CSSL
COMPUTER SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA
Shaping the future of ICT professionals

Newsletter
June/July 2017

CSSL President's Column

The month of June has been an extremely busy one for CSSL.

This month we conducted a Tech Talk with a professor from Germany, Dr Raphael Volz which was well received by members as well as other participants.

We had the opportunity to host the IFIP Secretary General Eduard Dundler in Sri Lanka who came here to monitor the planning and other arrangements for the upcoming IFIP General Assembly to be held in Sri Lanka, together with NITC/SEARCC Conference. As nearly 50 countries will attend this meeting, it is important that all details are looked into and all logistics are professionally handled to showcase Sri Lanka positively to the world. We were able to plan out most of it during this visit of Mr Dundler to Sri Lanka.

We have partnered with IPM on People Leader awards, and there is an award for the People Leader - IT, which is part of the annual IPM HR Awards. It is with pleasure that we announce that Mr Damith Hettihewa, Secretary of CSSL won the People Leader - IT award this year. Congratulations Damith!

Earlier in the month I visited China, to participate in the the Belt and Road Initiative (B&R) discussions. An IT sector forum for Belt and Road Initiative which connects many countries in the world with China, was organised by Chinese Institute of Electronics (CIE) in Beijing China on 13th June. Initial discussions on forming an International Federation for Cloud computing and Big data (IFCCBD) was also discussed for which Sri Lanka offered support.

CSSL attended its first meeting of Seoul Accord in Alaska USA, as we are now in the process of getting the global accreditation standard for university program accreditation. The CSSL was represented by Assistant Secretary Dr Malitha Wijesundara.

NITC/SEARCC Conference is shaping up well. Many sponsors and partners have come on board, and now the delegate registrations are under way. I invite you to have a look at nitc.lk and encourage your organisations to either partner or send delegates in, to learn from a great line up of speakers and also to witness Sri Lanka's biggest ever international ICT event which will be held in September this year.

Thank you.
Yasas Vishuddhi Abeywickrama
President
Computer Society of Sri Lanka

CSSL
COMPUTER SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's BIGGEST - EVER International ICT EVENT

NITC 2017

towards digital prosperity

SEARCC International Conference

IFIP General Assembly

Galadari Hotel, Colombo

14th & 15th September 2017

Distinguished Panel of Speakers

Brenda Aynsley
Chairman IP3

Caroline New
Leadership Coach

Adrian Schofield
Vice-Chair IFIP IP3 and Chair of the Standards & Accreditation Committee

Moira de Roche Holmes
Deputy Chairman and Director of IFIP IP3

Dr. Dayan Rajapakse
Managing Director – Esoft Metro Campus

Michelle Beveridge
Chief Information Officer & General Manager Intrepid Colombo

Muhunthan Canagey
Managing Director/ Chief Executive Offier ICTA

David Kreps
Sociologist of technology and a philosopher of science

Prof. Dr Anirban Basu
President,
Computer Society of India (2016-17)

Prof. Yuko Murayama
Professor in the Department of Computer Science at Tsuda University

Prof. Jerzy Nawrocki
Professor Poznan University of Technology, Faculty of Computing

Prof. Ricardo Reis
Professor Instituto de Informatica, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul

Mark Lloyd
IOT/IOE and global network

Gabriela Marin Raventós
Director of the newly created Centre for Research in ICT (CITIC)

Prof. Dr. Kai Rannenberg
Professor for Mobile Business & Multilateral Security

George Coldham
Chief Technology Officer for the start-up Diversifly

Prof. Kim Dong Yoon
Professor Emeritus, Department of Software/ Honorary President KIISE/ Chair, Seoul Accord

Prof. Dr. Igor Grebennik
Professor in the Department of Computer Science at Tsuda University

Dr. Nick Tate
President of SEARCC, National Board member of the ACS, Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland, Managing Director and CEO of Hanoldton Associates

David Cook
Researcher at the ECUSRI Security Research Institute

Prof. Sohail S. Chaudhry
Professor in the Department of Management and Operations/International Business

Prof. Tom Crick
Professor of Computer Science & Public Policy and Deputy Director of Enterprise

