CSSL
COMPUTER SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL DIGITAL MAGAZINE OF COMPUTER SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

ENGAGE   **INFLUENCE**   **CONTRIBUTE**   **VOICE**

Join the CSSL Volunteer Network! 🚀

Be a part of Sri Lanka's ICT transformation by volunteering with CSSL! Whether you're passionate about technology, leadership, or community impact, your skills can help shape the future of the industry.

📲 **Scan the QR code, share your details, and we'll reach out! Let's innovate, collaborate, and make a difference together.** 💡✨

President's Message

Dear CSSL Members,

Happy New Year 2025! As we step into another promising year, it is my honor and privilege to address you as the newly appointed President of the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL). I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the members for entrusting me with this significant responsibility.

Alongside our new Executive Council, I am excited to embark on a journey to elevate CSSL to greater heights.

Introducing the New Council

Our new council, composed of passionate and dedicated professionals, is committed to upholding the values of CSSL and driving its mission forward. Together, we aim to foster innovation, collaboration, and excellence within Sri Lanka's ICT community.

Seated from left: *Dr. Manjusri Wickramasinghe (Assistant Secretary), Udesh I.W. Seneviratna (Secretary), Heshan Karunaratne (President), Indika De Zoysa (Vice President), and Dr. Amal Illesinghe (Treasurer)*

Standing from left: *Chanaki Mallikarachchi, Ruvendra Gunasena, Lakmal Embuldeniya (Publication Secretary), Dr. Ajantha Atukorale, Rasantha Hettithanthrige (Assistant Secretary), Chethana Kahandugoda and Dr. Nirosha Wedasinghe (Students Counsellor)*

President's Message

Society 5.0 & Sri Lanka's Digital Economy

Announced at its 36th Annual General Meeting, this vision aligns closely with the principles of Society 5.0, a concept that envisions a human-centric, technology-driven society. By integrating advanced digital technologies into every facet of life, CSSL's plan aims to drive economic growth, improve quality of life, and support the nation's broader aspirations of building a $ 15 billion digital economy by 2030 including $ 5 billion exports and 200k workforce.

At the heart of CSSL's strategy is the ambition to transform Sri Lanka into a digital powerhouse. This transformation begins with fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, empowering individuals and businesses to harness the potential of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and blockchain. By creating a culture of innovation and providing the necessary tools and mentorship, CSSL is equipping Sri Lankans with the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. This focus on human capital development not only strengthens the country's competitive edge but also embodies the core principles of Society 5.0, where people remain at the centre of technological progress.

New Initiatives for 2025

Our efforts this year revolves around making CSSL a hub of knowledge and innovation that empowers individuals and organizations along the Society to thrive in the digital age.

Our goals are to:

- Strengthen professional development opportunities for our members with CPD.
- Advocate for ICT policy improvements that benefit the nation through continous engagement with Government Policy makers.
- Foster local and global partnerships to drive technological growth with IFIP, IP3, SEARCC, etc..
- Support emerging talent in ICT to shape the future workforce through NITC2025, SLDigital Investment Summit, TechTalks, GenZ Chapters, etc.

CSSL's 50th Anniversary

As we approach CSSL's 50th Anniversary in 2026, we are preparing for a landmark celebration that reflects our achievements and aspirations. I invite every member to contribute to making this a memorable milestone for CSSL.

Volunteer Appreciation 2024

Reflecting on the past year, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all our volunteers who tirelessly contributed to CSSL's success in 2024 from our Fellow and Professional Membership as well as from GenZ Chapters. Your dedication and hard work have been the backbone of our initiatives, and we are truly grateful for your service.

President's Message

Invitation to Volunteer in 2025

As we gear up for another impactful year, we invite our members to join various subcommittees and play an active role in shaping CSSL's future. Your expertise and ideas are invaluable to us. Please reach out to us if you are interested in contributing your time and skills.

Corporate Sponsors & Vendor Tech Updates

We are also opening avenues for corporate sponsors to collaborate with CSSL and support our initiatives. In addition, we encourage vendors to share the latest technology updates, which will be featured in our newsletters to keep our members informed about emerging trends and advancements.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, I am confident that 2025 will be a transformative year for CSSL. With your continued support and engagement, we can achieve remarkable milestones together. Let us work collectively to advance the ICT landscape of Sri Lanka and make a lasting impact.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to CSSL. I look forward to an inspiring and productive year ahead.

