

RAMBODA ROAD TUNNEL

constructed through the Mahinda Chintana is handed over to the people.



"A new existence for the estate sector ..."

All roads connected to the estate sector will be developed so as to make an easy access to the settlements where plantation communities are living.

(Mahinda Chintana page no. 76)



The ability in modernizing the Nuwaraeliya road, one of the most difficult roads in the island and providing an efficient transport service to the people is yet another forward step of our government in the road development sector.

It is a pleasure to have been able to provide facilities for local and foreign tourists and for farmers in the area to bring their produce to the market in a short time due to the modernizing of Nuwaraeliya road with the construction of a new tunnel-way 225 meters in length and 07 meters in height which eliminated the danger caused by the difficult broad way full of bends which leads through the chain of mountains connected to the Ramboda pass.

This modernized road with the tunnel-way would be able to bring light to many areas in the hill country hitherto have not been developed due to improper access ways. I offer my gratitude to His Excellency the President who assigned me road development work and provided me with advice to construct the road through a tunnel to overcome the obstruction caused by the steep slopes of the broad road, the Government of Japan for providing financial assistance and all those who worked with dedication paying special attention.

Jeyaraj Fernandopulle



I am pleased to have been able to provide a new entrance to the hill country by handing over to the people, the Ramboda tunnel of which construction work was commenced during the time H.E. was the subject Minister on his own concept and was completed in time due to the special attention of the present Minister Jeyaraj Fernandopulle.

T.B. Ekanayake
Minister of Highways



In accordance with the priority given by the government to develop the entire road network in the island with equal status, I am pleased that our ministry has been able to improve the efficiency of transport service by modernizing the Gampola-Nuwaraeliya road with the construction of Ramboda tunnel for the development of the hill country.

I offer my gratitude to all ministers who provided able assistance along with necessary advice throughout the project and the Japanese Government which granted financial assistance.

S. Amarasekara
Secretary
Ministry of Highways and Road Development



It gives me great pleasure to convey this message on the occasion of the opening of the Ramboda Tunnel, which is now the longest tunnel in Sri Lanka.

I would like to congratulate the Government of Sri Lanka, especially the Ministry of Highways and Road Development Authority for the successful completion of the project which was funded by the Government of Japan.

I believe that the opening of the Ramboda Tunnel is very significant not only to the people of the Central Province but also to all people of Sri Lanka as improvements in rural road access contributes for greater commercial activity and social mobility thereby upgrading the living standards and economic development in the country.

I sincerely hope that this large infrastructure will be a symbol of friendship between our two countries.

H.E. Mr. Kiyoshi Araki
Ambassador of Japan



It has been possible for us to present an industrious highway for up-country people and the first ever tunnel way to the island's road network, constructed through the mountains of Ramboda on the advice of His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapakse as the Minister of Highways then.

The dedication of all of the road Development Authority led by Hon. Jeyaraj Fernandopulle, in completing this astonishing task in order to facilitate the people to ease their journey to Nuwaraeliya which to date was a painstaking dangerous trip, is of course praiseworthy.

W.B. Ekanayake
Deputy Minister of Highways

Gampola-Nuwaraeliya Road Project

Gampola-Nuwaraeliya Road
Total Length - 54 km
Cost - 2,550 Mn. Rupees

The Ramboda Tunnel
Total Length - 225 Meters
Height - 07 Meters
Cost - 200 Mn. Rupees
Funding agent - Republic of Japan (JABIC)
Contractor - China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd.



The main challenge that we faced in modernizing the Gampola-Nuwaraeliya Road was the existing earth discrepancy. In widening the old road leading to Nuwaraeliya through a broad cleft, the Ramboda tunnel had to be constructed. Thus this tunnel would make history not only as the first tunnel highway in the island

but also as a specific creation in road construction engineering technology. I offer my sincere thanks to Minister Jeyaraj Fernandopulle for providing the necessary advice and all those who took pain in making this task a total success.

M.B.S. Fernando
Chairman
Road Development Authority



I see this occasion in which we have been able to develop the up-country road network to suit the future by modernizing the Gampola-Nuwaraeliya Road, as another instance where our service at Road Development Authority has become a pro-people endeavour. Let me offer my

thanks to His Excellency the President for his great concept, the Subject Minister for his able advice, the staff of our Authority and the China Harbour Engineering Company who handled the construction work.

