



Shaping the future of ICT professionals



Newsletter  
March 2017



# CSSL President's Column



As you know, we have announced that CSSL will be organising Sri Lanka's Biggest Ever International ICT event in September this year. This is the National IT Conference combined with regional SEARCC Conference and also international General Assembly of IFIP. South East Asian Computer Confederation (SEARCC) and International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) will be our key partners at this event platform. It's a pleasure to note that our members have come forward to help us in organising this important event for our country.

Technical knowledge sharing events of CSSL are now branded as CSSL Tech Talks. The first of these for the year was organized earlier in February on Strategies of a World-Class Security Operations Center (SOC) on the 16th February 2017 at the OPA Auditorium. The next is an awareness program on Business Continuity Management for banking community on 13th March, from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at the Hotel Taj. The participation is by invitation only as it's targeted towards Banking sector CIOs.

The first CIO Forum for 2017 ran on 1st of March jointly hosted by Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) and Federation of Information Technology Industry Sri Lanka (FITIS) on Information Management - Navigating through the world of Data Chaos at the Kingsbury Hotel. Ninehearts (pvt) Ltd was the sponsor where CIOs were invited for the forum.

The CSSL was appointed last year by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to accredit new ICT degrees developed by the state universities for Technology stream students. We are now taking it one step further to standardize

our accreditation process under the Seoul Accord to meet global standards. This is a long term process however we are happy to inform you that the first submission for that has happened and that we have entered into the process.

Student membership development program is progressing well. We launched a major initiative in January to broaden our student membership. With this, now we are working with many government and private sector universities to bring on board all their students. If you are from an academic institution, please get in touch with us to discuss the ways of making your students, student members of the ICT professional association, the CSSL. Having all our ICT students as our student members is important, so that they progress into CSSL professional membership later. I hope this important strategic move will have a long lasting impact on CSSL's strength.

CSSL is a member organization. Our strength is in our membership. So I would like to remind you to renew your membership for 2017 if you haven't already done so, and also refer your colleagues to become CSSL members. I look forward to meeting you at our future events, and you can get in touch with us at [membership@cssl.lk](mailto:membership@cssl.lk).

Thank you.

**Yasas Vishuddhi Abeywickrama**

President

Computer Society of Sri Lanka

275/75, Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha,  
Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

# Challenges of teaching ICT in schools



ICT or Computer Science is presently a key subject taught in the school curriculum in Sri Lanka. In the past, emphasis was given to using ICT as a tool in teaching other core subjects such as Science, Mathematics, and English rather than teaching ICT or Computer Science as a comprehensive subject in schools.

Teaching ICT or Computer Science as part of the school curriculum has become a challenging task for teachers due to several reasons.

Fast evolving technology and the need to upgrade the latest knowledge and skills is a key issue. Although, being up-to-date is a requirement in any professional field, ICT teachers find it difficult to spend time acquiring

latest knowledge at the rate in which ICT is moving into the future. Young kids share knowledge among peers, do experiments and learn. Therefore young kids appear to be smarter than the teacher at times. Teachers can encourage peer learning by providing initial guidance, showing reliable resources, and encouraging research and practical activities. Students' findings can be shared and discussed at classroom sessions.

Changing curriculum is a key requirement that keeps the subject abreast with modern technology. I recommend changing the ICT curriculum every four years. Removing outdated topics and including newer areas is a must to make the subject content effective and

useful. Changing curriculum means upgrading text books, syllabi, schemes of work, and examination paper structures, and retraining teachers. This process will keep curriculum designers busy full-time as it is an on-going project. They can learn from International Educational Bodies which regularly upgrade curricula. It is more effective to include practical aspects in the curriculum and test theory topics through practical-oriented questions rather than getting children to write memorized answers or simply testing plain theory.

Teaching methods should also be changed to support the curriculum. Lack of availability of teacher training opportunities is a problem faced by ICT teachers island-wide. Relevant authorities should organise seminars, setup online forums, and allow teachers to take time off to participate in training sessions.