Prof. Dr. Carlos Juiz Garcia
Department of Computer Science at UIB

Prof. Dr. Dimiter Velev
Sociologist of technology and a philosopher of science

Jayomi Lokuliyana
Co-founder and CEO of, zMessenger

Organizer: CSSL

Strategic Platform Partners: ifip, SEARCC

National Partner: ICTA

Travel Partner: ayubo

Education Partner: ESOFT Metro Campus

Mobile Communication Partner: Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel

Security Partner: CryptoGen | the security focused company

Partners: srilanka, SRI LANKA

Technical Sponsor: IEEE Advancing Technology for Humanity

Supported by: SLASSCOM, FITIS

Hospitality Partner: GALADARI HOTEL COLOMBO

Digital Media and Broadcasting Partner: zmessenger

Technology Partner: Sampath IT Solutions

Professional Partner: acs

Airline Partner: SriLankan Airlines

Design Partner: GARVI DESIGN STUDIO

README

Inquiries
The Computer Society of Sri Lanka
T | +9411 4713290, +9411 4713336
info@cssl.lk
www.cssl.lk

Sampath Information Technology Solutions signs MoU with CSSL for NITC 2017

Sampath Information Technology Solutions Ltd (SITS), which began operations in 2006, is mainly focused on developing software solutions to the financial market, all our corporate clients, banks and finance companies comprised the main clientele for Software Development. The domain knowledge gained over the period has enabled SITS to expand its operations into Software development, IT Services Outsourcing, Value added services to hardware maintenance, Document management Services, System hosting facilities and print management services.

The MoU signing ceremony was held at the CSSL Secretariat, No. 275/75, OPA Building, Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha, Colombo 7 and graced by top officials of both organisations including Mr. S. Muralidharen (General Manager/CEO of Sampath IT Solutions), Mr. Yasas V. Abeywickrama (President – CSSL) and Mr. Prabath S. Wickramarathne (Vice President – CSSL)

Sampath IT Solutions operates in many system solutions such as ATM & CDMs, backup & recoveries, technical support, data systems, IT consultancy, print services and OPEX services. Also, their solution providing expertise have grown in very essential areas such as in fixed assets management, inventory management, POS solutions, document management solutions.

Sampath Information Technology Solutions Limited (SITS), has a Quality Management System based on the requirement of ISO 9001:2008. The company places an exceptionally high emphasis on continually improving its processes and products to meet and exceed the requirements of our valued partners and clients.

History is Sampath IT's guide. Their parent company Sampath Bank Plc have led the most innovation IT products in Sri Lanka in the banking sector. Today, the competition and the challenges are even tougher, and innovation is more important than ever in order to sustain long term value for their stakeholders.

ESOFT Metro Campus signs MoU with CSSL for NITC 2017

ESOFT Metro Campus, Sri Lanka's largest private sector higher education network signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) on 31st May 2017 regarding the upcoming National IT Conference (NITC) 2017 which will be held under the theme "Towards Digital Prosperity".

The MoU signing ceremony was held at the CSSL Secretariat, No. 275/75, OPA Building, Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha, Colombo 7 and graced by top officials of both organisations including Dr. Dayan Rajapakse (Group Managing Director, ESOFT Group of Companies), Mr. Nishan Sembacuttiaratchy (CEO – ESOFT Metro Campus), Mr. Yasas V. Abeywickrama (President – CSSL) and Prabath S. Wickramarathne (Vice President – CSSL).

"ESOFT has been instrumental in transforming Sri Lanka's ICT education space by making high quality and affordable ICT programmes available throughout the island. Therefore, I feel it is our national responsibility to create awareness and educate the public about the limitless opportunities available within the growing ICT industry. I am confident that our platform at NITC will help us to send this message." said Dr. Dayan Rajapakse – Group Managing Director, ESOFT Group of Companies.

With roots going back to the year 2000, ESOFT has grown to be the largest private sector higher education network in Sri Lanka due to an extensive island-wide branch network of 40 centres which create opportunities for over 30,000 students each year. Initially starting with IT, ESOFT today is a diversified education provider in the fields of ICT & Computing, Business, Engineering, Tourism & Hospitality, Personal & Professional Development, Corporate Training and Language Training. In association with a number of strategic partners including Pearson (UK), London Metropolitan University (UK) and Kingston University (UK), ESOFT offers a range of internationally recognised qualifications ranging from diplomas to postgraduate programmes including MSc (IT) and MBA programmes.

zMessenger Partners with CSSL for NITC 2017

Multi award winning digital marketing agency in Sri Lanka, zMessenger, has entered into a partnership with the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) as a “Digital Media and broadcasting partner” for the National IT Conference 2017.

