



GALLE DIALOGUE 2025

International Maritime Conference

Role of a Maritime Force in a Prospering Blue Economy (Col Amanda Jhonston, Australian Defence Attached to Sri Lanka)

Maritime Economy under Changing Dynamics: Resilience of the Society and Role of Maritime Forces (Maj Gen Rob de Wit, Deputy Commander, Royal Netherlands Navy)

0845-1015

Navigating Troubled Waters: Maritime Security in the Middle East and Upholding the Rules-Based International Order (Cmde Ben Aldous, United Kingdom Maritime Component Commander & Deputy Commander Combined Maritime Forces)

Q&A Session

Presentation of Certificates

1016-1045

Refreshments

SESSION 4: MARITIME SUSTAINABILITY UNDER CHANGING DYNAMICS

Moderator - Dr. David Brewster (Senior Research Fellow, National Security College, Australian National University & Distinguished Research Fellow, Australia India Institute)

Maritime Diplomacy and Security Concerns in the Region: Challenges and Opportunities for Small Nations [Adm Anil K Chawla (Retd.), Adjunct Professor, Rashtriya Raksha University, India]

1046 - 1215

Role of Sri Lanka Navy in Securing Maritime Crimes and Illegal Affairs Taking Place in the Region and Beyond (Cmde Buddhika Jayaweera, Deputy Area Commander, Eastern Naval Area, Sri Lanka Navy)

Strategic Maritime Environment and the Need to Have All-Domain Awareness in the Indo-Pacific [Capt Wade Turvold (Retd.), Dean Admissions and Business Operations, DKI APCSS]

Q&A Session

Presentation of Certificates

1216-1330

Lunch

PANEL DISCUSSION: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES FOR SMALL ISLAND STATES AMIDST CHANGING WORLD ORDER: WAY FORWARD

Moderator : RAdm Nandana Jayarathna (Retd.), Former Chief of Staff, Sri Lanka Navy

- Speakers** :
1. Brig Gen Mohamed Saleem (Commandant, MNDF Coast Guard, Maldives)
 2. RAdm Rohan Joseph (Flag Officer Commanding Naval Fleet, Sri Lanka Navy)
 3. Dr. Asantha Senevirathna (Senior Lecturer, Department of Strategic Studies, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka)
 4. Cdr Carine Buzaud (Director of Studies, Regional Centre for Maritime Studies, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka)

1331-1530

Presentation of Certificates

CLOSING CEREMONY

1531-1600

Closing Remarks - RAdm Buddhika Liyanagamage, Commander Northern Naval Area, Sri Lanka Navy & Head of Steering Committee, Galle Dialogue 2025

Galle Dialogue 2025: International Maritime Conference Adjourns

1601-1630

Refreshments

GALLE DIALOGUE 2025

International Maritime Conference

Conference Programme



Colombo
Sri Lanka

24th & 25th September 2025



galledialogue.lk



Galle Dialogue 2025: International Maritime Conference

Conference Programme



23 SEPTEMBER 2025

Arrival of Foreign Participants and Check-In to Hotels

1900 - 2100 Icebreaker Reception (On Invitation)

DAY 01 24 SEPTEMBER 2025

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

0815 - 0844 Registration of Participants
0845 All Participants to be Seated
0846 - 0855 Arrival of VIPs
0856 - 0900 Arrival of the Chief Guest
0901 - 0905 National Anthem
0906 - 0910 Galle Dialogue Documentary
0911 - 0915 Introduction to the Conference - Master of the Ceremony, LCdr Eranga Angammana
0916 - 0920 Lighting of the Traditional Oil Lamp
0921 - 0927 Welcome Dance by the Navy Cultural Troupe
0928 - 0935 **Welcome Remarks** - VAdm Kanchana Banagoda, Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy

0936 - 0940 **Introduction of the Theme of the Conference** - RAdm Damian Fernando, Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Navy

0941 - 0950 **Keynote Address by the Chief Guest - Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

0951 - 0955 Presentation of Memento to the Chief Guest
0956 - 1045 Group Photograph (On Invitation) and Refreshments