Lack of sufficient, functioning hardware and licensed software in school laboratories is another issue. It is often reported that computer lab facilities are not adequate due to hardware failures or software malfunctions. In order to ensure a long life-span for computers and to keep them available at all times, computers should be maintained regularly. Therefore, employing a lab technician is worth considering and justifiable.

In early 1980s, when Computer Science was available as a course for the first time in Sri Lanka, it was not meant for everybody who wished to learn computer science. Applicants had to face an aptitude test followed by a rigorous interview or viva. Presently, the only criteria needed is the applicant's interest because there is a variety of avenues through ICT and Computer Science that one can follow. Some educational institutes provide guidance when selecting courses according to the applicant's skills and interests, but this is not feasible in a school because the school curriculum should teach the fundamentals of most of the different avenues. For an example,

the Advance Level curriculum should consist of programming, databases, interface design, multi-media, networks, web developing, and the list continues. This is where teachers face the biggest challenge: teaching a class of nearly 35 students with different skills, interests, and learning abilities. Sometimes, to make things worse, teachers have to teach in an environment with the constraints mentioned above.

Learning ICT and Computer Science as a subject does not merely increase students' computer literacy. Students are taught to develop computer systems for other people to use. Computational thinking, algorithmic design, logical reasoning, problem analysis and decomposing, presentations, documentation and programming are fundamental skills that students require to be successful in this field. Children need to learn and improve these skills, should they be successful in the ICT or computer science profession. Parents should clearly understand that a child's competency in using a computer and the ability to perform well in the Computer Science subject are two different aspects. Parents may consult the ICT teacher if the child does not produce satisfactory grades.

Finally, I would like to mention inherent problems that spring up as a result of the frequent use of computers including physical and mental health problems, social issues, and addiction to computer games. It is the responsibility of ICT teachers to educate and convince students and parents about the possible dangers of using social media, health and ergonomic problems of prolonged use of computers and methods of avoiding them, and the importance of outdoor activities. These topics can also be included in the curriculum from the primary school.

**Manel De Silva MCSSL**

Member -

Computer Society of Sri Lanka

275/75, Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha  
Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

*Sri Lanka's*  
**BIGGEST - EVER**  
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In 2017, CSSL will organize SEARCC  
Conference 2017 in Partnership with NITC  
in conjunction with IFIP General Assembly.

A UNIQUE  
**National,  
Regional and  
International blend ...**



# BE A PART OF *Sri Lanka's* BIGGEST - EVER International ICT EVENT 2017

Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) is the Sri Lankan representative on International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP). IFIP is the leading multinational organization in ICT which is recognized by United Nations and other world bodies. IFIP has the representation of ICT Societies from 56 countries/regions, covering five continents with a total membership of over half a million. It links more than 3500 scientists from Academia & Industry. (<http://ifip.org>)

Sri Lanka proposed to IFIP that its' annual General Assembly meeting be held in Sri Lanka in September 2017 and at the recently concluded 2016 General Assembly in Costa Rica, they decided to offer this opportunity to Sri Lanka.

This meeting requires IFIP General Assembly members to come to Sri Lanka and it is expected that about 60+ foreign individuals will come for the meeting. There will be additional people as their families may also with come them. Nearly 40 countries will be represented at this meeting. This is a great opportunity for Sri Lankan Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector to connect with the world. It is also an opportunity for Sri

In 2017, CSSL will organize SEARCC Conference 2017 in Partnership with NITC in conjunction with IFIP General Assembly.

Lanka from a tourism perspective to showcase ourselves to the world.

We are planning to host this meeting, in parallel to the National IT Conference (NITC) that CSSL organises every year. Therefore, visiting foreign delegates would speak at the conference, transferring immense knowledge to our industry and its professionals. NITC also has a regional partnership this year with SEARCC (South East Asian Regional Computer Confederation - <http://www.searcc.org>), and will be launched as SEARCC Conference 2017 in Partnership with NITC.

**"This has created a unique National, Regional and International blend."**

An event of this magnitude with such broad international participation has not occurred in Sri Lanka in the recent past in relation to the ICT sector. So, we truly believe that this is a golden opportunity for ICT industry and the country at large.

