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තොසිය පල්කලෙක්කමුක ඇස්සිරියාර ගුණුත්තියම්

National University Teachers Association

DV2/3/R Victoria Place, colombo 08, Sri Lanka.

TP : 0112 677 744/071 9902244 Fax : 0112 677 744 E-mail : nutasrilanka@gmail.com

"නිවහලු එක්සේසන් බලක උදෙසා විශ්ව විද්‍යාල ආචාර්යවරුන් දායකත්වය"

18th May, 2016.

Srimathi Sushma Swaraj,
Minister of External Affairs,
Government of India.

Your Excellency.

No ETCA Please

As a group of academics and professionals seriously concerned about some disturbing trends in the public affairs of our country, we consider it appropriate to address you on a matter, which appears to us to be of paramount importance in respect of relations between our two countries.

As Your Excellency is no doubt aware, there is overwhelming opposition rapidly growing in this country to the Economic and Technological Co-operation Agreement, proposed to be signed between Sri Lanka and India. There has never been any previous occasion when feeling of this intensity was manifested by leading professionals representing a wide array of disciplines in Sri Lanka. On 17th March, more than sixty unions comprising almost the entire spectrum of professional leadership in all sectors, held a major rally in Colombo to call upon the government not to proceed with the signing of the Framework Agreement, which is currently under discussion.

There is the widespread conviction, supported by compelling evidence, that decisions on this crucial matter are being taken by the Government of Sri Lanka in response to political imperatives rather than on a proper consideration of the economic issues involved. We are convinced, on the basis of objective studies done by Sri Lankan professionals of unimpeachable stature, that this initiative will result in grave harm to our country's vital economic and trade interests.

The reasons for this view are quite apparent. After fifteen years of implementation of the Free Trade Agreement between our countries, a combination of administrative barriers, systematically applied, has prevented our country from making use of its entitlements in terms of the FTA. Import licensing procedures, quantity specifications at a low threshold in respect of Sri Lanka's principal export products, restrictions regarding ports of entry, refusal to accord recognition to Sri Lankan laboratory certification, prolonged quarantine of perishable products and divergent levies imposed by different Indian States, have cumulatively caused deep disillusionment on the Sri Lankan side. We do not, for a moment, consider it a prudent policy from our point of view to expand

the scope of a bilateral agreement from the commodities to the significantly more complex services sector until these issues are resolved in a just and even-handed manner.

We believe that a great deal more preparation by Sri Lanka is required before finality can be brought to the so-called Framework Agreement. There are, clearly, serious issues to be examined in depth regarding, for instance, the implications of the General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS) which will curtail our capacity to make salutary legislative changes after signing the Framework Agreement, well conceived regulatory systems to be put in place in Sri Lanka before far-reaching steps are taken, and the updating of our legislation, relatively undeveloped, in a variety of fields.

Sri Lanka's weakness in securing an equitable result through discussion is all too obvious. A telling example is our total impotence to prevent, or even to mitigate, what the media has described as "the rape of our seas" by ever increasing numbers of Indian trawlers taking away our valuable marine resources from Sri Lanka's territorial waters, while causing irreversible environmental damage.

We find disquieting the developments now taking place, and are apprehensive that relations between our two countries, already under appreciable strain, are likely to deteriorate further.

We urge you, in the interest of a healthy and understanding relationship between Sri Lanka and India, to ensure that no agreement is signed in the face of vigorous and continuing opposition, persuasively articulated, by the professional community in our country.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Channa Jayasumana', is written diagonally across the page.

Dr. Channa Jayasumana,
Secretary,
National University Teachers' Association Sri Lanka

Signatories for the letter,

	Name	University
1	Prof. Iduragare Dharmarathana Thero	Kelaniya
2	Prof. Wawwe Dhammarakkhitha Thero	Buddhist and Pali
3	Prof. Therele Dhammarathana Thero	Kelaniya
4	Dr. Bamunugama Shanthawimala Thero	Peradeniya
5	Dr. Maduruoye Dhammissara Thero	Kelaniya

