

THE PROFESSIONAL

Spring 2012

Published by the Association of Professional Sri Lankans in the UK
UK Registered Charity Number 1145786

APSL in the last 365 days.....

As we step forward into the 9th year, it is with great pleasure that we celebrate our achievements and activities in the past year. During the last year, APSL achieved many milestones including a number of firsts. Our projects proceeded with tremendous energy and enthusiasm. In July 2011, APSL essay competition was successfully completed as part of the “**APSL awards scheme**”. The aim was to actively engage the country's younger generation and seek their ideas and stimulate the rapid development of Sri Lanka. The next advanced stage of the APSL awards scheme is currently being developed. In October 2011, the 2nd “**We Sri Lanka**” event was held in London, with the aim of fostering reconciliation among all Sri Lankans. “**Eastern Values**” aiming to educate the younger generation on Life in the UK and Sri Lankan Cultural Values continued with a number of successful events held at the Jethawana Buddhist Vihara in Birmingham. “**Employability**” project continues with the dedicated webpage in the APSL website, which was created to provide useful information such as vacancies and CVs of job seekers, advice, networking opportunities and web links to employers, recruitment agencies and employment platforms.

In November 2011, APSL organised the first APSL Research Symposium in London. A number of leading academics and researchers presented their work, thereby enhancing the APSL's contribution to showcasing Sri Lankan talent in research studies and promoting knowledge networking.

At the Special General Meeting of APSL on 28th January 2012, members unanimously approved the APSL becoming a charity and the application to obtain charity status was submitted. In February 2012, APSL was granted charity status by the Charity Commission of England and Wales (Registration No 1145786).

APSL has also been supporting individual member driven on-going projects such as ‘**Renewable Energy**’, ‘**Speech Therapy for Children**’, trilingual journal ‘**Gaveshana**’, the ‘**Mettha Foundation**’, ‘**Motivation Certificates & Prizes**’ for bright children and ‘**Sri Lanka Hospitals Project**’. On average, two main ‘knowledge dissemination’ events are held in UK and Sri Lanka every year. In addition to the above core projects APSL continued organising the popular ‘Ask the expert series’ and releasing publications under ‘Through the professional eye series’.

APSL has lined up another informative and exciting series of events and activities for the year 2012-13. Please visit our new look website www.apsl.org.uk for more details.

Rohan de Alwis (President)

Ranjan Perera (General Secretary)

8th Annual General Meeting & Dinner Dance

Saturday 12th May 2012

Grange City Hotel, 14 Cooper's Row, London EC3N 2BQ

Annual General Meeting

4.00 – 6.30 pm

Keynote speaker: Rt Hon Sir Desmond de Silva, PC, QC

Topic: “Sri Lanka after the war”

7.00- 7.20 pm

Followed by an address by His Excellency Dr Chris Nonis, Sri Lankan High Commissioner for the UK

Dinner Dance

Dinner will be served at 7.45 pm, followed by dancing until midnight...

Band: Suresh & The Breeze





There are many reasons to smile.

Free flights. Exclusive privileges. Priority check-in. Baggage bonuses.
In fact, anything that could make a frequent flyer grin with delight
is likely to be part of SriLankan Airlines' new frequent flyer programme,
FlySmiLes. Not smiling yet? Call us and you will be.

Contact us on +94 (0) 19733 3333 for more information.
www.flysmiles.com



FLY SMILES
Frequent flyer rewards

3rd APSL Convention APSL - Research Symposium (APSL-RS 2011)

Inaugural APSL Research Symposium (APSL-RS 2011) was held on Saturday 19th November 2011 at the Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London. APSL-RS 2011 provided a platform for UK based Sri Lankan Researchers at all levels to come together, share their knowledge and start effective collaborations. It was also an exciting opportunity for the delegates to learn about cutting-edge research and technologies. Since its launch, APSL-RS 2011 attracted significant interest from Sri Lankan Researchers around the UK. Following a comprehensive review process, 14 Papers were selected for oral presentations and posters giving attention to social and commercial benefits of the research projects.

During his welcome speech APSL President, Mr. Rohan de Alwis mentioned numerous projects and events organised by APSL for the Sri Lankan professional community in the UK and emphasised the importance of entrepreneurship and R&D projects developing into commercial products and services. Chief Guest, His Excellency Dr. Chris Nonis, Sri Lankan High Commissioner to the UK, shared his research experience in the UK as a young doctor and emphasised the importance of undertaking research which has significant potential to deliver social and commercial benefits in the future.

