



(Founded in 1980,
Incorporated by Act No.
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A Member Association of
the International Federation
of Consulting Engineers
Issue 38

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA

President's Message



Eng. K.L.S. Sahabandu
President (ACESL)

I wish to thank the Council Members for the trust and honour bestowed upon me by electing me as the President of the Association of Consulting Engineers, Sri Lanka (ACESL), 2023 / 2024, and also to thank especially those members who attended the last AGM and endorsed my election to the Council.

As you are aware, the Association of Consulting Engineers, Sri Lanka (ACESL) was established in 1980 on the initiative of a few senior engineers in response to the need felt for a long time by engineers associated with the field of engineering consultancy practice, to provide a forum for exchange and advancement of knowledge in the field as well as to streamline the practice.

ACESL was incorporated under the Companies Ordinance as a Company limited by Guarantee and not with a share capital, in terms of the Companies Act No. 17 of 1982. ACESL became the national body of consulting engineers in Sri Lanka when it was incorporated by an Act of Parliament, No. 42 of 2003. With time, ACESL gained recognition through affiliation with the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) thus opening opportunities for participation internationally in the advancement of the field of consulting engineering practice. I am happy to announce that 18 firms and 182 individual members hold ACESL membership now.

Over the last forty years of its existence, ACESL has worked on different fronts to meet its founding objectives. Many conferences, seminars and workshops were organized bringing together experts from all over the world, creating a forum for sharing knowledge and experience and providing the much-needed guidance and confidence for our consulting engineers in facing and overcoming the many challenges they face.

However, consulting engineers and firms had somewhat lost their traditional position and status in the recent past, nationally and internationally, due to a number of reasons. Some examples applicable to our country are,

1. The traditional role and authority of the Consulting Engineer in the various Government appointed committees such as Procurement Committees, Technical Committees etc., has been devalued or undermined by them being assigned secondary or subordinate roles in such committees.
2. 'Hire and fire' methods adopted by consultancy firms in the recruitment of engineers have negatively impacted quality and continuity of work in many respects.
3. The growing trend toward ownership/management of consultancy firms by persons who do not possess the relevant professional qualifications and the resulting non-adherence to relevant professional ethics, which is a mandatory requirement of the practice.
4. The trend toward consulting engineers forming limited liability/ public companies to carry out their practice, where the shareholders and directors may not be bound by applicable professional ethics.
5. Corrupt practices of some engineers / officials especially in connection with various government/ public sector works.

As the new executive committee, we have a great responsibility on our shoulders to mitigate the negative effects of the above and find ways and means for uplifting the professional work ethic and status of the consultancy practice.

The ACESL website and newsletter are effective modes of disseminating Association news and the much-needed industry knowhow. I take this opportunity to invite the membership to interact with the Association activities via the new features provided in the newsletter and website. Further, the Executive Committee intends to work closely

with the membership on a number of prioritized, important areas while giving due consideration to their present status and activities. Some of these are briefly detailed below;

1. Gaining wide recognition and awareness for the field of Engineering Consultancy as a unique profession with a strong professional identity to make contributions to:

- public safety and risk management
- sustainable / economic resource use management
- application of innovative technologies for creation of environment-friendly, inspirational structures and a sustainable built environment
- Independent decision making

2. Gaining social recognition for the practice of engineering consultancy, including increased awareness among policy makers and the political leadership, to achieve the necessary responsibility status and obtain the deserved role for consulting engineers in formulating, planning, development, design, and implementation especially of mega scale national engineering projects.

3. Implementing training programmes to attract the “best and bright” engineers to the field of consulting engineering, conducting programmes for updating technical competencies, providing a forum for resolving technical issues, and maintaining professional conduct/ethical behavior internally among members of the Society and externally with Clients and other stakeholders.

4. Promoting fund raising activities for assisting consulting engineer- related activities.

5. Conducting conferences and workshops of international standard to facilitate knowledge transfer to our members.

6. Planning appropriate strategies to overcome / mitigate the current adverse impacts on the construction industry due to the global and national economic crises and thereby the impacts on the consultancy industry along with individual consulting engineers.

I am confident that our membership will seriously consider these initiatives and give their fullest cooperation to help our Association to grow from strength to strength.

I wish all our members success in their professional endeavours.

Eng. K.L.S. Sahabandu

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Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Association of Consulting Engineers, Sri Lanka for its session 2022/2023 was held on 4th January of 2024 at Grand Monrash, Thalawathugoda with participation of members and member firms.

