

Shaping the future of ICT professionals

Newsletter

www.cssl.lk | OCTOBER | 2016



Content of this issue

NITC 2016 – a resounding success!

CSSL Excellence in ICT Awards 2016

CSSL Supports APNIC 42

CSSL Supports International Conference on Advances in
ICT for Emerging Regions 2016

IT Blast 2016

CSSL organises CIO Forum in collaboration with
FITIS & VirtusaPolaris

CSSL & FITIS host 3rd National CIO Forum with
Google's leading enterprise partner in Sri Lanka

NITC 2016 – a resounding success!

The 34th National Information Technology Conference (NITC) 2016 themed "Enhancing Sri Lanka through Digital Disruption" was inaugurated on the 8th of August at the Galadari Hotel, with the formal conference taking place on the 9th and 10th of August at the same venue. Distinguished speakers presenting at this year's event included Prof Dimiter Velez from the University of National World Economy – Bulgaria, Ms Michelle Beveridge – CIO of the Intepnid Group, Mr Champika Wijayatunga – Regional Security Engagement Manager from ICANN, Prof Ashu Marasinghe MP and Ms Mehrnoush Salehpour from Telstra International Group, amongst others.

NITC is the flagship annual event organised by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) since 1982. This year's conference was organised across eight main tracks: Affordable Internet, Healthcare ICT, Smart Payments, Quality Assurance, Open Source, Child Safety & Security, Internet of Things and Leveraging Cloud. Participants included a wide variety of ICT professionals, academics, technology experts, policy makers, entrepreneurs and many key private and public sector decision makers in Sri Lanka.



CSSL Excellence in ICT Awards 2016

The fourth annual "Excellence in ICT" awards ceremony organised by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) was held recently at the Galadari Hotel in Colombo in conjunction with the inauguration ceremony of the National IT Conference 2016. This year, the CSSL presented awards for excellence in five categories, namely: ICT Leader of the Year, CIO of the Year, Female ICT Leader of the Year, Emerging ICT Leader of the Year and Best Start-up of the Year.

The ICT Leader of the Year award was won by **Shanil Fernando**, Co-Founder and Managing Director - Sri Lanka for CAKE Corporation, a Silicon Valley based company that creates disruptive technology for the restaurant industry. The CAKE platform in its current state processes over US\$ 1 Billion in revenue annually, and is in use by over 5000 restaurants in the US. The company grew last year at a rate of 150% YOY. Prior to CAKE, Mr. Fernando was a founding member of Virtusa. He has been an advocate and change agent in the Sri Lankan IT industry encouraging a move away from IT services to focus on product innovation and product engineering, a model very successfully adopted by smaller countries like Ireland and Israel which can potentially bring significant value creation to Sri Lanka. Mr. Fernando has also been named in Echelon's 40 under 40 list of most important risk takers, job creators and rule breakers.



ICT Leader of the Year 2016 - Shanil Fernando

CSSL Excellence in ICT Awards 2016 Cont.

The CIO of the Year award went to **Conrad Dias**, Chief Information Officer - LOLC Group and Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer - Lanka ORIX Information Technology Services Ltd., /LOLC Technologies Limited. Mr. Dias is a seasoned veteran in Business and Information Technology, Software Engineering, Project Management, Strategic and Investment Planning, Finance Management, Corporate Restructuring and Unit Trust & Fund Management. His experience spans over two decades and he has been instrumental in successfully integrating ICT divisions of all acquisitions and strategically leading the ICT direction of all sectors. Prior to LOLC, he served as Consultant and Group CIO for Hirdaramani Group of Companies and was an Assistant Vice President at Vanik Incorporation Ltd serving in various capacities. Mr Dias holds an MBA from the University of Leicester.



CIO of the Year 2016 - Conrad Dias

CSSL Excellence in ICT Awards 2016 Cont.

