CSSL

Historic Achievements

National IT Conference

National IT Conference (NITC) was started by Computer Society of Sri Lanka in 1982, and has run for 37 years (as at 2019) continuously as an annual conference. It is the only national IT conference in the world to run uninterruptedly for that long.

NITCs have seen Head of the State attending it as the Chief Guest in some years. For example, in 2015 and 2018, Maithripala Sirisena graced the occasion of NITC Inauguration as its Chief Guest.

Sri Lanka's Biggest Ever International ICT Event was held in Sri Lanka in 2017.

This was the IFIP General Assembly, National IT Conference and other associated events that held in September 2017, organised by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka.

This was the first (and last to date) time where an IFIP (International Federation for Information Processing) General Assembly was held in Sri Lanka. This resulted in representatives from about 50 countries come to Sri Lanka.

The event had other components such as the Nation al IT Conference (IT) in partnership with SEARCC Conference, International ICT Gala Dinner, CSSL Awards, SEARCC International Awards, International Schools Software Competition, International Schools Software Competition Awards, IP3 Board Meeting, and SEARCC ExCO Meeting.

These events spanned through 6 days from 10th to 15th September 2017.

Sri Lanka's Biggest Ever International ICT Event was built around National IT Conference (NITC), hence is a crowning moment for NITC as well.

CSSL President at the time of this historic achievement was Yasas Vishuddhi Abeywickrama. He garnered local and international support to host an event of this stature, that Sri Lanka had never seen before.

https://www.cssl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/18JanFeb.pdf

https://www.ifipnews.org/cssl-predicting-sri-lankas-biggest-ever-ict-event-nitcsearccifip-event/

https://www.ifipnews.org/searcc-cssl-ict-event-sri-lanka-2017/

http://www.ft.lk/it-telecom-tech/IFIP-President-to-open-Sri-Lanka-s-biggest-ever-ICT-Conference/50-639400

http://www.dailynews.lk/2017/08/11/business/124813/cssl-host-sri-lanka%E2%80%99s-biggest-ever-ict-event

Launching of Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct for Sri Lankan IT professionals (2018)

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) launched its Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct in 2018 with an intention to formalise the process among its members and professionals in the Information Technology (IT) sector.

The CSSL President Yasas V. Abeywickrama believed that the launch was an important milestone for the entire industry and the launch is indeed a much-needed intervention in time for the future of IT professionals of the country. "With these codes, now the IT industry in Sri Lanka has a comprehensive professional framework in place. This should ensure high level of professionalism in our industry" said CSSL President Yasas V. Abeywickrama during the launch.

CSSL's Code of Conduct bounds itself to rules that are within the core values of the Society's Code of Ethics. These include professionalism, professional development, added value to Sri Lanka, Honesty and Competence.

The keynote address for the launch was Dr Prathiba Mahanamahewa a senior lecturer on Commercial Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. "The launch of the CSSL Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct is a great start for us. While there is no mandatory national policy for the industry just as yet, this framework will set the groundwork towards protecting the industry and the people directly or indirectly involved in the industry, especially the future recruits. The CSSL Codes are very much on par with many other international Codes of Ethics and Conduct and we appreciate the significant effort of CSSL to develop this framework" said Dr Prathiba Mahanamahewa. Through the launch of CSSL's Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct, the Society not only has contributed to the industry by fulfilling a needed requirement but will also hopefully inspire similar professional societies in both the industry and otherwise to also take into consideration the importance of the launch and thereby start similar initiatives on their own. CSSL President further added that his organisation has a rich history of over four decades and this strong comprehensive professional framework is an evolution of the work the organisation has done over a long period of time and establishing this framework is one of the golden historical achievements of CSSL as well as of the entire IT industry in Sri Lanka.

The launch event was attended by CSSL Past Presidents, Members and industry and academia representatives including UCSC Director Professor K P Hewagamage and FITIS Chairman Dr Kithsiri Manchanayake.

https://www.cssl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/CSSL-Code-of-Ethics_and-Code_of-Conduct.pdf

https://www.ifipnews.org/cssl-launches-code-ethics-code-conduct/

https://www.cssl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/18MarApr.pdf

CSSL President at the time of this historic achievement was Yasas Vishuddhi Abeywickrama. He worked with the industry and academia, providing strong leadership to ensure these important standards were implemented for the Sri Lankan ICT industry.

Induction of Sri Lanka into Seoul Accord as a provisional member by uplifting CSSL degree Accreditation processes to global standards (2018)

On 23rd of June 2018, CSSL was inducted into Seoul Accord as a Provisional Member, at the Seoul Accord Meeting in Cambridge, UK. This is a historic moment for CSSL, IT higher education and Sri Lanka at large. Through the hard work of many individuals over many years of laying the foundation for degree accreditation, the CSSL was inducted into the global standard of computing degree accreditation. This opened up a new chapter in seeing computing degrees in Sri Lanka getting accredited at global levels of the standard by CSSL, a prestigious and an important phase in shaping the higher education sector in Sri Lanka over the coming few years.

There are many many academics and professionals who supported and contributed in this mammoth effort that spanned over three years.

The CSSL recognizes Professor Gihan Dias' leadership as CSSL Accreditation Board Chair since its inception in 2017 and driving it so well ensuring all angles are looked into. Prof Dias represented Sri Lanka at the Cambridge meeting that we were accepted into the accord.

Dr Malitha Wijesundara gave leadership to this project on behalf of CSSL ExCo, Dr Dayan Rajapakse under his Presidency initiated this project with long foresight and continues to contribute towards its success, Prof Indra Dayawansa ensured our processes are documented to global standards, and all accreditation board members for their many hours of contribution in shaping this up. The CSSL President of 2017 and 2018 Yasas V. Abeywickrama continued providing leadership for this initiative until Sri Lanka was formally inducted to Seoul Accord in June 2018.

The CSSL ExCo has been supportive of this initiative and was willing to do the financial and non-financial investment that it takes, by understanding the long-term benefits that CSSL, academia and Sri Lanka as a country would reap from this effort. The CSSL staff should be thanked for their support.

From a long-term perspective, being inducted to Seoul Accord by accepting our degree accreditation standards is a historic moment in the rich history of 44 years (as at 2020) of CSSL.

https://www.cssl.lk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/18May.pdf

Yasas Vishuddhi Abeywickrama – CSSL President (2017 and 2018)

Yasas Vishuddhi Abeywickrama was the President of CSSL from November 2016 to December 2018, for two years. He was the youngest CSSL President to serve this prestigious organization. The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) is the nation's association that represents all ICT Professionals.

As CSSL President, Yasas gave leadership to many historic milestones including organizing Sri Lanka's Biggest Ever International ICT Event around IFIP General Assembly that was held in Sri Lanka in 2017, launching of Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct for Sri Lankan IT professionals and induction of Sri Lanka into Seoul Accord by uplifting CSSL degree Accreditation processes to global standards.

CSSL Tech Talks and Little Drops of Water are CSSL brand properties initiated during Yasas' Presidency. During this time, the CSSL recruited over 2000 IT students as student members, increased member engagement and the organisation became an active and vocal vibrant outfit.

Strong international relationships and broad local relevance was the hallmark of his leadership for CSSL.

He is a long long standing active member of CSSL, and was a Council Member, Publications Secretary, Secretary and Vice President before becoming the President. He was on the CSSL Executive Council for 8 years continuously before stepping down in December 2019 after serving for one year as the Immediate Past President.