R.W.R. Premasiri
General Manager
Road Development Authority

The Ramboda Tunnel
On Gampola-Nuwaraeliya Road was Handed over
to the people on 23rd February 2008

by His Excellency the President

Mahinda Rajapakse

on the invitation of Minister of
Highways and Road Development

Hon. Jeyaraj Fernandopulle

With the participation of
H.E. the Ambassador for
Japan in Sri-Lanka

Hon. Kiyoshi Araki

and all Ministers
and members of
Parliament
in the district.



Road Development Authority
Ministry of Highways and Road Development

Business

Aviation

Qatar launches world's longest flight



HIRAN H. SENEWIRATNE

Qatar Airways (QA) will launch the world's longest air distance flight from Doha to Houston (USA) shortly. QA is one of the fastest growing carriers in the world with unprecedented expansion average almost 40 per cent year on year.

"We have 14 flights for Sri Lanka for a week, is considered as one of the important countries in the region," Regional Manager, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh Nepal, Myanmar and Maldives Rajewwa Jayaweera said.

Speaking at the Qatar Airways Agents' Awards Night said that year 2006 was a significant year for them as they were able to achieve all targets in Sri Lanka.

He said that launch of New York flights in June 2007 marked the airline's entry into the North American market for the first time enabled them to add daily

non-stop flights to Washington DC in July 2007.

Jayaweera said that QA currently fly to 80 major destinations covering all continents in the world. QA recently announced the introduction of a fourth daily non-stop flight between Doha and London Heathrow taking the airline's capacity between Qatar and the UK up to 42 services a week.

The new late afternoon departure from Doha offers passengers more choice to the early morning and lunchtime flights to Britain's busiest airport.

The flight will be operated with an Airbus A330 aircraft in a three-class configuration of up to 12 seats in First, 24 in Business and 223 in Economy.

Every passenger in all cabins will be able to take advantage of the airline's fully interactive in-flight entertainment system in each seat offering a multi-

tude of audio and video options to choose from.

Furthermore, there is a live television option enabling passengers to choose from a variety of live TV programming. QA currently operates three flights a day to London Heathrow and daily to both London Gatwick and Manchester with a total capacity of 35 weekly services.

The UK expansion announcement coincided with the Business Travel Show taking place in London this week where QA is participating with a dedicated stand.

QA Chief Executive Officer Akbar Al Baker said London Heathrow had been the airline's flagship route for many years, and stressed the importance of serving the British capital with more frequencies to give travellers more choice.

"We are delighted to be adding capacity on what is an extremely popular route

with both business and leisure travellers," he said.

"By launching a new early evening flight to London Heathrow from the start of the summer schedules, business travellers can spend a whole working day in Qatar before catching their flight.

Passengers from London can take advantage of our first morning departure from London Heathrow and connect onto a choice of many flights to exciting destinations in Doha."

QA currently operates a modern fleet of 60 Airbus and Boeing aircraft to 81 destinations across Europe, Middle East, Africa, Indian Subcontinent, Far East and North America from Doha, the airline's hub and capital of the of Qatar.

"London is a major market for QA and what better place than the highly acclaimed Business Travel Show to announce our UK expansion," he said.

Opportunities and challenges for Asia

Singapore - The International Air Transport Association (IATA) called on Asia to join in the race for industry leadership. "Asia has over 50% of the world's population, and will be our largest single market by 2010.

Asia needs to be part of the race to lead the industry with sound policies and innovation, along with the commercial race for market share," said Giovanni Bisignani, IATA's Director General and CEO in his keynote address at the inaugural Singapore Airshow Aviation Leadership Summit.

Bisignani identified the case for industry change in Asia based on three challenges - (i) Middle East competition, (ii) shortage of

skilled personnel, (iii) declining profitability. At the same time, Bisignani pointed out three opportunities for Asian leadership to push forward an industry agenda for change - (i) liberalisation, (ii) security and (iii) environment.

