

International Engagements

The Central Bank has long played a pivotal role in representing the country in its financial and economic engagements with the global community. In 2025, the Bank continued to strengthen its international presence by fostering strategic partnerships with multilateral agencies and bi-lateral partners, foreign central banks, international financial organisations, and other global stakeholders. Through active participation in international forums, collaborative initiatives, and knowledge-sharing platforms, the Central Bank further enhanced policy coordination, technical cooperation, and institutional capacity.

Multilateral and Bi-Lateral Engagements

The Central Bank continued to play a key role in supporting the implementation of Sri Lanka's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 2025. In close coordination with the Government and other relevant stakeholders, the Central Bank engaged actively in policy consultations, programme reviews, and technical discussions with IMF staff to ensure the successful implementation of agreed reforms and macroeconomic policy measures.

During 2025, the bilateral currency swap agreement between the Central Bank and the People's Bank of China was extended. Further, the Central Bank signed a Second Addendum to the Special Swap Agreement with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and conducted high level comprehensive and constructive discussions on a range of matters of mutual interest.

In 2025, the Central Bank strengthened its collaboration with several international partners to advance the financial system including enhancing financial literacy and inclusion and strengthening the financial sector safety net and resolution framework. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) provided technical and financial assistance to develop and launch the financial literacy curriculum and awareness materials.

Engagement with the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) facilitated financial and technical support for assessing the impact of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) and developing its next phase. The Central Bank was also recognised as an AFI Gender Inclusive Finance Ambassador Institution in 2025. In addition, under the Financial Sector Safety Net Strengthening Project (FSSNP) supported by the World Bank, significant progress was made in strengthening the institutional capacity and governance framework of the Sri Lanka Deposit Insurance Scheme (SLDIS), alongside financial assistance extended through performance-based financing. In addition, the Central Bank strengthened its regional collaboration through active participation in SEACEN's capacity-building and policy dialogue initiatives.

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka extensively engaged with the international organisations focusing primarily on preparing for the Asia/pacific Group of Money Laundering (APG) 3rd Mutual Evaluation scheduled for 2026.

The Central Bank participated in several policy related meetings with international institutions such as International Finance Corporation (IFC), UNDP, SAARCFINANCE, French Development Agency, Banque de France etc. on areas such as monetary policy, financial sector stability and reforms, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) sector Programs, macrofinancial supervision and sustainable finance. In addition, the Central Bank launched an interview in collaboration with India to strengthen Central Bank's digital presence in economic policy discourse and institutional thought leadership among domestic and global stakeholders.

Alternate Executive Director of the IMF

The Central Bank officers continued to serve as Alternate Executive Director at the IMF, reflecting the strong recognition of their expertise in macroeconomic policy and international economic affairs. The officer is well positioned

to represent the interests of the constituency comprising Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, and Bhutan at the global level.

Capacity Building

Parallel to policy-focused engagements, capacity building and knowledge sharing formed a core part of Central Bank's international activities. Central Bank officers participated for training programmes, technical assistance programmes, peer learning initiatives, international forums and international conferences, organised mainly by the institutions such as IMF, IMF SARTTAC, Deutsche Bundesbank, and SEACEN Centre. Technical Assistance were received to enhance analytical capabilities of the Central Bank staff on investments, and development of models and frameworks.

The Central Bank also shared its knowledge and experience with peer central banks. A peer learning exchange hosted by the Reserve Bank of Fiji covered several areas of consumer protection, sustainable finance, digital financial services, and market conduct supervision. The Central Bank played a dual role by hosting and conducting training sessions for officers of the Nepal Rastra Bank. The Central Bank participated in the 18th annual Central Bank Risk Managers Forum as a panel presenter on the topic "Managing Balance sheet Risk amidst Crisis and recovery – A Risk Indicator Approach".

