

Kotmale becomes first dairy company to complete carbon footprint verification

Kotmale Dairy Products and Cargills Quality Dairies, subsidiaries of Cargills, have become the first dairy companies in Sri Lanka to complete a carbon footprint verification.

The verifications are conducted by the Sri Lanka Climate Fund under the purview of the Ministry of Environment. Both companies undertook a voluntary assessment of their carbon footprint and have successfully completed their greenhouse gas emissions assessment for the year 2020.

The carbon footprint verification will help both companies gauge their current environmental impact and set targets to systematically reduce greenhouse gas emissions with a view to becoming carbon neutral in the future. The Cargills dairy sector has multiple sustainability initiatives taking place across its operations at the moment.

The Cargills Quality Dairies factory in Banduragoda, the largest integrated dairy facility in Sri Lanka, has 1.4MW of solar energy generating capacity which saves the equivalent of 35,000 KG of carbon

dioxide emissions every year. To improve biodiversity in the surrounding area of the factory, the company has established an environmental buffer zone with over 2,000 trees. The factory's central refrigeration process has a minimal impact on the environment, as it uses a gas with the highest refrigeration efficiency (COP). Its Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP) and Global Warming Potential (GWP) are also considered to be zero.

The company also has a strong water management and waste management system at its factory premises. Rainwater is harvested and used for cooling purposes while wastewater from the factory is treated through reverse osmosis and used for cooling systems. Around 95% of all waste from its operations are recycled. Waste plastic generated from the production process is sent to be converted into plastic modified asphalt concrete (PMAC) which is then used as the key raw material to pave the plastic carpark project carried out by Cargills Food City.

By doing so it provides an end



CEO Sri Lanka Climate Fund Chamara Ariyathilaka, Secretary to the Ministry of Environment Dr. Anil Jasasinghe, Cargills Quality Dairies and Kotmale Dairy Products Managing Director Saranga Wijesundara, Group Manager Manufacturing - Dairy sector Nimal Gunaratna.

use to non-recyclable plastic material which would otherwise find its way to landfills or incineration. The company has introduced environmentally friendly packaging for its products including the Magic Heavenly range ice cream tubs, Kotmale cheese wedges, and the Kotmale yoghurt to reduce its plastic consumption. The Kotmale

yoghurt paper spoons are made of biodegradable material, which significantly reduces the amount of plastic used in the manufacturing process.

The company's sustainability measures go beyond protecting the environment. As a leading dairy company in the country, Kotmale and Cargills Quality Dairies have

made significant investments in dairy development, supporting smallholder farmers by providing them with cattle sheds, milking machines, grass cutting equipment etc. The company also provides technical assistance to its dairy farmer network and supports them with cattle feed cultivation. Through dairy development, the company hopes to increase fresh milk production in Sri Lanka and improve the incomes of dairy farmers. The company recently invested in model dairy farms, with the goal of increasing the milk yield among its farmer network by promoting better nutrition and care for the animals as well as better farm management practices. The company plans to encourage more farmers to emulate this concept and help them set up high productivity dairy farms.

Kotmale Dairy Products and Cargills Quality Dairies together are the largest private sector fresh milk collector in Sri Lanka. They collect on average 180,000 liters of fresh milk every day from over 17,000 smallholder dairy farmers spread across the island.

Dialog 'Blaster' series launches all-New Triple Blaster plan

Adding yet another exciting proposition to the most attractive 'Blaster' series, Dialog recently launched the all-new Triple Blaster (498) plan - facilitating prepaid customers with the ideal bundle plan with Calls and SMS to any local network.

Prepaid customers who activate the all-new Triple Blaster (498) plan will receive 1,000 Minutes and 1,000 SMS to any local network along with 1.5 GB anytime data for a period of 30 days, including taxes all in one plan.

Any Dialog prepaid customer can enjoy this benefit by simply reloading Rs. 498 or by activating the plan via the MyDialog App. The new Triple Blaster (498) plan follows the success of its predecessors

the voice-led combo plan, Triple Blaster (345) which offers customers calls & SMS between Dialog connections along with an anytime data quota. Customers can activate as many bundle plans based on their connectivity requirements. Understanding emergent consumer needs, the Triple Blaster (498) plan acts as the ultimate accompaniment to the relevant, accessible, and affordable Calls, SMS, Data, YouTube, Facebook and WhatsApp plans being offered under Dialog's 'Blaster' series. Much like its predecessors, this plan falls in line with the company's commitment to delivering affordable and accessible connectivity to all Sri Lankans.

ComBank launches 'Win a Million' remittance promotion

The Commercial Bank of Ceylon has announced that it is starting 2022 on a rewarding note with the launch of 'Win a Million' - a remittance promotion that will make four instant millionaires in four months and reward another 40 recipients of remittances with a total of Rs 1 million in cash.

The prize purse of Rs 5 million will be shared by the Bank's remittance customers chosen at monthly draws between January 1 and April 30 2022, under this promotion, the Bank said. Each month, the Bank will pick one grand prize winner to receive Rs 1 million and another ten lucky winners who will receive Rs 25,000 each in consolation prizes.

