



NEWSLETTER

Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka

VOLUME 35 No. 01

SINCE 1990

July 2024

ISSN 2279-2376

A CELEBRATION OF ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

46TH ANNUAL SESSIONS

The 46th Annual Sessions of the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL) took place on 29th June 2024 at the Lotus Hall, BMICH, Colombo, marking another significant milestone in the institution's illustrious history.

The event commenced with a warm and inspiring welcome by the President of IIESL, Eng. Prof. Bhadraniya Thoradeniya, who extended her greetings to all attendees, including the distinguished foreign delegates representing the engineering communities of India, Bangladesh and Nepal. Her address highlighted the collective effort needed to advance engineering frontiers and emphasized the value of cross-border collaboration in achieving shared goals.

The highlight of the occasion was the address by the Chief Guest, Prof. Ananda Jayawardena, a renowned academic and thought leader in engineering. His speech emphasized the pivotal role of engineers in shaping sustainable futures and driving technological advancements. His speech resonated with attendees, inspiring a renewed purpose and dedication to the profession.



Eng. Prof. Bhadraniya Thoradeniya delivering the Presidential Address

The presence of foreign delegates from the All-India Federation of Diploma Engineers (AIFODE), the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) and the Diploma Engineers Association, Nepal (DEAN) added an international dimension to the sessions, fostering a spirit of regional collaboration and shared growth.

(Cont. Page 9)



Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and other dignitaries being escorted to the 46th Annual Sessions



Eng. S.B.G.C.P. Sampathbandara President Elected for the Session 2024 - 2025 addressing the AGM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Eng. S.B.G.C.P. Sampathbandara,
President, IIESL – Session 2024 - 2025

It is with great pleasure, that I send this message as the 32nd President of the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka for the Session 2024 - 2025. At the outset, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the outgoing President, Prof. Bhadraniya Thoradeniya, for her exemplary leadership to the IIESL, during the session 2023 - 2024. I also wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Members of the Council for their invaluable contributions to the success of the past year.

As we welcome the new session, I would like to highlight the significance of our organization and the vital role we play within the engineering community

The Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL) is a distinguished professional institution dedicated to recognizing the expertise of Incorporated Engineers and Engineering Diplomates across both public and private sectors, including our members overseas.

Our commitment to professional development is paramount. We offer a wide array of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs, aimed at enhancing our members' knowledge and skills in Engineering/Engineering Technology. These initiatives not only empower our members to remain at the forefront of industry advancements but also facilitate their career progression.

As an internationally recognized body, Incorporated Engineers are integral to the engineering sector, playing a crucial role in fostering economic growth within our nation, especially during these challenging times. Their expertise, innovation and dedication are essential for driving progress and ensuring a prosperous future. Middle-level Engineers have made tremendous contributions to our country's development over the years, particularly through significant mega-projects such as the "Mahaweli Accelerated Programme" as well as in the energy, manufacturing and service sectors.

Since the 1960s, discussions surrounding economic development policies have increasingly emphasized industrialization and infrastructure, with a strong focus on poverty reduction. In this context, middle-level engineers are vital players, making significant contributions shaping our present and future. We are proud of the impactful work our members are undertaking and remain committed to supporting their professional growth and development.

Thank you, members, for your continued engagement with IIESL. I look forward to sharing more updates and news with you in the upcoming months. Together, we can drive innovation and progress in our engineering community.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE



Eng. V.H.M.S. Babalagama,
Secretary, IIESL - Session 2024 - 2025

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the newly appointed President and Council Members of the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL) on their appointments during the 46th Annual Session and AGM. It is my pleasure to warmly welcome you all to the new session for 2024 - 2025.

As members of IIESL, we are part of a professional body that is essential to advancing and upholding engineering standards across our industry. Our membership not only represents our commitment to continual professional development but also strengthens the influence we wield as engineers shaping Sri Lanka's future.

In the coming session, let us remember the vital role we play in upholding technical excellence, sustainable practices and innovation within the engineering community. Together, we can drive positive changes and further enhance the value of our institution in the industry.

Warmest wishes for a successful and impactful year ahead.

EDITORIAL

Embracing a New Chapter of Innovation and Growth

It is with immense pride and a deep sense of responsibility that I step into the role of Editor for the IIESL Newsletter. As we embark on this exciting journey together, my vision is to make this publication a platform that not only informs but also inspires and connects our engineering community.

The engineering profession stands at the forefront of innovation, resilience, and progress. As members of the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka, we are uniquely positioned to drive meaningful change, not just within our industries but also across society. This newsletter will strive to reflect that vision—highlighting achievements, sharing knowledge and fostering collaboration among our members and beyond.

In this rapidly evolving world, staying informed and adaptable is critical. Our newsletter will serve as a window into the latest advancements, technical insights and success stories while promoting initiatives that empower our members to excel in their fields. Special focus will be given to showcasing the activities of our committees, CPD programs, technical visits and collaborations that position IIESL as a leader in professional development.

