



To apply: send your CV and budget proposal (LKR amount per day of work) nina.fernando@eda.admin.ch by November 15, 2025.

Colombo, November 2025

Terms of Reference Curator for the Photography Exhibition

70 years / 70 faces – Legacy of Swiss – Sri Lankan bilateral relations

The Swiss Confederation, represented by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, acting through the Embassy of Switzerland to Sri Lanka and Maldives (hereafter FDFA) is looking for a curator for the realization of a cultural project (photo exhibition and book) in March 2026.

Background

In 2026, Switzerland and Sri Lanka will celebrate the 70th anniversary of their diplomatic relations, established in 1956. The anniversary coincides the planned high-level visit of Federal Councilor and Foreign Affairs Minister Ignazio Cassis in March 2026 (8-9 confirmed). The Swiss Embassy is planning several cultural events in 2026, among them a photo exhibition and book.

Flagship Project: 70 Years / 70 Faces (March 2026)

The relationship between Switzerland and Sri Lanka told through people. A portrait-based exhibition and publication highlighting 70 individuals who shaped bilateral relations over the past 70 years. Seventy portraits of individuals: Diplomats, business personalities, community leaders, development partners, diaspora figures, cultural icons, etc.: will embody the journey of friendship. Their stories will form the centerpiece of the anniversary.

Products:

- a photo exhibition (black and white portrait of each of the 70 + short description) will be organized and inaugurated during BRIC visit in March 2026. The exhibition will be launched in Colombo, and potentially replicated in Jaffna (strong Swiss presence) in Q3/2026.
- a celebration book: a printed document will combine portraits, testimonies, archival material, and key milestones.

Target Audience:

- General Sri Lankan public.
- Swiss community in Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan Diaspora in Switzerland
- Artists, students, and youth.
- Former and current partners in culture, reconciliation, development, business and politics.

Location:

The photo exhibition will take place in Colombo. To ensure inclusivity and outreach, the Embassy will also host decentralized events: at least one activity in **Jaffna** (to highlight engagement with the North and East) and Kandy.

Proposed Timeline of Exhibition and Preparation

Venues are selected by the Embassy of Switzerland.

Colombo: 8th – 20th March 2026

Jaffna: October 2026 (dates tbd)

Main tasks expected from the curator

The assigned Exhibition Curator is required to act as a Consultant to fulfil the following:

- Contact each of the selected individuals (50 to 60 according to final selection; some of the 70 will be contacted directly by the Embassy) and request their agreement.
- Provide a portrait picture black and white of each selected individual.
- Provide a short text description of each selected individual.
- Liaise closely with the project manager of the Swiss Embassy and provide inputs to the concept development of the exhibition. i.e. choice of photographs that best represent the theme and create a cohesive narrative.
- Identify a venue and coordinate in relation to the Exhibition
- Decide on framing, sizing, mounting, and other display methods that enhance the presentation of the photographs. Liaise with printers.
- Design the layout of the exhibition space. Plan the visitor's journey through the exhibition, ensuring an engaging and accessible experience.
- Plan for the ongoing care of the works throughout the exhibition.
- Coordinate transportation and delivery of photographs to each location/venue
- Oversee the installation process, ensuring that each piece is displayed correctly and securely and the dismantling of the exhibition.
- Produce a photo exhibition book.

Project planning:

- November 2025: the Embassy team is putting together a list of personalities to be considered for that project. We are identifying former and current partners, Swiss and Sri Lankan citizens - from culture, business, reconciliation, development, politics – who represent part of the Swiss mandates and achievements over the past 70 years.
- November 2025: A curator is identified and starts his/her mandate to lead that project (exhibition + book).
- November 2025 to January 2026: the consultant/ project manager contacts every single person of the 70 ones identify and explain the project; gather pictures; draft short text for each one; identify a venue.
- January 31, 2026: The Embassy and the consultant validate the final selection.
- February 2026: Pictures are printed; Exhibition installed by early March.
- March 8, 2026: Photo exhibition inauguration.

Concrete activities and related working days

Activity	Working days
November 20 to January 20 – project preparation	35
Introduction meeting with Embassy staff and Review of the final picture selection and decision on printing format (1 day)	
Contacting per email or phone each selected individual (4 days) The Embassy will support with contacts details and introduction to specific individuals.	
Gathering of all pictures + drafting of each text (30 days) If needed: visiting some selected individuals in Colombo.	
End of January – project validation	
Presentation of all pictures and draft texts to the Embassy staff; validation (2 days)	2
February – picture exhibition organization Exhibition layout design (2 days); Book layout design (2 days); Exhibition and book printing coordination (3 days); Presentation of final product and validation by Embassy (2 days); Exhibition installation (2 days); Exhibition opening (1 day); Exhibition dismantling and storing at the Embassy(2 day).	23
TOTAL	60 days