NEWSLETTER

Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka

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IIESL CELEBRATES EXCELLENCE: MEMBERSHIP AWARD CEREMONY 2025

The IIESL held its fourth Membership Award Ceremony on January 2, 2025, at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH). This significant occasion marked the conferment of professional recognition upon 286 newly elected Members and Associate Members, honoring their academic qualifications, professional experience, and dedication to the engineering profession.

Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, the Prime Minister, delivering the Chief Guest's address

The ceremonial proceedings commenced with the arrival of the Chief Guest, Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, who was warmly received by the Council of Management of IIESL. The traditional oil lamp was lit to symbolize the event's inauguration, followed by the singing of the national anthem. A video presentation highlighting the vision, achievements, and ongoing activities of IIESL set the tone for the day's proceedings.

The Master of Ceremonies, Eng. Padmajith Jinadasa graciously guided the audience through the well-organized agenda of the event. The formal programme began with a welcome address delivered by the President of IIESL, Eng. S.B.G.C.P. Sampathbandara, who warmly greeted the distinguished guests, award recipients, and attendees, and expressed the institution's commitment to advancing the engineering profession in Sri Lanka.

The keynote address was delivered by Immediate Past President Eng. Prof. Bhadranie Thoradeniya. In her comprehensive presentation, Prof. Thoradeniya emphasized the urgent need for reforms in Sri Lanka's engineering technology education system. She identified three significant challenges: the disproportionate intake between Chartered and Incorporated Engineer pathways; the lack of international recognition for diploma programs such as NDT, NDES, and HNDE; and the limited career progression pathways available for Incorporated Engineers. Prof. Thoradeniya emphasized the need for cohesive policymaking and increased inclusion of IIESL in national decision-making processes to ensure sustainable and equitable professional growth. *(Please see pages 9 &10 for excerpts of the keynote speech.)*

Following the keynote address, the Chief Guest, together with the IIESL President, and Chairman of the Membership Committee, Eng. Upali Gunasekera (Vice President) presented membership certificates to the new Members.

The highlight of the ceremony was the address by the Chief Guest, Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Harini Amarasuriya. In her address, the Prime Minister acknowledged the critical issues raised in the keynote and reaffirmed the government's commitment to reforming both the education system and professional recognition frameworks to support the country's engineering practitioners. Stressing the importance of holistic and inclusive policymaking, she called for stronger collaboration between government, professional institutions, and industry stakeholders to create career pathways that truly serve both the individuals and the nation's development. The Prime Minister assured the IIESL of the government's willingness to continue dialogue and cooperation in addressing these critical challenges. *(See page 4 for the full text of the Chief Guest's address.)*

A token of appreciation was presented to the Chief Guest in recognition of her participation and inspiring address.

The ceremony concluded with the Vote of Thanks delivered by the Chairman of the Membership Functional Committee, who expressed gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the Fourth Membership Award Ceremony of IIESL.

PICTURE GALLERY – MEMBERSHIP AWARD CEREMONY 2025

The distinguished Guests – Front Row, From Left: Dr. T A G Gunasekera (Past President), Prof. Bhadranie Thoradeniya (IPP), Eng. Upali Ratnayake (Chairman, National Paper Company Ltd.), Hon. Janitha Ruwan Kodituwakku (M.P), Eng. S.B.G.C.P Sampathbandara (President), Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya (Chief Guest), Eng. Anada Gunawardena (President Elect), Prof. Mahesh Edirisinghe (Vice Chancellor, UNIVOTEC), Eng. Upali Gunasekara (VP / Chairman, Membership Committee, Dr. Tharaka Mohotti (IET, UK- SL Network)

Section of the award recipients

EDITORIAL

HONOURING DEDICATION AND INNOVATION
IIESL AWARDING CEREMONY 2025

The Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL) proudly celebrates the achievements The Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL) proudly hosts its annual awarding ceremony, a prestigious event that honors the achievements and lifelong commitment of its members. This ceremony is more than a formal gathering, it is a celebration of silent dedication, technical excellence, and the tireless spirit of service that has contributed immensely to the progress of our nation.

Each recognition presented today symbolizes years of hard work, learning, and innovation. From Associate members stepping into the professional world, to experienced Corporate and Fellow members leading major developments, every award reflects a journey rooted in passion and purpose. These members have helped build roads, bridges, buildings, power systems, water networks, and more often behind the scenes but always at the heart of national development.

