



Economic Development Minister Basil Rajapaksa addressing the opening ceremony of the Hotel Show last Friday



Hotel staff uniforms displayed at a stall



Another kitchenware stall



Master plan for tourism promotion

RAMANI KANGARARACHCHI

The private sector must take the lead role in the tourism industry and the Government will prepare the master plan and give necessary support, Tourist Promotion Board Chairman Nalaka Godahewa said.

Speaking at the inauguration of Hotel Show 2010 at the EMCH Colombo on Friday he said the tourism industry can stand on its own under the present environment.

The Government has designed a master plan covering five key areas which include the creation of a conducive environment for the industry.

This plan will be implemented within the next six

months to one year. We need to work on infrastructure within the next five years," he said.

There are so many hidden attractions in the country and we need to highlight them and make the tourists happy on their departure to make Sri Lanka the most sought after tourist destination, Godahewa said.

The Hotel Show 2010 organized by the Ceylon Hotel School Graduates Association jointly with Lanka Exhibition Services comprised over 160 stalls with over 83 companies participating this year including foreign principals.

Ceylon Hotel School Graduates' Association President Sarath Fernando said servicing a small but discerning group of customers is an expensive

exercise. But retention of these customers is important and their defection is imminent unless they are offered beauty and ambience amongst other needs.

As such although the investment on upgrading properties is high it has been proven that the sustenance of events of this nature has been dependent on redecorating.

Fernando said there was a huge demand for the stalls as never before and they could not meet the demand fully.

However, they plan to hold this exhibition every year. The Hotel Show 2010 exhibited the latest additions to the industry in terms of technology, linen, glass, cutlery and many other items.



Foreign buyers



Chefs inspecting kitchen equipment at the show



Ceylon Leather Products showroom at the show



Luxury furniture on display Pictures by Salya Rupasinghe



Kitchen equipment on display