Warm regards,

Heshan Karunaratne
President, Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL)

Message from the Publication Secretary

It is with great enthusiasm that I step into the role of Publication Secretary for the CSSL for 2025. As we embark on an exciting year ahead, I am delighted to introduce the first edition of our Newsletter for Year 2025, which will serve as a key platform to inform, engage, and inspire our members and the broader ICT community in Sri Lanka.

Starting this year, we will publish the newsletter in the first week of every month, featuring updates from the previous month and a preview of what's ahead. This initiative aims to keep you connected with the latest industry insights, CSSL activities, and emerging trends that shape the digital landscape.

What's New in 2025 ?

We are introducing several new segments to make the newsletter more engaging and inclusive:
◆ Public Opinion – A dedicated space for the public to share articles of interest, insights, and thought-provoking discussions.
◆ Members' Section – Encouraging CSSL members to voice their opinions, share experiences, and contribute to industry conversations.
◆ CIO Interviews – Featuring the leaders from **CIO List** and connecting with **Sri Lanka's top CIOs** to gain insights into digital transformation and leadership.
◆ GenZ Student Articles – Showcasing contributions from the vibrant **GenZ Chapters**, fostering young talent, and encouraging student members to be an active part of the newsletter.
◆ Industry Spotlight – Providing companies a platform to highlight **technological advancements, innovations, and digital transformations.**
◆ CSSL Updates & Offers – Keeping you informed about **exclusive offers, upcoming events, training programs, and activities** conducted by CSSL.

💡 **Get Involved !!!** We invite **members, students, industry professionals, and companies** to contribute to the newsletter. Whether you have an **opinion to share, an article to publish, or an innovation to showcase**, we welcome your participation in making this a valuable resource for Sri Lanka's ICT ecosystem.

As we drive forward in 2025, I look forward to your support, engagement, and contributions to ensure that the **CSSL Newsletter becomes a powerful voice in the tech industry**. Stay tuned for exciting updates, thought leadership, and exclusive insights every month!

Lakmal Embuldeniya
Publication Secretary
Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL)

Annual General Meeting 2025

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) has unveiled a groundbreaking 2030 strategy, designed to position Sri Lanka as a leading player in the global digital economy.

Announced at its 36th Annual General Meeting, this vision aligns closely with the principles of Society 5.0, a concept that envisions a human-centric, technology-driven society. By integrating advanced digital technologies into every facet of life, CSSL's plan aims to drive economic growth, improve quality of life, and support the nation's broader aspirations of building a $ 15 billion digital economy by 2030 including $ 5 billion exports and 200k workforce.

At the heart of CSSL's strategy is the ambition to transform Sri Lanka into a digital powerhouse. This transformation begins with fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, empowering individuals and businesses to harness the potential of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and blockchain. By creating a culture of innovation and providing the necessary tools and mentorship, CSSL is equipping Sri Lankans with the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. This focus on human capital development not only strengthens the country's competitive edge but also embodies the core principles of Society 5.0, where people remain at the centre of technological progress.

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Annual General Meeting ....

Reflecting on this transformative vision, CSSL President Heshan Karunaratne said: "Our goal is to catalyse a progressive future for Sri Lanka by embracing the principles of Society 5.0, ensuring that technological advancements lead to a more inclusive and sustainable society." This statement encapsulates the organisation's commitment to leveraging technology as a tool for economic growth and societal development, reinforcing its role as a key driver of Sri Lanka's digital transformation.

CSSL's strategy also emphasises inclusivity, a crucial element in realising the vision of a digital Sri Lanka. In a country where access to technology remains uneven, the plan seeks to bridge the digital divide by expanding high-speed internet access, improving digital literacy, and ensuring that underserved communities can actively participate in the digital economy. These efforts are critical for creating a more inclusive and dynamic digital ecosystem, a key stepping stone to achieving CSSL's ambitious goals.

