

Diplomacy as the Way Forward: Getting from Failed State to Asian Tiger

R Amerasinghe¹ and M Ranmuthugala^{1#}

¹*General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka*

#madara.ranmuthugala@outlook.com

Sri Lanka needs to capitalise on its diplomatic ties with powerful nations such as India, China, Japan, and Russia to ensure progress in four vital segments: Education, fuel, medicine, and technology-backed agriculture. These four countries have the potential to be major partners in the island nation's growth to become the next Asian Tiger. This paper details the reasoning behind these four countries as the allies and the proposed methodology to achieve this state. Given the economic capabilities of these countries, and their import and export realities and possibilities, it is proposed that Sri Lanka can have beneficial relationships with these countries, which can also help it come out of the current crisis. This research applied secondary data to analyse each country and its significance in the larger context. It proposes engagement of the four countries based on three key criteria: diplomatic engagement, short and medium-term value addition, and expansion. The paper posits that medicine, manufacturing, agriculture and fuel supply are the four pillars of most nations in terms of development and demand, and this should be the driving force behind Sri Lanka's expansion model. It provides possible actions and strategies to be used when engaging these four countries, recommending structuring the country's engagement strategy, assigning diplomatic resources, and continuously engaging with each target country based on the country's current and future targets.

Keywords: *diplomacy, Asian tiger, failed state*