The symposium consisted of three sessions. Prof. I.M. Dharmadasa, Sheffield Hallam University chaired session one on science, engineering, built environment and IT research. Prof. Terrence Fernando, Director of Think Lab at University of Salford, delivered a keynote speech titled 'Are our traditional research approaches adequate for solving global challenges' commencing session one.



Session one presentation topics included 'Challenges for field robots in humanitarian demining', 'The role of higher education institutes in facilitating lifelong learning to improve disaster resilience of the built environment', 'reducing project delays in Sri Lankan condominium properties' and 'next generation solar cell development'.

Session one was followed by the coffee break and poster session which included posters titled 'Skin cancer molecular biology and genetics', 'Ethical dilemmas in mental health research among internally displaced people', 'Prevalence of common mental disorders and the association with resilience among internally displaced people' and 'Development of a Java2HTML Plug-in for the NetBeans IDE'.

Dr. Andrew Nayagam, Consultant in Genitourinary Medicine at Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust chaired session three on medical research. Prof. Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, Ex-President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists delivered a keynote speech titled 'Clinical governance to improve safety and quality of care' commencing session three. Session three presentation topics included 'Diagnostic tests to detect oral potentially malignant disorders', 'Associations between exposure to conflict, tsunami and mental disorders and school absenteeism among Sri Lankan children', 'Working with Médecins Sans Frontières – a Personal Experience', 'Haemodynamics, Toll-like Receptors and Macrophage Activation in Atherosclerosis', 'Function and regulation of the microtubule organising centre component during meiosis in Fission Yeast, *S.pombe*'. At the end of each presentation delegates had opportunity to ask questions and share their knowledge with the researchers.

Following conclusion of session three APSL President, Mr. Rohan de Alwis awarded certificates to presenters. Best paper award went to Dr. Shivanthi Samarasinghe from University of Leicester and best poster award went to Dr. Chesmal Siriwardhana from King's College, London.

APSL-RS 2011 Chair, Dr. Mahesh de Silva thanked the special guests, keynote speakers, presenters and delegates for their presence and contributions during his closing remarks and invited the delegates to join APSL to strengthen the association and expand its activities.

Dr. Mahesh de Silva

The Global Forum of Sri Lankan Scientists

The global forum of Sri Lankan Scientists met from the 13-15th December 2011 at Galadari Hotel, Colombo. The main aim of this event was to empower Sri Lanka through networking and knowledge sharing and this was the first time such an event had taken place in Sri Lanka. It was organised by the NSF (National Science Foundation) under the purview of the Ministry of Technology and Research in collaboration with UNESCO. Both local scientists and renowned Sri Lankan scientists based overseas were brought together to initiate new development projects and boost the productive capacity of Sri Lankan industry.

Over 300 participants including several Ministry Secretaries, High Commissioners and senior officers attended this landmark event on the 13th December. Hon. Ministers Prof. Tissa Vitharana and Mrs. Pavithra Wanniarachchi addressed the forum to explain its main aims and objectives. The representatives from UNESCO, the Chair of NSF - Prof. Sirimali Fernando and the Director of NSF - Dr. Sarath Abayawardana also gave an overview and expectations from the forum.



The rapid and sustainable development of Sri Lanka depends on implementation of new technologies for job and wealth creation. This requires input from both local and expatriate Sri Lankan scientists. The NSF had strategically selected seven key themes to discuss debate and brainstorm in order to strengthen existing collaborations, establish new links and aiding commercialisation. The seven themes selected were:

(i) Food & Water Security, (ii) Green Energy Technologies, (iii) Advanced Design & Manufacture, (iv) Natural Resources, (v) Nano-technology & nano-materials, (vi) Biotechnology and (vii) Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

This is only the first stage, but many more areas will emerge as this programme is established and progresses with the involvement of more scientists. Research into nano-technology & nanomaterials has already taken off, but all six of the other areas can have immediate impact to the social development and should initiate research, development and commercialisation projects. It was heartening to see the scientists, technologists and entrepreneurs gathering together around their chosen specialities. This is a very different conference; not just to talk and learn, but to put the heads together and do real business, to help develop Sri Lanka rapidly. This was a landmark event to attract contribution from Sri Lankan scientists for the rapid development of the country.

