Message from the President

2008 has been a year of many remarkable developments and projects in the history of the Computer Society of Sri Lanka. The executive council has a clear vision of the CSSL's future and is quite conscious of its responsibilities and duties to the ICT community in Sri Lanka. As the president of the CSSL, I'm really proud to present the annual report for 2008. As you browse through the annual report, I'm sure that you will conclude that the year gone by was a very productive year for CSSL, in particular in the areas highlighted below.

The opening of CSSL library was a major achievement in 2008. What is special about the library is the free on line access to one of the world's largest e-library databases. This unique feature is inspired by the executive council to provide hassle free on-line access to world class publications. In addition, a large number of books for reference are also available for members.

The launch of the consultancy & job bank is another remarkable milestone in the history of CSSL. It is evident that there is an upward trend for ICT consultants locally & abroad. The launching of this facility provides a great opportunity for our members to explore by themselves local & foreign opportunities available for them. We believe that this would be a very attractive revenue generating avenue for CSSL in future.

Formation of Special Interest Groups (SIG) was another landmark event in 2008. Formation of SIGs created the opportunity to exchange ideas and new concepts among the ICT professionals with kindred specialties in the member community. The heads of SIGs were appointed by the CSSL and a series of discussions and workshops were conducted by respective SIGs.

'*ICT for rural areas*' was another project initiated in 2008. In order to support the theme announced at the last AGM 'make Sri Lanka e-ready', CSSL designed and conducted a number of programs in rural areas for improving the ICT literacy rate in Sri Lanka. This initiative and workshops were well accepted by the rural community and the efforts of the CSSL to develop the ICT knowledge of underprivileged communities in Sri Lanka received commendation from the community.
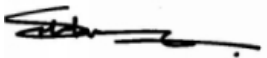
Professional development for Knowledge Economy was another very attractive program launched in the year 2008. This was designed to promote the effective use of Information & Communication Technologies and soft skills for the betterment of the member community. We have successfully conducted a few workshops facilitating peer-to-peer coaching and sharing of best practices among our CSSL members.

The design of a '*digital research reference library*' was another very innovative concept introduced this year for the whole of the ICT community in Sri Lanka. We intend to establish a repository of scholarly research materials and tools for easy access electronically. This provides a significant benefit to all research fellows in Sri Lanka as it enables acquiring, organizing and preserving information in an efficient way.

Another very important milestone that I should not miss in this report is the CSSL's collaboration with Cognitive and Connectionist lab, Faculty of IT, Monash University for conducting industry-based research programs and publications.

I hope as you go on reading the annual report, you may be able to share the excitement and the expectations of a significant progress of the CSSL in the future. In order to realize the full benefits of the above developments it requires the continuous support and dedication of our members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the executive council for their fullest support and corporation in making this year a very productive one for the Computer Society of Sri Lanka.

Looking forward to your overall support for future success of the Computer Society of Sri Lanka.

Dr Prasanna Lokuge   5th December 2008
President CSSL

THE COMPUTER SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA
(INCORPORATED)

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka was formally inaugurated in 1976 by a small group of dedicated professionals with the support and the encouragement of well wishers including the then leading computer firms. It has been playing a major role in promoting Information Technology and professionalism among those engaged in the field of IT in the country for the past 32 years. The rapid growth of CSSL in the recent years indicates a greater interest among the IT professionals in the affairs of the society.

OUR VISION

To be the most esteemed Professional body in Sri Lanka.

OUR MISSION

To maintain the highest professional standards among the Information Systems (IS) fraternity

To get actively involved in the formulation of National IS strategies

To promote the advancement of Knowledge

To facilitate career development

To contribute to the development of the IS industry whilst safeguarding the interest of society.

(a) to maintain the highest professional standards among the Information System (IS) fraternity;

b) to contribute to the development of the IS industry whilst safeguarding the interests of the members of the Society;

(c) to get actively involved in the formulation of National Strategies relating to IS; and

(d) to promote the advancement of knowledge in those engaged in the field of IT

OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIETY

The primary objectives of the society are:

1. To promote and develop the science of Information Technology and foster and maintain investigations and research into the best means and methods of developing and applying such science and to encourage, increase, disseminate and promote knowledge, education and training and the exchange of information and ideas in respect of all questions relating thereto or connected therewith:

2. To provide an Organization for professionals in Information Technology and by means of examinations and other methods of assessment to test the skills and knowledge of persons desiring to enter the profession

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

On behalf of the Council of the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (Incorporated), we are pleased to present this Annual Report, which covers the activities of the society for year 2008

COUNCIL OF THE COMPUTER SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

The council for 2008, elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 17th December 2007.

President	Dr Prasanna Lokuge
Vice President	Mr N Nirmalan
Secretary	Mr Asitha Peiris
Assistant Secretary	Mr Mahesh Perera
Treasurer	Mr D L M Dissanayake Bandara
Assistant Treasurer	Mr Dinuka Perera
Student Counsellor	Dr G D S P Wimalaratna
Publication Secretary	Prof. Upul Sonnadara
Council Members	Mr Dinesh C A Sattrukalsinghe
	Mr J M Chrisantha I Silva
	Mr Lasitha Devendra
	Dr K L Jayaratne

.

The Council met almost every fortnight and had 23 meetings during the year. In addition strategic planning sessions were also conducted during the year 2008 both outside and within CSSL.

