

From the Desk of the President



Year 2006/2007 has been a very eventful year for CSSL given the very many strategic focuses that have been pursued on a continuum by the Executive Council from 2005/2006, all in support of ICT Professional Harnessing, Nurturing and Development.

Collaboration ... CSSL has also, continued on its unwavering path to foster greater relationships and dialog with Industry, Academia and other ICT associations and bodies all in support of greater collaboration in support of National endeavors instilled to increase and align suitable ICT talent much needed for Sri Lanka's growth projections in the ITES Sector.

Growth ... CSSL has also, continued its strides to grow the fold as it were thus providing an abode for ICT Professionals at large thereby fulfilling on its' mandate to build the ICT mass by being more inclusive thus, paving the way gradually for greater lobby and voice for the cause of ICT Professionals at large.

Increased Efficiency and Productivity ... CSSL's Secretariat too which continues to play a pivotal role has been a continuous focus so as to ensure that internal efficiencies are maximized via the streamlining of operatives, so as to ensure that we deliver upon the promise to the general membership.

Financial Well being ... The Executive Council has continued to remain focused and conscious of its prime responsibilities towards the general membership and thus, ensured that the asset base has not diminished and grown to the contrary.

However, would like more members (beyond the Executive Council) to get involved thereby orchestrating diversity, thought leadership and greater support towards CSSL in its activities thus, an appeal to all of you to volunteer and / or provide your views to csslsec@cssl.lk

Last but not least whilst thanking you for extending all your unstinted support and cooperation during my tenure as President designate for two consecutive years, appeal to all of you to continue to support the new Executive Council so as to make 'your society' more successful in 2008.

Wishing you all the very best for 2008.

Dinesh C. A. Sattrukalsinghe
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. The society has been playing a major role in promoting Information Technology and professionalism among those engaged in the field of IT in the country for over 30 years. The rapid growth of CSSL in recent years indicates a greater interest among IT professionals in the affairs of the society.

VISION OF CSSL

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 2006/2007

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 2007.

COUNCIL OF THE COMPUTER SOCIETY OF SRI LANKA

Elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 14th December 2006 were;

President	Mr Dinesh C A Sattrukalsinghe
Vice President	Dr Prasanna Lokuge
Secretary	Mr N Nirmalan
Assistant Secretary	Mr Asitha Peiris
Treasurer	Mr M M Luxaman Perera
Assistant Treasurer	Mr D L M Dissanayake Bandara
Student Counselor	Dr Gihan N Wikramanayake
Publication Secretary	Prof Upul Sonnadara
Council Members:	Mr J M Chrisantha I Silva
	Dr Ajith P Madurapperuma
	Mr Lasitha Devendra
	Mr Arosh Yahampath

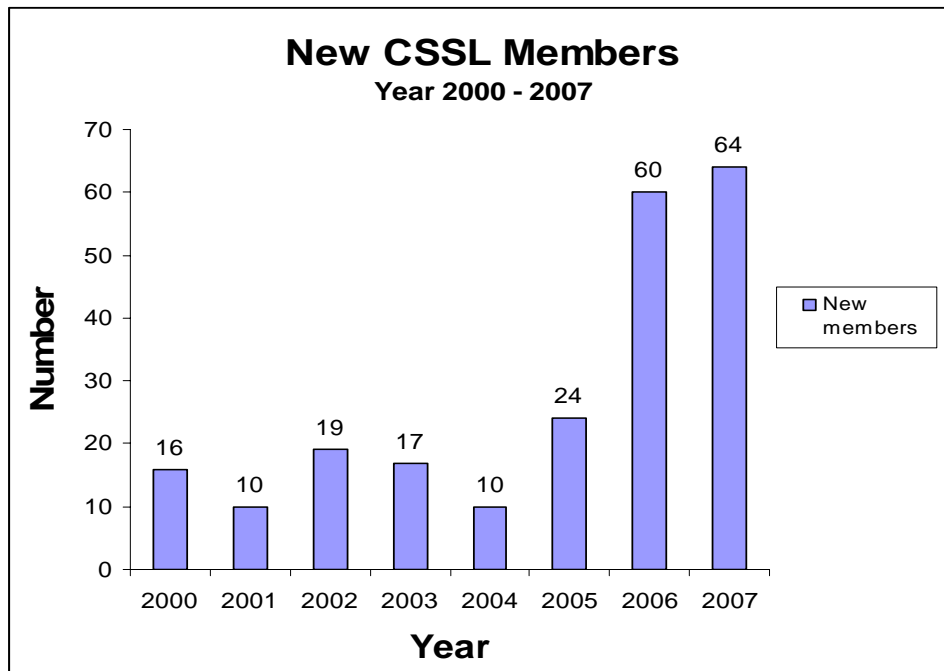
The Council met practically every fortnight and had 22 council meetings and many sub committee meetings during the year. In addition residential strategic planning sessions and a guest lecture were conducted in 2007.