Another crucial aspect of CSSL's vision is the promotion of sustainability, including fostering a "Clean Sri Lanka" through smart technologies. The CSSL roadmap incorporates the use of digital solutions to support environmental conservation efforts, smart city's and promote renewable energy adoption. For instance, data-driven platforms can enhance waste collection efficiency, while IoT-enabled systems can optimise energy consumption and reduce carbon emissions. These technologies not only address pressing environmental challenges but also align with Sri Lanka's commitment to achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Moreover, the integration of digital platforms to educate and engage the public on sustainability initiatives is a key focus area. Through awareness campaigns and innovative apps, CSSL aims to empower individuals and communities to adopt eco-friendly practices. By leveraging these technologies, Sri Lanka can build a cleaner and greener future, reinforcing its position as a model for sustainable development in the region.

In line with its transformative agenda, CSSL has also prioritised the integration of disruptive technologies to address societal challenges. From revolutionising healthcare and education to promoting sustainable urban development, the strategy leverages innovation to improve the lives of Sri Lankans while fostering economic growth. This human-centric approach is a hallmark of Society 5.0, reflecting a commitment to using technology not just for profit but for the greater good. CSSL's roadmap underscores the importance of balancing economic progress with social well-being, ensuring that technological advancements contribute to a more equitable and sustainable society.

Sri Lanka's economic challenges underscore the timeliness of CSSL's vision. As the nation navigates its recovery from recent hardships, digital transformation offers a path to resilience and long-term growth. By embracing the CSSL's strategy, Sri Lanka can unlock new opportunities for job creation, economic diversification, and foreign investment, positioning itself as a leader in the regional and global digital economy.

Annual General Meeting ....

This strategic alignment with Society 5.0 principles ensures that technological advancements are not only economically viable but also socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

The CSSL's vision extends beyond the economy to address pressing global and local challenges. The strategy promotes the use of smart technologies to combat climate change, manage energy resources efficiently, and foster sustainable practices across industries. This holistic approach is critical for Sri Lanka, a nation vulnerable to environmental threats. By aligning digital transformation with sustainability goals, CSSL's roadmap mirrors the essence of Society 5.0 – creating a harmonious balance between nature, technology, and society.

Collaboration and partnerships form the backbone of CSSL's 2030 strategy. By uniting government bodies, private enterprises, academia, and civil society, CSSL is building a collaborative ecosystem that accelerates innovation and ensures equitable access to digital opportunities. Such partnerships are essential for addressing complex challenges and driving the nation's digital transformation. They also enable Sri Lanka to stay competitive in an increasingly interconnected world, fostering a collective vision of progress and prosperity.

The CSSL's efforts are not just about technological advancement; they are about reimagining Sri Lanka's future. By providing a clear and actionable roadmap, CSSL is helping to lay the foundation for a nation that is inclusive, innovative, and resilient. This vision aligns seamlessly with Sri Lanka's national goals and positions the country as a trailblazer in the global journey toward a digital and sustainable future. In conclusion, CSSL's bold 2030 strategy, inspired by the transformative ideals of Society 5.0, offers a visionary path for Sri Lanka to become a digital powerhouse. By fostering innovation, championing inclusivity, and leveraging technology for societal good, CSSL is not just transforming the digital landscape but redefining what it means to build a sustainable and equitable future. The emphasis on a "Clean Sri Lanka" underscores the organisation's commitment to environmental sustainability, ensuring that the nation's progress is both digital and green. As Sri Lanka embraces this journey, CSSL's leadership and vision shine as beacons of hope, guiding the nation toward a brighter and more connected tomorrow.

The 2024/25 CSSL Council Members are President: Heshan Karunaratne (SPIL Glass Software), Vice President: Indika De Zoysa (Huawei Technologies Lanka Co. Ltd.), Secretary: Udesh I.W. Seneviratna (Finance Ministry), Treasurer: Dr. Amal Illesinghe, (NSB Retired CIO), Assistant Treasurer: Rasantha Hettithanthrige (Mobitel Ltd.), Assistant Secretary: Dr. Manjusri Wickramasinghe (University of Colombo School of Computing), Publication Secretary: Lakmal Embuldeniya (Henkei Coorporation Academy for Presales), Student Counsellor: Dr. Nirosha Wedasinghe (General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University), Council Members: Dr. Ajantha Atukorale (University of Colombo School of Computing Past Student) , Ruvendra Gunasena (Hemas Holding PLC), Chanaki Mallikarachchi (Digital Economy Ministry Sri Lanka), Chethana Kahandugoda (LB Finance PLC)

Dr. Ajantha elected as a VP of OPA

Dr. Ajantha Atukorale, the President of the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL), has been **elected as one of the Vice Presidents of the Organization of Professional Associations (OPA) of Sri Lanka** at its 49th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 30th October 2024. This prestigious appointment marks a significant milestone for CSSL, as the organization has been entrusted with this opportunity after several years. Recognizing the potential impact of this role, the CSSL Council unanimously decided that its President, Dr. Ajantha Atukorale, should represent the Society and contribute to the OPA's mission.

