



LAUNCH OF THE REPORT AND DISCUSSION ON
**MORE AND BETTER JOBS IN SOUTH ASIA:
SRI LANKAN PERSPECTIVES**

*IPS Auditorium, Colombo 7
Thursday 1st March 2012*

**Organized by
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS)
and
The World Bank (WB)**

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09:00 – 09:30 REGISTRATION (ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS & SPECIAL INVITEES)

09:30 – 10:45 INAUGURATION

09:30 – 09:35 Lighting of the Traditional Oil Lamp / National Anthem

09:35 – 09:40 Welcome Remarks: Saman Kelegama, Executive Director, IPS

09:40 – 09:45 Introductory Remarks: Diarrietou Gaye, Country Director (Sri Lanka), WB

09:45 – 09:50 Report Launch: Presentation of the report 'More and Better Jobs in South Asia' by the World Bank to Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister for International Monetary Cooperation, Government of Sri Lanka

09:50 – 10:10 Chief Guest's Remarks: Hon. Dr. Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister for International Monetary Cooperation, Government of Sri Lanka

*10:10 – 10:45 Keynote Presentation: More and Better Jobs in South Asia
Reema Nayyar, Lead Economist, South Asia Region, WB*

10:45–11:00 TEA/COFFEE

11:00–12:20 **SESSION I: More and Better Jobs in Sri Lanka: Creating a Better Business Environment**

Chairperson: *Anushka Wijesinha, Research Economist, IPS*

11:00 – 11:10 *Suresh De Mel, Entrepreneur, and Immediate Past Chairman, Business for Peace Alliance (BPA)*

11:10 – 11:20 *Anura Ekanayake, Immediate Past Chairman, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and Governing Board Member, IPS*

11:20 – 11:30 *B.M.S. Batagoda, Director General, Department of National Planning, Ministry of Finance and Planning*

11:30 – 11:50 **Panel Discussion**
(Chair will direct questions for discussion among panelists)

11:50 – 12:20 **Floor Discussion (Q&A)**
(Followed by wrap-up comments by Chair)

12:20–14:00 **SESSION II: More and Better Jobs in Sri Lanka: Creating Better Labour Market Conditions**

Chairperson: *Susan Razzaz, Senior Country Economist, WB*

12:20 – 12:30 *Ravi Peiris, Director General, Employers' Federation of Ceylon (EFC)*

12:30 – 12:40 *Leslie Devendra, General Secretary, Sri Lanka Nidahas Sevaka Sangamaya*

12:40 – 12:50 *W.A. Wijewardena, former Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Sri Lanka*

12:50 – 13:00 *Sunil Wijesinha, Chairman, Dankotutwa Porcelain PLC*

13:00 – 13:20 **Panel Discussion**
(Chair will direct questions for discussion among panelists)

13:20 – 13:50 **Floor Discussion (Q&A)**
(Followed by wrap-up comments by Chair)

13:50 – 14:00 **Closing Remarks:** *Kalpana Kochhar, Chief Economist, South Asia Region, WB*

14:00 **END OF PROGRAMME & LUNCH**