Mr N Nirmalan resigned from the post of Vice President in October 2008. The Council at its meeting held on 30th October 2008, elected Mr Chrisantha Silva to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Mr Nirmalan.

CSSL WORKSHOP – 2008

CSSL annual workshop was held at Amaya Hills, Kandy on 4th and 5th of January with a view to scheduling the activities for 2008. Prior to the workshop, several project managers were appointed to spearhead a number of activities to make the theme **'an e-Ready Sri Lanka'** a success. The project managers presented their cases in detail with tentative time schedules

All the CSSL executive council members participated in the workshop, except Mr Dinesh Sattrukalsinghe who was unable to join due to unavoidable circumstances. Workshop was very informative and fruitful.

The following main projects were earmarked for 2008:

Project Name	Project Manager
Student Chapter Development & National Schools' Software Competition	Dr Prasad Wimalaratne
CSSL's presence in Rural areas	Mr Dinuka Perera

_____

Professional Development/Support for ICT knowledge economy, CSSL R&D	Dr Lakshman Jayaratne
Job Bank & Consultancy/Advisory services	Mr Mahesh Perera
Membership & Member Benefits	Mr Lasitha Devendra
CSSL Library and Annual Conference	Mr Chrishantha De Silva
Special Interest Groups	Mr N. Nirmalan
WEB development	Mr Dissanayake Bandara
Publications	Prof Upul Sonnandara

Monash University, Australia Joins hands with CSSL for Research and Development

Cognitive & connectionist systems Lab, Faculty of IT, Monash University Australia recently joined forces with CSSL to spur collaborative research and development work in Sri Lanka focusing on industry-based research programs, joint publications and possible scholarship programs. Dr Damminda Alahakoon, Director Research Training, Faculty of IT, Monash University of Australia, on his recent visit to Sri Lanka signed an MOU towards this end with CSSL at a special event held in CSSL office, Colombo in January 2008. Dr Prasanna Lokuge, President Computer Society of Sri Lanka stated that this tie-up with a well established foreign university in Australia would definitely open up numerous avenues and opportunities to our members to arrange off-campus research-based M.Sc programs and industry-based research projects in Sri Lanka.

MEMBERSHIP

In the year 2008, the new membership stands at 69 bringing the total member to 384. Associate members increased by 8 bringing the Associate membership to 174 the student membership increased by 28 brining the total student membership to 6,398. We believe that CSSL will be able to substantially increase the membership in year 2009.

Honorary Fellow	5
Members	384
Associate Members	174
Student Members	6398
Affiliate Members	46

Annual Subscription Payments Electronically

Your membership fee could also be paid electronically through the website www.cssl.lk using Sampath Bank's Secure Internet Payment Gateway. We encourage you to use this facility for prompt settlement of your membership dues.

In addition to the cash payment, Account Payee cheques drawn in favour of the "Computer Society of Sri Lanka' could also be used as a method of payment and could be posted or handed over to the Computer Society of Sri Lanka. Please indicate your name and membership number on the reverse of the cheque.

MEMBER BENEFITS

The executive council of 2008 would like to proudly offer specially arranged discounted hotel rates for CSSL members:

Member Benefits - CSSL 2008 card holders

Ceylon Hotels Corp. 10%

Up to 31 December 2008

On booked basis June, July, September, October, November and December 2008

Not during:
Kandy & Kataragama Perahera Seasons

Contact:
Z Ruzain Wadood
Asst Manager Sales and Marketing
Ceylon Hotels Corporation
279, Galle Road, Colombo 4.
Tel: 2503497, 5641473 Fax: 2503558

www.ceylonhotels.lk

Amaya Resorts 15%

Up to 15th April 2009

On booked basis for overnight stays Not for long weekends, New Year's Eve and Christmas Eve

Contact:
Ms Punsiri Atapattu
Promotions Executive
Amaya Resorts and Spas
Level 10, East Tower, World Trade Center, Colombo 1.
Telephone: 4767866
Mobile: 077 3667221

www.amayaresorts.com

Royal Lotus 15%

Up to 31 December 2008

Contact:
Mrs Jeewa Kumarapathirana
Manager Sales and Reservations
8/4, Elibank Road, Havelock Town, Colombo 5.
Telephone: 5555310/4 Fax: 2589207

www.theroyallotus.com

Member Benefits - CSSL 2008 card holders

Jetwing Hotels 10%

Up to 31 December 2008

Accommodation on booked basis
Also applicable for up to 15 guests though non resident

Contact:
Mr Ravi Wisidagama, Sales Manager
Jetwing Hotels Ltd
46/26, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 2
Telephone: 5521839, 2345700

www.jetwinghotels.com

Aitken Spence Hotels 10%

Up to 31st October 2008

Corporate rate discount

Contact:
Ms Sajeewani Ratnayake
Marketing Executive
Aitken Spence Hotel Managements (Pvt) Ltd
315, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 2.

Telephone: 2308109
Fax: 2433755

www.aitkenspencehotels.com

Offer from IDM

IDM Computer Studies has agreed to offer a 10% discount on course fees to all CSSL Members (Associate & Full). This discount will be applicable for all the programmes conducted at their centres and will be subjected to a maximum limit of Rs. 20,000 for the full programme that one selects.

Discount on Books Purchased from CG Associates

CG Associates will offer a 10% discount on all the books purchased at their ICT Bookshop at ICT Building, University of Colombo for all the CSSL members.

