Pandemic induced new normal, switching to online based curriculum delivery, online examination and online marking and grading. We are on the road to producing the highest number of graduates in the history of SLFFA and credit needs to go to the dedicated staff and lecture panel at AITT.

While SLFFA has given leadership in effecting new industry regulations which benefit the majority of its membership, we have also been mindful and aware when these very same regulations negatively impacted other members. As an association which has the best interests of all our members, in these instances, SLFFA once again stepped-in to understand and resolve these issues well. We believe that 'progress' means that we don't leave anyone behind.

**VICE CHAIRMAN'S** 

Among the many new initiative this year, SLFFA took an active stance to recognise the Consolidation sector and to aggressively seek out and help resolve the many inconsistencies and difficulties that they face within the industry. The consolidation sector undergoes many challenges in providing Great service to importers and exporters, and we are committed to recognising any grievances that they face and help resolve them, together with the support of all parties concerned.

It is also significant to note the unprecedented increase of rates in the logistics industry due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Despite the many challenges and adversities that came our way in 2021, SLFFA has had a triumphant year filled with New initiatives, value additions and impressive membership and student growth. We are specially proud of the headway that we have been able to make with regards to effecting regulatory changes and helping to facilitate a more efficient, transparent and profitable business operation for all parties in the logistics industry including the Sri Lankan Government.

I would like to thank all the SLFFA members for their continuous support extended towards me and the team during the past 2 years. I would also like to Thank my Amazing SLFFA team for the unwavering trust placed in me and the tremendous commitment shown in all association activities.

SLFFA is in Good hands for the next 2 years under the Chairmanship of Mr. Dinesh Sri Chandrasekara and I wish him and his committee all the very best whilst pledging my fullest support going forward.

**Roshan Silva** 

Chairman, SLFFA (2019 - 2021)



True leaders emerge during times of crises and SLFFA, as the leading association in the logistics sector in Sri Lanka came in to its own during this time of the Pandemic. The global logistics sector not only showed resilience during the strict lockdowns in the first half of 2020 but also adopted as per the demands of rapidly changing consumer and business reactions to the pandemic during the 2nd Quarter of 2020. While most of the world shut down, locked down and closed up, the logistics industry kept going, which was a testament to the importance of the industry, specially during a Global pandemic. As the pandemic got worse, the industry stepped up in order to ensure that medical and essential supply chains were not disrupted and the economy didn't become dysfunctional.

As a responsible Sri Lankan professional association, SLFFA was committed to adhering to the guidelines imposed by the Government and the public health officials in the country. However, as the leading Apex body of the Freight forwarding industry in Sri Lanka, SLFFA's responsibilities lie with our members and partners as well. Hence, we continued to soldier on during the pandemic and found workarounds to the general lack of mobility and restrictions to ensure that it was business as usual as much as possible.

SLFFA and its members have always been in the spotlight in the logistics industry, there is always one event or the other happening around the calendar year. Even though the pandemic put a damper on many of our activities, we still managed to create and maintain our

enthusiasm to add value. We focused on enhancing the image of SLFFA during the past few months through activities such as the SLFFA column on the Daily FT and participating in many industry related forums. We also initiated the National Logistics Awards by SLFFA, an awards ceremony for the logistics community who rarely get recognition for their enormous contribution to the economy.

**MESSAGE** 

**VICE CHAIRMAN'S** 

With Great membership comes Great responsibility and, in our efforts to ensure that the needs of our 136 strong members are heard and that their concerns and grievances are attended to, we also constantly advocate for process change and procedural improvements in the logistics industry as a whole. In this regard, SLFFA works closely with many industry regulatory bodies and advocates support for the implementation of Ethical practices when conducting business. One such instance was when we took the lead and supported The Director General of Merchant Shipping in streamlining charges which were unfairly being levied on Customers.

With the rapid advancement of technology and automation, the logistics industry too is evolving and changing constantly. Each new version of software, hardware and technology that is developed is designed to do the job faster and more efficiently than before. This holds true for all of us in the logistics industry as well. Each new generation is equipped with the 'humantechnology' to perform at a higher level than the previous, and as experienced veterans of the industry, we have to provide guidance, advice and direction to them and empower them in order help minimise their learning curve.

SLFFA is delighted to see New and Young faces coming to the fore and injecting New Blood and New thinking into the system. The survival of SLFFA and of our industry now more than ever, requires the infusion of innovative and progressive thinking within our ranks so that the benchmarks of excellence are constantly raised, and value is added at every step of the process.

**Dinesh Sri Chandrasekera** 

Vice Chairman, SLFFA (2019 - 2021)



The Association, whilst stepping into the 40th year of service to the industry, continued to maintain an active dialogue between its members, industry stakeholders as well as Government and statutory bodies, particularly in relation to maintaining professionalism and efficiency in the freight forwarding industry as a whole.

In addition to its ongoing projects and activities, the Executive Committee focused more on sustaining the Association's position in matters concerning Ocean Freight and Customs, Air Cargo Village (ACV), Air Freight charges, E-Air Way Bill submission, Port tariff and Delivery Order charges, and conducted regular discussions with officials of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA), Sri Lanka Customs (SLC), Airport

& Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Ltd (AASL), Srilankan Cargo, Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL), Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB), the Directorate of Merchant Shipping (DMS) and the Ministry of Ports & Shipping.

In addition, the Executive committee engaged in discussions with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Sri Lanka Shippers Council (SLSC) and the Ceylon Association of Shipping Agents (CASA). Strengthening the self-regulatory regimen introduced by the association, regular training programs and seminars were conducted for the benefit and betterment of the members.

The SLFFA Office bearers, Advisory council, committee members and the Secretariat had an eventful year and

judiciously carried out their duties amidst the challenges of the Global pandemic and other macroeconomic variables. SLFFA was called upon on numerous occasions to represent its members and was also included in advisory roles of national importance.

The Executive Committee was involved in the Formulation of National Maritime Policy, National Export Strategy, National Trade Facilitation Forum, Entrepot Trade Facilitation, National Single Window initiative, E-Air Way Bill initiative and regularly updated the membership of all developments in these areas. In addition, SLFFA continued to attend monthly meetings of The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and Sri Lanka Shippers Council (SLSC).

The activities of the Association were handled by the following sub-committees:

- Airfreight and Air Cargo Village
- Ocean Freight, Port, Customs and BOI
- Publicity, Social Affairs, Website and **CSR Projects**
- SLFFA Training and AITT
- Research & Development (R&D)
- New membership promotion and evaluation / Membership Grievances
- SLFFA Cargo Services Promotional Activities
- Legal & Insurance Assistance

Other areas of involvement are,

- Membership Affairs and Grievances
- Finance
- Industry Statistics
- FIATA, FAPAA and SAFFA activities

#### Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Unlike previous years, SLFFA was unable to continue the CSR programs with Lady Ridgeway Children's Hospital due to the prolonged pandemic which also effected the cancellation of the SLFFA Dance, our annual fund raiser which generates income for CSR initiatives.

#### **Membership Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings**

As at the end of the period under review, SLFFA membership had reached 136 members. The Executive Committee met on Eleven occasions during the period under review to conduct its business. SLFFA also conducted one General Membership meeting and one Special General Meeting during the same period. SLFFA created three new subcommittees and increased the number of Executive Committee Members from Seven to Ten by way of a constitutional amendment. The aforementioned sub-committees were headed by Executive Committee members who obtained the support of SLFFA members who voluntarily joined the activities of the respective subcommittees.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** 

**Roshan Silva** Chairman Managing Director, CL Synergy (Private) Limited



Dinesh Sri Chandrasekera Vice Chairman Director, HTL Logistics (Private) Limited



Channa Gunawardena Treasurer Director, Expelogix (Private) Limited



**Jagath Pathirane Advisory Committee Member** Director/CEO, Expolanka Freight (Private) Limited



**Tania Wettimuny Advisory Committee Member** Managing Director, Inter Air and Sea Logistics (Private) Limited



**Tony De Livera Advisory Committee Member** Managing Director, Wings Lanka (Private) Limited



**Diren Hallock** Advisory Committee Member Chairman, DRH Logistics Lanka (Private) Limited



**Niral Kadawatharatchie** Advisory Committee Member President/CEO, Freight Links International (Private) Limited



**Romesh David** Advisory Committee Member Chief Executive Officer, South Asia Gateway Terminal



**Mohan S. Mohanadas** Advisory Committee Member Group CEO, Dart Global Logistics (Private) Limited



**Prasansa Rodrigo** Committee Member General Manager, Speedmark Transportation Lanka (Private) Limited



**Shavindra Dias** Committee Member Managing Director, Foreway Logistics (Pvt) Ltd



**Sampath Hemaratne** Committee Members (from 01.06.2021) General Manager Freight Links International (Private) Limited



Suminda Hettiarachchi Committee Member (from 19.06.2021) Head of Air Freight DHL Global Forwarding Lanka (Private) Limited



Sadeeptha Illangatilake Committee Member Deputy General Manager, Aitken Spence Cargo (Pvt) Ltd



**Andre Fernando** Committee Member Managing Director, MAC Supply Chain Solutions (Pvt) Ltd



**Tyronne Soza** Committee Member (from 07.06.2021) Chief Executive Officer, Mack International Freight (Pvt) Ltd



Priyan Seilman Committee Member (from 26.11.2020) Director, Scanwell Logistics Colombo (Pvt) Ltd



Committee Member (from 26.11.2020) Managing Director/CEO, C.H. Robinson Freight Services Lanka (Pvt) Ltd



Committee Member (from 26.11.2020) Director, Sales & Marketing/CEO, Shermans Logistics (Pvt) Ltd



**Henry De Silva** Committee Member (Until 30.05.2021) Chief Operating Office Freight Links International (Private) Limited



**Ahmed Fazlee** Committee Member (Until 18.06.2021) Director Logistics DHL Global Forwarding Lanka (Private) Limited



**Peter Jasinghe** Committee Member (Until 01.06.2021) Manager, Sales & Marketing, Mack International Freight (Pvt) Ltd



**SLFFA SECRETARIAT** 

**Rohan Induruwa** Secretary General



Manjula Maldeniya Manager

The SLFFA Secretariat plays an important role in organising and managing all administrative work pertaining to the logistics and freight forwarding industry on behalf of the SLFFA members. The team at SLFFA gets involved in identifying training needs, attending to regulatory requirements and representing the membership interests. SLFFA operates from Torrington Avenue in Colombo 07; a convenient location for all members to visit as and when required.





Mr. Sadeeptha Illangatilake Chairman



Mr. Prasansa Rodrigo Dep. Chairman



Mr. Priyan Seilman General Member



Mr. Priyantha Punchihewa General Member



Mr. Jude Wijesundera General Member



Mr. Sam Wickramasinghe General Member



Mr. Gehan Seilman General Member



Mr. Nishantha Perera General Member



Mr. Aqthab Arifeen General Member

#### **Precautions towards COVID-19 Expansion**

Despite many Unique challenges presented by the current Global Pandemic, the Air Cargo Village continued its operations as an essential service in Sri Lanka, adhering to all recommended health and safety guidelines and implementing our Business Continuation Plan. Through a successful project in collaboration with Airport & Aviation Services, we took immediate steps to ensure that all workers involved in dayto-day activities were administered both doses of the Covid-19 Vaccine as per the health guidelines issued.

