CSSL
COMPUTER SOCIETY
OF SRI LANKA

■ ENGAGE ■ INFLUENCE ■ CONTRIBUTE ■ VOICE

President's Message

IVI express my heartfelt gratitude to the membership for placing your confidence and electing me to the prestigious position of the President of the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL). I take this opportunity to pay tribute to CSSL founder President Dr. R.B. Ekanayake and all past presidents and ex-co members for their yeoman service. I also take this opportunity to thank past President Mr. Ajith Salgado who first invited him to serve in the CSSL council in 2014 and outgoing President Prabath Wickramaratne for his contribution during two challenging years impacted by Easter Sunday attack and Covid 19 pandemic.

In 2021 CSSL strives for three key causes namely, 1). Winning Chartered status for ICT Professionals, 2). Championing professionalism, ethics and entrepreneurship amongst ICT professionals and computing undergraduates and 3). Contributing towards the national economic prosperity through digital initiatives. We have formulated a comprehensive annual program under the pillars of Engage, Influence, Contribute and Voice. Everything we do is aligned to CSSL's Vision of being a Value Creator, ICT Frontier and Community Voice while playing the role of the apex body for ICT Professional in Sri Lanka.

We had a late start as the CSSL AGM was delayed due to the Covid 19 pandemic from early December to 26th January 2021. Nevertheless, we had a busy two quarters and several new initiatives including the strategic initiative of CSSL Digital Policy Dialogue and GenZ Chapter Expansion. CSSL Digital Policy Dialogue aims to elevate CSSL to be an influencer in Digital Policy Formation in Sri Lanka. We invited for CSSL member proposals for the 2021 National budget in Q2. CSSL had its strategic planning session on 20th February 2021 and formulated a 3-year business plan within a month after the AGM. We also launched our flagship event NITC 2021- Accelerate Technology Diffusion on 31st March 2021 through a press conference.

An important and significant achievement in Q1 2021 is the formation of the first CSSL Undergraduate Chapter at Kotelawala Defense University and Its my privilege to welcome 1st CSSL GenZ Chapter to CSSL family. CSSL also conducted an Inaugural and 2nd CSSL Policy Dialogues, Tech Talk, Inaugural , 2nd and 3rd GenZ Forum, CSSL Fellows Forum and 13 Ex-co Meetings since 26th March 2021 AGM. This year we continue our key focus on strengthening the membership and enhance the focus on CSSL Accreditation of local computing degrees as the signatory of the prestigious Seoul Accord while placing the highest priority on enacting the CSSL incorporation Act.

We intend to have more strategic engagements with members and I urge all our Fellow, Professional, Associate and student members to actively participate in our new initiatives in 2021 to raise our collective voice as ICT Professionals to elevate the profession to higher echelons and become an influencer in national affairs.

Damith Hettihewa
President
Computer Society of Sri Lanka.

EXPLORE THIS EDITION

CSSL Annual General Meeting 2020

Outgoing President Mr. Prabath Wickramaratne

The Annual General Meeting of the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) was held on 26th January 2021, and the new executive council for the year 2021 was duly elected. Mr. Damith Hettihewa, Managing Director, Nimbus Cloud Lanka Ltd, was elected as the President, whilst Dr. Ajantha Athukorale, Deputy Director, University of Colombo School of Computing, was elected as the Vice President.

The other elected members of the Executive Council are Secretary **Dr. Parakum Pathirana** (Head of Information Security and Compliance LOLC Group), Treasurer **Mr. Heshan Karunarathne** (Director Business Development CodeGen International Pvt Ltd), Assistant Secretary **Commodore Janaka Gunaseela** (Dean of the Faculty of Computing, General Sir John Kotelawala University), Assistant Treasurer **Mr. Rasantha Hettithanthrige** (Senior General Manager Engineering & Operations, Mobitel Pvt. Ltd), Student Counsellor **Mr. Heminda Jayaweera** (COO, Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology), Publication Secretary **Mr. Indika De Zoysa** (Vice President, , Huawei Technologies), and Council Members **Mr. Prabath S. Wickramaratne** (Vice President / Head of Operations and Head of Information Technology , Deutsche Bank AG) **Mr. S. Shageevan** (CIO, Esoft Metro Campus), **Dr. Prasad Samarasinghe** (Managing Director Lanka Bell Pvt Ltd) and **Dr. Adeesha Wijayasiri** (Lecturer, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa).

Damith Hettihewa is a well-known industry personality with more than 25 years of ICT industry experience in both the public and private sectors. He has been a leading industry contributor as CEO of ICTA, FITIS, and Informatics. He served as the coordinator of the Presidential Taskforce on IT and held senior positions in Dialog and Mobitel, Presidential Taskforce in IT, having started his IT career as a System Engineer at Sampath Bank. Damith Hettihewa is a well-known industry personality with more than 25 years of ICT industry experience in both the public and private sectors. He has been a leading industry contributor as CEO of ICTA , FITIS , and Informatics.

Outgoing Exco Prof Koliya Pulasinghe

CSSL Executive Council 2021

Seated from L to R*: Heshan Karunarathne (Treasurer),Dr. Ajantha Athukorale (Vice President), Damith Hettihewa (President) , Dr. Parakum Pathirana (Secretary), Commodore Janaka Gunaseela (Assistant Secretary)*

Standing from L to R*: S. Shageevan (Council Member), Rasantha Hettithanthrige (Assistant Treasurer), Prabath S. Wickramaratne (Past President, Council Member), Dr. Prasad Samarasinghe (Council Member), Indika De Zoysa (Publication Secretary), Dr. Adeesha Wijayasiri (Council Member), Heminda Jayaweera (Student Counsellor)*

He served as the coordinator of the Presidential Taskforce on IT and held senior positions in Dialog and Mobitel, Presidential Taskforce in IT, having started his IT career as a System Engineer at Sampath Bank. Damith served in CSSL Executive Council since 2014 and held various positions, including Conference Chair, Assistant Secretary, Secretary, Vice President prior to being elected as the President in 2021.   His career spans over two decades, having worked in leading organizations in Sri Lanka, including Sampath Bank, Dialog, Mobitel, etc.

