

OVERSEAS CHAPTERS - 2020/2021

NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER REPORT 2020/2021

IESL NZ chapter was established in January 2015 with the objective of providing a forum for professional engineers and persons with interest in Engineering, especially in New Zealand, to foster the ideals of the profession while socialising in a professional and cordial environment. The ideals of the profession encompass the characteristics and values enshrined in the vision and mission statement of the Institution of Sri Lanka (IESL) as well as the laws governing New Zealand.

IESL NZ Chapter is registered under the Companies Act, New Zealand as an incorporated society in NZ.

The inaugural general meeting was held on 31 January 2015 with the participation of then IESL President Eng Dr. S B Wijekoon. In April each year the annual general meetings were held and new committees were appointed.

Photos of Inaugural Meeting Jan 2015:



Year 2015 / 2016

President	Eng Dr. Gregory Shahane De Costa
Secretary	Eng. Sirimevan Rangamuwa

Year 2016 / 2017

President	Eng. Sirimevan Rangamuwa
Secretary	Eng. Sunil Arewgoda

Year 2017 / 2018

President	Eng. Duminda Wijayasinghe
Secretary	Eng. Navin Weeraratne

Year 2018 / 2019

President	Eng. Navin Weeraratne
Secretary	Eng. Dayal Champika Withana

Year 2019 / 2020

President	Eng. Dayal Champika Withana
Secretary	Eng. Jagath Rupasinghe

Year 2020 / 2021

President	Eng. Sumudu Nishantha
Secretary	Eng. Kumindu Dias

Year 2021 / 2022

President	Eng. Renuka Anthony
Secretary	Eng Dr. Dulsha Kularatna-Abeywardana
Vice President	Eng. Krish Jayaratne
Treasurer	Eng Ms. Anuraga Gunathunga
Editor	Eng. Dinesh Jayasekara

The regular events organised by IESLNZ include:

Quarterly Events

Presentations on engineering and IT related topics, providing guidance to migrant engineers on relevant industry conditions and expectations, and how to prepare for job interviews etc. These presentations are followed by social networking and dinner.

Annual Engineers' Night

Family event attended by invited guests from sponsoring organisations and a chief guest usually the CEO of a main organisation from the engineering and IT fields.

Photos of annual event Nov 2020:



Annual Outdoor Event

Social gathering held during the summer, including BBQ, friendly cricket match and other activities.

Photos of outdoor event Mar 2021:



The events already held and planned for the year 2021 are:

- Outdoor event held on Saturday 20 March at Cornwall Park, Auckland
- Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 21 May at St Chads Church Hall, Meadowbank, Auckland. A technical presentation was given by Eng Ragu Ragunathan, Managing Director of EMACS, Civil Engineering Design Consultants, Auckland.

- Quarterly Event held on Saturday 07 Aug at St Chads Church Hall. 2 presentations on Engineering Pathways and Career Development. Presentation 1 by Jamie Prothero, Student Centre Manager, Faculty of Engineering, The University of Auckland. Presentation 2 by Mrs. Dona Mihiri, Project Manager/ Business Analyst, Founder of CV Consulting By Dona.
- Quarterly Event planned for Saturday 17 Sept at St Chads Church Hall
- Quarterly Event planned for Saturday 02 Oct at Remuera Church Hall
- End of the Year Event planned for Saturday 04 Dec at St Chads Church Hall

IESL NSW CHAPTER REPORT 2020/2021

1. Introduction

This report summarises the events which took place in the current IESL NSW Chapter Management Committee's term of office for 2020/21. Some of the Chapter's activities were compelled to be cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. This Annual report will be presented to the Chapter membership at the AGM to be held on 19 September 2021 via the Zoom platform. The report will be sent to IESL Head Quarters for publication in the annual IESL Transactions.

2. IESL NSW Chapter Management Committee 2020/2021

The Twelfth Management Committee of the IESL NSW Chapter was elected at the AGM held on 20 September 2020 via Zoom platform. The Committee currently consists of the following members.