Offer from Metropolitan

All the CSSL members will be entitled to a 10% discount from Metropolitan Computers (Pvt) Ltd, on Canon Printers, Scanners and Wipro Printers purchased from their head office at 85, Braybrooke, Place, Colombo 2

Discount on Pocket PCs

AIMS Computers (Pvt) Ltd will offer a 10% discount on 02 xda pocket PCs purchased from their head office at 155, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 7 to all CSSL members.
(More information from our website www.cssl.lk)

INCORPORATION UNDER ACT OF PARLIAMENT

CSSL is pleased to confirm that the first reading of the CSSL Parliamentary Act was approved by the Parliament in June 2008. It is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Science and Technology. We are hopeful that the second reading would be taken up and passed by Parliament early within the course of 2009.

PARTNER MEETING

CSSL organized a CSSL- Vendor meeting at the OPA auditorium in March 2008. It was attended by a large gathering of Vendors including some local and international organizations. The objective was to establish a cordial relationship with the Industry.

NEW WEBSITE

After revamping the www.cssl.lk web site, the following features introduced. Member Email Address: Implemented the CSSL Members email address , through Google mail. Format of the email address is MemberName@members.cssl.lk . Web link for the email box is http://mail.members.cssl.lk

- Member Portal: Implemened Member's web portal with www.cssl.lk. This will accommodate members to complete member profile and activate Consultancy services and provide information exclusively to CSSL members
- Job bank and consultancy services : Implemented the cssl job bank and consultancy services with www.cssl.lk .

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

CSSL 'CHAMPIONING CHANGE' Workshop

With the vision of promoting IT and professionalism among those engaged in the field of IT, we organized a workshop on "Championing Change Management' for the benefit of the professionals to develop their skills that are much needed in the industry to get technical knowledge in their profession.

Dr Ajantha Dharmasiri a Management Consultant from PIM Sri Lanka was the resource person for the above workshop. He is a graduate of the University of Moratuwa and has an MBA from PIM Sri Jayewardenepura with many other qualifications including a PhD on Strategic Role of Human Resources in South East Asia. The workshop was well attended and successful as many practical case studies were presented & discussed.

The Specific aims of the workshop were to strengthen the awareness on attitudinal change, enhancing their knowledge and skill on the usage of management tools, collectively discussing change-related challenges with a view to finding a sustainable solution etc. Some Key aspects covered were related to global challenge, how a person could face change as a person, while having teamwork and organization.

There were team activities, showing video films, role plays, collective and interactive discussions. The only permanent reality in the world being CHANGE which is applicable to business organizations which now face a fiercely competitive environment. It imparts the required knowledge, skills and attitude to embrace change with confidence.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

As planned in the workshop held on 4th and 5th of January 2008, one of the main activities of CSSL in this year was to formulate various Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in order to organize workshops, educational programs, Publications/Newsletters and other activities to boost the knowledge of the CSSL members.

In accordance with the above idea, CSSL managed to appoint heads for three Special Interest Groups namely, "e-Learning and Training", "Information and Forensic" and "ICT management" with effect from January 2008.

Dr Prasanna Lokuge, President-Computer Society of Sri Lanka hands over the letter of appointment to Professor Gihan Dias. Mr N. Nirmalan, Vice President, Computer Society of Sri Lanka is also in the picture.

Dr Prasanna Lokuge, President-Computer Society of Sri Lanka hands over the letter of appointment to Dr T.N. Kasun De Soyza, as the Head of SIG for 'Information Security and Forensics'. Mr. N. Nirmalan, Vice President – Computer Society of Sri Lanka and Dr K.L. Jayaratne are also in the picture.

Dr Prasanna Lokuge, President-Computer Society of Sri Lanka hands over the letter of appointment to Mr Chandana Weerasinghe, General Manager Engineering, DMS Electronics as the Head of SIG for 'ICT Management'. In the picture, from left: Professor Upul Sonnadara, Mr Asitha Peiris, Dr Prasanna Lokuge, Mr. Chandana Weerasinghe, and Mr N. Nirmalan.

"e-learning Explained: How it works in real life" SIG Workshop

The workshop was organized by the e-learning and e-training Special Interest Group (SIG) of CSSL and was conducted by personnel having a wealth of experience in the field. Prof. Gihan Dias, explained what e-Learning is and showed that far from being a second-class way of learning; when properly applied, it allowed students to use technology to get the best of both real teachers as well as electronic resources. Mr Shantha Fernando from the University of Moratuwa explained how Interactive Learning can improve learning by having students learn from each other, as well as by interacting with teachers and the system. Dr K. P. Hewagamage, Head of the National e-Learning Centre at the University of Colombo School of Computing showed how assessment helps us learn and understand, using the e-BIT at UCSC as a case study. Mr Roshan Chandragupta from the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) demonstrated the use of the open source Model e-learning platform. A Striking feature of all the presentations was that they demonstrated real-life use of e-learning in Sri Lanka. They clearly showed that e-learning is not just a concept, but is already a reality in our own country. The presentations were followed by a lively discussion, in which the participants discussed issues they have had in e-learning and obtained clarifications from the presenters.

"Google Hacking" SIG Workshop

The CSSL's Special Interest Group on Computer Security and Forensics organized a symposium on Google Hacking on March 7th 2008 at the OPA building Colombo 7. Dr Kasun De Soyza from the University Of Colombo School Of Computing conducted the symposium. Google Hacking is a term that refers to the art of creating complex search engine queries in order to filter through large amounts of search results for information related to computer security. In its malicious format it can be used to detect websites that are vulnerable to numerous exploits including extraction of private and sensitive information about others, such as credit card numbers and passwords.

