



Korean delegation meets Minister Basil Rajapaksa. Pictures by Chaminda Hittatiya



Ministers with Belgium delegation



Minister meets with the USA team



Minister with Japanese delegation



With Chinese and Hong Kong delegations



The Italian and Cyprus delegations meet Minister Basil Rajapaksa



Minister with officials from Malaysia



Minister with UAE and Indian delegations

Foreign investors eye Sri Lanka

Many investors from around the globe seem interested in investing in Sri Lanka.

Hundred of investors and service providers flocked to "Expo Lanka 2012" in Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall.

Minister Basil Rajapaksa and Minister of Economic Development Rishad Bathiudeen held discussions with investor groups who came to participate in the expo 2012 from Belgium, Korea, United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong, China, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia and Dubai at his Ministry yesterday (29).

The UK business delegation was led by British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka John Rankin and High Commissioner for Sri Lanka to the UK Dr. Chris Nonis. Minister Rishad Bathiudeen also participated.

The Italy business delegation was led by Fabrizio Pio Arpea, Ambassador for Italy in Sri Lanka and Asitha Perera, Ambassador for Sri Lanka to Italy.

The government is keen to push the Sri Lanka Expo series of exhibition to a higher level. "I am pleased to announce that I am considering to promote the Sri Lanka Expo event in future as a must see export event in the Asian region similar to the renowned Anuga Foodtech Fair taking place in Germany as I speak to you now," said Industry and Commerce Minister Rishad Bathiudeen.

Minister Bathiudeen said this during the kick-off event of the second day of Expo 2012 on March 29 at the

BMICH Convention Centre in Colombo.

The event's chief guest was Prime Minister D. M. Jayaratne. Also in attendance were Minister of External Affairs, Prof. G.L.Peiris, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce Jayaratne Herath, Senior Minister A. H. M. Fowzie and Janaka Ratnayake, Chairman/CEO of EDB, organizers of the event.

"No serious food processing industry in the world ignores the Anuga Fair. Similarly, we should strive to make Sri Lanka Expo to be known as a trend setting, a must see trade and investment event in Asia in future which no serious international importer or investor would want to miss.

"We can achieve this only by committing strongly and I have no doubts that such a well-known event will lend precious assistance in our efforts to make Sri Lanka the Economic Hub of Asia as per the national development policy framework of our President Mahinda Rajapaksa," Minister Bathiudeen said and added, "Despite the World Trade Organization forecasting only 5.8 percent world export growth for 2011, Sri Lanka's export sector showed strong resilience, by registering a highly commendable growth rate of 22.37 percent, in comparison to 2010 under his able leadership.

I say 'highly commendable' since this growth rate has been achieved also despite a looming global economic downturn," the Minister said.



A trade discussion with the UK team

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