I also invite you, our valued members, to actively contribute your ideas, experiences and expertise. Together, we can make this publication a vibrant reflection of the talent and ingenuity within our institution.

As we move forward, let us celebrate our achievements, address our challenges and continue to innovate, educate and inspire. It is your stories and your dedication that make this journey worthwhile.

Here's to a future of engineering excellence and a thriving IIESL community.

Eng. M.P.C. Kumara
Editor, IIESL

Renewal of ECSL Registration for 2025

Members of IIESL registered with ECSL are reminded to renew their registration for 2025 without delay.

Renewal Fee: Rs. 1000.00

Payment Methods:

- **Direct Payment:** IIESL Secretariat
- **Bank Transfer:** People's Bank, Battaramulla
 - **Account No.:** 208-1001-8-1101173
 - **Reference:** EC-M-(IIESL Member Number) (e.g., EC-M-3025)

Submit your pay slip with your name, IIESL membership number and ECSL registration number via:

- **Email:** iiesl@iiesl.lk **Post:** IIESL Secretariat

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

SESSION 2024 - 2025

Eng. M.P.C. Kumara (Editor)
Eng. S.B.G.C.P. Sampathbandara
Eng. Prof. Bhadrane Thoradeniya
Eng. M.P.A. Gunawardena
Eng. V.H.M.S. Babalagama
Eng. P.A.D.R. Chandrasiri
Eng. S.T.J. Arawwawala
Eng. Sisira Walaliyadde
Eng. Dr-Ing. W.A. Wimalaweera
Eng. N.K.P.P. Waidyasekara

IIESL HEAD OFFICE

Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka
No. 27/B, Udumulla Road,
Battaramulla, Sri Lanka
Tel: +94112887734 Fax: +94112887737
Email: iiesl@iiesl.lk
Web: www.iiesl.lk

IIESL CITY OFFICE

Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka
No. 490, Ocenica Tower, 6th Floor,
Galle Road, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Tel: +94114736708 Fax: +94114734298
Email: inco@sltnet.lk Web: www.inco.lk

IIESL CENTRAL PROVINCE BRANCH

Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka
115, D-S Senanayake Veediya, Kandy.
Tel: +94 81 2234129 Fax: +94 81 2236938

IIESL QATAR BRANCH

Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka
Qatar Branch
Tel: +97433068356
Email: nurawanasinghe@yahoo.com

IIESL UAE BRANCH

Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka
UAE Branch
C/O Sri Lankan Professionals Association LLC – FZ
The Meydan Hotel, Grand Stand,
6h Floor Meydan Road, Nad Al Sheba, Dubai,
United Arab Emirates.
Tel: +971 50 386 3066
Email: iiesluae@gmail.com
Web: www.iiesluae.org

A STEP TOWARDS REGIONAL COLLABORATION

IIESL MEETS SAARC ENGINEERING DELEGATES

On 28th June 2024, the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL) hosted a significant meeting with delegates representing engineering institutions and associations from SAARC countries. The event, held at Hotel GSH Colombo, was a milestone in fostering regional cooperation and mutual growth in the engineering sector.

The meeting commenced with the opening remarks made by the President with a warm welcome to the foreign delegates, past presidents, office bearers and the council members present.

President Elect of IIESL, Eng. Sampath Bandara, outlining the objectives of the gathering and presenting proposals for collaboration. These proposals emphasized enhancing knowledge sharing, capacity building and unified efforts to address engineering challenges in the region.

Distinguished representatives from SAARC countries enriched the discussion with their insightful addresses.

Eng. A.K.M.A. Hamid, President of the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB), shared perspectives on Bangladesh's engineering advancements and collaboration opportunities.

Er. Shivanand Hugar, President of the All-India Federation of Diploma Engineers (AIFODE), emphasized the importance of regional partnerships in advancing technical education and infrastructure development.

Engr. Kameshwar Prasad Singh, President of the Diploma Engineers Association, Nepal (DEAN), highlighted Nepal's engineering priorities and the potential for shared learning and growth among SAARC nations.

The meeting also included a discussion on the proposed initiatives and future activities, fostering a productive exchange of ideas and setting the foundation for actionable collaborations.

The session concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Eng. Padmajith Jinadasa, Vice President of IIESL and Chairman of the IRSA Standing Committee. He expressed gratitude to the distinguished delegates and participants for their valuable contributions, underscoring the importance of continued dialogue and cooperation.

This meeting marked a pivotal step in strengthening ties among SAARC engineering institutions, paving the way for regional progress and innovation in engineering.

CHAIRPERSONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES & OTHER COMMITTEES OF IIESL: SESSION 2024-2025

- Finance & Administration Committee
Eng. S. B. G. C. P. Sampathbandara
- Finance Committee
Eng. K. G. I. Deshappriya
- Administration Committee
Eng. V. H. M. S. Babalagama
- Education & Training Standing Committee
Eng. N. A. Nandasena
- International, Regional & Student Affairs
Standing Committee
Eng. (Dr.) S. J. Hettiarachchi
- Events Standing Committee
Eng. R. S. Kuruppu
- Professional Affairs Standing Committee
Eng. K. S. P. Nonis

- Membership Standing Committee
Eng. U. A. Gunasekara
 - Special Advisory Committee related to
membership matters
Eng. (Mrs.) Namalie Siyambalapitiya
- Accreditation Borad
Eng. Dr.-Ing. W. A. Wimalaweera
- Building Committee
Eng. W. A. Kulathilake
- Editorial Board
Eng. M. P. C. Kumara
- Statutes Committee
Eng. P. A. D. R. Chandrasiri
- INCO Organizing Committee
Eng. K. Ariyawansa

INAUGURAL MEMORIAL ORATION HONOURING AN EMINENT ENGINEER AND AN ACADEMIC

Vidya Jyothi Emeritus Professor Dayantha Sepal Wijeyesekera

PhD (Edin), DEC (Eng), DUniv (UKOU), DLitt (OUSL), DSc (Mor), CEng, FIE (SL), FCIT (Lond), FICE (Lond), FNAS (SL), FIChemC, Hon. FIESL
Vice Patron of Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka



The Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL) hosted its inaugural memorial oration on May 30, 2024, at Sanhinda Hall, SLIDA, Colombo. This solemn event commemorated the first death anniversary of the late Vidya Jyothi Emeritus Professor Dayantha Sepal Wijeyesekera, a luminary in the fields of engineering and academia, who was the vice patron of IIESL.



Prof. Wijeyesekera was a towering figure whose exceptional contributions have profoundly influenced Sri Lanka's engineering profession. His illustrious career was adorned with numerous accolades, including PhD (Edin), DEC (Eng), DUniv (UKOU), DLitt (OUSL) and DSc (Mor). As a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of multiple esteemed institutions, he exemplified excellence and an unwavering commitment to advancing engineering education and practice in Sri Lanka.

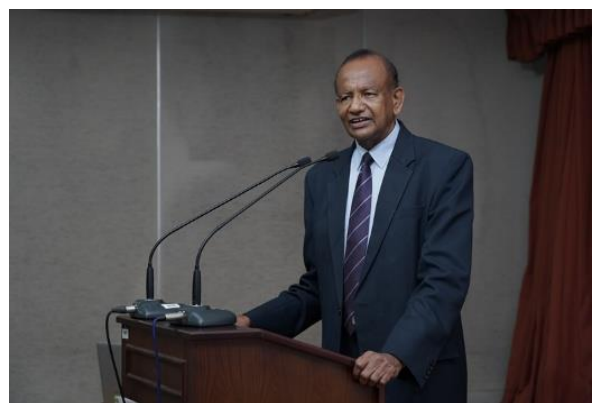
The President, IIESL with Mrs. Wijeyesekera garlanding Prof. Wijeyesekera's Portrait

The highlight of the evening was the oration delivered by Eng. Dr. T.A.G. Gunasekara, a Past President of IIESL. His presentation, meticulously researched and thoughtfully articulated, shed light on contemporary issues facing Sri Lankan society while reflecting on the enduring legacy of Prof. Wijeyesekera. Dr. Gunasekara's address resonated deeply with the audience, offering enlightening and inspiring insights.



Introductory Speech by Eng. Anton Peris

The event began with an introductory speech by Eng. Anton Peris, also a Past President of IIESL, eloquently set the tone for an evening dedicated to reflection and appreciation. His words underscored the significance of honoring Prof. Wijeyesekera's life and work, whose vision and leadership continue to guide and inspire engineers and academics alike.



Dr. T.A.G. Gunasekara presented the first memorial Oration

The memorial oration served as a fitting tribute to a great engineer and academic, celebrating his enduring contributions to the profession and the nation. The gathering honored Prof. Wijeyesekera's memory and reaffirmed the importance of intellectual and professional excellence in shaping a better future for Sri Lanka. Eng. P.A.D.R. Chandrasiri proposed vote of thanks on this occasion.

