COUNTRY PAPER – SRI LANKA

4-5 August 2014
Galadari Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Government vision (Mahinda Chinthana)

“Develop a youth who can see the world over the horizon”

“We have the opportunity to make this country a knowledge hub within the South Asian region. I will develop and implement an operational plan to make this country a local and international research and training centre for knowledge”

Mahinda Chintana 2010
(President’s Mandate)

HE Mahinda Rajapaksa
Executive President
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
SRI LANKA TO BE AN INTERNATIONAL HUB OF EXCELLENCE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION BY 2020
Presentation Scope

- Introduction – socio economic indicators
- General education system
- University education system
- Recognition of secondary qualifications
- Recognition of higher education qualifications
- Recognition of qualifications to practice a profession
- Bilateral and Multilateral Recognition Agreements
- National Information Centers
- National Qualifications Framework
- Ratification of the 2011 Revised Convention
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total area</td>
<td>65,610 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>20.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population growth rate</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td>74 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy rate</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita GDP</td>
<td>US$ 3,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligible for university admission</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions as % of eligible</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govt. spending % of GDP</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The General Certificate of Education – Advanced Level (GCE-A/L) at the end of Grade 13 is the selection examination for admission to the universities.
Participation levels in schools and higher education as a percentage of age cohort

- **Enter Grade 1**: 99.5%
- **Pass Grade 5**: 95%
- **Pass Grade 9**: 85%
- **Pass GCE (O/L)**: 50%
- **Pass CGE (A/L)**: 40%
- **Enter HE**: 12.5%
- **Enter National University**: 2.5%

50% sitting pass GCE (O/L) Examination

50% sitting pass GCE (A/L) Examination

340,000 pupils
General Education…

- Provided under Ministry of Education
- School Grades 1-13
- 10,000 schools (National and Provincial)
- 232,000 teachers
- 4.4 Million students
- Totally free education
- 500,000 fee levying in private schools for London (O/L) and (A/L) examinations
Vocational Education...

- Under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Vocational Training
- Vocational training centres
- Technical colleges of Vocational Training Authority
- National Apprenticeship and Industrial Training Authority
- Department of Technical Education
- Limited number of private vocational training centers
Professional Education...

- About 47 Professional institutions affiliated to local or international institutions
- Provide qualifications on fee levying basis
- Accounting, Law, Supply Chain Management, Engineering, Shipping, Hotel Management, Marketing, Architecture, Quantity Surveying and several more..
- Established under Act of Parliament or otherwise
Higher Education...

- Provided by both State and Non State Sector
- State Sector – 15 National Universities, 2 Buddhist Universities and 19 affiliated institutes
- Provide undergraduate education free of charge
- 7 PG institutes affiliated to national universities offer courses on fee levying basis
- 9 other degree awarding institutions
Higher Education...

- Sri Lanka Institute of Advanced Technological Education (SLIATE)
- 11 Advanced Technology Institutes & 6 Branches
- Offer Diploma and National Diploma
- Over 10,000 students at a given time
University Education in Sri Lanka

- Annually about 25,000 students enter 15 National Universities
- All selections to the National Universities are done by the UGC
- Up to 5% of international students are allowed to state universities
- Annually about 5,000 students enter the Open University
- Annually about 15,000 students go overseas for Higher Studies
- About 3000-4000 students annually enter to non-state Universities
- Minimum requirements to enter a National University is Pass in all 3 subjects
- Selections of students on merit (40%), District Basis (55%), special category (5%)
- There are no private Universities in Sri Lanka but non-state HEIs

Duration of Study Programmes in Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Degrees</td>
<td>5 Years +1 Year Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture Degrees</td>
<td>5 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering Degrees</td>
<td>4 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental, Veterinary Science, Agriculture</td>
<td>4 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and Arts - Special Degrees</td>
<td>4 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and Arts - General Degrees</td>
<td>3 Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Internationalization

- 100 Scholarship program
  - Reciprocal action
  - Catalyst for attracting foreign students
- Study abroad programs
  - Cost effective education in Sri Lanka
  - Different exposure
- 52 TNEs
  - Multiple success stories
Comparative Advantage

- Geographical location
- Rich heritage
- Diverse culture
- English language
- High literacy rate (92.5%)
- Recognition of the importance of Education
- Low cost of living
- Safety and security, a neutral country in SA
- High quality national universities
Private Higher Education