The agreement for this partnership was signed recently at the CSSL Secretariat, No. 275/75, OPA Building, Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha, Colombo 7 and graced by top officials of both organisations including Mr. Yasas V. Abeywickrama (President – CSSL) and Prabath S. Wickramarathne (Vice President – CSSL).

Jayomi Lokuliyana Co-Founder/ Chief Executive Officer of zMessenger stated that “SEAARC summit is a wonderful event in an era where every business is becoming an IT business. We at zMessenger excited to be part of this great event. It provides an excellent opportunity for leaders in IT to come together, share ideas and learn from one another”

About zMessenger : Since its inception zMessenger has assembled a reputation for its ground-breaking approach and its commitment to renovating the digital marketing landscape of Sri Lanka, authorising local establishments to keep up with the swift pace of evolution witnessed around the globe. It influences well-organized and innovative digital expertise to create pioneering IT-enabled business solutions and mobile strategies across an immense range of industries in Sri Lanka.

Ayubo Leisure signs MoU with CSSL for NITC 2017

Ayubo Leisure, the world's only all-in-one travel platform signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) on 31st May 2017 regarding the upcoming National IT Conference (NITC) 2017 which will be held under the theme "Towards Digital Prosperity".

The MoU signing ceremony was held at the CSSL Secretariat, No. 275/75, OPA Building, Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha, Colombo 7 and graced by top officials of both organisations including Dr. Dayan Rajapakse (Group Managing Director, ESOFT Group of Companies), Mr. Achala Meddegama (CEO – Ayubo Leisure / ESOFT Technologies), Mr. Yasas V. Abeywickrama (President – CSSL) and Mr. Prabath S. Wickramarathne (Vice President – CSSL).

"I believe there is a lot we can do to promote Sri Lankan tourism, and technology offers us a number of innovative ways in which we can accomplish just that" stated Mr. Achala Meddegama, CEO of Ayubo Leisure and ESOFT Technologies. "Our Ayubo platform is one such initiative so we look forward to leveraging the upcoming NITC conference to showcase our unique set of services to an international audience." he added.

Ayubo Leisure operates www.ayubo.lk, the world's only all-in-one travel platform which is accessible over the web providing users with the ability to create a customisable, easily bookable itinerary that includes accommodation, experiences and transport options. The Ayubo platform was developed by ESOFT Technologies (ET), a technology company dedicated to creating innovative and robust systems for simple and complex business automation requirements. Established in 2014, ET is a member of the ESOFT Group.

Sri Lanka Participates in IT Sector Discussions within Belt and Road Initiative

The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-century Maritime Silk Road, also known as the Belt and Road Initiative (B&R) is a development strategy proposed by China connecting many countries. Recently Heads of State from many countries met in China to discuss the way forward of this program.

As a step forward, an IT sector forum for Belt and Road Initiative was organsied by Chinese Institute of Electronics (CIE) in Beijing China on 13th June, and Sri Lanka was represented by the CSSL President Yasas Vishuddhi Abeywickrama, where he presented on 'Sri Lanka's Digital Journey' and engaged in related discussions.

Initial discussions on forming an International Federation for Cloud computing and Big data (IFCCBD) was also discussed for which Sri Lanka offered support.

The 9th China Cloud computing conference also occurred alongside the above meetings from June 13-16, 2017 in Beijing, China. The conference has been a prime international forum for both the academic community and industry practitioners to exchange the latest fundamental advances and practice of cloud computing, identify emerging research topics, and define the future of cloud computing.

CSSL Vice President Prabath Samindra Wickramaratne particpated at the SEARCC Executive Committee Meeting in China in May 2017.

IFIP Secretary General Eduard Dundler's visit to Sri Lanka

What is IFIP ?

Based on an interview with Eduard Dundler, IFIP Secretary General.

The IFIP or International Federation for Information Processing is the governing body in all aspects related to Information Technology and the processing of its relevant information on a global level. Comprising of 42 countries, the IFIP forms a sort of umbrella corporation housing these 42 countries which are also referred to as members. Each of these member countries comprises of their own society, that handles the IT infrastructure and requirements of their respective country.

