

Conglomerate

150 years of lasting international partnerships.

First Sri Lankan company recognized in the global ranking of **Top 100 Companies** in Sustainability 2022.

First Sri Lankan **waste-to-energy plant**, with a capacity of 10 MW.

# Leading promoters of Sri Lanka’s sustainable development

Aitken Spence is not just one of the largest leading conglomerates in Sri Lanka. Their pioneering initiatives exemplify a more sustainable and socially committed way of doing business.

“At Aitken Spence we do not only look at seizing opportunities, we focus on creating opportunities”, assures Dr. Parakrama Dissanayake, Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of Aitken Spence. The Group’s management expertise and sustainable practices have actively contributed to Sri Lanka’s economic diversification and responsible growth across a wide variety of sectors such as tourism, maritime & freight logistics, renewable energy, plantations, apparel and other services. Aitken Spence holds strategic businesses in 8 countries and continues to grow.



«When we look for partnerships, we look for honesty and integrity because we believe that these are a firm foundation for growth, maturity and longstanding relationships»

PARAKRAMA DISSANAYAKE

They are pioneers in adopting a comprehensive sustainability framework for all their business operations, the Integrated Sustainability Strategy, which guides the implementation of environmental and social performance standards in line with relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals, UN’s Global Compact standards and Women’s Empowerment Principles. These efforts have granted them Sri Lanka’s Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Award for three consecutive years, as well as being the only Sri Lankan company included in ‘Sustainability’ magazine’s global ranking of Top 100 Companies in Sustainability 2022.

In the tourism sector, Aitken Spence counts with 23 resorts in Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Oman and India, recognized for their astounding locations, world-class services and exemplary sustainable practices. Besides being the first Sri Lankan company to invest in a hotel overseas and the largest single foreign operator, they are recognized for introducing the world’s first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified hotel, the Heritance Kandalama. Aitken Spence Travels is Sri Lanka’s No. 1 destination management company with experience of over 4 decades of tours and holidays showcasing the best of Sri Lanka. Their strong partnership with TUI, the world’s largest tour operator and many other reputed tour operator partners reiterates its position as the market leader in Sri Lanka.

Aitken Spence’s pioneer sustainable initiatives also extend to the privately led renewable energy investments in a diversified portfolio encompassing hydropower, wind and waste to energy. Their latest project, Sri Lanka’s first waste-to-energy power plant, is a sustainable solution to Colombo’s solid waste disposal problem, further strengthening the country’s efforts to move towards cleaner energy sources. Additionally, they

are trailblazers in the green printing solutions with South Asia’s first LEED (Gold) certified, carbon neutral printing complex.

That pioneering spirit also resonates strongly in Aitken Spence Maritime Freight and Logistics sector. Aitken Spence is the first Sri Lankan company to venture in port management services in the South Pacific and Africa. More recently, the company is to expand with a new state-of-the-art, 3PL/4PL container freight station expected to be built this year.

The success of these overseas initiatives reflects another pillar of Aitken Spence’s philosophy, establishing and maintaining strategic partnerships. Their strong, decades-long relationships with leading international brands like Lloyd’s London, Singapore Airlines, TUI, Hapag Lloyd, Qatar Cargo, DB Schenker, Western Union and OTIS, attests to their professionalism, service excellence and reliability. As Dr. Dissanayake explains, “when we look for partnerships, we look for integrity and trust because we believe that these are a firm foundation for growth, maturity and longstanding relationships.”

Aitken Spence also distinguishes for focusing on its people. Their performance-oriented culture allows employees to continuously improve their technical and interpersonal skills, keeps them motivated, and further strengthens the Spensonian grit in demonstrating purposeful leadership. Like Dr. Dissanayake says, “one of the key characteristics of Aitken Spence’s success has been its people. We want to develop them not only in their skills, but in their ability to face future demands . We are different from other companies because we have genuinely invested in our human talent”. Given Aitken Spence’s exceptional services, sustainable practices and competent human capital, it is no surprise they have been a driving force of Sri Lanka’s economic development for over 150 years. ■



the only Sri Lankan company to be ranked among the



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Tourism



5 award-winning luxury resorts in the Maldives, offering the highest service quality standards.

