

## Christmas Celebrations in Brussels



The Sri Lanka Embassy in Brussels celebrated Christmas on 19 December 2008 at the Embassy premises. This was held according to the practice instituted by the Mission to conduct commemorative events to celebrate festivals of the great religions of Sri Lanka – Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Ravinatha Aryasinha emphasized the role of the Embassy as a catalyst that unites the cultural, social and religious diversity among Sri Lankans. He further said that, with the multi-ethnic nature of Sri Lanka's society, Sri Lankans belonging to the different religions need to feel that the Embassy is a place where all these religions are respected and people belonging to various denominations are welcome. Concluding the message he wished the gathering a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

The prayers were conducted in all three languages, Sinhala, Tamil and English by the Sri Lankan Catholic Priests and Nuns who reside in Belgium, followed by the Christmas carols sung by the members of the Sri Lankan community in Belgium.