the Management Club Update
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About TMC

THE Management Club (TMC) formed in 2001 under the auspices of the Chartered Management Institute – UK Sri Lanka Branch is a forum dedicated to uplift management practices in Sri Lanka on par with the best international standards and strives to achieve this by providing constant opportunities for member interaction and participation at appropriate business and personal enhancement programs in the varied disciplines that make up the field of management.

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TMC operates its Principal Club at the Galadari Hotel (011 5860000) Suite 206. Its associate Clubs are based at the Berjaya Mt Royal Beach Hotel, Camelot Beach Hotel Negombo, Hibiscus Kalutara and Ramadia Ranmal Holiday Resort Moratuwa. Inquiries for membership to the Management Club by email to: tmcsecretariat2012@gmail.com/fs@maritimesl.com.

TMC Colombo hosts another insightful "Members Speak" session on global expansion strategies

THE Management Club (TMC) Colombo has successfully hosted inaugural "Members Speak" for Jan 2026 'session under the theme "Why Stay Local, When You Can Go Global – From Sri Lankan Roots to Global Relevance" on 27 January 2026 at the Ebony Hall, Cinnamon Grand Hotel, Colombo.

The session was conducted by the renowned international trade and logistics expert Worldwide Logistics Lanka Ltd., Managing Director Rienzie Cooray, who delivered an insightful, engaging and a professionally delivered presentation on scaling Sri Lankan businesses beyond domestic boundaries.

Addressing a well packed audience; Cooray emphasised the importance of aligning local strengths with global market demands. Drawing from over three decades of experience in freight forwarding, logistics and international trade across 56 global markets, he provided practical insights into market entry strategies, global value chains and operational readiness required for international expansion.

He highlighted that Sri Lankan enterprises possess strong foundational capabilities but must adopt strategic thinking, innovation, and compliance with global standards to remain competitive. The session explored key challenges faced by businesses venturing overseas, including regulatory frameworks, supply chain efficiencies, branding for international markets, and building sustainable partnerships.

Cooray, is an MBA holder from the UK and a National coach on Export Management accredited by the International Trade Centre (ITC). He further shared real-world case studies illustrating successful export scaling and import–export optimisation. His insights reflected his ongoing contributions to national export scale-up initiatives in collaboration with the Export Development Board (EDB).

Participants actively engaged in the interactive discussion segment, seeking guidance on navigating international trade complexities, leveraging logistics efficiencies, and enhancing operational resilience in volatile global markets.

Sun Systems International Founder/Managing Director Sanath Wijeyaratne, making a remark on Cooray's session as a successful insight and says it is a need of the hour. Worldwide Logistics Ltd Accountant W. M. D. Wickramasinghe, mentioned that the presentation was an eye opener and needed the real time experiences from an experienced hand of the calibre of Cooray. Ajithaa Edirimane, an experienced Lawyer commented that the information provided for prospective exporters was valuable and even helpful for other professionals as well.

The event drew strong participation from TMC members, corporate representatives, and professionals from sectors including hospitality, banking, insurance, communication, and professional services. The session also provided valuable networking opportunities, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among attendees. TMC Colombo chapter continues to play a pivotal role in empowering professionals and business leaders by providing platforms that encourage knowledge sharing, leadership development, and global business awareness.

TMC Colombo announces fifth "Members Speak" on "The ROI of digital: Why execution matters more than technology"

THE Management Club (TMC) Colombo, presents the fifth 'Members' Speak' on 5 March 2026, at 6.30 p.m.at Cinnamon Grand Hotel, Colombo.

This session will focus on "The ROI of Digital: Why Execution Matters More Than Technology," a timely and an interesting topic for Sri Lanka's corporate sector. While digital transformation is often viewed as adopting new systems or AI tools, true ROI stems from disciplined execution, process redesign, strong governance, change management, and measurable outcomes. This discussion will highlight why execution, rather than technology, drives genuine digital success.

The keynote speaker will be Kamaya Perera who serves as the Deputy Head of Advisory practice at KPMG in Sri Lanka, where she heads the Management Consulting and Technology divisions, Integration and Separation Advisory Services, and KPMG Executive Search Ltd. She also heads the National Development Assistance Sector, a key focus area that supports the country's socio-economic development. She has over 23 years of experience in conducting advisory engagements and implementing projects for both government and private sector institutions.

Perera is professionally qualified as an Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (ACA), a Fellow Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants – UK (FCMA), and a Certified Practicing Accountant (CPA – Australia). She also holds the prestigious Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) designation. Reinforcing her commitment to professional excellence and leadership development, she currently serves as the President of the Sri Lanka Chapter of the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) and is a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute of the UK. She also holds a Master of Business Economics from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and a BSc. (Hons) from the Manchester Metropolitan University – UK.