- Eng. (Dr.) Ashok Peiris (Chair)
- Eng. Paramsothy Gnanasothy (Vice Chair)
- Eng. (Dr.) Nilakshi Perera (Secretary)
- Eng. Mihimal Kadurugamuwa (Treasurer)
- Eng. Sithy Razeen (Editor)
- Eng. Mahendram Manoharan (Immediate Past Chair)
- Eng. Sisira Kantha Sanda Marakkalage (Committee Member)
- Eng. Rasika Gunawardana (Committee Member)
- Eng. Prabath Rathnayaka (Committee Member)
- Eng (Dr.) Manasi Wijerathna (Committee Member)
- Eng. Dayani Nayantha (Committee Member)
- Eng. Julian Mehanathan (Committee Member)
- Miss. Menuli Sanda Marakkalage (Committee Member)
- Mr. Janidu Sanda Marakkalage (Committee Member)

In addition to the above Committee members Eng. (Dr.) Buddhi Wijerathna was appointed as the Web Administrator and Mr. Prabhath Amarasinghe was appointed as the Auditor.

Total of 12 committee meetings have been conducted. Most of the meetings have been conducted via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions. There were a few face-to-face meetings as well.

3. Membership

IESL NSW Chapter has not yet received the current membership register from the Headquarters, which has been requested during tenure of previous committee as well.

4. Public Lecture Series

IESL NSW Chapter's Management committee organised 7 Public Lectures for the term of 2020/2021.

The lectures were notified to our membership and published via IESL NSW Chapter website. The events were posted on IESL's Announcements web page (Basecamp). Engineering organisations in both private sector and public sector, universities etc. were informed about these public lectures.

The presentations were about one-hour of duration with a fifteen minutes Questions and Answer time with the audience at the end of the presentations. Engineers and students from different

engineering background participated in the lecture. IESL Headquarters was provided with the presentation materials of the public lectures.

The details of the Public Lectures are as follows.

- “AI for Engineering Application” was delivered by Dr. Varuna De Silva, University of Loughborough, on 17 February.
- “5G - An Inevitable Revolution: *Let’s capture the opportunity in Building the Sri Lankan 5G Economy*” was delivered by Eng. Sunimal Ediriweera, Global Account Director, Ericsson Group, IBM Corp., Stockholm, Sweden, on 20 March.
- “Managing Urban Stormwater for Disaster Risk Reduction” was delivered by Dr. Srikantha Herath, Consultant Real Time Control Centre, Metro Colombo Development Project, Professor, University of Tokyo, Japan, on 1 May.
- “Australian mining industry well positioned to reap from electric vehicles push” was delivered by Eng. Mohan Seneviratne, Global Lead for Water, Principal Industry Specialist Climate Business, IFC, World Bank Group, on 2 June.
- “Design of Protective Structures to withstand Extreme Loading (Blast and Impact) was delivered by Dr. Damith Mohotti, Senior Lecturer, University of NSW, on 26 July.
- “Digitalisation of the Water Sector – Opportunity and Challenges” was delivered by Prof. Harsha Ratnaweera, Professor, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, on 25 August.
- “Radio & Television Broadcast – Is there any future for them?” was delivered by Dr. Amal Punchihewa, on 18 September.



Dr. Varuna De Silva



Eng. Sunimal Ediriweera



Dr. Srikantha Herath



Eng. Mohan Seneviratne



Dr. Damith Mohotti



Prof. Harsha Ratnaweera



Dr. Amal Punchihewa

5. Young Engineers Day

The Young Engineers Day was held on 23 June 2021 via zoom. 5 Engineers presented on a wide range of topics at this annual event.

The event was notified to our membership and published via IESL NSW Chapter website. The details of the Young Engineers Day were posted on IESL's Announcements web page (Basecamp). Engineering organisations in both private sector and public sector, universities etc. were informed about the Young Engineers Day.

The 5 presenters were allocated 10 minutes each for their presentations with a 5 minute Questions and Answer session at the end of each presentation. Engineers and students from different engineering background participated in this event. IESL Headquarters was provided with the presentation materials of all 5 participants.

The details of the presentations at the Young Engineers Day are as follows.

- Eng. Natasha Peiris – Lessons learnt as a Mechanical Engineering Graduates.
- Eng. Charith Fonseka - Functionalized Metal Organic Framework for selective recovery of Rare Earth Elements from mining wastewaters.
- Miss. Rashini Gunathilaka – Structural behaviour of TrueDek decking under composite conditions.
- Eng. Hemal Wickramasinghe – Life as a High Voltage primary design Engineer in an Engineering Consultancy Firm.
- Miss. H. M. Vihanga Ilankoon – Effect of Fire on Perform Columns.



