The *Island of Ingenuity* to bolster IT enabling infrastructure

Sri Lanka-known in the IT Industry as the *Island of Ingenuity* -will redouble efforts to bolster the island nations IT enabling environment by creating even more dependable connectivity and infrastructure leading to a dynamic, competitive, innovative telecommunications milieu. Plans are set to establish 60 bps backbone connectivity in three years through the optical fiber submarine communications cable system or the Sea – Me – We cable that carries telecommunications between Sri Lanka and other nations.

A recent report in the island nation's independent English-language weekly the Sunday Times quoted Chairman – Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (TRC) Mr. Oshada Senanayake as saying "The Sea – Me – We 6 submarine cable which would carry telecommunications between Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Western Europe is now being discussed through the convergence of telco operators across the region. We are looking at adding a further 6o bps of backbone connectivity in three years when Sea – Me – We are ready". The report states Sri Lanka is "working on one of the first-in-the-world submarine cable resilience programme with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Global Maritime Crime Programme" and adds "The telco regulator has introduced a spectrum management framework to streamline spectrum allocation". With a view to empowering innovation in the country, Sri Lanka will introduce sandboxing aimed at frequency testing which will give "spectrum to test certain Internet of Things (loT) projects etc.

Sri Lanka is one of South Asia's most innovative and dynamic IT and Business Process Management (BPM) hubs. It is home to a vibrant knowledge solutions industry that boasts an international footprint, with an accelerating number of global firms that have discovered the country's innovative prowess. Ranked among the Top 15 Global Outsourcing destinations by AT Kearney, Sri Lanka are ranked among Top 20 Emerging Cities by Global Services Magazine.

The country's rise to prominence as a global technology and BPM hub has been driven by a number of strengths such as robust and niche talent base, strong industry foundation, high value opportunities and a multi-faceted industry foundation, high value opportunities and a multi-faceted industry.

The Sri Lanka Embassy in Stockholm can be contacted on slemb.stockholm@mfa.gov.lk. IT Industry profile: https://www.stockholm.embassy.gov.lk/en/ict-industry/. The Sri Lanka Association for Software Services Companies (SLASSCOM) is the national chamber for the knowledge and innovation industry in Sri Lanka(https://slasscom.lk)