# SEARCC CONFERENCE 2017 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NITC IN CONJUNCTION WITH IFIP GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Product brochures in Conference Kit

- IFIP General Assembly Main Sponsor - USD 15,000
- SEARCC Executive Meeting Main Sponsor - USD 15,000
- Professional Partner - USD 15,000

# SEARCC CONFERENCE 2017 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NITC IN CONJUNCTION WITH IFIP GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<b>Monday (11-Sep)</b>	<b>Tuesday (12-Sep)</b>	<b>Wednesday (13-Sep)</b>	<b>Thursday (14-Sep)</b>	<b>Friday (15-Sep)</b>
IFIP Executive Committee Meeting - 9am to 4pm - Galadari Hotel	IFIP General Assembly Meeting - 9am to 5pm - Galadari Hotel	IFIP General Assembly Meeting - 9am to 5pm - Galadari Hotel	SEARCC Conference in partnership with NITC - Day 1 - 9am to 5 pm - Galadari Hotel	SEARCC Conference in partnership with NITC - Day 2 - 9am to 5 pm - Galadari Hotel
SEARCC ExCo Meeting 9am to 4pm - Galadari Hotel				
IFIP Committee Meeting - 9am to 4pm - Galadari Hotel				
IFIP Committee Meeting - 9am to 4pm - Galadari Hotel				
Dinner - Hosted by SEARCC - Venue TBD	GA Dinner Hosted by CSSL - Venue TBD	International ICT Gala Dinner (Includes International ICT Networking Dinner, Inauguration of SEARCC Conference in partnership with NITC, CSSL ICT Awards, CSSL Fellow Presentation, Sri Lankan Cultural show) - 6pm to 10 pm - Galadari Hotel		
Secretariat at Galadari	Secretariat at Galadari	Secretariat at Galadari	Secretariat at Galadari	Secretariat at Galadari
VIP Room for Meetings - Galadari Hotel	VIP Room for Meetings - Galadari Hotel	VIP Room for Meetings - Galadari Hotel	VIP Room for Meetings - Galadari Hotel	VIP Room for Meetings - Galadari Hotel



# Call For Papers NITC 2017

**EXTENDED TILL  
APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**35<sup>th</sup> National Information Technology  
Conference in partnership with SEARCC  
towards digital prosperity  
14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The 35<sup>th</sup> National Information Technology Conference (NITC 2017) in partnership with South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation (SEARCC) themed **"Towards Digital Prosperity"** organized by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Galadari Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka. This key annual Information and Communication Technology Conference is intended to provide a forum for industry practitioners and academia, to keep up to date with current technology trends, interact with industry experts and network with peers. CSSL is pleased to invite papers from the authors to be presented at the conference. The conference will engage in a dialogue that examines a broad range of topics with the spirit of its theme. The papers shall be submitted in the following area but not limited to the suggested list below;

- Adaptive security
- Agile Software Development
- Artificial Intelligence
- Big Data and Analytics
- Blockchain based Technologies
- Broadband for Digital Prosperity
- Business Process Re-engineering
- Child Safety and Security
- Cloud Computing and Cloud Security
- Computer Forensics
- Deep Learning
- DevOps
- Digital Cities
- Digital Ecosystems
- Digital inclusion of differently abled
- Digital Twin
- E - Education
- E-Healthcare and Health Informatics
- Energy Harvesting
- Entrepreneurship in the ICT sector
- E-Tourism
- FinTech
- Green IT
- Human Computer Interaction
- ICT Capacity Building
- Information Security
- IOT / IOE
- IT Governance and Assurance
- ML (Machine Learning)
- Mobile App Disruption
- NLU (Natural Language Understanding)
- Open Source for Digital Inclusion
- OTT Broadcasting
- Professionalism in ICT
- Public Service Innovation through ICT
- Quality Assurance
- Robotic Process Automation (RPA)
- Sensor Fusion
- Service Availability Management
- Smart Payments
- Social Networks and Communities
- Software Defined Infrastructure
- Vehicle to Vehicle communication
- Virtual & Augmented Reality

All submitted papers will be peer reviewed by a highly qualified panel of reviewers. Accepted papers will be published in the printed copy and the CD versions of the proceedings. The proceedings will also be published in the web for full open access. The authors are requested to submit paper abstracts not exceeding Six hundred (600) words of their original and unpublished work along with a short biography of the author/s and their contact details.