OFFICE BEARERS: SESSION 2024 - 2025



**Eng. S.B.G.C.P.
Sampathbandara
President**



**Eng. Prof. Bhadranie
Thoradeniya
Immediate Past President**



**Eng. K. Ariyawansa
Past President**



**Eng. P.A.D.R.
Chandrasiri
Past President**



**Eng. M.P.A.
Gunawardena
President Elect**



**Eng. U.A.
Gunasekara
Vice President**



**Eng. (Dr.) S.J.
Hettiarachchi
Vice President**



**Eng. N.A. Nandasena
Vice President**



**Eng. K.S.P. Nonis
Vice President**



**Eng. R.S. Kuruppu
Vice President**



**Eng. V.H.M.S. Babalagama
Secretary**



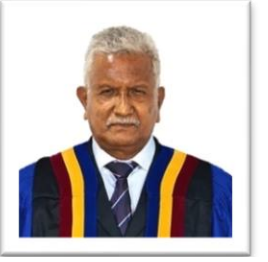
**Eng. K.G.I. Deshapriya
Treasurer**



**Eng. M.P.C. Kumara
Editor**



**Eng. M.E.P. Tennakoon
Asst. Secretary**



**Eng. H.H.C. Piyadasa
Asst. Treasurer**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. Eng. E.A.U. Hemachandra	2. Eng. S.P.S. Martino
3. Eng. (Prof.) W.A. Wimalaweera	4. Eng. T.R. Dahanayaka
5. Eng. G.D.F.U. Perera	6. Eng. S.R.S. Hewapathirana
7. Eng. J.E.L. De Silva	8. Eng. W.D. Darshana
9. Eng. N.K.P.P. Waidyasekara	10. Eng. P.C.C. Colombage
11. Eng. W.A. Kulathilake	12. Eng. (Mrs.) K.G.N. Wasanthi
13. Eng. W.B. Damitha Abeykoon	14. Eng. (Dr.) Anura Walpola
15. Eng. U.K.S. Hettige	16. Eng. M.P.G.K. Dahanayake
17. Eng. S.S.T. Sumanasekara	18. Eng. C.B. Alugolla
19. Eng. (Mrs.) D.D. Samaraweera	20. Eng. (Ms.) C.J. Kasthuriarachchi
21. Eng. G.S.R. De Silva	22. Eng. R.M.I.U.B. Ranasinghe
23. Eng. K.M.I.P.A. Bandara	24. Eng. N.L.S. Joseph
25. Eng. K.S.G. Ariyaratna	26. Eng. D.C.R. Wickramasinghe

Board of Trustees Session 2024 - 2025

- Eng. S.B.G.C.P. Sampathbandara
President
- Eng. Prof. Bhadranie Thoradeniya
Immediate Past President
- Eng. M.P.A. Gunawardena
President Elect
- Eng. V.H.M.S. Babalagama
Secretary
- Eng. K.G.I. Deshapriya
Treasurer
- Eng. Tissa Seneviratne
Representing PPF
- Eng. C. Wanasinghe
Representing PPF
- Eng. (Mrs.) Namalie Siyambalapatiya
Representing Fellows
- Eng. (Mrs.) Chithra Boteju
Representing Fellows
- Eng. Sisira Walaliyadde
Representing Fellows
- Eng. K.P.C. Jayawardena
Representing Fellows

TECHNICAL SESSION 2024: INCO FUSION – A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

On June 27, 2024, the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL), unveiled its premier annual event, *Technical Session 2024: Inco Fusion*, at the renowned Hotel Waters Edge. Meticulously coordinated by the Education and Training (E&T) Committee under the leadership of Eng. N.A. Nandasena, the event showcased IIESL's dedication to fostering professional growth and promotion within the engineering sector.



Eng. Pushpa Jinadasa, Eng. N.A. Nandasena (VP) and Mr. Kameshwar Prasad Singh, President, DEAN lighting the oil lamp.

The session brought together distinguished speakers and a captivated audience to explore engineering's transformative power in shaping the future. The highlights of the day included three thought-provoking sessions:

Session I: Artificial Intelligence Applications in the Field of Engineering

Presented by **Dr. Uthayasanker Thayasivam**, this session explored the groundbreaking role of AI in engineering. Dr.



Mr. Dian Gomes, Dr. Uthayasanker Thayasivem, Mr. Thilan Wijesinghe with the moderator Eng. M.B.P. Jinadasa



Thayasivam delved into its practical applications and revolutionary potential, showcasing how AI is set to redefine industry standards and practices.

Session II: Engineers' Role in the Economic Growth of Sri Lanka

Mr. Thilan Wijesinghe captivated the audience with his analysis of engineers' pivotal role in driving Sri Lanka's economic progress. He emphasized how engineering expertise can bolster national development and prosperity through innovative strategies and actionable insights.

Session III: Changing the Mindset

In a powerful conclusion, **Mr. Dian Gomez** inspired attendees to embrace adaptability and foster a growth-oriented mindset. His session underscored the importance of resilience and progressive thinking in navigating challenges and capitalizing on opportunities in an ever-evolving professional landscape.

With an impressive **350 participants** in attendance, the event radiated vibrant and collaborative energy. The elegant setting, dynamic speakers, and engaging discussions created an atmosphere of intellectual enrichment and professional camaraderie. Attendees left the session empowered, equipped with valuable insights and inspired to excel in their respective domains.

