Colombo, 06.04.2020

A message to the Swiss Communities in Sri Lanka and the Maldives

Dear compatriots

Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Switzerland and the world are going through difficult times with the Covid-19 pandemic spreading around the globe with serious consequences for our lives, health systems, travels and the economy of both individuals and countries.

During the last weeks, your Embassy has been very busy trying to offer help and support to the many tourists wanting to fly home. This has been possible to a large extend thanks to the personal organization of numerous tourists, who managed to go back to Switzerland on their own. Other could take advantage of special flights organized by our European partners (while many EU-Citizens were also flown home by Swiss Intl. Airlines or Edelweiss flights organized by the FDFA from different countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Oceania). The Embassy stands ready to continue offering its support to the remaining tourists in Sri Lanka or the Maldives. This being said, there are very few commercial flights still operating and the situation could get worse within the next days.

As the President of the Swiss Circle in Sri Lanka recently wrote: “In these times, we need to remember the importance of community and shared support.” Let me assure you that the Embassy is willing to do its best efforts to assist you in case of need during the special times we are experiencing. Due to the current restrictions, which also affect our daily work, you are requested to contact us preferably by e-mail: colombo@eda.admin.ch. Please check also our web page and social media for information: https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/sri-lanka/en/home/representations/embassy.html

I wish to thank you all, Swiss citizens living in Sri Lanka and the Maldives, for cultivating these values of solidarity among our community and beyond, specially towards the most fragile and needy within the national societies we are living in. In doing so, you are honouring the unofficial devise of the Swiss Confederation: “One for all, all for one”.

With kind regards and Stay Safe!

The Ambassador of Switzerland

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