

AඒNORMඑ

18th - 20th January 2021

AඒNORMඑ

Navigating through shattered norms

41st National Conference of Chartered Accountants

AbNORMAL

Navigating through shattered norms

According to the Chaos theory, the butterfly effect signifies how small shifts in our thinking and small changes in our energy can dramatically influence the end result.

The corona pandemic, which was initially thought to be confined to Wuhan in China, snowballed into a global pandemic creating chaos in the corporate world. Businesses in some industries were severely affected. Risk management and continuity of business gained priority for almost all of us. The void created in fulfilling the necessities of consumers and businesses, especially in times of lockdown, were predominantly filled by SMEs. Many businesses were compelled to adopt innovative business practices. The pandemic has opened up new opportunities and fresh ways of doing business, which were never thought possible before. They could be called “new normal” or “abnormal”. Will abnormal be the right normal?

The 41st National Conference of Chartered Accountants will deliberate on the changes, opportunities and abnormalities stemming from the crisis. We have lined up an eminent panel of speakers and panelists to stimulate your intellectual curiosity and question the way we do business in an attempt to explore adoption of new business practices which may be what we really need in these abnormal times.



Program Outline

18TH JANUARY 2021

INAUGURATION

6.00 pm – 10.30 pm	Chief Guest: Hon. Ajith Nivard Cabraal, State Minister of Finance and Capital Markets and Public Enterprise Reform
	Special Guest: Hon. (Dr.) Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Trade
	Guest of Honor: Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunga, Chairman, University Grants Commission
	Keynote Address: Ms. Selyna Peiris, Director Business Development, SELYN Exporters (Pvt) Ltd

19TH JANUARY 2021

DAY 1 – TECHNICAL SESSIONS

8.30 am – 9.00 am	Discussion by Ms. Anoji De Silva, Chairperson, National Conference Technical Committee 2020
9.00 am – 10.30 am	SESSION 1: DEFYING THE NORMAL Speaker: Dr. Ravi Fernando, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, Global Strategic Corporate Sustainability Pvt. Ltd Panelist: Mr. Suranga Herath, Chief Executive Officer, English Tea Shop Panelist: Mr. Mahesh Nayanakkara, Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer, Citizens Development Business Finance PLC Moderator: Mr. Moiz Rehmanjee, Group Chief Financial Officer, Hela Clothing
10.30 am – 10.45 am	BREAK - SPONSORS COMPOSITE AV CLIP
10.45 am – 12.15 pm	SESSION 2: NEW ECONOMIC ORDER Speaker: Dr. Nishan De Mel, Executive Director, Head of Research - Verité Research Pvt. Ltd Panelist: Mr. Prabash Subasinghe, Managing Director, Global Rubber Industries (Pvt) Ltd Panelist: Mr. Thulci Aluwihare, Head of Strategy & Business Development, CHEC Port City Colombo (Pvt) Ltd Moderator: Mr. Tishan Subasinghe, Managing Director, Moore Stephens Consulting (Pvt) Ltd, Chairman, SANASA Insurance Co. Ltd, Director, Amāna Bank PLC
12.15 pm – 1.15 pm	LUNCH BREAK - SPONSORS COMPOSITE AV CLIP
1.15 pm – 2.45 pm	SESSION 3: THE PERFECT LINK Speaker: Ms. Gayani De Alwis, Global Chairperson, WILAT, Immediate Past Chairperson, CILT, Non-Executive Independent Director, Singer Sri Lanka PLC, Management Consultant & Lecturer Panelist: Mr. Hanif Yusoof, Group Chief Executive Officer, Expolanka Holdings PLC Panelist: Ms. Jayanthi Dharmasena, Managing Director, Hayleys Agriculture Holdings Limited Moderator: Mr. Channa Gunasekera, Finance & Operations Consultant
2.45 pm – 3.15 pm	TEA BREAK - SPONSORS COMPOSITE AV CLIP
3.15 pm – 4.45 pm	SESSION 4: ADOPT ME Speaker: Mr. Thilak Piyadigama, Chief Executive Officer, SDB bank Panelist: Mr. Suren Fernando, Chief Executive Officer, MAS Holdings (Pvt) Ltd Panelist: Mr. Nikhil Advani, Chief Executive Officer, AIA Insurance Lanka Limited Panelist: Ms. Jayomi Lokuliyana, Co-Founder/Chief Executive Officer, zMessenger Pvt Ltd, Chairperson, MYMED International (Pvt) Ltd, Chairperson, Women's Chamber for Digital Sri Lanka Moderator: Mr. Naresh Abeyssekera, Founder / Chief Executive Officer, SECQUORO