<b>Submission of paper abstract</b>	<b>01<sup>st</sup> March 2017</b>
<b>Notification of Acceptance of abstract</b>	<b>03<sup>rd</sup> April 2017</b>
<b>Submission of Full Paper</b>	<b>02<sup>nd</sup> May 2017</b>
<b>Notification of feedback</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> May 2017</b>
<b>Submission of Camera-ready copy</b>	<b>02<sup>nd</sup> June 2017</b>

The author guidelines will be available at [www.cssl.lk](http://www.cssl.lk)  
 Authors are requested to send paper abstracts via [info@cssl.lk](mailto:info@cssl.lk)



# Invitation for National Conference on “Consumer Rights in the Digital Age” 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Neleum Pokuna

The Ministry of Industry & Commerce together with the Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure is organizing a National Conference and workshop to mark the Consumer Rights Day with the active participation of the ICTA and the Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA). The objective of this event is to establish a dialog between key stakeholders on consumer rights, who are facilitating policy recommendations to improve consumer rights in the digital era. This, being CAA's most exciting event of the year will be attended by many local and foreign dignitaries including H.E the President of Sri Lanka.

The significance of this event demands the active participation of your members to obtain exposure to the current context of consumer rights of the digital consumer.



Registration Link - <https://goo.gl/6zAWT2>





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# Strategies of a World-Class Security Operations Center (SOC)

**CSSTech TALK**

## STRATEGIES OF A WORLD-CLASS SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC)

A Security Operations Center (SOC) is a concept organised with skilled teams whose mission is to continuously monitor and improve an organization's security posture while preventing, detecting, analyzing, and responding to cyber security incidents with the aid of both technology and well-defined processes and procedures. This presentation will show you how to develop the organization, infrastructure, and capabilities to protect your company and your customers' information effectively, efficiently, and discreetly within a SOC framework.

**Speaker Profile**

**Wasantha Perera**

Wasantha is an experienced cyber security technologist, trainer and a researcher with more than 14 years of experience. He is the Chief Executive Officer at CyberShield, Security Consultant for Colombo Stock Exchange and District Advisory Council Member for SOC (The International Information System Security Certification Consortium). He is the former Head of Information Security & Compliance at Colombo Stock Exchange and served various institutions including Millennium IT, Anurad and MAG Holdings during his career. He earned bachelors and masters degrees from University of Moratuwa and holding multiple Information Security credentials and certifications.

**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017 @ 5.30pm**

**Free for CSSL members and Rs. 500 for others followed by a Networking session**

**OPA Odiumm, 275/75, Prof. Stanley Wijesundera Mawatha, Colombo 07**

**CSSTech**  
COMPUTER SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

To confirm participation latest by **Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

By email to [membership@csst.lk](mailto:membership@csst.lk) by telephone number 011 4 71 3290





# Kodak Alaris and Ninehearts sponsor the 4<sup>th</sup> CIO Forum on Information Management



Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) and Federation of Information Technology Industry Sri Lanka (FITIS) jointly hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> CIO Forum on the important topic of “Information Management”. Kodak Alaris along with their local partner, Ninehearts Imaging, have stepped up to sponsor the event.

Information management concerns a cycle of organizational activity including acquisition, processing, storage and distribution of information. The challenges that organizations face today ranges across the spectrum; from capturing the chaos of multiple information sources such as email, paper, social media feeds, mobile messaging apps, etc., to processing and deriving meaningful information, to ensuring that it is viewed and addressed by the right personnel within an



acceptable timeframe. By 2020, there will be enough data created each year to fill 11 trillion DVDs, with 90% of it being unstructured. The struggle among businesses to extract meaningful information from this data is universal.