While we adhered to Government stipulated Pandemic laws and regulations and maintained only the minimum level of staffing at the Air Cargo Village, we took steps to promptly address and resolve unforeseen operational issues which arose during the New normal.

#### E-Airway Bill

As the First step towards the complete migration to an Electronic platform, SLFFA partnered with the relevant authorities to introduce the e-Airway Bill which was implemented on 21st August 2021 which marked a significant industry milestone.

The Department of Civil Aviation of Sri Lanka has directed that the e-Airway Bill needs to be adopted across the board by all process stakeholders thereby eliminating paper-based operations and making it the exception rather than the

Apart from the positive environmental impact effected by eliminating paper usage, the e-Airway Bill automation will improve the efficiency and reliability of the cargo handling process overall by enabling Faster delivery times and reduced handling errors.

Air Cargo Village is actively encouraging all Air cargo industry stakeholders to migrate to the e-AWB platform at the earliest, making exception for the use of a Paper Airway Bill only for instances due to applicable international treaties, National laws or bilateral agreements.

Going forward, this automation process will be extended to facilitate e-Custom Documentation and e- Carrier platforms as well.

### Air Cargo Development Project at BIA

SLFFA is an advisory committee member for growth projects of the Sri Lanka Airport and Aviation Services who specifically requested our participation. The advisory committee comprised of a distinguished team comprising of Government agencies, public sector representatives and other key stakeholders.

The project to improve Air cargo Export and Import operations was led by SLFFA's immediate Past Chairman Mr. Jagath Pathirana with the assistance of the R&D committee of SLFFA. On request of the Airport and Aviation Chairman, the R&D sub-committee compiled and forwarded a comprehensive report on Import and Export cargo movements at BIA, highlighting the bottlenecks which hinder efficiency and SLFFA's recommended solutions to help resolve them.

SLFFA maintains a continuous dialogue with AASL in order to expedite and implement process improvements to help our members and eventually facilitate overall industry growth as well.

#### E Freight - Digitalisation of **Documents**

In keeping with International practice, we are encouraging the digitisation of documents which would create greater transparency in processes and improve the efficiency of all parties involved in the operation.

Digitisation will help provide agility to the supply chain mix by streamlining standard operating processes and introducing flexibility to situations which are currently causing disruptions and disagreements.

The digitisation process could see the Airfreight operating authority implementing the following;

- a. Imports Manifesting In order with SL Customs
- b. e-CDN Under Process and Subject to
- c. e-Manifest Under Process and Subject to Approval

### **Ongoing Discussions on ACV matters**

The Cargo Acceptance Delay due to Security Scanning has been duly informed to CAASL and measures have been implemented.

Operational Delays, Storage & Security Issues: Continuous discussions with UL Cargo provided an overview of the terminal expansion project. The Import Terminal project should be completed by the end of 2023, and current processes will continue for the next three (03) years. According to the project plan, the chiller room will be constructed first near the ACV terminal, with the first floor scheduled to be completed in a year.

In order to facilitate this expansion, the overhang shelter was removed which is currently causing shipments to be exposed to natural elements such as Rain and Heat and UL has acknowledged this issue. As a temporary solution, some of the roller beds were removed to enable the storage of perishable and heatsensitive cargo in a limited area. It was suggested that all shipments be wrapped with additional polythene to avoid Waterborne damage, but heat effects still

remain a problem. Furthermore, AASL has stated that temporary shelters on the Apron side will not be permitted citing aircraft safety concerns.

An inspection tour is planned together with SLSC and JAAF with the intention of proposing a solution to the problem.

#### CASS implementation

SLFFA rejected the proposal which came through Sri Lankan Airlines on the CASS implementation which was attempted in 2018 as well. SLFFA is fighting against the implementation of CASS which is not ideal for Creditor settlement, specially under current conditions with the support of JAAF & SLSC. Having explained to UL that SLFFA is not in favor of CASS due to reasons such as the country situation and the credit issues involved, it was reiterated that SLFFA would maintain the same position communicated back in 2018. Given that a cost of 2% charged by IATA from UL will be recovered from the trade, It was highlighted that CASS adds no value to the trade and reduces the credit period to 15 days which is not warranted by the current process that has continued smoothly thus far.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS



Mr. Channa Gunawardena Chairman



Mr. Sampath
Hemaratne
Dep. Chairman



Ms. Diruni Chanmugam General Member



Mr. Mangaleshwaran Ratnajothy General Member



Mr. Nishan Jayawardena General Member



Mr. Kolitha Wickramasinghe General Member



Mr. Anuradha Sooriyarachch General Member



Mr. Gihan Himansu General Member



Ms. Dilrukshani Ismail General Member



Mr. E.W. Yajeewa Roshan General Member



Mr. Geethapriya Dhammika General Member

The Sub-committee liaised closely with all industry relevant Government entities in various capacities during the past year. It is highly commendable to note that despite the challenges, restrictions and shortcomings induced by way of the Covid-19 pandemic, these Government organizations continued their support to the shipping community to the best of their ability.

#### **Sri Lanka Ports Authority**

SLFFA, along with other industry stakeholders has actively discussed implementation of the electronic delivery order (E-DO) process at Colombo Port. As the First step of this automation process, we have been encouraging the SLFFA membership to start issuing electronic Delivery Orders to final consignees as well.

During the height of the Pandemic in 2020, the secretariat assisted members who were facing problems related to detention and demurrage charges at the Port, which were caused by various operational delays. These issues were consistently taken up at various stakeholder meetings chaired by SLPA hierarchy and other Government officials.

Special mention has to be made of Maj. Gen.(Retd). Daya Ratnayake, the Chairman of the SLPA. The trust and confidence he placed in the professionals of the trade immensely helped to solve many issues face by the industry, specially the pandemic related challenges faced by all members.

SLFFA has also initiated discussions with SLPA to work on the MCC Excess charges on Export consolidated containers. We are lobbying for change with regards to the inconsistent and excessive stuffing and related charges passed on to the consolidators and looking to obtain a solution which would be beneficial to all parties concerned.

## Director General of Merchant Shipping (DGMS)

## Establishing new regulations to bring a Two-Tier DO system with an Increased amount for the forwarders

SLFFA has been continuously advocating for a revision of the Maximum Delivery Order fee guideline issued by the DGMS office, alongside a monitoring mechanism which will ensure that all parties concerned will strictly adhere

to this revised DO fee guideline. SLFFA submitted an initial proposal with regard to this to DGMS on 27th November 2020 which were followed by various discussions amongst stakeholders resulting in a final revised guideline being issued on 17th June 2021.

This was indeed a Great achievement for the industry which would help streamline the exorbitant chargers that were being levied on Forwarders by various parties solely at their discretion and undoubtedly instill much needed discipline to this aspect of the trade. It is also noteworthy that this is the First time such a Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN), was issue after the 2014 Gazette.

## Formation of the Recommendation committee to DGMS

A 'Stakeholder Recommendation' committee including SLFFA was formed in order to monitor further violations being carried out in the industry and to take necessary remedial action through DGMS office. The Committee meets with the DGMS office Once a month to discuss reported violations and would make corrective actions, based on direction given.

As at now, Two Recommendation
Committee meetings have been held
with satisfactory outcomes having
been effected at both meetings. A Clear
register will be maintained to evaluate the
progress of these meeting and further
recommendations will be made by the
committee with regards to prolonged
issues in the trade while providing
suggestion for relevant developments as
well. It is imperative that we ensure the
continuation of this appointed committee
along with the participation of all
stakeholders, despite any challenges that
we may face going forward.

## Establishing a recovery mechanism for the local charges for consolidators

A special committee, headed by the Chairman was formed to look into concerns of the Consolidator fraternity of SLFFA in connection to the said DGMS guideline and its implementation. A detailed report was submitted to the stakeholder committee for its final recommendations in addressing these concerns. Additionally, we will continue to focus on minimizing unnecessary costs incurred by LCL Consolidators pertaining

to the cargo destuffing / stuffing process at SLPA Warehouses.

#### SLFFAs involvement with Sri Lanka Customs

SLFFA had many interactions with SLC on specific matters pertaining to our membership while we had discussions relating to common industry concerns alongside other stakeholders as well. A common issue faced was the high penalties imposed by Customs on Manifest amendments and late reporting. Subsequent to many discussions over a long period of time, SLFFA was able to ensure that SLC considers the proposal submitted by the joint stakeholder committee and formulates a new mechanism which is currently pending ratification from SLC hierarchy.

Given that the current penalty amounts in the current Manifest Amendment Penalty chart are disproportionate to the severity of the respective scenarios and that the manipulation of the system is resulting in inefficient, unethical and unproductive business practice, going forward, we have requested SLC to provide clear and concise direction with regards to the Penalty Chart and give necessary direction to all parties concerned to adhere to and strictly follow the current chart.

Furthermore, as a value addition we proposed that the penalties imposed be communicated via email to the respective line or forwarder and a confirmation receipt is issued once the penalty is paid to the bank and acknowledged by Sri Lanka Customs.

SLFFA believes that implementing the proposed new Penalty structure and introducing visibility and transparency into the current system will result in facilitating trade and improve the ease of doing business, help to improve Sri Lanka's position on the LPI (Logistics Performance Index), reduce malpractices at all levels and facilitate the improvement of operations and revenue of Importers and Exporters.

Whilst extending our fullest corporation to SLC's many progressive initiatives during this period, we are constantly in

**SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS** 



dialogue with them to further improve operational aspects which will ultimately benefit the broader industry community.

Amending of Customs Ordnance
While the DGC stated that relevant
clauses of the Customs Ordnance has
been amended several times when and
where necessary for the purpose of
trade facilitation, he reiterated that such
amendments will continue to be made
in the future too, as and when the need

#### **Development of Entrepot Trade**

arises.

It is believed that the Global Entrepot business generates approximately US\$ 8Bn per annum while Sri Lanka generates revenues less than US\$ 10Mn per annum. However, rigid and redundant Red tape which surrounds this promising and lucrative trade has caused frustration to those engaged in it, which was evident by grievances cited by the some SLFFA members as well.

Having understood the potential scale of the Entrepot trade and seeking to provide relief to our members, SLFFA set out to explore possible solutions in this regard. Further to direction given by the Chairman the process was initiated by writing to the Export Development Board (EDB).

An initial draft proposal was developed by EDB in consultation with SLFFA which was later revised and refined following an in-depth analysis of the trade and ground-level realities pertaining to it. The latest version of this proposal has been developed based on International market demand and a cohesive country policy is being advocated in order to scale, evolve and enhance activities of the Entrepot trade.