MEMBERSHIP

Year 2007 has been a great year for new Membership. New members enrolled have been 64, which is the highest number recorded in any given year. CSSL is proud of this achievement and also wishes to state that many elite ICT professionals have joined the membership forte this year. CSSL is pleased to state that there is a growing interest seen amongst the ICT professionals to join the Society.

New CSSL Members (Year 2000 -2007)

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
New members	16	10	19	17	10	24	60	64



We are confident that from year 2008 onwards, with the CSSL's incorporation under an Act of Parliament and the proposed entry criteria in effect, we will be able to attract more. We also believe that while recognizing the core ICT competencies as professional experience, it requires to recognize the closely associated ICT experiences, such as implementation and maintenance of computer programs; Systems analysis and design, development, Database design and administration; Network design and communication technology; Information systems strategic planning; Systems programming; Hardware engineering and maintenance; Information technology research and development; Standards development; Software quality assurance; Auditing of IT systems; Design of safety critical systems; Network management; IT systems security; Pre and post sales technical support; Design and implementation of computer-based training material; training of students, staff and users of IT; Specialized IT marketing; Supervision and management as well.

A larger number of IT professionals as well as those amply qualified in the ICT industry got formal professional recognition through membership of the CSSL. With this uppermost in the minds of the Council, the membership committee was arranged to include appropriate members of the society.

The Membership committee was chaired by Mr. Lasitha Devendra, and committee members were Mr Dissanayake Bandara, Dr Gihan Wikramanayake and Mr Arosh Yahampath.

The final membership standings as at 15th December 2007 are as follows.

Honorary Fellows	5
Members	334 (+64)
Associate Members	159 (+7)
Student Members	6376 (+22)
Affiliate Members	46

A further number of new members, affiliates and associates whose applications are approved by the council are pending, completion of their admission formalities at the time of writing.

Developing Interpersonal Skills Rolling the Dice in your Favour-Workshop

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) organized a training workshop 'Development of Interpersonal Skills' on 28th of May 2007 at Hotel Cinnamon Grand. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Shabbar Sutrewala from Mumbai India. Mr Suerwalla is a Counsellor in Psychology, a computer Consultant by Profession and Personal Growth Trainer by Choice.

This training workshop aimed at developing interpersonal skills was mainly focused on developing a win/win attitude to work in harmony to overcome resistance, enhancing team work & team spirit, developing interpersonal communications, and, harmonious working relationships.



The participants actively participated through out the training session span from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. through experimental learning, role plays, case studies and sharing. The group activity "saving the balloon" was well received and enjoyed by every participant.

This was the first professional development workshop organized by the CSSL Professional Development Committee in 2007. CSSL members and IT organizations are encouraged to suggest their training requirements well in advance to the CSSL professional development committee so that the committee could plan and organize a variety of professional development workshops and seminars for the benefit of IT users.

SGM

A special general meeting was held on 4th April 2007 at OPA Auditorium for obtaining the invaluable feedback on the move forward plan to incorporate CSSL by An Act of Parliament.

Out of the 38 members present, 35 voted in favor of incorporating CSSL, by An Act of Parliament.

IT and Standards Seminar

Prof Venugopal Iyengar, conducted a seminar on IT and Standards, arranged by CSSL at the Institute of Supply and Materials Management Auditorium on 25th April 2007. He is much qualified as CISM, CISA, CISSP, ACFE, MSc, DIRM, DTT, DCS, DCM, ISO 27001, Bs, 1500, ISO/IEC 17020, Director IOM India.