CSSL President paid tribute to CSSL founder President Dr. R.B. Ekanayake. Damith Hettihewa outlined his vision for the Computer Society of Sri Lanka in 2021 and highlighted the priorities for the year under the three tier pillars of CSSL Vision, namely Value Creator, ICT Frontier, and Community voice. CSSL new president highlighted the urgent need for recognition of local professionals with Chartered IT Professional status and an early policy formation endeavor with necessary legal enactments in order to embrace frontier technologies such as AI, Big Data, Drones, Autonomous transportation etc., of Sri Lanka to leverage industry 4.0 opportunity for Sri Lanka to become a wealthy state.

 The New CSSL president thanked Mr. Ajith Salgado, who first invited him to serve in the CSSL council in 2014, Mr. Prabath S. Wickramaratne for guiding CSSL to a new height with innovative strategies during his two-year tenure and outgoing Executive Committee members.

Prior to the new office bearer elections, outgoing President Mr. Prabath Wickramartane presented the annual report 2019/20, which articulated several successful projects which were implemented.

National IT Conference   2020
Towards a Sustainable Digital Sri Lanka

**NITC Chief Guest,
Hon Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksha**

CSSL President Mr. Prabath Wickramratne

Conference chair Mr. Heshan Karunarathne

Dr. Yasas Abeywickrama FaceBook

Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) wish to mark the successful conclusion of the National Information Technology Conference (NITC) 2020 in virtual format amidst Covid 19 pandemic.

This year's National Information Technology Conference was organized under the leadership of President of CSSL Mr. Prabath Samindra Wickramaratne and Conference Chair was Mr. Heshan Karunaratne.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa inaugurated the 38th edition of the country's flagship ICT conference themed 'Towards a Sustainable Digital Sri Lanka' organized by CSSL, country's apex body representing ICT professionals.

Newly appointed Secretary to the Ministry of Technology Mr. Jayantha De Silva graced the inauguration as the Guest of Honor and delivered the inauguration keynote speech.

National IT Conference   2020

NITC 2020 fireside chat on "Digital Sustainable Sri Lanka" with Jayantha De Silva , Prof. Kapila Perera, and Oshada Senanayake moderated Indika De Zoysa

Second day panel discussion with the participation of key industry stakeholders Mr. Sanjaya Mohottala Chairman BOI, Ms. Lakmini Wijesundara Founder/-CEO of BoardPac, Mr. Madu Rathnayake CIO of Virtusa/Board Member of ICTA and moderated by Mr. Sachindra Samararatne, of ICTA shared important insights on the topic of " journey towards USD 3 Billion ICT exports"

NITC2020 Panel Discussion 1

Mr. Jayantha De Silva, Prof. Kapila Perera, Mr. Oshada Senanayake,

Moderated: Mr.Indika De Zoysa.

NITC2020 Panel Discussion 2

Mr. Sanjaya Mohottala, Ms. Lakmini Wijesundara, Mr. Madu Rathnayake ,

Moderated: Mr.Sachindra Samarathne

CSSL Research Colloquium 2020

Scientific research and business relationships and partnerships are critical for society's innovation growth to continue. As a result, the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) decided to establish the CSSL Research Colloquium (CSSLRC), which refers to a collection of interaction channels, mechanisms, and forms of linkage between academia and industry while highlighting the enhancing and diminishing factors of collaboration management, practices on information interactions, and collaborative relationships on various levels.

 The CSSLRC's main objectives are to:

- Provide a forum for a wider dissemination of student research and special projects.
- Develop students' presentation skills by exposing them to an academic conference environment.
- mprove students' research quality.
- Enhance and update current research practices in Sri Lanka.
- Connect Sri Lankan research and industry to make them co-operative and finally make them contributed to the Sri Lankan GDP.

The CSSL Research Colloquium 2021 (CSSLRC 2021) invites authors to submit papers for presentation at this year's colloquium. The colloquium will participate in a discussion on a wide range of topics in the context of the National IT Conference (NITC) 2021's theme.

CSSL Startup Engagement

Startup Launch 16th Feb2

Initial Working Working Group:
Ms Lakmini Wijewardena, Damith Hettihewa, Heminda Jayaweera, Chanaka Wanigasooriya, Shushena Ranatunga, Rajitha Kuruppumulle, Buddhika Abeygoonaratne, Dr Chami Siy balapitiya, Yohan Ramasundara
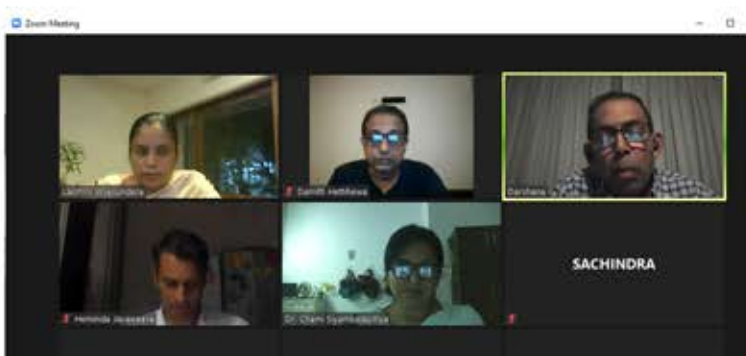
Objective:
Leverage CSSL membership at decision making level to support startup eco systems while creating mutual benefits for CSSL member's organization. Overall goals and vision to link National agenda with CSSL agenda. The target for 2021 – At least connect 10 startups with 10 corporates and initiate projects by end Dec 2021.

Methodology:
Create awareness of CSSL members of the startup eco systems in SL and resources available.
This will include introduction of up and coming startups to CSSL members at decision making level in their respective companies for possible joint projects. This will be a Business matchmaking effort for company/CSSL member and potential startup to solve enterprise level and national level problems through digital solutions.

CSSL will facilitate creating a problem bank initialy at Enterprise level and expand it to national level as program matures. CSSL will facilitate connection with CSSL members and potential startups with the support of ICTA.
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Startup Launch 16th Feb1

Sachindra 2

CSSL Council meeting with ICTA Chairman

ICTA Chair Meeting

President and Executive Council met ICTA Chairman Professor Lalith Gamage and key ICTA officials at the ICTA Auditorium Board Room with in three weeks of the AGM on 15th February .CSSL new council was introduced and annual program was presented by CSSL President to to ICTA key officials. Areas of collaboration and joint initiative were identified.

