IEEE
Sri Lanka Section

IEEE SRI LANKA SECTION NEWSLETTER

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Chairman's Message
Prof. Buddhika Jayasekara

Vibrant Journey Continues
A Year of Growth, Recognition, and Impact
IEEE Sri Lanka Section

Illuminating Horizon
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Message from The Chairman

Prof. Buddhika Jayasekara

Welcome to the mid-year newsletter of the IEEE Sri Lanka Section. I would like to extend our gratitude to various IEEE Organizational Units operating with the IEEE Sri Lanka Section and the dedicated membership for their effort and commitments for the advancement of the technology on behalf of the executive committee of the IEEE Sri Lanka Section.

I would like to highlight the technical and professional activities organized by all the organizational units of IEEE Sri Lanka Section, including technical society chapters, affinity groups such as IEEE Women in Engineering, IEEE Young Professionals, IEEE Humanitarian Activities, and Student branches. As the IEEE Sri Lanka Section, we are promoting more collaborative activities among various entities with the support of a full spectrum of membership categories. Currently, IEEE Sri Lanka Section is collaborating with IEEE Robotics and Automation Society Chapter, IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka, and IEEE Women in Engineering Sri Lanka to organize the local rounds of the R10 Robotics competition. Furthermore, the Educational Standing Committee is collaborating with students and young professionals to organize the Electronics Design Competition, receiving R10 funding support for both projects. Many units received numerous grants and awards this year, both to organize activities and as a token of gratitude for the excellent volunteering work they have completed in the recent past.

The administrative process of the IEEE Sri Lanka Section has been improved by activating various standing committees as per the new by law. The Standing Committees, including Membership Development, Professional Activities, Industry Relations, Student Activities, Educational Activities, Awards and Recognition, Editorial Activities, Chapter/Sub-section Coordination, Regional Reach and Conference Support, and IEEE Technical Co-sponsorship Evaluations, are actively dedicated to enhancing the quality of activities and providing improved support to the membership.

You can enjoy the proceedings as you read about the progress of activities, and achievements of the IEEE Sri Lanka Section and its units, as well as stay updated on upcoming activities.

Message From The Editor

Ms. Chamodhi Rangika

As we enter the midway point of the year, I am delighted to bring you the latest edition of the IEEE Sri Lanka Section Newsletter. Our community has been vibrant and dynamic, and I am thrilled to highlight some of the noteworthy achievements and upcoming events in this issue.

First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to all the members who have contributed to the success of the IEEE Sri Lanka Section's events and initiatives. Our section has continued to excel in promoting knowledge sharing, technical expertise, and professional development among engineers, researchers, and students across Sri Lanka.

In recent months, we have witnessed several significant achievements from our members. Looking ahead, we have an exciting lineup of events and activities in store for the remainder of the year.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the members who have actively contributed to the IEEE Sri Lanka Section Newsletter. Your articles, and event highlights play a crucial role in keeping our community informed and engaged. I encourage you to continue sharing your valuable insights and experiences, as they inspire and empower others within our section.

In conclusion, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the Chairman of the IEEE Sri Lanka Section, Prof. Buddhika Jayasekara and the Executive Committee of the IEEE Sri Lanka Section for their unwavering support, commitment, and enthusiasm.

Wishing you all a fruitful and fulfilling year ahead!

Vibrant Journey Continues

IEEE Sri Lanka Section 2023 : A Year of Growth, Recognition, and Impact

The year 2023 has undoubtedly been a remarkable one for the IEEE Sri Lanka Section, as it embarked on a journey filled with a series of successful events, valuable partnerships, and noteworthy achievements. From hosting prestigious conferences to empowering future STEM champions, the IEEE Sri Lanka Section has left an indelible mark on the technological landscape of the country, showcasing its commitment to excellence and innovation.

Annual General Meeting 2023: Celebrating Excellence

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on February 7th at the elegant Hilton Colombo Residences was a momentous occasion for the IEEE Sri Lanka Section. This gathering brought together distinguished members and volunteers to celebrate the achievements of the past year and set a course for the future. Professor Buddhika Jayasekara's appointment as the Chair was a key highlight of the event, representing a visionary leader who would guide the Section towards further success and impact.

The AGM also served as a platform to recognize and honour outstanding volunteers who had tirelessly contributed to the Section's initiatives throughout the year. Nineteen awards were presented under various categories, acknowledging their exceptional dedication and service to advancing technology and supporting the IEEE's mission.

IEEE Education Week Sri Lanka : Nurturing Talent

In collaboration with multiple IEEE entities, IEEE Education Week Sri Lanka 2023 was a grand event held on the 3rd and 4th of April at TRACE Expert City, Sri Lanka. This two-day extravaganza showcased a plethora of educational opportunities, engaging workshops, and enlightening industry visits. With the participation of students, professionals, educators, and industry experts, the event fostered a vibrant environment for knowledge exchange, skill development, and networking. IEEE Education Week Sri Lanka 2023 significantly contributed to nurturing and honing talent in various technological domains, providing participants with a unique chance to learn from seasoned experts and gain valuable insights into cutting-edge trends in their respective fields.

The 15th National Cyber Security Conference: Strengthening Cyber Defenses and Collaboration in Sri Lanka

The 15th National Cyber Security Conference, organized by Sri Lanka Computer Emergency Response Team (Sri Lanka CERT), took place on May 23rd at Waters Edge Hotel. A strategic partnership between Sri Lanka CERT and IEEE Sri Lanka Section, based on IEEE Guidelines for National Society Agreements, bolstered the event's success. For IEEE members a special 20% discount was offered to participate in this event.

IEEE Sri Lanka Section Volunteer Recognition Program 2022/23 : Honoring Dedication

IEEE Sri Lanka Section Volunteer Recognition Program 2022/23 was held on March 11th, 2023, at the NSBM University. This program aimed to express gratitude and appreciation to the volunteers who had selflessly devoted their time and efforts to the organization throughout the year.

The event served as a testament to the unwavering commitment of these volunteers to advancing IEEE's mission and promoting technological innovation in Sri Lanka. The Volunteer Recognition Program provided a platform to acknowledge their significant contributions, fostering a sense of camaraderie and motivation within the IEEE community.

IEEE Sri Lanka Section Volunteer Training Program 2023

The IEEE Sri Lanka Section, in collaboration with IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka, presents IEEE Sri Lanka Section Volunteer Training Program 2023 was held on 10th June at SLIIT. The event, which was attended by enthusiastic participants, offered invaluable knowledge and experiences from experts. Through engaging sessions and networking opportunities, students gained unique insights, expanded their networks, and fostered personal and professional growth.

The program aimed to provide training to National Level and Student Branch Level volunteers that will be beneficial for their volunteer roles as well as professional careers.

Grants Received: Nurturing Innovation and Research

Throughout the first half of the year, the IEEE Sri Lanka Section secured grants from various sources, fueling its endeavors in fostering innovation and research in the country. These grants provided financial support to several projects, initiatives, and events, enabling the Section to make a more significant impact on the local technological community.

- IEEE Region 10 - Educational Activities Project Development Grant 2023
- IEEE R10 SAC Section Student Branch Revival Fund 2023
- Membership Development & Leadership Training Fund 2023
- IEEE R10 Conference Quality Management (CQM) Fund
- IEEE Region 10 - Membership Development Program 2023
- IEEE Region 10 - Humanitarian Sustainable Project & Volunteer Training Support Fund 2023
- Organizational Supporting Friend of IEEE MGA Award - London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), IEEE Sri Lanka Section

VoLT Graduates and STEM Champions: Celebrating Excellence

The IEEE Sri Lanka Section celebrated the achievements of exceptional individuals who excelled in the fields of technology and science through the recognition of VoLT graduates and STEM champions.

