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Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka/The Chairman of the National Coordinating Committee, Dr Nandalal Weerasinghe, Attends the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering Annual Plenary, during 11th to 14th July 2023 in Vancouver, Canada

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), represented 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 consisted of the expert assessors participating in the respective Mutual Evaluations of the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Lao (Lao PDR), Nepal and Brunei. The annual Plenary brought together over 300 delegates from the 42 APG member countries, observer institutions and jurisdictions, and private sector stakeholders to discuss issues concerning countering serious financial crime, including money laundering (ML), terrorist financing (TF), and proliferation financing relating to weapons of mass destruction (PF).

The 2023 APG was co-chaired by Messrs. Julien Brazeau, the Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance from the Department of Finance of Canada, and Ian McCartney, the Deputy Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police, Australia.

During the Plenary, two Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed between the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of Sri Lanka and the FIUs of Timor Leste and Lao PDR. These MOUs would assist to enhance international cooperation and collaboration in combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing (ML/TF) between the respective jurisdictions. Governor Weerasinghe, provided leadership in facilitating these partnerships, reflecting Sri Lanka's commitment to strengthening international ties in the fight against illicit financial activities.



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



Sri Lankan and Timor-Leste delegations



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.

Further, the Sri Lankan delegations led by Governor Weerasinghe engaged with several country delegations during the 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
- Malaysian Delegation led by Mr. Marzunisham Omar, Deputy Governor, Bank Negara Malaysia
- Nepal Delegation led by Mr. Maha Prasad Adhikari, Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank
- 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

The Governor held discussions with several multilateral technical assistance providers and experts in the AML/CFT field in relation to furthering technical assistance to Sri Lanka to assist the country in its upcoming Mutual Evaluations scheduled to March 2025

The APG Plenary is viewed as a forum that provided interactions with peer jurisdictions where the Sri Lankan delegation were able to strengthen and showcase Sri Lanka's unwavering commitment to combat ML/TF, and to ensure the integrity and stability of Sri Lanka's financial system.