Sri Lanka Customs, as an enforcing body had offered initial pushback citing pilferage risk and lack of staff required to enforce the new proposals in the port.

However, a well-formulated proposal which was supported by documented evidence was submitted to SLC and ensured that the No Foreign Exchange (NFE), approval was obtained. SLC is currently evaluating and verifying it in order to ensure that there are no legal or procedural loopholes and is set to revert to SLFFA by mid-September 2021.

Concurrent to SLFFA's dialogue with SLC, we are also discussing the development of infrastructure at the port required to support the Entrepot trade. Currently, while the Entrepot business is being conducted successfully due to the speed and efficiency of the concerned parties, the industry and Sri Lanka is poised to benefit greatly by immediately adopting a robust and pragmatic policy for the trade by taking measures to regulate it.

Given the geographical positioning of Sri Lanka and the port of Colombo, there is tremendous room to grow the Entrepot trade in the country. SLFFA is proud to play a part in ensuring that our members are provided with the best possible solution in order to continue business and also that the Government and SLC will earn additional income when the new process is implemented and the trade is regulated.

#### Freight Forwader's liability on Abnadoned and Detained Containers

Having discussed this issue in various forums, SLFFA is currently in the process of negotiating for the limited liability on Demurrage and Detention charges in the port.

Carriers are of the opinion that since it is the Forwarder who enters into a contract with them for the carriage on behalf of a Shipper's Cargo, when the consignee refuses to take delivery, it is legitimate for any charges levied in the Port related to the respective shipment to be debited to the forwarder. Legal opinion is to be sought in this regard from competent subject-matter expert lawyers while the Ocean Freight Sub-committee has also been advised to propose the best way forward.

Annual Report 2020/21

#### **AITT Board**



Mr. Roshan Silva



Mr. Dinesh Sri Chandrasekera



Mr. Channa Gunawardena



Mr. Jagath **Pathirane** 



Ms. Tania **Polonnowita** Wettimuny



Mr. Niral Kadawatharatchie



Mr. Diren Hallock



Mr. Mohan S. **Mohanadas** 



Mr. Tony de Livera



Mr. Romesh David



Mr. Athula De Silva



Mr. Tyronne Soza



Mr. Kingsley **Abeywickrama** 

#### The Importance of Logistics Training

Sri Lanka Logistics and Freight Forwarders Association

SLFFA is always mindful about developments in the International Freight Forwarding arena and is committed to keeping the local freight forwarding industry abreast with the rest of the world. The Association is working towards raising the standards of the overall industry and making it a more Professional and Dynamic trade sector. Having understood the importance of a competent and knowledgeable workforce, the Association has placed great emphasis on developing the Human resources within the industry through local and international training programs.

#### The Academy of International Trade and Transport

The Academy of International Trade and Transport (AITT) is the training arm of the Sri Lanka Logistics & Freight Forwarders Association (SLFFA). It is a body endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) and is an Accredited Training School (ATS) of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). It is also a training institute approved by the Directorate of Merchant Shipping - Ministry of Ports & Aviation.

AITT conducts 3 training courses, namely, the Foundation Course in Multi-Modal Transport and Logistics, targeted at school leavers and anyone who is keen to start a career in Logistics, the Certificate Course in Freight Forwarding and Multi-Modal Transport, which is targeted for those who wish to further their knowledge of the industry, and which is a requirement by the DMS to have a

minimum of 2 staff members qualified in this course as this program is approved by the DMS, and the FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding and Logistics, an international qualification for those who wish to pursue higher studies in the Freight Forward industry, a certification that is recognized internationally.

#### **AITT's Adaptability to New Normal**

Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic effected lockdowns, SLFFA conducted Classroom lectures on Freight Forwarding and Multi-modal Transport under its flagship training institution, AITT. As the country came to a standstill during the lockdown, so did classroom lectures. However, AITT's proactive initiatives to immediately switch to online lectures via the Zoom platform ensured minimum disruptions to the learning process. While the positive uptake of online classes by the current students has been remarkable, it has also facilitated enrollments of students from outstation who were previously unable to physically attend classroom lectures.

In addition to the online classroom, AITT also initiated online examinations, further streamlining online course delivery. The online training platform 'Moodle' was used for this purpose, which is designed to provide educators, administrators and learners with a single robust, secure and integrated system to create personalised learning environments. The Moodle platform's ability to facilitate both MCQ and essay type questions and the ability for the examiner to mark the papers on the same platform, helped make the overall online course delivery process a resounding success.

AITT conducted exams for 1 batch of the Foundation course, 1 batch of the Certificate course and 2 modules of the FIATA course using Moodle, making

the total number of exams conducted via the Online platform 4. The Course coordinator and the Panel of lecturers need to be commended for their passion, dedication and commitment to ensuring continuous education.

There has also been an expansion of the Panel of Lecturers, with an increase to 24 from the previous number of 16. In addition, AITT has set contingency in place by having backup lecturers for all Key courses offered. As a value addition, we also encourage FIATA Batch-topping students to lecture new batches of the Foundation and Certificate level courses.

SLFFA held its last graduation ceremony for students passing out on all 3 courses in September 2020 on a grand scale with over 60 students receiving their awards. The event was held at Shangri-La Colombo

- Foundation students: 13
- Certificate students: 37
- FIATA International Diploma students : 14
- Special awards & prizes were given out to the top 3 students of the Foundation and Certificate course batches.

#### **Progress during the current Year**

In 2021, over 100 students had attended online lectures across all 3 Courses with keen interest. AITT graduated yet another batch of Foundation and Certificate courses students, which commenced in January 2021. An awards ceremony is scheduled to be held during the last quarter of the year 2021 for the students who are completing their training courses this year.

SLFFA hopes to expand its online lectures and reach out to those who are interested in acquiring greater

knowledge of the Freight Forwarding industry in areas outside Colombo, such as Trincomalee and Hambantota, who currently do not have access to quality subject expert training. Students will soon have access to an online portal to view various updates pertaining to the courses they are following and a digital marketing campaign is currently being carried out to educate and promote the AITT courses all across Sri Lanka.

The pandemic provided SLFFA and AITT an opportunity to go beyond its scope of activities and we are keen to do more for the betterment of the industry using the knowledge and experience gained during this challenging time.

#### Partnership with Sri Lanka Railway

Following discussions with senior Sri Lanka Railway (SLR) officials and Station Masters Union (SMU) officials at the SMU office at Maradana, AITT commenced a Partnership with the SMU of Sri Lanka Railways in January 2020. Having shown benefits of the SLFFA - AITT Certificate course and the value added to their members, we invited them to nominate Station Masters for the course.

SLR - SMU enrolled 10 Station Masters to the very First Certificate course that we started in Jan 2020 and 12 station masters for the Second batch. The fruits of our partnership were realised when Four passed finalists of the First Certificate course joined the new FIATA batch in May 2021. We added a special module on 'Rail Transport' to our certificate course and arranged special lessons at their auditorium to help them understand the core areas of end to end logistics.

#### **SLFFA TRAINING AND AITT**

#### **FIATA Diploma Holders**

During the period of review, AITT has produced remarkable results in terms if graduation numbers. To put things into context, there were only 21 FIATA Diploma graduates between 2012 and 2020, an average of about 3 students per year. In 2020 we had a total of 14 graduations, all of which were students from previous batches who had not graduated due to inconsistent Module completion of the course syllabus. It must be pointed out that, AITT enabled the graduation of all 14 students by facilitating tailor-made classes based on the incomplete modules of individual students. A Further 16 students will graduate in December 2021. The new batch with 35 students for the FIATA Diploma started in May 2021 and are scheduled to graduate by April 2022, significantly reducing the graduation time of 2 years for previous years to just 12 months.

The FIATA Diploma helps member organisations to build a trained workforce of skilled employees that meets global standards. Students enrolling in the training program are afforded an excellent opportunity to become more competent in freight forwarding and acquire the necessary skill set that can only be obtained through education. This will facilitate progress in their career, especially in light of the global outlook and international recognition of the FIATA Diplomas.

By maintaining the tremendous progress that we have made thus far and nurturing the FIATA Diploma course to consistently and continuously produce a high number of graduates and establishing it in Markets outside of Sri Lanka, SLFFA

believes that we will be considered a strong Association Member by FIATA and would definitely add value in time for the next Re-validation process in 2023.

#### **AITT-Going Forward**

Having established AITT as a competent and High-quality training and education academy, SLFFA is now in the process of registering it as a separate legal entity. We believe that this will reinforce AITT's position within the logistics industry and help streamline its operations.

As AITT looks to expand our reach both locally and internationally, we are currently in discussions with the Maldivian Association of Freight Forwarders to introduce and promote AITT's Certificate course to Maldivian students, which we believe is the ideal gateway into the market. While there are some logistical challenges with regards to the day that the course is conducted, given that Sunday is a working day in Maldives, we have proposed that we shift the current Certificate course to Saturday. Also, as we have now shifted to both an online classes and exams format, we believe that we will be able enroll students from the Maldives for our next batch of the Certificate course, which will be promoted accordingly.

Building on the success of the FIATA course during the last 2 years, we are targeting to produce a minimum of 35 FIATA graduates per year from the Sri Lankan and Maldivian markets going forward. AITT believes that with our continuous and consistent expansion in terms of student numbers and new markets, we will be able to become the Fastest growing country offering the FIATA diploma in the world.

#### **Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) Training Program**

For the 20th consecutive year, SLFFA conducted its Annual Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) training program for the staff of member companies. Refresher courses were conducted in December 2020 and April 2021 with Student attendance numbers of 30 and 22 respectively.

This year too, the DGR program was conducted by SLFFA's in-house trainer, Mr. Janaka Sumithrarachchi, who received his initial and subsequent training directly from IATA Singapore. Subsequent to Mr. Sumithrarachchi stepping down in February 2021, the DGR trainings were taken over by another experienced and IATA Singapore trained individual. Mr. Suminda Hettiarachchi, who is also a lecturer at AITT.

The SLFFA membership has responded extremely positively to the DGR training programs which is indicative of the value added through the curriculum and lectures. This is indeed an encouraging sign for SLFFA and we will continue to impart this valuable knowledge to the members.

#### Mr. Kingsley Abeywickrama

Academic Consultant – Academy of International Trade and Transport

A veteran in the Shipping & Logistics industry with over 26 years of local and overseas experience, Mr. Abeywickrama joined AITT's Pioneering panel of lecturers in 2006 and currently serves as its Academic Consultant responsible for the 3 Academic courses offered.

Concurrently, Mr. Abeywickrama also functions as the Director of a subsidiary company of Hayleys Advantis Ltd, a visiting lecturer at UOM, UOC, Ocean University, CINEC and SLFFA's AITT academy and the Chairman of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (UK) – Sri Lanka branch. A fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (UK), Mr. Abeywickrama also holds a Master's degree from University of Wales.