As a Vice President of the OPA, Dr. Atukorale plays a vital role in steering the organization's strategic initiatives. He actively participates in the General Forum of the OPA, the Executive Council, and the Centre Management Committee, ensuring the voice of the computing profession is effectively represented. Additionally, Dr. Atukorale is a key member of the 50th Anniversary Committee, contributing to the planning and execution of this landmark event for the OPA during the 2024/2025 session.

Beyond his core commitments, Dr. Atukorale has been entrusted with chairing the "Career Guidance and Skills Development" Committee. In this capacity, he leads efforts to enhance professional growth and skill development among Sri Lanka's diverse professional community. This role aligns seamlessly with his expertise and vision for fostering collaboration between academia and industry, as well as his ongoing contributions to advancing the nation's IT sector.

Dr. Ajantha Atukorale's election as Vice President of the OPA underscores his leadership and dedication to the development of professional communities in Sri Lanka. His multifaceted responsibilities within the OPA not only elevate the profile of CSSL but also pave the way for stronger inter-professional collaboration and growth, reflecting his unwavering commitment to excellence and innovation.

NITC 2024
Catalyzing a Progressive Future
Towards Society 5.0

Milestone Achievement of NITC's 42 Years of History with

2000
Professional Engagement

1153
Registrations

32
Speakers

NOVEMBER 24TH, 26TH & 27TH

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EVENT PARTNER
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DESIGN PARTNER
GARVI DESIGN STUDIO

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce   SLASSCOM   FITIS   bcs Sri Lanka Section   ISACA Sri Lanka Chapter   ifip   SEARCC

Society 5.0 Takes Center Stage at NITC

The National Information Technology Conference (NITC) 2024, chaired by **Udesh I W Seneviratna**, achieved a historic milestone by surpassing 1,000 registrations for the first time in its 42-year history, with a total of **1,163 registrations**. The event took place from November 23 to 25, 2024, at the Shangri-La Hotel in Colombo, attracting **over 2,000 professional engagements** from academia, policymakers, and computing professionals. This year's conference featured six specialized tracks: **FinTech, EduTech, TravelTech, InfoSec, e-Governance, and e-Health.**

A pivotal moment at the conference was the introduction of **Society 5.0** by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) to the Nation, a concept in bridging the digital and physical realms to enhance human well-being and economic growth. Sri Lanka's journey toward Society 5.0 presents immense potential as the nation's talent pool and strategic positioning offer significant opportunities to emerge as a regional leader in this transformative era.

At the inauguration of the Conference, Dr. Ajantha Atukorale, President of CSSL, proposed establishing a Chartered ICT Professional Entity, aimed at fostering a resilient and sustainable ICT workforce. He also advocated for recognizing the ICT sector as a distinct industry within the national economy, which could catalyze Sri Lanka's digital transformation. He noted that the establishment of the Ministry of Digital Economy by the Sri Lankan government is crucial for cohesive efforts to position Sri Lanka as a global digital hub by 2030 and highlighted the critical role of collaboration among policymakers, educators, industry leaders, and innovators in realizing this vision.

Society 5.0 Takes Center Stage ....

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The conference was inaugurated by prominent figures including the **State Minister of Technology from Maldives** and the **Deputy Minister of Digital Economy of Sri Lanka**. Additionally, it featured the prestigious CSSL National ICT Awards, recognizing excellence within the field. Deputy Minister Eranga Udesh Weeraratne reaffirmed the government's commitment to driving digital transformation: "The establishment of the Ministry of Digital Economy is a testament to our commitment to a digital-first future. By investing in infrastructure, talent, and innovation, we aim to position Sri Lanka as a competitive player in the global digital economy. Collaboration with the private sector, academia, and global partners will be key to achieving our vision."