The IFIP is recognized by the UN and other world bodies and links to more than 3500 scientists from academia and industry experts. The structure of the IFIP consists of the Board which takes all decisions regarding a particular matter, and a General Assembly. The General Assembly consists of these 42 member countries, each with it's own individual representative.

The main purpose of the IFIP is to support a country with their work and what they want to do and to assist them in organizing IT conferences. Together with the 42 members, the IFIP has around 700,000 indirect members globally. If any issues or problems arise with regard to any of the topics under the jurisdiction of the IFIP, they would proceed to make suggestions to governments or International bodies on how to overcome a particular problem or how a new technology can be implemented to develop the infrastructure of a country and/or economy. Think of them as policy makers who influence the decisions of governments when it comes to Information technology and information processing

In Sri Lanka, the representative party would be the CSSL or Computer Society of Sri Lanka. Heading the society is Mr. Yasas V. Abeywickrama as the President. Each member of the General Assembly can have their own working committee to be a part of one of 14 technical committees, each handling a certain topic related to IT. These topics range from the foundations of computer science, to theories and practice of software, to education, to security and privacy protection in information processing systems and even entertainment computing which covers art and entertainment, entertainment games and game accessibility.

As stated above, a member of the General Assembly can have their own working committee in one or more technical committees and the number of members in the working committees is defined as the GA member sees fit, meaning that each working committee essentially has an unlimited number of members.

The General Assembly for the IFIP is an annual event that takes place in one of the 42 member countries. Here, all decisions made by the General Assembly will be put forward to the Board, who will then debate on their viability and select which decisions should be implemented. The decisions are driven by the committees who have been working on them throughout the year and have the meeting before the General Assembly to submit the decisions they have come up with. Topics here can relate to the latest security threats and how to protect against them, the latest trends in technology such as AI and Virtual reality etc.

The General Assembly for 2017 will be held here in Sri Lanka on the 12th and 13 of September. On the 11th of September, the committees will meet to hand over their decisions, to be discussed over the following two days. Another topic that would be discussed would be the organization of the next IFIP World Conference. This is a conference held every two years and open to the public. Topics discussed here would be on a much larger and global scale. Speakers for the World conference are IFIP members and also from leading Universities who are experts in their particular field.

Apart from handling policies for Information Processing, the IFIP has and is currently working toward the establishment of a digital library with search and access capabilities for IFIP publications since the year 2000. Though initially put off due to financial complications & agreements with the IFIP publisher, they have been worked out and the publisher has been given exclusive distribution rights for a period of time.

ජාතික මට්ටමේ පාසල් තොරතුරු හා සන්නිවේදන තාක්ෂණ ශූරයෝ තරඟාවලිය - 2017

තොරතුරු හා සන්නිවේදන තාක්ෂණ විෂය සම්බන්ධයෙන් අධ්‍යාපන අමාත්‍යාංශයේ තොරතුරු හා සන්නිවේදන තාක්ෂණ ශාඛාව, ශ්‍රී ලංකා තොරතුරු තාක්ෂණ කර්මාන්ත මණ්ඩලය (FITIS) සහ ශ්‍රී ලංකා පරිගණක සංගමය (CSSL) සමඟ එක්ව 9 වෙනි වරටත් පවත්වනු ලබන

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ශ්‍රී ලංකා පරිගණක සංගමය (CSSL) ක්‍රියාත්මක කරනු ලබන මාර්ගගත (Online) තරඟාවලිය

මෙම තරඟය වයස් කාණ්ඩ දෙකක් යටතේ පහත පරිදි පැවැත්වේ.

පළමු කාණ්ඩය - (Group - 1)

2017 වසරේ ජනවාරි 01 දිනට වයස අවුරුදු 17 ට අඩු සිසුන්

දෙවන කාණ්ඩය - (Group - 2)

2017 වසරේ ජනවාරි 01 දිනට වයස අවුරුදු 17 හෝ ඊට වැඩි හෝ එහෙත් එදිනට වයස අවුරුදු 19 ට අඩු සිසුන්

මෙම තරඟයේ ස්වභාවය

මූලික වටයේ තරඟය

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අවසාන් තරඟය

මෙය මාර්ගගත (online) ලෙස පැවැත්වෙන තරඟයකි. පරිගණක වැඩසටහන් ගොඩනැංවීමට තරඟකරුවන්ට සිදුවන අතර ඇඟයීම ද මාර්ගගතව ම සිදු කරනු ලබයි.