Mr. Abeywickrama plays a Key role as the Academic Consultant at AITT, in ensuring that SLFFA's aspirations to empower and educate professionals in the Sri Lankan logistics industry are realised, and has contributed greatly to establishing and enhancing AITT's presence. He helped develop the syllabus for the FIATA course and also was apart of the team that represented SLFFA at the FIATA revalidations held in Taipei in 2015 and Cape Town in 2019. Prior to taking up the role of Academic Consultant in January 2020, Mr. Abeywickrama was the External Examinations consultant for AITT. He also joined the TOT program by UNESCAP in Thailnd.

#### Mr. Chanaka Edirisinghe

Chief Course Coordinator – Academy of International Trade and Transport

A highly qualified academic, Mr. Chanaka Edirisinghe possesses over 18 years of progressive experience in the Logistics and Training & Development areas.

He holds a Master of Business Administration - MBA, Business Administration and Management from the University of Sunderland, a BTEC Advanced Professional Diploma in Management Studies (UK level 7 qualification) from the Business and Technology Education Council, a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management (UK level 7 qualification) from the International College of Business and Technology (ICBT) and an International Diploma in Logistics and Transport (UK level 5 qualification) in Logistics, Materials, and Supply Chain Management from the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (UK).

Apart from developing high quality course structures as the course coordinator at AITT, Mr. Edirisinghe is also involved in Business development activities and coordinates both internal and external communication activities involving both students and lecturers and played a key role during AITT's switch to Online classes during the Pandemic.

Concurrent to his position at AITT, Mr. Edirisinghe currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer at The Supply Chain Partner Network (Pvt) Ltd and as Manager-Training Solutions at Talent Bridge (Pvt) Ltd. Previously he worked as Branch Manager at Cargoplan International (India) Pvt Ltd and Assistant Manager – Client Relationship Development at Freight Links International (Pte) Ltd Sri Lanka.



Mr. Sampath Hemaratne Chairman



Mr. Suminda Hettiarachchi Dep. Chairman



Mr. Jude Wijesundera General Member



Mr. Kithsiri Liyanage General Member



Mr. Harry Joachim General Member



Mr. Sujan Malawana General Member



Mr. Anuradha Sooriyarachch General Member

Staying true to our roots, SLFFA believes in continuously expanding and evolving our industry expertise and know-how as the Apex body of the Sri Lankan Freight forwarding industry. What this entails of course is a dedication and commitment to change, innovation and automation which the Research & Development team focused on during the last year.

## Process Mapping for Ocean and Air Cargo handling

Continuing from last year, the SLFFA R&D committee teamed up with Dr. Asela Kulathunga, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering at the University of Peradeniya, to encourage research studies related to the industry. A team of researchers from University of Peradeniya studied the import & export cargo processes through the ocean freight channel. This entailed mapping and identifying the challenges and the bottlenecks that prevail in the supply chain, whilst recommending Best International practices. The interim findings of the research were finalized and published in December 2020.

## Statistical Analysis of the Contribution of the Logistics Industry to the National Economy

In a bid to quantify the impact of the Logistics industry to the Sri Lankan economy, The R&D committee set out to capture the contribution of the logistics industry at GDP level. Even though the project has seen extremely slow progress it is still alive despite the inability to bring all the relevant Government authorities to function cohesively. For example, the Department of Census & Statistics & EDB where, work from home limitations & disruptions due to the Pandemic, presents practical and logistical bottlenecks from time to time. However, the contributions from everyone who are committed to making this project a success ensures its progress. Given the scale and importance of this this project, it will be carried forward to the coming year where new timelines will be drawn to ensure maximum completion.

# Proposed Integration of Trade Debtor Data in the Information Coverage of the Credit Bureau (CRIB) Adding more value to the membership,

the R&D subcommittee launched a discussion with the Credit Information Bureau, for integration of Trade Debtors of the Freight & Logistics Industry. The initial formal request and further elaborations through discussions and presentations has seen good progress as the CRIB officially communicated their stance on this in writing, confirming that SLFFA's request can be considered, after their ongoing new Credit Bureau system has been fully implemented. We expect that this proposed integration will be implemented within the 1st Quarter of 2022.

#### 'Reported Debtor' Database Development

Although it is standard practice for member Freight Forwarding companies to extend credit to Importers and Exporters, the disturbing trend of certain shippers switching from One forwarding company to another without settling outstanding dues for services already obtained, still continues. Even though an initiative of maintaining a list of debtors was brought into practice, a cumbersome process of submitting information to a centralized database ensured that this was not consistent and effective.

To help mitigate this, the current Executive Committee has developed a system to provide a simple list of only 'Reported Debtors' which is to be maintained centrally and will be accessible to all SLFFA members. All SLFFA members will be advised to obtain a duly completed credit application form from the Exporters and Importers that they work with. SLFFA will have all basic protocol and procedure in place to ensure that reporting is done correctly.

The SLFFA Debtor Database project is well on its way with initial versions of the system also having been developed and we are working towards completing and fully implementing the system before October 2021.

#### **Improving Air Cargo Export Operations**

The most recent project that the R&D team is involved is the project on improving the efficiency of air cargo export operations. Lead by past chairman Mr. Jagath Pathirana, the team identified and recorded the concerns & issues pertaining to the existing process through a questionnaire shared across

all stakeholders of the Cargo Terminal of Colombo Airport. Based on their findings, the team has drawn up a proposal to be presented to the Chairman of the Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Ltd, Mr. Rajitha Medawawa.

#### The proposal includes;

- 1. Recommendations of immediate requirements to be implemented
- Recommendations of Medium /
  Long term requirements, with future
  facilities that are required to cater for
  the multimodal transportation model,
  to be considered.

SLFFA has no doubt that this will be yet another project to enhance the efficiency of the Air Cargo industry of the country across the board.

## LEGAL & INSURANCE ASSISTANCE (FREIGHT FORWARDERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE)



Mr. Shavindra
Dias
Chairman



Ms. Diruni Chanmugam Dep. Chairman

Throughout the years, SLFFA has been able to maintain its position as a leading association in the Logistics industry thanks to the tremendous value infused by our members, who act as pillars of strength that help uphold SLFFA values and execute the SLFFA Vision. The steady growth in membership numbers over the years is a testament to our commitment to empowering our members as well as the recognition that SLFFA has gained among the industry stakeholders.

At the end of last financial year, the SLFFA membership read as 121 members. During the current year it grew substantially and as at the end of August 2021, membership read as 136 members.



#### Affiliate Membership

COVID-19 saw many industries face unprecedented challenges globally, and the logistics sector is at the forefront of the pandemic-centric new normal. For exporters in Sri Lanka, Increased freight charges, lack of space on vessels and the shortage of containers are just some of the issues which are hindering operations and business as usual. In addition to new challenges, certain process inconsistencies and anomalies which were previously ignored also came into light, placing further demands on all parties concerned.

In a bid to strengthen our efforts further for mutual benefit in these challenging times and enhance our efforts to work together and add more value for the betterment of the industry, for the First time in SLFFA history we made use of the provisions allowed in the constitution and extended Affiliate membership invitations to these organisations this year.

SLFFA has always believed that the only way to progress during good times and recover during challenging times, both individually as an organisation

and collectively as an Association, is to cultivate mutually beneficial partnerships with all industry stakeholders. Partnerships that compliment the strengths and compensate for the weaknesses of each other. In this regard, we had identified 4 esteemed Associations that we believed would add value to SLFFA and the industry as a whole. SLFFA had worked closely with these Associations and have stood shoulder to shoulder with members of these associations in the past to resolve many issues & concerns in our industry.

We are delighted to recognise and welcome the below organisations who graciously accepted our invitation as 'SLFFA Affiliate Members'.

- 1. Joint Apparel Association Forum (JAAF)
- 2. Association of Clearing Forwarding Agents (ACFA)
- 3. Tea Exporters Association Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka Association of Manufacturers and Exporters of Rubber Products



Mr. Andre Fernando Chairman



Mr. Suminda Hettiarachchi Dep. Chairman



Mr. Nilantha Kanakaratne General Member



Mr. Manjula Marasinghe General Member

As a Strategic initiative of the newly elected Ex-Co, the Chairman proposed that a special 'Legal & Insurance' subcommittee be formed in the interest of assisting the member companies with the Freight Forwarders liability insurance claims and to secure the best possible benefits from the insurance company. This proposal was tabled at the First Ex-Co meeting held on the 26th of October 2020.

#### **Legal Review**

After having carefully reviewed the current AOA (Constitution) of SLFFA, the Sub committee recommended certain amendments to the content and structure thereof in formalizing the same which are to be taken up for discussion by the Executive Committee.

#### **Liability Insurance Review**

The Sub-Committee reviewed and evaluated the ongoing agreement pertaining to the 'Liability Insurance cover' currently contracted with Allianz Insurance, the service provider which was recommended to SLFFA members as the preferred Insurance partner. SLFFA has negotiated for a commission to be

paid by Allianz Insurance to SLFFA, based on the number of member companies that obtain Freight Forwarders Liability insurance from Allianz. It is expected that this initiative will generate substantial revenue for the association and the Sub-committee is engaged in ongoing discussions with the service provider to secure the desired benefits.

At the time of reporting, out of the 49 SLFFA member companies who have obtained Liability Insurance from Allianz Insurance, only 24 companies have channeled it through SLFFA, while the other 25 companies have obtained insurance directly from Allianz. SLFFA has requested that all its members renew the Liability Insurance cover with Allianz Insurance using the SLFFA Code. This would ensure that as an association, it would strengthen our position to negotiate better terms for all our members as well as bring in additional revenue which in-turn could be used for member development activities. It is estimated that SLFFA could earn approximately LKR 6,000,000/- in commission provided that all of the current 136 members obtain Liability

Insurance using the SLFFA code from Allianz.

Information sessions are to be organised by SLFFA where Allianz Insurance representatives will introduce and educated the members about the benefits of the proposed policy and help them make the required transition.

As an awareness campaign to educate the importance of proper insurance, SLAFFA published an article on the 'Importance of insurance in logistics' which appeared in the Daily FT of 21st of December 2020.



Mr. Shavindra
Dias
Chairman



Mr. Tyronne Soza Dep. Chairman



Mr. Sujan Malawana General Member



Mr. Jonathan

Suppiah

General Member

Mr. Harin Kulasekera General Member



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Mr. Prasaj Pathirana General Member



Ms. Patali Karunaratne General Member



Ms. Aindreenie Ranmuthigala General Member



Mr. Isuru Adikari General Member

#### Introduction

The SLFFA Publicity Sub-committee carried out a number of events and projects relating to Social affairs, the Website, CSR and Digital media activities associated with the 40th Anniversary of the association.

It has to be pointed out that, despite the prevailing Covid-19 Pandemic which has imposed many restraints on dayto-day activities, SLFFA had organised, successfully conducted and initiated many new projects in 2020.