These outstanding individuals served as inspirations to their peers and the next generation of innovators, showcasing the potential and possibilities in the world of STEM.

VoLT Graduates:

- Sewwandie Nanayakkara
- Lakshan Madhushanka
- Tharaka Munasinghe
- S.P.D. Anuraj

STEM Champions:

- Lakshan Madhushanka
- Michelle Perera

Personal Achievements within IEEE Sri Lanka Section: Recognizing Excellence

The IEEE Sri Lanka Section takes great pride in celebrating the remarkable personal achievements of its members. These accomplishments stand as a testament to the dedication, expertise, and commitment displayed by individuals within the IEEE community. The below-mentioned exemplary achievements inspire and motivate the entire IEEE Sri Lanka Section to continue striving for excellence and innovation in their respective fields. Congratulations to all on these well-deserved accolades!

- **Prof. Maheshi Dissanayake**: Appointed as a member in the EAB EPICs in IEEE Committee.
- **Dr. Subodha Charles**: Appointed as the Vice Chair in the MGA Student Activities Committee 2023.
- **Mr. Chamika Sudusinghe**: Appointed as the TAB Representative (Region 7 -10) in the IEEE Young Professionals.
- **Ms. Warunika Hippola:** Appointed as the Regional Student Representative (RSR) in the MGA Student Activities Committee 2023.
- **Ms. Nuwini Chamindi**: Appointed as a Member in the MGA Student Activities Committee 2023.
- **Dr. Akila Wijethunga**: Appointed as the Chair in the IEEE Region 10 Newsletter Committee 2023

- **Mr. Samitha Wijesundera**: Appointed as the Awards and Recognitions Coordinator in the IEEE Region 10 Young Professionals Committee
- **Mr. Sineth Nimsara**: Appointed as the as the Outreach & External Relations Coordinator in the IEEE Region 10 Young Professionals Committee
- **Mr. Ashan Bandara**: Appointed as the AG Coordination - Events & Memberships in the IEEE Region 10 Young Professionals Committee
- **Ms. Tharushi Nathasha**: Appointed as the Lead Coordinator - Awards in the IEEE Region 10 Student Activities Committee
- **Mr. Vidura Bandara**: Appointed as the Lead Coordinator - Student Outreach in the IEEE Region 10 Student Activities Committee
- **Mr. Lakshan Madhushanka**: Appointed as the Lead Coordinator - Technical Activities and Webinar in the IEEE Region 10 Student Activities Committee.
- **Mr. Heshan Mallawaarachchi**: Appointed as the Lead Coordinator - Public Visibility in the IEEE Region 10 Student Activities Committee
- **Mr. Dimuthu Anuraj**: Appointed as a member of the IEEE Region 10 Humanitarian Technology Activities Committee.
- **Ms. Dilini Ekanayake**: Appointed as the Committee Member in the IEEE Region 10 Membership Development Committee
- **Mr. Mithushan Jalangan**: Appointed as the Vice-Chair - Technical & Professional Development in the IEEE Region 10 Young Professionals Committee
- **Mr. Thimira Chandrasekara**: Appointed as the Committee Member in the IEEE Region 10 Information Management Committee
- **Mr. Thimeth Perera**: Appointed as the as the Supporting Coordinator - Technical Activities & Webinar in the IEEE Region 10 Student Activities Committee
- **Ms. Thihara Mallikaaratchy**: Appointed as the Supporting Coordinator - Awards in the IEEE Region 10 Student Activities Committee
- **Ms. Thrividya Liyanaarachchi:** Appointed as the Supporting Coordinator - Contests in the IEEE Region 10 Student Activities Committee
- **Mr. Malith Weeramuni**: Appointed as the Graphic Designer - Public Visibility in the IEEE Region 10 Student Activities Committee
- **Mr. Kavinda Athapaththu**: Appointed as the Web Lead in the IEEE Region 10 Newsletter Committee.
- **Mr. Charindu Abeysekara**: Appointed as the Design Lead in the IEEE Region 10 Newsletter Committee.
- **Ms. Sajani Mayadunne**: Appointed as the Managing Editor in the IEEE Region 10 Newsletter Committee.

In conclusion, the IEEE Sri Lanka Section's journey in 2023 has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Through its various events, partnerships, grants, and initiatives, the Section has significantly contributed to the development of technology and STEM education in Sri Lanka.

As it moves forward, the IEEE Sri Lanka Section remains steadfast in its commitment to shaping a brighter and technologically advanced future for the nation.

IEEE Education Week Sri Lanka

"It is not beyond our power to create a world in which all children have access to a good education."

~ Nelson Mandela ~

Aligning with the IEEE Education Week Global Initiative, *IEEE Education Week Sri Lanka 2023* was organized as a two-day celebration, highlighting the educational opportunities, programs and resources provided by IEEE. IEEE Education Week Sri Lanka 2023 was developed in collaboration with IEEE SLInspire, IEEE Techverse Sri Lanka, IEEE Sri Lanka Section Students Activities Committee, IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka, IEEE WIE Sri Lanka Section, IEEE Sri Lanka Section SIGHT Group and IEEE Computer Society Sri Lanka Chapter. Considering that the 2nd to 8th of April 2023 was recognized as the IEEE Education Week globally for this year, the Sri Lankan counterpart of the global phenomenon was conducted on the 3rd and 4th of April 2023 at TRACE Expert City, Sri Lanka.

The two-day event harnessed an unexpected amount of participation including Students, Professionals, Educators, and Industry Experts for its exceptional line-up of programs including interactive Techtalks, Skill Development workshops, IEEE Awareness and Industry visits. Both days featured the STEM Expo, an exhibition offering attendees an opportunity to gain practical experience in their areas of interest.

Day 01 of the event themed "Beyond the Classroom" composed of Career Compass sessions powered by IEEE SLInspire. The Career Compass program consisted of a series of career guidance sessions aimed at inspiring and encouraging students to pursue education in a wide variety of fields.

Day 02 featured the Techverse Forum with exclusive speaker sessions and panel discussions. The Techverse Forum sessions addressed topics such as Artificial Intelligence, the Entertainment Industry, and Personal Branding. The panel discussion on the theme of "Reimagining Sri Lanka's Future - Harnessing Technological Innovations for Sustainable Economic Recovery and Resilience" was another highlight of the event, providing a platform for industry experts to discuss the potential for technological innovation to drive sustainable economic recovery and resilience in Sri Lanka.

The event demonstrated the significance of STEM education and the potential for technological innovation to drive sustainable economic recovery and resilience in Sri Lanka. IEEE Education Week Sri Lanka 2023 was a resounding success in promoting education and advancing technology and highlighting the role of IEEE in it.

Illuminating Horizon

A Journey Through the Remarkable Year of the IEEE Sri Lanka Section Student Activities Committee

In the relentless pursuit of nurturing the finest minds in technology and leadership, the Student Activities Committee of IEEE Sri Lanka Section (SLSAC) has embarked on an extraordinary journey this year. Throughout this momentous year, SLSAC has orchestrated a series of events, each leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of undergraduates across the country.

With unwavering dedication, SLSAC has become a beacon of empowerment, providing a transformative platform for growth, collaboration, and innovation.

IEEE Student Branch Officer Training x Volunteer Recognition 2022/2023

The journey commenced with the event "IEEE Student Branch Officer Training x Volunteer Recognition 2022/2023."

Held at the serene campus of NSBM Green University on the 11th of March 2023, marking a celebration of leadership and volunteerism.

Mr. Dhammika Marasinghe, the Chair-Elect of the IEEE Sri Lanka Section, set the stage with an inspiring presentation of the Sri Lanka Section's visionary approach for the new term. Mr. Lakshan Madhushanka, the Chair of SLSAC, then took to the stage to extend heartfelt appreciation to the outgoing committee members and warmly introduce the newly appointed ones.

