

Eminent Diplomat and Scholar Dhanapala joins Cargills Board

Distinguished diplomat and scholar Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala is to join the board of Directors of Cargills (Ceylon) PLC with effect from 1st June 2008.

Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala is a former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs (1998-2003) and a former Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the USA (1995-7) and to the UN Office in Geneva (1984-87).

He is currently Chairman of the UN University Council and President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs ; a member of the Governing Board of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and several other advisory boards of international bodies.

Commenting on Mr. Dhanapala's entry into Cargills, its Chief Executive Officer Mr. Ranjit Page said, "He brings to the board extensive experience and exposure gained from a distinguished career spanning the United Nations and academia interacting with Heads of State and Government and a wide diversity of nationalities."

Schooled and experienced in management and administration, Mr. Dhanapala has integrated these skills and experiences into successful governmental, diplomatic mission and international organizational administration. His contribution towards the international community has been widely recognized through the receipt of several international awards, among them the prestigious Alan Cranston Peace Award in 2002 and Sean MacBride Prize in 2007 awarded by the International Peace Bureau.

As a Sri Lankan diplomat Dhanapala served in London, Beijing, Washington D.C., New Delhi and Geneva and represented Sri Lanka at many international conferences chairing many of them including the historic NPT Review and Extension Conference of 1995. He was Director of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) from 1987-92.

Mr. Page noted that Cargills is no doubt privileged and fortunate to secure Mr. Dhanapala's counsel, especially at this particular juncture when the entire global community is grappling with an unprecedented food crisis.

He said, "Cargills being a Corporate Citizen that is committed to empowering youth and impacting rural development believes that Corporates have a rare opportunity at this point in time to make meaningful social policy interventions towards creating avenues for sustainable growth in rural Sri Lanka. Towards this end, Mr. Dhanapala's insight and experience would certainly empower Cargills to positively impact areas of national significance and global consequence."

Cargills (Ceylon) PLC is Sri Lanka's leading diversified Food company engaged in Food retailing, manufacturing and restaurants with a strong presence in the AgriBusiness sector.