

# UDAYA INDRARATHNA



The Ambassador of the Sri Lanka to the United Arab Emirates

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10th November 2023

Dear SWFI Team,

As I humbly receive the ICON Award, my heart is overflowing with thankfulness and a reinvigorated commitment to our shared goals.

In the span of just one year, to have been graced with both the ICON Award and the GOOD Fellow recognition by SWFI is a distinction that resonates profoundly with me. Such an honor is a rare accolade that reflects not only individual endeavor but also an international acknowledgment of the economic and diplomatic impacts we strive to cultivate across the globe.

In this moment of reflection, I must extend special recognition to Lakshmi Narayanan and Dipika Patel for their exceptional leadership and determination. Their efforts in steering the SWFI with such resolve have not gone unnoticed, creating a legacy of achievement that is both impressive and, in subtle ways, quite unparalleled. Their resolve and their acumen in navigating the complexities of our mission have contributed immensely to the stature and success we enjoy today.

Each step of my 25-year journey, from strategic decision-making to dignified nation representation, has been underpinned by a deep-seated belief in sustainable progress and inclusive prosperity. The ICON Award is more than an accolade to me; it is a compass that points towards the greater challenges and higher peaks that await us.

My forthcoming book, a labor of love and intellect, is intended to be a conduit for sharing the UAE's visionary leadership model and Sri Lanka's blueprint for economic resurgence. This recognition amplifies my voice and the message of resilient, forward-looking governance.

Moreover, as I look into the eager eyes of Sri Lanka's future CEOs, who stand ready to inherit the mantle of leadership, I feel a profound sense of duty. The ICON Award reinforces my commitment to their mentorship, embodying the conviction that our collective tomorrow rests on the education and empowerment of today's youth.

I am humbled, yet my spirit is emboldened by this recognition.

It serves as a catalyst, propelling us towards a shared horizon of global advancement and enlightened partnership. With heartfelt thanks and an unwavering pledge to our common endeavor, here's to sculpting a world where progress and sustainability are not mere aspirations, but tangible realities.

With the deepest appreciation,

Sincerely,

**Udaya Indrarathna**

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the  
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the UAE

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