Ms. Warunika Hippola, the Chair of IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka introduced the organization, showcasing the transformative projects undertaken by the committee. The event continued with an officer training session conducted by Mr. Kulunu Weerasoory, the Section Student Representative of the IEEE Sri Lanka Section.

The session provided volunteers with the necessary knowledge and skills, empowering them to make a meaningful impact within their IEEE. The event wrapped up following the awarding of certificates for the exceptional volunteers in the previous term.

IEEE අඩහැරය 2023

"IEEE Adaharaya 2023", organized by SLSAC in collaboration with the IEEE Computer Society Sri Lanka Chapter, was a nationwide celebration, occurring simultaneously in 21 IEEE Student Branches across the country. With the theme of New Year, the event aimed to ignite a passion for IEEE among undergraduates and reinforce the commitment of existing volunteers while nurturing collaboration within the IEEE community. Keynotes, technical talks, networking, and a captivating recap video showcased the community's achievements and memorable moments. The collaboration with the IEEE Computer Society offered valuable resources and sponsorships, empowering membership development. The event's success exemplified the power of synergy and enthusiasm within the IEEE Sri Lanka Section.

IEEE අවුරුදු 2023

Celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Sri Lanka, "IEEE Awurudu 2023" captured the essence of unity and collaboration. Held at the OUSL Playground in Nawala on the 22nd of April 2023, this joyous event epitomized the harmony that binds the IEEE community together.

Amidst the colourful festivities of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year, students from different universities around the country gathered to bond and celebrate. The event resonated with laughter, traditional games, and captivating performances of traditional dances. "IEEE Awurudu 2023" stood as a testament to the strength of togetherness, nurturing an environment of growth and support within the IEEE community. It kindled the spirit of unity among students, fostering a sense of belonging and collaboration among peers.

Spread the Word

"Spread the Word 2023" was a collaboration between SLSAC and the Student Branches of WUSL and RUSL. Held at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on the 27th of May 2023, the event spanned throughout the day, inspiring students to embark on an evolutionary journey. This event focused on three pivotal segments: Membership Development, Professional Development, and Leadership Development highlighting the benefits of IEEE membership, inspiring students to become a part of the organization, and informing students about the latest industry trends and practices, equipping them with the skills to excel in their careers.

IEEE Volunteer Training Program 2023

The "IEEE Volunteer Training Program 2023," hosted by the IEEE Student Branch of SLIIT and co-organized by SLSAC and IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka was held on the 10th of June, 2023.

Under the mentorship of exceptional speakers, including Mr. Dhammika Marasinghe, Chair of IEEE Sri Lanka Section; Mr. Peshan Sampath, Treasurer of IEEE Sri Lanka Section; Mr. Samitha Wijesundara, Treasurer of IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka; and Ms. Lihini Rajapaksha, Secretary of IEEE Sri Lanka Section, participants delved into the IEEE Code of Ethics and learned the significance of ethical behavior in engineering. The program also covered best practices for organizing and executing successful student branch/national level projects and securing funding for student branch activities.

IEEE Boost 2023

“IEEE Boost”, an annual initiative organized by the IEEE Sri Lanka Section Student Activities Committee, aimed to help undergraduates pursuing technical disciplines explore the significant impact of being an IEEE member and mould their lives in terms of leadership and career aspirations.

Day 1 of IEEE Boost 2023 focused on igniting a passion for IEEE among participants through engaging sessions that highlighted the myriad benefits of IEEE membership. The event consisted of a trilingual experience-sharing session led by veteran volunteers from the IEEE Sri Lanka Section, Mr. Anjana Dodampe, Mr. Mohammed Jaseem, and Ms. Mr.Samitha Wijesundera and an insightful session on leadership by Mr. Manodya Nabadawewa. As we eagerly anticipate Day 2 of IEEE Boost 2023, scheduled for the 5th of August 2023, participants can look forward to a technical session, engaging team-building activities, and an illuminating forum that dispels all doubts about volunteering in IEEE. This event is poised to empower young minds to unlock their true potential, paving the way for a future where innovation and collaboration drive transformative change.

With every event that unfolds, SLSAC reaffirms its commitment to shaping the leaders and innovators of tomorrow. As we bask in the afterglow of these memorable events, the path ahead shines brighter than ever. The tireless efforts of SLSAC and the enthusiasm of the student community foreshadow a future brimming with primed professionals and leaders. The journey continues, led by the spirit of unity and unwavering dedication.

Spread The Word
Empowering Future Engineers Through IEEE

IEEE Sri Lanka Section Student Activities Committee

In the dynamic landscape of technology and innovation, organizations like the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) play a pivotal role in shaping the future of engineering. Sri Lanka, a nation known for its burgeoning talent in the field, witnessed a groundbreaking event that left an indelible mark on the engineering community.

"Spread The Word," a transformative gathering organized by the IEEE Sri Lanka Section Student Activities Committee (SAC) in collaboration with Rajarata University of Sri Lanka and Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, emerged as a powerful force driving change and empowerment among aspiring engineers.

With a bold vision to raise awareness, inspire active participation, and unleash the full potential of future engineers, "Spread The Word" sought to transcend the boundaries of conventional engineering events. It aimed to forge a path towards excellence and growth, while cementing IEEE's position as the vanguard of technological advancement. By bringing together luminaries, industry professionals, and budding talents under one roof, the event ignited a spark of inspiration that reverberated throughout the engineering landscape of Sri Lanka.

The significance of "Spread The Word" lies in its commitment to harnessing the untapped potential of aspiring engineers. By offering a platform for knowledge exchange, professional development, and networking, the event aspired to nurture a community of dynamic individuals poised to shape the future of technology. With a comprehensive lineup of esteemed guest speakers, each sharing their personal journey and highlighting the transformative power of IEEE, participants were transported into a realm where possibilities knew no bounds.

Beyond the traditional confines of lectures and presentations, "Spread The Word" infused the event with interactive activities, competitions, and networking opportunities. Participants engaged in lively discussions, shared ideas, and built connections that extended beyond the event's duration. These interactions, fueled by a passion for engineering, created a fertile ground for collaboration and innovation, paving the way for groundbreaking projects and groundbreaking careers.

The impact of "Spread The Word" extended far beyond the event itself. Armed with newfound knowledge, inspiration, and a deepened understanding of the value of IEEE membership, attendees embarked on a journey of self-discovery and growth. They emerged as torchbearers of progress, carrying with them the vision to transform Sri Lanka's engineering landscape and make a lasting impact on society.

In this article, we delve into the remarkable achievements of "Spread The Word." From empowering future engineers through enlightening sessions and inspiring narratives to foster a vibrant community of collaboration and innovation, this event propelled the engineering community in Sri Lanka towards new horizons. It solidified IEEE's position as a catalyst for change and a driving force behind the technological advancements that will shape our future. Through the power of knowledge, inspiration, and networking, "Spread The Word" set a new benchmark for engineering events in Sri Lanka and left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of attendees, propelling them towards a future of limitless possibilities.

Raising IEEE Awareness and Membership

"Spread The Word" aimed to highlight the invaluable benefits of joining IEEE while emphasizing active participation and professional growth. The event successfully achieved its objective of increasing awareness about IEEE among attendees. Through informative sessions led by esteemed guest speakers, participants gained a comprehensive understanding of IEEE's mission, scope, and the myriad opportunities it offers.

From access to technical resources and networking opportunities to career development and global collaboration, the benefits of IEEE membership were effectively communicated. Importantly, even first-year students were able to grasp the significance of IEEE and its potential impact on their future careers.

