



IESL NSW Newsletter

Newsletter 10 April 2010



Engineers Nite 2010 was a great success

The inaugural opening dinner of NSW Chapter of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka was held in Castle Grand function Center in Castle Hill on the 20th of March 2010.

Current executive president of IESL, Eng Dr. Dharmasiri de Alwis, past president of IESL Eng. Ranjith Gunewardena and Sydney Consul General Mr. Dayasiri Fernando were the guests of honor of the occasion.

The function was well attended by enthusiastic engineers, their partners and guests. Among them, there were engineers came from Sri Lanka as well as those who came from remote areas in New South Wales. The initiative taken to establish the NSW Chapter of IESL was highly admired by the attended engineers and highly appreciated the opportunity they had to meet their fellow engineers.

As a result of this event, Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka is entering in to a new era of expansion beyond the boundaries of Sri Lanka, establishing links with professional engineers around the world. IESL members currently working in Australia are able to receive services of the institution in number of different ways. They can conduct professional discussions, training sessions, skills development workshops etc. in association with the NSW chapter. In addition they will be maintaining the professional links with Sri Lanka, which will be useful in exploring opportunities to utilise their skills and expert knowledge in a mutually beneficial way.

The IESL NSW Chapter thankfully appreciates all the support received in organising this event in many ways. Many engineers and well wishers enthusiastically offered help voluntarily, as a result we had an excellent evening and completed the event with a sense of success. We are confident that the IESL NSW Chapter will be well established as the first overseas Chapter.

Collect your DVD with photos

We have a large collection of photos of the event. All the photographs have been compiled in to a DVD and will be given a copy to the attendees on request. Please contact your ticket agent to organise a copy of the DVD.



Deadline for re-instating the expired IESL Membership under the current amnesty is 30th June 2010

We need to allow sufficient time for application processing

If you want to take this opportunity to re-instate your membership, you have to act now

Our next lecture by Prof. Wije Ariyaratne

Bridge Load Capacity Assessment and Management of Bridge Asset

Our next professional lecture will be conducted by Adj. Prof. Wije Ariyaratne , Principal Bridge Engineer (PBE) of the RTA.

It will be held on Wednesday the 14th April 2010 at University of Western Sydney Parramatta Campus in room Number: EE.G.03. Please arrive at 6.00pm for 6.30pm start after refreshments.

This presentation will discuss how bridge load capacity assessment can be used to effectively manage an aging bridge asset particularly in an environment of increasing live loads. The discussion will include:

- Overview of Bridge Asset
- Types of Bridge Load Tests
- Load Capacity Assessment Process
- Case History of Bridges Load Tests
- Benefits of Bridge Load Testing in managing a Bridge Asset

Prof Ariyaratne has been the Principal Bridge Engineer (PBE) of the RTA since 2000. As the PBE, he is accountable for the development, maintenance and retention of RTA bridge engineering capabilities, technical leadership and positioning the RTA Bridge Engineering Branch as a pre-eminent technical expert in bridge engineering in order to minimise the RTA's technical risk in the operation and management of over 5,000 bridge asset, with a replacement value of \$13.8 billion, and thereby keep its road network safe, sustainable and efficient for public use.

Under his leadership, among many other developments and initiatives the RTA has developed methods for vulnerability assessment of critical infrastructure bridges and is now developing necessary hardening options for these structures to be strengthened against extreme events. He also approves bridge drawings for construction of new bridges valued annually over \$150M and rehabilitation of bridges with an annual budget of \$180M. He is directly responsible for 100 staff in Bridge Engineering Branch located in Sydney, Australia and for technical direction to over 40 staff in the RTA Bridge community located in 6 Regions of NSW.

In 1995, he pioneered the development of a Dedicated Bridge Proof Load Testing Facility - the only such facility in Australia, to test these bridges. Determining the load capacity of bridges by load testing the RTA was able to reduce the number of bridges estimated to be strengthened or replaced. His work with his team resulted in a saving of around \$150M in the NSW bridge upgrading program.

IESL NSW Chapter invites engineers, engineering students and engineering enthusiasts to attend this informative session. This will be an excellent opportunity to understand the enormity of the responsibilities handled by engineers to make our lives more comfortable and safe.