20TH JANUARY 2021

DAY 2 – TECHNICAL SESSIONS – HALF DAY

2.00 pm - 3.30 pm (UK time 9.30 am - 11.00 am)	SESSION 5: FINANCIAL INTEGRITY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES Presenter 1: Mr. Manil Jayasinghe, President, CA Sri Lanka, Senior Partner, Ernst & Young, Sri Lanka Presenter 2: Mr. David Matthews, President, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales Moderator: Ms. Nilanthi Sivapragasam, Chief Financial Officer, Aitken Spence PLC
3.30 pm – 3.45 pm	BREAK - SPONSORS COMPOSITE AV CLIP
3.45 pm - 5.15 pm (US Time 6.15 am - 7.45 am)	SESSION 6: THE MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE? Speaker : Dr. Archana Arcot, Associate Vice President - Head of Client Business & Talent Integration, Infosys McCamish Systems LLC Panelist: Mr. Mahendra Jayasekera, Managing Director, Lanka Tiles PLC Panelist: Ms. Chandhi H. Dharmaratne, Vice President, Human Resources, Virtusa (Pvt) Ltd Panelist: Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri, Director/ Chairman of the Board of Management, PIM Moderator: Ms. Shyamali Kirinde, Senior Manager - Strategic Services, Brandix Apparel Ltd



Message from the President of CA Sri Lanka

Manil Jayasinghe

I am pleased to share this message on the occasion of the 41st National Conference of Chartered Accountants, which is Sri Lanka's biggest business summit with a history spanning over four long decades.

Bounded by uncertainty, the world is perhaps facing its biggest challenge known to mankind due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the ripple effects of which has impacted every business and professional community including Chartered Accountants.

The pandemic has plunged the world into the deepest recession in 150 years, as businesses both big and small across the world fight to survive. As a leading professional organisation, we believed it is imperative for CA Sri Lanka to help our businesses rebuild while becoming an important catalyst to our professional community so that they can navigate through these uncharted territories. Therefore, the 41st National Conference of Chartered Accountants will be an important platform to discuss the changes, opportunities and abnormalities stemming from the COVID-19 crisis.

The road to recovery both at a global and local level is likely to be long and arduous due to the scale of the impact. While the world is engulfed in desolation, due to the pandemic, I believe the pandemic has also created us new opportunities in a business sense. Since COVID, we watched how businesses including SMEs who had zero presence on even social media quickly adapt to technology and other innovative business practices to survive. The pandemic no doubt opened new avenues which up until a few months back were never considered feasible.

COVID-19 has also created an opportunity for us all to start fresh, evaluate the challenges, learn from them and utilise it to create new opportunities for our long term sustenance and success under the ongoing 'abnormal' situation.

Amidst climate change and depletion of natural resources, which are often the result of man-made decisions, we have come to a point where we need to not just only focus on profits but also protect our planet, if we and our businesses are to survive on the long term. In such a scenario, I believe the pandemic has also provided us with a rare opportunity where we could reevaluate our strategies and be responsible by contributing constructively towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is considered a roadmap for humanity, as it encompass almost every aspect of human and planetary wellbeing.

