

WESTERN PROVINCE ENTREPRENEUR AWARDS 2026

Recognizing Excellence in Entrepreneurship



Industry / Manufacturing



Agriculture / Livestock / Fisheries



Services
(Hospitality / Tourism / Other Services)



**MICRO, SMALL, MEDIUM
& LARGE ENTERPRISES**

Organized By:

National Enterprise Development Authority
The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka

01. INTRODUCTION TO THE AWARD

The National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA) and the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) are organizing the above Awards Competition for the Entrepreneurs in the Western Province, for the ninth consecutive year.

NCCSL has been assisting the MSMEs in the regions from a long period and gives special focus towards the upliftment of SMEs in the provinces to develop their businesses and conduct training programmes/workshops on skills development, human resources, e-commerce, including for the differently able entrepreneurs.

The awards competition initiated by NEDA and NCCSL is an encouragement for the MSMEs and the entrepreneurs in the Western Province.

At this year's Awards Competition, over 50 awards will be presented in recognition of outstanding entrepreneurial excellence. These include awards for winners, runners-up, and merit certificate recipients across a wide range of business sectors and business scales. In addition, 14 Special Excellence Awards will be presented to recognize exceptional achievements in 14 specific thematic areas of excellence. A new category of awards has also been introduced this year to honour organizations and institutions—including banks and finance companies, insurance providers, training institutes, funding organizations, and NGOs—that have made significant contributions to developing and upskilling entrepreneurs. Furthermore, the Western Province Entrepreneur Awards will recognize the Overall Winner, as well as Gold, Silver, and Bronze Award winners, further celebrating excellence in entrepreneurship across the province.

The grand Award Ceremony of “Entrepreneur Awards 2026 – Western Province” will be held on Wednesday, 9 December 2026 at BMICH, Colombo, amidst a large gathering of business organizations, entrepreneurs, Government representatives etc.

02. OBJECTIVES OF THE AWARDS

- Recognize and reward entrepreneurs in the Western Province.
- Motivate and Encourage entrepreneurs to enhance their contribution to the Economic Development of the Province and the country at large.
- Stimulate Entrepreneurs to seek excellence in their respective field of business

03. CATEGORIES AND SECTORS

- Industry / Manufacturing
- Agriculture / Livestock / Fisheries
- Services (Hospitality / Tourism / Other Services)
- Enablers of the SME Sector

CLASSIFICATION OF THE ABOVE BUSINESS SECTORS

Industry / Manufacturing	Agriculture	Services
Apparel	Tea Plantation	ICT Services
Handloom	Rubber Plantation	Hospitality
Handicrafts and Toys	Coconut Production	Tourism
Rubber Products	Spices	Beauty culture
Boat/craft building	Processed food / beverages	Logistics
Gem and Jewellery	Essential Oils and condiments	Education
Ceramic and Glass Products	Herbal and Ayurveda products	Construction
Furniture / Wooden Products	Organic Agriculture products	Healthcare
Chemical / Paint products		Other Services
Footwear / Leather Products	Livestock / fisheries	
Light Engineering	Other meat Products	
Transport and Automobile Components		
Electronics & Electrical products	Seafood and Aqua culture products	
Stationery and paper products	Ornamental fish	
Packaging	Dairy Products	
Pharmaceuticals	Poultry	
Any other		

04. SCALE OF THE ENTERPRISES

Category	Economic Sector	No. of Full-time Employees	Annual Turnover (LKR)
Micro	Industry Sector	Less than 10	Less than 20 million
	Services Sector	Less than 05	
Small	Industry Sector	10 to 50	21 to 350 million
	Services Sector	05 to 50	
Medium	Industry Sector	51 to 200	351 to 1000 million
	Services Sector		
Large	Industry Sector	More than 201	Over 1000 million
	Services Sector		

05. AWARDS

The following awards will be presented at the ceremony

- The Best Entrepreneur of the Year 2026 – Western Province (Gold, Silver, Bronze Awards)

This is the most prestigious award of the event. It recognizes the most outstanding enterprises in the Western Province.

Note: The financial year for evaluation purposes shall be considered as follows:
If an organization's financial year commences on 1st January and ends on 31st December, the organization should submit its financial statements for the year 2024.

If an organization's financial year commences on 1st April 2024 and ends on 31st March 2025, the organization should submit its financial statements for the year 2024/2025.