Project Chairperson Dr. Saliya Balasooriya expects this session, "The ROI of Digital: Why Execution Matters More Than Technology," to serve as a masterclass for entrepreneurs and professionals navigating the complex IT, AI, and related business landscape. The discussion will cover practical execution strategies that drive organisational success, resilience, and growth. After the keynote session, attendees can participate in a fellowship and networking session—an excellent opportunity to connect with professionals, share insights, and build meaningful business relationships in an engaging atmosphere.

The investment for the session would be Rs. 2,500 per person, including snacks. To register and pay, contact the TMC Secretariat (Ashley/Joseph) at 071 586 0000 or email tmcsrilanka@gmail.com.

Obituary Notice

LATE Anil Weeratunge, who passed away in Perth, Australia, on 7 February, will be remembered as a visionary leader, a gentleman of integrity, and a committed professional who made a lasting contribution to the management profession in Sri Lanka.

During the period 1999 to 2001, when I had the privilege of serving as President of the Chartered Management Institute (CMI), UK – Sri Lanka Branch, Weeratunge served with distinction as Vice President. Upon subsequently assuming office as President, he demonstrated foresight and decisiveness by immediately endorsing a proposal I had presented as the outgoing President—namely, the establishment of a Leadership Institute and/or a Management Club to promote professional fellowship and thought leadership beyond formal institutional boundaries.

With the unanimous approval of the incoming Executive Committee, Weeratunge requested me, in my capacity as Immediate Past President, to commence work on the establishment of *The Management Club*, assuring the full support of himself and the Executive Committee. True to his word, he extended his unstinting and wholehearted support, together with a few senior members of the Executive Committee.

As a result of this collective effort and his strong leadership, *The Management Club*—arguably the only Management Club of its kind in the world—was successfully launched at the Galle Face Hotel in February 2002.

Regrettably, in the latter part of 2002, Weeratunge and his family took the decision to migrate to Australia. Nevertheless, his contribution to the formation and success of *The Management Club* remains an enduring and integral part of its foundation and history.

He will be fondly remembered for his integrity, clarity of thought, encouragement of innovation, and unwavering support for professional development. His legacy continues through the institutions he helped shape and the many professionals he inspired.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

We, at the Chartered Management Institute (UK) – Sri Lanka Branch, together with all members of *The Management Club*, extend our sincere condolences to his family.

M. Fayaz Saleem
President Emeritus,
The Management Club

Northern Investment Summit and Sri Lanka's positive energy

From summit to public-private execution

By Raj Sivanathan

NORTHERN Investment Summit 2026 (NIS 26) facilitated by The Management Club of Sri Lanka, an elite club of professionals, with its team of project specific advisory council conceptualised the plan for an investment summit targeting the Northern region of Sri Lanka. This event captures the energy and significance of this landmark gathering in Sri Lanka. The summit brought together policymakers, business leaders, development partners, entrepreneurs, and members of the Northern community under one shared vision — advancing sustainable economic growth in the region.

The Northern Investment Summit 2026 (NIS 26) marked a structural shift in the economic narrative of Northern Sri Lanka. It was not convened as a ceremonial forum, but as a transition mechanism from discussion to execution. Part 1, The key moments from the opening ceremony, panel discussions, investor networking sessions, and sector-focused presentations. Delegates engaging in dialogue on infrastructure, industrial development, tourism, agriculture, technology and innovation. The strong participation of youth, women and local enterprises, emphasising the summit's commitment to inclusive opportunity. And the summit aligned stakeholders, diaspora networks and institutional actors.

Part 2, NIS 26 is now over a month since its successful execution. And the region now shows accelerated moves decisively into implementation architecture. For the first time in decades, multiple infrastructure signals are pointing in the same direction: Jaffna International Airport expansion, Katunayake to Jaffna domestic aviation development, Kankesanthurai KKS Harbour upgrade, Paranthan saltern revival, chemical industry re-engagement, and structured diaspora capital mobilisation. Air, sea, industry and capital are aligning within a single corridor.

Connectivity remains the central trigger. Colombo to Jaffna road travel averages 7 to 9 hours. By air, it is approximately 60 to 75 minutes. Jaffna to South India is just 35 minutes. Time compression translates directly into productivity, tourism efficiency, investor mobility and diaspora engagement. The strengthening of Jaffna International Airport including runway capability, passenger throughput and cargo scalability positions the North as a regional gateway rather than a peripheral extension. The parallel upgrade of KKS Harbour provides maritime balance, enabling short sea shipping integration, industrial logistics efficiency and fisheries export growth. Industrial reactivation through the Paranthan saltern and responsible chemical sector re-engagement would reduce import dependency and strengthen domestic value chains. When infrastructure layers interact, multiplier effects compound.