CSSL Strategy Offsite

CSSL Annual Strategy Workshop was held as a one day off-site at Pegasus Reef Hotel Uswatakeyyawa on 20th February 2021 with in a month period after the 26th January 2021 AGM. CSSL 1st Ex-co meeting was held on 27th January immediate next day and it was decided to conduct the Annual Strategy Workshop on 20th Feb 2021.

3 Year Business Plan for CSSL was presented by President Damith Hettihewa and Ex-co's deliberated the business plan and made necessary adjustments. CSSL President also presented CSSL Annual Events Calendar with 25 Events, Responsibility Matrix for CSSL deliverables.

At the CSSL Strategy off-site workshop 39th National Information Technology Conference theme was decided as Accelerate Technology Diffusion after rounds of deliberations by the ex-co.

CSSL Policy Advocacy Committee

Mr.Mahesh Perera

Mr.Damith Hettihewa

Mr. Yasas Vishudhdhi Abeywicrama

Mr.Udana Wickramasinghe

Dr.Parakum Pathirana

Mr. Mahesh Perera (Chair) – Past President CSSL

Mr. Damith Hettihewa – President CSSL (Ex-Officio)

Mr. Yasas Abeywicrama - Past President CSSL

Mr. Udana Wickramsinghe – Ex CSSL Council Member

Dr. Parakum Pathirana - Secretary CSSL (Ex- Officio)

Proposed by President CSSL Damith Hettihewa , 761st Ex-Co Meeting of the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) held on 10th March 2021 it was decided to establish a CSSL Digital Policy Advocacy committee to recommend the National Digital Policies and annual budget proposals for the ICT Industry on behalf of CSSL to the government of Sri Lanka.

CSSL has planned to conduct 3 on line Policy Dialogue Webinars for public consultations, an exclusive policy deliberations with CSSL Fellow members followed by Policy Deliberations with CSSL members for 2022 Budget proposals.

CSSL Accreditation Board

Meeting CSSL Accreditation Board Chair

Before starting the KDU accreditation process, CSSL officials and the Chairman of the CSSL Accreditation Board together with the Secretariat staff are planning to have a face-to-face meeting on 1st March 2021 at 8:30 AM at the CSSL Secretariat.

Introductory meeting was held between Chairman of CSSL Accreditation Board Professor Gihan Dias , Accreditation Board Consultant Professor Indra Dayawansa and CSSL officials. CSSL President Eng. Damith Hettihewa , Vice President Dr. Ajantha Athukorala, CSSL Tressurer Mr. Heshan Karunaratne and Ex-co member Dr Adheesha Wijayasiri and CSSL coordinator Past President Mr. Chrishntha De Silva represented CSSL.

Funding Frontier Technology Research with LK Domain

All industrial revolutions created wealthy nations (ie: I1.0: Europe, I2.0 : Americas, I3.0: Japan , Korea) The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) is advocating Sri Lanka to leverage Industry 4.0 to become a wealthy nation through digital acceleration. LK Domain Registry has come forward to partner with CSSL in this endeavor.

LK Domain will collaborate with CSSL to foster and promote development of products and services based on frontier technologies (including AI) in Sri Lanka, by granting funds for selected project proposals on frontier technologies artificial intelligence and machine learning to solve real-world problems creating globally competitive digital products and solutions from Sri Lankan innovators. This may be branded under the Prof. V.K. Samaranayake grants programme.

Funding for AI & other Frontier Technology Research in Sri Lanka

LK Domain Research Funding

Governance and Administration of the FT Funding Program
The program will be branded as a project of the LK Domain Registry under the Prof. V.K. Samaranayake grants programme. It will be carried out jointly with the CSSL. Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) will administer the initiative, and will be identified as a co-organiser.

Framework for Collaboration
CSSL and LK Domain will enter in to an agreement for the governance and administration of the programme. The agreement will outline the terms of collaboration by parties.
The agreement will refer to this terms of reference document.

Mechanism of Administrating AI and Frontier Technologies research program:
CSSL will appoint a grants governance committee (GGC) comprising of reputable ICT practitioners, social innovators, academia and ex-officio members of CSSL and LK Domain Registry. GGC will evaluate the research proposals for funding and make its recommendations.
The LK Domain Registry Board may approve each Frontier Technology grant, based on the recommendation of the grants governance committee. All eligible research proposals considered for grants should be in line with the objectives of the funding program outlined in Grant Program Objectives.

CSSL will call Expression of interest for Research Grants through mass and social media, letters and e-mail from time to time. Research grant request proposals will be evaluated by the Grant Governance Committee (GGC) and make recommendation to the LK Domain Registry for grant disbursemen

Grant Evaluation and Disbursement Criteria
Grants will be made available for funding of product oriented PhD research of AI and Frontier Digital technologies which has the potential to produce an out come as a product or service specify Early-stage ideas with will be considered, however ideas or ideas developed to a prototype stage would be given preference.and feasible plan for implementation that will benefit society. Both the system and its proponents should show clear evidence of commercial viability. The funding will typically be for advancing a research proof-of-concept (POC) to a pilot product/-service which will attract Angel/VC investors.

Typically, applicants should show not only a solid academic research background, but also expertise in product commercialisation. As such many applications may be made jointly by a university research group and a company. Grants based on above criteria will be evaluated and recommended by GGC.Detailed Grant Evaluation Criteria will be formulated by the first GGC and will be ratified by CSSL Ex-co and LK Domain Board of directors

Grant Application, Disbursement, Monitoring criteria and the KPI based grant disbursement method should be well defined in order to ensure the return of investment (ROI) of the grant. Grant Evaluation Criteria will be reviewed from time to time by the GGC.

Grant Period
Grant period is one year extendable by GGC based on progress of the work. Proposal for more than one year funding will be entertained but grant extensions will be on annual basis.