It was an evening of information on topics most relevant to computer and information technology. Prof Venugopal was indeed grateful for having been given the opportunity of delivering a lecture which enlightened those present, initially on how Information Technology continuously changes, and the way it is moving in the present decade and what its effects are. During his short lecture he explained and went into brief detail on how an organization should establish control over IT, IS, Security and allied fields.

Also touched on, were the role of COBIT, ISACA Audit Standards, ISO 27001, ISO 20000 and that professionals should be aware of these as it could affect our working atmospheres. Many question and answer sessions had to be made very brief as time was most limited.

Professor Venugopal had to explain very fast what the regulatory requirements such as SAS70, SOX, HIPAA, Safe Harbor, COSO expect IT to provide and how one should be sure that this requirement is being met though at the moment very few would have to face these right now. Computer Society appreciates and solicits his lecturing us.

NATIONAL SCHOOL'S SOFTWARE COMPETITION 2007

Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) has been conducting the National Schools' Software Competition (NSSC) from 1990, to develop Computer skills and to encourage creativity in problem solving among school children, which provide our best students the ultimate challenge in computing. The national competition is open to all school students in the island provided they are not more than 17 years of age. The competition is of two hours duration consisting of four programming problems to be solved using Pascal, C, C++ or Java. In this competition, evaluation is done based on the accuracy and the speed of the solution in keeping with international competition standards.



The 18th National Schools Software Competition, organized by the CSSL was held on 7th July, 2007 at University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC). Seventeen students, representing the schools: Ananda College Colombo, Gateway College Nawala, Maliyadeva College Kurunegala, Royal College Colombo, V/Vavuniya Tamil Madhya Maha Vidyalayam Vavunia and Willesden College International Battaramulla participated in this competition. Results were compiled to evaluate individual positions and team positions.

In the individual student ranking, Rajith Yasodha Vidanaarachchi of Ananda College Colombo, D M T Buddhika Dissanayake of Maliyadeva College Kurunegala and Dulan L Dantanarayana Royal College Colombo were placed first, second and third respectively. Ananda College Colombo team consists of Rajith Yasodha Vidanaarachchi, Yasith Lahiru Vidanaarachchi and H D Asith Udyahana emerged as the winners whilst Royal College Colombo team consists of Dulan L Dantanarayana, Jude Andrady and Kosala V Hemachandra and Maliyadeva College Kurunegala team consists of D M T Buddhika Dissanayake and T S Kempitiya won the second and the third places respectively.

Based on the performance of this competition, a national pool of four members was selected. The national pool consists of D M T Buddhika Dissanayake & T S Kempitiya of Maliyadeva College Kurunegala, Dulan L Dantanarayana Royal College Colombo, Rajith Yasodha Vidanaarachchi of Ananda College Colombo. These pool members were trained in problem solving techniques at UCSC and team for the SEARCC 2007 International Schools' Software Competition were selected.

The National Schools software Competition Awards Ceremony was held jointly with the Young Computer Scientist 2007 awards ceremony organized by the Sri Lanka Association for Software Industry (SLASI). It was held on 27th October, 2007 at Hatton National Bank Towers. Hon. Minister Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Education was invited as the Chief Guest while Rohana Wijeweera, Chief Information Technology Officer of Sri Lanka Telecom was the guest of honour.

Dr Gihan Wikramanayake chaired the National School Software Competition committee. Mr Ralph Goonetilleke (CSSL) and Mr Keerthi Goonatillake (UCSC) assisted in the activities of the committee. The technical committee chaired by Mr. Naya Somaratna conducted the competition. Mr Chetiya Abeyesinghe, Mr. Parinda Jayasiri, Mr. Sandaruwan Gunathilake and Mr. Sudirikku Mohanjith assisted him.

SEARCC 2007 International Schools' Software Competition

International Schools' Software Competition (ISSC) 2007 was held at Assumption University, Thailand from 20th to 22nd November 2007. The competition was organised by the Computer Association of Thailand on behalf of South East Asia Computer Confederation (SEARCC). SEARCC is a non-political and non-profit making body comprising National IT Professional Societies from Australia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand. This competition provided an opportunity for the whiz kids from Asia Pacific Region to meet and receive valuable exposure and it also helped students to understand their role in IT, while fostering regional co-operation.