Eng. Natasha Peiris



Eng. Charith Fonseka



Miss. Rashini Gunathilaka



Eng. Hemal Wickramasinghe



Miss. H. M. Vihanga Ilankoon

6. IESL NSW Chapter Newsletters

The IESL NSW Chapter issued 2 Newsletters in March 2021 and June 2021. The third Newsletter for the current term will be published in late-September 2021. The objective of these Newsletters is to communicate with the General membership in NSW and ACT creating awareness in, the Chapter activities, achievements of member engineers and Sri Lankan news and events related to engineering. The Newsletter also includes general engineering articles written by members. The Chapter Newsletters are sent to IESL Headquarters to be circulated among engineers in Sri Lanka.

7. COVID-19 impact on Chapter activities for 2019/2020

The committee took into consideration the current status of the COVID-19 pandemic in NSW and interstate and the public perception of the pandemic and made the decisions below.

The following events for the term 20/21 were cancelled.

- Women in Engineering Day event.
- Industrial visits.
- Family events.
- Engineering Conference; and
- Gala Dinner.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Chapter will be held on 19 September 2021 via the Zoom platform.

8. Collaboration with IESL HQ and other Organisations

IESL NSW Chapter took part in the IESL Provincial/Overseas Chapters quarterly meeting on 12 December 2020, 13 March 2021, 11 June 2021 and 11 September 2021.

9. Our Sponsors

The IESL NSW Chapter received only limited sponsorship since the Engineering Convention was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. GEO-AM Consulting and ECON HOMES are the sponsors of the Chapter activities in 2020/2021. Chapter received a considerable amount as voluntary contribution from its members which is appreciated by the current Management Committee.

10. Financial Report

The audited Financial Report prepared by the Chapter Treasurer, Eng. Mihimal Kadurugamuwa is attached with this Annual Report.

11. Challenges faced by the Chapter and the way forward

IESL NSW Chapter which is the 1st overseas Chapter was formed in 2009. The Chapter has grown over the last 12 years with a current membership of more than 500 engineers living and practicing in NSW and ACT. Some of the issues and challenges faced by the Chapter are as follows.

- Difficulties in finding engineers to volunteer and become Management Committee members of IESL and taking part in chapter activities
- Financial viability of the Chapter – An uphill task to cover the operating deficit with sponsorships and voluntary contributions

Mutual Recognition Agreement between (MRA) IESL and Engineers Australia (EA) have been a platform to motivate chapter membership for effective engagement. However, current council of IESL has decided to terminate the MRA citing it as a “redundant”. All three Australian chapters (NSW, QLD and WA) requested and await clarification on the termination of MRA as redundant. Some areas, on which the newly elected committee and the future committees could work on maybe as follows.

- Recognising engineers who have made outstanding contributions in NSW/ACT
- Reaching out to engineers in ACT
- Increasing interaction amongst the past Management Committee members

- Other means of motivating chapter membership of effective engagement with chapter activities.

13. Conclusion

IESL NSW Chapter sincerely appreciates the lecturers who delivered the Public Lectures and the presenters at the Young Engineers Day for their contributions towards the Chapter activities in 2020/2021. Our special thanks go to the sponsors and the engineers who made voluntary contributions enabling the Chapter to sustain its activities. Chapter acknowledges the support provided to the current Management Committee by past committee members and well-wishers.

I sincerely appreciate the current IESL NSW Chapter Management Committee for the contribution and support, for the activities organised during the term of 2020/2021. My sincere gratitude goes out to the Web Administrator and Auditor for their continuous assistance provided to the Chapter. I warmly congratulate the newly elected Management committee and extend my fullest support during the upcoming term of the committee.

Ashok Peiris

Chair - IESL NSW Chapter 2020/2021

Attachment – IESL NSW Chapter's audited Financial Report

IESL Qatar Chapter Annual Report 2020/2021

IESL-Qatar Chapter (Formerly Sri Lanka Society of Engineers Qatar -SLSEQ) founded in Feb'2009 in affiliation with the Sri Lankan Embassy in Qatar. In September 2014 the society was accredited as an overseas branch of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka. Also, the Qatar Chapter became the 3rd Overseas branch of the IESL.

It was a long way through all the hardships and efforts of the IESL Qatar Chapter to become one of the most successful overseas chapters. As usual, remarkable events were taken place during the year, and achieved the expected success with the support of the Chapter members. The Chapter conducted various events including its Annual General Meeting, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Sessions, and Corporate Social Responsibility Projects during the its current tenure 2020/2021.

