

Eng. W.J.L.S Fernando, New President of the IESL

Eng. W.J.L.S Fernando who is currently the General Manager of the Ceylon Electricity Board officially took over the mantle of presidency of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) at its Annual General Meeting held on 26th October, 2013 at the Committee Room 'A' of the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall. He had been ceremonially inducted to the presidency for the 2013/2014 sessions of the IESL at the inauguration of its 107th Annual Sessions held on Tuesday, 15th October, 2013 at the Waters Edge.

IESL is the apex body for professional engineers in Sri Lanka. The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) established in 1956 was the successor to the then Engineering Association of Ceylon which was founded in 1906 at Anuradhapura by a few dedicated engineers serving in the public sector, with the objective of providing general advancement of science and practice of engineering in all disciplines concerned according to rules agreed to by its members. In 1968, the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka was made an incorporated body of the Government by an act of parliament. It represents the interests of the engineering profession and the general public its members serve.

Eng. W.J.L.S Fernando obtained his B Sc. Hon. (Eng.) from the University of Moratuwa in 1978 and his M. Eng. (Energy Technology) from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok in



1982. He joined IESL in May 1988 and became a Fellow of the IESL in Nov. 1999 and have served in the IESL Council ever since becoming Vice President in the 2010/ 2011 Session and President-Elect in the 2012/2013 Sessions.

In his inaugural speech he stated "I cannot promise great things, because I only have one year, but I am assured by my President Elect, both of us will jointly work on a two year programme having given our support to the President Eng. Tilak De Silva in all the revolutionary initiatives he took to make the IESL a more useful place for you engineers. Make it more acceptable to our members. I will continue with all the good work he did and along with my President Elect I will charter a durable course of action that will keep all the categories of our members going for the best, I

will create space for all engineers at IESL, next one year in particular and two years for sure."

He further stated "We already have 8 centers locally and one overseas chapter in NSW. This year 6 district centers were created in Kegalle, Polonnaruwa, Mannar, Ampara, Monaragala and Batticaloa. So it is high time that we re-name our provincial centres to be Provincial Chapters. May be we can call the RajarataChapter, KandurataChapter, RuhunuChapter so on so forth, and go ahead and create centres in all districts. We have already done the ground work to set up a chapter in West Asia centres and may be Canada or USA."

Eng. W.J.L.S Fernando is currently the General Manager of Ceylon Electricity Board and has previously held the positions of Additional General Manager -

Projects, Project Director - Upper Kotmale Hydro Power Project, Deputy General Manager - Generation Planning and Deputy General Manager - Thermal Complex at the CEB. Significant achievements in his career with the CEB include the successful completion of the Upper Kotmale Hydro Power Project overcoming many social, political and technical challenges, putting the 115 MW Fiat Gas Turbine into operation after the contractor had left without attending to vital repair/overhaul works, directing the engineering service studies for the Coal Power Plant at Norochcholai amidst severe protests, doing the feasibility studies for the 165 MW Combined Cycle studies at Kelanitissa Thermal Power Plant and the 300 MW Plant at Kerawalapitiya, negotiation of funding for many generation projects