One team each from India, Sri Lanka & Taiwan and two teams from Thailand participated at this event. The two Thailand teams came first and second while Sri Lanka team consists of D M T Buddhika Dissanayake & T.S. Kempitiya of Maliyadeva College Kurunegala and Rajith Yasodha Vidanaarachchi of Ananda College Colombo secured 3rd place. Mr. Sifaan Zavahir was the chaperon of the Sri Lankan team.

Training of the national team was coordinated by Dr Gihan Wikramanayake and held at University of Colombo School of Computing. Training was carried out Mr. Naya Somaratna, Mr. Sifaan Zavahir and Mr. Parinda Jayasiri.

We wish to thank the Ministry of Education and University of Colombo School of Computing, and Sri Lanka Association for Software Industry, and all those who contributed towards the success of the National and the International Competitions.

AUSTRALIAN COMPUTER SOCIETY EXAMINATIONS

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) has conducted Australian Computer Society (ACS) examinations in Sri Lanka since June 1991. Over the years examinations of the old ACS syllabi was taken by 1000's of Sri Lankans. Diploma of Information Technology (DIT) examination was introduced to Sri Lanka in June 2006 and since then we have had examinations thrice a year with around 50 candidates taking examinations each time. This year examinations were held in February, June and October 2007 and a total of 109 candidates sat the examinations. Due to the rise of examination fees and the Australian dollar, not many Sri Lankan candidates take the ACS examinations.

The first graduate for the ACS Diploma of Information Technology



However, CSSL is happy to announce that the first graduate in the ACS Diploma of Information Technology is 26 year old Ruchika Athukorala from Sri Lanka. Ruchika is in the 2nd year of an undergraduate degree at Open University in Sri Lanka and already has a diploma from IDM Computer Studies (Pvt) Limited. He is currently working as Assistant Manager at HSBC Electronic Data Processing Lanka Private Limited. Previously he worked at Colombo Dockyard Limited. Ruchika plans further studies in ICT while developing his career in the computer industry. CSSL wishes Ruchika well with his career and further studies.

THE BRITISH COMPUTER SOCIETY

The CSSL continues to explore avenues to co-operate and intermingle with the BCS for the benefit of both Societies. In fact, the present President of BCS is Dr Gihan Wikramanayake who also occupies a vital position and role, in the Computer Society of Sri Lanka.

Efforts are being accentuated to invite CITP qualified Members to join CSSL and broad base the society, together with other BCS members. This effort was initiated after an official meeting with the BCS Sri Lanka Chapter. CSSL was represented by Mr Dinesh Sattrukalsinghe, Dr Gihan Wikramanayake and Mr Lasitha Devendra

We thank the President of the BCS Sri Lanka Chapter Dr Gihan Wikramanayake for his efforts in promoting the BCS /CSSL cooperation.

RECRUITMENT SERVICES

Mr Dinesh Sattrukalsinghe and Mr N Nirmalan had discussions with KPMG recruitment services to explore the possibilities of facilitating CSSL members with foreign opportunities for employment and for consultancy services that the CSSL is planning in the future; to get projects outside Sri Lanka as a member benefit.

Mr Nirmalan had discussions with monster.com and various other International organizations and set the path forward, to facilitate the future activities of CSSL.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT - CSSL



The theme of the conference '**Digital Synergy for Seamless Globalization**' being relevant and timely in context given the advancement in technology, numerous developments and innovations taking place in the global arena, fuelling the need for seamless knit and integration thus, paving the way for greater levels of collaboration and co-operation for the greater benefit of all man kind. Also, given that ICT too is pervasive in nature, it would span the breadth and depth of Society and thus, be the currency of exchange in the knowledge era. Thus, believe that NITC'07 is an opportunity that no ICT Professional can afford to miss as is envisaged to provide useful insights spanning learnt lessons, best

practices and experiential showcases which would be of immense appeal and use to the participants from a knowledge leverage perspective in support of aligning and attuning themselves better into the global arena.