Grant Amounts
The total Annual Grant amount and the maximum for a for specific project and will decided by LK Domain board and will inform CSSL annually.
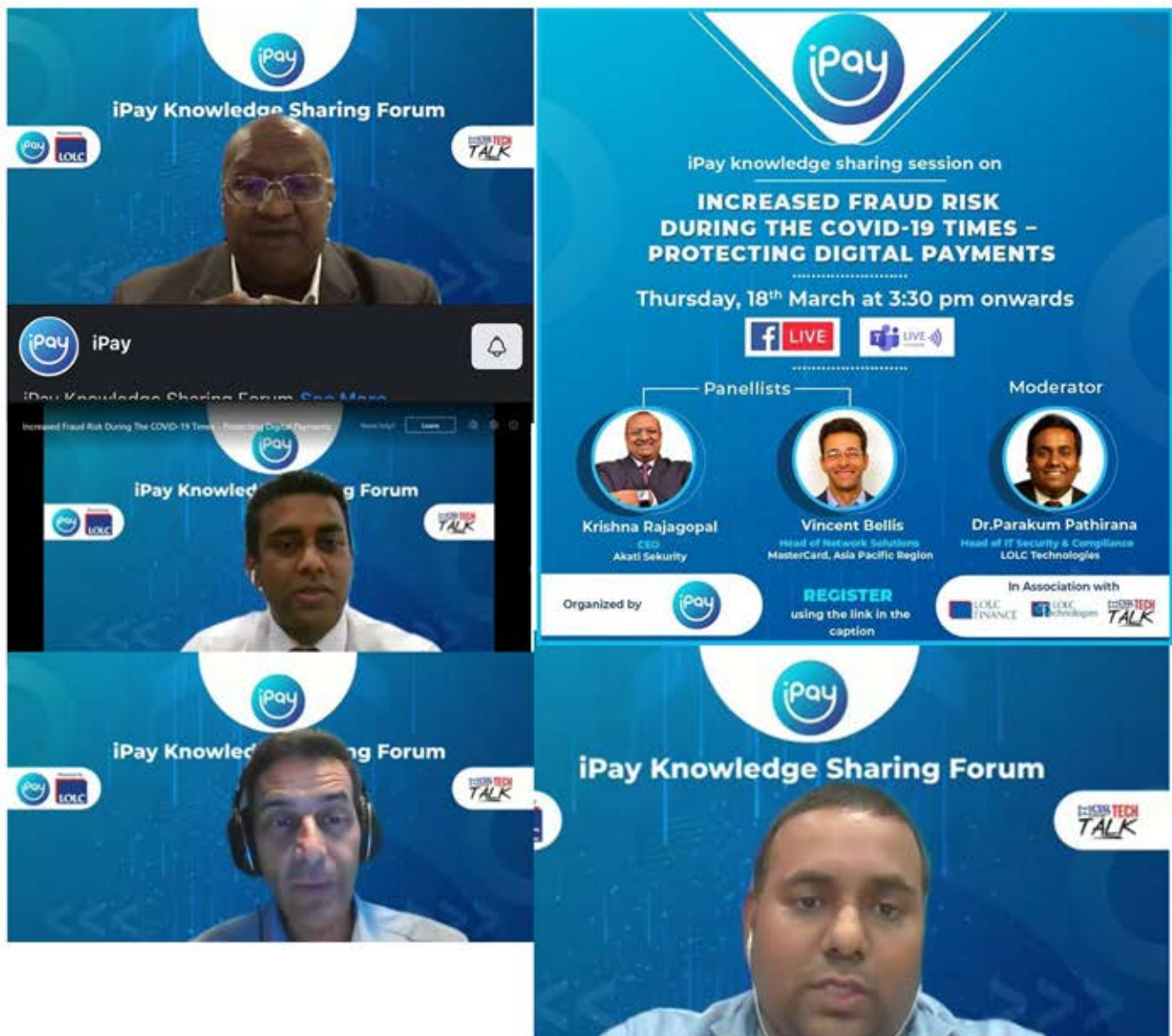
CSSL Inaugural GenZ Forum

On March 9th 2021 , Under it's "Engage" pillar of 2021 strategy, CSSL initiated quarterly CSSL GenZ Forums creating a platform for student chapter community to collaborate, gain knowledge on cutting edge technologies and get early exposure on ethics, professionalism, entrepreneurship and diverse timely hot tech topics.

CSSL President Damith Hettihewa speaking about the initiative said "CSSL GenZ Chapters was initiated with several objectives in mind. Key objectives is ENGAGING with the future ICT professionals at early stage, nurturing future leaders, fostering professionalism and ethics amongst undergraduate community. We also have a very special and urgent need for creating the awareness on I4.0 Opportunity with computing undergraduates. We are in the eve of the 4th Industrial Revolution. Industry 4.0 will create new wealthy nations similar to Europe, the Americas, and Japan which became rich nations as a result of the first three industrial revolutions. CSSL advocates Sri Lanka to leverage Industry 4.0 to become a wealthy nation.

Innagural CSSL GenZ Forum key note address was delivered by Ms Lakmini Wijesundara , Founder and CEO of baordpack. BoardPac founder inspired GenZ's of Moratuwa, Sri Jayawardenapura, Jaffna , Kelaniya and KDU undergraduates and shared the Boardpack success story of conquering the global market with the humble begiing as a garage startup. Boardpack has expanded to several key markets and has prestigious clients such as Central Bank of India, DBS bank Singapore and Cabinet of Malaysian Government.

CSSL Executive Council Member and Students Councilor ENG Hemnida Jayaweera Moderated the Q&A Session with CSSL Chapter Patrons Mrs Visaka Nanayakkara from University of Moratuwa, Dr Nirosha Wedasinghe from General Sir John Kotalawala Defense University , Dr Lasith Gunawardene from University of Sri Jayawardenapura , Dr. Thabodara Kathirawelu from University of Jaffna, Professor Neomal Dias from University Kelaniya, who are guiding CSSL chapters participated in the panel discussion.