What sets IIESL members apart is their focus on practical solutions, ethical standards, and sustainable progress. Their work touches every aspect of society, improving daily life and driving economic growth. In a time when Sri Lanka seeks resilience and innovation, their role is more critical than ever.

This event also serves as an inspiration for future engineers. As we honor today's achievements, we also light a path for the next generation to follow with courage, commitment, and a deep sense of responsibility to the country.

Let this ceremony stand as a tribute to the engineers who build not only structures, but the very foundation of a stronger, smarter, and more sustainable Sri Lanka

Eng. M.P.C. Kumara
Editor

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SPEECH OF THE CHIEF GUEST

HON. PRIME MINISTER, DR. HARINI AMARASURIYA

Thank you very much for inviting me as the chief guest for the IIESL membership award ceremony. I would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to all the new members who have just received their membership certificates. This membership is not just a recognition; it is a testament to your commitment to the engineering profession. Membership in a professional institution is very important, as one of the prime objectives of a professional institution is to uplift the members' professional competencies. Therefore, I am sure that the programmes and initiatives offered by this institution will undoubtedly propel you to new heights in your careers.

I am also thankful to Prof. Thoradeniya for enlightening me by her informative presentation. In fact, just this morning, we were discussing many of these issues at the Ministry of Education, and I think what she said drives home many points for us that we really need to consider in our policy-making endeavors. I am confident that we can do so in the years to come. I really hope that we can resolve some of these issues. These are really important issues, and I once again thank you for presenting them to me in such a comprehensive manner.

I understand that this institution has been established to safeguard the professional interests of the Incorporated Engineer, one of the professional groups in the global categorization of engineering practitioners, as we just learned, namely the Chartered Engineer, Incorporated Engineer, and Engineering Technician. The major focus of your institution is to establish due recognition for your members, as is the case with any such institution in any professional sector.

However, I am more aware today than I was before of the many challenges that you face, focusing specifically on the category of Incorporated Engineer. I have been aware of some of these problems because of the many students who have come to meet me to discuss these issues, and I agree with you, that many of these issues need quick solutions.

As a country, there are several issues that we face with regard to professional groups. While we have developed a public education system that has made education accessible to many, we have not yet been successful in transforming that education into career paths that enable people to flourish. We provide paper qualifications, but not all of these qualifications transform into opportunities for individual growth, contributing towards personal development and the development of society and our country.

While we have a primary responsibility to ensure that those coming out of, especially our public education system, are oriented towards serving their society, we also need to recognize that they are members of a global society. We must change and adapt accordingly, and make sure that the qualifications we provide enable all of our professionals to competitively face the global society. Our belief is that our human resources should be equally valued locally as well as globally.

We need to make sure that the educational qualifications we offer are accompanied by professional recognition, value, and career paths. I often meet gentlemen who have completed their degree, their diploma, and face challenges in moving on in their careers because they have not received proper accreditation, proper certification, or the degree has not been recognized globally or even locally. These are, I think, irresponsible decisions that have been made in the past, turning out paper qualifications but not really following through on whether they are able to attribute and make use of these qualifications.

When we introduce degrees or diplomas, or whatever we want to call them, I understand now that the distinction is becoming increasingly important. We need to think about whether, while we want to make these distinctions, in this changing world, how those students obtain placement and advice on job placement must also be planned.

As a government, we are committed to expanding opportunities, especially in technical education and industry linkage, and I believe that this has to start from schools. I am well aware that for several years, if not decades, we have fallen behind, and that problem remains unresolved. As a result, we have become more and more divided amongst ourselves, jealously guarding our own boundaries and not thinking holistically about how each one of us has a unique and important contribution to make.

As a government, we want to make sure that each category of professionals is valued, appreciated, and empowered to develop. We also want more collaborations, more holistic thinking, and the ability to think as a community of professionals contributing in our various capacities to the development of society.

We need to review the engineering programmes currently available in the country and plan how to ensure that they produce a range of professionals required for the country, and also that each of these programmes is recognized and valued equally. In this regard, I request that you discuss your proposals for the development of engineering practice, education, and research. We will take this presentation into account, and we ourselves are thinking about changes we can make. I urge you to think broadly, not just as engineering professionals but as members of society and as citizens.