- Locally accredited programs
- Transnational education
- Paid foreign students (5%) in state universities
  - Around 500 medical students @ 12,000USD
- Investor benefits
  - Leased lands,
  - Duty free imports,
  - Tax concessions, etc
Recognition of secondary qualifications

- Equivalent to GCE (A/L) Examination of Sri Lanka
- University entrance examination of foreign country
- All passes in one sitting for university entrance
- IELTS or TOEFL for non English degrees
Currently recognized qualifications by DOE include:

- London A/L (Edexcel/Cambridge)
- India Higher Secondary Course Certificate
- All India Senior Secondary School Certificate
- Australia Senior Certificate
- Pakistan HSC
- Canada Ontario Secondary School Diploma Certificate
- New Zealand A/L Certificate
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Medicine</th>
<th>Dental</th>
<th>Engineering</th>
<th>Veterinary Science</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Bio. Science</th>
<th>Pharmacy</th>
<th>Physical Science</th>
<th>Arts</th>
<th>Agriculture</th>
<th>Computer Science</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006/2007</td>
<td>Sri Lankans</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maldivians</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/2008</td>
<td>Sri Lankans</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maldivians</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008/2009</td>
<td>Sri Lankans</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iranian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/2010</td>
<td>Sri Lankans</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/2011</td>
<td>Sri Lankans</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maldivian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bhutanese</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UGC
### Admission of students with foreign qualifications to undergraduate courses of the universities in Sri Lanka

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>2011/2012</th>
<th>2012/2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lankan</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iranian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldivian</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutanese</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fijian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>42</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course of Study</th>
<th>Medicine</th>
<th>Dental</th>
<th>Engineering</th>
<th>Arts</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lankan</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldivian</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA/Sri Lanka</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iranian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UGC
Recognition of higher education qualifications

- UGC Issues a certificate if listed in:
  - International Handbook of Universities
  - Commonwealth Universities Yearbook

- Medical degrees must be recognized by the Sri Lanka Medical Council
Recognition of qualifications to practice a profession

Membership or recognition of the relevant professional body in general

- Foreign medical degree holders must pass the examination set by the Medical Council
- Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (Washington Accord and International Professional Engineers Agreement)
- Institute of Architecture
- Institute of Quantity Surveyors
- Institute of Town & Country Planners etc.
Bilateral and Multilateral Recognition Agreements

- Washington Accord with International Engineering Alliance – for engineering degrees
- International Professional Engineers Agreement with International Engineering Alliance – for engineers mobility for practice of engineering
- More in other disciplines
Currently the University Grants Commission for University education

To be established a Centre under “Sri Lanka Qualification Agency”
Sri Lanka agrees with the need for a regional qualification Framework or linking mechanism.

Details under a separate presentation.
Status of Sri Lanka in connection with the 1983 Convention

- Sri Lanka became a signatory on 10\textsuperscript{th} Jan. 1986
- Education collaboration Eco-system has significantly improved
  - Peaceful middle income country
  - Sri Lanka’s vision to be an education hub
  - Favourable changes in higher education landscape
  - Increased quota (5\%) international students in state universities
  - Promotion of Trans National Universities
Status of Sri Lanka in connection with the 1983 Convention...

- Promotion of non-state Higher Education Institutions
- International accreditations
- Institutionalized quality Assurance systems
- National Qualification Framework
- Investments to transform Universities to international level
- State universities rising in international ranking
- Embracing Outcomes Based Education
- Credit transfer/Joint degree/Dual degree/Double degree collaborations
- Quality Assurance & Accreditation Agency
- Promotion of e-learning
- Government 100 scholarship programme
Status of Sri Lanka in connection with the 1983 Convention - Challenges

- Unmet demand for higher education for local students
- Limited places for international students in local universities
- Improvements needed in local universities for a rewarding experience
- Lack of enthusiasm by academics in state universities
- Perceived threat to free university education and hence lack of support
- Improvements needed in some courses to attract regional students
- Intermittent disruptions with no fixed academic calendar
- Lack of instruments and difficulties in comparing different qualifications at primary, secondary and university levels
Ratification of the 2011 Revised Convention

- There is no reason why Sri Lanka is not ready to sign the revised convention 2011
- Challenges for implementation are similar to 1983 convention
- The need for umbrella executing body to assess and position various qualifications
- Alignment of National Qualification Framework for a common Asia-Pacific Qualification Framework
THANK YOU