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வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள் அமைச்சு
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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திகதி
Date

20/07/2017

Chairman

Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS)
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Meeting with External Affairs Minister of India Hon. Sushma Swaraj : 30th June 2017

The High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in India by fax No. 1337 dated 07th July 2017 has informed that she had made reference to the sudden demise of Dr. Saman Kelagama, Sri Lanka's Chief Negotiator for ETCA talks, during a meeting she had with Hon. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India, on 30th June 2017.

The High Commissioner has further stated that she has emphasized that it's a huge loss to the country given that he was the key negotiator in a number of ongoing trade negotiations. Joint Secretary of the IOR Division has also recalled late Dr. Kelagama's extensive association with India including as an academic connected to the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur and stated that, Dr. Kelagama's counterparts are 'quite shaken' by his sudden death and added that Dr. Kelagama has always been the 'comfort factor' during the talks.

According to the High Commissioner, Hon. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India has stated that she heard the news of of Dr. Saman Kelagama's sudden demise and requested to convey her deep condolence to Dr. Saman Kelagama's family.

Hence, it would be appreciated if you could convey the message of condolence of Hon. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India to Dr. Kelagama's family .

M.A.K. Girihagama
Director General/South Asia & SAARC
for Secretary/Foreign Affairs

Copy : H.E the High Commissioner/ High Commission of Sri Lanka, New Delhi, India - 1205 .

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