After lighting of traditional oil lamp the AGM was convened by the reading of AGM notice dated 4th December 2023 by the Hon. Secretary, Eng. H.G.S. Seneviratne followed by ‘two minutes of silence’ in memory of all demised members of ACESL.

The President of ACESL, Eng. (Mrs) T.D Wijewardana in her addressing warmly welcomed distinguished invitees, members, and member firm representatives for the Annual General Meeting of ACESL. It was highlighted in the speech of the President that the need for solutions such as forming partnerships with international consulting companies and private sector investors to overcome the financial challenges faced by consulting engineers due to prevailing economic crisis situation in the country. She further urged the members to cooperate with the council to enhance the association’s support for its members and the country. In conclusion of the speech the President thanked the retiring council members including past president Eng. Anura Gamage, Past Secretary Eng. S. Senevirathne and Past Treasurer Eng. K.D. Dayanada for their immense support and also they were requested to continue to support ACESL in her upcoming session.



(President Addressing the AGM)



(Council 2022/2023)



(Members and Member firms Participated)



(Members and Member firms Participated)



(Members and Member firms Participated)



(Members and Member firms Participated)



(Members and Member firms Participated)

Election for ACESL Council for the Session 2023/2024

Following members were elected to ACESL council for the session 2023/2024.

1. Eng. (Mrs) T D Wijewardena
2. Eng (Dr) P D Dharmaratne
3. Eng K.G Samanthika
4. Eng. (Dr) Kamal Laksiri
5. Eng. H.P.R Gunawardana
6. Eng K.L.S Sahabandu
7. Eng Nandana Abeysuriya
8. Eng K D C F Siriwardane
9. Eng R P Lokuratne
10. Eng P C jinasena
11. Eng R Rupasinghe

Awarding Membership Certificates to the newly Enrolled Members

The following members were awarded the Membership certificates.

1. Eng R.M.S Dhanapala
2. Eng R.S.K Thrimavithana
3. Eng D.T Rajasekaran



(Delivering Membership Award Certificates)

Appointment of Auditors

It was decided to continue the service of the M/s. Tudor V Perera Company as the Auditor for the session 2023/2024.

Conclusion of AGM

AGM of ACESL Session 2022/2023 was concluded with the vote of thank by the Hon. Secretary followed by the dinner.

Council for the Year 2023/2024

Council Meetings, Activities and Decisions

The 1st council meeting of session 2023/2024 (385th Council Meeting of ACESL) was held on 19th January 2024 at the Conference Room of M/s. Consulting Engineers & Architect Association at 500/5, Thalapatpitiya Road, Madiwela, Kotte and 2nd and 3rd council meetings were held at board room of CECB headoffice at No. 415, Baudhdhaloka mawatha, Colombo 7 on 15th February 2024 and 28th March 2024 respectively.

The following members and office bearers were elected for the council of session 2023/2024.

President	Eng. K.L.S. Sahabandu
Vice President	Eng. Nandana Abeysuriya
Immediate Past President	Eng. (Mrs.) Thamara Wijewardena
Secretary	Eng. (Dr.) P.D. Dharmaratne
Assistant Secretary	Eng. (Mrs.) K. Samanthika Gamage
Treasurer	Eng. Ranjan Gunawardhana
Assistant Treasurer	Eng. (Mrs.) Tharangi Thewarapperuma
Editor	Eng. Srimal Munasinghe
Council Member	Eng. (Dr.) Kamal Laksiri
Council Member	Eng. Praboda Jinasena
Council Member	Eng. Eng R.P. Lokuratne

Sub Committee Activities

- (1) **(Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Committee** had organized and successfully concluded its first consulting engineers' forum of the current session on the topic "**Construction Contracts in Sri Lanka: Types, Risk Allocation, Flaws, and Best Uses**" delivered by **Eng. Malith Mendis**, which was gathered by a large number of participants at the 'Wimalasurendra Auditorium' of Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka on 19th March 2024.

CPD Committee has organized its second consulting engineers' forum on the topic "**Delivering Projects on Time and Under Budget is not easy due to issues of Uncertainty**" which will be delivered by **Eng. Nihal Premachandra** at the 'Wimalasurendra Auditorium' of Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka on 26th April 2024.

- (2) **Admission Committee:** the appointment of new members in to the Association will be subjected to the approval of the admission committee comprises of the President, the Past President and the Secretary.

- (3) **By-Law Revision Committee** is to be appointed which will comprise of minimum six members who have adequate experience and knowledge selected both from the council and general membership. Eng. Nandana Abeysuriya was appointed to act as the Convener for the By-Law Revision Committee.