If improved connectivity generates even 100 additional tourists per day alongside increased diaspora visitation and freight efficiency, the five year regional multiplier impact could be substantial. And Infrastructure will not be an expenditure by economic leverage. The decisive phase in the post-summit development period will require disciplined public - private partnership activation. Sri Lanka's fiscal space remains limited. Aviation expansion, port modernisation and industrial revival need to be supported through blended financing, risk sharing structures and transparent governance mechanisms. Public - private partnership frameworks will provide capital efficiency, investor confidence and execution accountability. And now the Implementation momentum is already visible.

The NIS 26 digital investment portal being structured in collaboration with Vavuniya University, under the Northern Province secretariat is integrating into a formal gov.lk domain, a platform to ensure transparency and institutional credibility. And this completion is scheduled in the third week of March. And the consolidated NIS26 summit report will be formally delivered to relevant ministries, regulatory bodies and diplomatic missions. Divisional Secretariats are preparing district level project projections while a one- stop- investment secretariat is being established to streamline investor facilitation. In the Northern Province, beyond the formal sessions, the images portray meaningful interactions — handshakes that signal partnership, discussions that spark collaboration, and cultural elements that celebrate the region's identity. It is an activation phase where balanced regional growth can strengthen national resilience. And distributed infrastructure would improve export logistics and will enhance long term stability.

NIS 26, would tell the story of a region positioning itself for renewed investment and long-term progress. And the decade 2026 to 2035 can define Northern Sri Lanka's transformation.

(The author is attached with the NIS 26 Secretariat)

TMC Board of Management President Roger Talayaratne

Consul General of India – Jaffna Sai Murali

BOM Past President/NIS 26 Chairman Kaushal Rajapaksa

Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka – Southern India Dr. Ganesanathan Geathiswaran

British High Commissioner Andrew Patrick

Industry and Entrepreneurship Development Minister Sunil Handunneththi

Panel discussion

New members of TMC Colombo

YUKA La Tulippe, currently serves as the Co-CEO/General Manager of APAC Operations of Perituza Software Solutions, LLC. She brings over 19 years of corporate experience in the technology consulting and commercial aviation industries. In addition, she is an award-winning classical pianist who has performed twice in Carnegie Hall in New York City. Yuka holds a Bachelor of Science in Technical Management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida, USA and is also certified in Product Management, Agile Software Development, Umbraco CMS Administration, and Corporate Travel. In addition, Yuka is an inaugural member of Sri Lanka's first Women in Aviation US-based awards in corporate marketing and communications

Ruvini Kaushalya is the Head of Research at LOLC Securities, bringing over a decade of experience in equity research and capital markets. She holds a B.Sc.(Sp) in Finance from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Her career began at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and thereafter involved in key analytical and leadership roles at premier Sri Lankan stock broking firms, such as Capital Trust Securities and SC Securities. Ruvini has also gained international experience through her role as a Delivery Manager at Acuity Analytics, which is an US-based sell-side research firm. She possesses deep insights into the Sri Lankan economy and is passionate about equity research.

Melissa Talayaratne, a former banker of Commercial Bank. Presently working as a Director of Ebenezer Double Edged Solutions Ltd. She also works closely with the British Council of Sri Lanka in the capacity of a venue staff member.

Lorene Nishadhi Cruez is a Clinical Psychologist and currently serves as the Deputy General Manager – Group Counselling at Brandix Apparel Ltd., leading the mental health strategy across Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and India. She holds a BSc in Psychology from the University of Missouri -Science and Technology, a MSc in Clinical Psychology from Dev Sanskrit University, India, and another Master's in Human Rights and Democratisation from the University of Colombo. Since 2018, she has been working as a Psychology Lecturer and Supervisor while maintaining an active clinical practice and delivering training on stress management, mindfulness, and emotional regulation. She brings over a decade of experience in the development sector, including disaster response, psychosocial initiatives, and rights-based work on Gender Justice and Gender Based Violence with NGOs and donor agencies. She is also a trainer in Sphere Humanitarian Standards and contributes to global humanitarian teams supporting trauma-informed intervention.

Yuka La Tulippe

Ruvini Kaushalya

Melissa Talayaratne

Lorene Nishadhi Cruez