Introduction to IT Governance and Enterprise Architecture – SIG Workshop

The President Dr Prasanna Lokuge delivered the welcome speech and the workshop was conducted by Mr Kamal Wickramanayake on 28th May 2008 at 6.30 pm.

While many businesses have realized the value of information and information technology, not many have been able to truly capitalize on them. Some have failed to receive the said benefits of IT investments. Many have just been investing on and maintaining sub-optimal solutions. Furthermore, we see organizations which fear to go ahead with IT solutions which affect the business processes due to various reasons including the security aspects of information systems.

Mr. Wickramanayake explained how we should ensure that the present IT systems are used in optimal fashion and new investments on IT are made to receive the maximum business benefit and what organizational structures are required in doing so and what processes are to be followed.

This introductory presentation on IT Governance answered the above questions and introduced the frameworks and tools in doing so. Initiatives and work that has already been done by ISACA and other industry leading organizations were also presented.

The lecture was well attended and those presented were keen on various aspects which were relevant to IT Governance and Enterprise Architecture and the presentation was informative and also made room for many enlightening facts. .

Mr Wickramanayake was thanked for devoting his time to present this public lecture by Mr Chandana Weerasinghe.

IT Governance – SIG Workshop

IT Governance workshop was conducted on 11th July 2008 by Mr. Ramesh Shanmuganathan, Executive Vice President & Group Chief Information Officer, John Keels Holdings PLC.

With the increasing focus on IT as a strategic business driver, the Theory and the Practice of IT Governance is becoming increasingly important for today's IT Manager. Even though often seen as a requirement for the large corporation, IT Governance in its scaled down form becomes equally valid and useful for even the small and medium sized organization.

The importance of understanding the concepts of IT governance, its characteristics, primary goals for IT governance and many other interesting topics were discussed and explained at the workshop.

Why Distance Learning (DL) Fails: DL Vs Globalization – SIG Workshop

Dr Damith Wickramanayake, University of Technology Jamaica, addressed those present at the CSSL pubic lecture organized by e-learning Special Interest Group on 15th August 2008.

He is currently teaching at the University of Technology (Jamaica), School of Computing & Information Technology as a full time faculty member and Distance Learning Coordinator, while also teaching part time at the Jamaica Institute of Management (JIM) and the Institute of Management & Production (IMP).

The audience made of both professionals and interested parties were enlightened on the different avenues used by different countries such as Sri Lanka, India and Jamaica towards Distance Learning approaches.

CSSL LIBRARY

The IT Library set up by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka was declared open by Dr R B Ekanayake on 30th May 2008. The Library is located at the CSSL Secretariat with Internet facilities and consists of a Reference section and a Digital library. The library has books and Journals covering the areas of Management Information Systems, Project Management, IT Security, Artificial Intelligence and technical subjects.

The library also has the facility to access the digital library of the Association for Computing Machinery. This digital library has a large number of journals, research papers and conference papers covering the areas such as Computer Applications, Computer System Organizations, Computing Methodologies, Hardware, Information Systems, Mathematics of Computing, Software, Theory of Computations, and Business Intelligence and Data Warehousing.

The text books, Journals and Magazines were received from IFIP, Asia Foundation, American Centre, and from other professional organizations. CSSL also purchased some books and some of our members were generous enough to contribute books to the Library. We are planning to include more books, journals and videos and provide access to more Digital Libraries.

The CSSL Library is another benefit provided to its members and the Council invites the membership to make use of this facility

CONSULTANCY SERVICES & JOB BANK

The Job & Consultancy portals were ceremonially opened by past president Mr. R. B. Ekanayake on the 30th of May 2008 at the CSSL Secretariat. The overall objective of the project is to facilitate members of CSSL with better employment opportunities and to serve as IT Consultants to various projects within Sri Lanka and overseas. These portals offer several value added services which Members and Employers may find useful in their search for ICT consultancy needs and ICT professionals.

The job portal helps those who are actively looking for ICT job opportunities and the organizations that are seeking competent ICT professionals. The purpose of this project, therefore, is two fold: member benefit and as a source of income for CSSL.

The portal consists of two different sections for both employees and employers. The job seekers, employees, could be either members or non-members. Members may use the credentials already given to them to enjoy this facility. Even non-members could obtain temporary credentials to obtain this facility. Once they login to the portal, the users may complete their resumes and apply for jobs that are already available within the portal. Even more, they may obtain similar services provided by other popular job portals as they wish.

Employers are required to register with CSSL prior to obtaining the service. There are two profiles, basic & advance, that organizations may select depending on their need. The basic profile allows them to have limited number of job postings in text format. The advance profile allows them to have any number of job postings in multimedia. Another advantage of the latter option is that it allows the organizations to request CSSL to take part in the selection process on behalf of the organization. Having registered, the organizations are allowed to upload jobs, receive applications, search for job seekers' database and request for value added services such as short listing applications etc. Employers need to pay an annual subscription to CSSL depending on the type of services they may expect from this on line facility. However, this facility is available free of charge for a limited period of time as a means of promoting the job portal.

