

## Katara and Sri Lankan Embassy Celebrate Ceylon Tea Heritage in Special Tasting Evening Marking 50 Years of Diplomatic Relations



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## **Doha – Katara**

The Cultural Village Foundation – Katara hosted a Ceylon Tea tasting event on Tuesday evening in Hall 32, organized by the Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Qatar in collaboration with the Qatar–Sri Lanka Business Council.

The event was held in the presence of H.E. Prof. Dr. Khalid bin Ibrahim Al Sulaiti, General Manager of Katara, and H.E. Roshan Sathan Azard, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Qatar, along with ambassadors, diplomats, and cultural guests.

The evening opened with remarks highlighting Ceylon tea as a centuries-old heritage symbolizing authenticity, craftsmanship, and quality. The event also coincided with the International Tea Day, underscoring the global significance of Ceylon tea.

A documentary screening traced the origins and historical development of Ceylon tea since the 19th century, emphasizing its economic and cultural importance to Sri Lanka.

In her address, the Sri Lankan Ambassador noted that this year's celebration holds special significance as it marks 159 years of Ceylon tea production and the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Qatar.

She highlighted Ceylon tea as a symbol of Sri Lanka's resilience, innovation, and commitment to quality, acknowledging the contributions of generations since its establishment by James Taylor in 1867.

She also emphasized the strong bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Qatar, which have expanded over five decades across trade, investment, aviation, tourism, education, labor, sports, and culture, supported by strong people-to-people ties.

The Ambassador further noted that selecting Ceylon tea for the golden jubilee celebration reflects its values of hospitality, friendship, and cultural exchange, describing tea as a long-standing bridge between civilizations.

The event concluded with the tasting of premium Ceylon tea varieties, alongside traditional Sri Lankan cuisine and desserts, reflecting the depth of cultural ties between Qatar and Sri Lanka.