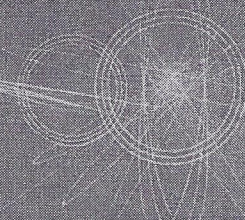


# Commonwealth Business Forum 2013

Partnering for Wealth Creation and Social Development:  
The Commonwealth, Indian Ocean and SAARC



## Registration Day: Monday, 11 November

## Draft Programme

12.00-19.00 Registration

14:00 - 17:00 Commonwealth Investment Promotion Roundtable (by invitation only)

17.00-18.00 Speaker Reception & Forum Briefing (by invitation only)

## Day One: Tuesday, 12 November

09:00-10:30 Opening Ceremony-

### Partnering for Wealth Creation and Social Development

*The Commonwealth brings together some of the world's wealthiest and poorest countries, this session will focus on forming partnerships to ensure that the benefits of growth reach the whole of society and guarantee widespread social development.*

**Keynote Address:** HE Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, President, Sri Lanka

10:30-11:00 Refreshments and Networking Break

11:00-12:30 **The Commonwealth, Indian Ocean, Pacific and SAARC: Building New Partnerships**

*With a significant population base, skills and natural resources these regions draw together some of the world's fast growing and most dynamic countries. This session will help set the agenda for the Forum and focus on building new partnerships for business and Government.*

12.30-13.55 **Hosted Networking Lunches**

1) Hosted Lunch  
3) Hosted Lunch

2) Hosted Lunch  
4) Hosted Lunch

14.00-15.30 **Developing the Rural Economy for Sustainable Shared Growth**

*Developing the rural economy is a key aim for many Commonwealth countries development agendas. This session will examine the challenges and opportunities for partnerships to ensure sustained growth in rural areas including in; Agriculture, Infrastructure and Education.*

14.00-15.30 **Partnership Roundtables**

1) Infrastructure Development

2) BPO & Business Outsourcing

15.30-16.00 Refreshments and Networking Break

16.00-17.25 **Developing Small & Medium Business for Greater Wealth Creation**

*SMEs are the life-blood of all economies, be they large or small, developed or emerging, they are the largest employers and the most entrepreneurial of sectors. This session will look at ways to ensure sustained growth, access to finance and methods of internationalisation.*

16.00-17.25 **Partnership Roundtables**

1) Green Growth & Climate Change

2) Energy Infrastructure

17.30-18.55 **Sri Lanka: Trading Hub for the Indian Ocean and SAARC**

*Sri Lanka's geographic position puts it at the heart of one of the global economy's fastest growing and high volume regions. This session will look at the opportunities for Sri Lanka to further develop its regional presence as a trading and business hub.*

17.30-18.55 **Partnership Roundtables**

1) Business and Society

2) Strengthening the SME Sector

19:00

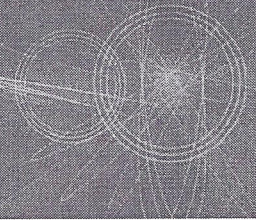
**Reception & Gala Dinner: Celebrating Sri Lanka and the Commonwealth**

**Address:** HE Kamallesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary General

**Keynote Address:** HE Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, President, Sri Lanka

# Commonwealth Business Forum 2013

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## Day Two: Wednesday, 13 November

## Draft Programme

### 07:30-08:45 Hosted Breakfast Sessions

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1) Breakfast Hosted by SLPA (Colombo Port) | 2) Hosted Breakfast |
| 3) Hosted Breakfast                        | 4) Hosted Breakfast |

### 09.00-10.30 Sri Lanka: 21st Century Business Destination

*For the last 5 years Sri Lanka has averaged 7% growth and is expected to continue to grow even faster over the next decade. This session will examine the opportunities in Sri Lanka and provide business views on how to super charge the country's development.*

### 09.00-10.30 Partnership Roundtables

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) Urban Development & Cities of the Future | 2) Engaging Communities through Education |
|---|---|

### 10.30-11.00 Refreshments and Networking Break

### 11.00-12.30 Infrastructure Challenges: New Global Partnerships

*Infrastructure deficits are the most common impediment to growth across the Commonwealth, this session will look at ways of tackling this challenge by examining the potential for partnerships between Government and business, development banks and donor organisation.*

