

ICT Week 2008 promises to be one of the Biggest Ever ICT Showcases in Sri Lanka
*Aims to bring all stakeholders in the Lankan ICT industry under one roof along with
the Infotel 2008 Exhibition and IITC 2008 Conference*

Colombo, 17-06-2008; Sri Lanka's premier Information Communication Technology event INFOTEL 2008 which will kick off at the BMICH on October 30 is expected to be the biggest ever ICT showcase.

It aims to bring together the entire IT community in Sri Lanka including industry experts, professionals and academics and the user community on to a single platform.

"Infotel 2008 will be an ideal platform to showcase the combined strengths of the ICT industry of Sri Lanka and to pitch this message onto the international arena. It will highlight the enormous growth potential in the country and the comprehensive policies, infrastructure and conducive business environment in place to fuel and sustain this growth," Science and Technology Minister Tissa Vitharana said.

The 9th Infotel Lanka Exhibition is a part of the ICT week commencing on October 27. The four day exhibition scheduled from 10.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. on the theme "the Future is Already Here" hopes to draw attention to the already available infrastructure and offerings in the local ICT field and highlight that human capability and a broadened outlook are the pre-requisites to exploit the available facilities to its full potential.

It also aims to provide a forum for promoting ICT products and services and an effective meeting place between service providers and potential local and foreign clientèle.

"ICT is undoubtedly the next growth frontier for Sri Lanka and it needs a sharpened focus and a robust and continuous strategy. The resources are available; it must be exploited. We hope that Infotel 2008 will stimulate and expand people's minds into what is actually available here and little used," said Infotel Chairman Roshan Rasool, while highlighting the urgent need for greater emphasis on human capacity building in the ICT sector.

Therefore in addition to the software, hardware and communications categories, a special "career section" has been introduced. This aims to provide career seekers, students and visitors with information on how to match career and job opportunities in the field of ICT

with the required academic and professional qualifications along with skills, required by the industry. It will also showcase the strengths in the market in terms of academic and professional courses available.

The e-Sri Lanka initiatives section **will be coordinated by the ICT Agency** to showcase applications that help to bridge the digital divide or remove the technological boundaries between average citizens and state institutions . It **will enable** the visitors to share and be informed of e-services and solutions offered by public sector agencies to improve their lifestyles using digital technologies.

“The ICT Agency is happy to be associated with the INFOTEL LANKA 2008 Exhibition,” says Reshan Dewapura- COO/Director ICT Agency of Sri Lanka.

He added that the Government of Sri Lanka is devoting increased focus on developing the ICT and ITES sectors of the country. Under the e-Sri Lanka Development Project, the ICT Agency has been engaged in continuous initiatives to raise industry standards and develop adequate infrastructure and resources to support the industry.

“Recent programmes such as the ICT Capacity Building Programme (ICBP) has helped many in the industry develop capabilities which will be paramount in our quest to move to a knowledge based economy,” he explained.

The 10th International IT Conference (IITC) - 2008 organized by the University of Colombo School of Computing is another key event of the National ICT week. It will provide networking opportunities for participants to acquaint themselves with the current global technological developments through presentations made by eminent specialists in the field.

Organizers, Infotel Lanka Society Ltd, representing Sri Lanka’s ICT industry and relevant government agencies in close association with industry leaders will set the stage for over 250 participating stalls arranged in pavilion style, and over 25,000 visitors.

This national event is supported by Dialog Telecom as the strategic partner - Communications and Broad Band . Sponsors for the event are Microsoft-Sri Lanka, Epsi Computers and Intel.

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