



The Professional

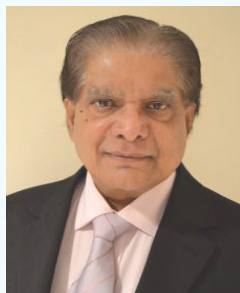
The Association of Professional Sri Lankans in the UK

*12th
Anniversary*

UK Registered Charity No 1145786

2016 July – 12th Anniversary Edition

President's Message



It is with great pleasure I welcome you all to the 12th APSL annual fund raising Dinner Dance at the Hilton Hotel, Watford.

APSL though a professional body is also a UK registered charity in the United Kingdom since 2012 and from 2014 we decided to dedicate this annual event to support a worthy cause in Sri Lanka.

The proceeds from the 2014 event was utilised to provide much needed medical equipment to the Anuradhapura hospital to treat patients suffering from chronic kidney diseases. With the funds raised from the event held last year we provided ten scholarships to bright and needy children in Sri Lanka under the APSL Student Grant Scheme.

This year we are planning to utilise the proceedings from this event to support solar village projects in Sri Lanka. As a professional body it is one of our objectives to support projects supporting sustainable development for the benefit of people living in rural areas of Sri Lanka.

On professional development we organise many events during the year sharing our knowledge with other professionals and general public via our Ask the Expert Series.

I would like to request the many Sri Lankan professionals living in the United Kingdom to join hands with us and support our projects and at the same time make use of the good opportunity to meet like-minded people of different professions and widen your horizons in the professional world.

Finally thank you all for attending the event today and hope you will thoroughly enjoy the night and at the same time generously giving your support to our charitable projects.

Leslie Dep

APSL Scholarship Scheme Launch of the Chilaw / Putlam Cohort



The Chilaw / Putlam Cohort of the APSL Scholarship Scheme was launched at the People's Rural Development Association (PRDA) Chilaw office on Saturday 7th May 2016.

Ten children chosen to receive scholarship funding – seven girls and three boys all attended the event, accompanied by their parents / guardians and their respective PRDA field officers.

Mr Mervyn Silva, APSL IPP and Scholarship Coordinator represented APSL at the event. Mr Silva informed the group about the APSL, its origins, objectives as well as their activities. The scholarship scheme, its objectives and progress to-date was explained and the winners of the scholarships were congratulated by Mr Silva, on behalf of the APSL.

APSL 12th Annual General Meeting

The 12th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association of Professional Sri Lankans in the UK (APSL), was held on Saturday 14th May 2016 at Citadines Apart Hotel, Holborn, London, with the participation of the members of the Association.

Mr Manoj Warnapala, Minister Councillor for Education and Culture at the Sri Lanka High Commission attended the meeting representing the Acting Sri Lanka High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr Suggeshwara Gunaratne, who is the Patron of the Association.

During the meeting, a new executive committee was elected unanimously for the year 2016 -2017.

APSL Executive Committee 2016-2017

President	Mr Leslie Dep
Vice Presidents	Mr Thushara Madurasinghe & Dr Chesmal Siriwardhana
General Secretary	Dr Mohan Siriwardena
Membership Secretary	Mrs Gayani Senaratne
Treasurer	Ms Buddhini Liyanage
Executive Committee Members	
Dr Mahesh de Silva	Mr Suraj Wijendra
Mr Gihantha Jayasinghe	Dr Roger Srivasan
Dr Leshan Uggalla	Prof Terrance Fernando
Dr Dilrini de Silva	Ms Jananie Nallathamby
Ms Paola Bethmage	

Co-opted Senior Members

Mr Mervyn Silva (Immediate Past President)	Mr Rohan de Alwis
Dr Andrew Nayagam	Prof I M Dharmadasa
Prof Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran	Dr Marc Dissanayake
Dr Indrajit Coomaraswamy (APSL Representative in Sri Lanka)	Dr Athula Sumathipala

We wish to thank all former ex-co members for their dedication and commitment, and for taking a very active role in APSL activities during their time in the Executive Committee. We wish them all the very best in their future endeavours. We also thank the outgoing General Secretary Dr Mahesh De Silva, for carrying out his duties and responsibilities diligently during his two year term with a very high degree of professionalism and commitment. We welcome members who are joining the ex-co this year for the first time.

PROGRAMME

APSL Fund Raising Dinner Dance 2016 Saturday 16 July 2016, Hilton, Watford

7.00 pm	Arrival of Guests
7.30 pm	Introduction by Two Hosts
7.45 pm	Welcome Address Leslie Dep, President APSL
7.55 pm	Solar Village Concept Prof I M Dharmadasa
8.30 pm	Live Music
9.00 pm	Dutch Auction
9.45 pm	Dinner
10.45 pm	Live Music
11.00 pm	Raffle Draw
12.00	Live Music
MIDNIGHT	Close – National Anthems

The third and final session for the day was a presentation on Health Migration, delivered by the guest speaker Dr Kolitha Wickramage from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Dr Chesmal Siriwardhana who organised the talk introduced the speaker. Dr. Wickramage is based in Geneva, and he has been involved in health migration research activities for a while. Before that, he was involved in the Tsunami rehabilitation work in Sri Lanka. He has also worked for the UN during the internal conflict in Sri Lanka, working in the Vanni District.