The consultancy portal was embarked on with the view to filling the vacuum that prevails in the professional consultancy services. However, owing to constitutional constraints the activities are limited by scope at this initial stage. Again, the purpose is two fold: member benefit and source of income for CSSL.

CSSL maintains a pool of consultants, a group of members those who are willing to undertake consultancy assignments. Having received consultancy assignment, CSSL contacts the most eligible consultant and supports him/her to secure the assignment. In this context, CSSL plays a facilitator role through out the assignment for which CSSL charges a reasonable fee.

The members also use this portal to register with CSSL as consultants.

The Job portal could be accessed at www.cssl.lk/jobs while the Consultancy portal is accessible at www.cssl.lk/consultancy

ICT FOR RURAL AREAS

Introduction & purpose

Recent surveys conducted on ICT literacy rate in Sri Lanka shows a significant 'divide' between the urban and rural areas of Sri Lanka. This 'digital divide' is even more glaring if one compares the ICT literacy rate in the Western Province with that of the provinces such as North Central or Uva province. Therefore, CSSL wanted to conduct workshops targeting the rural areas of Sri Lanka with the view to creating an awareness about Information and Communication Technology. Through these workshops, CSSL intended to supplement various efforts that are being taken at a national level at present to increase the ICT literacy rate in the country.

Workshops areas

Awareness workshops focused on the following areas:

- Information and Communication Technology Trends (National and International)
- Career Path options available for IT literate individuals
- Awareness on Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry and skill requirements

The targeted audience was school leavers, those who have completed Ordinary Level and Advanced Level exams, those who have competence in ICT but are not employed so far, parents, teachers, public officials etc.

Workshops conducted/planned

A workshop was conducted in Kurunegala which was well attended and two more workshops are scheduled to be conducted in November and December this year in Tissamaharama and Badulla.

ICT for Rural Area – Workshop in Tissamaharama

CSSL conducted a one day workshop at Maagama Maha Vidyalaya, Tissamaharama on 25th November 2008 as part of its initiative to create awareness on Information and Communication Technology in rural areas of Sri Lanka. Maagama is a remote village in the vicinity of Kirinda. The workshop was conducted for the students and teachers of Maagama Maha Vidyalaya to appraise them on the benefits of ICT and the need to be ICT literate in order to face the challenges of the emerging knowledge economy. The workshop was well received by both teachers and the students alike. The principal of the school requested CSSL to make this an annual event of the school given the enormous success of the workshop.

Topic discussed:

- Career path options available for ICT literate youth in Sri Lanka

- eSri Lanka Initiative and its benefits to rural masses

- Benefits of Internet and current trends in ICT

CSSL would like to thank Mr Dinuka Perera of ICTA, Amila Galappaththi of Esoft Computer Studies (Pvt) Limited, Mr Sujeewa Pathirathna, Mr Wikum Silva, Mr Kusal Lokugama, Mr Buddhika Samarawickrama, and Mr Shiroy Gomes of Sri Lanka Ports Authority, Mr Ralph

Goonetilleke of CSSL and Mr Jinasena the principal of the school for their active participation in conducting the workshop.

R&D DATABASE & PUBLICATIONS

Building a National Database for ICT Research

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) has planned a number of activities for the year 2008 with the aim of making Sri Lanka 'e-Ready' for the future. One such initiative was to build a national database for research carried out in the field of ICT for the benefit of those who are engaged in ICT and related fields. CSSL hopes that this database will eventually become the primary source of obtaining information related to ICT research carried out in Sri Lanka and a point of contact of potential researchers/supervisors. CSSL also believes that the contributing organizations and individuals will benefit due to exposure leading to frequent citation of their work.
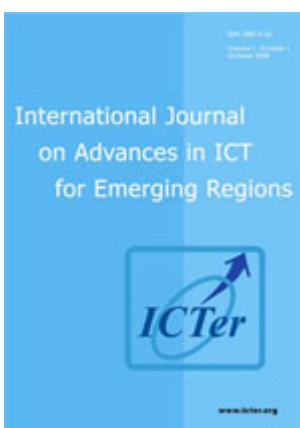
The database will be hosted at the CSSL web site, www.cssl.lk, with a search engine and initially it will maintain information related to B.Sc., M.Sc, M.Phil and Ph.D. degrees in ICT with at least one year research component. Later, the database will expand to include research reports, technical notes and manuscripts.

In order to initiate this work, CSSL has written to all potential ICT degree awarding institutes and members of CSSL as well as members of BCS requesting them to furnish the information. CSSL also discussed this with the Director, University of Colombo School of Computing to obtain the information related to the theses published by their students. Many members have responded positively to this initiative and their contributions are presently under review for the possible publication in the database.

With a view to promoting CSSL activities and informing members of various initiatives carried out by the council, CSSL continued with the publication of the Inter@ctive magazine. Two issues of the magazine have already been published and circulated (February and July). The third and the final issue will be released towards the end of November so that it can be made available for distribution at the CSSL Annual General Meeting.

To make members aware of benefits and as promotional activities in 2008, a new initiative, the publication of a CSSL newsletter was also carried out. The first issue of the newsletter was released in June 2008. CSSL is planning to continue this activity annually.

Launching of the First International ICT Journal

Emerging regions offer a wealth of opportunities in trade, technology and investment. The recent economic development in these regions has spurred them to seek a more important role in world affairs. This has been particularly evident in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), where emerging regions have seen a very rapid growth.