Inspiring Volunteerism and Personal Growth

A key highlight of the event was the inclusion of personal journeys and experiences shared by IEEE volunteers. Esteemed guest speakers, including Mr. Lakshan Madhushanka, Ms. Gobiga Rajalingam, Mr. Thimira Chandrasekara, and Mr. Dinul Dassanayake, captivated the audience with their inspiring stories. These narratives highlighted the transformative power of volunteering and the ability to make a difference in one's respective field. Attendees were motivated to become active participants in IEEE, appreciating the organization's collaborative nature and its impact on technological advancements. By showcasing the importance of volunteerism and leadership, the event instilled a sense of empowerment and personal growth among participants.

Empowering the Future
IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka Set the Stage

"Leadership is not about being in control. It is about creating an environment where others can contribute to the best of their abilities." ~ Bill Bradely~

IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka (IEEE YPSL) has established itself as a prominent force within the volunteering landscape of Sri Lanka over the past 11 years, and the entity steps into its 12th year in 2023 with no signs of slowing down. With an unwavering commitment to innovation, collaboration, and knowledge sharing, IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka has consistently curated a diverse range of events, workshops, and projects that foster a dynamic culture of learning, leadership, and positive change. As we embark on this new chapter, it becomes imperative to reflect upon the pivotal events that have influenced the committee's trajectory over the previous years and to anticipate a journey that promises to be filled with challenges, accomplishments, and breakthrough moments.

The team successfully concluded their term by organizing the "12th Annual General Meeting" on the 24th of February 2023 at the Mahaweli Center Auditorium and officially commenced the term for 2023/2024, unveiling an impressive lineup of forthcoming projects and events. Among the highly anticipated events scheduled for 2023, IEEE Education Week Sri Lanka 2023 emerged as one of the standout occasions. Aligned with the IEEE Education Week Global Initiative, this two-day event served as a platform to showcase the extensive range of educational opportunities, programs, and resources provided by IEEE. Collaboratively organized by the various entities affiliated with IEEE Sri Lanka Section, including IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka, on the 3rd and 4th of April 2023 at TRACE Expert City.

This local manifestation of the global phenomenon was held during the globally recognized IEEE Education Week from the 2nd to the 8th of April 2023. The event underscored the importance of STEM education and the potential of technological innovation in driving sustainable economic recovery and resilience in Sri Lanka, meanwhile enabling the attendees to learn and enhance their skills.

IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka has consistently operated within diverse communities spanning various backgrounds, maintaining a strong connection to the social fabric and environmental well-being of Sri Lankan society. Encompassing a great number of enthusiastic and impressionable volunteers under its belt, Young Professionals Sri Lanka has been ensuring that it sets an example in every aspect, including incorporating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations into every one of their endeavours. To ensure their actions align with sustainable practices and have a positive societal impact, a specialized ESG standing committee focused on it.

As an initial step, in partnership with Thuru and ZeroTrash organizations, the ESG Standing Committee of IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka organized an Environmental Resilience Workshop on the 26th of May 2023, at the ZeroTrash Collection Centre in Boralesgamuwa. The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of IEEE members to understand and address environmental challenges, including waste management, home gardening, and climate change.

Beyond its educational sessions, the workshop served as a platform for facilitating the planning, design, and implementation of community-based climate adaptation and mitigation projects akin to those carried out by Thuru and ZeroTrash.

In addition to that, Young Professionals Sri Lanka has been actively engaging in strategic collaborations with esteemed organizations, yielding remarkable outcomes. Notably, the entity made a significant impact at the FusionV 2023 Youth Forum organized by LEO Multiple District 306 Sri Lanka & Maldives.

This forum, held on 3rd of June 2023, gathered various youth organizations as key collaborators, including IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka, to address pressing issues in the country and propose impactful and realistic solutions. Within this platform, IEEE YPSL focused on the pivotal subject of equipping Sri Lankan youth in areas such as startups, entrepreneurship, and employment. Furthermore, as a testament to their commitment to fostering growth and connectivity.

IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka forged a promising partnership with Trace Sri Lanka on 7th of June 2023. This collaborative effort aims to encourage emerging talents, foster their professional development, cultivate global networks, and drive positive change within the community.

This strategic alliance between IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka and Trace Sri Lanka aims to create a conducive environment that fosters growth, development, and innovation for young professionals.

By leveraging their collective expertise, resources, and networks, both organizations aspire to provide valuable opportunities for emerging talents to flourish and succeed in their respective fields.

In addition to these exciting ventures, it is crucial to delve into the notable ongoing national projects spearheaded by IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka.

IEEE Innovation Nation Sri Lanka

IEEE Innovation Nation Sri Lanka (INSL) is a successful volunteer-led initiative by IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka, launched in 2018. It aims to foster young entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka by providing training, mentoring, and financial support. With its rigorous evaluation process and ecosystem, INSL goes beyond competition, serving as a training platform and gateway to future accelerators and investments.

Recently, applications for the Organising Committee for the Provincial Competitions of Innovation Nation Sri Lanka 2023 were opened for Colombo North and Colombo South Divisions.

IEEE StudPro

IEEE StudPro, hosted by IEEE Young Professional Sri Lanka Section offers more than just a career fair—it provides a comprehensive experience to guide young undergraduates in Sri Lanka from the beginning of their career exploration to securing their dream job. The “Branding Yourself' session series, hosted by IEEE StudPro 6.0, empowered undergraduate students and fresh graduates with essential skills for career success.

Over three transformative days, participants gained insights on personal branding, optimizing LinkedIn profiles, crafting winning CVs, and tailoring them for foreign job markets. Following that, a panel discussion titled "Know Your Industry: Industry Experts Share Insight for Fresh Undergraduates" was organized on the 27th of June 2023, with the aim of gleaning valuable insights from the industry experts on standing out to potential employers and crafting a compelling professional identity.

LETs Talk

Focusing on Leadership (L), Entrepreneurship (E), Technology (T), and Sustainability (S), LETs Talk has evolved to offer a comprehensive approach to personal and professional development for Young Professionals. This project is invaluable for individuals seeking to enhance their core skills, providing skill-building, networking, and mentorship opportunities.

The inaugural installment of the IEEE YP LETs talk series, titled "Communicraft 2023" took place on 15th of June 2023, with a focus on the theme of "Finding Your Professional Voice - Confidence & Impact." Mrs. Nadeesha Fernando, the distinguished speaker, delivered a captivating discussion emphasizing the significance of effective communication and essential professional qualities.

“Communicraft” is an engaging online talk series dedicated to enhancing the professional communication skills of young professionals. Featuring expert speakers and interactive sessions, it provides a platform for individuals to learn and refine their abilities in various communication domains.

The series consists of 4 sessions targeting different aspects of professional communication skills including, confidence, presentation, negotiation and professional writing. The 4 episodes are; “Finding Your Professional Voice: Confidence & Impact”, “Pitch Game: Present your Idea and grab your audience”, “Effective Communication and negotiation” and finally “Professional Writing and successful presentation”.

Y2NPro

IEEE Young Professionals (YP) Sri Lanka unveiled the transformative initiative Young to Niche Professional (Y2NPro) in 2021. Y2NPro aims to inspire, guide, and accelerate niche communities, enabling them to become experts in their specialized fields and transition into successful professionals in demanding technical sectors.

This year's lineup includes the Cold Chain Application for Quality Management of Fresh Food Workshop Series, the EDA Workshop Series in collaboration with the IES Chapter, a Ham/Amateur Radio workshop with Comsoc and RSSL, and aviation-related workshops.