- (4) **Finance & Administration Committee**

The President, Secretary and Treasurer were appointed as the members of the committee.

ACESL Representation to Outside Organizations/Association etc.

ACESL council has emphasized the continuation of the representations of ACESL in following outside organizations by active involvement in their activities for the betterment of the engineering industry.

- CIDA Board
- CIDA Advisory Committee
- CIDA Credential Committee
- CIDA Publication Committee
- CCI Committee
- Young Professional Forum

Events Organized by ACESL

Lectures organized by ACESL

Topic: Construction Contracts in Sri Lanka: Types, Risk Allocation, Flaws and Best Use

Delivered by Eng. Malith Mendis

FIESL, FICE, MCI Arb, CEng

Arbitrator and Adjudicator

FIDIC President's List Adjudicator

FIDIC Certified Trainer / Lecturer

Chartered Civil Engineer

Chair South Asia and Country Representative Sri Lanka – The Institution of Civil Engineers

Date : 19 March 2024

Venue : Wimalasurendra Auditorium of IESL

Lecture was opened for all interested individuals

Abstract on the Lecture in lecturer's own words

"When looking at Engineering Contracts most widely used in Sri Lanka - the FIDIC and CIDA Contracts, it is noted that the types of these contracts used vary depending on the risk and responsibility allocation to the Parties to the Contract. The three main types - Employer designed Contracts (Red Book, SBD 02), Design – Build Contracts (Yellow Book, SBD 04), and the EPC/Turnkey Contracts (Silver Book, no equivalent in CIDA), which are based on the differences in risk and responsibility allocation to the Parties.

This lecture discusses the allocation of these risks, the further differences in these contracts, and the new 2017 FIDIC Contracts now adapted by CIDA. However, CIDA's limited adaptation means that the Sri Lankan Engineer have access only to a limited number of different Contracts. This is further made difficult by little thought out changes made in CIDA contracts.

The lectures navigate the audience through the mine field of contracts available to the Sri Lankan Engineer, pointing out the pitfalls he should avoid, and avoiding frivolous changes made in locally available contracts, attempting to give the audience a better understanding of Engineering Contracts.”



Participants



Welcome speech by Eng. KLS Sahabandu,
the President of ACESL



Token of appreciation awarded by
the President, ACESL



Eng. Malith Mendis delivering the lecture

Upcoming Lectures organized by ACESL

ACESL has organized its second consulting engineers' forum on the topic **“Delivering Projects on Time and Under Budget is not easy due to issues of Uncertainty”**

Lecture will be delivered by **Eng. Nihal Premachandra**

Date : 26th April 2024.

Venue : ‘Wimalasurendra Auditorium’ of Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka

Eng Nihal Premachandra is a chartered Civil Engineer (C.Eng), Project Management Professional (PMP) and Contract Administrator with 38 years of experience in Construction of International Airports, Public Buildings, Olympic and FINA standard (International Swimming Federation) swimming pools, On shore oil field structures, representing both Consultant and the Contractor. Eng Nihal is a specialist in Managing design & built Contracts in accordance with FIDIC forms of contract conditions as well as RIBA Outline plan of works type of Contracts.

A Word from the Editor

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.”
- Mahatma Gandhi

Dear Members,

It is with great honour and responsibility that I address you as the newly elected Editor of the ACESL Council for the year 2023/2024. As I undertake this role, the words of Mahatma Gandhi resonate deeply with me, reminding us of the impact we can have through our actions and leadership in the engineering consulting sector.

The vision for our newsletter is clear: to deliver a quarterly publication that not only informs but also inspires. Our goal is to foster a platform for knowledge exchange, professional growth, and community engagement among our esteemed members.

This first issue marks a beginning, and admittedly, we faced challenges in compiling the content on a tight schedule. The constraints of time did not allow us to reach the breadth and depth we aspire for every issue, but it is not a cause for discouragement. Rather, it serves as a powerful motivation for us to enhance our efforts for the next publication. I am confident that with continuous learning and collaboration, we will achieve our goals.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my colleagues of the council for their relentless support and encouragement. Your reminders, valuable information, and sage advice have been indispensable in bringing this issue to fruition.

As we move forward, I welcome and encourage all members to share their feedback on this issue. Your insights are crucial for us to refine and improve our efforts. Let us collaborate to make this newsletter a vital resource that reflects the dynamic and innovative spirit of our association.

Together, we will be the change we wish to see in our community and beyond.

Warm regards,

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