තරඟය සඳහා අයදුම් කිරීමට C/C++ හෝ C# හෝ Java හෝ Python පිළිබඳ මූලික අවබෝධයක් තිබිය යුතු ය.

තරඟය සඳහා ලියාපදිංචි වීමේ අවසන් දිනය
2017 ජූනි 30

තරඟය සම්බන්ධ වැඩි විස්තර සඳහා
ශ්‍රී ලංකා පරිගණක සංගමය (CSSL)
275/75 මහාමාර්ග ස්ටැන්ලි විජේසුන්දර මාවත
කොළඹ 07
දුරකථන - 011 2592762
ෆැක්ස් - 011 2508009
E-mail - info@cssl.lk
Web site - www.cssl.lk

ගුරුවරුන් සහ ගුරු සිසුන් සඳහා වන තරඟාවලිය

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ගුරුවරුන් සඳහා වන "නිර්මාණාත්මක ගුරුවරු" තරඟය

මෙම තරඟය රජයේ පාසල් සහ රජයේ අනුමත පෞද්ගලික පාසල්වල සේවය කරනු ලබන ගුරුභවතුන් සඳහා පැවැත්වේ.

- පොදු භාවිතයන් (General Application)

C/C++ හෝ C# හෝ Java හෝ Pascal හෝ Phython හෝ (ඒම මෘදුකාංගවලට ම සීමා නොවේ.) පරිගණක භාෂාවන් ඇසුරු කරමින් නිර්මාණය කරන ලද වෙබ් අඩවි, Desktop Applications, ජංගම යෙදවුම්, අන්තර්ජාල යෙදවුම් ආදිය

විද්‍යාපීඨ ගුරු සිසුන් සඳහා වන "නිර්මාණාත්මක ගුරුවරු" තරඟය

- පොදු භාවිතයන් (General Application)

C/C++ හෝ C# හෝ Java හෝ Pascal හෝ Phython හෝ (ඒම මෘදුකාංගවලට ම සීමා නොවේ.) පරිගණක භාෂාවන් ඇසුරු කරමින් නිර්මාණය කරන ලද වෙබ් අඩවි, Desktop Applications, ජංගම යෙදවුම්, අන්තර්ජාල යෙදවුම් ආදිය

තරඟය සඳහා ලියාපදිංචි වීමේ අවසන් දිනය - 2017 ජූනි 30
නිර්මාණ ඉදිරිපත් කිරීමේ අවසන් දිනය - 2017 ජූලි 31

තරඟය සම්බන්ධ වැඩි විස්තර සඳහා
තොරතුරු හා සන්නිවේදන තාක්ෂණ ශාඛාව
අධ්‍යාපන අමාත්‍යාංශය, ඉසුරුපාය, බත්තරමුල්ල
දුරකථන - 011 2785821
ෆැක්ස් - 011 2785821
E-mail - ictchamps.2017@moe.gov.lk
Web site - www.moe.gov.lk

තරුණ පරිගණක විද්‍යාඥයින්ගේ තරඟාවලිය - (YCS)

ශ්‍රී ලංකා තොරතුරු තාක්ෂණ කර්මාන්ත මණ්ඩලය (FITIS) ක්‍රියාත්මක කරනු ලබන තරඟාවලිය

මෙම තරඟය වයස් කාණ්ඩ තුනක් යටතේ පහත පරිදි පැවැත්වේ.

පළමු කාණ්ඩය - (Group - 1)

2017 වසරේ ජනවාරි 01 දිනට වයස අවුරුදු 10 හෝ ඊට වැඩි හෝ එහෙත් එදිනට වයස අවුරුදු 13 ට අඩු සිසුන්

- ත්‍රිමාණ නිර්මාණ (3D Computer Graphic Presentation)
- ඉදිරිපත් කිරීමේ යෙදවුම් භාවිත කර සකස් කරන ලද ව්‍යාපෘති (Projects Developed by Presentation Software)

දෙවන කාණ්ඩය - (Group - 2)

2017 වසරේ ජනවාරි 01 දිනට වයස අවුරුදු 13 හෝ ඊට වැඩි හෝ එහෙත් එදිනට වයස අවුරුදු 17 ට අඩු සිසුන්