As a country, we have an opportunity to transform our society into one that is more just, more developed, and more equitable. At this moment, each one of us has a responsibility to think not to stop at our own interests but at the best interests of the future of our country. The world is changing fast, particularly in terms of technology. We need to be prepared. We cannot be left behind. If we are to move forward, we must make use of the opportunities provided by the technological advances that the world is going through. To do so, we need qualified, ethical, and socially and environmentally responsible engineers of every category.

Once again, I thank you for inviting me to be the chief guest of this special ceremonial sitting. I extend my best wishes to the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka, and its members for your continued success and your efforts to advance the engineering profession. I look forward to working with you. I look forward to continuing this dialogue with you and hope that you will actively contribute to building a stronger future for our country.

CPD PROGRAMS

The Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL) is committed to developing the knowledge and skills of its members with cutting edge technologies. Therefore, the IIESL continued with its Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs and successfully conduct five programs, during the period from November 2024 to January 2025. All attendees were awarded certificates of participation, recognizing their commitment to continuous learning and professional growth. The program highlights are described below with the intention of drawing attention of the wider community

The IIESL would be appreciative to receive your feedback on the already conducted programs as well as about the CPD programs that would be useful for you. Further, you can contribute as resource persons by sharing your knowledge on latest technological development.

Program 1 - Advanced Cement Technology and Special Concrete Applications

This program was conducted on 02 November 2024 **a**t the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA), Colombo 7**.**

The session in progress

The session focused on key aspects of cement and concrete technology, covering a wide range of topics including types and composition of cement, key features, testing methods, and special applications of concrete. The program was designed to address the evolving needs of professionals in the construction industry and to strengthen their technical expertise in modern materials and practices.

The resource persons for the program, **Eng. Ruwan Geeganage,** Assistant General Manager - Technical Services, and **Eng. Chamara Saumyasiri**, Deputy Manager - Technical Services of UltraTech Cement Lanka Pvt Ltd., drew from their extensive industry experience, providing valuable insights into advanced cement technologies and practical applications of special concretes, enriching the participants' understanding and professional knowledge.

A section of the participants

Program 2 - Basic Air Conditioners, Inverter and VRF Systems

This CPD program was held in five virtual sessions on 20, 22, 25, 27 and 29 November, and a physical practical session conducted on 30 November 2024 at the auditorium of the Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa (ITUM).

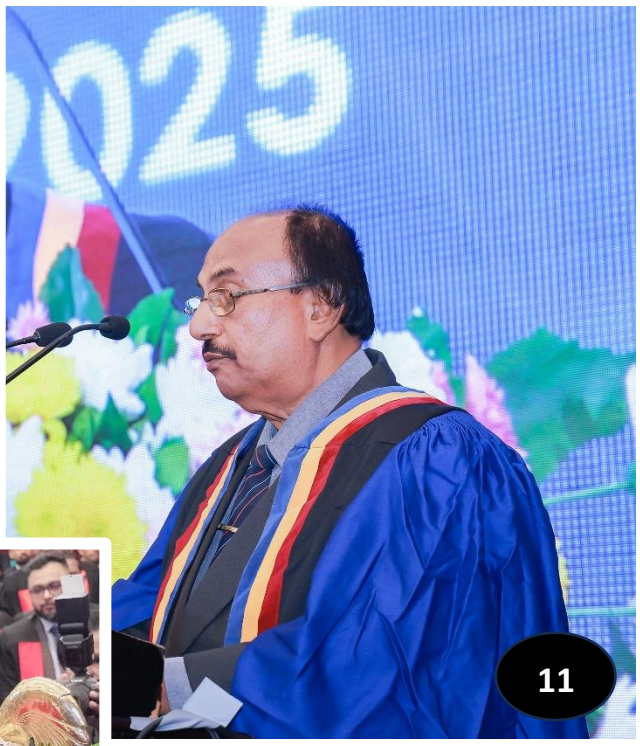
The program offered comprehensive coverage on key areas including safety procedures, refrigeration cycles, inverter technology, VRF design and installation, and hands-on practical training in installation, commissioning, troubleshooting, and maintenance of air conditioning systems. Special emphasis was given to both theoretical knowledge and practical skills required for modern HVAC systems.