The IESL Qatar Chapter proudly presents its Annual Report for the year 2019/2020. A synopsis of the IESL Qatar chapter events and activities of the year 2021 are as follows.

1. IESL – Qatar Chapter Annual General Meeting 2020/2021

The 6th Annual General Meeting 2020/2021 of The Institution of Engineers of Sri Lanka – Qatar Chapter was held on 29th of January 2021 at the Grand Mercure Grands Hotel – Doha, Qatar. The AGM was held in a hybrid method where few members attended the venue in person while others joined online to cater the new normal posed by the COVID-19 situation. Following dignitaries graced the event online

Chief Guest: H.E Fawaz Mohideen, Sri Lankan Ambassador to the state of Qatar

1st Guest of Honor: Eng K.P.I.U. Dharmapala – President IESL

2nd Guest of Honor: Eng Arjuna Manamperi – President Elect IESL

Keynote speaker: Dr (Eng) Kamal Laksiri

Following members were inducted as the office bearers for the upcoming tenure 2020/2021.

Chairman : CEng. Prasanna Janakasiri

Vice Chairman : Eng. Prabudda Lokuliyange

Secretary : Eng. Manoj Vellaipillai

Treasurer : Eng. Mohamed Fazil

Editor : Eng. M.A.A. Rumais

Project Leader 1 : CEng. Chanaka Guruge

Project Leader 2 : Eng. Janaka

Executive Committee Members:

1. Eng. Irfan Aboobuker
2. Eng. Fawzan Faiz
3. Eng. Saddhathissa Sirisena
4. CEng. Ismath



Speech by New President CEng Prasanna



EXCOM Members (Year 2020/2021)

Janakasiri

1. Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Events conducted by IESL Qatar Chapter for Year 2021

Qatar Chapter conducted six CPD's until the end of September 2021. All the CPD sessions were conducted via ZOOM Technology given the prevailing pandemic situation. The CPD events were very successful and attended by hundreds of Engineers from all over the world.

All the CPDs were consisted of comprehensive presentations and Q&A sessions. As an appreciation of participation, Electronic Certificates were issued to all the participants. The CPDs are organized by the CPD subcommittee led by Eng. Mohamed Irfan.

The brief summary of each CPD events are as follows:

1. CPD/01 2021 held on 26 March 2021 – ***“Sri Lankan Power System – Future Tends and Sustainability Concept”***, delivered by Eng Lakshita, BSc (Eng), CEng, MPhil and DGM at CEB. Eng Arjuna Manamperi, President Elect IESL graced the occasion by participating a guest speaker.

2. CPD/02 2021 held on 23 April 2021- ***“Basic Technical Aspects of Rooftop solar systems”***, delivered by Eng. Champika Periyapperuma, BSc (Eng), MBA, Member of the Institution of Engineering & Technology (IET) UK, and a corporate member of the Sri Lanka Energy Managers Association (SLMEA). The event was graced by the participation of Eng (Dr) Kamal Laksiri as a guest speaker
3. CPD/03 2021 held on 28 May 2021- ***“Engineers as Leaders”***, presented by Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri, Adjunct Professor – University of Oklahoma, USA, Former Chairman and Director of PIM, University of Sri jayawardenapura and past president of CIPM, Sri Lanka.
4. CPD/04 2021 held on 25th June 2021- ***“Digital Transformation in AEC Industry”***, jointly presented by Mr. K.M. Bazeeth Ahamed, Energy manager, Energy Auditor, ASHARE Certified professional and Nagarajan Nehruji, construction professional both are co-founders of Conserve Solution Qatar WLL. The event was graced by the participation of Eng Shavindranath Fernando as a guest speaker.
5. CPD/05 2021 held on 30 July 2021 - ***“Balancing Personal and Professional Life”***, presented by Ms. Rasini Bandara BSc, MSc, Founder of LAPS and personality development coach. The event was graced by the participation of Eng (Prof) Niranjani Ratnayaka as a guest of honour
6. CPD/06 2021 held on 03 September 2021 – ***“Emotional Intelligence & Mindfulness”***, presented by Mr. Amintha De Silva, a visionary guru MTD, FGAFM, MBA, MISM, JP, Chief Visionary Officer/CEO – Vision 8 Academy. The event was graced by the participation of Eng (snr Prof) T.M. Pallewatte as a guest of honour

2. **Monthly EXCOM Meetings**

Qatar chapter conducts its Executive Committee Meetings monthly basis, and also conducted ad hoc meetings where necessary. The Qatar Chapter continue to conduct the meeting via Zoom application given the prevailing pandemic situation. The Agenda of the meeting is prepared in advance and circulated in the EXCOM group. Apart from the chapter future activities, information and requests gathered from other professional organizations in Qatar, Sri Lankan embassy in Qatar and Provincial/Overseas Chapter meetings are also part of the agenda of the EXCOM meetings. Minutes of the meeting are prepared by the secretary for circulation.