Recipients of money via ComBank RemitPlus - the remittance service of the Bank - will automatically be entered into the draw. Every customer who receives remittances directly to a Commercial Bank Account during the promotion period and those who collect the remitted cash from a Commercial Bank branch close to them will be eligible to enter the monthly 'Win a Million' draws.

In addition to the chance to win these cash prizes, every worker remittance sent via the Bank, will be eligible to receive

an additional Rs 10 over the prevailing exchange rate for every US dollar converted until January 31, the Bank said.

The Bank said it will publish details of winners on its social media platforms as well as the Bank's 'RemitPlus' App.

The Bank said the 'Win a Million' campaign will also encourage recipients of remittances to directly approach the Bank and remittance partners to promote direct remittances, help reach untapped markets, boost customer loyalty and retention, attract customers of global partners and popularise its Remittance Card, RemitPlus app and related value-added services.

Remit Plus is the instant money transfer service of Commercial Bank which enables Sri Lankan expatriates to make instant money transfers from many countries around the world. A sophisticated, low cost, real time, online money transfer facility, Remit Plus can be accessed by remitters through a network of agents. The Bank's business partners for remittances in more than 130 countries provide remittance services through which the amount will be credited to relevant Commercial Bank accounts instantly at any time of the day, any day of the year.

HNB partners Cinnamon Hotels offers LANKAQR payment solutions

HNB PLC, partnered with Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts to launch the LANKAQR facility for the renowned hospitality chain's portfolio of restaurants.

Following increasingly rapid adoption from Sri Lanka's tier-one merchants, Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts is also coming on-board to offer guests at the restaurants of the hotels; Cinnamon Lakeside Colombo and Cinnamon Grand Colombo with the convenience of contactless payments via QR codes.

HNB DGM Retail and SME Banking Sanjay Wijemanne, HNB Head of Digital Business, Chammi Weerasinghe, HNB Senior Manager - Business Development Piyakara Jayaratne, HNB Digital Pay Products Executive Ishan Karanagoda, HNB Lead Product Management SOLO, Harold Elanco and the General Manager of Cinnamon Grand Colombo and Cinnamon Lakeside Colombo, John Keells Group Vice President, Kamal Munasinghe, Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts Vice President Finance, Shanaka Silva and Cinnamon Grand Colombo Head of IT Shiran Tissera graced the ceremony held to launch the facility at Cinnamon Grand Colombo.

"It is imperative that we continue embracing digital payments across



Cinnamon Grand Colombo and Cinnamon Lakeside Colombo General Manager, John Keells Group Vice President, Kamal Munasinghe exchange the LANKAQR with HNB Deputy General Manager Retail and SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne in the presence of Cinnamon Grand Colombo Head of IT, Shiran Tissera, Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts, Vice President Finance, Shanaka Silva, HNB Head of Digital Business, Chammi Weerasinghe, HNB Digital Pay Products Executive, Ishan Karanagoda, HNB Lead Product Management SOLO, Harold Elanco and HNB Senior Manager Business Development, Piyakara Jayaratne.

all industries in Sri Lanka. The pandemic may have driven the initial conversion to QR based payments, but we are now seeing a new wave of customers who are using the facility for the convenience and reliability it offers across QR enabled platforms like HNB SOLO, which are gaining rapid traction and are a must-have among customers," HNB DGM Retail & SME Banking Sanjay Wijemanne said.

Notably, customers have the option of completing a transaction by scanning the Dynamic QR code, a unique QR code generated for the

transaction. This allows customers using an app linked with the LANKAQR initiative to make contactless purchases at stores by simply scanning the Dynamic QR, which appears on the display screen of the Point of Sale (PoS) machine.

The facility is also beneficial to merchants as the integration of HNB's system with the merchant's cash PoS results in real-time confirmation of the purchase credited to the merchant's account for Just-Pay transactions. Moreover, the partnership will enable all Sri Lan-

kans, including customers of other banks, to complete transactions seamlessly at Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts. "The past two years have been a trying time for the tourism industry and the whole nation. But we are fortunate to finally see a gradual recovery take hold. In order to help the industry bounce back, we must be ready to change and adapt much more rapidly than ever before," Cinnamon Grand Colombo and Cinnamon Lakeside Colombo General Manager, John Keells Group Vice President, Kamal Munasinghe said.

People's Bank champs at Bristol Brain Battle Corporate Quiz

The People's Bank Quiz Team was crowned as the Champions at the Bristol Brain Battle Corporate Quiz conducted for the 2nd consecutive year.

In addition to securing the overall first place, People's Bank sealed the Sector First Award in the ever so competitive Banking and Finance Sector for the second time in a row.