"The profitability of Asian carriers has gone from US\$1.7 billion in 2002 to US\$700 million last year. The 40% capacity expansion over the same period has seen yields decline, as well as profit margins - from 4% to less than 1%. Asian capacity set to expand 8.8% in 2008, and demand expected to grow by only 6.4%. This is not a recipe for long-term health," said Bisignani.

If Asia acts as a region, it

can balance the traditional leadership of the US and Europe, bringing a bolder approach and exploring new ways of doing business," said Bisignani. He also suggested the formation of a new and unique regional institution for coordination of air policy issues involving both government and industry.

"The industry is much more secure than in 2001. But the system is still an uncoordinated mess. We have not harmonised measures across borders. Singapore took a major step and signed an agreement with the EU to harmonise the security of duty-free items. But why was it not an agreement that covers Asia with mutually recognised stan-

dards? Environment: "Aviation is 2% of global carbon emissions," said Bisignani.

"Asia is our industry's present and its future. Running an airline is tough business, and Asia has done well."

The race for market share and growth has been won. Now we need a unique race for leadership that involves key players from the region from fast developing China and India, to more traditional players like Japan, Singapore or Australia, and everyone in between.

The leadership vision is needed to build an industry that is even safer, more secure, and deliver an industry that is financially sound and efficient, said Bisignani.

Gabo Travels celebrates 30 years



Colosseum of Rome

Gabo Holidays will be celebrating 30 years of service this year and the company hopes to offer more attractive packages this year.

Managing Director, Savi Peiris said that their Holiday arm, Gabo Holidays would be coordinating these packages this year as well. The company is the local agent for Insight and Trafalgar tours both based in Europe that is famous for Coach tours.

She said that more locals are now patronizing these

tours and this was encouraging. She said that these tours are usually for around a week and around 12 to 15 participate in them. Gabo Holidays would be looking assigning in obtaining Visa and would provide air passages, hotels, meals, transportation and other logistics. "Once the passenger makes a commitment we look after them until they return she said.

She said that many Americans and Australians patronize these tours and

there is a new emerging trend from Dubai and Indians for these tours. "Gabo Holidays offers a comprehensive package of services for both Inbound and Outbound travellers," she said.

Trafalgar is celebrating 60 years this year while Insight would be 30.

Gabo Travels started its operation in 1978 and today has become a major brand name in the "Travel World". It represents major airlines such as Sri Lankan, Singapore Airlines, Royal Thai

Airways, Cathay Pacific, Emirates, British Airways, KLM, Dutch Airlines, Alit Indian Airlines, Mala Airlines.

With the introduction of information technology, the company provides reservation with global providers together state-of-the-art web technologies for modern travellers including recently introduced "Internet Payment Gateway" for immediate payments.

Singapore Airlines offers 'Romance of Travel'

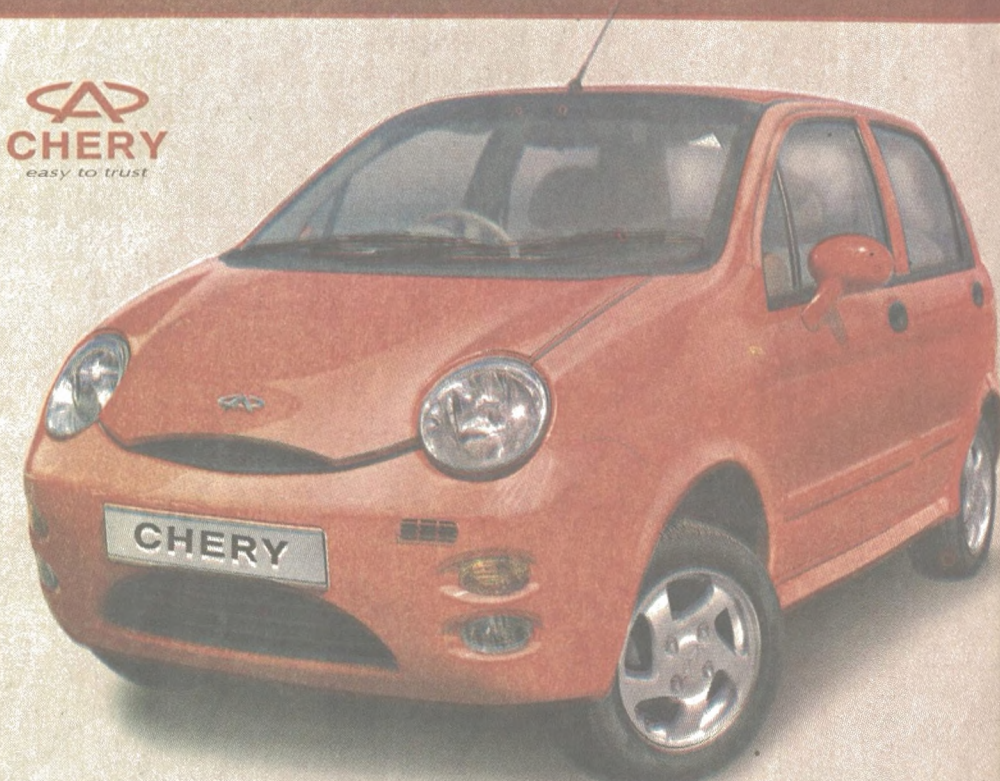
Singapore Airlines 'Experience the Romance of Travel' offer has commenced.