Call for papers for the Annual Sessions – 2010

Special extension of deadline for NSW Engineers

The Institution is pleased to call for technical papers to be presented at the Annual sessions to be held in October 2010, under following categories;

- Category I. Engineering theory/research (academic) oriented technical papers, to be published in the October issue of the Journal 'ENGINEER'
- Category II. Technical papers based on Engineering research/design/projects/techniques, to be published in the Volume I of the Annual Transactions of the Institution.

Best paper from categories I & II, based on the marks given by referees and judges at the presentation, will be entitled to the prestigious Prof. E. O. E. Pereira Award. Refereeing standards will be more stringent for Category I papers as they are to be published in the Journal while the level of standard adopted in the past for Annual Transactions will be maintained for Category II papers.

For a paper to be acceptable, it should generally be of value and interest to Engineers and contribute in the advancement of the Profession of Engineering. It must be based on review of past practice, information of current interest, or probing into new fields of Engineering activity. It should be a presentation of thought provoking study contributing to planning, analysis, design, construction/fabrication/production, management or maintenance of Engineering developments. In this context, practical papers are strongly encouraged. Wherever possible, theoretical papers should include a section on practical application or additional research areas to be pursued for effective technology transfer.

All papers will be refereed by at least two subject specialists. Intention for submitting a paper under any category should be conveyed to the IESL on or before 30th April 2010 in the stipulated form ([iesl/pub/form/01](#))* with a synopsis of the proposed paper (not exceeding 200 words). This synopsis may be used by the Editorial Board as a guideline to suggest changes in the proposed category of publication, to the author. The final decision on the category of publication will be based on the recommendation of the referees of the final paper.

Subject to the proposed synopsis being accepted in-principle, which will be finalized by 15th May 2010, full technical paper in the stipulated format ([iesl/pub/guide/01](#))* should be submitted on or before 30th May 2010, in the form of two hard copies and a word-processed soft copy, to be subjected to the refereeing process.

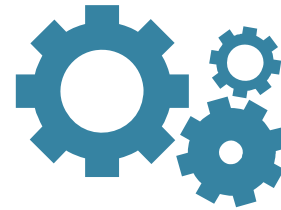
Authors of all accepted papers are required to present them at the Annual Sessions of the Institution, held in the month of October 2010.

Eng. Prof. T. M. Pallewatta
Editor, Journal 'ENGINEER'
Editor, Technical papers for Annual Sessions

* Soft copies could be obtained by a request to Miss. Gayathri, through email <ed@sltnet.lk> or <dir.pub@iesl.lk>

Please contact IESL NSW Chapter secretary via chapter_secretary@ieslnsw.org for more information.

SL Government begins construction of Matara – Katharagama Railway line



NEWS FROM SRILANKA

Sri Lankan Government has begun construction on the first phase of the proposed Matara-Kataragama railway line from Matara to Beliatta. A contract to construct the first phase between Matara to Beliatta has been signed with a Chinese company recently. The length of the first stretch from Matara to Beliatta is 30 km which will be constructed with Chinese Government financial assistance.

The railway line will be completed in three stages. Under the first stage, railway track will be extended from Matara to Beliatta and the track will be extended upto Hambantota from Beliatta under the second stage. Under the last phase, the railway line will extended from Hambantota to Kataragama.

There are four railway stations to be constructed between Matara to Beliatta. Feasibility studies for the construction of railway line have already been completed and the laying of the railway track will commence soon.

The construction of four bridges over Nilwala Ganga, Walawe Ganga, Kirindi Oya and Kirama Oya are the most expensive and time consuming tasks. The bridge across the Nilwala river is located over 2 Km away from the Matara railway station and is has already been constructed. The Government has planned to expedite the southern rail track up to Kataragama at the earliest. This is a major step forward in Sri Lankan railway history and it will make a significant contribution towards the development of southern province.



Construction of Matara railway line in 1895



Matara railway Station 1895



Ruhunu Kumari Express Train heading to Matara



Matara railway Station now



Matara railway Station now

To find out more about history of Sri Lanka railway visit www.railwaymuseum.lk

National Railway Museum - Sri Lanka
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