6	Dr. Moragollagama Uparathana Thero	Buddhist and Pali
7	Dr. Kapugollawe Anandakiththi Thero	Kelaniya
8	Dr. Pitigala Vijitha Thero	Buddhist and Pali
9	Ven. Walapane Gnanasena Thero	Kelaniya
10	Prof. Ranjith Senaratne	Ruhuna
11	Prof. Sarath Lekamwasam	Ruhuna
12	Prof. Upali Amarasinghe	Kelaniya
13	Prof. Sisira Siribaddana	Rajarata
14	Prof. Krishantha Abeyseña	Kelaniya
15	Prof. MD Lamawansa	Peradeniya
16	Prof. Vijitha Nanayakkara	Peradeniya
17	Prof. Ranjith Premalal de Silva	Peradeniya
18	Prof. Harishchandra Abeygunawardane	Peradeniya
19	Prof. Rohan Rajapakse	Ruhuna
20	Prof. S Subasinghe	Ruhuna
21	Prof. Gamini Fonseka	Ruhuna
22	Prof. P Hewage	Ruhuna
23	Prof. Sudantha Liyanage	Sri Jayewardenepura
24	Prof. Mala Amarasinghe	Kelaniya
25	Prof. Priyani Paranagama	Kelaniya
26	Prof. Deepika Amarasinghe	Kelaniya
27	Prof. Wimaladharma Abeyewickreme	Kelaniya
28	Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama	Colombo
29	Prof. Janitha Liyanage	Kelaniya
30	Prof. Thilak Attanayake	Wayamba
31	Prof. NS Kottearachchi	Wayamba
32	Prof. Yasanjalee Jayathilake	Sri Jayewardenepura
33	Prof. Suneth Agampodi	Rajarata
34	Prof. P Mangala CS De Silva	Ruhuna
35	Prof. EPS Chandana	Ruhuna
36	Dr. Ravindra Lokupitiya	Sri Jayewardenepura
37	Dr. Prasad Jayaweera	Sri Jayewardenepura
38	Dr. Wasantha Devasiri	Ruhuna
39	Dr. Chanrda Abyesinghe	Wayamba
40	Dr. Gamini Prathapasinghe	Wayamba
41	Dr. BPA Jayaweera	Wayamba
42	Dr. Sewwandi Jayakodi	Wayamba
43	Dr. Prasanthi Perera	Wayamba
44	Dr. NR Abeynayake	Wayamba
45	Dr. Renuka Silva	Wayamba
46	Dr. Lakshman Jayaratne	Colombo
47	Dr. Achala Jayathilake	Colombo
48	Dr. C Pushpakumara	Moratuwa
49	Dr. Percy Wijewardhana	Rajarata
50	Dr. JMSB Jayasundara	Rajarata
51	Dr. Channa Jayasumana	Rajarata

52	Dr. Buddhika Abeyrathna	Rajarata
53	Senior lecturer Madhavi Herath	Peradeniya
54	Dr. Nayana Liyanaarachchi	Ruhuna
55	Dr. Pushpika Jayawardena	Ruhuna
56	Dr. Chandana Wickremarathna	Ruhuna
57	Dr. Champa Wijewickrema	Ruhuna
58	Dr. Eisha Waidyaratne	Ruhuna
59	Dr. Dimuthu Piyaratne	Ruhuna
60	Dr. Saman Ediriweera	Ruhuna
61	Dr. Jeewanie Jayasinghe Arachchige	Ruhuna
62	Dr. Abhaya Balasuriya	Rajarata
63	Senior lecturer Mahendra Gunawardane	Kelaniya
64	Senior lecturer Nemsiri Jayathilake	Open University
65	Senior lecturer Raja Gunaratne	Open University
66	Senior lecturer Sumedha Weerawardhana	Peradeniya
67	Senior lecturer Mahinda Pathirana	Sabaragamuwa
68	Senior lecturer Jayaprasad Welgama	Sabaragamuwa
69	Senior Lecturer RKD Randeni	Rajarata
70	Senior Lecturer MHJP.Gunaratne	Rajarata
71	Senior Lecturer Sudath Senarath	Kelaniya
72	Senior Lecture Harsha Darmapriya	Kelaniya
73	Senior Lecturer Gunapala Ratnesekara	Sri Jayewardenepura
74	Senior Lecturer S. Amarasekara	Buddhist and Pali
75	Lecturer Nilantha Dissanayaka	Buddhist and Pali
76	Lecturer Vindhya Weerawardana	Kelaniya
77	Lecturer D. Gunatilake	Buddhist and Pali
78	Dr. RM Abhayarathne	Peradeniya
79	Dr. Buddhika Wijerathna	Rajarata
80	Dr. Seetha Bandara Ranathunga	Kelaniya
81	Dr. Janaka Wansapura	Colombo
82	Dr. Sumudu Senani Perera	Sri Jayewardenepura
83	Dr. Yasasmala Widyalankara	Colombo
84	Dr. Llithasiri Gunaruwan	Colombo
85	Senior lecturer Nandana Wijesinghe	Peradeniya
86	Senior lecturer Shantha Wanninayake	Peradeniya
87	Senior lecturer Jagath Wellawaththa	Colombo
88	Dr. Thilini Agampodi	Rajarata
89	Dr. Asantha Jayawardana	Rajarata
90	Dr. Prasanna Weerawansa	Rajarata
91	Dr. Vasana Mendis	Rajarata
92	Dr. Sujeewa Thalhgaspitiya	Rajarata
93	Dr. Senaka Pilapitiya	Rajarata
94	Dr. Prasad Serasinghe	Colombo