Inco Fusion 2024 is a testament to IIESL's unwavering dedication to fostering knowledge-sharing and innovation within Sri Lanka's engineering fraternity. The event's success reaffirms the institution's pivotal role in shaping the future of engineering and national development.



The three speakers



Top: President IIESL together with Eng. N.A. Nandasena presenting a souvenir to Mr. Dian Gomes

Left: Eng. Kamalnath Jinadasa proposing the vote of thanks.

PICTURE GALLERY – HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL SESSIONS - 2024



Chief Guest Snr. Prof. A.K.W. Jayawardane lighting the traditional oil lamp to mark the commencement of the event.



Chief Guest, Senior Professor A K W Jayawardena



Foreign delegates addressing the audience



The President, President-Elect and the Chief Guest with foreign delegates from Bangladesh, India and Nepal



Section of the audience citing the National Anthem



President and President Elect presenting the token of appreciation to the Chief Guest, Senior Professor Anada Jayawardena



Section of the audience with distinguished guests



Eng. U.K.S. Hettige proposing the vote of thanks

PICTURE GALLERY – HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2024



Eng. Sampathbandara at the head table after the election as the President for the Session 2024 - 2025



Outgoing President formally introduces the newly elected President during the ceremonial transition of leadership.



New Council Members Session 2024 – 2025 (Part of)



Eng. V.H.M.S. Babalagama (Secretary Session 2024/2025) proposing vote of thanks

NEW FELLOWS OF THE IIESL

During the session 2024 - 2025, nine distinguished Members of the institution were elevated to the prestigious 'Fellow' class of Membership. Their achievements were ceremonially honored as they received their 'Fellow' certificates at the 46th Annual Session from the Chief Guest Senior Professor Ananda



Eng. S. S. T. Sumanasekara - F 0125



Eng. T. A. S. Premalal - F 0126



Eng. W. P. T. De Mel - F 0127



Eng. Mrs. D. D. Samaraweera - F 0128



Eng. G. S. R. De Silva - F 0129



Eng. M. P. C. Kumara - F 0130

CONTD..... NEW FELLOWS OF THE IIESL



Eng. K. M. I. P. A. Bandara - F 0131



Eng. R. S. Kuruppu - F 0132



Eng. G. D. S. P. Ranjan - F0133

FIRST COUNCIL MEETING OF THE SESSION 2024 - 2025

The first Council meeting of the 2024 - 2025 session was held on 13th July 2024 at Regimental Mess, RHQ. The newly appointed President Eng. S.P.B.G.C. Sampathbandara and the Immediate Past President Eng. Prof. Bhadraniye Thoradeniya and the Council members attended the meeting.



From P.1... 46TH ANNUAL SESSIONS & AGM ...

The Annual Sessions served as a platform for reflecting on the institution's achievements, celebrating its members' contributions, and having strategic discussions on advancing engineering practices. The ceremony's elegance and the spirit of camaraderie among attendees underscored IIESL's unwavering commitment to professional excellence and innovation.

The Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL) proudly introduced Eng. S.B.G.C.P. Sampathbandara as the President for the 2024 - 2025 session during the ceremony. As the newly inducted leader, he outlined his aspirations for the upcoming term, focusing on securing recognition for Incorporated Engineer, strengthening professional development programs and enhancing regional collaborations. His extensive experience and passion for empowering engineers promise to lead IIESL to greater heights, further solidifying its role as a trailblazer in Sri Lanka's engineering landscape.

The Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka extends its heartfelt gratitude to all participants for contributing to the resounding success of the 46th Annual Sessions. IIESL remains steadfast in its mission to empower engineers and elevate the profession locally and regionally as it continues its journey of innovation and excellence. (See picture gallery on P9 and P10)

CPD PROGRAMS – TECHNICAL VISITS

VISIT 1 - Kosgulana Mini-Hydro Power Project: Exploring Renewable Energy Solutions

The Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL) successfully conducted a technical visit to the Kosgulana Mini-Hydro Power Project on 4th of May 2024. This event allowed participants to explore sustainable energy production and learn about hydroelectric power generation. The Kosgulana Mini-Hydro Power Project is a 74MW facility on the Kukule Ganga River in Sabaragamuwa Province. Positioned between the dam and tailwater outlet of the Kukule Ganga Project, it features key components such as a weir, intake pipes, headrace channels, penstocks, a powerhouse and a 33kV spur line connecting to the CEB transmission line.

The chairman, Eng. Mahinda Tennakoon, welcomed participants and presented details about the project's design and operations. Attendees observed the plant's main components and learned about the balance between efficiency and environmental preservation. Eng. Tennakoon addressed queries and offered insights into the challenges and innovations of mini-hydro projects.

