

## **A Study on the Impacts of Social and Culture Exchanges between China and Sri Lanka through BRI on Sri Lankan Tourism**

YBND Premachandra\* and RARP Maduwanthi  
Department of Languages, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages,  
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka  
\*nimeshapremachandra00@gmail.com

China is one of the leading players in the current world power struggle owing to China's recent economic developments. The president, Xi Jin Ping has revitalized the concept "Old Silk Road" through the "Belt Route Initiative (BRI)" project which is currently being implemented with a new meaning. The BRI project will bring together the trinity of Europe, Asia, and Africa. In this process, Sri Lanka has a very important role. This project will benefit the financial development of Sri Lanka while providing the necessary financial assistance for infrastructure development. This study discusses the social and cultural exchanges between Sri Lanka and China as a result of BRI. When conducting the research, primary data were collected through interviews and secondary data such as reports, articles, and journals were also used. BRI promotes financial and infrastructure development as well as social and cultural exchanges. As a result of these social and cultural exchanges, we can clearly identify the development in educational exchanges, community exchanges, and tourism promotions in Sri Lanka. Most importantly, these social and cultural exchanges have been intertwined with economic and infrastructure development. Recent developments in bilateral cooperation are reflected in development of TCFL in Sri Lanka, increase in Chinese tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka and Establishment of Chinese cultural centers such as Confucius Centers in Sri Lankan Universities. It is also observed that there is a significant development in the interest to learn Sinhala in Chinese nationals during the recent years.

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