

Society of Structural Engineers, Sri Lanka

President's Message



I am pleased to send this message to mark the incorporation by Act of Parliament of the Society of Structural Engineers - Sri Lanka.

Established in 1990 to help advance the knowledge and practice of Structural Engineering to high professional standards. In particular, and contribute to the development of our country in general, the Society has a commendable record of work since its inception.

These include the organizing of important presentations on current topics of Structural Engineering by persons of eminence in the field in Sri Lanka and abroad, publishing of a journal of the Society, and technical literature on the matters of current interest in Structural Engineering such as Guidelines for Buildings at risk from natural disasters and Building Designs to mitigate seismic effects.

Within a period of less than two decades the Society has achieved much that others in similar fields of expertise could emulate.

I wish the Society of Structural Engineers - Sri Lanka all success in its future endeavors for the service of the profession and the development of Sri Lanka.

His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT Act No: 40

2009



SSE President's Message



I am pleased to send this message on the occasion of the incorporation of the Society of Structural Engineers, Sri Lanka by an Act of Parliament. Hon. Member of Parliament for Polonnaruwa, Mr. Earle Gunasekera tabled in Parliament on the 03rd July 2007, the Bill for the incorporation of the Society of Structural Engineers, Sri Lanka. Subsequently a report on this Bill presented by the Minister of Construction and Engineering Services Hon. Dr. Rajitha Senarathne was tabled in Parliament on the 05th February 2009.

This Bill was approved by Parliament and the Society of Structural Engineers, Sri Lanka Act. No.40 of 2009 was given assent by the Hon. Speaker on the 24th July 2009.

A new era has dawned for our Society with the incorporation by an Act of Parliament. The new designations for members as per the Act of Incorporation will consist of Members MSSE(SL), Fellow Members-FSSE(SL) and Honorary Fellow Members-Hon. FSSE(SL). As of now, the Society has a membership of 630 comprising of 357 Corporate Members, 185 Associate Members and 88 Student Members.

There are many who have rendered valuable service to our Society and also assisted in the incorporation. Our special thanks goes to Hon. Mr. Earle Gunasekera, M.P., Hon. Minister Dr. Rajitha Senarathne, Secretary of the Ministry Mr. Nissanka N. Wijeratna, Attorney-General, the Legal Draftsman and her staff, Bills Office staff of the Parliament Secretariat, Past Presidents and current Committee Members of the Society and the staff of the SSESL office. We look forward to your support in the future too on our new journey as the Society of Structural Engineers, Sri Lanka.

This Incorporation emphasizes the value of Structural Engineers in Sri Lanka today and the important role they have to perform in rebuilding the nation. In order to fulfill this obligation satisfactorily, our Society will work to strengthen the structural engineering profession by establishing and promoting adherence to high quality professional standards and speaking as the voice of the profession on relevant public issues.

Eng. Ajith Jayasinghe

Minister of Housing



It is with great pleasure that I send this message to the Institute of Structural Engineers, Sri Lanka to the First General Meeting after the Incorporation by an Act of Parliament, Act No. 40 of 2009.

I associate myself in congratulating you on the progress made over the years after the formation of the Society of Structural Engineers Sri Lanka in 1993 and the contributions made to the development of engineering feats in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka inherits a rich engineering history of which we all are proud of not only as engineers of this country but also as fellow Sri Lankans. The engineering feats of our ancestors still stand in its splendid grandeur visible on the skyline of this land. These are living edifices in the fields of Engineering Excellence specially in the spheres of Civil and Structural Engineering. The Ruwanmali Maha Seya, Abhayagiri and Jetavana Dagabas stand tall in these ancient structures. Lovamahapaya is another structural engineering edifice that is proudly recorded in Sri Lanka's history. These have now become not only part and parcel of our National Heritage but also in the annals of World Heritage. These outstanding Civil and Structural Engineering edifices and other inputs of engineering in Sigiriya and Kala Wewa gracefully herald the civil engineering achievements of our ancestors. In the pre and the post independence era of Sri Lanka, the Laxapana Hydropower Project and other engineering feats of our modern Engineers, specially the names of Engineer Greats of the calibre of Engineer D.J. Wimalasurendra, Dr. A.N.S. Kulasinghe and Engineer B.D. Rampala among others will always be remembered with Honour and Pride.