The resource panel included **Mr. N.P. Gunathilake,** Instructor at Ceylon German Technical Training Institute and Refrigerant Driving License Trainer at UN Environment Programme, and **Eng. M. Preemal Kumara**, Senior Manager - HVAC, who together provided in-depth knowledge and practical insights into the evolving air conditioning technologies.

The practical session in progress

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEMBERSHIP AWARD CEREMONY 2025

1. Hon. PrimeMinister handing over a certificate
2. Hon. Janitha Ruwan Kodituwakku, Deputy Minister handing over a certificate
3. Address by Eng. Sampathbandara President, IIESL
4. Keynote speech by Eng. Prof. B. Thoradeniya (IPP)
5. Token of appreciation to Chief Guest
6. Token of appreciation to Guest of Honour



7 Welcome of the Chief Guest

8 & 9 Escorting the distinguished guests

10 Lighting the Oil Lamp

11. Vote of thanks by Eng. Upali Gunasekara
Chairman of the Membership Committee

12. Compere, Eng. Padmajith Jinadasa

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CPD PROGRAMS

Program 3 - Cybersecurity and Applications of AI

Recognizing the growing importance of digital security and emerging technologies, the IIESL conducted a CPD program titled "Discussion on Cyber Security and Applications of AI" **on** 23 November 2024 at the IIESL Auditorium.

The program provided an insightful overview of current trends in cyber security and examined the increasing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in enhancing cyber defense mechanisms. Topics covered included the fundamental principles of cyber security, AI-driven security applications, cross-industry uses of AI, and the ethical challenges arising at the intersection of AI and cybersecurity.

The resource person, **Mr. Sudintha Perera,** delivered a comprehensive and thought-provoking session, sharing his expertise on how AI is transforming cyber security and the broader implications for various industries.

The CPD program empowered participants to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by AI and cyber security, while also reinforcing the importance of ethical considerations in technology-driven innovation.

Program 3 in progress

Program 4 - Comprehensive Guidance to Fill Tax Returns

Fulfilling its role in promoting not only professional excellence but also responsible citizenship, the IIESL conducted this CPD program on 04 January 2025 at the IIESL Head Office Auditorium**.**

As part of its broader Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, this CPD was designed to educate both its members and the general public on the importance of tax compliance and the process of filing tax returns accurately and efficiently. The Inland Revenue Department's deadline for filing tax returns for 2023/24 presented a timely opportunity to provide much-needed support to taxpayers.

The session was led by **Mr. Indrajith Karunarathna**, a highly experienced Chartered Accountant and Authorized Tax Representative of the Inland Revenue Department. Drawing from his extensive professional background, he provided a step-by-step guide to filing tax returns, discussed key regulations, common mistakes, tax-saving tips, long-term financial planning strategies, and recent updates in tax laws and policies.

A significant feature of this session was the opportunity for participants to confidentially raise specific concerns and receive practical solutions to individual challenges. The program attracted wide participation from professionals and members of the general public, many of whom face increasing complexities in meeting their tax obligations.

Program 4 in progress

Program 5 - Drone Technology for Engineers

This program was conducted on 25 January 2025 **at the** SLIDA Auditorium, Colombo 7, and offered a comprehensive overview of modern drone technology and its practical applications in engineering. Key topics included remote sensing, photogrammetry, image acquisition, LiDAR technology, GNSS integration, camera calibration, and comparisons with traditional surveying methods. The sessions provided participants with both theoretical knowledge and practical insights into geo-spatial data acquisition techniques essential for efficient mapping and data analysis in engineering projects.

The resource panel consisted of experienced professionals in the field: **Mr. Nishshanka De Siva [MSI], Mr. Jeewan Suranga [MSI],** and **Mr. S.L. Witharana [ASI],** who shared their expertise on modern surveying and drone-based data acquisition technologies.

Through this program, IIESL once again demonstrated its commitment to equipping professionals with cutting-edge knowledge, ensuring they remain competent and competitive in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY 2025 - KEYNOTE SPEECH (EXCERPTS)

Eng. Prof. Bhadranie Thoradeniya, Immediate Past President, IIESL

I am deeply honoured to deliver the keynote address today and I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the organizing committee for bestowing this great opportunity upon me.