Abnormality is here to stay, but, if we are willing to remain agile and adapt with the new normal all while embracing innovation, creativity and choosing to remain responsible as citizens and professionals, I am confident we will bounce back stronger.

I wish the National Conference fruitful deliberations!



Message from the Chairman of the National Conference Committee

Tishan Subasinghe

Undeterred by complexities, contingencies, and the challenges facing us amidst COVID-19, CA Sri Lanka has set the stage for its flagship annual event, the 41st National Conference of Chartered Accountants.

The year 2020 was heralded with much expectations, but it turned out to be one of the most extraordinary years of our lifetime due to the pandemic, and the economic crisis which has brought the world to a standstill.

The past months have been a learning curve to us, while teaching us to appreciate many which we took for granted until a few months ago. While the virus encircled us in bleakness, the truth is, it also became the hotspot for new innovations, amidst disruptions thereby creating a new paradigm shift.

The current circumstances surrounding us no doubt is something akin to a new normal if not abnormal, which is why the National Conference this year will be held under the theme "Abnormal: Navigating through shattered norms." For the first time in its history, the conference will take on a Virtual format this year due to the prevailing global pandemic.

Recognised as Sri Lanka's biggest business summit attracting over 2000 delegates annually, in the past we were compelled to limit the number of participants at the conference due to limited seating at the venue. But this year, as the conference is being held on a virtual platform we have encouraged more foreign participants from the South Asian Federation of Accountants and the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants to join us at the 41st National Conference of Chartered Accountants.

Sri Lanka is undoubtedly facing its biggest economic crisis in decades, however, as a nation we have to keep running despite whatever challenging situation we face, and we must always remember, it is often in the midst of the most challenging situation lies fresh opportunities. Therefore, I am certain the conference will be an important stepping-stone to stimulate and inspire the participants on how to move forward and create new opportunities amidst the 'abnormal'.

I wish the 41st National Conference all success!



Message from the Chairperson of the National Conference Technical Committee

Anoji De Silva

The normal life we were used to and took for granted has turned into something 'Abnormal' in 2020. The COVID 19 pandemic has turned our world upside down and we have had to come to terms with situations that were, are and will be quite 'Abnormal' such as;

- being forced to socially distance ourselves from each other instead of socializing.
- WFH (work from home) without prior rehearsals and balancing work & life at home.
- accept pay cuts, different working hours or even losing our jobs without warning.
- face a steep learning curve around the use of technology.
- eliminate or restrict business and personal travel.

What we would have considered 'Abnormal' and dismissed in 2019 has become our reality now in 2020. As I write this, I am also reminded how we almost got back to normal life, only to be struck by the pandemic again and how we are now having "what if?" conversations about our ability to hold the conference on the scheduled dates and in the scheduled format - 'Abnormal' times indeed!

Is 'Abnormal' all bad or negative? The simple answer is, 'No'! While it has disrupted the smooth flow of our day to day activities and businesses, it has also been a remarkable experience. In my opinion it is not a 'new normal' but 'Abnormal' that will be our future - adapting to sudden changes, learning new skills and technology on the go, coming up with innovative solutions to suit fast changing opportunities while being more socially conscious.

This is why CA Sri Lanka, being the thought leaders to the nation decided to adopt 'Abnormal' as the conference theme for 2020 to challenge the negativity surrounding the word and to start a conversation within the business community on how we can rethink and craft our future and build better businesses. These 'Abnormal' times are also a reminder to us that we need citizens of Sri Lanka to work together for the common good of our country. Our use of English, Sinhala and Tamil lettering in our 'Abnormal' logo is a reminder to us all of being Sri Lankan. At a time like this, we need to navigate through shattered norms as one country, one team, united by our common goal to contribute to our nation.