The Institute of Structural Engineers - Sri Lanka is a part of this heritage carrying forward the genes of our ancestors not only of the historic past but also of the modern day.

We as Engineers have a very responsible and a great role to perform to help our Motherland in the spheres of development both in the Civil and Structural Engineering fields. A pivotal and vital role have to be played by the Engineers to cement the foundation of the Vision of His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapaksa in his commitment to make Sri Lanka a developed Island Nation in Asia. This entails the modern highways and road networks connecting towns and villages to the economic centers of Sri Lanka, construction of high-rise towers in Colombo and suburban cities, high-rise apartment blocs in the suburbs to house the ever-growing population, development of modern bridges, railways, power-plants and ports to accommodate the growth of the economy which will contribute to the well being and prosperity of the People of Sri Lanka.

This Message conveys upon you to perform with Trust, Pride and Dedication that is akin to the dedicated role played by our Engineers in the aftermath of Tsunami.

After the Victory over Terrorism by our Heroic Forces we are indebted to all those who laid their precious lives to safeguard the Sovereignty, Independence and Unity of Sri Lanka, it is therefore our duty to dedicate ourselves for the upliftment of this Island Nation to a developed country in Asia, our contribution as Engineers in this regard should necessarily be monumental.

Hon. Geethanjana Gunawardena

Minister of Construction & Engineering Services



I wish to congratulate the Society of Structural Engineers, Sri Lanka which has now been incorporated by an act of Parliament as a Professional Structural Engineering Body in Sri Lanka.

The work of your members is greatly in the public interest as it affects and directly contributes to all types of infrastructure development in public or private sector, which is the foundation for all economic development projects in our country.

It is my fervent hope that you will continue to fulfil that role in a more organized and authoritative way befitting your new status. While assuring you my full support and cooperation I wish you all success in your future endeavours.

Hon. Dr. Rajitha Senarathna

Secretary, Ministry of Construction & Engineering Services



It is with much pleasure that I send this message of felicitation on the incorporation of your society by the "Society of Structural Engineers of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Act No 40 of 2009". With this incorporation you will be in a position to contribute towards the

Development of structural engineers and structural engineering practice in Sri Lanka, in a more effective manner.

Indeed it stands to the credit of our local engineers that we never had a failure of a major structure designed by them to date, whereas the only failures had been the structures designed and constructed by foreigners. With the proven sound technical footing of our engineers, your Society shall make every endeavour to compete with the foreign engineering consultants and develop to even export the services of engineers. As it is the declared policy of the government to develop construction industry as a thrust industry, I assure you unstinted support of this Ministry and wish you success in developing the structural engineering profession.

Eng. Nissanka Wijeratne

Member of Parliament for Polonnaruwa District



It is a great pleasure to send this message on the occasion to mark the incorporation of the society.

With the incorporation of the society by parliament Act No.40 of 2009 it has reached another milestone in its path to progress over many years of existence.

I consider it as an honour to have been associated with the society and personally involved with the smooth passage of incorporation of the society through parliament until its success.

One may build beautiful palatial residences but what is more important is the perfection in the structure. It is in this regard the members of the society could play a major role.

Soon after the end of the civil war in the country many opportunities have been created and enterprises to commence. In this regard the members of the SSESL could play a major role in taking the country forward and many opportunities exist for the society members working abroad to come back and contribute.

Wholeheartedly, I support the society in its endeavour to help advance the knowledge and practice of Structural Engineering to high professional standards in particular and to contribute to the development of our country in general.

I wish to offer my sincere congratulations to corporate, associate and student members of the society on this occasion.

In addition, I congratulate the President, Secretary and Organizing Committee Members for their significant contribution to achieve this status and to make this event a success.

Hon. Earl Gunasekera

Our Objectives

- SSESL shall work to strengthen the Structural Engineering profession by establishing and promoting adherence to high quality professional standards by its members.
- SSESL shall provide a vibrant platform for Structural Engineers and professionals from related fields for knowledge sharing and information access.
- SSESL aims to enrich the understanding of the structural systems and work towards its further development by facilitating technical interaction and widespread meaningful dialogue.