3. Corporate Social Responsibility Projects (CSR)

IESL-Q carried out its CSR project for the year 2021 aiming at extending its helping hand to the mother land which was and continue to experiencing the worse pandemic situation due to fast spread of COVID-19 virus. Most of the chapter members extended their fullest support and contributed financially for success of the project. Chapter EXCOM decided to assist hospitals in different districts in Sri Lanka and assigned Eng Prabudda Lokuliyana, Eng. Kamil Ariff, Eng. Ahamed Rumais and CEng. Prasanna Janakasiri to lead various part of the project constituting donation of the following items to various hospitals as per the following:

1. Divisional Hospital- Padavi Sripura, Trincomalee

- Surgical Mask – 500 Nos
- Disposable Corona Protective Kit – 25 Nos
- Hand Sanitizers – 5L
- Reusable COVID Kit – 10 Nos

2. Base Hospital – Kanthale, Trincomalee

- Adult Nebulizer – 04 Nos
- Sanitizer Spray Machine – 06 Nos
- 30L Dustbin – 20 Nos
- 18L Dustbin – 10 Nos

3. Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Kalubowila- Dehiwala- High Dependency unit for critical covid-19 patients

- Amika Enteral Feeding Pump – Flowrate range 1-600mL/h (Step of 1mL/h from 1 to 100mL/h step of 5mL/h above 100mL/h) – 01 No
- Amika Universal Feeding Bag – 42 Nos

4. Base Hospital – Kinniya, Trincomalee

- PPE Kit – 1000 Nos
- Surgical Mask – 5000 Nos
- Disposable Gloves – 10000 Nos

5. Base Hospital – Tangalle, Hambantote

- Washing machine – 1 No

- Nebulizer – 3 Nos
- BP apparatus – 2 Nos
- Emergency lamp – 4 Nos

6. Divisional Hospital Rathgama, Galle

- Wheelchair – 2 Nos
- Wooden Table – 1 No
- Saline Stand – 2 Nos
- Electric Kettle – 2 Nos
- Electric Bulb – 17 Nos



**Project 01- Divisional Hospital-
Padavi Sripura, Trincomalee**



**Project 02 -Base Hospital –
Kanthale, Trincomalee**



**Project 03 - Colombo South
Teaching Hospital, Kalubowila-
Dehiwala**



**Project 04 - Base Hospital –
Kinniya, Trincomalee**



**Project 05 - Base Hospital –
Tangalle, Hambantote**



**Project 06 - Divisional Hospital
Rathgama, Galle**

4. Activities pending for the remainder of the Year 2021

Following events/activities have been planned for the remainder of the year:

1. Balling Event
2. Finalizing the Chapter constitution
3. Members development plan

Queensland Chapter Annual Report 2020/2021

(1) Introduction:

The Chapter is registered as an Incorporated Not for Profit Association with the Office of Fair-Trading Queensland w.e.f December 2016. This report details the business activities conducted by the Chapter in its fifth year of operations.

Despite the pandemic impacts being relatively well controlled in Queensland caution had to be exercised in the planning and conduct of our programs this year too. Monthly management committee meetings were conducted uninterrupted and two continuous professional development events have been conducted so far. To comply with current health regulations most of the meetings/events were conducted in the online participation mode.

Two Newsletters have also been issued so far this year with a third planned for issue at the year end. With the pandemic restrictions now eased in Queensland a much-awaited Social Get-together has also been planned to be conducted in late October

An important milestone for the economy of Queensland during 2021 was the July win of the bid for hosting the 2032 Olympics which will be a boost to the infrastructure growth of the state in the years leading up to this event

The Annual General Meeting of the Chapter for 2021 is now being planned to be held in November 2021.