The 41st National Conference will be conducted in a virtual format where we hope to conduct 6 sessions with all speakers and panelists being present virtually. Our focus this year will be on how we can redefine and refocus the corporate culture incorporating some of the values practiced by the SME and public sectors – two sectors which has renewed respect and focus from the nation for being agile and stepping up during the pandemic. Our role as professionals has also gained momentum and this is also our opportunity to showcase our contribution towards building businesses that are not only about shareholder profit but also of true stakeholder capitalism. I am certain the conference this year will give you many ideas for you to take back and consider for implementation in your respective organizations.

We look forward to your participation at this 'Abnormal' event where we endeavor to navigate through shattered norms, creating a butterfly effect where "small changes and small shifts in our thinking and small changes in our energy can and will dramatically influence the end result."

Hoping to meet all of you virtually. Stay Safe.



Message from the Chief Executive Officer of CA Sri Lanka

Dulani Fernando

I am delighted to share this message for the 41st National Conference of Chartered Accountants organised by CA Sri Lanka.

The year 2020 will go down in history as one of the most challenging years known to us, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the related economic crisis the world is suffering from on account of a global shutdown. But, for a world which has witnessed many challenges in the past, I am certain, we can all rise again despite the complications surrounding us all from this latest crisis.

The global pandemic is an extraordinary challenge to us all, immaterial of our status or standing and or whether we be living in a developed or developing country. But, amidst the casualties and the increasing number of patients across the globe, the pandemic has also become an opportunity for businesses to understand the importance of adapting and adjusting with changing times, while also embracing agility in an unprecedented situation.

Considered 'new normal' or 'abnormal', COVID-19 has also shown us why we need to increasingly rely on technology amidst strict health regulations including social distancing and working remotely.

In times of great challenge, professional bodies too have a critical role to play in helping businesses move forward. CA Sri Lanka takes immense pride in its standing as the National Body of Accountants and also as an influential professional body which has for over 60 years inspired and led the professional accounting community locally as well as regionally.

Therefore, the 41st National Conference of Chartered Accountants is held at a very opportune time. I am certain that the conference this year will inspire our Chartered Accountants including business leaders and c-suite executives to be an important enabler in leading the change amidst these unprecedented challenges, so that our corporates and the country will continue to enjoy greater and sustainable success on the long term.

I extend my best wishes for the 41st National Conference of Chartered Accountants.

WALK The TALK

Keynote speech

The SME sector accounts for more than 75% of the total number of enterprises, provides 45% of the employment and contributes to 52% of the Gross Domestic Production (GDP) of the Country. During the lockdown we realised that our SME sector was perhaps more agile than some of the larger organisations. They were able to walk the talk much more effectively and efficiently than their larger corporate counterparts in servicing their customers.

We have invited a young SME entrepreneur Ms. Selyna Peiris from Selyn Handlooms, who is very passionate about ensuring fair trade practices within and outside the organisation, to be our keynote speaker. She is probably the youngest keynote speaker we have had and we are very excited to hear from her on how she manages the culture, operation and most importantly the people within her organisation, especially during these challenging times and how it has helped the business remain steady and relevant.



Speaker

Ms. Selyna Peiris

Director, Business Development, SELYN Exporters (Pvt) Ltd

Selyna Peiris (Attorney-at-Law), is the Director Business Development at Selyn Exporters (Pvt) Ltd, which is Sri Lanka's only fair-trade handloom company and one of the largest social enterprises in the country. Selyna is the co-founder and lead consultant at Positive Impact Consultancies, an organisation seeking to promote and integrate ethical and sustainable business practices into mainstream business.

Previously, she served as the Deputy Director at the Office for National Unity & Reconciliation of the Government of Sri Lanka. Selyna kicked off her career at the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation in Vienna. She has consulted for Government and various international organizations on social business, SME and livelihood development initiatives.

She holds a Master's in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, a Master's in International Business Law from the University College London and has graduated with an LLB from the University of Hull. She continues to be a strong advocate for equitable development especially for the women of Sri Lanka.



