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INVEST SRI LANKA - Investor Forum - London

## BlackRock boost for Sri Lanka

(FT.lk) - The world's largest fund manager BlackRock on Friday declared that a host of positive factors makes Sri Lanka a compelling place to invest and "now is an excellent time" to do so. "It is only in the past 18 months that we have put serious capital to work (in Sri Lanka) and that is why I would say now is an excellent time to invest in Sri Lanka. I am very positive about the outlook of the Sri Lankan economy. I believe Sri Lanka's long term prospects are among the most

attractive in the frontier universe. Therefore we view Sri Lanka as a compelling place to invest on a relative basis as well as on an absolute basis," Blackrock's Fund Manager and Member of the



By **Nisthar Cassim** in London. Editor DailyFT.lk

had around 11,500 employees in over 30 countries and a major presence in key global markets, including North and South America, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Middle East and Africa. "We view Sri Lanka as a compelling place to invest on a relative basis as well as on an absolute basis - BlackRock's

on Friday organised by the Colombo Stock Exchange and the Securities and Exchange Commission in partnership with the London Stock Exchange and Bloomberg.



Via several of its funds BlackRock has investments in a select group of top blue chips in Sri Lanka, including John Keells Holdings (JKH). Noting that he has a very enjoyable job as he visits countries with frontier and emerging capital markets, Fraser said: "Of all the countries that I have visited, and I say this to anyone who asks me, Sri Lanka is my favourite."

- World's largest fund manager of \$ 4.4 trillion worth of assets tells CSE-SEC Investor Forum in London host of positive factors make Sri Lanka a compelling place to invest and time is now
- Points to Sri Lanka's long-term prospects and the economic growth story as the most attractive among frontier markets
- Finds valuations in SL quite attractive but lack of liquidity remains a challenge

Fund Manager and Member of the Emerging Markets Specialists Team Gordon Fraser in his address at the Sri Lanka Investor Forum in London" Fraser's presentation was a key highlight at the well-attended Investor Forum

That comment laid the platform for what was an objective assessment of Sri Lanka and its capital market, which the forum endeavoured to promote among 150 UK-based fund managers, ... **CONT ON P5**



Gordon Fraser - Blackrock Fund Manager

Markets Specialists Team Gordon Fraser told the Invest Sri Lanka Forum in London held at the iconic Savoy Hotel. "Sri Lanka is a large overweight on our funds," added the executive of BlackRock, which has \$ 4.4 trillion worth of assets under management across equity, fixed income, cash management, alternative investment, real estate and advisory strategies. Headquartered in the New York City, US, BlackRock as of 31 March 2014



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