The three authors of this article attended the forum and introduced a new model they have designed to contribute to the development of Sri Lanka. Patriotic Sri Lankan professionals living in the UK have been getting together over the past seven years as APSL-UK (Association of professional Sri Lankans in the UK) and now the membership has exceeded 400 (www.apsl.org.uk). Although three of us attended this forum, we were representing these 400 professionals to the global forum. APSL is initiating development projects continuously and this idea has been well received by many participants. We are confident that our Sri Lankans abroad will come forward as APSL-US, APSL-Australia, APSL-New Zealand etc. to help our motherland to achieve her well deserved fully developed status.

This vision by the Ministry and the NSF was implemented and co-ordinated by Dr. Noble Jayasuriya and the team including Anusha Amarasinghe and Sujini Gamage. It is now our responsibility to take this effort forward from every front to create a bright future for Sri Lankan population. This is an open invitation to all Sri Lankan professionals to join the forum and contribute to this onerous but honourable task.

Prof. I M Dharmadasa (Immediate Past President, APSL-UK)

Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy (Former Director, Economic Affairs, Commonwealth Secretariat, UK)

Dr. Athula Sumathipala (Director of Institute of Research & Development, Sri Lanka)

International Conference on Information and Automation for Sustainability (ICIAfS)

ICIAfS was first established to provide an opportunity for South Asian Students and Sri Lankan academics in particular to network with their Global counterparts without having to travel too far to attend an international conference. Over the course of five years, ICIAfS has awarded students scholarships with full registration fee waiver. So far, scientists from more than 30 countries, including USA, Japan, UK, Australia, China, and Canada, have attended the conference. Many deserving students have used this opportunity to meet researchers in leading universities to establish long term academic relationships that have led to Fulbright scholarships for PhD studies. Not only Sri Lankan researchers, but also researchers from other countries, have set up collaborative links with international counterparts. Therefore, ICIAfS has become a leader in networking the developed world with their counterparts in the developing world to promote broader academic cooperation and collaboration on the topic of sustainable development through effective man-machine co-existence.



IEEE 6th ICIAfS in Beijing, China on 27, 28 & 29 September 2012

*Paper submission deadline extended
till 31st May 2012*

For more information, please visit the conference website <http://www.iciafs.org/>



Invitation to APSL members

APSL members can be in the organizing committee of the Dec, 2013 conference to be held in Sri Lanka. This will give them a good opportunity to network with Sri Lankans and colleagues from other continents. The Sri Lankan network around this conference is spread all over the World, and we celebrate and enjoy their diversity of expertise and views.

For more information please contact:

Dr. Thrishantha Nanayakkara
(thrish.antha@kcl.ac.uk).



Past Conferences

- 2005 – Colombo
- 2006 – Colombo
- 2007 – Melbourne
- 2008 – Colombo
- 2010 – Colombo

<http://www.iciafs.org/>

Invitation to contribute to the Newsletter

Members are warmly encouraged to contribute to the future issues of our Newsletter. Articles and messages contributing to the aims, mission, vision and strategic objective of APSL (please see the website home page), can be forwarded to APSL for consideration for publication in this newsletter. For more information, please contact Leslie Dep (w.dep@ntlworld.com) or Mohan Siriwardena (mohan.siriwardena@googlemail.com).

How to become a Member

1. Complete a membership form (available on our website (www.apsl.org.uk))
2. Get two members to countersign as proposer and seconder
3. Pay membership fees up-front or by Standing Order and send the application electronically to General Secretary (generalsecretary@apsl.org.uk)
4. Executive Committee will consider your application
5. Secretary will write to inform you of the decision / welcome you

Membership fees

Ordinary member - £15.00 per annum
Overseas member - £10.00 per annum
Life member - £150.00
Student (Fulltime) member - Free

How to pay membership fees

Electronic payment: HSBC Bank plc - Rickmansworth Branch.

Sort Code: 40-38-20; Account Number: 11444506; Account Name: ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SRI LANKANS IN THE UK (APSL). Please let our treasurer know about your payment (surajwijendra@yahoo.com)

Cheque: Please send a cheque drawn in favour of **APSL UK**, to our Treasurer, Mr. Suraj Wijendra, Treasurer, APSL, 41, Tudor Way, Mill End, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 8JA.