Educational Value

The visit highlighted the practical applications of engineering in renewable energy and emphasized the importance of sustainable solutions. Participants gained a deeper understanding of hydroelectric power generation and its role in meeting energy needs while protecting natural resources.

Acknowledgments

The IIESL thanks Eng. Kamalnath Jinadasa for organizing the event and Eng. Mahinda Tennakoon for his detailed explanations. The visit reinforced IIESL's mission to promote continuous learning and innovation in engineering.

VISIT 2 - Colombo Port: The Heart of Maritime Trade

As part of the Annual Sessions 2024, the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL) organized a Technical Visit to Colombo Port on 28th June 2024. This insightful event was arranged by the Education and Training (E&T) Committee under the leadership of Eng. N.A. Nandasena and brought together a group of 30 participants, eager to explore one of Sri Lanka's most valuable trade hubs.

The visit offered a unique opportunity for participants to:

Tour the port facilities: This included exploring the docks, warehouses and other operational areas to witness the intricate logistics and infrastructure in action.

Learn about the port's role in trade: The group gained valuable insights into how Colombo Port serves as a vital link

in both local and regional trade, contributing significantly to Sri Lanka's economy.

Understand sustainability practices: Participants were briefed on the port's environmental initiatives and sustainable practices, showcasing its commitment to minimizing ecological impacts while maintaining operational efficiency.

The visit was both educational and inspiring, providing attendees with a deeper understanding of the maritime industry and its critical role in shaping economic growth.

IIESL extends its gratitude to the Colombo Port authorities for facilitating this enriching experience and to the E&T Committee for their meticulous planning and execution. The event not only enhanced technical knowledge but also fostered a greater appreciation for Sri Lanka's maritime sector among engineers.

Technical Insight: Colombo Port Visit – A Glimpse into Maritime Operations

As a highlight of the Annual Sessions 2024, the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL) facilitated a technical visit to Colombo Port on June 28, 2024. Spearheaded by the Education and Training (E&T) Committee, led by Eng. N.A. Nandasena, this initiative provided an in-depth exploration of one of the nation's pivotal maritime hubs. Thirty engineering professionals participated, eager to gain firsthand exposure to the port's advanced operations and infrastructure.

The visit encompassed key areas, offering participants a detailed understanding of:

- **Port Operations and Facilities:** A guided tour of the docks, cargo handling zones, and warehouse systems revealed the sophisticated logistics and infrastructure underpinning port functionality.
- **Trade Connectivity:** The port's strategic role in local and international commerce was discussed, highlighting its contribution to Sri Lanka's economic framework.
- **Sustainability in Action:** Briefings on green practices and eco-friendly initiatives showcased the port's commitment to balancing operational demands with environmental stewardship.

This tour served as both an educational venture and a platform for professional growth, deepening participants' appreciation for the maritime sector's complexity and impact on economic progress.

The IIESL sincerely thanks the Colombo Port authorities for collaborating to make this visit possible and for the E&T Committee for organizing the event precisely. By blending technical insight with practical exposure, the initiative strengthened participants' knowledge while emphasizing the engineering community's role in driving sustainable development within the maritime industry.

(See Photographs on p.16)

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS - 46TH ANNUAL SESSIONS

ENG. PROF. BHADRANIE THORADENIYA

Ladies and Gentlemen

Indeed, it is a great privilege and an honour to deliver this Presidential address to a learned professional audience. However, it becomes more meaningful if the President has done his/her part exceeding the expectations of the members of that institution. I truly believe I have contributed with all my energy, exceeding my capacity to build the reputation and the worth of our Institution, The Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka to greater heights during the session 2023/2024, while accepting and apologizing for any inevitable shortcomings that would have occurred due to various reasons.

First and foremost, it's my bounded duty as the President to extend a warm welcome and at the same time to pay my gratitude to all of you for taking time off from your busy schedules to be with us during the Annual sessions of IIESL. Indeed, your presence is a great encouragement for us to work harder to elevate the institution while promoting professionalism among our members and thereby to enhance our contributions to the nation building efforts.

The Incorporated Engineers are a silent group of professionals who heavily contribute to all industries and thus directly to our country's economy. Why do I call that the Incorporated Engineers are a silent group? Because there is a silence that stems mainly from the fact that these professionals are scattered, generally in small numbers in all industries and institutions, mainly in the private sector followed by semi-government institutions.

Compared to the past, the numbers of our members serving in government and semi-government institutions have become much less as the majority leave for greener pastures, either for more lucrative foreign employment positions or for migration. The situation is aggravated as the annual intakes are almost stagnant for the educational programs, that is the traditional engineering diploma programs such as NDT, HNDE and NDES which create our members, Engineering Diplomats and Incorporated engineers. Instead of the generally accepted ratio of 1: 4 Chartered Engineer to Incorporated Engineer, Sri Lanka produces roughly 1: 0.85

What is the impact? The cadre positions and the work of Incorporated engineers are slowly encroached mainly by the higher qualified professionals and to a certain degree by the lesser qualified professionals. This is a great loss to the economy of the country and a burden to the industries. All stakeholders of the sector, from the policy makers and decision makers of engineering and engineering technology from the education institutions, professional institutions and

the public and private sector employers must come together without further delay to rectify this situation, if we are truly keen to achieve a better economy and a better country. Together we must realize the big picture without working in compartments anymore.