(2) Management Committee (MC):

The Management Committee for 2020/21 appointed at the last AGM on 25/10/20 is as follows:



Eng. A. Tittagala
President



Eng. J. Wickrematunga
Imm Past President



Eng. (Dr) S. Markar
Vice President



Eng N. Pushpakumara
Secretary



Eng. J. Wanigasekera
Treasurer



Eng. D. Weerasekera
Committee Member



Eng. T. Weerakkody
Committee Member



Eng. G. Panditha
Editor



Eng. (Dr.) C. Abeysinghe
Committee Member



Eng.(Dr.) W. Premadasa
Committee Member



Eng. (Dr) A.M.M. Ziyath
Committee Member

Eng Dinuk Weerasekera stepped down from the MC and the position of Editor due to personal reasons. Eng. Tharindu Abeykoon and Eng Sewmini Jayatillake have newly joined as committee members.

The MC coordinated its work under five Sub Committees namely, Technical (current Chair: Dr Chanaka Abeysinghe), ICT (current Chair: Eng Thushara Weerakkody), Social (Interim Chair: Eng Jayantha Wickramatunga, Membership (current Chair Eng Jagath Wanigasekera) and Editorial Board (Editor, Eng Gajaba Panditha). Throughout the year, the management committee strived to maintain high professional standards in the conduct of its affairs.

The MC held ten monthly meetings and one special general meeting during the period under review. These ten meetings were conducted as; three physical meetings (at the venues of Brisbane City Council's library meeting rooms) and seven virtual meetings (via video conferencing) in compliance with the government's meeting restrictions.

(3) Membership:

As at 30/08/21 the Chapter had a total membership of 73 now inclusive of the above new

enrolment, reinstatement, demises, and terminations (H/Fellow 1, Fellow 2, Member 22, Associate Member 15, Resident Member 31, Graduate Member 2).

We respectfully remember the two members who passed away during this period – Eng. Satish Thillai Nadarajah and Eng. Semba Jayaratne both of whom made valuable contributions to the Chapter during their periods of membership.

The Chapter made some amendments to its constitution to attract new members and they were adopted at a Special General Meeting conducted in May 2021.

A flyer describing the membership benefits have been distributed to attendees of CPD events and is being displayed in the Chapter's website

The Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) extension proposal jointly put forward by the Australian Chapters in May 2021 did not receive favorable consideration from Colombo.

(4) Communications Platform:

The ICT Sub Committee has continued to streamline communications during the period under review, as set out below.

- Reinforced communications platform 'Microsoft Teams' to conduct all the meetings, presentations via video conferencing
- Created multiple distribution groups, share points, folders with different security levels to manage all MC activities without interruption
- Conducted planned CPD events online, successfully hosting this year's events on 'MS Team' platform using a dedicated CPD channel
- Updated the Chapter website and assisted with the newsletter publications
- Established a new host to the position-based e mails; and introduction of a new spam filter for emails.
- Maintained the accuracy of membership database, eliminate inconsistencies in the current group email addresses, maintain privacy and security of member information

(5) CPD Events:

The Technical Sub Committee, under the guidance and direction of the MC, successfully conducted two Webinars that qualify for the 'Continuous Professional Development' (CPD) program of Engineers Australia for professional engineers.

A presentation "Fire Safety Design of Steel Structured Buildings" was conducted by Prof Mahen Mahendran of QUT. This presentation demonstrated how university research in collaboration with industry can contribute to the fire safe design of the emerging cold-formed steel construction. The presentation also included some case studies and application to the industry



A presentation on the topic “Insights into solar power generation and recent solar technology breakthroughs at University of Queensland” was made live online by Professor Tapan Saha who is a Professor of Electrical Engineering University Queensland and Leader of UQ Solar and Industry 4.0 UQ Energy Test Lab.

The seminar provided insight into solar power generation by introducing challenges and opportunities of Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) integration to the grid and Solar technology breakthrough at UQ. Overview of the University of Queensland solar research and large-scale PV grid integration examples were highlighted in this presentation.

The event was attended by more than 50 participants from around Australia and overseas including Sri Lanka, ended with a lively Q&A session



(6) Newsletter:

Two Newsletters have been published during the period under review in May and August 2021 and a third is planned to be released in December 2021. The Ex Chair of the Editorial Board Dinuk Weerasekera was assisted and supported by Derrick Fernando, Asoka Tittagala, Mali Yagama in compiling these informative Newsletters. These newsletters were circulated via e mail to the members & to other engineers of Sri Lankan origin who are registered in our data base and are now archived in chronological sequence for access via the Chapter website.