This presentation, titled **"Engineering Technology Education: Sri Lanka's challenges and possible solutions"** must be deliberated in depth among all relevant stakeholders. Today, due to limited time, we will have a glimpse at 3 important challenges, which need urgent and prioritized intervention of government authorities at the highest level to bring in solutions that are fair to all stakeholders.

First, let me provide a brief background to the well-known global configuration of human resources in the engineering sector. All employment positions in engineering enterprises, private or public, can be broadly categorized into three categories. Category 1, the Chartered Engineer pathway, Category 2, the Incorporated Engineer pathway, and Category 3, the Engineering Technician pathway. I used the term 'pathway' to denote that any practitioner will spend some time as an apprentice/trainee or as a junior practitioner before they can become fully-fledged professionals.

It is globally well accepted that the ratios of these three groups should be 1 Chartered Engineer: 4 Incorporated Engineers and 15-20 Engineering Technicians. In Sri Lanka, category 1 practitioners are produced by the state universities with 4-year Bachelor of Science Honours Degrees in Engineering. Category 2 practitioners are produced mainly by the state sector through the Engineering Diploma programs, such as the NDT by the University of Moratuwa, NDES by the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority, and HNDE, by the SLIATE. The IIESL is the professional body for graduates of these and similar programs. Category 3 practitioners are produced by state and private sector technical institutes through the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) system.

Challenge 1 – With this background in mind, let's look at the first challenge: "The Disproportionate annual intakes for the education and training programs for Category 1 and Category 2"."

Instead of the standard 1:4 ratio of practitioners between categories 1 and 2, in Sri Lanka, we have a ratio of 1:<1, resulting from the gradual increase in Category 1 intakes, while keeping Category 2 intakes almost stagnant for a long time.

This situation has led to the underemployment of Category 1 practitioners, which is a waste of state funds and other resources. At the same time, some enterprises use under-qualified people from category 3 or non-qualified people to serve in category 2 positions, lowering the quality of products and services. Therefore, urgent measures should be taken to ensure that the annual intakes are at the appropriate ratios.

Challenge 2 - The International Engineering Alliance (IEA), aiming towards international mobility, maintains three accords: Washington, Sydney, and Dublin for categories 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Currently, the signatories to the accords are 31, 13 and 9, respectively out of the 200+ countries of the world, but the IEA initiatives are supported by the World Federation of Engineering Organizations and UNESCO.

These accords specify the characteristics and standards of the educational programs as well as their required durations. It is usually expected that these education programs should be academic degrees under both the Washington and Sydney accords, even though it is not specified.

Let's look at the United Kingdom, which had a system change in the early 1990s. The UK had two major types of engineering qualifications until then: the 4-year Bachelor's degrees offered by the universities and the 3 + years Higher National Diploma offered by the polytechnics. Sri Lanka followed the same system, and a good example is the first Higher National Diploma program in engineering, which was brought from the UK in 1986. The UK changed this two-tier system into a three-tier system with two types of degrees in engineering, namely the Master's degrees of 4-year duration, and the Bachelor's degrees of 3-year duration, both offered by universities, as well as the Higher National Diplomas of 2 years or college courses, aligning with the three accords. Even though we had been following the UK education system, unfortunately, this change was never allowed in Sri Lanka, despite many attempts especially by the NDT students, at that time.

Therefore, the second challenge for Sri Lanka's system is the severe lack of recognition for category 2 qualifications due to the delay in re-naming the NDT, NDES and HNDE programs as general degrees at Level 5 of the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF) in line with global changes. I present 4 out of many repercussions of this challenge.

a) Rapidly declining interest in these diploma programs by the GCE (A/L) students qualified in the physical science stream, seriously deteriorating the input quality of the programs.

b) The vacancies for category 2 employment opportunities are now advertised with a degree as the required qualification instead of NDT, NDES and HNDE. This compels the diplomates to obtain top-up degrees from the local private institutions affiliated with overseas universities. These top-up degrees do not add any substantial knowledge or skills, but only a financial burden to the students and drain valuable foreign exchange unnecessarily as fees for the parent universities.

c) In the government and semi-government establishments, the Scheme of Recruitment (SoR) places employees depending on the name of the qualification. As such, the holders of these three diplomas and other IIESL-approved diploma qualifications are placed at much lower-level salary scales, deterring new diploma holders from public sector jobs. Finding a viable solution has been an unresolved constant battle between the managements of public enterprises and unions of diploma holders.

d) Use of the title of education qualification, such as degree and diploma, for recognition of engineering practitioners has been increasingly applied globally. As a result, many NDT, NDES and HNDE holders have lost their jobs in the Middle East to others with foreign qualifications named as degrees but with less content and knowledge. This directly impacts the social well-being of the affected Sri Lankans, their families, and communities, as well as the economy of our country.

