



## Annual Plenary of the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) and the ensuing Technical Assistance and Training Forum held in Vancouver, Canada from 11 – 14 July 2023.



Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe, the Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in his capacity as the Chairman of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) on Anti Money Laundering/ Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT), headed the Sri Lankan delegation to the 2023 Annual Plenary of the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) and the ensuing Technical Assistance and Training (TA&T) Forum held in Vancouver, Canada from 11 – 14 July 2023.

The Sri Lankan delegation comprised Dr. Subhani Keerthiratne, Additional Director, FIU, Dr. Aiyesh Ariyasinghe, Additional Director, FIU and Mr. Dilan Siriwardana, Senior Assistant Director, FIU. During this year's Plenary, three Mutual Evaluations of

the People's Democratic Republic of Lao (Lao PDR), Nepal and Brunei were discussed. Dr Keerthiratne was a Lao Mutual Evaluation team member and assessed overall effectiveness and technical compliance of Preventive Measures as a financial expert. Dr Ariyasinghe assessed overall effectiveness and technical compliance of Financial Intelligence and Proliferation Financing of Nepal as a FIU/ Law Enforcement expert and Mr Siriwardana was assigned to assess overall effectiveness and technical compliance of Risk, Coordination, Policy Setting and Proliferation Financing of Brunei as a financial expert. Further, during the event, Dr Keerthiratne chaired the South Asia sub-regional Technical Assistance and Training Forum meeting, showcasing Sri Lanka's commitment to regional affairs.





The event also allowed Sri Lanka's FIU to strengthen international cooperation by signing two Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the FIUs of Lao PDR and Timor Leste.



Governor Weerasinghe exchanged the MOU between FIU of Sri Lanka and FIU of Timor-Leste, with Ms Maria Jose de Jesus Sarmento, Head of the Financial Information Unit, Banco Central de Timor-Leste.



Governor Weerasinghe exchanged the MOU signed between FIU of Sri Lanka and FIU of Lao PDR with Ms Vathana Dalaloy, Deputy Governor, Bank of Lao PDR



Furthermore, Governor Werasinghe engaged with several esteemed delegations during his visit, including:



Brunei Delegation led by Ms Zety Sufina Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Sani, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy (Fiscal), Brunei Ministry of Finance and Economy



Indian Delegation led by Mr Vivek Aggarwal, Director FIU, India



Nepal Delegation led by Mr Maha Prasad Adhikari, Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank



Malaysian Delegation led by Mr Marzunisham Omar, Deputy Governor, Bank Negara Malaysia





Pakistan Delegation led by Ms Lubna Malik, Director General, Financial Monitoring Unit, Pakistan.



Papua New Guinea delegation led by Ms Elizebeth Genia, Acting Governor, Bank of Papua New Guinea



**Additionally, the Governor conducted productive discussions with key individuals on the upcoming Mutual Evaluation of Sri Lanka in March 2025.**



**Dr Gordon Hook, Executive Secretary of the APG Secretariat and Mr Julien Brazeau, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Finance in Canada and APG Co-Chair**



**Mr David Shanon, Director, Mutual Evaluations Quality & Consistency, APG Secretariat**

**Mr Clive Scot, Regional AML/CFT Legal Advisor from the Singapore IMF Office**



**Mr Nigel Bartlett, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank**

Governor Weerasinghe's interactions with these distinguished individuals served to foster international collaboration and knowledge exchange in the field of Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, and his participation in the event signifies Sri Lanka's commitment to combating financial crimes and dedication to working closely with international partners, organizations, and stakeholders to ensure the integrity and stability of Sri Lanka's financial system.



# 26 June 2023 session for real estate sector

As the AML/CFT regulator in Sri Lanka, the FIU oversee the implementation of a range of measures within the real estate sector aimed at strengthening its compliance with Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) regulations.

An awareness programme on 'AML/CFT Compliance Obligations and New Developments' for the real estate sector was held on June 26, 2023, at the Centre for Banking Studies, Rajagiriya. The event was attended by over 120 participants from the industry, as well as officials from the Registrar General's Department, Colombo Land Registry, Condominium Developers' Association of Sri Lanka (CDASL), CMA, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, the Urban Development Authority, and CBSL officials.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe, Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL)/Chairman, National Coordinating Committee on AML/CFT, and Mr. W S Sathyananda, Secretary to the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing. Eng. R H Ruvinis, Chairman of the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) and Mr. Hardy Jamaldeen representing the real estate sector also addressed the gathering. Dr. Ayesh Ariyasinghe, Additional Director of the FIU conducted the technical session during the awareness programme.



*Seated from left to right: Mr. Brahmanage Premalal (President of CDASL), Eng. R H Ruvinis (Chairman of CIDA), Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe (Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka/ Chairman, National Coordinating Committee on AML/CFT), Mr. W S Sathyananda (Secretary to the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing), Mr. Sarana Karunaratna (Chairman of CMA), Mrs. K M A N Daulagala (Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka).*

*Standing from left to right: Eng. Savindra Amarasekara (Director General of CIDA), Dr. Ayesh Ariyasinghe (Additional Director of the FIU), Mrs. Enoka Mohotty (Director of the FIU), Dr. Subhani Keerthirathne (Additional Director of the FIU), Mr. Chandima Bandara (Senior Assistant Director of the FIU).*



## 04 July 2023 session for Gem & Jewellery estate sector

The FIU ensures compliance with Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) regulations within the gem & jewellery sector, working in collaboration with the National Gem and Jewellery Authority (NGJA).

On July 04, 2023, the FIU arranged an impactful awareness program aimed at enhancing the gem and jewellery sector's AML/CFT compliance. The event, titled "Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Compliance Obligations and New Developments," witnessed over 100 participants from the industry.

Distinguished stakeholders, including Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe, Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka/ Chairman of the National Coordinating Committee on AML/CFT, Mrs. J M Thilaka Jayasundara, Secretary to the Ministry of Industries, Mr. Viraj De Silva, Chairman of the NGJA and other prominent figures from the industry graced the occasion. The keynote address of the program was delivered by Dr. Weerasinghe. Meanwhile Mrs. Jayasundara and Mr. De Silva also addressed the gathering. Dr. Ayesh Ariyasinghe, Additional Director of the FIU, conducted a comprehensive technical session during the awareness program.



*Seated from left to right: Mr. Muslim Salahudeen (Vice President, SLGJA), Mr. Ajward Deen, (President, SLGJA), Mrs. J M Thilaka Jayasundara, (Secretary, Ministry of Industries), Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe (Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka/ Chairman, National Coordinating Committee on AML/CFT), Mr. Viraj De Silva, (Chairman of NGJA), Mrs. Enoka Mohotty (Director of the FIU), Mrs. K M A N Daulagala (Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka).*

*Standing from left to right: Mr. U G Chandrasena (President, Lanka Gem Dealers and Miners Association), Mr. Rizwan Zahabdeen (Vice President, SLGJA), Mrs. Theja Pathberiya, (Deputy Director of the FIU), Dr. Ayesh Ariyasinghe (Additional Director of the FIU), Mr. Chandima Bandara (Senior Assistant Director of the FIU).*