



National Gem & Jewellery Authority



The Sri Lanka National Gem and Jewellery Authority (NGJA) is the statutory institution that is committed to the development and promotion of Sri Lanka's gem industry which is over 2000 years old.

The NGJA has made a tremendous effort in finding a permanent foreign market for Sri Lanka's gems by promoting them both in Sri Lanka and abroad and popularizing gem-studded jewellery among customers. Sri Lanka's soil yields priceless gems such as Blue sapphires, Rubies, Star Sapphires, Cats Eyes etc. It is in Sri Lanka that gems such as the Blue Giant of Orient (466 Carats), Logan Blue Sapphire (423 Carats), Blue Bell of Asia (4001 Carats) and Rosar Reivs Star Ruby (138 Carats) highly valued worldwide were found. Among them Ray of Treasure (105 Carats) and Star of Lanka (393 Carats) are the NGJA's proud possessions.

Sri Lanka's traditional gem mining industry goes back to very ancient times. The massive

task before the Authority covers a wide spectrum including the introduction of new technology to the industry for its development in all districts excepting Jaffna where the soil is limestone mixed. So far only three percent of the precious stones have been unearthed and therefore a vast amount of gems still remain to be mined and marketed.

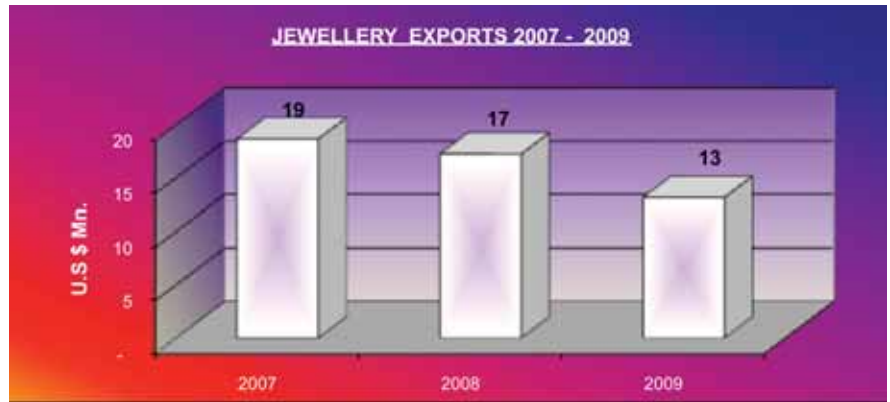
Our strategy in preventing the decline of the industry in the face of the global economic downturn was to find major buyers of gems and jewellery in China, Russia and India in addition to U.S.A. and Europe both of which provided us with markets so far. Accordingly we were able to get Sri Lankan gem industrialists to participate in international exhibitions in Japan,

The NGJA was also able to transform the geuda industry from its disorganized state by stopping the export of rough geuda and instead introducing methods to enhance colour by heating and convert to cut and polished stones.

The assay Laboratory which operates under the purview of NGJA, has been recognized by the “HallMarking / Vienna Convention” as the only Observer member in the South Asian region.



There is a great demand for unheated Sri Lanka gems having natural colours. We are already on the way to realize our vision of making Sri Lanka the global centre for jewellery studded with coloured sapphires and other gems. Sri Lanka is also the 30th country to become a member of the Kimberly process certification system (KPCS) for the prevention of fraudulent practices in the

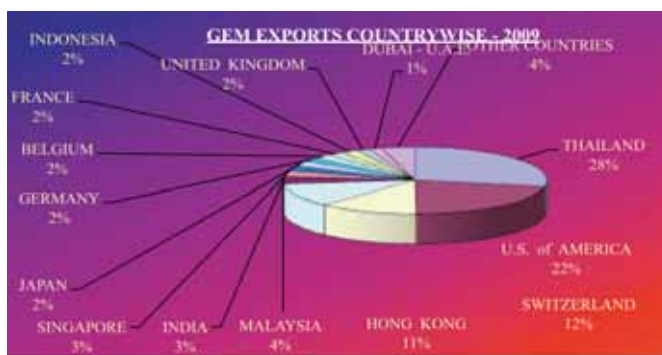


export of diamonds. The NGJA recently took a step to push Sri Lanka’s gem certification activities in a new direction by introducing a system of examining and issuing testing reports under their variety names.

