

Welcome Remarks



Vice Admiral UVMP Perera, RSP, USP, ndu, psc, MMaritimePol, MSc(DS)Mgt, MSc (MS & NSSS), BA(DS) Hons, PWO**

Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to all of you on the auspicious occasion of the 11th edition of the “Galle Dialogue International Maritime Conference 23”. This conference, hosted jointly by the Ministry of Defence and the Sri Lanka Navy, along with think-tank assistance of Geopolitical Cartographer will certainly bring forth constructive dialogues on critical maritime issues.

This year, we gather under the timely banner of “Emerging New Order in the Indian Ocean” a theme that holds profound significance as it aligns with the celebration of Sri Lanka's 75th anniversary of independence, following a three-year hiatus since 2019. The Indian Ocean region, marked by diverse interests and complexities, requires thoughtful collaboration and foresight to address its challenges effectively. Our discussions will span a broad spectrum of topics, ranging from strategic concerns and vital sea lanes to the pressing issues of climate change and maritime security.

With the participation of 46 countries, including the presentation of 15 papers across five sessions, this conference continues to earn international acclaim. The inclusion of a plenary session for the first time is a testament to the growing prominence of this conference. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our esteemed maritime scholars and intellectuals for their invaluable guidance and support.

I must also express my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our collaboration with Geopolitical Cartographer for their unwavering contributions in ensuring the resounding success of this conference. To all our foreign and local participants, I extend my warmest thanks for being part of this endeavour.

The organizing committee deserves special commendation for their tireless dedication to ensuring the seamless and efficient execution of this event. Their unwavering commitment is evident and has undoubtedly played a pivotal role in the conference's achievements.

In closing, I am confident that the exchange of ideas, perspectives, and insights during this dialogue will make a lasting impact, furthering our collective aspiration for safer seas for all. Let us seize this opportunity to cultivate new partnerships, deepen our understanding, and chart a course toward a more secure and prosperous Indian Ocean region.

I eagerly anticipate fruitful discussions and enduring connections throughout the 11th edition of the Galle Dialogue. Together, we can make meaningful contributions to shaping a brighter and more stable maritime future.