# Offering the best tailored hotel experiences in Sri Lanka and beyond

Their diversified offer, stunning locations and architecture, world-class services and compromise with sustainability, make them one of the region’s leading leisure hotel chains.

From paradisiac beaches to high mountains, Aitken Spence’s hotels and resorts guarantee their guests unique experiences while delivering the highest service standards. Located in some of the region’s best touristic sites, Aitken Spence Hotels currently operates 20 hotels in Sri Lanka, the Maldives, India and Oman under the brands Heritance Hotels and Resorts, Adaaran Resorts and Turyaa. As Mr. Susith Jayawickrama, Managing Director of Aitken Spence Hotels states, “we have some of the most unique and best properties outside of Colombo. Our excellent service and fantastic management capabilities is what differentiates us from the rest of the hotel groups.”

Aitken Spence Hotels started in 1973 with Neptune hotel, a beachfront property on the southern coast of Sri Lanka that today is called Heritance Ayurveda, a holistic ayurveda wellness resort. Later they built Heritance Ahungalla, the first five-star beach resort in the country (as Triton Hotel), and Heritance Kandalama, a spectacular retreat near the Kandalama Lake that according to Mr. Jayawickrama, is “an iconic property and a role model for eco-sustainable tourism.” The three hotels were designed by prominent architect Geoffrey Bawa, repre-



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senting proud examples of Sri Lankan architecture.

Aitken Spence’s hotels in Sri Lanka also include the Heritance Tea Factory, a unique retreat nestled in the Nuwara Eliya mountains, where guests enjoy 19th century Ceylon colonial comfort off a renovated tea factory of the past. In contrast, Heritance Negombo offers modern comforts in their west coast beachfront resort and spa, while the vibrant Turyaa Kalutara offers seaside respite for family holidays. Among its managed portfolio are the spectacular Earl’s Regency and Earl’s Regent, giving guests a traditional royal experience in the heart of Kandy, the last capital of Sri Lanka’s era of ancient kings and home to UNESCO’s world heritage sites; as well as Amethyst Resort in Passikudah.

The group’s success in Sri Lanka soon led them to expand internationally. In 1993 they opened their first property in the Maldives, and today they operate seven resorts, including the stunning Heritance Aarah, a collection of sumptuous beach and ocean villas considered one the finest Maldives luxury resorts with a culinary journey like no other. Like Mr. Jayaw-

ickrama explains, “we are the only Sri Lankan company that has managed to penetrate internationally and take on management positions because of our management and service excellence. Our Heritance Aarah has won many prizes, including the 2021 Luxury Lifestyle Awards, beating all the international chains.”

Another Aitken Spence’s trademark is their compromise with sustainability. They are credited for introducing LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified architecture to the hospitality industry with Heritance Kandalama, the world’s first LEED certified hotel, followed by Heritance Aarah in the Maldives. Similarly, Heritance Ayurveda was the country’s first hotel to enter a Net Metering Agreement using solar photovoltaic renewable energy, mitigating its carbon footprint by 4.6 tons annually.

“We believe that the future of tourism relies on how well we manage and respect the envi-



«When you visit one of our Heritance hotels it’s a full cultural immersion»

SUSITH JAYAWICKRAMA



| Heritance Aarah, Maldives |

ronment, because at the end of the day we are basically marketing the incredible nature around us”, says Mr. Jayawickrama. Additionally, they promote sustainability in their communities by hiring as locally as possible and training their staff in their own hotel schools.

By offering the highest-quality services in spectacular locations, respecting the environment and highlighting local cultural traditions, Aitken Spence Hotels has guaranteed their success and opened new pathways for a more sustainable hospitality industry. After all, as Mr. Jayawickrama states, “our brand is all about our heritage. We preserve the natural habitat around us and offer a local culture and food experience. So it is basically a full cultural immersion.” ■

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SUSITH JAYAWICKRAMA