

CAMS delegation visits Pathfinder Foundation to discuss strategic issues

Major General Liu Renxian, Political Commissar of the Institute of Military Legal System Studies of the China Academy of Military Science (CAMS) visited the Pathfinder Foundation (PF) with a team of officials to discuss strategic issues involving the Indian Ocean region and establishing cooperation between the two institutions.

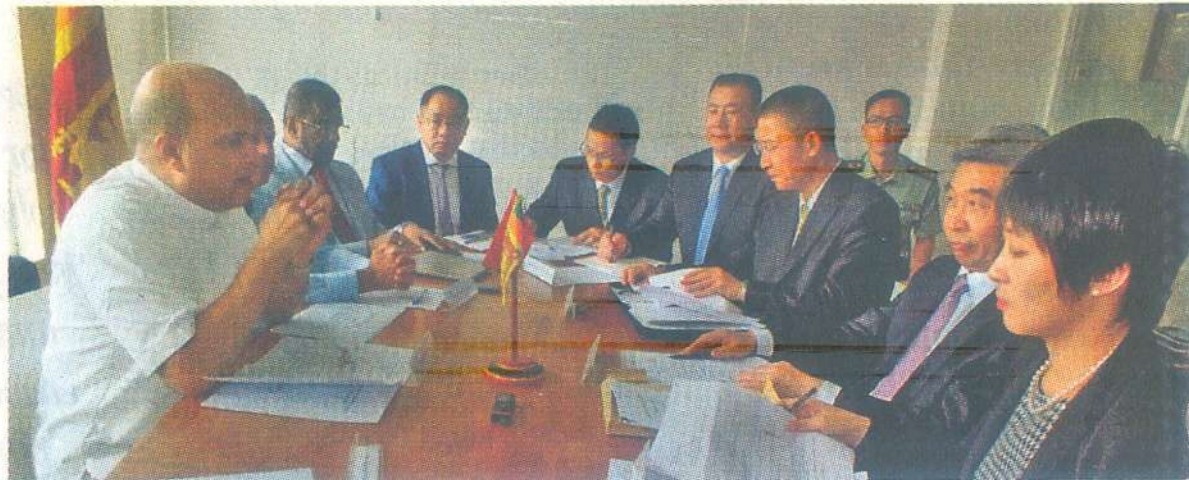
At the outset of the discussion, Pathfinder Foundation Founder Milinda Moragoda presented General Liu with a copy of the Pathfinder Foundation's 'National Security Strategy 2020' and invited comments on the document. During the follow up discussion, the visiting delegation expressed willingness to cooperate with PF by translating the document in to the Chinese language for wider dissemination.

Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage, speaking on the theme Sri Lanka's Counter Terrorism Mechanism & Security of Vital Infrastructure, expressed confidence in the meas-

ures being implemented under the new administration. He further explained the current competition in the Indian Ocean among the major powers targeting resources, markets and bases.

In response General Liu expressed satisfaction that Sri Lanka, a country located in the strategic location on the Maritime Silk Road, has welcomed the Belt and Road Initiative and demonstrated its support by being one of the initial signatories in 2014.

Bernard Goonetilleke, Chairman of PF, emphasized the need for Sri Lanka to perform a balancing act to maximize benefits of its geo-economic location in the Indian Ocean. In reference to Sri Lanka's strategic dilemma, the CAMS team appreciated the fact that the nation's relations with the neighbours and other friendly states are complex and intertwined. Moreover, they stated that such a situation has to be well understood and managed, ultimately taking into consideration the benefits to be accrued to the people



Pathfinder Foundation Founder Milinda Moragoda and Political Commissar of the Institute of Military Legal System Studies of the China Academy of Military Science (CAMS) General Liu Renxian and delegations holding discussions.

and the country. Pathfinder Foundation Executive Director Luxman Siriwardena highlighted the significance of strengthening China - Sri Lanka relations and proposed that increased FDI from China and the opening up of its markets to Sri Lankan products are the most effective ways of assisting Sri Lanka in achieving its economic development goals. In this regard, PF is keen on conducting a joint study with its Chinese partners in identifying constraints to doing business in Sri Lanka by foreign entities.

During the exchange of

views, the Sri Lankan team emphasized the need for encouraging private sector investment in the proposed industrial zone in Hambantota, so that there would be justification for the newly built port and the airport. They also highlighted the need to provide employment to the local youth and emphasized the need to provide them with vocational training etc. to make them employable. Such action would create a sense of ownership of the new industrial zone that would be set up there. At the conclusion of the discussion both sides agreed

to continue their academic exchanges and dialogue.

The CAMS delegation headed by Major General Liu Renxian comprised DU Jian, Major General, Senior Research Fellow; Wang Hanshui, Senior Colonel, Director of Office of Research Management and Liu Zhongxin from the Institute of Military Legal System Studies and Wang Xiaobin, Senior Colonel, Deputy Chief and Research Fellow and Yan Wenhui, Senior Colonel, Associate Research Fellow and Liu Zhongxin, Colonel, Assistant Research Fellow of the Institute of War Studies.