Prof. Mahesha Kapurubandara, Dean International and Professor, Department of IT - Faculty of Computing, at the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology won the award for Female ICT Leader of the Year. She counts nearly three decades of experience in the ICT industry specialising in Information Systems and IT education. Believed to be the first woman in Sri Lanka to receive a Professorship for ICT, she was also recognised by Women in Management - Sri Lanka, with the award of their silver medal at the 6th Professional & Career Women Awards 2016. In spite of all her responsibilities, she still remains committed to research. Her research interests are ICT for Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (SMEs), Women Entrepreneurship and Business Process Management (BPM). She also serves on the editorial boards of many International Conferences and serves as a reviewer.



Female ICT Leader of the Year 2016 - Prof. Mahesha Kapurubandara

CSSL Excellence in ICT Awards 2016 Cont.

The award for Emerging ICT Leader of the Year went to **Ganindu Nanayakkara** who is an award-winning innovator and Software Engineer currently working at 99X Technology. He is the inventor of the iHelmet which was the first runner-up under the Transportation Category in the Verizon Powerful Answers Award 2015. Mr. Nanayakkara has won awards at numerous other competitions such as Intel Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), Asia Pacific ICT Awards (APICTA), Global Impact Competition (GIC), Manthan Awards South Asia, NBQSA, eSwabhimani, Young Computer Scientist, etc. He was also recognised in Forbes Asia - 30 under 30: Consumer Tech in March 2016.



CSSL Excellence in ICT Awards 2016 Cont.

Auxenta Pvt. Ltd. won the award for Best Start-up of the Year. Funded by Bayview Capital, a company owned by a well-known serial entrepreneur, Riz Virk and together with two more highly acclaimed ICT specialists, they entered the industry by developing a Bitcoins mobile trading platform named "Bitcoins Bazaar", for Bay Coins LLC. With a workforce reaching 100 within just two and a half years since its inception, Auxenta has so far acquired more than 20 clients across 3 continents – USA, Europe and Asia. The company's revenue growth numbers increased by 300% in the year 2015. Auxenta has been recognised by Echelon Magazine as one of the most exciting tech start-up companies in 2014 and they were also recognised as one of the 20 most promising companies in Quality Management Systems for 2015 by US-based CIO Review magazine.



Best Startup of the Year 2016 - Auxenta

As the annual CSSL awards ceremony continues to generate much recognition and excitement amongst ICT professionals in Sri Lanka, the organisers expect to increase the number of award categories to cover a wider cross-section of the IT fraternity in the future.

CSSL Supports APNIC 42

CSSL was proud to be an Event Supporter of APNIC 42 which was held from 28 September to 5 October 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

As one of Asia Pacific's most important Internet operations events, APNIC 42 offered attendees access to international and regional experts discussing topics such as network security and IPv6, insights into the latest technologies and trends shaping the Internet, numerous formal and informal networking opportunities with expert peers and the opportunity to influence how Internet number resources are managed at the Policy SIG.



CSSL Supports International Conference on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions 2016

CSSL was proud to be a Conference Partner for the 16th International Conference of Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer2016) which was held from 1st to 3rd September 2016 in Negombo, Sri Lanka. The ICTer conference is a unique opportunity for researcher and practitioners alike to present research and development activities in the Computer Science and Information and Communication Technology domains.

Update on ECTA

CSSL recently submitted a set of high level proposals regarding the Bi-Lateral Agreements which the government is planning to sign with many countries including India. These are as follows:

1. Foreign nationals who come to Sri Lanka to work in the IT industry need to be checked for their qualifications and experience. Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) is the body that does that at the moment. We urge the government to enact the Incorporation of CSSL under an act of parliament before ECTA is signed so that any foreign national coming to Sri Lanka is checked professionally in terms of skills, certifications, and qualifications.
2. The foreign national will have to get CSSL membership, which will be one document required to issue a visa. When giving CSSL membership, we will verify the quality of the qualification, and the working experience. CSSL already does that for its membership.
3. To issue a working visa for a foreign national, he needs to have an offer letter from a company incorporated in Sri Lanka. The visa must be connected to that company (based on offer letter) and in the event the person leaves that company, the person must not be allowed to remain in Sri Lanka thereafter, and has to go back to the person's own country.
4. A working visa has to always be bound to a company incorporated in Sri Lanka. i.e. the visa should be company specific.