- පරිගණක වැඩසටහන් (Computer Application)
- පරිගණක ක්‍රීඩා නිර්මාණය (Computer Gaming Application)
- දෘඩාංග හා මෘදුකාංග සම්බන්ධිත නිර්මාණ (Embedded system)

තෙවන කාණ්ඩය - (Group - 3)

2017 වසරේ ජනවාරි 01 දිනට වයස අවුරුදු 17 හෝ ඊට වැඩි හෝ එහෙත් එදිනට වයස අවුරුදු 20 ට අඩු සිසුන්

- පොදු භාවිතයන් (General Applications)
- දෘඩාංග හා මෘදුකාංග සම්බන්ධිත නිර්මාණ (Embedded system)
- රොබෝ තාක්ෂණය (Robotics)
- දෘශ්‍ය පාදක භාවිතයන් (Vision Based Application)

තරඟය සඳහා ලියාපදිංචි වීමේ අවසන් දිනය - 2017 ජූනි 30
නිර්මාණ ඉදිරිපත් කිරීමේ අවසන් දිනය - 2017 ජූලි 31

තරඟය සම්බන්ධ වැඩි විස්තර සඳහා
ශ්‍රී ලංකා තොරතුරු තාක්ෂණ කර්මාන්ත මණ්ඩලය
17/6, පළමු පටුමග, ගෝතමී පාර, බොරැල්ල
දුරකථන - 011 2665261/011 4422490
ෆැක්ස් - 011 2665262
E-mail - software@fitis.lk
Web site - www.fitis.lk

ICT BRANCH Ministry of Education Sri Lanka
NSSC 2017 National Schools' Software Competition
CSSL COMPUTER SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA
UCSC
FITIS FEDERATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY SRI LANKA
YCS 2017 YOUNG COMPUTER SCIENTIST

CSSL calls nominations for CSSL ICT Awards 2017

Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL), the premier organization dedicated to promoting and improving professional standards in the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) sector of Sri Lanka has called nominations/applications for its "CSSL ICT Awards 2017", which celebrates excellence in ICT. CSSL, "CSSL ICT Awards 2017" will be held for the fifth consecutive year this time. More information about it can be obtained at www.cssl.lk. Nominations/ Applications are closed on 7th July 2017. These awards intend to encourage, recognize and celebrate the best and finest of ICT professionals.

This year, the CSSL presents awards for excellence in nine categories, namely:

1. **ICT Leader of the Year,**
2. **CIO of the Year,**
3. **Female ICT Leader of the Year,**
4. **Emerging ICT Leader of the Year,**
5. **Best Start-up of the Year,**
6. **ICT Educator of the Year,**
7. **ICT Researcher of the Year,**
8. **ICT Student Award-Undergraduate Category and**
9. **ICT Student Awards-School Category.**

CSSL as the professional association for people in ICT in Sri Lanka is responsible for recognizing achievements of best and finest of ICT professionals and also this initiative encourages ICT professionals in the country to do better, since there is a benchmark set by this Awards program.

2017 CSSL ICT Awards programme is spearheaded by CSSL Council Member and Student Counsellor Professor Samantha Thelijjagoda.

Last year, the fourth annual CSSL ICT Awards ceremony organised by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) was held at the Galadari Hotel in Colombo in conjunction with the inauguration ceremony of the National IT Conference in 2016. The ICT Leader of the Year award was won by Mr Shanil Fernando, Co-Founder and Managing Director - Sri Lanka for CAKE Corporation, a Silicon Valley based company that creates disruptive technology for the restaurant industry. The CIO of the Year award went to Mr Conrad Dias, Chief Information Officer - LOLC Group and Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer – Lanka ORIX Information Technology Services Ltd., /LOLC Technologies Limited. Prof. Mahesha Kapurubandara, Dean International and Professor, Department of IT - Faculty of Computing, at the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology won the award for Female ICT Leader of the Year. The award for Emerging ICT Leader of the Year went to Mr Ganindu Nanayakkara who is an award-winning innovator and Software Engineer currently working at 99X Technology.

In 2016, Auxenta Pvt. Ltd. won the award for Best Startup of the Year. Funded by Bayview Capital, a company owned by a well-known serial entrepreneur, Riz Virk and together with two more highly acclaimed ICT specialists, they entered the industry by developing a Bitcoins mobile trading platform named "Bitcoins Bazaar", for Bay Coins LLC.

