

# EDEX Expo 2013

## Inaugurated

**SARA PATHIRANA**

EDEX Expo 2013 was ceremonially unveiled yesterday for the tenth successful year. Minister of Youth Affairs and Skills Development, Dullas Alahapperuma was among other distinguished guests at the ceremony.

“Unveiling the Expo this year is a special occasion for us as it marks ten years in serving the youth of Sri Lanka and we endeavour to continue to help uplift the economic condition of our countrymen,” said Kamal Abeysinghe, Chairman, EDEX at the inauguration ceremony.

Many Sri Lankans have displayed skills at an international level and

we wish to highlight the significance of education as a stepping stone towards future success. Progress of a nation depends increasingly on an educated mind. There are many who achieve globally but there are more who do not even get a fair chance of unleashing their full potential.

“Twenty six percent of our youth include those who are school leavers and seeking employment. The youth unemployment marks a 19% rate, where the ratio is being women at 26%.

The government has taken the initiative to assist the next generation and beyond to acquire the required skills and qualifications

needed to progress further in finding employment with suitable job satisfaction,” Abeysinghe stated.

The root causes for unemployment issues are linked to numerous gaps in our education system. Advances have been made with respect to educational entities and changes.

“As a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN), the International Labour Organization’s (ILO), primary goal is to promote opportunities for both men and women to obtain decent and productive employment in conditions of freedom, equity, security and dignity,” Donglin Li, Country Director for

International Labour Organization (ILO), Sri Lanka Office said. ILO will continue supporting EDEX to maintain a progressive endeavor and to help promote youth towards developing their skills and help them establish themselves in society, Li added further.

The Green Pavilion, which focuses on promoting sustainable living practices and educate and engage youth in the field of green careers, was ceremonially declared open by W. A. Rubasinghe, Chairman, Central Environment Authority. This green initiative at this year’s Expo was endorsed by The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



Some highlights of the event. Pictures by Nissanka Wijerathne