The People's Bank Team battled it out over 38 corporate quiz teams representing Sri Lanka's prominent business establishments and more importantly improving their position of



People's Bank Team receive the Trophy and the winning team meets People's Bank CEO and GM Ranjith Kodituwakku.

being the Runner up last year. The Bristol Brain Battle Corporate Quiz-

2021 was organized as a virtual event by Bristol Institute of Business Man-

agement; the affiliated tertiary education partner of University of Bristol-UK. The winning team from People's Bank was represented by Nipunika Wijayarathne Deputy General Manager Transaction Banking, Pulasthi Gunasekara Team Leader Manager Risk Management and Credit Control Department, Malaka Sanjewa Wasala Manager Project Financing and Rehabilitation, Charith Malalasekara Deputy Manager Katubadda Branch and Amanda Pakianathan Assistant Manager Corporate Banking-1.

SLIM signs MoU with SLASSCOM to facilitate internship opportunities

The Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sri Lanka Association for Software Services Companies (SLASSCOM), the national chamber for the knowledge and innovation industry in Sri Lanka.

The MoU was signed to facilitate internship opportunities for SLIM undergraduates within the SLASSCOM landscape.

The MoU was signed on September 21, this partnership will enable undergraduates of SLIM to expand their horizons through internship opportunities within SLASSCOM member companies. This collaboration would create new pathways and development opportunities for students to further their education, familiarise themselves with the IT/BPM

industry and advance their career prospects.

In addition, SLIM members would be able to engage in mentor programmes organised by the SLASSCOM Forums and Centres of Excellence.

Together, SLIM and SLASSCOM would be able to formulate learning and development initiatives for both organizations through mutually shared resources that would enhance competencies, skills, training, and other avenues for development.

Speaking on this mutually beneficial understanding between SLIM and SLASSCOM, the President of SLIM, Thilanka Abeywardena said, "The mutual understanding between the two companies is beneficial to both the parties. SLIM aims at providing a knowledge-



Thilanka Abeywardena, President SLIM

able workforce to the country through marketing education. This objective aligns with SLASSCOM's forums of Marketing, Capacity, Regional Development, Entrepreneurship, Technology, Quality, Business Process Management, Innovation, and Human Resources. Together, we hope to facilitate a well-rounded group of business leaders that are 'Future-Ready' and ready to face the challenges of the



Sandra de Zoysa, Chairperson SLASSCOM

business landscape of Sri Lanka." The Vice President for Education at SLIM, Nuwan Gamage further elaborated, "This partnership will enhance the overall quality of the workforce of SLASSCOM as our bright and innovative undergraduates would add to their organization. Likewise, this opportunity presents great promise for our undergraduates as they would be presented with the

chance to explore their career options, obtain real-life experience in the business industry and more."

Sandra de Zoysa, the Chairperson of SLASSCOM, in her address explained the importance of talent development and upskilling at this critical juncture as the nation recovers from the effects of COVID-19. She went on to discuss the synergies that SLASSCOM could leverage in order to expand SLASSCOM's marketing efforts. Speaking on the need that SLASSCOM has to expand its marketing efforts she emphasised, "There's a lot to be done on how IT/BPM companies incorporate the Island of Ingenuity branding and this is an area in which our industry can gain a lot, with the help of this monumental partnership between SLASSCOM and SLIM."

Rakuten Viber partners SLT-MOBITEL Mobile offers 'Viber Free' data packages

Rakuten Viber joins hands with SLT-MOBITEL Mobile to offer "Viber Free" data packages that help users stay connected, no matter where they are. This joint endeavour will enable SLT-MOBITEL Mobile subscribers to enjoy unlimited data when using Viber across popular data plans.

Both Mobitel Pre-Paid and Post-Paid subscribers can now get access to unlimited Viber data to enjoy unparalleled features such as free VoIP calls, group video chats, communities, utilities chatbots, and fun stickers on Viber's messaging platform that offer enhanced security to preserve user data privacy. Pre-Paid customers with Anytime plans and are eligible for this offer and Post-Paid customers with Anytime plans can enjoy the free Viber offer.

"We are delighted to partner with Viber to offer our valued customers a unique experience by delivering value beyond the standard packages in the market today. The tie up will cater to the surge in usage of instant messaging across Sri Lankans while keeping in mind



David Tse, Senior Director for APAC at Rakuten Viber

customer data security," said Shashika Senarath, CMO at Mobitel. Stating further, Shashika stressed that, "This long-term partnership with Rakuten Viber allows us to bring our collective resources, expertise, and integrate them in a way that offers users a secure and enhanced user experience."

As migration to digital technologies continues to be driven by the pandemic, it's important for service providers to accelerate their digital capabilities to keep pace and offer services that are in line with the changing customer demands. "We have a diverse user base and it has always been our aim to help them stay connected, no matter who they are or where they're from," said David



Shashika Senarath, Chief Marketing Officer at Mobitel

Tse, Rakuten Viber Senior Director for APAC. "We see great synergy between Viber's and SLT-MOBITEL's customer-centric approach and such partners will allow us to continue to scale and offer our users in Sri Lanka with great choice of data plans to enjoy our full suite of messaging features and utilities." Rakuten Viber's partnership with SLT-MOBITEL Mobile is yet another initiative by the popular messaging platform that continues to reinvent its service offerings for an enriched user experience. Users may subscribe to the service via the SLT-MOBITEL Mobile SelfCare app, DataMart app, topping up or by visiting the nearest communication outlet.