In 2017 also CSSL has call for nominations and more information can be obtained at www.cssl.lk. Nominations/Applications are closed on 7th July 2017.

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** for more information on nominations/application procedure
Applications/Nominations close on
07th July 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

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No. 275/75, Stanley Wijesundara Mw, Colombo 07.
Web: www.cssl.lk
Email: info@cssl.lk
Tel: +94 11 2592762

A lady that stands tall in a man's world of technology. The tale of Nayeni Fernando

Nayeni served in the CSSL council for many years, was it's vice President from 1993-1995 and is the only woman to be made an honorary fellow of CSSL.

Nayeni served in the CSSL council for many years, was it's vice President from 1993-1995 and is the only woman to be made an honorary fellow of CSSL.

In 1976, the Computer Society of Sri Lanka was formed. Among its founding members was a lady. This lady is one who stands tall amongst the silent giants of the Sri Lankan IT industry. Over the course of her career, she helped build complex computer systems that revolutionized the Sri Lankan banking system. This iron lady is Nayeni Fernando, and this is her story.

From Humble Origins

Nayeni began her journey into the worl d of computing in 1971, when she joined the Department of Census and Statistics as an analyst programmer. There, Nayeni and her colleagues went to IBM where they got training in Report Program Generator. This was aprogramming language used by the IBM System 360 that they would use to program the data for the 1971 Population Census.

At first this was a brand new adventure for her, but after 8 years it had become routine for Nayeni. She was bored and itching for a change. That's when she saw an advertisement and joined the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in 1979. This was where her career would begin to reach for the stars.

Welcome to the Central Bank

When Nayeni joined the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in 1979, she was its first female Analyst Programmer.

Furthermore, she was also the first Analyst Programmer to join the Data Processing Division of the Central Bank from outside the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Nayeni was assigned to the team tasked with programming the Socio Economic Survey of the Central Bank. Nayeni was then tasked with computerizing the Government's Accounts Branch of the Central Bank. To do so, Nayeni built an automated system using Wang PCS II data entry machines.

Building the Sri Lanka Automated Clearing House

When Nayeni returned to Sri Lanka in 1985 after obtaining her masters in the US, she was asked to build the Sri Lanka Automated Clearing House for the Central Bank. For a project this big, Nayeni needed a strong team. Thankfully she was able to find the right people for this team. This team had two operations managers: Justin Wickramasinghe& P.U. Ariyawansa along with two analyst programmers: Chandra Pathberiya & B.K.A. Sunimal.

Once the team was formed, they travelled to the Singapore Clearing House for training. Once the team was trained, a tender for the system was then announced in 1986 and given to Unisys through their agent BC Computers. Work then began on building the system that would power the Sri Lanka Automated Clearing House.

Over the course of this project, Nayeni and the team travelled twice to Atlanta where the main offices of Unisys were located. The first time was for technical

training. The second time was for pre-acceptance testing.After more rigorous testing, the Sri Lanka Automated Clearing House (SLACH) was born on the 2nd of March 1988 and Nayeni was appointed as the Manager of the SLACH.

Guiding the Central Bank through its darkest times

In 1994, Nayeni was promoted as Head of the IT Department after she had successfully implemented the Sri Lanka Interbank Payment System (SLIPS) in 1993. This new responsibility would see her guiding the Central Bank of Sri Lanka through dark times which followed after the Central Bank Bomb blast. The blast killed at least 91 people (41 from the Central bank) and injured 1,400 others. The attack also destroyed the mainframe computers and as a result, the entire IT department of the Central Bank.

It was crucial that these systems became operational again as soon as possible. The very next morning, Amarananda Jayawardena – the Governor of the Central Bank in 1996 instructed Nayeni to rebuild the IT department. It was a daunting task but thankfully: they already had backups of the latest data.To rebuild the IT department, Nayeni had gathered the key people in her department along with Dr. R.B. Ekanayake – Chief of IT at Commercial Bank and John Fernando – Head of IBM in Sri Lanka.

They had a lengthy discussion and ultimately decided to adopt the IBM AS400 System to rebuild the Central Bank IT Department. However, the AS400 couldn't read the data tapes that held the backups. Hearing this, John Fernando told Nayeni that he would obtain used IBM machines identical to what they had previously used to get the data on the tapes ready for migration to the AS400. Afterwards, Prof. V.K. Samaranayake, offered the first floor of the University of Colombo Physical Science Department.