A continuous improvement and self-checking process is in place aimed at progressively improving the quality of the Newsletters from the perspectives of relevance, timeliness, and accuracy of the contents. In this fifth year of operations, the outstanding achievements of our members, young engineers' experiences and regional industry profiles continue to be highlighted. Measures are also afoot to broaden the contents and to encourage increased regional participation in contributions.

(7) Social

The Chapter is planning a BBQ as a social event for engineers to meet and chat in a relaxed atmosphere. The event is planned for late October this year and it will be held under a COVID safe environment.

(8) Governance

Role Statement for sub committees -The Management Committee engaged in the updating of role statement for each subcommittee which sets out the scope of each committee and its directions. These role statements will be reviewed each year at the start of the new management committee who has powers to edit/approve the statement including the appointment of a Chairperson for each committee for a term of one year.

Conducting MC meetings/AGM/SGM – Chapter's current constitution limits the remote participation in meetings (tele/video conferencing) to a maximum of two members in counting the quorum. Due to the prevailing government's physical gathering/meeting restrictions it is required to hold all the meetings via videoconferencing overriding this requirement, until such restrictions are relaxed. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) was contacted to obtain advice on the validity of the decision makings at the video conferencing on such occasions. OFT has informed that the meetings, AGM, SGM are permissible to be conducted via video conferencing.

(9) The Chapter President's Engagements:

(a) Quarterly Videoconference with the IESL: The President Queensland Chapter participated in three videoconferences with the IESL and other Chapter Presidents in February, June & September. He briefed the IESL representatives (the IESL President & the CEO) and the representatives from Provincial & Overseas Chapters, on the progress of our Chapter as of the dates of the call. The progress report included CPD events, membership updates, newsletter releases, website updates and the implementation of ICT facilities such as MS Teams, LinkedIn and Facebook.

(10) Acknowledgements:

We also express our deep gratitude to our guest presenters in the CPD Events, namely Associate Prof Mahen Mahendran of QUT and Prof. Tapan Saha of UQ for voluntarily offering their services and sacrificing valuable time. We also thank all participants of these CPD Events.

It is with gratitude that we record the guidance, assistance and support we received from the IESL, in particular, from the following office bearers. President Eng K.P.I.U. Dharmapala, Eng Neil Abeysekera the

CEO/Executive Secretary, respectively. We appreciate the support received & assistance rendered from time to time by the Overseas Chapter Presidents of the IESL's NSW & WA Chapters.

We thank 4EB Sri Lankan Radio Group Convener, Samanmal Gunaratna, and his Team including the Editorial Board of Dehena Newsletter) for providing media coverage for all our events, authorities in BCC library in Mount Ommaney and Brisbane Square in the City, for allowing the use of their meeting rooms and facilities free of charge, our Auditor Dharme Ratnayake (FCPA, FCMA) for providing an honorary service. We also thank the Chapter members, for their support and encouragement extended to us in numerous ways.

By Eng Asoka Tittagala
President – The IESL QLD Chapter
Session 20/21

Western Australia Chapter Annual Report 2020/2021

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Beginning of the 2020/2021 activities

The current committee, the seventh of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka, Western Australia Chapter came into being at the 7th annual general meeting which was held on 20th of December 2020 at Centenary Pavilion, Centenary Avenue, Wilson WA 6107.

The following committee was elected uncontested for the year

No	Position	Name
1	President	Tissa Wijayasinghe
2	Vice President	Manjula Abayawickrama
3	Secretary	Anuradha Wijayasinghe
4	Treasurer	Muditha De Silva
5	Editor	Jayantha Dharmaratne
6	Committee Member 1	Sumedha Rajakaruna
7	Committee Member 2	Dilan Amarasinghe
8	Committee Member 3	Chirantha Weerawardena
9	Committee Member 4	Rajinda Jayamanne
10	Committee Member 5	Kasun Jayaratne
11	Committee Member 6	Harshanie Jayasinghe
12	Committee Member 7	Tilak Jayantha
13	Committee Member 8	Asoka Wickramasuriya
14	Committee Member 9	Mahesh Kariyawasam

The general meeting was followed with engineering community family barbeque and some of the photographs of the event together with a group photo of the committee is shown below.

At this point I wish to take this opportunity to mention a few words about the previous (2019/2020) committee. On behalf of the IESL WA engineering community, I wish to congratulate and offer my sincere thanks to the previous committee (2019/2020) for not only accomplishing an inconvenient and situationally difficult tasks of the Chapter but keeping the connectivity of the membership throughout the covid affected year as well.