Udesh I W Seneviratna, The Conference Chair of NITC emphasized that NITC 2024 served as a vital platform for innovation and collaboration in the ICT sector. He highlighted the conference's role in addressing key challenges and opportunities within the industry while promoting partnerships among various stakeholders. The success of NITC 2024 reflects a growing recognition of the ICT sector's potential to drive economic growth and societal advancement in Sri Lanka. With over four decades of commitment to fostering digital transformation, the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) continues to lead initiatives that shape the future of technology in the country. **The NITC 2025 is scheduled to be held on October 14, 15, and 16, 2025 at Shangri La Hotel.**

Team behind the success of NITC 2024

NICT Awards - Honoring the Excellence

The CSSL National ICT Awards 2023, organized by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL), celebrated outstanding contributions in technological innovation, sustainability, and leadership within the ICT sector. As a prestigious platform, the awards recognized excellence across multiple categories, including Elite, Management, Startup & Ecosystem, and Student awards, reflecting the diverse landscape of Sri Lanka's ICT industry. This year, key refinements were introduced, such as the recategorization of ICT Management Awards into Public and Private Sector divisions, the introduction of new awards for Business Analysts, Project Managers, and Software Testers, and the subdivision of the School Category to promote IT education among a broader range of students.

The selection process was rigorously structured, with applications evaluated through multiple stages by a panel of seasoned academics and industry professionals, focusing on innovation, impact, scalability, governance, risk, and compliance. With its continued evolution, the CSSL National ICT Awards 2023 reinforced its role as a cornerstone of Sri Lanka's digital advancement, inspiring the next generation of tech innovators and professionals.

Professor Lasith Gunawardena
ICT Educator of the Year

Professor S. Vasanthapriyan
ICT Leader of the Year (Male)

Dr. Thanikasalam Kokul
ICT Researcher of the Year

Mr. Prabath Gunasena
Chief Information Officer of the year

NITC Awards - Honoring the Excellence ....

Mr. Ravindra Thalagahawatte
Chief Information Security
Officer of the year

Mr. Ranjan Nishantha
Chief Digital Information Officer
(Public Sector)

Mr. Dilanka Wijethilake
CSSL Best Founder Award

Mr. Ishanka Thilakaratne
ICT Manager of the year

Mr. P. K. W. Gihan Bandara
ICT Business Analyst of the year

Mr. H. V. A. Gayan Gimhana
ICT Project Manager of the year

Ms. Sivaruby Nirooparan
Software Tester of the year

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NITC Awards - Student Awards

Mr. Rumesh Rajasegar
CSSL Student Awards
Postgraduate Category

Mr. Raveen Akuretiyagama
CSSL Student Awards
School Category (International)

Mr. Pamula Fernando
CSSL Student Awards
School Category
(Public)

Mr. Naveen Rajan
CSSL Student Awards
Undergraduate Category

Ms. A. W. S. Haseeba
CSSL Student Awards
Undergraduate Category

Digital Investment Summit 2024

The Sri Lanka Digital Investment Summit (DIS) 2024, hosted by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL), marked a crucial step in leveraging digital innovation for national economic recovery. Held on November 26, 2024, at the Shangri-La Hotel Colombo, the event brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and investors, including Lanka Angel Network, MasterCard, hSenid Ventures, Palladium Group, Ironwood Capital Partners, and PanAsia Bank.

The summit featured notable speakers like Dr. Ajantha Atukorale, President of CSSL, Mr. Damith Hettihewa, past CSSL president, and Ms. Dinali De Silva, CEO of Lanka Angel Network. They addressed an audience of investors, entrepreneurs, and startup enthusiasts, fostering collaboration between 20 digital startups and scale-ups with angel investors and high-net-worth individuals.

Running parallel to CSSL's National IT Conference (NITC) 2024, the summit is a pivotal platform for addressing economic challenges, such as the Balance of Payment crisis, through technology-driven solutions. Launched in 2022, DIS continues to drive initiatives to achieve Sri Lanka's ICT export goal of USD 5 billion by 2030.

