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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

Message

It is indeed a pleasure to extend warm felicitations to the participants and organizers of the annual Galle Dialogue: International Maritime Conference, hosted by the Ministry of Defence and the Sri Lanka Navy, and with the affiliation of the 'Geopolitical Cartographer' foundation. This year marks the 11th edition of the Galle Dialogue.

'Emerging new order in the Indian Ocean,' being the theme of the Conference, is of salient significance given the evolving dynamics in the region. It is a region which has attracted rivalries among nations, both regionally and extra-regionally, as the sea lanes and choke points facilitate the movement of major volumes of trade and gas. The inability to share ocean resources has breached national jurisdiction, exacerbating the climate of possible dissension.

As a nation strategically located in the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka could play a pivotal role in defining this new order. Considering the extensive related challenges, which need to be addressed nationally, regionally and globally, Sri Lanka's commitment to maritime security and order in the Indian Ocean region, has culminated in providing this common platform of the Galle Dialogue, for formulating solutions towards this end.

The association in this event of the 'Geo-political Cartographer as an international research foundation' specializing in the Indian Ocean, which aligns with the commitment to understanding the region's geopolitical dynamics, is an added impetus to the deliberations of this Conference. At a time of alliances shifting theatres, giving way to altering the global political order, accurate geopolitical insights from such think tanks are essential.

I encourage all participants to engage in constructive dialogue, in securing a harmonious Indian Ocean order, characterized by mutual respect, prosperity and peace. I am confident of a meaningful collaboration at this Dialog, for the benefit of the entire Indian Ocean region and globally.

May the enlightening outcome of Galle Dialogue 2023, contribute to developing the emerging Indian Ocean order.

Ranil Wickremesinghe

President

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

25th September 2023

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