



# THE PROFESSIONAL

Issue I  
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[www.apsl.org.uk](http://www.apsl.org.uk)

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## About APSL

### Who we are

We are men and women of Sri Lankan origin in the UK, who are either employed, self-employed, pursuing studies or is engaged in any profession or talent.

### Our Vision

To help and support Sri Lanka develop its professionals to be world class in quality.

### Our Mission

Support and contribute to the development, advancement and continual improvement in all professions including Aerospace, Energy, Education, Engineering, Legal, Medical, Science, Technology & Management.

### Can I become a member?

Yes, membership of APSL UK is open to all Sri Lankan Professionals resident in the U.K. We do not interpret the word "professional" in a narrow sense, so membership is open to anyone of Sri Lankan descent who fits the above criteria, and interested in promoting professionalism among compatriots as well as development of Sri Lanka."

You can apply on-line at [www.apsl.org.uk](http://www.apsl.org.uk) or by downloading the application form from the website and forwarding it to the General Secretary at the address below.

## Our history

APSL UK was 'born' on 29 February 2004, when a number of Sri Lankan professionals together with the then High Commissioner, Mr Faisz Mustapha, met at the Prince of Ceylon in London. Ex-officio, the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in the UK is our Patron.

## Vision Lanka

In January 2005, Vision Lanka was formed as a UK registered Charity (number 1108320) to help the Tsunami victims. It is a direct help / action charity, with no 'middle men' or fees with every penny raised going to benefit the Tsunami victims.

## Our achievements so far

- **Professional Seminars** held in London, Nottingham. for members, as well as non-members.
- **Tsunami Charity** continues its commitment to Sri Lanka in building homes in Thalpe in the Southern Province.
- Active contributions to establish **renewable energy applications** in Sri Lanka
- Launch of our vibrant **website** [www.apsl.org.uk](http://www.apsl.org.uk)
- **Social activities** included a Dinner Dance, Peduru Party, Wine Tasting, Coast to Coast Walk!

## Events calendar

### 2006

- 14th October: Wine Tasting, Nottingham.
- 18th November: The Autumn Event, London.

### 2007

- January (TBC): Community Event, Leicester
- 17th March: The Spring Event Salford University.
- 14th April: Out Door Event

## Association address

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## What's it about

When joining an Association, most of us feel a bit apprehensive as to whether it has any political or religious affiliations. APSL UK is a truly Sri Lankan, broad based organisation without any religious, racial or political affiliations, which enables our members to share their professional knowledge on *an even keel* with other members, as well as with those in Sri Lanka.

We have had constructive meetings with the Government of Sri Lanka on technology transfers and had a Professional Seminar at the Organisation of Professional Associations ("OPA") in Colombo, which is the apex body of all professional associations in Sri Lanka. Equally, we distributed Tsunami aid to the affected people in Northern, Eastern, and Southern Parts of Sri Lanka within 24 hours of the tragedy happening on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2004.



We know how to be serious...

## Tsunami housing

Vision Lanka set out on a house building project to re-house families made homeless by the killer wave. When the government reduced the 'no build' buffer zone from 100 to 65 metres, and we took the opportunity to reconstruct houses destroyed in Talpe, southern Sri Lanka. We selected 9 families who having lost their houses were still living in temporary huts and re-build houses in

accordance with our design and terms with the District Secretary's permission.

All the houses were completed and handed over to the families on 15th November and the photos are now on our website. We would like to say a big Thank You to all of you who helped us turn this to reality.

## Message from the President



The release of this, the first issue of *The Professional* as our in-house newsletter, marks another milestone in the rapid development of the Association since its launch in February 2004. I thank Mervyn Silva, our General Secretary, for having spent much time and effort in producing it in time for distribution at our Autumn event this year. I know he has plans to make *The Professional* a key means of keeping the membership in touch with what the Association is doing on their behalf.

You will have gathered from the various items of informa-

tion contained in this newsletter that the Association has run many seminars, both here in the UK and in Sri Lanka, on several areas of interest to you as professionals. Your Association scored a major success when its proposals concerning waste management were accepted for consideration by the Government of Sri Lanka. We believe that the way forward indicated by us stands a strong chance of being adopted as policy in the not-too-distant future. The initiatives taken by the Association in connection with Tsunami relief are progressing well. However, whilst being reactive to events like the Tsunami tragedy we, as professionals, aim also to be proactive in shaping the future fortunes of Sri Lanka. *The Professional* will keep you informed of developments on that front.

In thanking you all for your varied and unstinting contributions to our work this past

year, I wish you a joyful Christmas and join with you in praying that peace and harmony will reign once more in our island homeland this coming year - and beyond.

**Leslie Gunaratne,**  
M.Sc., MBEng., CEng., MCIQB.,  
FIQA



and we know how to have fun!

**Peduru Party November 2005**

## The Exec. Committee' 06

**Patron:**  
Her Excellency Mrs Kshenuka Seneviratne, The High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in the U.K.

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Dr Keerthi Devendra, and  
Mr Rohan de Alwis



The Coast-to-Coast Walkers

## The Coast to Coast Walk 2006

Two APSL members: Mervyn Silva and Keerthi Galappatty along with four of their English friends completed the 192 mile Coast to Coast Walk in summer. The walk starts from St Bees Head in Cumbria and ends in Robin hoods Bay in North Yorkshire Moors. The group was led by Andrew Guy and his deputy Alan Wilby - veterans to the Coast to Coast walk. "We have seen some of the most beautiful countryside of Britain that you would never see from a car, We drank so much water (and also beer), breathed so much fresh air and laughed so much that each of us felt 10 years younger at the end of the walk. It is a fortnight that we'll never forget.", said Mervyn.

Thanks to the generosity of many kind sponsors, the walk raised almost £3000. The funds raised will be handed over to the designate charities during the Autumn Event on 18th November.

## What you said...

The APSL Spring Event was held on 4th March in Nottingham. The Chief Guest on this occasion was Dr Raj Chandran, the Mayor of Gedling. Over 130 delegates, mostly Sri Lankan, some British and other nationalities, from around the UK, participated in the event.

An exhibition of Relief and Reconstruction Projects carried out by APSL and several other organisations to help Tsunami victims in Sri Lanka provided the backdrop to the proceedings followed by a number of highly interesting and relevant Presentations were made by a number of Speakers. The chart below shows what the delegates said as part of their feedback, that they like to have in the future events—valid comments that we have taken on board!