Y2NPro launched its latest initiative to address the substantial wastage of vegetables and fruits in the post-harvest phase. Through meticulous evaluation and consideration, the program’s focus zeroed in on the niche area of “Cold Chain Application for Quality Control.” This led to the introduction of the third workshop series titled “Cold Chain Application for Quality Management of Fresh Food.” The objective was to leverage cold chain applications to minimize losses and enhance the overall quality of fresh produce.

These events promise unparalleled learning experiences, equipping participants with valuable insights and practical knowledge in their domains. Electronic Design Automation was decided as one of the selected areas since this will be the major support area for Y2NPro and can add value to the participants.

As the workshop series concludes, the organizers express their gratitude to all the participants, resource persons, and organizers who contributed to its success. They encourage all participants to continue exploring opportunities to apply their knowledge and make a positive impact in their respective fields.

IEEE AI-Driven Sri Lanka

The AI-Driven Sri Lanka initiative by IEEE Young Professional Sri Lanka endeavours to narrow the divide between Sri Lankan undergraduate and graduate students in the AI (Artificial Intelligence) industry by providing AI education and cultivating practical abilities in Sri Lankan youth with an analytical foundation and desire for AI. This year, the project will be delivering different initiatives including an AI Summit, AI Ideathon, Monthly Talk Series, Bootcamp, and AI Day Celebrations.

The overarching objective of the AI-Driven Sri Lanka project is to promote AI awareness and expertise in Sri Lankan youth while linking them with possibilities in the AI sector. Recently, the project successfully organized, the "Building an AutoGPT App" Community Talk on the 4th of June 2023.

As we look back on the events and plans that have unfolded in the recent past, we acknowledge their pivotal role in shaping a bright future for young professionals.

The knowledge garnered, the connections forged, and the remarkable milestones achieved serve as the bedrock for our trajectory in the upcoming months. With much anticipation, IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka sets its sight on building upon these accomplishments and seizing the opportunities that lie ahead. With such a solid stage set on top of the foundation laid by the volunteers of the past terms, it is undeniable that much more is yet to come. Stay connected with IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka as we prepare to unveil an array of exciting initiatives in the near future!

Unveiling the Future of AI:
Building an AutoGPT App
AI Driven Sri Lanka

The world of AI and machine learning continues to evolve, opening up new horizons and possibilities for innovation. On June 4th, 2023, AI-Driven Sri Lanka, an initiative by IEEE Young Professionals Sri Lanka, hosted a captivating event as part of their "Community Talks" series. The virtual event, held via Zoom from 6 PM onwards, featured a prominent keynote speaker, Mr. Uditha Bandara, a specialist in Microsoft and AI technologies. With his expertise and profound understanding of these fields, Mr. Uditha delved into the topic of "Building an AutoGPT App" and shared invaluable insights on the revolutionary AutoGPT system.

AutoGPT, an advanced AI system, combines natural language processing, deep learning, and large-scale language models to generate high-quality content that mimics human-like writing.

This powerful technology has far-reaching implications across various industries, transforming content creation, chatbots, personalized recommendations, and various other applications. With approximately 50 participants attending the event, the stage was set for an enlightening exploration of AutoGPT's capabilities.

The event kicked off with an introduction that highlighted the immense potential of AutoGPT in shaping the future of AI-generated content. In today's digital age, the emergence of AI technologies has unlocked remarkable possibilities. AutoGPT stands at the forefront of this innovation, revolutionising content creation by streamlining the process and generating engaging, human-like content.

The first topic of discussion revolved around the diverse applications of AutoGPT in various industries. From e-commerce and healthcare to education and journalism, AutoGPT is transforming the way we operate. The presentation delved into how this powerful tool enhances customer experience, automates tasks, enables personalised recommendations, and opens up new avenues for innovation.

Another fascinating aspect covered during the event was AutoGPT's impact on content creation and copywriting. By harnessing the power of AI, AutoGPT offers creative insights, generates engaging content, and optimises messaging for various platforms.

Attendees gained insights into the transformative potential of AutoGPT in revolutionising content that resonates with their target audience like never before.

Enhancing customer experience with AutoGPT-powered chatbots was another key area explored during the event. In today's digital landscape, customer experience plays a pivotal role, and AutoGPT-powered chatbots are redefining customer interactions. By leveraging AutoGPT's natural language processing capabilities, chatbots can understand and respond to customer queries with remarkable accuracy and speed. Attendees discovered how this powerful combination revolutionises customer service, driving satisfaction and loyalty to new heights.

The event also shed light on AutoGPT's role in e-commerce, particularly in delivering personalised product recommendations. In the fiercely competitive world of online shopping, personalised recommendations have become a game-changer for businesses. AutoGPT's advanced algorithms analyse vast amounts of data to predict consumer preferences and offer tailored suggestions, enhancing user experience and driving sales.

The healthcare industry is experiencing a profound transformation with the integration of AutoGPT. By enhancing diagnostics, enabling precision medicine, and optimising clinical workflows, AutoGPT is revolutionising healthcare delivery. Its natural language processing capabilities aid in accurate medical documentation, automated data analysis, and patient risk assessment.

The presentation delved into how AutoGPT is reshaping the healthcare ecosystem, ultimately leading to a more efficient and patient-centric approach.

The event covered various aspects of AutoGPT, from its relationship with generative agents to setting it up with memory. The audience had the opportunity to engage in a Q&A session, where they posed insightful questions to the keynote speaker, and received enlightening answers.

In conclusion, the "Community Talks" event organised by AI-Driven Sri Lanka on June 4th, 2023, provided an immersive exploration of AutoGPT and its transformative potential. The event showcased the vast capabilities of AutoGPT in revolutionising AI-generated content across industries. As the world continues to embrace the power of AI, AutoGPT stands at the forefront, enabling innovative solutions and reshaping the future of content creation, customer experience, and industry-specific applications.

Inspiring Change, Celebrating Diversity

A Spotlight on IEEE Women in Engineering Sri Lanka Section

The IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Sri Lanka Section has been on an inspiring journey of empowering women in engineering and technology since its inception in 2018. With a clear mission to foster technology innovation and excellence among women engineers across the country, WIE Sri Lanka Section has continued to achieve significant milestones. This year's term began on 19th February 2023 with its Annual General Meeting held virtually, setting the stage for a year filled with exciting initiatives and accomplishments. Let's delve into some exciting initiatives and accomplishments that have shaped their path this year.

Connect, Learn, and Grow with IEEE WIE Affinity Group of Sri Lanka

This year, IEEE WIE Sri Lanka Section set its sights on expanding its reach and engaging with student volunteers.

To achieve this goal, an insightful awareness session was conducted for WIE volunteers in student branches virtually on the 28th of April 2023, which attracted around 100 enthusiastic participants eager to learn about WIE's mission, vision, and benefits of volunteering with IEEE WIE.

Smart Cyber Session at IEEE Education Week Sri Lanka

IEEE WIE Sri Lanka Section collaborated with IEEE Education Week Sri Lanka to conduct an enlightening session for school students.

"Smart Cyber," held on 3rd April 2023, aimed to create awareness among the younger generation about staying safe in cyberspace.

The Power Hour: Saga to Inspire and Connect

With the intention to inspire and encourage, WIE Sri Lanka Section introduced a novel initiative, "The Power Hour." This series aimed to bring together accomplished women in STEM fields, allowing participants to learn from the sagas of hard work, dedication, and passion that fueled their success. The inaugural talk, held on 20th May 2023, featured Radheeka Jayasundera(Ph.D.), Director, Data Science (Advertiser Solutions) at Meta.

With such empowering stories being shared, IEEE WIE Sri Lanka Section looks forward to organizing more sessions, bringing forth the triumphs of women in technology and engineering.