#### **Activity Summary**

- AITT Awards
- SLFFA Annual General Meeting
- General Membership Meeting
- Coffee Table Book
- SLFFA Affinity Card
- SLFFA Column with the Daily FT
- Website development
- Social Media Activity
- SLFFA Dance 2020
- National Logistics Awards

#### **AITT Awards**

SLFFA's education arm 'The Academy of International Trade and Transport' held its annual graduation ceremony on 25th September 2020 at the Main Ball room of the Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo. Held for the first time with such Glamour, the event was scheduled prior to the AGM, with Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri – Director PIM gracing the occasion as Chief Guest. Students from the Foundation Level, Advance Certificate Level and FIATA Diploma Level were awarded Certificates and Medals. Over 100 students and lecturers were present at the event.

#### **SLFFA Annual General Meeting**

The 39th Annual General Meeting was held on 25th September 2020 at the Main Ball room of the Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo with the participation of over 300 guests from member companies and invitees from the industry.

#### **General Membership Meeting**

SLFFA held its General Membership Meeting on 29th March 2021 via an on-line platform, a First-time for SLFFA. The objective of the meeting was to share key initiatives taken by SLFFA during the First Half of 2020 and to provide an update on tasks completed during the previous Six months. Further, it provided a forum for the members to express their views and suggestions regarding factors directly impacting the industry. The online event was well attended with 105 participants.

#### **Coffee Table Book**

As part of its 40 year Anniversary celebrations, a Coffee Table Book titled – 'Ever Forward' will be published and launched at the 2021 AGM. The book is registered and an ISBN number has been obtained from the National Archives, while the book will also be available at the Public Library. This historic publication will provide an account of rare and unseen stories from SLFFA's Rich heritage, dating from its inception, throughout the past 40 years while giving a glimpse of what is to come in the future.

#### **SLFFA Affinity Card**

Discussions are ongoing with a leading bank to create a payment instrument that would assist members to make their regular payments to shipping and airlines and possibly for other ad hoc payments as well. A pilot run will be conducted and eventually we believe that this would allow all members to enjoy additional credit, thus better liquidity control.

#### **SLFFA Column With Daily FT**

This fortnightly publication started in September 2020 with Daily FT mainly focusing and outlining periodical issues faced by the logistics fraternity, sharing knowledge and creating more awareness about value added by SLFFA activities.

#### **Website Development**

The SLFFA website was revamped with a New look and is now live for all members to keep updated with all the latest SLFFA and industry activities. Phase 1 development was more focused on providing basic details to members, while Phase 2 development will have

Debtor function reporting, with the intention of providing all SLFFA members clear and concise information of the creditworthiness of potential customers. Phase 3 will focus on providing a more interactive platform for SLFFA members.

#### **Social Media Updates**

The SLFFA Facebook and LinkedIn channels have been active in providing important industry news and information periodically.

#### SLFFA Dance 2020

Unfortunately, the SLFFA Dance which was initially scheduled for November 2020 had to be postponed and later cancelled due to the health regulations imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Corporation (SLECIC) Insurance Cover

SLECIC provides customized export credit insurance policies for small, medium and large companies in all industries which helps them trade with confidence in overseas markets. Their Seller's Risk Policy provides protection to exporters against commercial risk such as Non-

receipt and delayed-receipt of payments, insolvency, non acceptance (repudiation of contract) due to Commercial & Political risks associated with dispatching goods or rending services to their foreign buyers.

Even though this Risk Policy had been extended to Freight forwarders as well, there was not much awareness among the SLFFA membership. Given the immense potential benefits to be obtained from this facility, SLFFA organised an information session at a General Membership meeting conducted by a top-level team from SLECIC for the benefit of our members.

Depending on the requirement and assessment by SLECIC, members can obtain covers that range up to 90%.

### **PUBLICITY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS, WEBSITE, CSR & DIGITAL MEDIA**

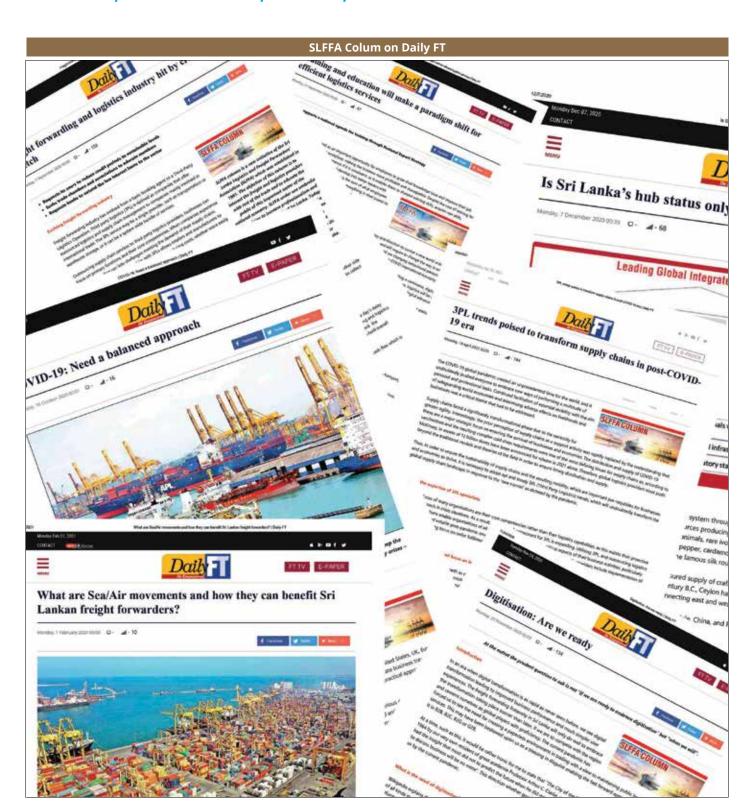




Sri Lanka Logistics and Freight Forwarders Association

## **SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### PUBLICITY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS, WEBSITE, CSR & DIGITAL MEDIA



## **NATIONAL LOGISTICS AWARDS 2021**

#### **National Logistics Awards Project Main Committee**



Mr. Shavindra

Dias

Project Chairman



Mr. Roshan Silva



Mr. Dinesh Sri Chandrasekera



Mr. Channa

Gunawardena

Mr. Meva Peiris



Mr. Navi Perera

Industry Awards open-up organisations to a wider network and contribute immensely towards increasing its image and financial success. Industry awards also help elevate the image of brands and companies, brings them well-deserved recognition and positions them as competent industry stakeholders.

The Sri Lanka Logistics and Freight Forwarders Association (SLFFA), commemorating its 40th year, conceptualised the National Logistics Awards (NLA), to be held biennially, aimed at highlighting the importance of the logistics industry and to recognise and reward its top performers, thereby uplifting the standards of the industry in Sri Lanka.

During the challenging year of 2020, the importance and indispensability of the logistics industry was understood across all economies. For years the silent endeavours of logisticians went unnoticed, but with the introduction of NLA, there will be a common platform for all segments within the industry to shine.

#### **Objectives of NLA**

- Uplift the service levels and standards across all logistics service providers.
- Make each industry stakeholder more accountable.
- Improve the image, visibility and overall recognition of the Logistics industry.
- Position Logistics as a Colourful and vibrant industry in order to attract Dynamic talent and thinking.
- Inspire industry stakeholders to add value to and provide Superior levels of service to both B2B and B2C customers.
- Advocate for support from industry authorities and regulators.

#### **Award Sectors**

The Inaugural NLA in 2021 will feature the below industry sectors.

- 1. Freight Forwarding
- Airlines
- 3. Ocean Carriers
- 4. Customs House Brokers
- 5. Courier Companies
- 6. Warehousing & Distribution

New sectors and sub-sectors will be added to future editions of the NLA going forward.

Project Chairman and The Team Behind NLA

The main NLA 2021 project committee is headed by Project Chairman Mr. Shavindra Dias, who is also the head of the SLFFA Publicity Committee, supported by the below project Sub-committees;

- Budget management and sponsorship committee
- Awards & Application committee
- Logistics committee

In addition to the above, NLA 2021 is also supported by a dedicated NLA Advisory committee from SLFFA comprising of Mrs. Tania Wettimuny and Mr. Diren Hallock.

#### **PUBLICITY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS, WEBSITE, CSR & DIGITAL MEDIA**

#### 1. Application process

#### 1.1. Panel of Judges

SLFFA appointed a 11-member panel of judges representing both Public and Private sector leaders, industry professionals and academics, which was very well accepted by other Associations and companies across the industry.

#### Panel of Judges - NLA 2021

	Panel of Judges	Designation	
1	Prof. Lalith Edirisinghe	Dean CINEC Campus	CINEC Campus (Pvt) Ltd
2	Ms. Chitranjali Dissanayake	Director General	Sri Lanka Export Development Board
3	Mr. Sujeewa Mudalige	CEO	PricewaterhouseCoopers
4	Capt. Nihal Keppetipola	Chairman	Sri Lanka Ports Authority
5	Major General Vijitha Ravipriya	Director General of Customs	Sri Lanka Customs
6	Mr. Sanjaya Mohottala	Chairman	Board of Investment
7	Major General (Rtd.) G A Chandrasiri	Chairman	Airport & Aviation of Sri Lanka
8	Dr. (Ms.) Namali Sirisoma	Director - Career Guidance Unit	General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University
9	Mr. Channaka De Alwis	President	The Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport
10	Dr. Amila Thibbotuwawa	Senior Lecturer	University of Moratuwa
11	Mr. Suren Abeysekera	Immediate Past Chairman	Sri Lanka Shippers' Council

After having opened Application submission on 2nd August, SLFFA organized an Applicant Workshop Online, on the 10th of August as an orientation and familiarization exercise for potential applicants. The workshop was conducted by Prof. Lalith Edirisinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Management at CINEC Campus, who serves as the Chairman of the NLA Panel of Judges, and the other prominent members of the Panel. This was attended by over 100 potential applicants which was a clear indication of the interest and enthusiasm towards NLA.

#### 1.2. Proposed 2nd Workshop and announcement of the 'Service Excellence Awards'

A follow-up workshop is to be organized coupled with the announcement of the 'Service Excellence Award', which will be presented by evaluating the Customer perception of the Service Excellence of Service providers. We are in the process of designing the questionnaires in consultation with the PoJs and respective associations. This would be restricted to Main Liners, Airlines and Express Courier companies.

#### 2. Event Endorsements

Given the significance and scale of NLA, we are Proud to announce that the below organisations have endorsed the event as at now. Further endorsements are expected.

