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நிதி அமைச்சு
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

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Press Release

55th ADB Annual Meeting to be held in Colombo in May 2022

Sri Lanka will hold the 55th Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on May 2-5, 2022 in Colombo. Hon. Minister of Finance, Basil Rajapaksa currently holds the chair of the Board of Governors of the ADB and Sri Lanka will proudly host this significant event at the BMICH as the second country to hold the Annual Meeting in the South Asian Region. The ADB annual meeting is a high level, prestigious event attended by Ministers of Finance, Governors of Central Banks from the 68 member countries of the ADB as well as chief executives of major global banks, international dignitaries. During the four-day meeting, a number of bilateral, regional and other meetings will also be held in addition to the official meetings of the ADB annual meeting. Further, this will provide a forum of discussion to the NGOs, business community, civil society, local and international media personnel, international organizations, academia and the private sector. It is expected that around 3,000 delegates will attend the meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be held alongside the theme of “Positioning Climate Resilient Green Economy for the Post COVID-19 World”. Thusly, the event will provide a platform for discussion on overcoming the challenges posed by the pandemic, while adopting sustainable practices. As Sri Lanka emerges from pandemic and ensuing economic conditions, the Annual Meeting will provide a timely opportunity for Sri Lanka to reposition in the international arena with Asia Pacific partners to promote and establish Sri Lanka as a center for business, trade, investment and tourism.

In addition, hosting the Annual Meeting will be a manifestation of our appreciation to the ADB who has been a major multi-lateral development partner to Sri Lanka. The ADB is one of the largest sources of multilateral development assistance to Sri Lanka and has committed loans, grants, and technical assistance amounting to around USD 11.4 billion to Sri Lanka since Sri Lanka became a member of the Bank in 1966. ADB’s assistance to the country is notable in the areas of transport, energy, agriculture, finance, education, health, urban and water sectors. Further, the ADB has lent us great assistance in managing the COVID-19 pandemic in increasing the testing capacity of the country and procuring related equipment and items.

Ahead of the Annual Meeting, ADB Vice President Mr. Shixin Chen, ADB Secretary Mr. Muhammad Ehsan Khan and a team from ADB are currently visiting Sri Lanka to discuss the preparations for the Meeting. They have already met H.E. the President as well as Treasury officials to discuss organization process underway ahead of the meeting. Further, to mark the event, a tree planting campaign was organized in the BMICH premises, which is the main venue of the Annual Meeting, in keeping with remedial contribution to global climatic change issue in the theme of sustainability.

D.S. Jayaweera
Chief Executive Officer
ADB AM Secretariat