Despite the covid situation the current committee too, is operating reasonably well, and successfully achieving our planned goals.



Appointed committee members of IESL WA Chapter for 2021, (From left to right):

Front Row: Eng. Manjula Abayawickrama (Vice President), Eng. Anuradha Wijayasinghe (Secretary), Eng. Tissa Wijayasinghe (President), Eng. Muditha De Silva (Treasurer), Eng. Jayantha Dharmaratne (Editor).

Back Row: Eng. Tilak Jayantha, Dr. Sumedha Rajakaruna, Eng. Chirantha Weerawardena, Dr. Dilan Amarasinghe, Eng. Mahesh Kariyawasam, Eng. Asoka Wickramasuriya, Eng. Harshanie Jayasinghe

After meeting family barbeque



Activities accomplished and ongoing

This report covers the activities conducted by the current committee only.

So far, the committee has met eight times during the year and will meet probably a couple of times before the planned annual general meeting on November 13, 2021.

During the year the following activities were performed by the respective sub-committees.

Three online presentations completed and the fourth is planned.

	Presenter	Topic	Remarks
01	Prof. Tilak Chandratilleke. Head of Mechanical Engineering Discipline, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia.	Fluid Structures and Thermal Behaviour in Curved Flow Passages.	Organised by Mechanical Engineering Sub- committee.
02	Prof. Arindam Ghosh. Professor (Research & Academic) Discipline of Electrical and Computer Engineering Curtin University, Western Australia	Microgrids: Current status and future outlook.	Organised by Electrical Engineering Sub- committee.
03	Dr Darshani Thotagamuwage; Senior Oceanographic Officer, Maritime- Oceanographic Services, Department of Transport, Western Australia.	Oceanographic data collection and management program in Western Australia.	Organised by Civil Engineering Sub- committee.
04	Dr Senaka Welideniya, Inspector of Mines Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety	Geotechnical Engineering Fundamentals, The basic introduction and understanding of geotechnical activities within Australian mining industry.	Organised by Mining Engineering Sub- committee. Presentation planned for October

Further, the Mining Sub-committee held a workshop/seminar for mining engineers about the “the basic and salient aspects of the industry”. This seminar was particularly beneficial for the young Engineers who are new to the industry or those who intend joining the mining industry. The seminar was presented by our former President Eng. Chirantha Weerawardena, who’s wealth of experience of hands-on and managerial aspects of the industry was deeply appreciated by those in attendance.

As part of our social interactions, a New Year barbeque was held during Sri Lankan New Year season in April.

Our apex social event the annual Engineers Night is planned to be held on 16th October 2021.

This event marks the seventh anniversary of the IESL WA Chapter, and we are keen to celebrate this social event and the achievements of our engineering community. This year’s event is expected to be attended by around 300 people and it will be held subjected to current covid regulations. The event is mostly attended by Engineers & their families, representing all levels and schools of Engineering, from graduates to senior Engineers right up to the upper echelons of Engineering Managers and Academia. A keynote address delivered by an eminent Engineering professional will be among the key features of the event.

Current challenges

Membership drive, retention of members has been the main challenge for the chapter. This together with the difficulties encountered in obtaining relevant professional memberships grades of IESL have demoralised and discouraged the potential as well as existing members. The attitude taken by the parent body of the IESL pertaining to the continuation of the Mutual Recognition Agreement, MRA, with Engineers Australia has not only unhelpful but worsened the situation.

The other challenge is the difficulty in establishing a healthy regular operating income for the Chapter. Lack of growth of membership numbers and reduced enthusiasm of the membership due to poor return on investment of members time, money and energy towards the operation and maintenance of the chapter has contributed to this situation.

Points to ponder

Last two years has not only been a challenge for normal operations of the chapter but has not been conducive to have serious dialogues with IESL parent body. It is important to have such discussions with the intension of

1. Streamlining the processes to help the current and potential members of the chapter to obtain the general services from IESL without having to undergo undue hardships and bureaucratic barriers.
2. Consider having a process whereby the issues and queries pertaining to overseas chapters are addressed promptly rather than having to wait months to receive a reply let alone solving the issues.
3. Consider introducing an overseas chapter maintenance levy from overseas chapter members and transferring this levy to respective overseas chapters.

President

Eng. Tissa Wijayasinghe

IESL WA Chapter