Update on ECTA Cont.

- 5.** Before foreign nationals are recruited, a company must have tried that recruitment locally. Together with the offer letter, evidence has to be submitted to Immigration and Emigration department such as local Job advertisements and details/contacts of interviewees/process. This has to be legally enacted. We would not object to bringing in foreign experts, if that skill or knowledge were not available in Sri Lanka. Checking skills of persons in the IT industry is a capability that CSSL has with the SFIA framework (Skills for the Information Age). Checking if the skills in demand is not found locally and whether the person who is coming from overseas has that skill is an important cross validation.
- 6.** Sri Lankan employee percentage in any company should be maintained at high levels and to achieve this, a minimum level of Sri Lankan employment in any company has to be defined and regulated. We welcome the creation of new companies with foreign investment. However, we stress that locals should also directly benefit in terms of new employment opportunities
- 7.** The salary paid to an foreign national has to be declared to the Inland Revenue Department for which PAYEE tax must be paid, and also declared to CSSL's accreditation body (appointed under Point 1 above), so that salary standards are maintained in Sri Lanka. For this purpose, CSSL will run an annual salary survey. Where a trend of decreasing salary levels is identified, CSSL will work with the relevant company to rectify the situation.
- 8.** There should be a penalty introduced if a company declares a higher salary in the offer letter but pays lower salary in reality. Inland Revenue Department should be empowered to regulate this.
- 9.** Manpower companies from foreign countries should not be allowed to enter into Sri Lanka through ETCA, or BOI processes. This is proposed with the hope of preventing misuse and abuse of the ETCA.
- 10.** Visa validity period should be pre-defined to a reasonable duration, extendable with valid reasons for another pre-defined period.
- 11.** After completing the pre-defined duration and extended pre-defined period of working in Sri Lanka, the foreign national has to have a break of a certain period before another working visa is offered in Sri Lanka. This break period also should be regulated with laws.

Update on ECTA Cont.

- 12.** Tourist visa holders should not be allowed to work in Sri Lanka. Immigration department will have to ensure compliance.
- 13.** A foreign company that comes to Sri Lanka under ETCA should have a certain number of employees in their payroll in their own country. This is to avoid freelancers coming in high numbers to Sri Lanka, and killing the local freelance / startup economy.
- 14.** Dependent visas must be offered to immediate family only, and working must be prohibited for them. They are most welcome to join their immediate family here, but should not be abusing the visa. It is however possible that family may also find employment in accordance with ETCA.
- 15.** Companies that setup Research and Development (R&D) units in Sri Lanka should be supported with special tax benefits to attract them.

As the premier organisation dedicated to promoting and improving the standards of the ICT sector of Sri Lanka, CSSL continues to conduct forums, discussions and studies on this matter and is in dialogue with all relevant stakeholders. We are hopeful that the government will take these proposals seriously and are fully committed to offer our support in getting the necessary changes implemented, for the benefit of our industry and the country at large.

IT Blast 2016

CSSL
COMPUTER SOCIETY
OF SRI LANKA
PROUDLY PRESENTS

IT Blast
2016
IT INDUSTRY ANNUAL
DINNER DANCE

DATE & TIME | VENUE
25TH NOVEMBER 2016 | **KINGS COURT,**
7.00 PM ONWARDS | **CINNAMON LAKESIDE**

MC : **CLIFFORD RICHARDS**



MUSIC : **MISTY**



**HERE'S
YOUR LUCKY
CHANCE**

TO COME WITH YOUR SPOUSE TO IT BLAST

SRI LANKA'S ANNUAL IT INDUSTRY DINNER DANCE

FOR JUST RS 3750/-

FIND A PREMIUM BANNER SPONSOR FOR RS 30,000/-
AND RECEIVE 2 TICKETS WORTH RS 15,000/- FOR YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE FOR JUST RS 3750/-

