

Advertorial

Ceremonial inauguration of 110th Annual Sessions of IESL

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

Mr. KhooTeng 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 Manager 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.

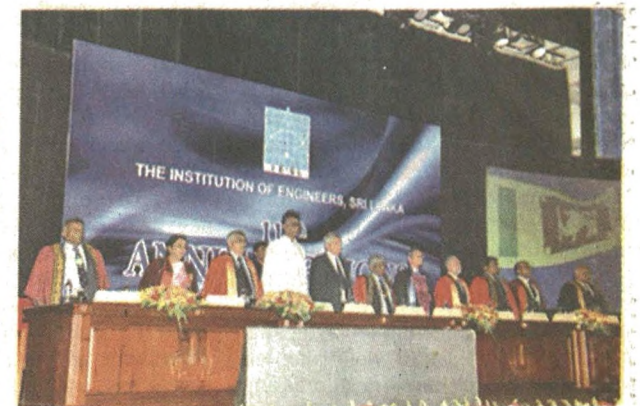
Speaking at the event the Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe while appreciating the role played by engineers also laid out the country's wider expectations of its engineers towards its sustainable development. He mentioned the country's choice of a knowledge based economy and

the need to widen the scope for teaching technology 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



PM Ranil Wickremasinghe, Chief Guest and Patali 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, Hony. Secretary, Hony. Treasurer and Chief Executive Officer of the IESL



Eng. Jayavilal Meegoda, the new President of IESL resplendent in chain-of-presidency being greeted by the outgoing President, Eng. Wimalasena Gamage



Eng. Jayavilal Meegoda making his inaugural presidential speech



One of the school children winners the Junior Inventor of the Year 2016 Competition receiving his award from the Prime Minister



Eng. W.D.S. Wijayapala receiving from the Guest of Honour the special IESL Award for the Best Paper by a Corporate Member published in the "Engineer" Journal of the IESL



programme.

Mr. KhooTeng 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.