The 4<sup>th</sup> CIO forum addressed the challenges of information management and discuss the possible solutions to tackle this scenario in the future.

The CIO Forum is a platform for CIO's (or Head' of IT) and relevant CXO's to deliberate these issues and offer insights with the help of expert practitioners. This dialogue

highlighted innovations and disruptions taking place in business and elucidate how these trends will shape the future. The CIO Forum is also a great networking platform for the CIO community and industry experts.

The 4th CIO forum held on Wednesday, 01st March, 2017, at the Kingsbury Hotel, Colombo.







We seek  
Excellence in ICT

# ICT AWARDS 2017

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) is the premier organization dedicated to promoting and improving professional standards in the Information and Communication Technology sector since 1976.

The annual CSSL ICT AWARDS has been organized for the fifth consecutive year in order to encourage, recognize and celebrate the excellence in ICT practice by rewarding the best and the finest of ICT professionals.

Visit [www.cssl.lk](http://www.cssl.lk) for more information on nominations/application procedure  
Applications/Nominations close on  
**30<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

### The CSSL calls for Applications/Nominations for

- CSSL ICT Leader of the Year
- CSSL Female ICT Leader of the Year
- CSSL Emerging ICT Leader of the Year
- CSSL CIO of the Year
- CSSL ICT Educator of the Year
- CSSL ICT Researcher of the Year
- CSSL Best Start-Up of the Year
- CSSL ICT Student Award - Undergraduate Category
- CSSL ICT Student Award - School Category



Shaping the future of ICT professionals

#### Professional Centre

No. 275/75, Stanley Wijesundara Mw, Colombo 07.

Web: [www.cssl.lk](http://www.cssl.lk)

Email: [info@cssl.lk](mailto:info@cssl.lk)

Tel: +94 11 2592762

# ICTA Stakeholder Meeting

ICT Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) organised a stakeholder meeting with the participation of CSSL, SLASSCOM, FITIS and BCS Sri Lanka as a strategic planning session. The session was attended by key stakeholders of the ICT industry of Sri Lanka. ICTA was represented by a group including ICTA Chairperson Chithranganie Mubarak, ICTA CEO Muhunthan Canagey. The session was facilitated by Professor Laith Gamage. Below are some of the questions that the industry stakeholders took into consideration.

1. What are the trends and where is the world moving to?
2. Where do we want to see the ICT Industry in 2020?
3. Compared to where we want be, where are we now?
4. What are the challenges foreseen to get there?
5. Who and what are we dependent of?

The CSSL was represented at the strategic planning session by the President Yasas V. Abeywickrama.







**Rohan De Silva** MCS (SL)  
Senior Network Engineer

**CSSL** Professional  
Member

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Web: [www.comsociety.lk](http://www.comsociety.lk)

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in Sri Lanka.**

## ISO/IEC 27001:2013 based ISMS Lead Implementer Training Course

### Course Introduction

This four-day intensive course enables the participants to develop the expertise necessary to support an organization in implementing and managing an Information Security Management System (ISMS) based on ISO/IEC 27001. Participants will also be given a thorough grounding in best practices used to implement Information Security controls from all areas of ISO 27002. This training is consistent with the project management practices established in ISO 10006 (Quality Management Systems - Guidelines for Quality Management in Projects). This training is also fully compatible with ISO 27003 (Guidelines for the Implementation of an ISMS), ISO 27004 (Measurement of Information Security) and ISO 27005 (Risk Management in Information Security) and ISO 31000 ERM standard.

### Course Facilitator: Mr. Noel Fernandes

(MCA (Master of Computer Application), M.Sc (Master of Science - Applied Medical Sciences), B.Sc. (Microbiology and Biochemistry) Professional Qualifications & Certifications: GNIIT (Diploma in Systems Management), Information Security and Ethical Hacking, Cloud Computing, ITIL, QMS (Philip Crosby), QMS (Dr. Nigel Croft), Documenting Software Requirements, ARIS (Singapore)). Mr. Noel is a well experience trainer in ISO standards attached to TUV-SUD Academy, India. His professional career spans over a decade including his services in IT Sector for approx 5 years and around 10 years in the field of Quality, Management Systems, Training and Audits.