FIND BANNER SPONSOR FOR RS 20,000/-
AND RECEIVE ONE FREE TICKET WORTH RS 7500/-

PRIZES & SURPRISES
AIR TICKETS, HOTEL GETAWAYS & MANY MORE

COMPUTER SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA - DINNER DANCE 2016

FOR BOOKINGS AND MORE DETAILS :

CONTACT: ALOMA (EVENTS MANAGER) AT CSSL SECRETARIAT ON

011 4713336 OR SEND EMAIL TO info@cssl.lk

CSSL organises CIO Forum in collaboration with FITIS & VirtusaPolaris

A CIO forum titled 'Software Robots – friend or foe? The choice is yours' was organised by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) and the Federation of Information Technology Industry Sri Lanka (FITIS) with VirtusaPolaris coming on board as the main sponsor. The event which was held on the 28th of June at the Kingsbury saw the country's top chief innovation officers gather to learn about the latest advancements in the field of Robotic Process Automation (RPA) and its applications.

Speakers at the forum talked about the new paradigm shift in IT automation and mapped out the disruptive applications of RPA in the local industry. It featured Keith Modder – Chief Operating Officer, VirtusaPolaris; Chandika Mendis – Global Head of Engineering, Virtusa Polaris; Dr. Arul Sivagananathan – Managing Director, Hayleys Industrial Solutions; Sreekanth Lapala – Head of Transformational Outsourcing Services (ASM, Infra, Techops, RPA), VirtusaPolaris; and Thilak Piyadigama – Chief Operating Officer, Nations Trust bank. The forum was moderated by Fayaz Hudah.

Topics discussed included, the era of RPA & AI, understanding how RPA & AI can benefit your enterprise, demonstrations of real environments and hands on assessment to identify high value opportunities.



CSSL & FITIS host 3rd National CIO Forum with Google's leading enterprise partner in Sri Lanka

The 3rd National CIO Forum titled "Cost Saving. Ease. Security." was organised by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL), the Federation of Information Technology Industry Sri Lanka (FITIS) and Finetech, Google's leading enterprise partner in Sri Lanka. It was held on 30th August 2016 at the Hilton Colombo Residence with the participation of 350 CIOs in Sri Lanka.

Speakers at the forum talked about how Google cloud technology has helped millions of businesses around the world to achieve business benefits, including cost savings, ease of use and improved security. It featured Google Apps for Work Territory Manager Linen Santisa kultarm, Google Engineer Alvaro Navarro, Pership Group Former Chief Information Officer Ananda Herath B., Finetech Chief Executive Officer Clehan Pulle, Ceylon Biscuits Limited Head of IT Chandrima Rodrigo and Sri Lankan Airlines Head of IT Chamara Perera. The forum was moderated by Fayaz Hudah.

Topics discussed included Machine Learning and how it is applied in the workplace with other innovative Google technologies, achieving max velocity with Google Apps, bandwidth management and customer experience in a cloud environment and harnessing the benefits of cloud with the workflow management system built on Google Cloud.



Obtain a prestigious
Kingston University MSc
right here in Sri Lanka!



MSc^{IN}
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

MSc^{IN}
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
AND STRATEGIC INNOVATION

MSc^{IN}
NETWORK AND
INFORMATION SECURITY

JANUARY 2017 INTAKE

Awarded by

**Kingston
University
London**

Among the Top 500 Universities in the World.
2015 QS World University Rankings

4 Modules + Project Dissertation

Duration: 1 Year + Dissertation

Standard Course Fee **Rs. 325,000**
+ University Fee

with **Early Bird Offer Rs. 275,000**
+ University Fee

for registrations before 15th November 2016



Study At Our New Ultra-Modern Campus
In Colombo 04

 **077-22 888 77**

ESOFT
Shaping Lives, Creating Futures

ESOFT METRO CAMPUS

Head Office : No. 03, De Fonseka Place, Colombo 04

Follow us on





Thank you!



Shaping the future of ICT professionals

CSSL Secretariat
No. 275/75
Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mw,
Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

