

National Engineering Conference 2018

IESL holds its 5th conference - Shifts venue, for the first time, to the provinces



Themed this year as ***“Sri Lankan Engineering for National Development – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”*** the **National Engineering Conference**, now organized annually by the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) got off to a start at around 10.30 am on Friday, 31st August, 2018 with the lighting of the traditional oil lamp by chief guest, **Hon Minister of Highways and Road Development, Mr. Kabir Hashim**. Held outside Colombo for the first time, the organizers had found idyllic location in the picturesque Kshathriya Villa, in the Wyamba Province of the country along Katugastota-Kurunegala–Puttalam highway, amidst beautiful sculpture rich gardens, water features and lush greenery, to host the event this year

In the words of Eng. (Prof.) Niranjanie Ratnayake, President of the IESL, the decision to move the Conference to the Provinces was in order to engage the engineers who are working in the provinces in the National level activities of IESL.



The aim, she said, was to look at the future technological advances that could make the country reach a higher state of development; how the present day engineers are moving the country

forward on the path of rapid development; and our proud engineering heritage of sustainable engineering practices that could be applied for the futuristic vision of a technologically advanced Sri Lanka.



The Hon. Minister in his message for the event conveyed that the Government of Sri Lanka has identified that development in the rural infrastructure of our country is a firm step towards socio-economic development, for which trained and committed experts are a necessary foundation. He said that organizations such as the IESL are providing our youth with a firm footing to take their dreams and aspirations of engineering to new heights.

Keeping to the conference theme, Speakers' presentations showed how the country's engineering heritage has helped national development in the past, how engineers are helping the current development and what is in the future for engineers and how it can be used for national development.

The morning session of the conference saw the following presentations:





“Artificial Intelligence in Internet of Things (AI in IoT)” by Eng. Prof. Arumugam Nallanathan, Professor of Wireless Communications and Head of the Communication Systems Research (CSR) group, University of London.

“ICT as a Solution for Better Future” by Eng. Dr. Manodha Gamage, Founder / Managing Director of Intelligent Solutions and Consultancy (Pvt) Ltd.

“Contribution from the Energy Sector to National Development” by Eng. Dr. Tilak Siyambalapitiya, Energy Consultant and Editor of the SLEMA Journal.

The afternoon session saw the following presentations:

“Nano materials and their Contribution to National Development” by Prof. Ajith De Alwis, Professor of Chemical Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Project Director, Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation.

“Our Engineering Heritage and Lesson to be learnt for National Development” by Eng. Sanjeewa Wijesinghe, Deputy General Manager of Civil Works - Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau (CECB)

“Ancient Technologies of Metallurgy and their contribution to National Development” by Eng. G.S.D. Dahanayake, Director of Lanka Projects & Technologies (Pvt) Ltd.

A panel discussion of 30 minutes duration followed the presentations in each session of the two sessions. With Eng. (Prof.) Rohan Munasinghe, Head Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering, University of Moratuwa and Eng. (Prof.) K.D.W. Nandalal, Senior Professor and Former Head, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Peradeniya successfully moderating the panel discussions .

Prof. T.M. Pallewatte, President Elect of IESL proposed the Vote of Thanks at the end of the conference.