### 11.00-12.30 Partnership Roundtables

- |                                    |                                |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) Innovation & Financial Services | 2) Agriculture & Agri-business |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

### 12.30-13.30 Hosted Networking Lunches

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1) Lunch Hosted By Central Bank of Sri Lanka | 2) Hosted Lunch |
| 3) Hosted Lunch                              | 4) Hosted Lunch |

### 13.30-14.45 Banking and Financial Services: Enhancing Access & Economic Resilience

*Credible, reliable and trustworthy banking and financial services provide the engine for growth in all sectors of the economy. This session will examine ways of strengthening this critical sector and ensuring that it is accessible to all sectors of society.*

### 13.30-14.45 Partnership Roundtables

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1) Textiles & Apparel | 2) Ensuring Regional Skill Requirements are Met by Education |
|-----------------------|--|

### 14.50-15.15 Special Address: New Vision for Wealth Creation and Social Development

*HE Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda*

### 15.15-15.40 Refreshments and Networking Break

### 15.40-16.55 Tourism: A Critical Driver of Growth

*Tourism is a mainstay of many of Commonwealth countries' economies, increasing the number of visitors, increasing employment and brings much needed foreign currency. This session will examine ways of increasing tourism without threatening the local economy or ecosystem.*

### 15.40-16.55 Partnership Roundtables

- |                         |                                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1) Digital Growth & ICT | 2) Innovation and Young Entrepreneurs |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|

### 17.00-18.15 Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network: Women as Drivers of Growth and Development

*Across many Commonwealth Countries one of the most under-utilised resources are women, representing more than 50% of population the contribution that empowered businesswomen can make to a country's growth and development is substantial. This session will bring together female leaders from government & business to discuss ways of enhancing the role of women in business.*

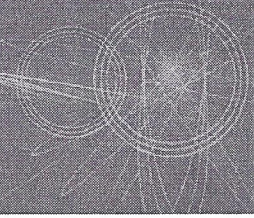
### 19.30 Gala Dinner

**Keynote Address:** Visiting Head of Government

**Guests of Honour:** Commonwealth Foreign Ministers

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## Day Three: Thursday, 14 November

## Draft Programme

### 07:30-08:45 Hosted Breakfast Sessions

- 1) Sport for Development & Growth
- 2) Hosted Breakfast

- 2) Small & Island States Breakfast Roundtable
- 4) Hosted Breakfast

### 09:00-09:55 Energy and Natural Resource Development: Commonwealth Partnerships

*Many Commonwealth countries are richly endowed with Energy and Mineral resources and are in a position to feed the ever growing global demand for natural resources. This session will examine ways and share experience of successful resource development*

### 09:00-09:55 Invest In: Country Roundtable

Chair: *Visiting Head of Government*

### Invest In: Country Roundtable

Chair: *Visiting Head of Government*

### 10:00-10:55 Africa & Asia: Reshaping Partnerships for Sustainable Growth

*Africa and Asia will be the drivers of global growth for the 21st Century, this session will focus on ways of ensuring that growth is sustained and to the benefit of all.*

### 10:00-10:55 Invest In: Country Roundtable

Chair: *Visiting Head of Government*

### Invest In: Country Roundtable

Chair: *Visiting Head of Government*

### 11:00-11:55 Tackling Unemployment: Education, Knowledge and Skills

*Unemployment is a challenge for all countries and an educated and highly skilled workforce is key to ensuring that growth and development don't stall in the mid to long term. This session will examine the potential for partnerships across the Commonwealth and share best practice and experience on tackling unemployment.*

### 11:00-11:55 Invest In: Country Roundtable

Chair: *Visiting Head of Government*

### Invest In: Country Roundtable

Chair: *Visiting Head of Government*

### 12:00-12:55 Strengthening National Economies through Global Business and Trade

*Global business provides employment and gives consumers increased choice at lower prices. This session will examine how economic growth can be enhanced through further linkages between large and small business and partnerships between government and business.*

### 12:00-12:55 Invest In: Country Roundtable

Chair: *Visiting Head of Government*

### Invest In: Country Roundtable

Chair: *Visiting Head of Government*

### 13:00-14.30 Closing Lunch

### 13:00 Depart Colombo for Sri Lankan President's Roundtable with Heads of Government and Business Leaders in Hambantota

Chair: *HE Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, President, Sri Lanka (By Invitation Only)*