DEFYING THE NORMAL

The triple bottom line has been the buzzword cliché in recent years, although the blunt reality is that no one quite understands how to make it work. The pandemic has exposed these cracks and has left businesses with little choice but to regroup, rehash and revitalise. Join the session that crafts out the different elements of the triple bottom line and sets out a practical framework that 21st century leaders can follow, which is meeting the expectations of all stakeholders and rising to the unforeseen challenges.

Speaker

Dr. Ravi Fernando

Chairman / CEO, Global Strategic Corporate Sustainability Pvt. Ltd

Dr. Ravi Fernando serves as the Chairman/CEO of Global Strategic Corporate Sustainability Pvt. Ltd, which operates in Vietnam and Sri Lanka. He stakes claim for a successful career with multinationals having served Unilever, Reckitt Benckiser, Smithkline Beecham International covering Africa, Middle East and Asia in CEO/Business Development positions over a period of several decades. Ravi was the first CEO of the Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology in 2008-2011 & Operations Director of the Malaysia Blue Ocean Strategy Institute from 2011-2016. He was the UN Global Compact Focal point for Sri Lanka from 2007-2011 and serves on the Board. He also serves on the Boards of MNC's LOLC Holdings, Aitken Spence Plantations, Habitat for Humanity, UN Global Compact Sri Lanka, Ceylon Asset Management & Global Strategic Corporate Sustainability. In September 2007, he won "Global Strategy Leadership award", presented to him by Professor Renee Mauborgne of INSEAD at the World Strategy summit in Mumbai. In February 2020, he won the 'World CSR Leadership award'. Ravi is an Alumni of the University of Cambridge having completed a Post Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Business in 2008 and a Master of Studies in Sustainability Leadership in 2014. He holds a Doctor of Business Administration Degree from the European Business School in Switzerland 2016.

Panelists

Mr. Mahesh Nanayakkara

Managing Director / CEO, Citizens Development Business Finance PLC

Mahesh Nanayakkara counts for over 30 years' experience in financial services and currently serves as the Managing Director / CEO of Citizens Development Business Finance PLC, more commonly known as CDB. He joined CDB in 2001 and has successfully spearheaded a dynamic team of young professionals who were instrumental in transforming CDB from a negative net worth company to the dynamic entity it is today. Mahesh was instrumental in establishing the Autism Trust Fund, a collaboration between CDB and the Sri Lanka Association for Child Development (SLACD) which focuses on the early detection and intervention of autism in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Suranga Herath

CEO, English Tea Shop

Suranga Herath is the CEO of English Tea Shop; one of the world's leading organic tea business. A pioneer of sustainability best practices, Suranga has developed a wide range of initiatives designed to improve the livelihoods of communities in their value chain. Under Suranga's capable leadership, English Tea Shop won the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development for 2020, the UK's highest accolade for business success in sustainability, having already won the National Business Award for Sustainability in 2017 at the National Business Awards, UK's most esteemed nationwide business awards. Suranga was also selected by The LDC (supported by the Telegraph, UK) as one of 2018's Top 50 Most Ambitious Business Leaders; where he made it to the top 10 in the category of people powered organizations. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Colombo, a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the Post Graduate Institute of Management of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and is also an Associate Member of CIMA UK. He is also an alumnus of the Harvard Business School having completed the Owner/President Management program (2014-2016).