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) stands committed to continue its gigantic strides in support of professional nurturing and development of ICT professionals here in Sri Lanka, thereby provides the ICT Professionals a suitable launch pad and platform for engagement thus, providing avenues for ICT thought leadership and advocacy to be channelled in support of national initiatives.

Digital Synergy for Seamless Globalization

The **25th National IT Conference** organized by CSSL and proceedings held at Cinnamon Grand Colombo from the 19th – 20th September 2007. The Strategic Partner and Platinum Sponsor was Dialog Broadband Networks (Pvt) Limited, the pioneer WIMAX provider which is also a key provider to IT Sector of Sri Lanka, providing backbone and transmission infrastructure facilities to data communication services.

The Co-Sponsor – Microsoft Sri Lanka being the world leader in software, services and solutions, believes that Technology is the single factor which provides a lasting competitive advantage.

Following ritual formalities, the welcome address was delivered by President Dinesh Sattrukalsinghe, while the Introductory Keynote on 'The Rendezvous – Business Needs and Technology' was made by Chaminda Ranasinghe- Head of Information Technology at Dialog Telecom.

With the attendance of over 400 participants registered at the 25th NITC, resounding comments from past Presidents, Key note speakers and the feed back forms too have appreciated most encouragingly, the quality of presentations which are considered to have been well balanced and above all, very informative and in line with topics of deliverance.

Presentations made by twenty individuals both local and foreign, kept the attendees very much interested, and many questions clarified with answers which were most explanatory and acceptable. A unique distinction at this year's conference was; Microsoft latest Windows Operating System Vista. High Quality Mobile phones from Esoft Computer Studies (Pvt) Ltd and Access International (Pvt) Ltd; drawn to lucky winners chosen off their visiting cards given at the entrance.

The conference provided The Computer Society with beneficial exposure and made those present realize the value of not only being part and parcel of the Society, but also of the thoroughness and wholesome

commitment of the Executive Council, in being involved in delegating activities and to have a complete end result of a successful NITC 2007.

The following committees worked tirelessly to make this conference a great success.

Marketing Committee	Dr Prasanna Lokuge (Chairman) Mr Dinesh Sattrukalsinghe (Co-Chairman) Dr Ajith Madurapperuma Mr N Nirmalan Mr Asitha Peiris Mr Dissanayake Bandara
Proceedings Committee	Mr Chrisantha Silva (Chairman) Mr L M C Weerasinghe Dr Gihan Wikramanayake Dr Prasanna Lokuge Prof Upul Sonnadara
Presentation Committee	Mr M M Luxaman Perera (Chairman) Mr Asitha Peiris Prof Upul Sonnadara
Facilities Committee	Mr Asitha Peiris (Chairman) Mr Arosh Yahampath Mr Lasitha Devendra
Registration Committee	Mr Dissanayake Bandara (Chairman) Mr Arosh Yahampath.

Thank you to all Organising committee Chairmen and their constituent members, CSSL Executive Council, staff of the CSSL Secretariat, sponsors, foreign and local speakers, paper presenters, suppliers and partners and all those who have contributed in numerous ways behind the scenes to make NITC'07 a grand success, for the valuable encouraging comments and presentations by many who attended the conference. We also thank the sisters Inuri and Sanuri for phoning and coaxing as much attendance as possible, and to Admin Manager Ralph Goonetilleke for being the MC at the conference.

CSSL WEB SITE – www.cssl.lk

CSSL web site was initiated and launched with Ceylinco Internet services by CSSL Member Mr Rohan Sirisena. The Technical team from CIS has been very helpful and have maintained the site since 1999. On behalf of CSSL, we thank Mr Rohan Sirisena and the CIS technical team for their excellent support and services.

To enable new product and services we planned last year, to call for proposals from Web Designers, and out of 5 proposals we received, the new web site development was awarded to Speitra (Pvt) Ltd after technical and Price evaluation.

New web site will cater to the following areas,

- Managing Member profile
 - Member can build his own profile,
 - Member subscription payment through online payment gateway,
 - Activate the membership as a consultancy service

- **Enable Consultancy Service**
 - As a Member benefit, a CSSL member can activate his profile as a Consultancy service in his skilled area.
 - Consultancy seekers can browse the available consultants for their requirements.
- **Enable Recruitment Agency**
 - Employers can create their own profile and post the available job opportunity, and manage applicants.
 - Job seekers can browse available job opportunities.
 - Registered job seekers can manage his own profile and apply online.
- **Interest Groups Service**
 - New Group and Discussion forms are available for public access.

TEST CENTER ACCREDITATION FOR ICDLAP

CSSL as the accreditation agent for International Computer Driving License Asia Pacific (ICDL AP) has attracted a considerable number of ICDL testing centers which includes Maldives.

A total of 49 centers received formal accreditation during the year. Not all of them were successful in their first attempt, which reflects on the high standards that are maintained during accreditation. We have been able to take up the sudden increase in popularity and willingness to become accredited in ICDL, as it is also an additional income generator for CSSL where 25 centers were re-accredited.

In areas where there is at least one accredited test center, the locality seems to be uplift and more attracted to computer usage.

ICDL has indeed gone through major changes in testing mechanism and most new accredited institutions now use on-line testing mechanisms, while eCitizen qualification is fast gaining popularity and most centers offer this as well.

INCORPORATION OF CSSL

With overwhelming endorsement by the Membership at a Special General Meeting held on 4th April 2007, in favour of Incorporation, the finalized 'Rules' were sent to M/s Dissanayake & Amaratunge Associates for their approval. Original 'Rules' were typed in English. For Incorporation under the Act of Parliament, it is mandatory that the "Rules" should be submitted in all three languages. Therefore it was translated to Sinhala and Tamil Languages by the Chief Translator of the Registrar General Department, Colombo.

We appreciate the dedication of the Chief Translator of the Register Generals Department for his meticulous efforts in translating the 'Rules' into the other three languages and the final copies were sent to M/s Dissanayake Amaratunge Associates for approval.

The process of Incorporation under the Act of Parliament requires approval of a State Ministry. After careful deliberations, we decided to contact Hon. Minister of Science and Technology Prof Tissa Vitharana for his commitment in this pursuit. We are thankful for his vision and commitment for CSSL. The Hon Minister will present a Cabinet paper to the Cabinet of Ministers. Currently the Cabinet paper is in its draft state.

We believe that the cabinet paper will be ready by end January 2008, and then be presented to Parliament for the first hearing. Second hearing would take 3- 6 months and for the Act to be

passed in Parliament. Upon receipt of the Incorporation, CSSL could de-list from the Companies Act.

While the whole Executive Council was dedicated to this endeavor, Mr. Lasitha Devendra was assigned to monitor the progress while Mr Ralph Goonetilleke was delegated for the coordination of this work. CSSL appreciates the efforts put in by the Exco and the office especially by Lasitha and Ralph.

REPRESENTATION AT OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Council appointed the following representatives:

OPA

Mr Dinesh Sattrukalsinghe	-Association Member
Dr Ajith P Madurapperuma	-Forum Member

SLICTA

Mr Dinesh Sattrukalsinghe	-Director
Dr Prasanna Lokuge	-Alternate Director

SOUTH EAST ASIA REGIONAL COMPUTER CONFEDERATION

The President of CSSL Mr. Dinesh Sattrukalsinghe continued to serve as the President of SEARCC from October 2006 and was instrumental in presenting a 'way forward' for SEARCC at its' mid-term Executive council meeting held in March 2007 in Thailand. The approach put forward was very well received by all the SEARCC Member country representatives and did unleash a new life onto SEARCC which was in a disillusioned state. High priority focus areas were identified in conjoint including the need for a new governance structure to ensure transparency and longevity of SEARCC and members assigned to each of these for greater focus. However, day to day priorities of the volunteering members from the respective countries took toll and thus, remain yet to be concretized into a firm business plan to be recommended, approved and operationalised.

CONCLUSION

The year under review was one where the society continued its thrusts on the pre-identified focuses with minimal deviations however, charted alternate course wherever required in support of making its efforts even more meaningful to its members and to the society at large. Our abilities to achieve more was often limited not by the lack of a vision or new ideas but by the limits placed by our demanding work and family schedules given our involvement on a voluntary basis. As the society moves forward a self-perpetuating efficient and effective secretariat together with more involvement and support from you the general members will be essential to overcome this limitation. In conclusion we must thank each and everyone who made this year the eventful one it has been.