

# Aitken Spence Printing Facility opens

JAYANTHA DE SILVA

At the opening of the Aitken Spence Printing Facility the most modern of its kind in Sri Lanka, Chairman and CEO of Aitken Spence, Harry Jayawardena said that due to the new printing facility, the land prices in the area had seen an upswing and new ventures were to follow. Outlining the formula for his success, he said: "I am proud to have a dedicated staff. Adding new machinery and equipment and a calculated decision to move forward made the eco-friendly facility a 'Green area,' which was now a reality."

Speaking in retrospect concerning his relationship, which sometimes had been a thorny relationship with trade unions and his skills at handling them, he said unions were a necessity.

However, unions must realize not to be an obstruction to management. "Some of the unionists proved to be a hindrance for progress." He had discussions with them, but when negotiations had failed, he told them, "We both cannot work together."

A voluntary retirement scheme, which was offered to those who intended leaving, but most of the staff were retained. Some of the unionists, accepted the offer and left, thereby bringing labour issues to a successful conclusion.

Some of those who voluntarily left, later came with requests to be reinstated. They said that they had been led to quit work.

For a better life, better pay, job satisfaction, his advise was to 'act wisely.'

He also referred to the development of land in the



Some of the highlights of the event Pic. Sumanachandra Ariyawansa

Mawaramandiya area, where the printing facility was located.

He said that there were objections for its development. Previously the land

had been inundated with flood waters.

Deputy chairman and CEO of Wilkins Group, Andre Wilkins said, "The new printing facility was a

showcase for best eco-practices. We have been working with Aitken Spence for a period of over ten years in an international packaging services venture. Mark and



Harry Jayawardane addressing the gathering

'A significant sum had being invested by Aitken Spence for this project. Business is about partnerships. By 2025, the target is to become the global sustainable retailer'

Spencer, which was 125 years old, was a major buyer who also assisted in packaging technology." he said, adding that local quality control and techniques were to be upgraded by the Wilkins Group.

Trevor Hatchett, Head of Packaging, Mark and Spencer said, "Mark and Spencer has become the first 'Eco Printer' worldwide.

The current emphasis was on environment. We aim to extend the 'Green Concept.' Towards this end, a significant sum has been invested.

Business is about partnerships. By 2025, our target was to become the global sustainable retailer," he concluded.



Trevor Hatchett, Head of Packaging Mark and Spencer, presenting Prasanna Karunatileke, Managing Director the coveted Eco Friendly Standard Certificate.



Deputy Chairman and CEO, J. M. S. Brito with Chairman, Harry Jayawardane.



Some of the participants at the opening.