CSSL Tech Talk 1

CSSL Tech Talk on March "Increased Fraud Risk During the Covid – 19 times – protecting digital payments "delivered by Mr.Krishana Rajagopal CEO -Akati Sekurity and Mr.Vincent bellis Head of network solutions – Mastercard Asia Pacific Region (Panelists) Moderator by Dr.Parakum Pathirana Head of IT Security and Compliance – LOLC Technologies

CSSL Inaugural Policy Dialogue

CSSL Digital Policy Dialogue is an initiative of CSSL aimed at catalyzing urgent digital policy discourse to accelerate digital transformation in the country and leverage industry 4.0 opportunity to achieve an inclusive and prosperous Sri Lanka. CSSL inaugural Policy Dialogue was conducted in the title " Education Roadmap for Digital Sri Lanka Vision" as a panel discussion with key government policy makers, domain experts and industry representatives.

CSSL in 2021 under its contribute pillar , started this initiative to trigger and influence urgent digital policy formation and legal enactments with the objective of influencing fast adaptation of cutting edge digital technologies and deployment in economic activities.

Eminent Educationist and ICT industry representatives participated as resource persons in the 1st CSSL Policy Dialogue. Mr Damitha Wickramasinghe , Chairman Vocational Training Authority, Dr. Harsha Alles , Chairman Gateway Group, Dr. Harsha Subasinghe , Founder, CEO of CodeGen International, Mr. Yasas Abeywickrama of FaceBook Sri Lanka joined the panel discussion Moderated by Mr. Indika De Zoyza , Vice President of Huawei Technologies and Publication Secretary of the Computer Society of Sri Lanka.

CSSL Digital Policy Dialogue and Policy Advocacy committee aims to fulfill the gap of delay in policy discourse and influence the policy makers to trigger policy formation endeavors in advance so that Sri Lanka is in par with the developed world in embracing frontier technologies and their applications in economic sectors effectively to leverage industry 4.0 opportunity to become a wealthy nation. Still CSSL is in the infancy in this endeavor. We need to build much more capacity to play this role if we are to deliver the goods under contribute pillar, which we are striving to do.

Launch of National IT Conference

Accelerate Technology Diffusion

CSSL Officials announcing NITC 2021–Accelerate Technology Diffusion. From Left :
Publications Secretary Mr. Indika De Zoysa, Vice President Dr. AjanthaAtukorale ,
President Eng. Damith Hettihewa,
Conference Chair/Assistant Treasurer Eng. Rasantha Hettithanthrige, Secretary Dr. Parakum Pathirana.

CSSL Launches NITC 2021–Accelerate Technology Diffusion

Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) launched the 39th edition of the National Information Technology Conference (NITC), themed 'Accelerate Technology Diffusion' on Wednesday 31th March 2020, at a Press Conference held at CSSL Secretariat 275/75 Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha, Colombo 7. NITC is the Sri Lanka'sflagship ICT Conference organized by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) and will be held on 12thand 13th October 2021 at Shangri- La Hotel, 1 Galle Face, Colombo 2.

This year's National IT Conference theme, "Accelerate Technology Diffusion" reflects on the government's vision onof Technology Diffusion. At CSSL, we welcome the government of Sri Lanka placing a high priority for technology andCSSL would like to emphasize the need for Sri Lankan ICT professionals to play the catalyst role in accelerating the technology adaptation and diffusion,leveraging the NITC as a platform' said Damith Hettihewa, President of Computer Society of Sri Lanka.

NITC 2021 is organized under the leadership of Mr. Damith Hettihewa, President of CSSL and Mr Rasantha Hettithanthrige , Conference Chair while Vice President Dr. Ajantha Atukorale is spearheading the academic track and colloquium of the conference.

For the first time after almost four decades of NITC legacy, NITC 2021 will feature an inaugural NITC CEO Conclave. The CEO Conclave is an exclusive session for CEOs on technology trends and its impact on conventional business models. A global Technology leader and several local and foreign domain experts will share evolution strategies such as open innovation for CEOs to transform businesses to survive digital disruption on conventional business models.

NITC 2021 will also feature the CSSL Awardsand the annual CSSL Colloquium track. More than a dozen research papers will be shortlisted after an assiduous selection process will be presented by prominent local and international researchers on the second day of the conference.The objective of research colloquium is to connect research community with the industry to commercialize and contribute to foreign exchange earnings and contribute towards national objective to achieve ICT exports of 3 billion US dollars.

CSSL, at the launch of the NITC 2021 conference,announced several high-caliber foreign speakers such as Prof Henry Chesbrough, who is considered as the father of Open Innovation.Professor Siegfried Zurn of The Central AcademicInstitution,Germany Mr. Hidebumi Kitahara, Head of Global Business Strategy Softbank Japan, Mr. Darren Anstee, Chief Technology Officer for Information Security at NETSCOUT, Mr. Rohan Damija Managing Partner of Analysis Mason of India and APAC etc. "We have invited more high caliber global opinion leaders and are expected to confirm their participation in due course", CSSL announced..

Facebook has partnered with National IT Conference to support CSSL's efforts, in furthering research, innovation and digital literacy in Sri Lanka.

CSSL Fellows Forum

CSSL's 2021's Inaugural Fellow's Forum was held on 6th April 2021. The Fellows forum was initiated under the ENGAGE pillar of the CSSL 2021 strategic plan. Distinguished fellow members Mr. Yasa Karunaratne, Me Kanishka Sugatahdasa, Mrs. Nayani Fernando, Mr. Lal Chadranath, Professor Gihan Dias, Mr. Niranjan De Silva, Mr. Chandana De Silva, Mr. Mahesh Perera joined the policy dialogue on Digital Education Roadmap and National budget proposals . Past President Dr. Yasas Abeywickrama and several incumbent exco members too joined to deliberate policy reforms in education. Mr. Lal Chandranath highlighted the need to apply Theory of Change framework for budget proposal preparation, and It was decided that a separate session to be organized for Digital Policy advocacy committee and Mr. Lal Chandranath kindly agreed to conduct the session for fellow member and members of CSSL policy advocacy committee.