Moderator

Mr. Moiz Rehmanjee

Group Chief Financial Officer, Hela Clothing

Moiz Rehmanjee serves as Group Chief Financial Officer at Hela Clothing, and Consultant at Rehmanjee & Co. He commands over 20 years of experience including successful tenures in a diverse range of industries and multinational corporations. Moiz has held the position of CEO of SLOGAL Energy DMCC / Consulting Director at LAUGFS Holdings Ltd, and Chief Operating Officer at Teejay Lanka PLC. Having recognised Finance's strategic role in partnering the Business, Moiz has led and partnered teams in areas of long-term Business Strategy Formulation, New Business Development, Supply Chain & Working Capital Management, Brand Development, Production Improvements and IT Projects. He commands vast experience in Finance including almost a decade in SAP cum Shared Services environments, and have handled Corporate Finance, Supply Chain, Investor Relations, Tax Planning, Treasury, Annual Strategic Planning, Group Consolidation & Statutory Reporting, Annual Report Development, IFRS & Compliance, External/Internal Audits, Risk Management & Insurance, Fraud Investigations.

NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

Covid 19 Pandemic is pushing the world towards deep recession. The impact of this recession would be devastating across the world with the economic impacts to some countries and businesses being more severe than others. IMF predicts major setbacks to living standards and warns that extreme poverty is likely to rise for the first time in more than 20 years. Governments across the globe have responded with huge stimulus packages defying all known economic theories. What will be the effect of these bail-out strategies and how will the new economic order play out in the aftermath of Covid 19?

Speaker

Dr. Nishan de Mel

Executive Director and Head of Research, Verité Research Pvt. Ltd

Dr. Nishan de Mel is the Executive Director and Head of Research of Verité Research, a think tank which provides analytical research and advisory services on economic, political and legal issues in Sri Lanka and Asia. He is an economist with extensive academic, policy, and private sector experience. In Sri Lanka, he has served on the Presidential Task Force on Health Sector Reform, the Presidential Committee on Tobacco, Alcohol and Dangerous Drug Regulation, and the National Steering Committee on Social Security. He has also served on the Board of the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, and as the Executive Director of the Sri Lanka Foundation, and the International Centre for Ethnic Studies. Internationally, Nishan has held several governing, teaching, and research positions, including as Lecturer in Economics at the University of Oxford, UK. He has a degree in Economics from Harvard University, USA, and earned his masters and doctoral degrees in Economics at the University of Oxford where he was a Chevening Scholar.

Panelists

Mr. Prabash Subasinghe

Managing Director, Global Rubber Industries (Pvt) Ltd

Prabhash Subasinghe is the Managing Director of Global Rubber Industries (Pvt) Ltd and immediate past chairman of Sri Lanka Export Development Board. He identifies himself as an ambitious and astute entrepreneur, with a charismatic and courageous disposition. Prabhash Subasinghe is the Managing Director of Global Rubber Industries (Pvt) Ltd and the incumbent Chairman / Chief Executive Officer of Sri Lanka Export Development Board. He identifies himself as an ambitious and astute entrepreneur, with a charismatic and courageous disposition. Prabash has a degree in Applied Economics and Business from the Ivy League Cornell University and completed his higher studies at the Harvard Business School, while participating at several programs at INSEAD, the Center for Creative Leadership [CCL], and The London Business School [LBS], among others. He is also the Managing Director of GSF (Global Sea Foods Pvt. Ltd.), a processor and supplier of high-quality seafood to Europe, US and Japan. The Global Group of companies which Prabhash leads has 10 offices globally employing 1200 personnel covering 16 nationalities. His latest entrepreneurial endeavor is Ayenka Holdings, an Investment Company that has a large and diverse portfolio of investments in the Colombo Stock Exchange. He is the past Chairman of the Sri Lanka Association of Manufacturers & Exporters of Rubber Products, past president of Seafood Exporters Association of Sri Lanka and Co-Chair of the National Agenda Committee on Export Development.