Led by Vice President Heshan Karunaratne, DIS 2024 was a public-private collaboration involving the Government, ICTA, SLASSCOM, FITIS, and more, promoting investment and trade for a resilient digital future.

National CIO List 2024

On February 27, 2025, The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) has reaffirmed its commitment to digital excellence with the unveiling of the prestigious CSSL National CIO List 2024, an initiative recognising the nation's top Chief Information Officers (CIOs) for their outstanding contributions to the industry. This flagship event brought together industry pioneers, technology leaders, and key stakeholders to recognise and honour the individuals driving digital transformation across Sri Lanka.

Inaugurated in 2023, The CSSL National CIO List serves as a testament to the critical role CIOs play in shaping the country's digital landscape. This prestigious recognition highlights leaders who have demonstrated exceptional innovation, strategic vision, and dedication to advancing technology in their respective organisations.

As organisations navigate an era of rapid technological advancements, CIOs have become indispensable in driving business success and sustainability. They are no longer just IT heads; they are strategic leaders who align technology with business objectives, ensuring enterprises remain competitive in a constantly evolving digital ecosystem.

CIOs play a pivotal role in digital transformation, leveraging emerging technologies such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and cybersecurity frameworks to enhance operational efficiency and customer experiences. Their responsibilities extend beyond technology implementation-they shape innovation strategies, manage digital risks, foster, and a culture of continuous technological advancement resulting business growth within their organisations.

CIOs also play a crucial role in ensuring organisations maintain robust security infrastructures creating resilient business environments to protect against cyber threats. As data becomes a crucial asset, CIOs are responsible for implementing strong data protection policies, regulatory compliance, and ethical technology usage.

National CIO List 2024 Cont...

We proudly announced the CSSL National CIO List 2024

- Mr. Tharindra Kulasinghe - CIO – CAL
- Mr. Sampath Perumbuli - CIO – Lion Brewery Ceylon PLC
- Mr. Sanjeewa Kodikara - CIO – Hirdaramani
- Mr. K.V.Kuganathan - Group CIO – Janashakthi Group
- Mr. Chandrasiri Weerasekara - Deputy General Manager -IT (CIO) – Lanka Electricity Company
- Mr. Chethana Kahandugoda - CIO – LB Finance PLC

National CIO Forum 2025

The CSSL National CIO Forum 2025 marked a ground-breaking initiative that celebrated the contributions of Sri Lanka's IT fraternity, showcasing their invaluable role in shaping the nation's digital future.

Held at Shangri-La Colombo, this prestigious event provided a platform for the country's leading technology professionals to exchange insights, explore new opportunities, and recognise the remarkable visionaries driving enterprise-wide digital transformation. The event was organised by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) under the leadership of CSSL President Heshan Karunaratne, Project Chairs Ruvendra Gunasena and Rasantha Hettithanthrige, whose efforts were instrumental in making this forum a resounding success.

This year's event brought together IT leaders, industry pioneers, and key stakeholders, united by a shared vision for Sri Lanka's digital evolution. Discussions provided real-world insights from experts on IT leadership, workforce transformation, and cyber security. Thought-provoking focus groups offered deeper analysis into ERP modernisation, cyber security, and AI-driven strategies, while exclusive fireside chats facilitated engaging conversations on leadership, resilience, and the future of digital innovation. A key moment of the forum was the recognition of the CSSL National CIO List 2024 inductees, who were honoured for their contributions to business transformation and technological advancement.

CSSL Boardroom Gets a Modern Makeover

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) recently celebrated the reopening of its newly refurbished boardroom. The event, held on October 9, 2024, marked a significant milestone in the organization's history.

CSSL has been headquartered at the OPA building since June 6, 2001. After 23 years, the Executive Council undertook a major renovation of the boardroom, creating a modern and functional space for meetings, discussions, and collaborative work.

The reopening ceremony was attended by past presidents and current members of the Executive Council, underscoring the importance of this space in the organization's journey.

I'm thrilled to share some photos of the newly refurbished boardroom. Please enjoy this glimpse of the revitalized space!

UPDATES TO DATE

The 35th Annual NSSC 2024

The 35th Annual National Schools' Software Competition (NSSC) 2024, organized by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL), successfully concluded. This prestigious event, held in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, fosters problem-solving, programming skills, and teamwork among school students.The competition comprises two rounds: a regional round followed by a national final.

