



# NEWSLETTER

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**NORTHERN CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES**

**Welcome to the 4th edition of the NCI Newsletter**

**Dear Members, Partners and Stakeholders,**

We are delighted to present the latest edition of the NCI's Newsletter.

In this issue, we bring you the array of exciting updates, important announcements and past events the showcase the vibrant activities within our community.

Explore the pages ahead to discover the initiatives, upcoming events and the remarkable contributions of our members. As we continue to grow and thrive, your engagement and support is invaluable.

Thank you for being an essential part of NCI the journey!

**NCI Team**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NCI's Participation in the London Tamil Market

The London Tamil Market is a community trade show hosted by the British Tamil Chamber of Commerce, aimed at promoting and showcasing local businesses. This trade exhibition serves as a platform for enterprises of all sizes to connect with new customers, partners, and fellow local businesses. Its primary goal is to foster economic growth, facilitate networking, and encourage collaboration among local businesses.

Local businesses have the opportunity to set up booths or stalls to showcase their products and services. These booths are creatively designed to attract and engage visitors. The trade show is scheduled to take place in London on the 20th and 21st of April.

NCI has been granted the opportunity to participate in the London Tamil Market, with Vice Chairman Mr. Naguleswaran and one of the Board of Directors, Mr. Uruthiramoorthy, representing the organization. The key objectives of NCI's participation in the trade show include establishing relationships with businesses and consumers in the UK and expand the market reach of our member SMEs primarily specializing in products from the Jaffna and Wanni Region.

Additionally, NCI is sponsored by the Asia-Pacific Business Association to prepare promotional materials including name boards, mega banners, flyers and pamphlets for this trade show.

## PAST EVENTS

**Overview of BMO - Phase II Project**

Business Membership Organization (BMO) Project phase II has been approved by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The phase I Project was implemented from January to October 2023 as a pilot project. Based on the successful implementation of the phase I, BMZ has approved the phase II Project.

The phase II project will be implemented from November 2023 to October 2026. The detail of the phase II project are as follows,

**Overall Objective :** The economic conditions for SMEs in Northern Sri Lanka have improved, particularly for female founders, managers, and entrepreneurs.

**Project Objective :** NCI and WCIC are capable of sustainably and competently addressing the needs of their members to enhance their skills, operational performance, and networking.

**Results 1 :** The partner chambers have established themselves as professional member organizations in the private sector.

**Results 2 :** The partner chambers offer tailored services to meet the needs of their members and other businesses. (service development).

**Results 3 :** The partner chambers have strengthened their internal and external networks and collaboration with key stakeholders.

A general kick-off meeting was held in December 2023 with Daniel Marek, the Executive Member of the Board of OAV, Kimora Klug, the Regional Manager OAV, WCIC Board of Directors, NCI Core directors and staff participated in the virtual Kick off meeting.

**BMO Project Review Meeting**

BMO Project Review meeting was held in Colombo Galadhari Hotel from 7th to 9th January with the participation of Kimoro Klug, Regional Manager, OAV, Miriam Heger, Business Development Expert, OAV, Jaffna Sri Lanka, Board Members of NCI and WCIC.

The External Resource person Mr. Thorsten Trede facilitated the 3 days workshop. The project planning workshop aims at bringing together the partners of the partnership project for detailed planning of the partnership project. It further aims at creating a joint and clear understanding of the project framework and setup (results and indicators), planning activities (in detail for year 1 and more roughly for year 2 and year 3) and agreeing on next steps.



## NCI Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Northern Chamber of Industries (NCI) convened its inaugural Annual General Meeting (AGM) on January at the Tilko City Hotel in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, inviting all members to participate. The AGM was bifurcated into two sessions: the initial session was reserved solely for members while the subsequent session extended its welcome to both members and stakeholders. Membership development, approval of audit report with releasing of 1st Annual Report and general body's approval for the selection of new auditor were taken place in the first session.

Transitioning to the second session, NCI extended invitations to esteemed dignitaries including the Consul General Of India, Consul Of India, District Secretary of Jaffna and the Secretary of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Rehabilitation, Social Service, Cooperative, Food Supply & Distribution, Industries and Enterprise promotion and Trade & Commerce, designating them as Guests of Honors. The session commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the oil lamp by all guests.

The Chairman of NCI extended a warm welcome to the Guests of Honors and attendees through an inaugural speech. The Consul General addressed the gathering, followed by speeches from the District Secretary and Ministry Secretary.

A vote of thanks was expressed by one of the NCI Director. The event was graced by the presence of notable individuals including the Provincial Director of IDB, Assistant Director of EDB, Chairman of Chamber of Commerce, Manager of the Business Linkage Division of Jaffna University, CEO of the Women Chamber of Industries and Commerce and representative from the Institute of Post Harvesting Technology and the CEO of WCIC.



## Tax and Its Implication – A Joint Workshop with WCIC

**WORKSHOP ON UNDERSTANDING TAX AND IMPLICATIONS**

6th March 2024  
9.00am - 12.00 noon  
at Hotel Thinnai, Jaffna

**THE SESSION WILL COVER**

- Who is liable?
- How to proceed?
- Understanding what the liability is
- Honoring the liability
- Consequences of violation

Call Jerez to register 0774689114

Participation Fee Rs.1000/= per person

in collaboration with **JA Partners** (Chartered Accountants) **AUDIT TAX ADVISORY**

in collaboration with **WCIC** (Women Chamber of Industries and Commerce)

in collaboration with **oav** (GERMAN ASIA-PACIFIC BUSINESS ASSOCIATION)

WCIC Organized a workshop on Tax and its Implication for its members and NCI members. This programme was organized on 3rd of March at Hotel Thinnai from 9 a.m to 12.30 a.m. The objective of the workshop was to enhance knowledge on the current tax regime for businesses and its implications.

JA Partners invited to facilitate this workshop and Mr. Sivapalan, Assistant Commissioner from Department of Inland Revenue was invited at the end of the workshop for an open discussion, explaining the legal perspective and procedures.



### Participation in the University Job Fair

The Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC) organizes a career fair every year on the FMSC premises. This year, the University has invited NCI to participate in the career fair.

The CEO of NCI and Ms. Dharsika, Assistant Project Manager for the BMO Project, represented NCI at the fair. Their objective was to collect details of students seeking career opportunities in SMEs and those looking to commence internships in the SME sector. NCI's role at the fair is to connect these students with NCI member companies seeking interns for their organizations.



### Meeting with North East Economic Development Centre

A team of delegates from Canadian Tamil Congress visited to NCI office on 17th of February with the primary objective of development individual investment opportunities in the North and East of Sri Lanka through Northern East Economic Development Centre. The team consisted Danton Thrurairajah, Executive Director and a member of Tamil Canadian Congress participated in the discussion. NCI Chairman, Vice Chairman, other Board of Directors and CEO participated in the discussion.



### Meeting with FNF

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom – Sri Lanka, a German-based non-governmental organization working in Sri Lanka, aims to promote the goal of making the principle of freedom valid for the dignity of all people. They made a visit to the NCI office on 20th February to learn about NCI's activities and to meet with our SME members. Subsequently, a field visit was organized to meet with two of our members, Mangalapathy Ayurvedic (Pvt) Ltd, and Vathiri Leather Products.



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