Once the machines were installed inside the University of Colombo, the operators would walk in every morning and begin processing the tapes until the sun had set in the evening. Additionally, the systems had to now be redesigned for the new AS400 computer systems. With no documentation, Nayeni entrusted the task to N.M. Jayasekera – Deputy Director of the IT Department at the Central Bank along with Janaki Mampitiya and Chandra Pathberiya to redesign the system for the AS400.

Many months of hard work later, in August 1996, the AS400 computers were moved into the temporary office of the Central Bank at the World Trade Centre. When they went live, the banking system resumed normal operations once again. Six months after the Central Bank Bomb Blast, Nayeni and her team had rebuilt the entire IT infrastructure of the Central Bank from scratch.

Bringing the banking system of Bangladesh into the 21st century

In 2000, Nayeni took the decision to retire from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to focus on her family and a less stressful job. She joined the Bank of Ceylon as an IT consultant and then BC Computers. BC Computers was trying to win the tender for the system that would power Bangladesh Automated Clearing House in 2004 and lost.

However, a few months later, one of the International Consultants who was present at the Tender Evaluation reached out to Nayeni asking her to be a consultant working as the onsite project manager for implementation of the project. The management at BC Computers encouraged Nayeni to take the opportunity and so she left for Bangladesh.

When she arrived, she was tasked with building an Automated Clearing House and another system to facilitate electronic fund transfers between banks. The project faced an uphill battle for two main reasons. The first was the non-existence of MICR cheques. The second issue the project faced was that many of the Commercial Banks used predominantly manual procedures.

To solve these issues, the Central Bank of Bangladesh (Bangladesh Bank) began monitoring the issuance and circulation of MICR cheques. They also sent the team of five employees from the Central Bank of Bangladesh who were specially chosen for this project to automated clearing houses in Asia, including Sri Lanka and the Middle East for rigorous training to implement and manage these systems.

Afterwards, the banks were given the necessary software and specifications for the required hardware for both systems. Testing then began at the Bangladesh Bank and at the other banks. Once the tests were done, the systems would go live. The first was on the 7th of October 2010, when the Bangladesh Automated Clearing House was born. Four months later, on the 28th of February 2011, the Bangladesh Electronic Funds Transfer Network went live.

Nayeni Fernando today

From humble beginnings at the Department of Census and Statistics to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. She joined the Central Bank as its first female analyst programmer and left as the first female head of the IT department. In that time, she automated departments, built the Sri Lanka Automated Clearing House, built the Sri Lanka Interbank Payment Systems, and rebuilt the Central Bank's IT department from scratch.

Over the course of her career, Nayeni revolutionized the Sri Lankan banking sector by building systems that many of us take for granted today. And that's before she helped the same revolution take place in Bangladesh in just two short years. It is beyond the shadow of a doubt that Nayeni Fernando is among the pioneers that helped build the Sri Lankan IT industry. So what challenges is she focused on now? After working from 1969 to 2017 she is taking a break at the moment, but will work again if the right opportunity comes by.

International Schools Software Competition 2017

The International Schools Software Competition (ISSC) 2017 will be in conjunction with the annual SEARCC Conference and Sri Lanka's National IT Conference in Colombo from 10-16 September 2017.

Hosted by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL), ISSC 2017 will seek to foster the development of computer competence among young people in the region. SEARCC instituted a regional school software competition in 1989. The competition, which is run under international competition rules, is open to students aged 18 or less. In addition to testing their programming abilities, the event also provides opportunities for young people from across the region to acquire a better awareness of the culture, life-style and aspirations of each other's countries, thereby contributing to better relationships for future generations.

The International Schools Software Competition 2017 (ISSC 2017) will be held at University of Colombo School of Computing, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

National teams are encouraged to register before 10th July their interest in participating by contacting CSSL at **admin.exec@cssl.lk**

www.searcc.org

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275/75, Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha
Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.
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Link :
www.acs.org.au/ppp/cssl.html

Contact CSSL for clarifications at info@cssl.lk

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OPEN DATA ECOSYSTEMS

CSSL COMPUTER SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA TECH TALK

Held on 12th June 2017

Speaker :

Prof. Dr. Raphael Volz

PEOPLE LEADER - IT 2017

WINNER

Mr.Damith Hettihewa

Secretary Computer Society Of Sri Lanka

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