International WIE Day Celebration 2023

IEEE WIE Sri Lanka Section organized the International WIE Day celebration 2023 on 24th June aligning with International Women in Engineering Day (22nd, June) to honor and empower women engineers who have made remarkable contributions to STEM.

The theme of the event was "Empowering Work-Life Balance for Women Engineers," focusing on the importance of creating a supportive and inclusive work environment for women in engineering Event was held at Dialog Axiata Auditorium with about 120 participants from different backgrounds. The attendees included university undergraduates, industry professionals, and academia forming a strong network. The event served as a platform to introduce around 15 IEEE WIE Affinity Group undergraduates to the purpose and significance of IEEE WIE.

This was a remarkable event for the IEEE WIE Sri Lanka Section, as it marked one of the largest physical gatherings after a considerable period without having such due to COVID-19.

With the world gradually recovering from past challenges, the event served as a significant milestone in bringing together women engineers and enthusiasts around the country in a physical setting, nurturing a sense of togetherness and community.

The IEEE Women in Engineering Sri Lanka Section continues to break barriers and elevate the presence of women in engineering and technology. With upcoming initiatives In the IEEE WIE Sri Lanka Section calendar, "CODE with WIE" an ideation, aimed at promoting diversity and inclusion, and the highly anticipated "WIESymp 2023 – 4th International Women in Engineering Symposium," they remain steadfast in their commitment to empowering innovators and uniting creators in STEM. As we look forward to more enriching activities, WIE Sri Lanka Section serves as an inspiring example for the entire engineering community, fostering a future where women continue to thrive in their pursuits.

The IEEE Sri Lanka Section SIGHT Events

The IEEE Sri Lanka Section SIGHT events consist of a series of projects organized by IEEE Sri Lanka Section SIGHT. This week-long event is dedicated to tackling the challenges encountered by underserved communities. Volunteers from IEEE Sri Lanka Section actively engage with the local community, employing diverse approaches to collectively comprehend and provide technological solutions to address these challenges.

The week commences with the SIGHT Camp, where volunteers from IEEE Sri Lanka Section, hailing from various regions, gather at Peletiya, Dimbulagala. The primary objective of this camp is to lay the foundation for the Filter of Hope project. During this phase, the volunteers collaborate with the technical team from an RO water filtration system company to assist in the implementation process. In this session, the team raises awareness about the importance of filter maintenance and provides relevant information to the local community. By understanding the maintenance procedures, participants can ensure the longevity and effectiveness of the RO filters deployed in the community.

The Filter of Hope culminates with the grand opening ceremony. During this ceremony, the customized RO filter will be installed on the school premises, allowing the local community to access clean water outside school boundaries. This RO filtration system operates at a rate of 250 liters of clean water per hour. An operational model for long-term maintenance is also assigned to a respected local community organization to ensure the longevity of the project.

The IEEE Nenasa program is conducted parallelly with the commencement of the filter. IEEE Nenasa consists of a series of workshops structured by the IEEE Student Branches in local schools, aiming to enhance STEM education among Sri Lankan students. Through this program, IEEE SL Section SIGHT aims to encourage students to develop a passion for STEM education and pursue careers in the field.

In addition to the technical project, IEEE Sri Lanka Section SIGHT collaborates with an IEEE National Project called SL Inspire, led by Young Professionals. This volunteering group conducts Career Guidance sessions for students in schools. The aim of these sessions is to empower students by providing them with a thorough understanding of career opportunities and guidance on developing their professional skills. Various activities are conducted to develop the leadership skills and teamwork of the students.

The IEEE Sri Lanka Section SIGHT events, with their various sessions and activities, offer a comprehensive and holistic approach to addressing the challenges faced by underserved communities.

Empowering Growth and Innovation

The Journey of the IEEE Student Branch of University of Colombo School of Computing

The University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) IEEE Student Branch, established in 2011 under the mentorship of the IEEE Sri Lanka Section, has played a pivotal role in fostering the professional development of UCSC undergraduates. By actively participating in the branch's diverse range of events, undergraduates have the unique opportunity to not only enhance their technical knowledge but also cultivate vital traits such as leadership, dedication, commitment, and organizational skills. Serving as an invaluable platform, the Student Branch empowers individuals to embark on a journey of comprehensive growth, nurturing both their technical expertise and personal development.

IEEE Student Branch of UCSC has consistently demonstrated commitment to excellence, resulting in numerous accolades at the prestigious IEEE Sri Lanka Section Awards Night. The latest achievement was in 2022 when RevolUX 2.0, received the prestigous Best Student Branch Project award.

RevolUX 2.0, a collaborative endeavour between the Student Branch and AIESEC, featured a series of enlightening workshops on UI/UX design, culminating in an exhilarating 24-hour designathon conducted on campus. This remarkable event stood out as the largest of its kind in the country and garnered widespread recognition.

Notably, the Student Branch's outstanding contributions were acknowledged with the Best Student Branch Project Award at the IEEE Sri Lanka Section Awards 2022 and also received two commendable awards from AIESEC Sri Lanka.

The Student Branch's successfull initiatives during the previous term significantly contributed to membership growth and retention through diverse events, workshops, and activities, fostering a sense of community and providing valuable learning opportunities for all members.

Notably, the hosting of IEEEXtreme in October, an exciting 24- hour programming competition that brought together IEEE members for the first time after the pandemic.

Another standout event was the commemoration of IEEE Day'22, where the focus on the "Metaverse" theme resulted in captivating tech talks, an enjoyable treasure hunt, and immersive live demonstrations of VR games, creating an unforgettable experience for participants. Additionally, the IAM Session, a collaboration with WSO2, a leading software development company in the country, proved to be a major success during the term, offering a workshop on identity and access management and receiving high praise from participants.

The Student Branch organized Andharaya, a vibrant event introduced by the SLSAC that embraced the festivities of Awurudu (Sinhala and Tamil New Year) and showcased the rich Sri Lankan culture. This gathering not only fostered a strong sense of community and cultural exchange but also provided newcomers to IEEE with valuable insights into its structure and mission.

The term wrapped up with MADHack, a series of mobile app development workshops followed by an exclusive online hackathon. This event, being the only one of its kind in the Sri Lankan undergraduate sphere, provided a platform for undergraduates from across the country to showcase their skills and marked the second edition of this highly anticipated event.

Introductory sessions were organized to familiarize newly enrolled UCSC undergraduates with IEEE and volunteering opportunities. Together, these events contributed to membership retention and growth by offering diverse learning opportunities, fostering community, and highlighting the branch's achievements at a national level.

As we embark on the new term, we have exciting activities and great plans in store.

Let's take a look at what lies ahead:

7 Lines of Code

Starting in June, we will commence "7 Lines of Code," an exclusive series of interactive sessions tailored for our freshmen.

These sessions will provide invaluable guidance and support to our freshmen as they embark on their computer science journey, with experienced mentors from our second and third years offering mentorship and encouragement throughout the program.

ReidXtreme

We're excited to announce the grand return of "ReidXtreme," a spectacular 24-hour hackathon co-hosted with the ACM Student Chapter of the University Of Colombo School Of Computing.

IEEEXtreme

In the month of October, an extraordinary opportunity awaits IEEE members worldwide: IEEEXtreme, the renowned 24-hour programming competition. We are thrilled to announce that this year, we will be hosting this prestigious coding competition physically once more at the University of Colombo premises. Prepare yourself for an immersive coding experience that promises excitement, collaboration, and a chance to showcase your skills among fellow enthusiasts.

IEEE Day'23

In October, we have a special celebration lined up for all technology enthusiasts: "IEEE Day'23." Join us as we come together as a community to commemorate this occasion and express our passion for all things tech. The event promises a delightful experience with engaging speakers, entertaining activities, and ample networking opportunities.