Western Province Entrepreneur Awards 2026

- Best Entrepreneur – Category/Sector Awards
(12 Award Winners, 12 Runners-Up and Merit Certificates)

These are the main awards of the event. It recognizes outstanding enterprises in three sectors under 4 categories

No of Awards	Category	Award
Industry/ Manufacturing sector		
01	Micro	Best Entrepreneur Award
01	Small	Best Entrepreneur Award
01	Medium	Best Entrepreneur Award
01	Large	Best Entrepreneur Award
Agriculture/Livestock & Fisheries sector		
01	Micro	Best Entrepreneur Award
01	Small	Best Entrepreneur Award
01	Medium	Best Entrepreneur Award
01	Large	Best Entrepreneur Award
Services (Hospitality/Tourism/Other Services)		
01	Micro	Best Entrepreneur Award
01	Small	Best Entrepreneur Award
01	Medium	Best Entrepreneur Award
01	Large	Best Entrepreneur Award
Enablers of the SME Sector		
01	–	Winner
01	–	First – Runner Up
01	–	Second – Runner Up

06. SPECIAL AWARDS / THEMATIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS (14 AWARDS)

14 special Awards will be presented to the best performance in the following thematic areas.

1. Award for the best Environmentally Friendly Enterprise
2. Award for the best Exporter – Products
3. Award for the best Exporter – Services
4. Award for the best Productive Enterprise
5. Award for the best Innovative Enterprise
6. Award for the best Value-Added Enterprise
7. Award for the best Energy Efficiency Enterprise
8. Award for the Best Youth Entrepreneur (Age: Year 18-35)
9. Award for the Best Women Entrepreneur
10. Award for the Best Differently Abled Entrepreneur
11. Award for Business Enterprise giving most jobs for females
12. Award for Business Enterprise with Sustainable business practices
13. Award for the Best Entrepreneur who is strong in Financial Performance
14. Awards for the best Import Substitute enterprise

07. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Each applicant must fulfill the following criteria to be eligible for the Awards

- Enterprises should be located within the Western Province (Branches of national-level business organization will not be eligible for this Awards)
- Enterprise should be in either scale of enterprise (Micro, Small, Medium or Large scale) as per their applying category
- Applicants must have a valid Business Registration Certificate (BRC) at the time of application.

Organizations and institutions supporting entrepreneur development and upskilling, including banks, finance companies, insurers, training and funding organizations, and NGOs are also eligible.

08. SELECTION PROCEDURE

All applications for the Awards will be evaluated according to the clearly defined and transparent criteria and will be reviewed by a panel of judges with multidisciplinary expertise. The selection will be done at 4 stages:

1. Desk Review
2. Preliminary screening and shortlisting
3. Interviews
4. Field visits (if necessary)

09. SELECTION CRITERIA (MARKING SCHEME)

Selection Criteria for the Sector/category and Thematic Excellence Awards	MARKS
Leadership and Strategy	100
Innovativeness /Technology	80
Global & Local Market reach	120
Market share / Growth Strategies	150
Human Capital	100
Productivity and Quality	100
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	80
Energy Efficiency & Environment Sustainability	120
Financial Performance and Business Focus	150
TOTAL	1000

10. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE ENABLERS OF THE SME SECTOR

Criteria	MARKS
Organization Details	70
Entrepreneur Development	100
Impact	150
Innovation	100
Partnerships	100
Capacity Building	100
Sustainability	100
Success Stories	180
Awards & Recognition	100
TOTAL	1000

11. EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Applications will be evaluated by an eminent Panel of Judges who would make the final selection of the awards recipients after the careful review of applications and the outcome of the field verifications.

Panel of Judges would comprise of representatives from the following Institutions/Sectors:

- National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA)
- Banking Sector
- Government Sector
- Private Sector

12.BENEFITS FOR AWARD WINNERS

The Award winners will be entitled to receive the following benefits:

- Provincial and national level recognition
- Provincial and national level publicity through print and digital media
- An opportunity to make their businesses advanced and gain valuable exposure through a preferential treatment from NEDA, The National Chamber of Commerce and other Associated institutions

13. APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS

The completed applications should be submitted by hand addressed to the Secretary General/CEO, The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka, 1st Floor, National Chamber Building, 450, D R Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10 to be received **on or before 4.00 p.m. on Monday, 14 September 2026** with the following submission fee.

CATEGORY	LKR
Micro	2,000/-
Small	4,000/-
Medium	10,000/-
Large	20,000/-

Payment could be made in cash or cheque in favour of “The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka” and crossed A/C Payee only. Once the final application is submitted, the submission fee will not be returned even if the application is withdrawn subsequently.

Our Bank Account details are as follows:

Bank Account: Bank of Ceylon, City Office

Account No: 350940

Account Name: The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka

(Please email us scanned copy of the deposit slip / Online transfer slip to nishanthi@nationalchamber.lk; nethmi@nationalchamber.lk)

14. AWARD CEREMONY

The Grand Award Ceremony will be held on **Wednesday, 09 December 2026 at BMICH, Colombo.**

15. INFORMATION DESK

For any clarification, please contact the Chamber on:

Ms Nishanthi Dilrukshi
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16. HIGHLIGHTS OF WPEA 2025



Jointly Organized By



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