- Ministry of Ports and Shipping -Merchant Shipping Secretariat
- 2. Sri Lanka Ports Authority
- 3. Sri Lanka Customs
- 4. Sri Lanka Export Development Board

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- 5. Airport & Aviation Services Sri Lanka
- 6. International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations
- 7. Federation of Asia Pacific Air Cargo Associations
- 8. Board of Investment of Sri Lanka9. Ceylon Chamber of Commerce
- 10. Sri Lanka Shippers' Council
- 11. Ceylon Association of Shipping Agents
- 12. Sri Lanka Association of Vessel
  Operators
- 13. Association of Clearing Forwarding Agents
- 14. Joint Apparel Association Forum
- 15. Tea Exporters Association Sri Lanka
- 16. Sri Lanka Association of

  Manufacturers & Exporters of Rubber

  Products
- 17. The Colombo Rubber Traders' Association
- 18. Academy of International Trade & Transport
- 19. Sri Lanka Society of Transport & Logistics
- 20. The Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport
- 21. Shippers' Academy
- 22. CINEC Campus
- 23. Institute of Chartered Ship Brokers
- 24. Sri Lankan Airlines
- 25. Sri Lankan Cargo
- 26. Sri Lanka Association of Air Express Companies
- 27. Sri Lanka Association of Airline Representatives
- 28. Sri Lanka Association of NVOCC Agents

#### 3. Event Sponsors / Partners / Committed Sponsorship Income

The Daily Financial Times (Daily FT) has come onboard as the Official Print Media partner of the NLA 2021 while TV1, Yes FM and Legends (of the Maharaja Broadcasting Corporation), have come onboard as the Official Electronic Media partners. The Shangri-La Hotel Colombo will come on board as the Venue and Hotel Partner.

#### The List of Event Sponsors as at the time of Printing

Expolanka Freight Limited (EFL) Platinum/Main Sponsor Hayleys Advantis Gold Sponsor/Conglomerate Partner Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) Bronze Sponsor/Liner Partner MAS Bronze Sponsor/Apparel Partner Brandix Bronze Sponsor/Apparel Partner Maersk Associate Sponsor **Omega Lines Associate Sponsor** TWC **Associate Sponsor** Shippers Academy **Associate Sponsor** CL Synergy Group **Gold Sponsor** Sea Care Forwarding **Bronze Sponsor Spedicon Logistics Bronze Sponsor Transwing Logistics Bronze Sponsor** Foreway Group Associate Sponsor Salota International Associate Sponsor

#### 4. Expected Revenue and Cost Budget

As per the initial Revenue / Expenditure budgets, the cost was estimated between LKR 10M – 12M with an expected revenue generation of LKR 15M, consisting of both Ticket sales and sponsorship revenue. The Committee has worked tirelessly to reach this budget and have achieved great success will push to raise the bar of the revenue expectation to LKR 20M.

- Estimated Cost of Event LKR 10 Million to 12 Million
- Total Committed / Confirmed sponsorships LKR 10,100,000/-
- Estimated Revenue from Ticket Sales LKR 10,000/- x 300 Tickets LKR 3,000,000/-
- Total Revenue from targeted sponsorships LKR 6,900,000/- in order to reach the LKR 20M mark. The NLA committee is confident of reaching this level and this would go as the highest revenue generation project in the history of SLFFA.

## 5. Ongoing Publicity and Communications

SLFFA has begun the communications campaign for NLA via our Print Media partner Daily FT, with Press releases introducing the event and the Panel of Judges and the publication of an Advert on the National Logistics Day. Dedicated NLA Social Media pages on Facebook and LinkedIn will be used to update and promote content daily, helping build traction and create visibility for the event among the industry and general public.

A fully fledged media campaign for the NLA and will be implemented starting September 2021.

#### 6. Event Format and Date

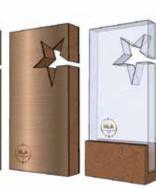
The National Logistics Awards will be held as a Physical event and is planned to be held at the Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo. We believe that the Logistics industry deserves a Glamorous and Gala NLA and we are committed to ensuring that we deliver on the expectations of our Partners, Sponsors, Award Applicants and all other stakeholders with an impactful event.

Given the current situation in the country, the event was postponed until the lockdown and Covid-19 related restrictions are eased and/or removed with the NLA 2021 tentatively scheduled to be held in the last Quarter of 2021.

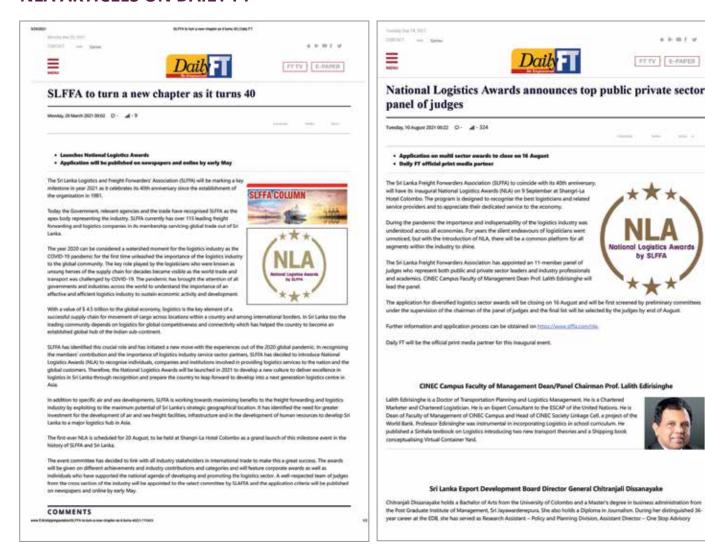








#### NLA ARTICLES ON DAILY FT







"When I commenced my professional career in 1981, these were the major and popular career choices available to an eager youth who had just completed his Advanced Levels. However, I was interested in shipping (transportation), and thus headed off in that direction.

which led me on a path of professional, as well as academic development, culminating in my current position. Today, this perception of

Logistics has somewhat changed because logistics plays a very important role in the current global trade environment, and the current





### R&D - Process mapping session - October 2020



**Extraordinary General Meeting via MS Team 26.11.2020** 

Contrary to expectations, the demand for container shipping has grown during the pandemic, bouncing back quickly from an initial slowdown. As the pandemic took effect on a global scale, trade lines had to remain open to the transportation of essential goods. Although lockdowns and restrictions slowed things down, consistent eCommerce growth meant that demand for international distribution remained high. From September to December, demand skyrocketed in regions that celebrate Christmas, creating a huge scramble for imports to these marketplaces. According to a UNCTAD policy brief, Maritime trade flows further increased as some governments eased lockdowns and approved national stimulus packages, and businesses stocked up in anticipation of new waves of the pandemic.

In Q1 2021, the value of global trade in goods and services grew by about 4 per cent quarter-over-quarter and by about 10 per cent year-over-year. Importantly, global trade in Q1 2021 was higher than pre-crisis levels, with an increase of about 3 per cent relative to Q1 2019.

In the Sri Lankan context, the logistics industry has seen an unprecedented growth in revenue owing to the surge in freight rates. A consistent top performer in the Colombo Stock Exchange has been a Logistics company which is also a leading corporate entity in the country.

As a responsible trade body, SLFFA took proactive and purposeful action to safeguard the interests of all members and thereby protect the industry. Curfew passes were provided for industry personnel with the assistance of the

Export Development Board of Sri Lanka (EDB), and Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA), so that Key staff could carry out essential functions. SLFFA was involved in the Special Committee set up to facilitate waivers and extensions for the demurrage charges and Liner detention charges based on the assistance and guidance provided by the Ministry of Ports & Shipping. Permission was obtained for drivers and staff of transporters to enter Colombo to carry out their duties, as only 10%-15% of the usual transport providers were available to work in the city. An appeal made to Dr. P B Jayasundara for the Government to recognise Logistic sector functions and operations to be included as Essential Services resulted in the issuing of a Gazette notification confirming the same. SLFFA continued to actively participate in the Special committee that addressed pressing issues of the industry.

While the industry is facing issues of container shortage, port congestion and understaffed ports, as the pandemic took effect on a global scale, trade lines had to remain open for the transportation of essential goods. Although lockdowns and restrictions slowed things down, consistent eCommerce growth meant that demand for international distribution remained high.

## The Pandemic made Logistics – Essential

GLOBAL LOGISTICS REPORT

When the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic in early 2020, more and more countries across the globe shut down their borders and limited transportation and travel to contain the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, thus, creating impediments for international trade and transportation. As the outbreak caused disruptions in supply chain operations, the logistics and transportation industries were hampered in various ways across air, freight, and sea segments.

However, the Logistics Industry witnessed a story of resilience in the second half of 2020 as COVID-19 held the world's economies commenced activities with easing of lockdowns in most regions including USA and Europe. The strong demand for goods over services backed by the economic stimulation packages by most of the countries fueled the world trade activities creating healthy demand for logistics services in the second half of 2020.

The logistics sector has played an extremely important role in keeping the wheels of the economy moving. The sector played a critical role in facilitating trade and commerce and helped businesses get their products to customers. More importantly played a very important role in helping the fight against COVID-19 by providing the medicine and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) where it is required.

From supplying essentials to households, industries, etc. to supplying oxygen cylinders to hospitals and healthcare centres, the logistics industry has been playing a pivotal role. Whether delivering

essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) around the world or supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as they adapt their business operations, the logistics sector has helped ensure the global flow of goods and has provided an essential service for our society during this unique time in our history.

#### The Challenge of Surge in rates

Shipping costs have been growing strongly since the autumn of 2020, but the first months of this year have seen a new surge in prices across different freight rates (dry bulk, containers) along major trade routes. Prices for several trade lanes have tripled compared to last year, and charter prices for container vessels have seen similar rises.

There is little sign of relief in the short term, and rates are therefore likely to continue spiking in the second half of this year, as rising global demand will continue to be met with limited increases in shipping capacity and the disruptive effects of local lockdowns. Even when new capacity arrives, container liners may continue to be more active in managing it, keeping freight rates at a higher level than before the pandemic.

Continuing Global imbalances, limited alternatives to Ocean Freight, unbalanced recovery through 2021, Blank sailings and capacity constraints, Port congestion and closures which keep creating delays are the main reasons which will ensure that costs will not be coming down anytime soon.

At the same time, the pandemic is still leading to disruptions, like the sudden closing of China's Yantian container port – part of the world's 4th largest container port Shenzhen – in early June. Even though operations have resumed, congestion and the continuing need for measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 mean delays continue to mount.

## Flood of new container capacity will ease price pressures, but not before 2023

Container liners have enjoyed outstanding financial results during the pandemic, and over the first 5 months of 2021, new orders for container vessels reached a record high of 229 ships with a total cargo capacity of 2.2 million TEU. When the new capacity is ready for use, in 2023, it will represent a 6% increase after years of low deliveries, which the scrapping of old vessels is not expected to offset. Along with global growth moving past the catch-up phase of its recovery, the coming increase in ocean freight capacity will put downward pressure on shipping costs but won't necessarily return freight rates to their pre-pandemic levels, as container liners seem to have learned to manage capacity better in their alliances.

In the near term, freight rates may yet reach new highs thanks to the combination of further increases in demand and the constraints of a congested system. And even when capacity constraints are eased, freight rates may remain at higher levels than before the pandemic.