Mr. Mahesh Perera

Mr. Lal Chandranath

Prof. Gihan Dias

Mr. Kanishka Sugathadasa

Mrs. Nayani Fernando

Mr. Niranjan De Silva

Mr. Yasa Karunaratne

CSSL CCNA Training for Members

CSSL ICT Training and Skills Development

Training sponsored by CISCO networking academy.

This program was initiated in 2019 to stay engaged with the members and potential practicing professionals in partnership with CISCO Networking Academy.
Training conducted by CISCO Academy for ICT Training and Skills Development and following is the summery of
Course sponsored and conducted by Cisco Networking Academy:
1. Introduction to Cyber Security - 130
2. CCNA- Introduction to Networks Module - 100
3. DevNet Associate- 100

Course with fees charged :
1. Cyber Ops Associate - 9
2. DevNet - 13 (full scholarships for 2 and half for 3)

Course to be commenced
CCNA Exclusively for girls
CCNA - ITN module batch 2 : 200 registrations .

Past President Dr. Yasas V. Abeywickrama's Book

"Growth Model for Sri Lankan ICT/BPM Industry" to CSSL President"

Dr. Yasas Vishuddhi Abeywickrama, PastPresident (2017-18) of the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) presented copies of his book titled "A Growth Model for the Sri Lankan ICT/BPM Industry", to incumbent President of CSSL Mr. Damith Hettihe wa on 23rd April 2021. Dr Abeywickrama has published his doctoral dissertation for the benefit of the industry and copies of his book are available amongst the book collection at CSSL library for the reference of its members.
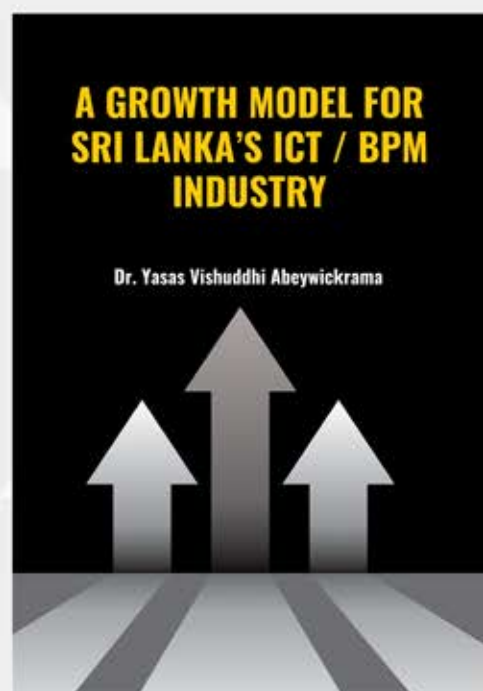
The publication discusses the growth challenges and develops a growth model for the knowledge industry focusing on export revenue aspects of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Business Process Management (BPM) sectors.

Dr Abeywickrama's publication "A Growth Model for the Sri Lankan ICT/BPM Industry" is also available at all major bookshops or online at Grantha.lk -

https://grantha.lk/bpm-industry-dr-yasas-vishuddhi-grantha-lk.html

Dr. Yasas Abeywickrama Bookhand over

A GROWTH MODEL FOR SRI LANKA"S ICT/BPM INDUSTRY"

CSSL First Genz Student Chapter
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

Eng. Damith Hettihewa   Dean Dr. Asela Gunawardena

Dr .Nirosha Wedasinghe

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) is expanding its wings to local universities its student chapter network. CSSL undergraduate chapters branded as CSSL GenZ chapters will function as mini computer societies in universities. The Computing Faculty of General Sir John Kotalawela Defense University (KUD) became the first GenZ Chapter of CSSL.

Under it's "Engage" pillar of 2021 strategy, CSSL is conducting quarterly CSSL GenZ Forums creating a platform for student chapter community to collaborate, gain knowledge on cutting edge technologies and get early exposure on ethics, professionalism, entrepreneurship and diverse timely hot tech topics.

Eng. Damith Hettihewa speaking about the initiative said "CSSL GenZ Chapters was initiated with several objectives in mind. Key objectives is ENGAGING with the future ICT professionals at early stage, nurturing future leaders, fostering professionalism and ethics amongst undergraduate community. We also have a very special and urgent need for creating the awareness on I4.0 Opportunity with computing undergraduates. We are in the eve of the 4th Industrial Revolution. Industry 4.0 will create new wealthy nations similar to Europe, the Americas, and Japan which became rich nations as a result of the first three industrial revolutions. CSSL advocates Sri Lanka to leverage In dustry 4.0 to become a wealthy nation.

Dr. Asela Guanwardene Dean Faculty of Computing General Sir John Kotalawela Defense University (KUD) addressed the 2nd GenZ forum and highlighted the importane of University and Industry collaboration to uplift the quality and standard of the ICT industry and President and the members of of KDU GenZ Chapter shared their annual plans with the GenZs of other university undergrduates.

CSSL Student Chapter at KDU consists of twelve young energetic students who have an endless enthusiasm for innovations and with willingness for knowledge distribution supervised by Chapter Patron Dr. (Mrs) Nirosha Wedasinghe. It is led by first ever CSSL Chapter President Mr. Anupa Ranasinghe and other chapter officials are as follows. KBI Rupasinghe (Vice President) , KPMI Ramanayake (Secretary) , AACA Herath (Treasurer), SMKH Hemali (Assistant Treasurer, VWSS Rajarathne (Assistant Secretary – Membership), TBKB Promodya (Assistant Secretary Events), NDMK Weerasinghe Assistant Secretary – Publicity) and Council Members HA Rajapaksha, KC Rajapak sha, ND Dedduwage and MLASS Madhwa.
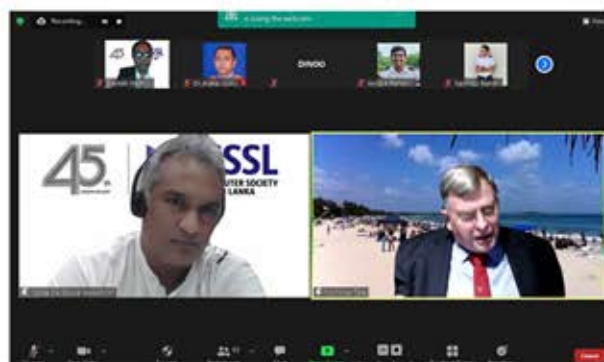
2ND CSSL GENZ FORUMS
LEADERSHIP FOR DIGITAL PROFESSIONALS

The highlight of the 2nd CSSL GenZ Forum was the keynote titled " Leadership for Digital Professionals" delivered by Dr. Nick Tate, President of South East Asia Region Computer Confederation (SEARCC) and Vice President of Australian Computer Society. In addition to inaugural forum participants Sri Lanka Institut of Information Technology (SLIIT) GenZ's also participated in the 2nd GenZ forum. Dr. Asela Guanwardene Dean Faculty of Computing General Sir John Kotalawela Defense University (KUD) addressed the 2nd GenZ forum and highlighted the importance of

University and Industry collaboration to uplift the quality and standard of the ICT industry and President and the members of of KDU GenZ Chapter shared their annual plans with the GenZs of other university undergraduates.