As we look towards the beginning of the upcoming year, an exciting prospect awaits us: a potential collaboration with the NSBM IEEE Student Branch for a captivating Flutter hackathon. We are eagerly awaiting their response and will keep you updated with more details as they unfold.

Community Service Project

Nearing the end of the term, we are gearing up for an impactful community service project in collaboration with the Rotaract Club of the University of Colombo School of Computing.

Our joint efforts aim to make a meaningful difference by harnessing the power of technology and compassion. Together, we can showcase the positive impact we can create for our community.

Get ready for an incredible year ahead with the IEEE Student Branch at the University of Colombo School of Computing as we unveil the exciting plans mentioned above. These activities have been carefully curated to enhance membership retention and growth by offering a wide range of learning opportunities, fostering a strong sense of community, and highlighting the branch's notable achievements at a national level.

Brace yourself for an enchanting journey that will immerse you in the world of technology like never before. Get set to embark on this captivating adventure!

CYPHER: An Eye-Opener For Many!!

IEEE WIE Student Branch Affinity Group of
General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University

The event "CYPHER" organized by the IEEE WIE Student Branch Affinity Group of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University in collaboration with AION, was completed on the 03rd of May 2023, at the KDU Premises.

This event consisted of two simultaneous competitions namely, the Capture the Flag Competition on ethical hacking and the Hackathon Competition, which was all about coding, and both were organized with the intent of enhancing the skills of undergraduates by providing hands-on experience. It was a day of fun, competitiveness and knowledge interwoven together, which undoubtedly created lasting memories for the participants.

When talking about this event, it is a must to bring to the limelight the support rendered by the AION organization. Because if not for their technical expertise and financial aid, none of this would have been a reality. This event garnered an audience of approximately 100 determined individuals from the undergraduate community as competitors, with 12 teams consisting of 4 members per team who were shortlisted for each competition, before the event.

Students from universities, namely the University of Colombo, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka Technological Campus (SLTC), National School of Business Management, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT), Informatics Institute of Technology (IIT) and General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University (KDU) were gathered to participate in the competitions. The event was kickstarted with the two competitions happening in two separate rooms at the university premises.

Both competitions were concluded by 3.00pm, with a short lunch break in between the flawless execution was all owing to the due diligence of members representing both the AION organization and KDU, who were in sync when executing their duties. Followed by refreshments, the most anticipated segment of the event, the prize awarding ceremony commenced at 3.30 pm, at the auditorium of the Faculty of Graduate Studies of KDU.

This ceremony started off with the usual formalities of welcoming the guests with a Pooja dance performed by the very own students of the university and proceeded on to lighting of the oil lamp by the distinguished guests that graced the occasion. Amongst these guests, the CEO of AION organization, Mr. Abbi Pilapitiya, the Dean of the Faculty of Computing of KDU, Dr. Asela Gunasekara, Director at Sierra Global Networks, Mr.Chandima De Silva, Chief Marketing Officer at AION, Mr.Asanga Vitharana, the Head of Business development at AION (Pvt)Ltd, Mr.Sithira Dewasurendra and Mrs.Kaushalya Ekanayake, a lecturer at AION Cyber Security were undoubtedly the most notable.

The official proceedings of the award ceremony were initiated with the welcome speech delivered by the event co-chair, Miss Amandi Jayawardena from KDU, and it was followed by the awarding of participatory certificates for all participants of both events. Afterward, the top 03 teams of both competitions were aptly rewarded with trophies and the champions of both competitions were granted an exclusive opportunity to receive full scholarships from the AION campus, for its Industry Certification Weekend Bootcamp and Cyber Futures Internship and Industry placement pathway.

Team Hello World 1.0 from the University of Moratuwa managed to bag the victory of the Hackathon while team Drop Table Users from the University of Colombo emerged as winners in the Capture the Flag competition.

The award ceremony was not only about giving away a slew of prizes, it was also an opportunity for the students of KDU to showcase their talents, which managed to keep the audience glued to their seats in awe. The most eye-catching performances were the entertainment items performed by the undergraduates of KDU, which added so much colour and dimension to the already colourful event and the fusion music was breathtaking to the audience.

On an ending note, while being sincerely grateful for the immense support provided by the AION organization, it is safe to say that we can easily add this event to the extremely successful track record of the club and the IEEE WIE Student Branch Affinity Group of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University hopes to strike back shortly with many more successful endeavours.

Strength For Her 2023

IEEE WIE Student Branch Affinity Group of General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University

On March 7th, the IEEE WIE Student Branch Affinity Group of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University organised an event called 'Strength for Her', focusing on the women's day celebrations 2023 at the KDU FGS Auditorium. The event aimed to provide young female undergraduates with the strength to build a women's network and promote their sense of self-worth, ability to determine their own choices, and right to influence social change for themselves and others.

The target audience was undergraduate students from all universities, and the event featured a panel discussion between three key speakers: Dr Kalpana Ambepitiya - Senior Lecturer (Entrepreneurship & Marketing), Mrs Ashwini Thivakaran - Business Solutions Manager - Project Manager DFCC Bank PLC, and Mrs Nadeesha Fernando - Manager - HR at Virtusa.

The objective of the event was to educate undergraduates on the concept of women empowerment and empowering women in the workplace. During the panel discussion, the speakers addressed topics such as work-life balance, emotional intelligence in a women's role, and encouraging females to step into leadership roles. They also shared their experiences and offered advice on how to face the challenges that women face in day-to-day life. The panel discussion was followed by a Q&A session where attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and gain further insights.

The event also featured small stalls set up near the auditorium and the first-floor open area to encourage female undergraduates. Participants were able to enjoy handicrafts, arts, and food while being entertained with music and giveaways. The stall visit with the chief guest was from 2.35 pm to 3 pm, giving participants ample time to explore and interact with the various vendors.

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Participants were able to enjoy handicrafts, arts, and food while being entertained with music and giveaways. The stall visit with the chief guest was from 2.35 pm to 3 pm, giving participants ample time to explore and interact with the various vendors.

The event began at 2.30 pm with the welcome of chief guests. After the stall visit, the welcome speech was delivered by the co-chair from 3 pm to 3.30 pm. The panellists were then introduced by the moderator and invited to the stage. The panel discussion began with round 1 at 3.15 pm, followed by round 2 at 3.30 pm and round 3 at 3.45 pm. Finally, a Q&A session was held from 4 pm to 4.15 pm, and the event concluded with a token of appreciation given by the co-chair and a vote of thanks by the event secretary.

The "Strength for Her" event provided a platform for more than 100 undergraduates to learn from experienced professionals and gain insights on how to overcome the challenges they face in their day-to-day lives. We express our gratitude to our esteemed speakers; Dr. Kalpana Ambepitiya, Mrs. Ashwini Thivakaran, and Mrs. Nadeesha Fernando for dedicating their valuable time and efforts, contributing to the tremendous success of the event. And the organizers did an excellent job of creating an atmosphere that was both educational and enjoyable, with various stalls and activities for participants to enjoy. Overall, the event was a success and left a lasting impression on attendees.

DUOTHAN 3.0

The Largest Inter-University Buildathon

IEEE Student Branch of
National School of Business Management (NSBM)

Duothan 3.0 is an annual hackathon that we conduct in the month of February with the theme of “Hack your heart in this February ".

It was one of the largest events conducted by the IEEE Student Branch of NSBM with the collaboration of the IEEE WIE Affinity Group of NSBM and the IEEE Computer Society of NSBM.

A buildathon is a competition where the participants must reconstruct a half-built application according to the parameters and guidelines provided. We have allowed them to use any programming language and framework they wish and gave them six hours to complete the task with a group of four people. In previous years, it was only open to undergraduates of NSBM, but this year we have opened it to all undergraduates from any university.