#### **Challenges helped Value Creation**

The COVID-19 pandemic brought the logistics sector abruptly into the global spotlight. With increased attention on the sector, both in 2020 and in the near-term, where the logistics sector was identified as the key element to global trade facilitation. It was also noted that value

of the global logistic players reached the highest levels in the recent past given the emerged opportunities backed by the global demand for logistics services.

## Logistics will remain challenging with benefits

Just as longer-term global drivers of demand have shaped logistics real estate, COVID-19 will undoubtedly leave its mark on the sector. By exposing global supply chain vulnerabilities and accelerating long-term trends in consumer behavior, COVID-19 will be etched in history as a turning point.

#### The Air Freight Industry

Before the Covid-19 pandemic changed the entire landscape of the logistics industry, approximately 50% of the world's Air Freight cargo movements were carried out on passenger flights while the balance Air Freight was moved on dedicated cargo freighters. During the pandemic however, the requirement for PPE movements, COVID-19 vaccine movements and congestions in the Ocean freight sector, coupled with the low frequency of passenger movements saw Air Freight rates increase substantially. In order to meet this new demand in the Air, passenger aircraft were converted into dedicated cargo carriers with facilities to carry Low-weight cargo on the upper deck of the aircrafts.

The severity of the impact that COVID-19 has had on the Airline industry is evident when considering the fact that by 8th October 2020, Forty-three (43) Commercial Airlines had gone bankrupt. Since then, many more International and Domestic airlines have either gone bankrupt or have filed for insolvency. Considering the Global uncertainty of how or when Air travel will resume at least a fraction or normalcy, it is feared that many more Airlines will follow.

# SLFFA CARGO SERVICES LIMITED



Commencing its 27th year of operations at the BIA, SLFFA Cargo Services Ltd (SLFFACSL), posted a very satisfactory year despite having to face Hostile pricing strategies adopted by its competitor. SLFFACSL takes much pride in being able to increase volumes, turnover and profit during the last year thanks to the commitment and determination of the staff coupled with a effective cost-cutting strategy.

This year too, a significant proportion of cargo handled was General Cargo, followed by Fabrics and Accessories for the Garment industry. Given the positive customer feedback emphasising the Efficient and Fast service that SLFFACSL provides, it sought to increase the patronage of the company stakeholders by way of channeling their Consolidated cargo shipments via SLFFACSL and

has already revised tariffs to compete effectively with Sri Lankan Cargo, in order to help facilitate this goal.

Despite the total turnover of the Company decreasing by 10% from Rs.319.67Mn in the previous year to Rs.285.97Mn this year the company was still able to post an increase in profits to Rs. 85.9Mn

The Administration and Establishment costs decreased substantially mainly due to the rent concessions granted by the Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited (AASL), during the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic period. The wages payable to outsourced staff have increased by 9% this year which represents 13%, whilst the Executive level salaries have increased by 14% which represents 9%. With the ongoing

COVID-19 global pandemic, the company engaged in its tasks in accordance with guidelines of the health authorities in carrying out operations during the period of the pandemic. The company has adjusted to the pandemic with caution and care in ensuring the health and security of our employees.

The Company has succeeded in maintaining maximum efficiency levels in spite of lean management measures undertaken. The staff turnover for the year marginally decreased to 16%, compared to 17% in the previous year. High turnover was noted among the out-sourced staff i.e Cargo Assistants and Loader categories. In order to reduce the staff turnover, SLFFACSL have taken measures to improve HR practices, provide regular on-the-job training and granting staff promotions based on merit, loyalty and efficiency.

The induction of new staff with no experience is being managed with continuous in-house training on basic cargo handling skills to ensure compliance with the SLFFACSL Operations Manual. The training sessions conducted in fire-fighting skills and First aid was provided by AASL. Participation in other training courses and the annual year-end staff get-together were canceled due to the pandemic.

LIMITED

SLFFACSL continues to work with Sri Lanka Customs to enable e-Manifesting facilities to be made available and to automate clearance of cargo from Terminal 2. SLFFACSL has provided the Customs post at Terminal 2 with the required facilities to move towards this goal. The Custom's efforts to automate manifest submission for import Air cargo has been delayed due to internal bottlenecks and the current pandemic.

The Board of Directors continue to engage with authorities concerned for handling of import group age consolidated Sea cargo including transshipment as well as Multi-Country Consolidation cargo within and outside the port. Towards this end, the Board of Directors are working on plans to operate a fully-fledged Cargo Handling Terminal (CHT). This facility is expected to enhance the throughput of inbound and outbound logistics of ocean cargo in Sri Lanka. Whilst accruing many benefits to the importers and exporters in the country, it is expected to significantly enhance the international competitiveness of local exports as well as Sri Lanka's position as a regional distribution and logistics hub.

Satisfactory progress has been made with regards to our partnership with CCN Singapore whom with we are looking to

offer Cargo Community Systems (CCS) services to the Air cargo community in Sri Lanka. Currently, this industry initiative which is spearheaded by SLFFA & Sri Lankan Cargo has progressed well with over 30 leading Freight Forwarders and 6 leading Airlines successfully executing E-AWBs via CCNhub. Despite stalling with onset of the pandemic, with the momentum provided by the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL), in early 2020 with the launch of the EAWB initiative, it is now back on track with new deadlines given to the industry to fall in line by mid-August this year. Much eagerness was witnessed with airlines and agents scrambling to get on board the EAWB initiative last month. CCN is the only service provider currently in the market, offering its reliable services through SLFFACSL in Sri Lanka and we are expecting a determined effort by all stakeholders of the industry to move towards automation in a paperless environment.

For the First time since its incorporation and in keeping with its pledge made on its 25th Anniversary, SLFFACSL Board of Directors announced and Invited members of SLFFA to subscribe to the Issue of up to 4,440,000 ordinary shares of SLFFACSL at a value of LKR 15/- each to raise up to LKR 66,600,000/- in the manner comprehensively described by a circular. With this offer, SLFFACSL was able to warmly welcome 31 New shareholders into the Company and trusts that it will empower the company to progress with even greater momentum in the years to come.

## MEMBER DIRECTORY

	SLFFA MEMBER COMPANY	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
1	20 Cube Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	4A, Ohlums Place, Colombo 8	5303030
2	Abanchy Ceylon (Pvt) Ltd	51/A, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 03	112307007
3	Abans Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 115/9A Cotta Road , Rajagiriya.	011-5775903 -7
4	ABC Freight Services (Pvt) Ltd	ABC Court, No. 117 Hunupitiya Lake Road Colombo 02.	2438951-5
5	ACE Cargo (Pvt) Ltd	No. 315, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.	2446692/ 230800
6	ACE Distriparks (Pvt) Ltd	No. 775/5, Negombo Road, Mabole, Wattala.	2944500
7	Advantis Freight (Pvt) Ltd	Thurburn Wing, 400, Deans Road, Colombo 10.	112167701
8	Agility Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	2nd Floor, Sayuru Sevana Building, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02.	112167401
9	Air Marine Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 171 - 1/3, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08.	4655000
10	Airsea Worldwide (Pvt) Ltd	No. 171-1/5, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08.	11 2682193
11	Aitken Spence Cargo (Pvt) Ltd	No. 315 Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.	0112308330/5404
12	Aitken Spence Shipping Ltd	2nd Floor Aitken Spence Tower II, 315 Vauxhall Street Colombo.	112308100
13	APL Logistics Lanka Freight Forwarding (Pvt) Ltd	No. 8 3/3, York Arcade Building, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01.	2031500
14	APS Logistics International (Pvt) Ltd	No. 77 Park Street, Colombo 02.	112128400
15	Aramex Freight Corporation Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	No. 745/50 & 745/50 1/1, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha Colombo 09.	4728100
16	ASB Freight (Pvt) Ltd	No. 255/2, Kirula Road, Colombo 05.	5111806
17	Asia Pacific Logistics International (Pvt) Ltd	No. 157 3/2 (3rd Floor), Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 07.	4722250-9
18	ASL Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 45, Ground Floor, Lukmanjee Square, Grandpass Road, Colombo 14.	112327188
19	Benchmark Logistics International (Pvt) Ltd	No. 35, Temple Road, Colombo 10.	0112681011-16
20	BISELKO International (Pvt) Ltd	No. 157A 3A Dharmapala Mawatha Colombo 07.	112303423
21	Bollore Logistics Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	Level 3, Setmil Maritime Centre, No. 256 Srimath Ramanathan Mawatha, Colombo 15.	4705905
22	C.H. Robinson Freight Services Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	No. 193, 6th floor, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 08.	2553396
23	Cargo Boat Co. Ltd	No. 64A, Vivekananda Hill, Colombo 13.	2422241 / 55546
24	Cargo Worldwide Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	5, Alwis Place, Colombo 03	112555665
25	Cargoplan International (Pvt) Ltd	Access Tower, Level 6, No 278, Union Place, Colombo 02.	2302402
26	Cargoserv Shipping Ltd	No 1, Alfred House Avenue, Colombo 03.	011-4522000
27	CEVA Logistics Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	Level 7, HNB Towers, 479. T.B Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10.	11 2221800
28	CL Synergy (Pvt) Ltd	No. 30, 6th Floor, R. A. De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 03.	5300250
29	Clarion Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 88, Level 3, Justice Akbar Mawatha, Colombo 02.	5877050
30	Colombo Logistics World (Pvt) Ltd	No. 63/1, Ward Place, Colombo 07.	0112662050-52