- SSESL aims to serve to enhance the role of structural engineers and planners to improve the quality of construction.
- SSESL shall give content to public discussion on major issues concerning the safety of structures and creating special interest groups to formulate guidelines & relevant publications etc.
- SSESL shall endeavour to create a Communication channel for representation of Structural Engineering concerns and issues to the government and speak as the voice of the profession on relevant public issues.

A Brief History....

In the year 1990 a group of practicing structural engineers both in the public & private sector & academics engaged in the field of structural engineering formed the Society of Structural Engineers Sri Lanka (SSE-SL). The SSE-SL was formed to serve as a forum for structural engineers whilst being complimentary to the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka as almost all the SSE (SL) members were primarily Civil Engineers & members of IESL (SL) who had specialized & were practicing in the field of structural engineering.

The founder President of the Society was Eng. Daya de Silva who was succeeded by the late Dr. B.M.A. Balasooriya, The first Honorary Secretary was Eng. Mathan Coomaraswamy & the first meeting of the SSC (SL) was held at the auditorium of the National Building Research Organization (NBRO) on the 21st of February 1990.

In the early formative days, the Society received considerable support from the NBRO as it was there that the SSE had its committee meetings, guest lectures & indeed the first Annual General Meeting.

The firsts AGM of the society was held on 06 January 1995 at the Auditorium of the NBRO.

As the Society progressed, the SSE(SL) organized guest lectures from time to time where engineers & academics & sometimes persons from the industry came along to

present their lectures. Thereafter, in June 1991 the SSE (SL) began a monthly "Question Time" which to date has been a monthly occurrence in the calendar of events of the SSE. These QT sessions have been well attended & drawn a wide cross section of personnel from the construction industry. From the modest beginnings at the NBRO, the SSE (SL) moved its offices to Cotta Road, Colombo 8 where a section of the design office of Dr. AC Visvalingam was given by him at no cost to the Society. Dr. Visvalingam who succeeded Dr. Balasooriya as President of Society consolidated on the good work of the founders & the incorporation of the SSE with the Registrar of Companies in July 1993 the compilation of a Directory of Structural Engineers, the moving of the SSE offices to its present premises at the OPA building & the conduct of a large number of seminars related to the structural engineering bears testimony to the progress made during the years from 1993 to 2009. Dr. Visvalingam was succeeded as President by Eng. A.D. Wickremasinghe & Eng. S.A. Karunaratne who served the Society between the periods 2001 to 2003 & 2004 to 2008 respectively. During this period too the Society made considerable progress. There were many fund raising events in the form of full day & half day seminars on topical subjects related to structural engineering & these seminars have always

been well attended & well patronized by the numerous stake holders allied to the construction industry.

Consequent to the Tsunami which struck in December 2004, bomb explosions which affected a number of our major buildings, earthquakes occurring close to Sri Lanka which occurred during the, the SSE have been associated in formulating guidelines related to design/detailing of structures to resist some of these natural disasters as well as terrorist induced bomb blasts.

Members of the SSE have also been active participants in a number of committees set up by the IESL, UDA, ICTAD, SLI in areas relating to important policy formulating the construction industry.

The SSE in 2007 set about the task of obtaining incorporation by an act of parliament in the year 2009.

However although much effort & progress was achieved by many of the committee members who served during those periods, the premature dissolution of successive parliaments precluded us from achieving the final objective.

Nevertheless, the relentless efforts of many members who contributed finally bore fruit this year & on 27 July 2009 the SSE received incorporation by an act of parliament.

The current president of the Society is Eng. D.A. Jayasinghe & the SSE(SL) looks forward to serving the members & expanding its activities in keeping with its new responsibilities now entrusted by the act of parliament.

Past Presidents 1989-2009



Dr. BMA Balasooriya



Dr. AC Visvalingam

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 2008/09



Past Presidents 1989-2009



Eng. AD Wickramasinghe

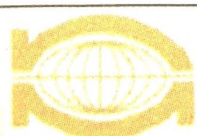


Eng. SA Karunaratne

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