

THE PROFESSIONAL

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NEXT EVENT

APSL 6th Annual General Meeting and Dinner Dance

**Saturday 24th April
2010**

Keynote speech
by
Sir Professor Arulkumaran

Bharatha & Sri Lankan
dances

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and dance the night away
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www.apsl.org.uk
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A Review of the Year's Work



APSL is completing its sixth year filled with exciting events. As planned in its annual calendar, two main events were held, one in Sri Lanka and the other in the UK. The first event was held in July 2009, in collaboration with SLSEA (Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority), at the BMICH Colombo, on solar energy and applications. During this workshop, the solar energy strategy for Sri Lanka was written and handed over to the government authorities. A three-person delegation from the APSL met His Excellency the President to inform our endeavours and express the full support of the APSL for rapid development programmes in Sri Lanka.

The second event was the "First APSL Annual Convention" held in Birmingham, displaying various successful development projects currently taking place in order to encourage and activate similar projects. Through its annual participation in the Festival of Cricket and other activities, over 100 new members joined APSL during this year. More importantly, APSL has been linked to Sri Lankan organisations like SLSEA, IRD, NCAS, Energy Forum and the academic network during this year in order to carry out our future projects in Sri Lanka.

Among other activities, "Ask the Accountants" event in our on-going "Ask the Experts" series was held in the SLHC in London. The APSL development plan was prepared & published, and two newsletters were circulated among members. As the APSL is rapidly growing, the Executive Committee has formed several sub-committees to work closely with APSL membership to diversify its future activities. APSL is growing with an impressive rate, and this is a special invitation for all Sri Lankans to join forces to contribute towards the rapid development of our mother country.

Professor I M Dharmadasa
President APSL UK

Tribute to Mr Samith (Sam) Jayasena



It is with deep sorrow that we report the passing away of Mr Sam Jayasena beloved husband of Pulmali, loving father of Sachini, Suhara and Senoli. Sam passed away on 28th November 2009 after a short illness. He was a founding member of the APSL, a member of the Executive Committee for four years and served as the Deputy Secretary for a short period.

A highly practical man with an unassuming nature, Sam was driven by an urge to serve and make a difference to the lives of people in Sri Lanka- the island he loved. Sam played an active role in APSL's relief and reconstruction effort after the Boxing Day Tsunami in 2004.

Kind, generous, and dependable, he was much loved and respected by everyone who knew him. It is with deep sorrow that we bade farewell to our much-loved friend and respected colleague and fellow Sri Lankan who is deeply missed but never forgotten. We offer our deepest sympathies to his wife and children.

Sri Lankan Expatriate Forum 14-15 November 2009

In response to a request from the Sri Lankan High Commission in London, the APSL executive committee accepted an initiation to attend this event representing the UK expatriates. The General Secretary was nominated to attend this unique initiative to gather information on the post- conflict development of the country and to use this to inform the APSL strategic business plan which is currently still in its infancy. The event's overall objective was to encourage a dialogue with the wider expatriate community to forge a constructive relationship with Sri Lanka in the development of the country. A major theme throughout the two-day event was unity within the expatriate community to form a cohesive force able to engage with the socio-economic development of Sri Lanka. Many of the ideas reflect APSL's own aims extensively discussed at executive committee meetings in 2009 and now documented in a working plan that is now being shared with the wider APSL membership. This was a thought provoking and constructive event receiving a great deal of support from the delegates. For the complete write-up, please visit APSL website.



First APSL Convention

The first annual APSL (Association of Professional Sri Lankans in UK) convention was held on Saturday 21 November 2009, at the Portland Hotel-Birmingham. This was a very successful event with a houseful audience with the participation of many from the Midlands.



Eng Ranjan Perera, General Secretary of APSL briefed the audience, after representing APSL in two meetings held in Colombo on 14th November in response to the open invitation by H.E. the President of Sri Lanka. Mr Mervyn Silva, introduced and moderated the session on "Road Safety in Sri Lanka" in order to prepare the second educational article of our "Through the professional eye" series. This was conducted as a workshop with the participation of the audience. The presentations by Dr Sumathipala, Mrs De Seram and Professor Dharmadasa reflected mainly on their own expertise in the relevant topics especially highlighting the work they do in Sri Lanka. The participants became fully engaged in a very lively discussion with great interest and many 'newcomers' became members during the event in order to contribute to this onerous but honourable task.



The keynote speaker of the day was Dr. Bandara Panagamuwa, a Consultant in Rehabilitative Medicine. He delivered an interesting and emotional speech on "Artificial limb project for the war injured in Sri Lanka". He has served both in Sri Lanka and in the UK with exemplary and dedicated capability over a period of four decades in rehabilitative medicine. He has devoted his own time, effort (and at the expense of his own earnings) to help conflict affected people by providing artificial limbs and improve their livelihood again. He has designed a "Pana-Ankle" which is not only cost effective, but demonstrates his computing, design and engineering skills, which if done by a Western multinational would involve many departments and result in a high cost product. The sessions were co - chaired by well-experienced senior members of APSL - Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy, Dr. Keerthi Devendra, Mr. Rohan de Alwis, Dr. Marc Dissanayake and Dr. Andrew Nayagam. Mrs Lushani Kodituwakku and Mrs Gayani Senaratne organised an excellent raffle draw raising substantial funds and the organisation of the overall event in Birmingham was chaired by APSL Vice President, Mr Leslie Dep. The Deputy General Secretary, Mr Mohan Siriwardena delivered the vote of thanks, followed by dinner and dancing concluding the events soon after midnight. This event is very successful fully self-funded event and the money raised from this event will be donated to development and rehabilitation projects in Sri Lanka including the projects carried out in Sri Lanka by Dr Panagamuwa and Mrs Shiranee De Seram.



Ask the Accountant event

The fifth "Ask the Expert" series event "Ask the Accountant" was held at the Sri Lanka High Commission in London on Saturday 30th January 2010 with a full audience. Three very relevant presentations were made by our member-speakers, specialist professionals in their chosen subjects. Mishantha Liyanage, an Independent Financial Adviser presented on the "aspects that should be taken into account when managing finance/tax in small businesses"; Lushani Kodituwakku, Director of Strategic Intelligence at Grant Thornton focused on "the external market dynamics to help a business survive the recession and become more competitive". Rohan de Alwis, a Solicitor and Company Director of a number of active companies provided "food for thought" on "successful personal investing". Suraj Wijendra (Financial Controller at Marks & Spencer) chaired this event assisted by Sanjaya Kodituwakku (Financial Accountant at UKBA). This event was mostly beneficial to people who ran their own businesses and for those who were planning to form their own companies and looking into investing opportunities in the United Kingdom. This was reflected at the very enlightening questions and answer session, which followed the presentations. All the above presentations are available in the APSL web site. It is planned to continue this series in the coming year and we would welcome any particular themes/topics from the members for future "Ask the Expert" series events.



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