Challenge 3 - To understand the 3rd challenge, let's first look at the recruitment and promotional prospects in the engineering establishments in Sri Lanka. Employment in category 1, is relatively well established and begins with the designation 'Engineer' and goes up to the highest positions of the establishment, such as Director General, General Manager.

In the public sector, category 2 usually begins with 'Technical Officer' or 'Engineering Assistant', while category 3 begins their careers as tradesmen. Only a very few practitioners from both categories 2 and 3 could secure 'Engineer' positions.

However, it is interesting to note the difference between the public and private sectors, especially for practitioners in the second and third categories. The private sector allows both category 2 and 3 practitioners to reach even the highest positions such as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or Directors, considering the individual's competence acquired through experience and depending on the mission and capacity of the organization. A closer look at this system, which has evolved over a few decades allows us to safely conclude that the public sector is more or less driven on 'paper qualifications' while the private sector is more flexible to drive on 'competence derived through experience'.

In Sri Lanka, the common belief is the upward mobility of category 2 is first to move laterally to category 1 through achieving education qualifications equivalent to category 1 and then pursuing career growth as category 1 practitioners. However, there are different perspectives around the world. For example, the Engineering Technology (ET) education of the USA established around 1945 shows the overlap of competencies developed within the two types of education programs, it also shows competencies that are unique to each category. Therefore, a potential alternative pathway for category 2 practitioners career growth is to pursue higher education qualifications in the competencies unique to them such as operation and maintenance, and production. However, locally, these opportunities are almost non-existent.

Therefore challenge 3 is that there should be dedicated post-graduate (PG) programs facilitating vertical career progression within category 2, while enhancing the available education paths which enables move to category 1. Direct entry to PG programs is currently not possible for category 2 practitioners as the title 'Diploma' is falsely identified at SLQF levels 3 and 4 instead of their due place in SLQF level 5. Here again, these diploma holders are compelled to follow top-up degrees.

Concluding remarks - The IIESL has had extensive deliberations for nearly 4 years with different parties and has proposed solutions to the former governments since 2022 in the form of policy statements with strategies for implementation. In summary, the major solutions proposed are:

1. To convert the nomenclature of Category 2 education programs of 3-to-4-year durations from "Diploma" to "Degree" at their due place at SLQF Level 5, and in line with the Sydney Accord and global practices.
2. Create the IIESL proposed integrated University as the awarding body of these SLQF level 5 degrees to the NDT, NDES and HNDE programs. This is a solution that can be implemented **quickly** and **without drastic changes** to existing programs and systems, at **almost no cost to the Government.** Further, it allows more institutions to award Category 2 qualifications, thus increasing the numbers in Category 2 to meet the ratio 1:4. For example, the Diplomas in Irrigation Engineering offered by the Irrigation Department and the Ministry.
3. Provision of higher education opportunities required, specially through the Open University of Sri Lanka.

In order to achieve all these solutions, we need to address the serious issue of lack of cohesion and non-representation of stakeholders in the decision-making process. Specially we request the inclusion of representation of IIESL in policy making and other important decision making in parallel to other professional Institutions.

Madam Prime Minister, I am genuinely happy and very hopeful that you as the Hon. Minister of Education could address these burning issues of the education frame in the engineering technology sector. You have personally experienced the Indian education system of affiliation of colleges and institutions to universities. Further, I strongly believe that your background in sociology will make you easily realize the social and economic impacts of the ineffective, patch-up solutions which were proposed for implementation during the recent past. Especially, we are disappointed about the high-ranking government officials who do not pay attention to the full issue.

What is needed is a wholistic sustainable solution through short and long-term goals. Innovative thinking, efficient collaborations and patience will hopefully bring a better tomorrow to all engineering practitioners of Sri Lanka.