Another aspect of this situation is the severe difficulties faced by our members within their employment due to the grossly inadequate recognition given to them within the scheme of recruitment, especially in the semi-government organizations. We are over 30 years behind in global developments, especially on updating the education qualifications of Incorporated Engineers. Hence, the main target of the Council of Management during this Session was the conversion of the nomenclature of qualifications. This is crucial as it would lead to proper recognition for the educational programs accepted by the Institution, while addressing various employment related professional issues of membership.

I am very pleased to have our chief guest Prof Ananda Jayawardena who is not a stranger to many of us. Personally, I have known you Sir for almost 40 years as a colleague at the University of Moratuwa as both of us joined the Department of Civil engineering around the same time.

I am equally very pleased to have the President of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka, Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake who has won our hearts within a comparatively very short period of time around 6 months after assuming the prestigious post.

Both of you are very important stakeholders of the situation described by the positions you hold. This is not a submission of grievance of mine or the members of my institution that I make in front of you. This is much bigger than IIESL or IESL or for that matter even the UGC. This is a grievance of the workforce in the engineering field of this country, this is an opportunity for us to collectively contribute our best to the system change that the entire country is looking forward, without being partial and without being egoistic.

What is it? We need to see the big picture, or the so-called helicopter view of the entire sector. Having understood this requirement and having experienced the vacuum, around two and half years ago we prepared a comprehensive document proposing policies for Engineering Education and Practice to be considered by the Government. We experience huge difficulty in even getting appointments from the officials of the stakeholder institutions to discuss the document.

However, I must admire the role played by the Immediate Past President of the IESL, Eng. Dr. Kamal Laksiri who opened

the door for amiable discussions between the two institutions, IESL and IIESL for the first time in the history of 45 years and our immediate Past President Eng. Pushpa Jinadasa who accepted that invitation at the beginning and paved the way for hopefully better future. The relationship is slowly progressing, but my understanding is that there are a lot of misunderstandings, confusions and fears among us. This is why open discussions among all stakeholders are important.

Prof. Jayawardena, Sir, now you may know why we have specifically invited you to be our chief guest. Surpassing all the very prestigious appointments you held that would have impacted us, what is important to us now, is your current positions as the Chairman of the University Grant Commission Standing committee on Engineering and Architecture and the standing committee on Technology. In November last year we have requested an appointment from the Chairman of the University Grants Commission to discuss our proposals for converting the traditional academic engineering diploma programs to degrees. Then in January we requested another appointment from the Chairman, for a discussion on inclusion of a representative from IIESL in the Standing committee on technology. Sir, sadly we are still waiting for both appointments. But I am thankful that you personally called me to confirm receipt of the letter and promised to get us an appointment. This may not be a visibly burning issue like the current university non-academics trade union actions, but this is a much deeper issue with irreparable losses to the economy of the country. The flames of our burning issue have started to become visible in the form of ad-hoc decisions taken by sub-sectoral institutions as they are pressurized to find solutions to their immediate problems.

Our esteemed partners from Bangladesh, India and Nepal confirmed us the contribution made by the over two million members of theirs to economies of their respective countries. Further, we understand that all developed nations have a larger population of engineers trained for managing and maintaining the sector than the numbers trained for design and planning. They should be given due recognition starting from a degree, a conversion which happened in the United Kingdom over 30 years ago. While the doors should be kept opened for the capable and desired few to go up in the ladder by crossing the path to become a chartered

engineers through required further education, the majority should be provided paths to become highly recognized academically well qualified Incorporated engineers who should be able to achieve highest levels of education, say PhDs in their own technologies and they should not have barriers to reach the pinnacles of their working establishments, as in the yesteryears.

During the past session, we were able to increase the membership by making a record of the highest number for a session. We conducted traditional as well as novel CPD Programs update and upgrade our members which culminated at the technical sessions conducted day-before-yesterday at a grand scale. I am not going to elaborate more on the work we did, our achievement and about the unfinished work as the Annual report produced in the souvenir gives you a glimpse of all that. However, it is my prime duty to acknowledge and sincerely appreciate the commendable initiatives taken by the Professional Affairs Committee, Membership Committee, Accreditation Board, Education and Training Committee on the major areas already mentioned as well as support extended by the International Relations and Student Affairs Committee and the Events Committee through their various activities, including the Inco 2024 exhibition which was a huge success, thus elevating the reputation and profile of our institution.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all members of the Institution who have volunteered to shoulder some of the enormous weight of this work and especially the staff at IIESL for their untiring contributions towards achieving our success stories during this Session.