CSSL chaperter network will have a CSSL GenZ Chapter in each university and supervised by a Chapter Patron. Mrs Visaka Nanayakkara from University of Moratuwa, Dr Nirosha Wedasinghe from KDU, Dr Lasith Gunawardene from University of Sri Jayawardenapura , Dr. Thabodara Kathirawelu from University of Jaffna, Professor Neomal Dias from University Kelaniya, who are guiding CSSL chapters participated in all forums.

CSSL Tech Talk 2 :
Mitre ATT&CK Framework

CSSL Tech Talk on May Keynote "MITRE ATT&CK Framework: Everything You Need to Know" delivered by Mr. Haran Mamankaran - Lead - Cyber Defence Engineer - Dialog Axiata PLC.
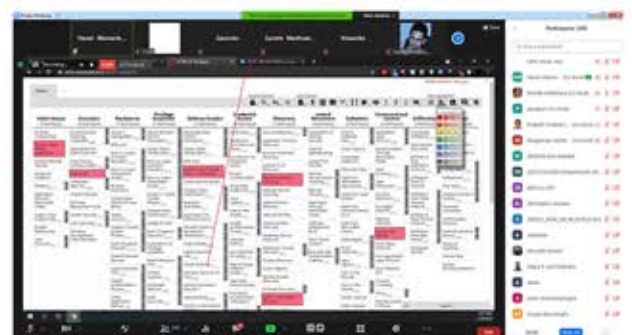

Tech Talk

May 24th Tech talk

Tech Talk

Tech Talk

Tech Talk

Tech Talk

CSSL Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

Dr. Parakum Pathirana

CSSL CPD

President CSSLcalled a special ex-co deliberation to initiate the CSSL CPD framework on 26th May 2021. President Damith Hettihewa, outlining the objective of the meeting, highlighted the need for CSSL to have Continued Professional Development (CPD) framework as the apex association for ICt Professionals in the country. The President also remembered CSSL's call for incorporation as the Chartered Institute of IT at the CSSL AGM held on 26th January 2021 and presented a draft roadmap for CPD journey for CSSL in PPT format.

The goal of this continuing professional (CPE) education policy is to ensure that all CSSL members maintain an adequate level of current knowledge and proficiency in the field of information systems. The Committee oversees the continuing professional education process and requirements to ensure their applicability.

Dr. Parakum Pathirana who volunteered to prepare the draft of CSSL CPD framework presented the draft CSSL CPD framework to the deliberating members of the council.President thanks Dr Parakum Pathirana for preparing the first draft of CSSL CPD framework.

CSSL Problem Bank : CIO Interaction

Startup Launch 16th Feb2

Startup Launch 16th Feb2

CSSL Problem Bank CIO interaction 2 was held on 31May 2021. Following methodology was discussed and adapted.
 CSSL Problem Bank : Methodology

Create awareness of CSSL members of the startup ecosystems in SL and resources available.

This will include introduction of up and coming startups to CSSL members at decision making level in their respective companies for possible joint projects. This will be a Business matchmaking effort for company/CSSL member and potential startup to solve enterprise level and national level problems through digital solutions. CSSL will facilitate creating a problem bank initially at Enterprise level and expand it to national level as the program matures.

CSSL will facilitate connection with CSSL members and potential startups with the support of ICTA

Early 2021 initial working committee of CSSL startup initiative deliberated and way forward on the initiative and decided to create corporate problem bank through Corporate CIO and to connect problem bank with startup community through ICTA's

CSSL Problem Bank initiative was launched on 8th February 2021 with the participation of selected CIOs from the corporate sector and Mr. Sachindra Samaratne representing the StarupSL community. A followup session with CIOs was held on 16th Feb 21.rd CSSL Problem bank interaction with invited CIOs was held on 31st may 2021. Problem bank is yet to build a portfolio of problems.

Sachindra

Problem Bank Concept

2ⁿᵈ CSSL Fellows Forum :
Theory of Change

Mr. Lal Chandranath

CSSL's 2021's Inaugural Fellow's Forum was held on 6th April 2021. The Fellows forum was initiated under the ENGAGE pillar of the CSSL 2021 strategic plan. Distinguished fellow members Mr. Yasas Karunaratne, Me Kanishka Sugatahdasa, Mrs. Nayani Fernando, Mr. Lal Chadranath, Professor Gihan Dias, Mr. Niranjan De Silva, Mr. Chandana De Silva, Mr. Mahesh Perera joined the policy dialogue on Digital Education Roadmap and National budget proposals . Past President Dr. Yasas Abeywikrama and several incumbent exco members too joined to deliberate policy reforms in education.
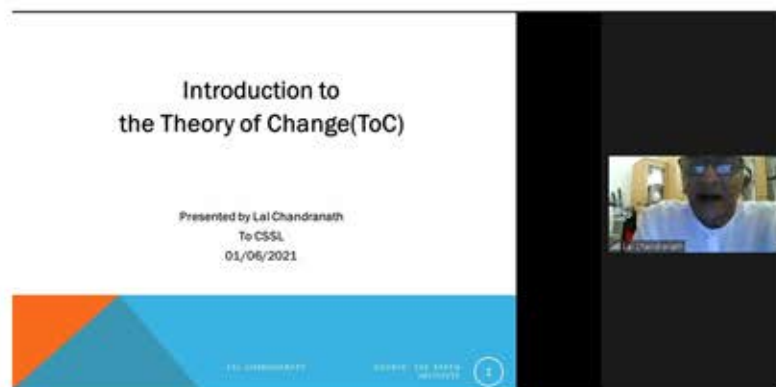
Mr. Lal Chandranath highlighted the need to apply Theory of Change framework for budget proposal preparation, and It was decided that a separate session be organized for Digital Policy advocacy committee and Mr. Lal Chandranath kindly agreed to conduct the session for fellow member and members of CSSL policy advocacy committee.