Unfortunately, much of this work has gone largely unnoticed by the world community. This is partially due to the fact that such notice requires publication in internationally reputed journals, and partially due to the fact

_____

that applicable researches in emerging regions get little or no global exposure.

In order to address this problem, CSSL contributed in publishing Sri Lanka's very first international journal dedicated to ICT, "International Journal on Advances in ICT for Emerging Regions (ICTer)". This project was initiated by the UCSC (University of Colombo School of Computing) in collaboration with CSSL (The Computer Society of Sri Lanka), SPIDER (the Swedish Program for ICT in Developing Regions) and IEEE computer society (Sri Lankan Chapter).

ICTer will be published biannually for which papers can be submitted for review all year round. In addition to the two main issues, in order to disseminate research findings, special issues will be published related to local ICT conferences such as NITC, IITC etc. Members are requested to submit their research papers electronically to www.icter.org. Papers will be reviewed, and will be accepted based on its originality, significance and clarity. Papers should be prepared in accordance with the format requirements listed in the Author Guidelines found at, www.icter.org/AuthorGuidelines.pdf.

The first issue of ICTer was published in October 2008 and launched at the 9th IITC conference where 100 issues were distributed free of charge to those who were present at the conference. As a council nominee, Prof. D.U.J. Sonnadara, contributed to this initiative as a Steering committee member as well as an Associate Editor.

19TH NATIONAL SCHOOLS' SOFTWARE COMPETITION (NSSC) 2008

On Sunday June 15th, CSSL conducted the National Schools' Software Competition (NSSC) for the 19th consecutive year. The competition aims to bring out problem solving and programming talents, in school students, with speed, accuracy and team co-ordination, in the competitive environment, at national and international levels. The competition also motivates them with due recognition, besides attractive prizes and certificates. The applications for the competition were called earlier in the year through media advertisements, posters and CSSL's website. The competition is team based and each team consists of up to three members. Both public and private schools can nominate one team for the competition. The team members must be full time students under the age of 17 years.

This year's competition was so special since CSSL had given wide publicity through National Institute of education (NIE), School networks, Posters, Newspaper advertisements, Magazines, TV (NanaPiyasa) to encourage students from all parts of Sri Lanka to participate. Mass publicity attracted more than 100 students from over 27 schools including Jaffna and Batticaloa. We are happy to announce for the first in the history of the software competition, over 50 students from 22 schools took part in the competition. The schools from Kandy, Colombo, Batticaloa, Panadura, Tholangamuwa, Nuwara Eliya, Negombo, Kurunegala, Matara, Trincomalee, Rambukkana and Beruwela participated in the competition held on 15th June 2008 at the ICT lab, School of Computing in University of Colombo.

The teams from Ananda College, Gateway College and Pinnawela Central College won first, second and third places respectively. The first three individual winners were (1) R Y Vidanaarachchi from Ananda College, (2) Y L Vidanaarachchi from Ananda College, (3) K A N S Gunatilake from Gateway College.

The competition is of two hours duration, consisting of 4 problems to be solved using either, Pascal, C, C++ or Java languages. Both the teams and individual winners are selected on the basis of correct outputs and speed of submission of solution to problems. The first three individual winners were selected to take part in the SEARCC international competition. This year, 34 students who performed well in the competition were selected and provided with two days a week training from 5th June 2008 to 6th September 2008 at the University of Colombo School of Computing. The volunteer trainers from International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) served as resource persons in training the students. A second team of three students for the SEARCC International Schools' Software Competition were selected from the pool of students who successfully underwent the training course. The selection of the second team was based on a selection test similar to SEARCC.

This year's NSSC award ceremony was held at Galle Face Hotel. The Chief Guest for event was Hon. Minister of Education Susil Premajayantha. The selected two teams competed at the South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation (SEARCC) International Schools' Software Competition which was held from 11th to 13th September 2008 in Chennai India.

The teams were provided with airfare, hotel accommodation and entry to SEARCC event. This year's National Schools' Software Competition was sponsored by ESoft Computer Studies Pvt Ltd as the strategic partner. The assistance was also provided by the ICTA, Ministry of Education and University of Colombo School of Computing in organizing the event. The applications for the 20th NSSC in 2009 will be called in March 2009 and the information will be publicized in media and CSSL's website www.cssl.lk.

SEARCC 2008 INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS' SOFTWARE COMPETITION

The International Schools' Software Competition (ISSC) 2008 was held from 11th to 13th September 2008 in Chennai, RMK Engineering College.

The competition was organized by the Computer Society of India on behalf of SEARCC which is a non political and non-profit making body comprising National IT Professional Societies from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand. This competition gave an opportunity for competent kids from the Asia Pacific Region to meet and receive valuable exposure and also helped them understand their roll in IT. The teams were provided with airfare, hotel accommodation and entry to SEARCC event. This year's National Schools' Software Competition Strategic Partner was ESoft Computer Studies Pvt Ltd.. The assistance was also provided by the ICTA, Ministry of Education and University of Colombo School of Computing in organizing the event.

Team A comprised of R Y Vidanaarachchi, Y L Vidanaarachchi and K A N S Gunatillaka and Team B, made of R M S N B Rasnayake, A M S V Amarakoon and Y K Kandaudaarachchi represented Sri Lanka in this year.

The competition was won by the Australian Team while India came second. Sri Lanka A Team was placed third. Dr Prasad Wimalaratne managed the teams to India and Dr Nayana Somaratne was the chaperon.