Ladies and gentlemen, finally with your permission, let me publicly thank with all my heart one person who gave me full support throughout this period in every aspect that the majority of you may not even comprehend. When I was reduced to one third of my capacity at the beginning of the session due to a system fail in engineering jargon, he was there to give me and through me to all our members more than the lost two thirds of my capacity. I am indebted to my loving husband Major General Asoka Thoradeniya for your contribution to my fellow members of the institution. Thank you.

I wish all members and staff best wishes and especially the future of IIESL all the very best.

CPD PROGRAM – Lead and Inspire Employees at Work

The IIESL recently organized a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) session titled "**Lead and Inspire Employees at Work**", presented by Mr. A. K. Lokuvithanage. Targeted at IIESL members and aspiring leaders, the session focused on empowering participants with the skills and insights needed to lead teams effectively. The program emphasized the importance of combining leadership skills, effective communication and an understanding of team dynamics to inspire productive work environments.

Key topics covered included the significance of inspirational leadership, essential traits of successful leaders and actionable practices such as the "4E-s of leadership" and "3 lean leadership behaviors" to drive motivation and success within teams.

This impactful session equipped participants with practical tools and strategies to foster engagement and lead with purpose, reinforcing IIESL's commitment to nurturing future-ready professionals. (See photos: p 16)

TRIBUTES TO MEMBERS WHO ARE NO MORE

Eng. E. N. K. N. R. Amaranatha, MIIESL

Eng. Ranjan Amaranatha completed his National Diploma in Technology (NDT) in Mechanical and Automobile Engineering at the University of Moratuwa in 1981. He subsequently earned a Diploma in Technology in Mechanical Engineering from the Open University of Sri Lanka in 1994. In 1989, he became a Member of the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL), and in 1991, he attained Associate Membership of the Institute of Automobile Engineers, Sri Lanka. He held the post of Vice President in the Council of management of IIESL.

Eng. Amaranatha served in various capacities across Sri Lanka's government and private sector, including his role as the Deputy General Manager (DGM) for Manufacturing and Marketing of Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation.

Eng. Ranjan Amaranatha passed away on 14th June 2024. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family and wish him the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana.

Eng. B. Shelton M Peiris, MIIESL

Eng. B.S.M. Peiris was born in Moratuwa and received his primary and secondary education at St. Sebastian College, Moratuwa. Following the loss of his spouse, he resided with his daughter and her family until his passing away on 30th June 2024.

Eng. Peiris began his professional journey by completing the JTO in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering in 1968. He earned his IIESL Membership (No. M 0319) in 1987. His dedication to furthering his expertise led him to complete Part 2 of the IESL examinations, subsequently achieving the status of Chartered Mechanical Engineer at the IESL.

In his professional career, Eng. Peiris joined Ceylon Steel Corporation as a Senior Engineering Assistant in July 1976. Demonstrating exceptional skill and commitment, he rose through the ranks and, in 1985, was appointed as the Head of Mechanical Maintenance of the Steel Melting and Casting Shop. He continued his invaluable contributions to the Steel Corporation until his retirement.

Eng. Peiris passed away on 30th June 2024. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones and wish him the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana.

Eng. (Ms.) A. H. T. Shobini Warnasuriya, MIIESL

Eng. Ms. A.H.T.S. Warnasuriya embarked on her career in engineering after completing her National Diploma in Technology in Electronics and Telecommunication from the University of Moratuwa in 1980. She completed her in-plant training at the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, which served as a strong foundation for her professional journey.

In 1981, she joined the Sri Lanka Telecommunication Department, where she made significant contributions to the field of telecommunications. In 2003, she became a Member of the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL).

Throughout her career, Eng. Ms. Warnasuriya held various positions within Sri Lanka Telecom, showcasing her commitment until retirement.

Eng. Ms. Warnasuriya passed away recently. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and loved ones during this time of loss. May she attain the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana.

MEMORIES – EDUCATION & TRAINING COMMITTEE PROGRAMS

Technical visit to Kosgulana Mini-Hydro Power Project



Technical visit to Colombo Port: The Heart of Maritime Trade



CPD Workshop - Lead and Inspire Employees at Work

Audience - Inco Fusion



Special thanks to Eng. N.A. Nandasena (Chairman), Eng. Kamalnath Jinadasa (Advisor), Committee Members & Ms. Samilka and office staff for organizing events.

Be a member of IIESL Toastmasters Club

Improve your communication and Leadership skills.

Toastmasters Club is a global organization that helps individuals develop public speaking, communication and leadership skills.

Contact: President – P.P.N.S. Fernando – 077 917 58 66
VP Education – M.P.C. Kumara – 071 062 59 42