

8th Jan: 2006 "Sunday Observer" (OSP)



Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake, was the chief guest at the centenary celebration of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka, held at BMICH on January 6. The Prime Minister is looking at the Commemorative Stamp issued by the Postal Department. President IESL Jayantha Ranatunga and President-elect D.L. Taldena are also seen in the picture.
Pix by. Tilak Perera.

Local engineers for foreign funded projects says PM

BY ELMO LEONARD

The government would permit local engineers in the government and private sector to carry out construction work of foreign funded projects, in spite of foreign engineers holding the whip, when such projects are undertaken, Premier Ratnasiri Wickremanayake said.

The government was aware of the severe competition that the local engineers have to face when foreign funded projects are implemented, here, Premier Wickremanayake said, in the capacity of chief guest, at the 100 year celebrations of the Institution of Engineers of Sri Lanka (IESL)

held yesterday. When foreign funded projects were undertaken here, local engineers had often outsmarted foreign engineers in certain fields of engineering. Despite this successive governments have had to allow foreign engineers to undertake construction of such projects, Premier Wickremanayake said.

The knowledge, expertise and experience of local engineers had contributed immensely to the economic and social development of the country over the years. Every facet of modern life, from the BMICH, Colombo, from where the Prime Minister made his presentation, to the buildings in the

streets of the metropolis and the entire physical infrastructure that went to support modern life — from water supply to energy and other such, were contributions made by engineers and engineering skills.

Present day engineers are heirs to a heritage of ancient engineering feats, as water management and hydraulic engineering that existed in the country, centuries ago.

A look into the past record of Sri Lanka's engineering fraternity revealed a galaxy of prominent engineers, who had excelled all over the world, in their respective fields.