The special airfares are to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Sydney, Bangkok, Phuket, Langkawi, Perth and London. A minimum of two passengers must travel together to enjoy this special offer and tickets must be purchased before February 29 and should fly out of Colombo before April 30, 2008.



Singapore Airlines flight

Now ASSETLINE leasing benefits exclusively for CHERY QQ



- Brand-new 812cc Petrol Engine
- Full Option
- Automatic/Manual Gear Shifting
- Reliable after-sales service
- Attractive range of colours
- Maximum fuel efficiency
- Free Registration & Number Plates

2 years or 50,000 km
unmatched
Warranty*



Monthly rental

Rs. 25,964/-*

*Conditions apply

Flexible
Down Payment Schemes

Down Payment to DPAL	300,000/-	400,000/-	500,000/-	300,000/- Flexible Rentals	500,000/- Flexible Rentals
Term	6 years	6 years	6 years	6 years	6 years
Auto Car-Monthly Rentals	28,633/-	26,206/-	23,780/-	23,900/- (Rs. 2,500/- increment each year)	19,100/- (Rs. 2,500/- increment each year)
Manual Car-Monthly Rentals	25,964/-	23,537	21,111/-	21,200/- (Rs. 2,500/- increment each year)	16,400/- (Rs. 2,500/- increment each year)

Prices are inclusive of VAT and are subject to change without prior notice.

- Low Interest Rates
- Flexible Monthly Rental upto 6 years
- Easy Documentation
- Friendly and Speedy Service
- Tailor-made Leasing Packages
- Special Insurance Package

For more information contact :

Assetline Leasing Co. Ltd.

Colombo - Hemantha/Chathura 0773 203602, 0773 444672, Kandy - Upali/Hemantha 0777 677747, 0777 445457, Matara - Sajith 0773 404411, Kurunegala - Gnanasiri 0777 787371, Anuradhapura - Chamilla 0777 593383, Badulla - Krishantha 0773 544620, Negombo - Sudath 0773 497674, Ratnapura - Irosh 0777 236293, Matugama - Dinesh 0777 284611.

David Pieris Automobiles Limited

Battaramulla/Colombo - 0773 936724, 0777 489617, Kandy - 0772 016898, Ratnapura - 0777 489623, Matara - 0773 951664, Anuradhapura - 0777 668130

ASSETLINE
LEASING CO. LTD.

Inquiries:
Assetline Leasing Co. Ltd.
Sayuru Sevana,
No. 46/12, Nawam Mawatha,
Colombo 02.
Tel: 011 4700100



David Pieris Automobiles Limited

Website: <http://www.dpmco.com> E-mail: info@dpmco.com

City Office: 120 & 120A, Pannipitiya Road, Battaramulla. Tel: 011-4419300. Hotline: 011-4419320. Fax: 011-4400161.

75, Hyde Park Corner, Colombo 2. Tel: 011-4700600, 011-4209333, 011-4419300. Hotline: 011-4700620. Fax: 011-4700677, 011-2687175

ALSO AVAILABLE AT REGIONAL OFFICES AND DEALERS ISLANDWIDE.