In 2023, with the Ministry of Education's support, the regional rounds were conducted across all nine regions of Sri Lanka, encompassing two age categories (Under 17 and Under 19). This expanded reach ensured greater student participation.

The final round, featuring 30 talented students, took place on December 11, 2024, at the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC). The CSSL extends its gratitude to UCSC for their invaluable assistance in providing exam papers and laboratory facilities.

CSSL Tech Talk - Session 01 for 2025

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) proudly kicked off its 2025 Tech Talk series with an insightful session titled "Exploring the Future of FinTech," held on 26th February 2025 at NIBM, Colombo 07. This timely discussion brought together professionals, students, and technology enthusiasts to examine how financial technology continues to reshape the digital economy.

The keynote speaker, Mr. **Chethana Kahandugoda**, Chief Information Officer at LB Finance PLC, delivered an engaging and thought-provoking presentation. Drawing on his extensive experience in the financial services sector, Mr. Kahandugoda illuminated the profound transformations within the FinTech landscape—fueled notably by the global shift in consumer behavior post-2020.

He highlighted how the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digital adoption, making electronic payments, online financial management, and digital banking the new standard by 2025.

The session explored key topics such as:
- The evolution and future trajectory of FinTech in Sri Lanka and globally
- Digital trust and cybersecurity in financial innovation
- FinTech's role in driving financial inclusion and accessibility
- Emerging technologies such as blockchain, AI, and real-time analytics in financial services

The session attracted a diverse audience with a shared interest in understanding the technological shifts shaping financial ecosystems. It also marked a renewed commitment by CSSL to foster thought leadership, professional development, and community engagement through regular knowledge-sharing forums.

📍 Key Takeaway:
 As FinTech becomes embedded in everyday life, it is imperative for technologists, policymakers, and businesses to collaborate in ensuring secure, inclusive, and resilient digital financial ecosystems.
CSSL invites all ICT professionals and students to join future Tech Talks and contribute to shaping Sri Lanka's digital future.

CSSL Tech Talk - Session 02 for 2025

The second CSSL Tech Talk for 2025, titled "Why Law Matters in Coding," took place on 30th April 2025 at NIBM, Colombo 07, continuing the series' mission to bridge technology, governance, and professional excellence. The event drew software developers, cybersecurity practitioners, and IT leaders into a critical dialogue on the growing intersection between code and law.

Mr. **Udaya Ranasinghe**, Cybersecurity Engineer at LB Finance PLC, led the session with an insightful and practical exploration of the legal landscape surrounding software development. His talk emphasized the necessity for developers to understand and incorporate legal and compliance requirements into the software lifecycle, particularly in today's interconnected and regulated environments.

Key highlights from the session included:
- Sri Lankan Regulatory Framework: Coverage of the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) and the Computer Crimes Act, with relevance to software engineering practices.
- International Compliance Standards: Discussion on GDPR, PCI DSS, and their implications for global software deployment.
- DevSecOps Integration: Strategies for embedding security and compliance checks within the software development lifecycle to enhance product trustworthiness.

The talk stressed that understanding legal requirements is not just a task for legal teams—it is a shared responsibility among developers, architects, and security professionals. With cybersecurity and data protection becoming critical board-level concerns, this session reinforced the need for legal literacy within development teams.

🔍 Takeaway Message:
Security and compliance must be "built-in," not "bolted-on." Legal awareness in coding is a cornerstone of resilient, trustworthy, and globally acceptable software products.

GenZ: Reading without Boundaries

"Reading Without Boundaries" is a transformative program dedicated to fostering an inclusive reading culture, particularly for children and individuals with special needs.

Organized by the **CSSL GenZ Chapter of KDU**, the initiative took place on October 1st at the KDU Ratmalana Campus Boardroom as an interactive online session.

With a core mission of demonstrating how literature can transcend barriers and connect individuals regardless of their abilities, this project ensures that everyone has the opportunity to experience the joy of reading and learning from stories.

By promoting accessibility in literature, the initiative nurtures a culture where reading is free from physical, cognitive, or social constraints. It encourages empathy, inclusivity, and personal growth, breaking societal barriers while fostering a deeper appreciation of diverse perspectives.