EVOLUTION OF *inco* INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION & TRADE FAIR

By Eng. Shantha Senarath – Past President
Institution of Incorporated Engineers Sri Lanka (IIESL)

The Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL), incorporated by an Act of Parliament in 1977, has grown to a membership of over 10,000 worldwide by 2025. Its members serve in leading roles in engineering, construction, operations, maintenance, and infrastructure projects, both locally and internationally.

In the early 2000s, the Institution operated in the Hardy Centre in Ratmalana, where the Council frequently discussed the urgent need for a permanent head office. Funding constraints, however, delayed the achievement of this goal. At the same time, senior members felt that IIESL should launch its own industrial exhibition to promote local industries and raise funds, similar to the TECHNO Exhibition conducted by IESL, which was a hugely successful event in the industrial sector.

Birth of INCO

In 2002, a group of Past Presidents and senior members met privately to evaluate the proposal. They unanimously resolved to:

- Launch an annual industrial exhibition and trade fair.
- Name it INCO, derived from Incorporated Engineer.
- Couple the exhibition with a trade fair to attract the public.
- Conduct the first exhibition in June 2003 alongside IIESL's Silver Jubilee, under the presidency of Late Eng. Channa Muthukuda.
- Appoint Engineer Tissa Seneviratne as Chairman of the 1st INCO and to form an Organizing Committee.
- Secure BMICH as the venue, commence advertising after Council approval, and mobilize stall sales and sponsorships.

The Council of Management approved the proposal unanimously, assigning each member to find stalls. This marked the birth of what has since become IIESL's flagship event.

Vision of Inco

To be the most customer-focused Industrial Exhibition in South Asia.

Mission of Inco

(a) To create the largest and most diverse assembly of industrial sectors and to make it a fertile ground for players here and abroad.

(b) To innovatively display and actively promote appropriate and affordable state-of-the-art technology and services that would play a vital role in the development of the country.

(c) To nurture an environment that would be conducive for healthy interaction and networking amongst all the stakeholders.

Growth & Activities

Over time, INCO expanded beyond a trade exhibition to include seminars, lectures, and career guidance sessions for students and professionals, under Eng. Shantha Senarath's leadership, the Student Innovator Competition was launched in 2011, followed by Robotic and Skills Competitions. These activities nurtured creativity and guided students toward patenting their innovations, with winners receiving cash prizes and certificates.

The First INCO

The inaugural exhibition, held in 2003, attracted over 100 stallholders and was a significant success. The Opening Ceremony featured H.E. the President as Chief Guest, followed by senior ministers on subsequent days—a tradition that continues. ITN served as the principal media sponsor, providing live coverage and interviews, helping INCO gain island-wide recognition and motivating sponsors and stallholders to participate regularly.

Conclusion

For over two decades, INCO has been a premier platform for promoting local industries, technology transfer, and professional networking. It continues to project the IIESL name to the wider public while inspiring future generations of Incorporated Engineers.

INCO CHAIRMANS FROM THE INCEPTION

Year	Name
2003	Eng. Tissa Senevirathne
2004-2005	Eng. Thilak Malawaraarachchi
2006-2007	Eng. Shantha Senarath
2008-2010	Eng. Lankathilake
2011	Eng. Shantha Senarath
2012	Eng. Bandula Wimalasundara
2013	Eng. Senarath Rekogama
2014	Eng. Benedict Ulwishhewa
2015	Eng. Pani Kavikeshawa
2016	Eng. K. Ariyawansa
2017	Eng. C. Wanasinghe
2018	Eng. B.S. Perera
2023	Eng. Wimal Jayawardhne
2024	Eng. Senarath Rekogama
2025	Eng. K. Ariyawansa

PD ENGINEERING & ACADEMY

Powering Performance & Developing Professionals

Engineering

Design, Supply, installation and Maintenance of Engineering solutions Specialized for HVAC Industry. When it comes to the Trading - VRF (Variable Refrigerant Flow) spare parts attached the reputed brand in the worlds (DAIKIN, LG, SAMSUNG…) and accessories of HVAC systems (Copper Pipes, Insulations, Flexible Duct connectors, External drain pumps (ASPEN)…

Academy

HVAC DESIGN and Basic courses (Online & Practical session at reputed lab in the country).

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