

## SRI LANKANS IN BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG COMMEMORATE THE 61<sup>st</sup> SRI LANKA NATIONAL DAY



Sri Lankans in Belgium and Luxembourg commemorated the 61st National Day, on 04th February 2009 at the Embassy of Sri Lanka.

The programme included the hoisting of the national flag by the Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha, lighting of the traditional oil lamp, singing of the national anthem, reading of the National Day messages of the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, and Buddhist, Hindu, Christian and Muslim religious observances. While the Venerable Sudhinavas of Wat Thai Dharmaram conducted the Buddhist religious observances. Hindu, Christian and Islamic religious observances were conducted by Swami Harinath Sharma, Mrs. Sharmini Jacobs and Mr. Izmeer Ahmad respectively. Sri Lankans representing the Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim & Burgher communities, participated in this event which was conducted in Sinhala, Tamil and English languages.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha emphasized the role of the Sri Lankan community as a catalyst that unites the cultural, social and religious diversity among Sri Lankans. He commended Sri Lankans who have contributed their time and resources generously to promoting Sri Lankan interests in Belgium and assisting with projects in Sri Lanka. He invited members of the community to proactively engage in the development efforts in Sri Lanka at a time when the country was embarking on a new era in the post LTTE paradigm.

Embassy of Sri Lanka

Belgium

6 February 2009