GenZ: NSBM Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the CSSL NSBM GenZ Chapter, held on September 4, 2024, at the NSBM Auditorium, was a significant event that brought together committee members, volunteers, and students to reflect on the chapter's achievements, discuss future initiatives, and strengthen community collaboration. The meeting was graced by Chief Guest Dr. Ajantha Atukorale, along with Prof. Chaminda Wijesinghe, Mr. Isuru Sri Bandara, and committee members from CSSL GenZ NSBM and KDU, as well as students from the Faculty of Computing (FoC).

A key highlight of the event was the formal handover ceremony, marking the transition to the new executive board led by Mr. Januda Abeysinghe, symbolizing the beginning of a new chapter. The AGM served as a platform to celebrate past accomplishments while setting the stage for a future driven by growth, innovation, and collaboration.

GenZ: KDU & NSBM on "Path to Innovation"

The CSSL GenZ Chapters of KDU and NSBM jointly hosted an engaging virtual event, "Path to Innovation," on December 17th via Zoom, featuring **Prof. Bandula Wijay, CEO and President of LeoMed LLC, Honorary Ambassador of Sri Lanka for Science & Technology, and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering at General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University.**

Prof. Wijay delivered an insightful session, sharing his expertise in science, technology, and innovation, offering valuable perspectives on groundbreaking advancements. The event also featured an interactive discussion, where participants explored his academic journey, patents, and professional experiences, gaining deeper insights into the world of research and development.

This collaborative initiative served as an inspiration for attendees, encouraging them to embrace innovation, pursue excellence, and push the boundaries of technology in their careers.
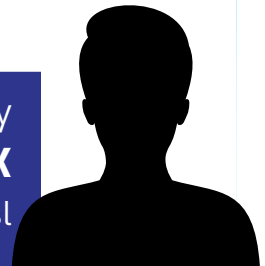
MEMBERS SECTION

Author

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CSSL invites its members to contribute articles to the Members' Section, a platform for thought leadership, industry insights, and shared experiences. Whether you have expert opinions, case studies, or innovative ideas, this is your chance to engage, inspire, and influence Sri Lanka's ICT community.

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What to Expect

Learn, showcase, and connect. Discover new ideas, share your work, and meet experts shaping the future of ICT.

Thought Leadership

Gain insights from renowned local and international ICT experts leading innovation and change across industries.

Graduate Product Showcase

A special stage for recent Computing graduates to present ICT products developed during undergraduate studies.

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Presenters and participants will connect with Sri Lanka's vibrant academic and professional ICT community.

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Date : July 07, 2025 from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Venue: Department of Government Information

A PLACE WHERE GREAT IDEAS COME TO LIFE AND THE FUTURE OF ICT BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE

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Member of International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP), which was established in 1960 under the auspices of UN (UNESCO), and links more than 50 national and international IT professional societies.

CSSL is an accredited professional body by International Professional Practice Partnership (IP3). CSSL's Professional Member Scheme and Associate Member Scheme have been examined and are accredited as meeting the standards set down by IP3.

Member of South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation (SEARCC), a confederation of IT and technology professional associations in Asia & Pacific Region.

The Organisation of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka (OPA) is a body of Professionals presently belonging to, 51 member associations catering to 34 disciplines with a total membership of over 60,000.

Provisional signatory of Seoul Accord, which is an internationally acclaimed degree accreditation program.

CSSL Accreditation Board also endorsed by University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka

SAVE THE DATE

EVENTS CALENDAR

CSSL Research Colloquium (CSSLRC)   **- July 2025**
CSSLRC 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.

Digital Investment Summit   **- October 16, 2025**

National IT Awards Application Opening - **July 1, 2025**
National IT Awards Ceremony   **- October 14, 2025**

Press Launch - March 2025
NITC 2025 - October 14, 15 & 16, 2025

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Do you want to shape conversations in Sri Lanka's ICT industry ?

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) is inviting Members and GenZ Chapter Student Members to be part of our Editorial Team for the CSSL Newsletter!

This is your chance to interview top CIOs, feature public opinions, and curate member articles, contributing to an impactful publication that reaches professionals across the ICT sector.

🌟 **Why Join ?**
✔️ Exclusive Opportunities – Conduct and publish CIO interviews, tech articles, and industry opinions.
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