26TH NATIONAL IT CONFERENCE

CSSL conducted the 26th National Information Technology Conference under the theme "e-Inclusion for a Knowledge Economy ", an Industry focused ICT Conference which provided a forum to learn from industry visionaries and to network with peers, this year on the 20th and 21st of August 2008 at the Cinnamon Grand Colombo.

Organizing Committees

Conference Chairman- Dr. Prasanna Lokuge

Conference Manager – Chrisantha Silva

Marketing Committee	Dr. Prasanna Lokuge (Chairman)
	Mr. Chrisantha Silva
	Mr. Lasitha Devendra
	Mr. N. Nirmalan
	Mr. Dissanayaka Bandara
Proceedings Committee	Mr. Chrisantha Silva (Chairman)
	Mr. L M Chandana Weerasinghe
	Dr. Prasanna Lokuge
	Prof. Upul Sonnadara
	Dr. Prasad Wimalaratne
	Dr. Lakshman Jayaratne
Presentation Committee	Mr. Mahesh Perera (Chairman)
	Mr. M.M. Luxaman Perera
	Mr. Dinuka Perera
Facilities Committee	Mr. Asitha Peiris (Chairman)

	Dr. Prasanna Lokuge
	Mr. Lasitha Devendra
Registration Committee	Mr. Dissanayaka Bandara (Chairman)
	Dr. Prasad Wimalaratne
	Mr. Vimal Indrasoma
	Mr. N. Nirmalan
Inauguration Committee	Mr. Dinuka Perera (Chairman)
	Mr. Mahesh Perera
	Mr. Asitha Peiris

Our appreciation is due to all the members who worked in these committees. We must also thank all the other volunteers and specially the team which provided the follow up for the registrations.

The Platinum Sponsor for the 26th National IT conference was Sri Lanka Telecom and Mobitel, Gold Sponsor was Sagem Securite SAFRAN Group, while the Silver Sponsors were IBM and Novell, the Event Sponsor was Flexsim / NAVIS. The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd provided print media supplement sponsorship and the Official Magazine was INTER@CTIVE. The event was supported by the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka. The CSSL wishes to express its sincere gratitude to all these organizations and their management for their sponsorship which contributed towards the success of this event.

The Ceremonial Inauguration was held on 20th morning with Professor Tissa Vitarana Minister of Science and Technology as the Chief Guest and with a gathering of distinguished invitees.

A unique feature of the ceremonial inauguration was the presentation of mementos to all the Presidents both the past and the present, in recognition of their distinguished service and dedication to the society, by the Hon. Minister Tissa Vitarana.

The conference was very well attended on both days and a total of 22 papers were presented by local and foreign speakers during the two-day conference addressing the issues most relevant to 'e-Inclusion'. A distinguished panel of keynote speakers and other speakers gave a diverse set of insights into the advancements on different ICT frontiers around the world.

The following key note presentations were made.

Janaka Abeysinghe, General Manager, Corporate Sales, Sri Lanka Telecom on "Towards a Digital Lifestyle"

Joachim Murat, Regional Sales and Marketing Manager, Sagem Sécurité, France on "Biometrics as a key to National Security"

P V Sreenath, Vice President IBM, Leading Government Sector Solutions for India / South Asia on "E Governors"

Seturaman Mahalingam, Chief Financial Officer / Executive Director, TATA Consultancy Services, India on "e-Inclusion in the Asian Context - some experiences"

Sandeep Menon, Country Head, Novell India on "e-Inclusion through Open Source "

Trent Richard, Director of Business Development, Flexsim Software, USA on "Simulation as a tool for your Productivity

Prof. K. K. Aggarwal, Vice Chancellor Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi, India on "IT in Education – The Possible Silver Line"

Wasantha Deshapriya, Director, Re-engineering Government Programme, ICT Agency of Sri Lanka on "Connected Government: The Sri Lankan Perspective"

Professor Mike Keppell, Professor of Higher Education Director, The Flexible Learning Institute, Charles Sturt University , Australia on "Strategies for Promoting Engagement in Distance Education"

Among the other foreign speakers were, Avinash Kumar Manager, Public Services,/ SAP, Murali Balarama Vice President, Financial Services Solutions IBM India Pvt. Limited, Chandru Kavichandran Business Manager for Convergence Communication, IBM Global Technology Services, IBM India

We were able to get an 8 page news paper supplement in the Ceylon Daily News on 20th August 2008. This was possible due to the numerous articles and advertisements we received from various ICT organizations. This shows the recognition of NITC 08 by various organizations.

Another attraction was the distribution of giveaways to the participants during the conference. IDM had exclusive giveaways, Hotels Corporation and Confifi Group offered weekend outings, Microsoft donated office 2007 programmes, while Esoft and Abans made generous donations of cellular phones, DMS offered a printer while IBM had a special offer to those who visited their stall.

Significant commendations received from the participants and the appreciations given in the feed back forms distinctly points out to NITC's big success this year.

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka is proud that the commitment of its Executive Council, Staff members and supporters assisted in numerous ways to make NITC '08 a magnanimous success and gave an exemplary indication of how well the Conference is organized and conducted by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka.

ICDL INTRODUCTION

The European Computer Driving Licence Foundation Limited (ECDL Foundation), based in Dublin, Ireland, is the worldwide governing body and licensing authority for the ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence) and the ICDL (International Computer Driving Licence), the global standard in end-user computer skills certification.

