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PAGE | 22

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PAGE | 23

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Qatar- Sri Lanka economic ties enter defining moment

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Qatar, A S P Liyanage, has said the bilateral relations between Qatar and Sri Lanka in terms of trade, investment, tourism and other activities will be further bolstered with the launch of 'Sri Lanka Qatar Business Council'.

The soon to be launched Council will offer unique opportunities for both countries to engage with each other, where Qatar based entrepreneurs can explore the opportunities in major areas such as investments, food & agriculture, hospitality, oil and gas, infrastructure, tourism; and trade services.

"I am pleased to inform that

the Sri Lankan Embassy in Qatar, under the guidance of, the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, with the support of Doha Bank, have made arrangements to form 'the Sri Lanka Qatar Business Council' which would enable to improve the bilateral relations between two countries," the Ambassador said while addressing a knowledge sharing session hosted by Doha Bank on 'Qatar-Sri Lanka Bilateral Opportunities,' here on Thursday.

Sri Lanka's Central Bank Governor Dr Indrajit Coomaraswamy said Qatar and Sri Lankan banks have excellent relationships and Sri Lanka wants to take it to the next level. Qatar is a key contributor to Sri Lanka's remittances, he said.

Sri Lanka's economic growth was at 3.3 percent in 2017 and will be returning to 4 percent by end of this year. The outlook for Sri Lanka remains strong with improved macroeconomic conditions.

The economy is expected to rebound to a higher growth path in the medium term with the implementation of policy reforms by the government. Inflation is expected to remain within the targeted band of 4-6 percent. The Central Bank is moving towards Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) by 2020.

→ CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



FROM LEFT: Doha Bank CEO Dr R Seetharaman, Sri Lanka's Central Bank Governor Dr Indrajit Coomaraswamy and Sri Lankan Ambassador to Qatar, A S P Liyanage, during the 'Qatar-Sri Lanka Bilateral Opportunities' event hosted by Doha Bank.