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS

FROM

HOPPER HUT CATERERS

(Specialists in authentic Sri Lankan foods)

Call Lakith for your next function 0208 997 8312 or
07956 344738





MAL-KEY RENT-A-CAR

SRI LANKA TOURIST BOARD APPROVED - ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFIED COMPANY



Turning miles in to smiles

58, PAMANKADA ROAD (OFF HAVELOCK ROAD), COLOMBO 06
TEL: +94-11-2365365 EMAIL: info@malkey.com www.malkey.com

TRICO

COMMERCIAL FREIGHT TO SRI LANKA

For personal effects and household goods : weekly sailing with 18 days transit to Colombo , your cargo travel faster with TRICO than with anyone else.

- Offer six days delivery and collection within M25 radius.
- Cut off day is Tuesday of every week for Thursday Loading, Sailing on Sunday (please count 18 days from the date of sailing)
- Bring your loose goods plenty of FREE car parking , pack your goods in our warehouse.
- from T/chest carton to large crates / full house contents collected pack and ship to arrive to suit your time scale.
- If you are emigrating , offer full in-house packing / loading into a containers, customs clearance and deliver to the house in Sri Lanka.

Try us and see the difference, with 30 years of experience servicing to the Sri Lankan community around the world, we know how important it is for you to get your goods in Sri Lanka when you want it not when we want it.

Vehicle shippers

You cannot afford not to try Trico, see below the benefits.

- You can deliver your vehicles to our yard until 11-12 pm in the night, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK , 24 hours security.
- BV INSPECTION arrange at our yard.
- Arrange POLICE Clearance for your vehicles, you can have a peace of mind before you ship it, that your vehicle does not have pending fiancé / not stolen or meddle with it. That will save your money if you have to bring it back.
- Your vehicles will be loaded by our own professional staff.
- Advice on LC opening and preparing of LC documents, within the time limit.
- Your importer deal direct with Trico Colombo no other third party.
- OFFER COMPETITIVE PRICE , You get invoice as per our quotation , without any additions.
- Friendly , professional and helpful staff at the end of the phone six days a week to serve you
- Weekly sailing to Colombo (Loading Thursday and Friday)



Offer vehicle and machinery shipping from Ireland.

IF YOU HAVE A VAT REGISTERED BUSINESS IN THE UK INVOLVE WITH EXPORT OF VEHICLES / MACHINERY TO SRI LANKA, SHIP THROUGH TRICO IF YOU WANT TO CLAIM YOUR VAT BACK.

At Trico we are not just doing only shipping, We go extra mile to offer professional service to our customers, where they can be rest assured that their vehicles travel safer and faster to Sri Lanka.

TRY US YOU WILL NOT REGRET

CALL US NOW OR EMAIL US WITH DIMENSIONS.

020 8888 8787

TRICO - THE NAME TRUSTED BY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD FOR OVER 30 YEARS
HAPPY CUSTOMERS COME BACK TO US TIME AFTER TIME BECAUSE WE PUT THE NEEDS OF THE CUSTOMERS FIRST.

Trico Freight UK Ltd
555 White Hart Lane, London N17 7RP
Fax: 020 8889 5445

E-MAIL : info@tricofreight.co.uk



ELEGANT *travels*

because we know you're different...

WE ALSO TRADE AS



Quote: "APSL" when calling us

SRI LANKA

Flights, Holidays & Tours to Sri Lanka and Worldwide

Tailor Made Tours

Holidays

Flights

Corporate Travel

Monthly invoicing | Account Manager
Secretarial Travel Service, & More..



Reservations Call:

0208 819 8909

0208 099 9651

Email: info@eleganttravels.co.uk

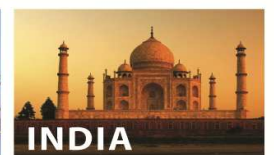
Website: www.eleganttravels.co.uk

Quote: 'APSL' when calling us

FLIGHTS TO COLOMBO & WORLDWIDE



HOLIDAYS & TOURS



Office

Elegant Travels Ltd, Conbar House,
Mead Lane, Hertford, SG13 7AP.