Duothan 3.0 was held on February 24, 2023, at the Faculty of Computing, NSBM Green University Premises. The event lasted nearly nine hours, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Winners of the day was a team from University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) and 2nd and 3rd places were gone to two teams from the NSBM Green University itself.

We have distributed certificates for the top 10 teams within the award ceremony to keep them motivated for future competitions as well. Not only that, we have distributed e-certificates for all the participants who have committed their time and hard work to Duothan 3.0 as an expression of appreciation for their participation.

All certificates and prizes were presented by the Vice Chancellor of NSBM Green University, Prof. E. A. Weerasinghe, Head of Academic Development and Quality Assurance, Prof. Bharatha Dodankotuwa, and Dean of the Faculty of Computing, Dr. Rasika Ranaweera.

Duothan 3.0 was a massive hit because we reached it until we got its title as “the largest-ever inter-university buildathon”. As the members of the IEEE Student Branch of NSBM, it's more than our pleasure to host and be able to take part in a huge event like that. It’s been a great pleasure to join hands with these three leading corporations, namely ExactPro, Virtusa and hSenidMobile along with Duothan 3.0. Behind every successful event, there should be a proper guidance behind the screen. Duothan 3.0 was well-organized under the continuous guidance of our beloved Mistress In Charge of IEEE, Ms. Dulanjali Wijesekara, Dean of the Faculty of Computing, Dr. Rasika Ranaweera, and also the Deputy Vice Chancellor and IEEE Branch Counsellor of NSBM, Prof. Chaminda Rathnayaka. They have been our pillars of strength; they kept us motivated all the time and believed in us. Without their amazing support, we would never be able to come this far.

And, there is another special party we cannot ever forget, the organizing committee, of Duothan 3.0. They are the silent heroes who had worked continuously for months to make this event as ideal as it was. The organizing committee was led by Isura Wimalarathna, Chair of the IEEE Student Branch of NSBM; Dasanjith Gunarathne, Chair of the IEEE Computer Society of NSBM; and Nirasha Herath, Chair of the IEEE WIE Affinity Group of NSBM. They have shared the experiences they have gained through the past events in IEEE with us, and those experiences have been extremely helpful to overcame the barriers we had to face during the event. With their tremendous support and inspiring words, we have done something unforgettable for years.

IEEE R10 Robotics Competition 2023 Sri Lanka Section Local Rounds

The IEEE R10 Robotics Competition 2023 was held with the theme “Robots for Managing Climate Change for a Better World,” where the IEEE Student Members and Graduate Student Members in IEEE Region 10, can present their inventive robot projects aimed at addressing climate changes and humanitarian issues. Moreover, it serves as a platform to participate in a competitive environment and showcase their skills and abilities.

There were a series of workshops conducted by Robotic Enthusiasts and great personnels who have excelled in the field of Robotics and Automation along with handling hardware, to enlighten and ignite the knowledge of the participating members and teams. This competition helped the undergraduates to gain more hands on knowledge on the them e and the competition which is to be held in the near future. The participants are encouraged to develop robots that can develop robots that can address practical problems and provide solutions for societal needs.

The local rounds of the IEEE R10 Robotics competition within the Sri Lankan Section served as a brilliant tapestry weaving together innovation and intellect in the realm of robotics and it was set at the esteemed University of Moratuwa on the 3rd of August 2023, where the participants brought up their creative minds in show to the panel of judges. The coveted first prize found its home with Team Ecobots from the University of Ruhuna, while Team Robonauts, also from the University of Ruhuna, stood as worthy recipients of the second accolade. The third place shone brightly for Team Dronematics from the University of Moratuwa. The R10 Robotics Competition is a globally recognized event that celebrates the advancements in robotics and promotes collaboration and innovation in the field. This monumental event not only exalted human ingenuity but also navigated a trajectory towards a future where innovation and knowledge came together, birthing remarkable environmental solutions.

IEEE Electronics Design Competition

"Embark on Your Journey of Innovation - Time Waits for No One!"

The IEEE Eelectronic Design Competition 2023 is an exciting platform where students are challenged to apply electronics and related technologies to address real-world problems. This Competition aims to popularize IEEE among the student community as well as to boost electronic design interest by incorporating a few SDG goals.

This initiative focuses on inspiring the next generation of engineers, researchers, and innovators by encouraging students to develop cutting-edge hardware or software solutions that align with the following Sustainable Development Goals. The Electronic Design Competition will provide the necessary guidance for participating students. This will foster career development, networking, and collaborative opportunities, ensuring a lasting impact beyond the competition.

The primary target audience for the competition is undergraduate students from universities and colleges across Sri Lanka. Students are encouraged to participate, leveraging their academic knowledge and expertise to develop innovative solutions for real-world problems focusing on Sustainable Development Goals.

By focusing on cutting-edge sustainable technologies and applications and fostering the use of electronic energy efficient or energy-saving solutions, the competition aims to inspire a new wave of innovations that can revolutionise the technology sector and well as making a generation that makes decisions upon sustainable means.

The Electronic Design Competition seeks to cultivate a spirit of ingenuity and forward-thinking among participants, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future.

The IEEE Sri Lanka Section will help Student Branches to organize information sessions for students to learn more about the competition and the participation process. IEEE Sri Lanka Section will support in arranging workshops and mentorship sessions designed to help students develop their skills and knowledge in electronic engineering. Led by industry professionals or experienced mentors who have experience in the application of sustainable means.

The Electronic Design Competition has the potential to contribute to the long-term growth and success of Sri Lanka. By nurturing a new generation of talented and motivated professionals, the competition helps build the local capacity for research, development, and innovation sustainably.

Technical Co Sponsorships by IEEE Sri Lanka Section

The Technical Co-Sponsorships offered by IEEE Sri Lanka Section for conferences are an essential component of fostering innovation and knowledge sharing within the country. By supporting these events, IEEE Sri Lanka Section actively contributes to the growth of the academic and industrial landscape, empowering local researchers and professionals to make a meaningful impact on the world stage. The IEEE Sri Lanka Section, a significant part of this global network, actively promotes technological excellence and encourages local researchers and scholars to contribute to the advancement of science and engineering.

The IEEE Sri Lanka Section Technical Co-Sponsorship committee has approved the conferences mentioned below.

- *16th International Conference on Industrial and Information Systems* (ICIIS 2023) - Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya
- *6th International Conference on Smart Computing and Systems Engineering* (SCSE 2023) - University of Kelaniya
- *9th International Moratuwa Engineering Research Conference* (MERCon 2023) - University of Moratuwa
- *7th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence* (SLAAI - 2023) - Sri Lanka Association of Artificial Intelligence
- *5th International Conference on Advancements in Computing* (ICAC 2023) - Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology

In order to apply for Technical Co Sponsorship from IEEE Sri Lanka Section, the conference should meet all the quality ***requirements*** set by the IEEE Sri Lanka Section Technical Co Sponsorship Committee, and a detailed application need to submit **6 months prior** to the opening of the research paper submission. In order to be eligible for the Technical Co Sponsorship from the IEEE Sri Lanka Section, the conference must accept only full papers in the IEEE conference template format and must maintain the required quality to be published at IEEEXplore. Approval for conference technical co sponsorships should be obtained before the opening of the research paper submission.

Upcoming Conferences

7th International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (SLAAI - 2023)

Sri Lanka Association of Artificial Intelligence

Conference Date
11th November 2023

More Details:
https://slaai.lk/2023/03/21/slaai-international-conference-on-artificial-intelligence-2023/

5th International Conference on Advancements in Computing (ICAC 2023)

Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology

Conference Date
7th and 8th December 2023

More Details: https://icac.lk/

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