



From L to R: Eng. Arundathi Wimalasuriya, Executive Secretary/ IESL, Eng. Shavi Fernando, President/ IESL and General Manager, CEB, Prof. Ananda Jayawardena, Past President/ IESL and Vice Chancellor, University of Moratuwa, Prof. Hu Hanrahan, Chair, Washington Accord from South Africa, Prof. L. L. Ratnayake, Past President/ IESL and Chairman, SLIIT, Prof. Robin King, Chair, Evaluation Panel for Sri Lanka from Australia and Eng. Basil Wakelin, Chair, IPEA from New Zealand.

IESL becomes a Washington Accord Signatory

"Washington Accord model has become the international gold standard for mutual recognition of engineering education"

The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) proudly announces that the Washington Accord Signatory countries unanimously decided to admit Sri Lanka to their rank at the June 2014 International Engineering Meetings held in Wellington, New Zealand. This decision was arrived at after a rigorous evaluation of the IESL accreditation procedures and the standards of the 4 year B.Sc. Eng. degree programs accredited by IESL, by a team of experts from the Washington Accord Signatory countries during the last 4 years. Australia, Canada, Ireland, United States of America, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore and Turkey were the 15 Washington Accord Signatory countries up to June 13, 2014. This is a land mark decision for the Sri Lankan engineers who graduate with 4 year B. Sc. Eng. degrees accredited by the IESL. These engineering graduates will be internationally recognized in these 15 countries as holders of engineering qualifications substantially equivalent to 4 year engineering programmes accredited by the accrediting bodies of their own countries, and recognized as having met the academic requirements for entry to the practice of engineering in those countries as well. Thus our engineers with IESL accredited programs will have the benefit of being recognized among the developed nations as those who can enter the globally connected workplace.

For 25 years the Washington Accord has provided a mechanism for mutual recognition of engineering graduates of accredited

programs leading to become Professional/ Chartered Engineers among its signatories. The Washington Accord has also set the foundation and standards for graduate attributes and accreditation of programmes and defines the educational basis for the International Professional Engineers Agreement. The international recognition and portability of both educational qualifications and professional competency is becoming increasingly important in this age of global interdependence but unbalanced global development, which requires the movement of engineering skills around the world. The Washington Accord has made a considerable impact on improvements in engineering education throughout the world.

Benefits of IESL being a Signatory to the Washington Accord

The engineering graduates with degrees that have been accredited by a signatory to the Washington Accord will possess a set of given attributes including knowledge of engineering science, modern tool usage, problem analysis skills, capability to design / develop solutions and carry out investigations related to complex engineering problems. He /She will be adept at project management, conscious of engineering ethics, environment and sustainability and willing to engage in lifelong learning. He/she also will be committed to both individual and team work and possess good communication skills.

In the context of today's competitive environment, graduates who have the above attributes will be in high demand among prospective employers in Sri Lanka. Organizations that employ graduates with a degree

accredited by IESL will stand a good chance of securing contracts overseas since the degrees of these graduates will be globally recognized. Higher Educational Institutions that offer accredited degree programmes will succeed in attracting foreign students to their degree programs.

Thus IESL now being a signatory to the internationally accepted Washington Accord, the engineering degree programmes that it accredits will receive global recognition. The direct beneficiaries of this would be the graduates of these IESL accredited degrees and the employers who employ such graduates. The academic staff and the institutions conducting such study programmes will also gain international recognition.

The IESL is also a full member of the 'International Professional Engineers Agreement' (IPEA), formerly known as the Engineers Mobility Forum (EMF). The IESL was admitted to EMF as a full member in 2007 and thereby got the privilege to award the International Professional Engineer (Int. P. Eng.) qualification to the engineers with accredited engineering programmes and more than 7 years of responsible experience after graduation. A team of senior engineers nominated by the IPEA reviewed the procedures and standards adopted by IESL in awarding Int. P. Eng. qualification during the period 2013 - 2014, and at the June 2014 International Engineering Meetings held in Wellington, New Zealand, the members of the IPEA unanimously decided to recognize IESL Int. P. Eng. qualification for a further period of 6 years. Thus IESL is now a signatory to two international engineering agreements.