



THE NATIONAL TRUST – SRI LANKA

“Sri Lanka and the Silk Road of the Sea”

by

Dr. Sanjiva Wijesinha

The Monthly Lecture Series No: 162 of the National Trust

Thursday 25th July 2024 at 6.00 pm

at the Auditorium of the College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka,

No. 6, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7.

(For those who join online: <https://youtube.com/live/79hEOR0F9x4>)

Foreign trade has been a prominent feature of Sri Lanka’s economy from ancient times. Our island, situated at the virtual mid-point of the maritime trade routes between West Europe and East Asia, was ideally located to become an important link in the network between East and West – and so developed into a major meeting place for sailors, traders and travellers from all over the known world. This channel of trade that linked the great historic cultures of Asia, Europe and Africa was in effect a channel of communication along which the two-way transport of commercial goods (like Silk and Spice and all that’s nice) took place - as well as the transport of intangible riches such as Ideas, Religion, Music and Technology. Weaving together information about Sri Lanka’s ancient harbours, our connections to the lands around the Indian Ocean and the seagoing craft that plied these trade routes - plus little known writings by travellers, historians and merchants who wrote about island, this illustrated lecture will focus on the important role that Sri Lanka played as a link between the East and the West on the Maritime Silk Road.



Dr. Sanjiva Wijesinha is a graduate of the Colombo Medical School in Sri Lanka. He has worked as a paediatric surgeon in both Sri Lanka and Hong Kong and also as a family physician, Monash University professor and military medical officer in both Sri Lanka and Australia. His interest in the Silk Roads and subsequent research originated from his participation in the 1990 UNESCO Silk Routes expedition.

The National Trust – Sri Lanka conducts monthly lectures generally on the last working Thursday of each month. The lectures are open to the members and the general public.

Further information can be obtained from the Trust Office Tel.0112682730/ 0719566929