Credit Ratings and Regulatory Agreements

To maintain Sri Lanka's financial credibility, the Central Bank continued its collaboration with credit rating agencies i.e., Fitch, Moody's, and Standard & Poor's (S&P) throughout 2025.

Role of the Bank > International Engagements

Governor's International Engagements – 2025

The Governor's international engagements in 2025 focused on strengthening relationships with multilateral institutions, enhancing financial system resilience, advancing financial inclusion, and supporting investor confidence. These engagements allowed for deeper policy dialogue, progress reviews under ongoing reform programmes, and broad collaboration with development partners, regulators, and regional counterparts.

Engagements with Multilateral Institutions

Strengthening cooperation with the IMF and the World Bank remained central throughout the year. The Governor participated in the IMF–JICA Regional Conference in Tokyo in February and served as a panellist at the session on 'What is Next for Economic Policy makers in Emerging and Frontier Asia?' which facilitated extensive knowledge sharing. This was followed by the IMF High Level Event in Tokyo in March, focusing on regional resilience through cooperation corporation and the Governor contributed as the panellist at the session on 'A Reinforced GFSN and the IMF's Role at its Core'.

Furthermore, participation in both the IMF–World Bank Spring Meetings in April and the Annual Meetings in October provided platforms to review progress under the IMF supported EFF programme, discuss policy priorities, identify technical assistance and training needs, and conduct extensive bilateral meetings with development partners, international financial institutions, and investor groups.

Regional Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

The Governor actively contributed to regional policy dialogue through participation in the 6th South Asia Leaders' Roundtable organised by Nepal Rastra Bank and the Alliance

for Financial Inclusion. These discussions strengthened capacities in managing cyber risks in digital payments, improving consumer protection for vulnerable groups, and enhancing resilience of digital financial infrastructure across South Asia.

Governor's engagements in the AFI Global Policy Forum in Namibia and the Kautilya Economic Conclave in New Delhi further reinforced Sri Lanka's commitment to global and regional level knowledge exchange and policy development.

Financial Stability and Regulatory Engagements

Ensuring financial system stability continued to be a high priority. The Governor's participation in the Financial Stability Board Plenary Meetings and Conference in Madrid facilitated discussions on emerging global risks to financial stability and the policy measures required to mitigate them. These engagements helped strengthen Sri Lanka's alignment with global regulatory standards and enhance surveillance of system wide risks.

Advancing AML/CFT Commitments

A significant milestone in 2025 was the Governor's participation in the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) Annual Meeting in Tokyo. Several high level bilateral discussions reaffirmed Sri Lanka's strong commitment to AML/CFT standards and focused on preparations for the Mutual Evaluation scheduled to commence in March 2026.

These engagements also facilitated enhanced cooperation with the APG secretariat, donors, and technical support providers, securing access to several targeted technical assistance programmes.

Trade and Investor Outreach

In support of Sri Lanka's external sector and investment climate, the Governor with other government officials engaged with the United States Trade Representative, where discussions contributed towards progress on negotiating tariff reductions, a process that remains ongoing.

In August, the Governor also participated in the 'Invest Sri Lanka' Investor Forum in Singapore, organised by the Colombo Stock Exchange and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka. The forum served as a key platform for promoting Sri Lanka to international investors, strengthening market confidence, and supporting investment outreach.

Governor's participation across all international engagements, contributed towards strengthened relationships with key global and regional stakeholders, advanced reform priorities, supported macroeconomic stability objectives, and enhanced investor and development partner confidence. These engagements also contributed significantly to improving readiness for external evaluations, reinforcing financial stability frameworks, and promoting greater resilience and inclusiveness in the financial sector.

"A" Grade Central Bank Governors Award – 2025

The Governor, Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe, was honoured with the prestigious 'A' Grade Central Bank Governors award in 2025, by Global Finance magazine in recognition of his exceptional leadership and outstanding contributions to economic management. This accolade acknowledges not just the outcomes delivered, but the independence, discipline and strategic vision that underpinned them.