



Australian High Commission Colombo

MEDIA RELEASE

24 August 2016

Australian High Commissioner visits the Southern Province

The Australian High Commissioner, Mr Bryce Hutchesson, visited the Southern Province from 17 to 19 May 2016 and met with government and business interlocutors and visited Sri Lankan Government infrastructure projects and Australian Government-supported development projects.

In Hambantota, Mr Hutchesson toured the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport, the International Convention Centre and the Magam Ruhunupura Mahinda Rajapaksa Port. He had productive discussions on the economic and development situation with Hambantota District Secretary Mr WH Karunaratne and the Hambantota District Chamber of Commerce. Mr Hutchesson heard about the excellent work the Hambantota District Chamber of Commerce has done with two Australian Management Advisers, funded through the Australian Volunteers for International Development program. The Forestry Department briefed Mr Hutchesson on the Community Forestry Program, funded by Australia. Mr Hutchesson also visited a National Livestock Development Board farm at Ridiyagama, home to 2500 Australian dairy cattle managed jointly by Australian company Wellard. Wellard has supplied dairy cattle, infrastructure, equipment and management to Sri Lanka.

In Tangalle, the High Commissioner visited the Aruna Plant Nursery where Australian funding through the Market Development Facility program is assisting in establishing a tissue culture lab to help Sri Lankan farmers grow bananas for the tourism industry and export market.

Mr Hutchesson met with State Minister of Finance the Hon Lakshma Yapa Abeywardena in Matara and discussed the Government's economic reform strategy. The High Commissioner also met with the Matara District Chamber of Commerce and Industry to discuss business and opportunities and challenges in Matara District.

In Seenigama Mr Hutchesson toured the Foundation of Goodness, learning about its extensive program of activities and livelihood training and its medical and sporting facilities. There is a long history of Australian support for the Foundation of Goodness.

Captions for photos

DSC_3586: Australia's High Commissioner Mr Bryce Hutchesson toured the Mattala Rajapakse International Airport.

DSC_3769: Australia's High Commissioner Mr Bryce Hutchesson visited a National Livestock Development Board farm in Ridiyagama, home to 2500 Australian cows.

DSC_3823: Australia's High Commissioner Mr Bryce Hutchesson met with Hambantota District Secretary Mr WH Karunaratne.

DSC_3903: Australia's High Commissioner Mr Bryce Hutchesson toured the International Convention Centre in Hambantota.

DSC_3913: Australia's High Commissioner Mr Bryce Hutchesson met with the Hambantota District Chamber of Commerce to discuss the business and investment environment.

DSC_3956: Australia's High Commissioner Mr Bryce Hutchesson toured the Magam Ruhunupura Mahinda Rajapaksa Port.

DSC_4160: Australia's High Commissioner Mr Bryce Hutchesson was briefed on the Community Forestry Program, funded by Australia.

DSC_4307: Australia's High Commissioner Mr Bryce Hutchesson visited the Aruna Plant Nursery, funded by Australia through the Market Development Facility program.

DSC_4361: Australia's High Commissioner Mr Bryce Hutchesson met with State Minister of Finance the Hon Lakshma Yapa Abeywardena in Matara.

DSC_4468: Australia's High Commissioner Mr Bryce Hutchesson met with the Matara District Chamber of Commerce and Industry to discuss the business and investment environment.

DSC_4621: Australia's High Commissioner Mr Bryce Hutchesson visited the Foundation of Goodness in Seenigama.