The ICDL Asia Pacific Limited (ICDLAP), based in Singapore, is a fully owned subsidiary of the ECDL Foundation, and is the regional governing body and licensing authority for the ICDL (International Computer Driving Licence).

New Structure Introduced

In 2002, CSSL signed an agreement with ICDLAP to work with them for 5 years as the 'ICDL Accreditation Agent' in Sri Lanka and Maldives, while testIT (Pvt) limited was the 'Local Business Promoter' for ICDLAP. However, in 2007 the ICDLAP changed their administrative structure worldwide and amalgamated the roles of 'Accreditation Agent' & the 'Local Business Promoter' into a single entity called 'LICENSEE' in each country. For Sri Lanka they appointed the testIT (Pvt) limited as the LICENSEE. testIT (Pvt) limited showed their willingness to continue with the CSSL and we had a number of discussions with the testIT (Pvt) limited to formulate a new strategic model to strengthen the existing accreditation process. As a result a new model has been introduced for the accreditation with testIT (Pvt) limited. An agreement has been signed in January 2008 with testIT to function as the 'ICDL Accreditation Agent' in Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Under the new agreement the CSSL has been given more authority to control ICDL test centres than in the previous agreement. A new fee structure was introduced for the accreditation and re-accreditation with the intention of streamlining the revenue from ICDL operations to the CSSL. Special discounting scheme was allowed for the accreditation and re-accreditation of 'Nenasala' Centres to encourage more and more rural sector participation in ICT and to improve the ICT savvy of rural population.

Accreditation and Auditing

ICDL testing is carried out at Accredited Test Centres (ATCs), which are licensed in every country by the ICDL licensee and audited based on the ECDL Foundation and ICDLAP's quality assurance standards. With respect to IT systems and software, as well as staff issues, the ATC is expected to comply with the relevant minimum specifications, as defined and amended from time to time by ICDLAP and the local licensee.

Any computer training institution can apply to the CSSL for ICDL accreditation if their institution meets the minimum standards set by the ICDL Asia Pacific Limited (ICDLAP) for accreditation. Thereafter, a representative from the CSSL visits the particular centre and does a thorough investigation to find out whether the centre complies with the required standards and recommends the particular centre for accreditation to the ICDAP. Then the ICDLAP issues a licence to the particular institution to carry out ICDL testing. This licence is valid only for one year and therefore, those centres will be audited every year and re-accredited if they comply with the required standards.

Accredited Institutes

15 new centres were accredited as Accredited Test Centres (ATCs) and 55 existing Accredited Test Centres (ATCs) were re-accredited during the year.

AUSTRALIAN COMPUTER SOCIETY EXAMINATIONS

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka collaborates with the ACS to conduct these examinations in Sri Lanka. The ACS examination has over the years gained wide acceptance in Sri Lanka as a basic and affordable all round qualification in IT which is not affiliated to a particular training institute. In year 2008 CSSL has conducted three examinations. The first being in February 2008 where 20 students sat for 51 papers, in June, 22 students with 46 papers while in October 2008 we achieved 25 students who sat for 59 papers

CSSL REPRESENTATION AT OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The Council appointed the following representatives

OPA

Dr Prasanna Lokuge   Association Member
Prof. Upul Sonnadara   Forum Member until 30/10/ 2008
Mr Lasitha Devendra   Forum Member from 30/10/ 2008

SLICTA

Dr Prasanna Lokuge   Director
Mr N Nirmalan   Alternate Director

PRE BUDGET MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA

A pre-budget meeting on 23rd October was held at Temple Trees with His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka who chaired the proceedings. 4 Cabinet ministers (Hon. Minister Ranjith Syabelapitiya, Hon. Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, Hon. Minister Bandula Gunawardana and Hon. Minister Rajitha Senaratna) participated along with president's secretary and few other permanent secretaries. Also present were few other senior government officials from cabinet ministries and public sector organizations. It was a very effective meeting where His Excellency The President discussed all the proposals and said he would do his utmost to look into and solve any needs which would come up.

The CSSL proposal of setting up a "Sri Lanka IT service" was highly supported by the President. Further, Minister Rajitha Senarathne aslo backed the idea saying that it is a very good proposal where we need to implement it to identify the IT profession within the government. According to the president's secretary, proposal is being done to formulate the required structure. Around 35 professional organizations presented their proposals.

SOUTH EAST ASIA REGIONAL COMPUTER CONFEDERATION SEARCC

Sri Lanka has been a very active member of the South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation (SEARCC) since 1986.

We are proud to announce that at the SEARCC EXCO meeting held in India in September 2008, Mr Y.R.Karunaratne (Secretary General SEARCC since 2002) was re-elected unanimously for a further 3 year term proposed by Australia and seconded by Malaysia.

SEARCC has launched the following activities

Item	Focus Area	Responsibility
1	Sharing Best Practices e-Governance Setting up e-Government Standards	ACS & CSI
2	Skill Development, Job Placement & Consulting	ACS & MNCC
3	Computer Professional Education Programmes CPE & CPD	ACS
4	Introduce a new Membership Category for Members of SEARCC Countries	CSI & ACS

CONCLUSION

In the year 2008, we adhered to the program of work defined at the beginning of the year and contributed our maximum to the progress of the society. We are proud of our accomplishments in the past year but recognise that there is still much to be done. Finally, I must thank everybody in the society and others for their contribution to our performance in this year.