

Ceremonial inauguration of 110th Annual Sessions of the IESL



Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe, Chief Guest and Champika Ranawaka, Special Guest, being led to Main Hall of the BMICH by Eng. Jayavilal Meegoda, the incoming President of IESL



Chief Guest and Special Guest flanked by the IESL President 2015/2016, Immediate Past President, President Elect, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and Chief Executive Officer of the IESL at the event.

The 110th Annual Sessions of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka was ceremonially inaugurated on 14 October 2016, at the Main Hall, BMICH in the presence of a large gathering of over a 1,000 participants.

Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremasinghe graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Megapolis and Western Development was the Special Guest. Khoo Teng Chye, Executive Director, Centre for Liveable Cities, Ministry of National Development (MND), Singapore was the Guest of Honour. Foreign delegates from sister organizations in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal also participated in the event.

The highlight of the inauguration of annual sessions held in October of each year is the handing over of the mantle of presidency to the incoming president by the outgoing president after a reign of a one year period as president from October of the previous year. Eng. Jayavilal Meegoda, was inducted this year as IESL President of IESL for 2016 / 2017 sessions.

Presently the Deputy General Man-

ager in charge of the Colombo City of the Ceylon Electricity Board, Eng. Meegoda is a Chartered Engineer, a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka and an International Professional Engineer. He is also a member of Institution of Electrical & Electronics Engineers, USA.

Eng. Meegoda concurrently holds the presidency of the Federation of Engineering Institutions of South and Central Asia (FEISCA) having been unanimously elected to that post at the last General Assembly of the FEISCA held in February 2016 at Kathmandu, Nepal. In his inaugural presidential address at the event he laid out his plans for rapidly advancing on the IESL's stated mission towards achieving its vision.

Speaking at the event the Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe while appreciating the role played by engineers also laid out the country's wider expectations of its engineers towards its sustainable development. He mentioned the country's choice of a knowledge based economy and the need to widen the scope for teaching technol-

ogy so that students of the arts stream too would have the choice of selecting science / mathematics as a subject. He expressed his support for a single body to regulate the practice of the engineering profession through the Engineering Council Bill currently with parliament and said that he wants the engineers produced by the country to be second class to none.

Patali Champika Ranawaka, Minister of Megapolis and Western Development in his speech stressed on the technological advancement sought through the knowledge based development aspect of the ministry's programme. Khoo Teng Chye, the Guest of Honour, in his speech related the Singaporean experience of sustainable development and the contribution Singapore is making towards urban development in Sri Lanka.

Eng. Wimalasena Gamage, the outgoing President in his speech while describing the achievements of his session also stressed on the need for a paradigm shift in the role of the engineer from control of nature to participation with nature in the engineering works undertaken by them.

The event saw Special Award winners and Junior Inventor of the Year Competition winning school children being presented their awards. The event also saw senior members belonging to the category of Fellows and Members being honored with Life Membership and others being elected as Fellows. The conferring of International Professional Engineer status to corporate members also took place.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Eng. (Prof.) Mrs. Niranjanie Ratnayake, the President Elect for 2016 / 2017 sessions.



In coming President Eng. Jayavilal Meegoda congratulated by out-going President, Eng. Wimalasena Gamage at the event



Junior Inventor of the Year 2016 Competition winner receiving his award from the Prime Minister



Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe presenting an award

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