He currently is a Senior Manager (Content Management and Training) in the Business Unit of Academy in TUV SUD South Asia. Formerly he held positions of Manager (IT Trainings and Consulting), Project Manager (IT), IT Support Executive, Executive Assistant to CEO and a Software Developer. Presently he attaches to the TUV-SUD Academy division conducting trainings and responsible for the Content Development and Management.

### Who should attend?

- Project managers or consultants wanting to prepare and to support an organization in the implementation of an ISMS
- Internal/External ISO/IEC 27001 auditors who wish to fully understand the Information Security Management System implementation process
- CxO and Senior Managers responsible for the IT governance of an enterprise and the management of risks
- Members of an information security team
- Expert advisors in information technology
- Technical experts wanting to prepare for an information security function or for an ISMS project management function

### High Level Course Agenda

1. ISO/IEC 27001:2013 requirements along with implementation guidelines.
2. Understanding the guidelines of ISO 27003 for
  - a. Company's ISMS policy
  - b. Framing scope statement
  - c. Setting information security objectives and action plan for objectives
3. Documentation requirements
4. Risk assessment and risk treatment
5. Incident management
6. Business continuity management
7. Conducting Internal audits
8. Corrective action and effectiveness of corrective action.
9. Management review and continual improvement of ISMS
10. Classroom exercises
11. Case studies
12. Examination (2 hours)

For more information: <https://www.tuv-sud.in/in-en>



### Course Objectives

- To understand the implementation of an Information Security Management System in accordance to ISO/IEC 27001:2013
- To understand the key differences between ISO 27001:2005 and ISO 27001:2013.
- To develop a risk assessment and a risk treatment methodology through the application of the ISMS controls and to prepare a Statement of Applicability (SoA).
- To identify a list of mandatory documents and records as per the ISO 27001:2013 standard.
- To understand how to effectively establish, implement, maintain and continually improve the information security management system.
- To plan and conduct internal audits and management reviews.
- Participants shall be able to effectively implement or take career in ISMS implementation in consulting capacity.

### Date, Time, Location and Investment:

- Date: 04th to 07th Apr. 2017 (4 days)
- Time: 9.00 am-5.30pm
- Location: Hotel Janaki, Colombo 05
- Investment: LKR 75,000/=

Enrollments limited to maximum 18 students based on first comes, first serve basis.

### For More Info Call:

**Mrs. Rupasinghe/Ms. Gayanika**  
**+94 772300268/+94 719595177**



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# CSSL Column in Sunday Observer

The CSSL Council has arranged a weekly column in the Sunday Observer newspaper for CSSL to discuss ICT related matters with a broad audience.

We believe this is a good opportunity for our members to publicize the work you do, new findings in our field, new technologies, new projects that you are involved in, achievements, thought leadership concepts etc., as well as for the CSSL to raise voice for ICT Professionals more broadly. This is in-line with raising the presence of CSSL, that was presented in the Vision for CSSL, at the recent AGM.

We invite our valued members to send in your articles to us with above context in mind, and also keeping in mind that the reader audience is a broad audience (not necessarily highly technical). Each column should be around 750 words, in MS Word format, preferably with graphics wherever possible.

As this will continuously run, you are invited to send in articles at any time, as and when there are important pieces to be shared.

We look forward to your contributions. Please send them to [membership@cssl.lk](mailto:membership@cssl.lk)



At SLIIT Convocation 2017 on 3rd March at Malabe, Dr RB Ekanayake Award of CSSL for the Best Performance Student in Masters of Science IT was presented with the participation of CSSL President Yasas V. Abeywickrama.



# Time to Renew your membership



**FREE** | T shirt, Car sticker,  
membership card

**Contact : 112592762**

**Offer valid till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

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**CSSL Secretariat**

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka  
275/75, Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha  
Colombo 7, Sri Lanka