The Authority’s other targets at present are establishing a Gem and Jewellery Gallery at the National Museum premises, Colombo for exhibiting gems and minerals for the benefit of scientists keen on doing research and studies on Sri Lankan gems.

According to Mahinda Chinthana

concept, already steps have been taken to introduce Sri Lanka Precious Metal standards in order to upgrade the entire Jewellery industry, while protecting the consumer rights. It should be noted with pride, that the assay Laboratory which operates under the purview of NGJA, has been recognized by the “HallMarking / Vienna Convention” as the only Observer member in the South Asian region, which is to be considered as a vital factor in marketing Sri Lankan jewellery in competitive international Markets. ■

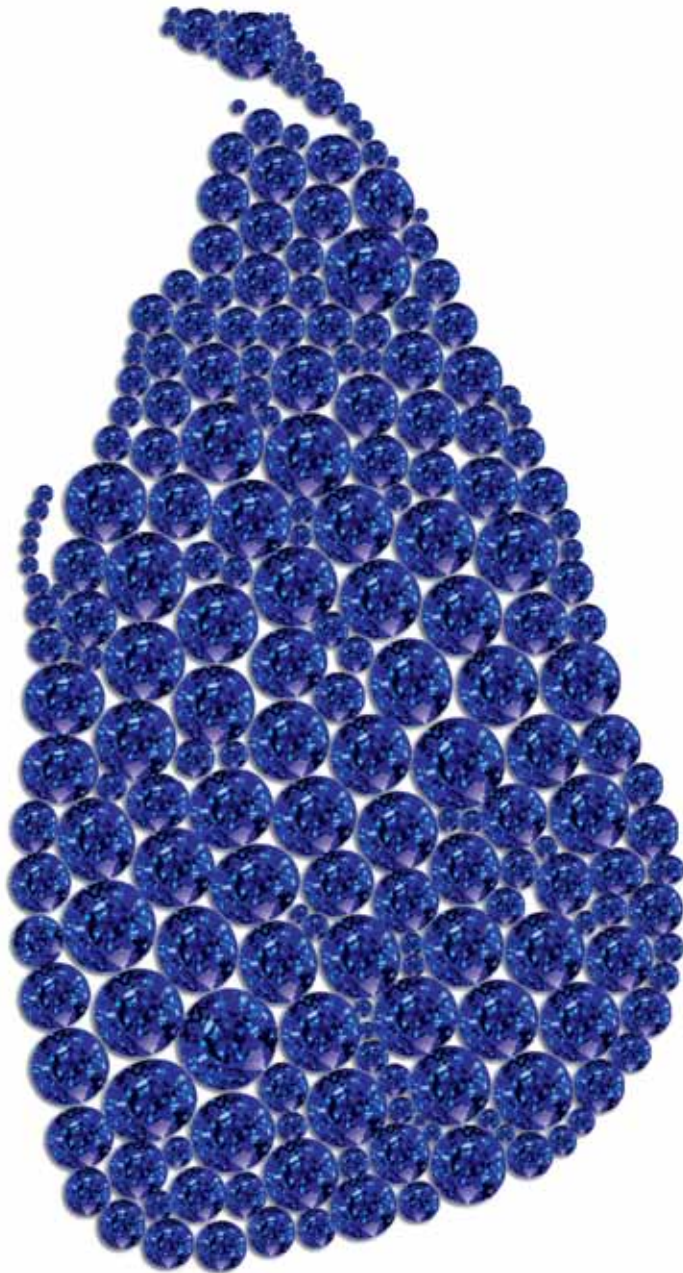


SRI LANKA PAVILIONS AT INTERNATIONAL GEM & JEWELLERY EXHIBITIONS



SRI LANKA

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Sri Lanka has carved out an enviable reputation as the 'Sapphire Capital of the World.' "

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