PLENARY SESSION: MARITIME OUTLOOK OF THE INDIAN OCEAN UNDER CHANGING DYNAMICS

Moderator : Adm (Prof.) Jayanath Colombage (Retd.), 18th Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy
Panellists : 1. Adm Dinesh K Tripathi (Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy)
2. Adm Vladimir Vorobyev (Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy)
3. RAdm Hugues Laine (Joint Force Commander, French Forces in the Indian Ocean)
4. Dr. Huang Yunsong (Deputy Director of the Institute of South Asian Studies, and Coordinator of the China Centre for South Asian Studies at Sichuan University)

Presentation of Certificates

1146 - 1150 Session Break

SESSION 1: MARINE ENVIRONMENT UNDER CHANGING DYNAMICS

Moderator - Prof. Ronán Long (Director, WMU-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute)
Enhancing Civil-Military Cooperation to Face Challenges in Preserving the Marine Environment (RAdm. Brett Sonter, Commander, JATF Operation Sovereign Borders)
Adopting Forward-thinking Policies: Formulation of Actionable Strategies to Address Pressing Marine Environment Challenges through Regional and Extra-Regional Partnerships (RAdm Faisal Amin, Commander Coastal Areas, Pakistan Navy)
Marine Environmental Protection in Sri Lanka: Strengthening Naval, Air Force, and Coast Guard Joint Operations (Cdr Amila Prasanga, Sri Lanka Navy & Wg Cdr Gayan Bowatte, Sri Lanka Air Force)

1151- 1315

Q&A Session

Presentation of Certificates

1316-1430 Lunch

SESSION 2: MARITIME GOVERNANCE UNDER CHANGING DYNAMICS

Moderator - Prof. Quentin Hanich (Fisheries Governance Program Leader, Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security- ANCORS)
Responding to IUU Fishing in the Indian Ocean: Sustainable Practices and Marine Environmental Stewardship Amid Shifting Geopolitical and Climatic Dynamics (Dr. Rafael Prado, Nippon Foundation Lecturer on Global Ocean Governance, IMO International Maritime Law Institute- IMLI)
Harnessing Emerging Technologies to Combat Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships [A/DG (CG) Vijay D Chafekar (Retd.), Executive Director, ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre]

1431-1630 **Disparities in National Laws and Law Enforcement Mechanisms Creating Inconsistencies in Response Mechanisms** (ASG Vikum de Abrew, President's Counsel, Attorney General's Department, Sri Lanka)
The Dynamic Strategic Environment in the Indian Ocean and Partnering to Deter [Maj Gen Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum (Retd.), Director, Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies (DKI APCSS)]

Q&A Session

Presentation of Certificates

1631-1730

Refreshments

1731-1830

Cultural Programme

CONFERENCE DINNER

1830 Arrival of the Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy and Distinguished Guests
1831-1845 Welcome Drinks and Networking
1845-1850 **Arrival of the Guest of Honour** - AVM Sampath Thuyacontha (Retd.), Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Sri Lanka
1851-1855 **Arrival of the Chief Guest**- Maj Gen Aruna Jayasekara (Retd.), Deputy Minister of Defence, Sri Lanka
1855-1900 **Welcome Speech** - VAdm Kanchana Banagoda, Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy
1901-1915 Cocktails & Cultural Performance
1915-1920 **Introduction to Guest Speaker** - LCdr Pramith Wagaarachchi
1921-1935 **Dinner Speech** - Adm Travis Sinniah (Retd.), 21st Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy

1936-1938 Presentation of Token of Appreciation to the Guest Speaker
2030 **Dinner Call** (Soup to be Served)
2110-2114 **Thanking Speech** - RAdm Damian Fernando, Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Navy
2115 End of Conference Dinner

DAY 02

25 SEPTEMBER 2025

SESSION 3: MARITIME ECONOMY UNDER CHANGING DYNAMICS

0845-1015 **Moderator** - Dr. Ganesan Wignaraja (Visiting Senior Fellow at ODI Global in London and Former Executive Director of the Think Tank, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka)