

Four Sri Lankan students depart for Intel ISEF 2017

Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) 2017

14-19 May 2017, Los Angeles, California, USA

Minister of Education, Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam & Eng. Jayavilal Meegoda, President, Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) met with the winners of the Sri Lanka Science and Engineering Fair (SLSEF) 2017, who will shortly be traveling to the United States to participate in the annual Intel International Science and Engineering Fair at Ministry of Education. G K N Wishvajith Gangodawila from Mayurapada Central College, Narammala and runner-up W S Udantha Abeyawickrama of Darmasoka College, Ambalangoda and the group category winners R Sankalpa Perera & P Shehan Kavishka from S De S Jayasinghe Central Collage, Dehiwala will take part in Fair in Los Anegeles, California, USA next week.

At this year's Fair, G K N Wishvajith Gangodawila will showcase his project called "Systematic Wall Constructing Tool", Udantha Abeywickrama will demonstrate a specially designed "Hydraulic Operated Vice". Group category winners A R Sankalpa Perera & P Shehan Kavishka will showcase the their research on "Micro and Nano engineering for wastewater: magnetized biochar and nanoparticle composite for toxic Cr(VI) removal".

Speaking at the meeting, Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam stated, "Since its inception, SLSEF has produced some brilliant school-aged inventors who have excelled with their ingenuity and creativity. Last year, Abhisek Gomes of Belvoir College International won a grand prize and one special award for his project which was a significant achievement for him as well as the country. Also Chamindu Jayasanka of Hanwella Rajasinghe Central College and Lochana Piyumantha of Madampe Senanayake Central College won two special awards for their projects. IESL, NSF & Intel support over the last few years in assisting SLSEF winners to showcase their innovations in the global arena has been commendable. I thank them and wish this year's team the very best of luck."

"This event is a great occasion for Lankan students to meet with and exchange ideas with their peers from around the world. I have no doubt that this exposure will help them grow and serve their country in numerous ways through science and innovation in the coming years. I wish the finalists the very best of luck for the upcoming ISEF competition," said Mr Sunil Hettiarachchi, Secretary, Ministry of Education.

Eng. Jayavilal Meegoda, President, Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) said, "IESL has been organizing the Junior Inventor of the Year (JIY) competition for the last three decades, mentoring many students to win at an international level. IESL is very happy to be a part in this cultural change that drives the next generation of Sri Lankan students to be innovative. This is the 10th consecutive year that Lankan students will be showcasing their experiments and work at ISEF. Intel Sri Lanka is proud to work alongside the Ministry of Education, the National Science Foundation

(NSF), and Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) to provide this opportunity for our students. I wish this year's participant the very best of luck.

Over the past eight years, 37 Sri Lankan students have participated at Intel ISEF, and over 13 officials have attended the Intel Educator Academy. Sri Lanka has won seven grand awards and nine special awards to date at the event.

As the world's largest pre-college science fair, and the only global science competition for students in grades 9-12, the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) encourages students to tackle challenging scientific questions and solve the problems of tomorrow. Each year, more than 6 million students worldwide, from local and regional science fairs across 75 countries vie to attend the Intel ISEF. This year over 1,750 finalists have been selected to share breakthrough scientific research and compete for nearly \$4 million in scholarships and awards at the event.



Maduranga Karunajeewa
Student Member