It was a very informative talk on the work the IOM carries out with respect to the movement of migration in Sri Lanka, especially to the Gulf countries, and how it affects the families left behind, and also the work the IOM does for the welfare of the migrant workers. He also explained the global trends in migration by citing examples from other countries in Asia, and the obstacles they face in getting a better deal for the migrant workers.

There was a very interesting Q&A session following Dr Wickramage's talk, which highlighted many aspects related to the problems faced by those who migrate, especially to the Gulf countries.

APSL Executive Committee Member appointed as Governor of Central Bank Sri Lanka

We are very happy and proud that APSL Executive Committee member Dr Indrajit Coomaraswamy was appointed as the Governor of the Central Bank by President Hon. Maithripala Sirisena on Saturday 2 July 2016.



He is a very active member of the APSL and he represents APSL in Sri Lanka. He is an economist and worked in the Central Bank in 1973, the Commonwealth Secretariat (1990 to 2008) and has held several other important positions in his career.

He has taken part in APSL "Ask the Expert Series" events sharing his vast knowledge in economic development in Sri Lanka and globally.

We wish him great success and courage in his new role to steer Sri Lanka safely into economic prosperity.

APSL Fund Raising Event – Facials



On 16th April 2016 our Membership Secretary, Gayani Senaratne organised a facial event at the Scott Room – Oxford House in Bethnal Green under the theme ***“Mini facials using Artistry premier skin care range and Nutrition product exposure by Nutrilite world number one plant base supplements”***.

APSL member Ruwani Ransi an experienced beautician did the facials with two of her friends and it was a very successful event. Many thanks to Ruwani and Gayani for organising this event.

APSL Project Portfolio

APSL Scholarship Scheme

APSL Scholarship Scheme was established in 2014 to help gifted children from low income families in Sri Lanka. Based on the idea of Professor Terrence Fernando, Salford University, the scheme serves as a vehicle for anyone including Sri Lanka diaspora, who would like to help gifted children in Sri Lanka to realise their full potential. Currently 30 children

from a number of different districts are receiving scholarship funding and the demand is very high. It only costs £15 per month to keep a child in education and give them a brighter future. If you would like to help by sponsoring a child, please contact: Mervyn Silva, Scholarship Co-ordinator, Phone: 07967 688971, email: mervyn.silva@blueyonder.co.uk.

Solar Villages

“Solar Village” concept developed by one of the past Presidents of APSL, Prof I M Dharmadasa focuses on the development of rural communities who are trapped in poverty. This project empowers village communities to develop themselves by wealth creation using projects such as solar water pumping for providing clean water for drinking and other household activities. APSL is working to establish a few “Solar Villages” in the East, North and the South of Sri Lanka, following a successful pilot project started in 2008, in Kurunegala District.

Ask the Expert

A series of guest presentations and discussions centred around a specialist subject area. These events are mainly aimed at knowledge dissemination, professional development and networking for our members and for the general public. APSL hold about 3 events per year.

APSL Research Symposium

Research symposium showcases the latest cutting edge research conducted by Sri Lankan professionals living in the UK. Launched in 2011, three such events were held in various parts of the UK. This has also provided a forum for early career researchers and young professionals to disseminate their work.

Eastern Values & Living in the UK

A series of events aimed at facilitating discussion on how to balance the cultural and social values of Sri Lankans and those of the western world. Mainly targeting at young Sri Lankans living in the UK, the events have revealed how the combination of such values can result in significant benefits to individuals, communities and to the society at large.

We Sri Lanka

The aim of ‘We Sri Lanka’ is to foster reconciliation among all Sri Lankans in the UK. Between 2010–2012, three conventions were organised by APSL, based on the ‘We Sri Lanka’ theme, to build mutual understanding, goodwill and a sense of shared purpose through dialogue, learning, and a celebration of our cultural diversity. As an outcome of the conventions, We Sri Lanka project is now supporting the replication of Solar Villages in Sri Lanka, as a way of supporting the sustainable development of Sri Lanka.

APSL contributes to flood relief activities in Sri Lanka



In the wake of floods and landslides in Sri Lanka in May 2016, APSL was swift to act and raised a sum of GBP 450 among its Executive Committee members towards a flood relief response.

APSL teamed up with members of the Hashim Foundation, a non-profit organisation operating in the Kegalle District, to distribute school bags packed with pencil cases, pencils, pens, sharpeners, drink bottles and books to 83 children in Napawala in the Kegalle District - an area that was inundated with over 11 feet of flood water but not reached by existing relief networks.

Coordinating efforts were led by Dilrini De Silva, APSL and Sarah Kabir, Hashim Foundation with guidance from Rikaz Hussain (Private Secretary, Ministry of Public Enterprise Development) and Rajitha Halwela (Consultant, Ministry of Finance and Planning).

Despite these efforts, more than 300 affected children in Kegalle district still require assistance with educational material. APSL welcomes contributions to provide support to these children in need.

Newsletter Editor – Dr Chesmal Siriwardhana
www.apsl.org.uk

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