CSSL Members Forum :
Theory of Change

Mr. Lal Chandranath

CSSL's 2021's Members Forum was held on 15th June 2021. The Fellows forum was initiated under the ENGAGE pillar of the CSSL 2021 strategic plan.

The objective of the members forum ware

- Update the membership of the progress made for the year based on the plan presented by President at the AGM

- Conduct knowledge sharing session for National Budget Proposal preparations by CSSL Members.

- Past President 1999/2000 and Former Managing Director of DMS Electronics and DMS Technologies Mr Lal Chandranath delivered the keynote presentation on "Theory of Change Framework for the benefit of the members.

President highlighted CSSL members of the importance of CSSL Influence on ICT related budget preparations and appealed members to submit their budget proposals by 30 th June 2020.

President thanked Mr. Lal Chandranath for kindly agreeing to conduct the knowledge sharing session for CSSL members

University of Jaffna
CSSL Genz Chapter

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) launched it's 2nd GenZ Chapter at University of Jaffna to mark the Northern Province Digital Roadshow organized by Information and Communication Technology (ICTA) on Friday 25th June 2021.

CSSL undergraduate chapters are branded as CSSL GenZ and function as mini Computer Societies in local universities. CSSL President Damith Hettihewa and Patron of University of CSSL GenZ Chapter Dr. Thabotharan Kathiravelu signed the agreements by adding respective digital signatures on- line in order to launch the CSSL Student Chapter of University of Jaffna.

Vice Chancellor of University of Jaffna Professor S. Srisatkunarajah highlighted the need for a closer University and Industry Collaboration to stimulate economic development and thanked CSSL ,ICTA and TRCSL for the timely initiative. Professor Srisatkunarajah extended special thanks to the key note speaker from Australia for educating the student community on the important subject of Artificial Intelligence.

ICTA CEO Eng. Mahinda B. Herath extended ICTA's best wishes to CSSL and University of Jaffna.

Highlight of CSSL 2nd GenZ chapter launch at Jaffna University was the keynote address delivered by Associate Dean, University of Technology Sydney Professor Michael Blumenstein to mark the occasion. Professor Michael Blumenstein delivered the keynote presentation all the way from Australia on the topic Artificial Intelligence (AI) myths debunked – How AI is transforming industry for the global good which was keenly received by an online audience exceeding 240 participants.

Eng. Heminda Jayaweera, the Student Councilor of CSSL Executive Council who spearheads CSSL Chapter initiative moderated the keynote session Q&A and the industry panel discussions while Mr. Sachindra Samararatne, Director - Startup Ecosystem Development of ICTA shared the concept of Entrepreneurial University. Anupa Ranasinghe, the President of General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University (KDU) Gen Z Chapter extended congratulations to their counterparts at the Jaffna University. Sir John Kotelawala Defense University became the first GenZ Chapter of CSSL early this year. Mathanraj Sharma, Ms. J. Ajanti and Nayananga Muhandiram represented Jaffna University GenZ community at the CSSL Stu-

TELECOM INDUSTRY JOINS UOJ
GENZ CHAPTER LAUNCH

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) is launched it's 2nd GenZ Chapter at University of Jaffna to mark the Northern Road organized by Digital Economy Team of Information and Communication Technology (ICTA). Telecommunication Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL) partnered with CSSL to extend an opportunity for Telecommunication Company CEO's to interact with Students of University of Jaffna and other CSSL GenZ Chapters.

CSSL undergraduate chapters branded as CSSL GenZ chapters and will function as mini Computer Society in each university. President of Computer Society of Sri Lanka Damith Hettihewa and Patron of University of CSSL GenZ Chapter Dr. Thabotharan Kathurawelu signed the agreement by adding respective digital signatures on line to launch the CSSL Student Chapter of University of Jaffna. CSSL President Eng. Damith Hettihewa welcomed the dignitaries from ICTA, Academia and Industry about the initiative and outlined the objective of formation of CSSL Chapter network and its benefits to CSSL , Students and Industry.

ICTA CEO Eng. Mahinda B. Herath extended ICTA's best wishes to CSSL and University of Jaffna. Eng. Herath also highlighted that ICTA's digital economy team selected Northern Cluster for its first regional roadshow considering the potential in Jaffna and northern province for ICT based economic development.Mr. Sachindra Samararatne, Director - Startup Ecosystem Development of ICTA shared the concept of Entrepreneurial University with the GenZ Community

TELECOM INDUSTRY JOINS UOJ
GENZ CHAPTER LAUNCH

Director General of Telecommunication Regulator Commission Mr Oshada Senanayake graced the occation as the Guest of Honour. Mr Senanayake addressing the gathering consisted of ICT Industry leaders from both Colombo and Northern region, outlined the plans of TRCSL to connect all remote villages in the Northern region under TRCSL's "Gamata Sannivedanaya" Program.

Mr. Supun Weerasinghe GCEO – Dialog, Lalith Seneviratne - GCEO - SLT/-Mobitel, Mr Kiththi Perera, CEO SLT, Mr. Chandiak Witharana CEO Mobitel, Mr. Ashish Chandra -. , CEO – Airtel , Mr. Thirukumar Nadarasa - CEO – Hutch, Dr. Prasad Samarasinghe – Managing Director – Lankabell participated in the Student interaction session with University of Jaffna GenZ Chapter. Mr. Heminda Jayaweera, the Student Councilor of CSSL Executive Council who spearheads CSSL Chapter initiative moderated the students interactive session with country's cream Telecommunication leaders.

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