	SLFFA MEMBER COMPANY	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
31	Crown City Developers (Pvt) Ltd	No. 115/9A Cotta Road , Rajagiriya.	115775905
32	CWT Globelink Colombo (Pte) Ltd	2nd Floor, Forbes & Walker Building, 46/38, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02	4723588
33	D. B. S. Logistics Ltd	Level 2, Prince Alfred Tower, No. 10, Alfred House Gardens, Colombo 03.	7557000
34	Dart Global Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 260, Sri Ramanathan Mawatha, Colombo 15.	4609600
35	Dellogistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 30/44, Logdon Place, Colombo 07.	5850716
36	Dellogistics International (Pvt) Ltd	No. 68 Davidson Road, Colombo 04.	2685364
37	DHL Global Forwarding Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	No. 81/3, Negombo Road, Peliyagoda.	777397256
38	Dinlanka Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 320/7 - 1/2, Galle Road, Kollupitiya, Colombo 03.	2370909
39	DLR SCS Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	No. 23, Alakeshwara Road, Ethul Kotte.	2327161
40	DP Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 941, Pannipitiya Road, Pelawatta.	114723946
41	DRH Logistics Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	No. 07, Galle Face Terrace, Colombo 03.	5371000
42	DSV Pership (Pvt) Ltd	No. 72 C, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 04.	2597973-7
43	DWW Logistics Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	No. 45, Ground Floor, Lukmanjee Square, Grandpass road, Colombo 14.	112327188
44	Eagle Logistics Colombo (Pvt) Ltd	No. 281/1 -1, R.A. De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 03.	5422000
45	Emerald Shipping Line Co. (Pvt) Ltd	No. 259, Biyagama Road, Peliyagoda.	115219358
46	EMG Logistics (PVt) Ltd	417, Kandy Road, Peliyagoda	114529501
47	Euro Asia Freight (Pvt) Ltd	No. 51/2, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo 07.	2574622
48	Eurotrans Express (Pvt) Ltd	No. 87/6, 1/1, Dudley Senanayake Mawatha, Colombo 08.	5512577
49	Expelogix (Pvt) Ltd	04th Floor, Sayuru Sevana, No. 46/12 Nawam Mawatha Colombo 02.	7400500
50	Expolanka Freight (Pvt) Ltd	No. 10, Mile Post Avenue, Colombo 03.	4791000
51	Famous Pacific Shipping Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	No. 07, Cambrige Terrace, Colombo 07.	2663700-9
52	Fast Transit Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 153, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 07.	2381231-5
53	Fits Express (Pvt) Ltd	No. 85 B, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 07.	114414000
54	FOREWAY Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	18 Macleod Rd, Colombo 04	5219156-7
55	Forwardair (Pvt) Ltd	No. 67/1, Hudson Road, Colombo 03.	2426655
56	Freight Line International (Pvt) Ltd	No. 465/3, K Cyril C Perera Mawatha, Colombo 13.	11344433
57	Freight Links International (Pte) Ltd	Level 7, Access Towers, 278 Union Place, Colombo 02.	0112302402 / 2302401
58	Freight Masters International (Pvt) Ltd	No. 21, Palm Grove, Colombo 03.	2370856
59	Freight Systems Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	2nd Floor, No. 525, Union Place, Colombo 02.	2692290-3
60	Freight Wings Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	No. 10, 1st Floor, Prince Alfred Towers, Alfred House Gardens, Colombo 03.	112553771
61	Freightplan (Pvt) Ltd	No. 07, Cambrige Terrace, Colombo 07.	2689515
62	Frontier Freight Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	No. 152/2, Mabima Road, Heyantuduwa, Sapugaskanda.	5230462

	SLFFA MEMBER COMPANY	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
63	GAC Logistics Ltd	No. 284, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.	4797900
64	Globactive Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	4th Floor, 46/38, Forbes & Walker Bldg, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02	4848141
65	Global Freight Management (Pvt) Ltd	N.D.H. Abdul Caffoor Building, No. 40, Church Street, Colombo 01.	2434500
66	Great Eastern Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 349 2/1 Cotta Road, Rajagiriya.	112877395
67	GTG Global Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 70-1/12, Lucky Plaza, St. Anthony's Mawatha, Colombo 03.	112 372 554
68	Harrisons Shipping (Pvt) Ltd	No. 330, T. B. Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10.	2687656
69	Hellmann Worldwide Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 50/25 A, Sir James Peiris Mawatha, Colombo 02.	231670030
70	HTL Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No: 112, Center Road, Mattakkuliya, Colombo 15.	2546941/ 583131
71	Inter Air & Sea Logistics (Private) Ltd	5th floor No. 77, Park Street, Colombo 02.	112128400
72	Interfresh Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	Level 7, Access Towers, No. 278, Union Place, Colombo 02.	4381828
73	JCILO Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 658/78, Level 1, Mahawila Gardens, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 09.	011-3100200
74	Kerry Logistics Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	5th floor, 77 Park Street, Colombo 02.	114456700
75	Kingslog Supply Solutions (Pvt) Ltd	No. 248, Thimbirigasyaya Road, Colombo 05.	4063307/7
76	Kintetsu World Express Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	No. 28/1, Bullers Lane, Colombo 07.	4714797/98
77	Kuehne and Nagel (Pvt) Ltd	Rotunda Towers, 1st Floor, No. 109, Galle Road, Colombo 03.	5400600
78	Laksiri International Freight Forwarders (Pvt) Ltd	No. 31, St. Anthony's Mawatha, Colombo 03.	2574180
79	Lanka Shipping & Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 99, St. Micheal's Road, Colombo 03.	4681700
80	Lovikta Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 18, Macleod Road, Colombo 04.	5 219 156
81	MAC G F Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	The Wavertree, No. 141/9, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.	2309151
82	MAC Supply Chain Solutions (Pvt) Ltd	The Waver Tree, 141/9 Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.	2309200
83	Mack International Freight (Pvt) Ltd	No 11, York Street, Colombo 01.	7671671
84	Maersk Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	Level 16, Parkland, No. 33, Park Street, Colombo 02.	4794800
85	Marine Transport Services (Pvt) Ltd	No. 156, Walukarama Road, Colombo 03.	5221221
86	McCallum Cargo (Pvt) Ltd McCallum Cargo (Pvt) Ltd	No. 100/9 3rd Floor, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07.	5561000
87	MCS Logistics International (Pvt) Ltd	No. 07, Hunupitiya Cross Road, Colombo 02.	4721062-6
88	Mega Trend Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	No. 73/1, Ward Place, Colombo 07.	2687868
89	Mercantile Freight Services (Pvt) Ltd	No. 27, Palm Grove, Colombo 03.	2575727
90	Metro International Asia (Pte) Ltd	No. 105, Level 3, Hunupitiya Lake Road, Colombo 02.	4360203-7
91	MIT Cargo (Pvt) Ltd	101, Delmege Building, Vinayalankara Mawatha, Colombo 10	2167200

## **MEMBER DIRECTORY**

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	SLFFA MEMBER COMPANY	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
92	Mountain Hawk (Pvt) Ltd	No. 235/12, Avissawella Road, Orugodawatte Wellampitiya.	4522267
93	MSA Shipping (Pvt) Ltd	No. 121/1, Stace Road, Colombo 14.	2385289
94	Network Cargo Services Ceylon (Pvt) Ltd	No. 52 3/1, Galle Road ,Colombo 03.	2348248
95	NorthPort Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 148, Fife Road, Colombo 05.	112517445
96	Ocean 7 Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 26B, 1st Floor, Alwis Place, Colombo 03.	115115500
97	Ocean HD, Through Transport (Pvt) Ltd	No. 69, Level 8, West Wing (Ceylinco House), Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01.	2333800
98	On Time Worldwide Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 740, 3rd Floor, Cotta Road, Rajagiriya.	5231337
99	Orient Global Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 258/3, Deans Road, Colombo 10.	0114380395/6
100	Peri Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 10, Mile Post Avenue, Colombo 03.	114791000
101	Pership Synergy (Pvt) Ltd	No. 135, Rainbow Business Centre, Level 3, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 04.	4523900
102	Power Freight (Pvt) Ltd	No. 444, Seeduwa Village, Colombo Road, Seeduwa.	11 434 5527/8
103	Premium Trading & Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	Level 3, Resolute, 471, Cotta Road, Rajagiriya.	112303366
104	Prestige International Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 83,George R De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 13.	11 2470099
105	R.P.C. Logistics Ltd	No. 310, High Level Road, Nawinna, Maharagama.	4310500
106	Rays International Shipping (Pvt) Ltd	No. 32, Station Road, Colombo 06.	112503614
107	Rubteco International (Pvt) Ltd	No. 98, 3rd Floor, Havelock Roadm Colombo 05.	112555668
108	Salota International (Pvt) Ltd	No. 26/B, 1st Floor, Alwis Place, Colombo 03.	5300250
109	Scanwell Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 67/1, Hudson Road, Colombo 03.	2426600
110	Sea Shipping Colombo (Pvt) Ltd	No. 633 1/2, Sirimavo Bandaranaike Mawatha, Colombo 14.	4978916-7
111	Sea Trade Services (Pvt) Ltd	No. 46/7, Valiant Towers, Level 1, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02.	4724516
112	Seacare Forwarders (Pvt) Ltd	No. 545 B 2/2, 2nd Floor, Sri Sangaraja Mawatha, Colombo 10.	114723448
113	Sealink Shipping (Pvt) Ltd	No. 88, Level 1 1/11, Justice Akbar Mawatha, Colombo 02.	2300884

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	SLFFA MEMBER COMPANY	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
114	Setmil-United Cargo (Pvt) Ltd	No, 2nd Floor, Setmil Maritime Centre, Srimath Ramanathan Mawatha, Colombo 15.	2485401
115	Shermans Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 60/7, Horton Place, Colombo 07.	53482003
116	Shiftco Shipping & Logistics Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	No. 39 2/2 Galle Face Terrace, Colombo 03.	112330678
117	Spedicon Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 61/1/1 Balapokuna Road, Kirulapona, Colombo 06.	117112500
118	Speedmark Consolidation Service (Pvt) Ltd	No. 49, Ward Place, Colombo 07.	2686354
119	Speedmark Transportation Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	No. 49, Ward Place, Colombo 07.	2686354/ 476060
120	Sphere International Freight (Pvt) Ltd	4th Floor, 88-4/1, Justice Akbar Mawatha, Colombo 02.	7644100-1
121	T L World (Pvt) Ltd	Level 12, No. 736, Orion Towers, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 09.	2055591-3
122	TDL Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 04, Adam's Avenue, Colombo 04.	2576837
123	Toll Global Forwarding Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	2nd Floor, No. 46/38, Forbes & Walker Building, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02.	4723939
124	Transcargo (Pvt) Ltd	ABC Court, No. 117, Hunupitiya Lake Road, Colombo 02.	2438951-5
125	Transwing Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No. 46/7, Level 4, Valiant Towers, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02.	112303344
126	Trico Customs Brokers (Pvt) Ltd	No. 50, K. Cyril C. Perera Mawatha, Colombo 13.	2345580/1
127	UCL Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No 295, Level 2, George R De Silva Mawatha Colombo 13.	4791000
128	Universal Freighters International (Pvt) Ltd	No. 63/2, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 07.	2436378-9
129	US Shipping & Cargo Services (Pvt) Ltd	No. 148, Mahawatte Road, Colombo 14.	773524580
130	VVK Maritime Agencies (Pvt) Ltd	No. 579, Bulugaha Junction, Kandy Road, Kelaniya.	112669644
131	Wigynsa Global (Pvt) Ltd	No. 16, Kirula Place, Colombo 05.	115745512
132	Wings Logistics (Pvt) Ltd	No 4, Adam's Avenue, Colombo 04.	2576837
133	World Express (CMB) Ltd	2nd Floor, World Express Building, No. 80 , Muhandiram Road, Colombo 03.	2342807
134	World Gate Freighters (Pvt) Ltd	325/12/97, Kurulu Uyana, Pelenwatta, Pannipitiya	011-2335645
135	Worldlink Shipping Colombo (Pvt) Ltd	No. 515/10, T. B. Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10.	011-2682233/ 37
136	Yusen Logistics & Kusuhara Lanka (Pvt) Ltd	West Wing, Ground Floor, No. 400, Deans Road, Colombo 10.	4732900

## **Sri Lanka Logistics and Freight Forwarders Association**No. 37D, Torrington Avenue, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka