



# LKI UPDATE

[programmes@lki.lk](mailto:programmes@lki.lk)

April-May 2026

<https://lki.lk/>

## LKI EVENTS AND COLLABORATIONS



- **09/04/2026:** LKI held a panel discussion titled “**Continental Margin vs Continental Shelf: The Provisions of the UNCLOS**”. The session included Prof. Dhammika Tantrigoda, Dr. Hiran Jayewardene, Mr. Nalin De Silva, and Dr. M.A.M. Hakeem as speakers, moderated by Rear Admiral (Retd) Y.N. Jayarathna.
- **15/05/2026:** LKI welcomed a group of delegates from “**Organization for Research on China and Asia**” [ORCA] for discussions on matters of common interest and academic cooperation led by ORCA Executive Director Eerishika Pankaj.
- **21/05/2026:** On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs LKI hosted a guest lecture by Shanghai Cooperation Organization Secretary-General H.E. Nurlan Yermekbayev. The title of the lecture was “**Sri Lanka–SCO relations and the way forward**”.



## RESEARCH

- **April 2026: A Cultural Diplomacy-Led Policy Reform Framework for Heritage Tourism in Sri Lanka:** LKI Researcher **Thevni Sendanayake** examines the commodification of Sri Lanka’s cultural heritage within global tourism and highlights the need for policy reform through cultural diplomacy and coordinated state action.
- **April 2026: Sri Lankan Migrant Workers in the UK Fishing Industry: How a Two-Tier Visa System Allows Exploitation and Abuse:** LKI Researcher **Sarah Barber** examines how the UK’s two-tier visa system exposes Sri Lankan migrant workers to exploitation and abuse, while recommending reforms to strengthen human rights protections.
- **May 2026: Between Giants: Sri Lanka’s BRICS Dilemma:** LKI Researcher **Venura Jayaratne** assesses the feasibility of Sri Lanka’s BRICS membership bid and explores the form of BRICS engagement that best preserves the country’s strategic balance between India and China.

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## ENGAGEMENTS

- **07/05/2026:** Senior Research Fellow, Ms. Nillasi Liyanage attended the strategic panel discussion on “**Drones, Deterrence, and Defence: Rethinking Security Strategies for Small States,**” organized by the Sustainability & Security Research Institute (SASSRI).
- **11/05/2026:** Senior Research Fellow, Ms. Piyumani Ranasinghe participated in discussions and coordination related to the **Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) Meeting on the BBNJ Agreement** organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- **21/05/2026:** Senior Research Fellow, Ms. Madhuka Rukmalgama coordinated the guest lecture by the Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, H.E. Nurlan Yermekbayev, titled “**Sri Lanka–SCO Relations and the Way Forward**”, which was hosted by LKI in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism.

## VISITS



- **09/04/2026:** Ms. Zofia Kostrzewa, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Secretary of Political and Economic Section, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in New Delhi visited LKI.
- **09/04/2026:** Research Fellow of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and Commander Takayuki Kubo, Defense Attaché at the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka visited LKI.
- **14/05/2026:** H.E. Iwan Rutjens, Acting Ambassador / Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mr. Namal Perera - Senior Policy Advisor, Political Affairs of the Embassy, Ms. Rosaline Lantink, Research Fellow at the Clingendael Institute and Mr. Tobias Koster, Research Fellow at the Clingendael Institute visited LKI.
- **20/05/2026:** On the 20th of May 2026, LKI welcomed Ms. Sharini McEwen, First Secretary-Maritime Security of the Australian High Commission, Sri Lanka.

## OUR EVOLVING TEAM OF INTERNS

### Warm Welcomes

- Dulmini Hettiarachchi  
**20/04/2026**
- Sithmi Withana  
**20/04/2026**
- Attcheya Paranthaman  
**20/04/2026**
- Yalindee Premaratne  
**04/05/2026**
- Dulina Ranasinghe  
**06/05/2026**

### Fond Farewells

- Nabeela Jabir  
**13/04/2026**
- Adhil Fareed  
**13/04/2026**
- Thevni Sendanayake  
**23/04/2026**
- Tharushi Ratnayake  
**02/05/2026**

## OUR EVOLVING TEAM OF LKI STAFF

### Fond Farewells

- Dr.Nishara Mendis  
**31/05/2026**
- Nadeeka Madawatta  
**29/05/2026**

### Warm Welcomes

- Madhuka Rukmalgama  
**01/05/2026**
- Nillasi Liyanage  
**01/05/2026**
- Piyumani Ranasinghe  
**01/05/2026**

