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WISTA-CASA 2016 Held in Colombo

The Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA) Asia-Pacific 2016 Event began on May 5, with the WISTA International Spring Board Meeting, followed by the NWA Presidents' Meeting — both at McLarens Holdings' office in Colombo.

That evening, the WISTA Members' Reception was held, complete with a dinner programme, on board the Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel's resplendent floating restaurant, '8 Degrees on the Lake'. Local Sri Lankan dancers performed before the vessel set sail, signalling the beginning of a spectacular evening. Adrift on Beira Lake, the WISTA members breathed in fresh air and sipped cocktails as they appreciated the elegant, snow-white interiors. Karin Orsel, WISTA International President, and Jasamin Fichte, President of WISTA UAE, addressed the gathering. Shehara Jayawardana, Group Joint Managing Director, McLarens Holdings Ltd,

and President, WISTA Sri Lanka, thanked the WISTA Sri Lanka Committee for doing such a wonderful job and putting the event together. "Enjoy the evening and happy networking!" she finished.

The ladies danced to foot-tapping numbers on the upper deck. After much networking and merrymaking, they were dropped back to the Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel.

The next day, May 6, the WISTA-CASA Conference commenced, inaugurated by the singing of the Sri Lankan national anthem and lighting of the traditional lamp. Opening remarks were then delivered by Shehara Jayawardana, Group Joint Managing Director, McLarens Holdings; and President, WISTA Sri Lanka, Capt. Ajith Peiris — Group Managing Director, Ceyline Agencies and Chairman, Ceylon Association of Ship's Agents (CASA).

Shehara warmly welcomed all the

international delegates, noting that this was the first time an international shipping conference was being jointly organized by WISTA and CASA. She stated that this was the first shipping conference in Sri Lanka to have equal representation in terms of men and women among the speaker and panellists. This was truly a great achievement. "The shipping industry is undeniably one of the most important sectors to the Sri Lankan economy, and I am sure events such as these will help further strengthen networking, knowledge sharing and business opportunities, and ultimately also achieve the nation's vision to be the maritime hub of Asia," she informed.

Capt Ajith Peiris, stated that CASA is celebrating its golden jubilee — marking fifty years of service — this year. "With its strong membership of over 134 shipping companies engaged in various activities in the maritime industry, CASA offers



WISTA Sri Lanka ExCo