Mr. Thulci Aluwihare

Head of Strategy and Business Development, CHEC Port City Colombo (Pvt) Ltd

A reputed business strategist and financial advisor, Thulci Aluwihare is the Head of Strategy and Business Development at CHEC Port City Colombo (Pvt) Ltd. Commanding International experience in corporate wealth creation through investment, divestiture, capital raising and restructuring, along with over 20 years of work experience in London, Melbourne and Colombo, Thulci previously served as the head of Mergers & Acquisitions at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Sri Lanka and Maldives. He spent 14 years with PwC including the PwC office in Melbourne and was involved in large cross border MNC transactions. He was also a driver of a high-performance culture whilst yearning a reputation as the architect of creating a dynamic Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) team at PwC. As a top performer, Thulci was selected to the global PwC panel of trainers for Mergers & Acquisitions and successfully conducted training for newly promoted Managers in the Advisory University Program held in Copenhagen, Stockholm, Dublin, Rome, Warsaw in Poland and Abu Dhabi. Thulci is an Economics graduate from the University of West London, UK and has read for a Master's in Financial Economics from the University of Colombo.

Moderator

Mr. Tishan Subasinghe

Managing Director, Moore Stephens Consulting (Pvt) Ltd,
Chairman, SANASA Insurance Co. Ltd and Director, Amana Bank PLC

Tishan Subasinghe, is the Managing Director of Moore Stephens Consulting (Private) Limited and Joint Managing Partner of Moore Stephens Aiyar. He also serves as the incumbent chairman of SANASA General Insurance Company Limited, and as Director at Amana Bank PLC. A Fellow and Council Member of CA Sri Lanka, previously, Tishan was the Head of Audit and Assurance at BDO Partners. He commands both local and foreign experience, having worked with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Botswana spanning several years. He has also participated in numerous training in the USA, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Malaysia, Indonesia and Rome. At present, he also serves as a Council Member of the University of Moratuwa. As a member of CA Sri Lanka, Tishan has served as the Chair of the Annual Report Awards Committee, National Conference Committee and Examinations Committee. Tishan is a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA-USA) and has an MBA in Finance from the University of Colombo with a Gold Medal and has earned an LLB (Hons.) from the Buckinghamshire New University.

The Perfect Link

The Pandemic has rendered Supply Chain Management, the prime driver of businesses rather than being a behind the scene enabler. This was accentuated by countries realising that they needed to be more independent when it came to meeting their own food security requirements and being less dependent on imports; Sri Lanka was no exception. During these sudden disruptions and changes, the larger players were found to be perhaps too inflexible to respond to the situation whereas the smaller players and SMEs stepped up to the challenge reminding us that it was not only scale and size, but also the ability to be innovative and be flexible that will lead to building successful businesses. 'The Perfect Link' will talk about the future of supply chains and how we should rethink to innovate flexible supply chains with new models.

Speaker

Ms. Gayani de Alwis

Global Chairperson, WiLAT, Immediate Past Chairperson, CILT, Non-Executive Independent Director, Singer Sri Lanka PLC, Management Consultant & Lecturer

Gayani de Alwis is a versatile and impactful Supply Chain Management Professional. Over the illustrious journey at Unilever Sri Lanka, she gained local and international experience in many disciplines such as R&D and Quality Assurance, Customer Service as well as in Supply Chain. At the point of her premature retirement from Unilever to set up her own consulting and lecturing practice she became the First Female Director for Supply Chain, the First Global Lead Auditor from South Asia at Unilever. She is the Global Chairperson of Women in Logistics and Transport (WiLAT) and the Immediate Past Chairperson of Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) and Founding Chairperson and Advisor of WiLAT Sri Lanka. She functions as a Non-Executive Independent Director of Singer Sri Lanka PLC, Director of Logicare Pvt. Ltd, Board Member of Women's Chamber of Industry and Commerce (WCIC) and CSR Sri Lanka Ltd. Her contribution has been recognized with "Women at the Helm Award for Most Outstanding Female Business Leader of the Year" at PIMA National Management Awards, "Distinguished Mentor and Role Model" award from WiLAT Nigeria and Women in Management (WIM) "Top 50 Professional & Career Women Achievement" Gold Award. She has been a Consultant to the World Bank, ADB and many leading blue-chip companies.

Panelists

Mr. Hanif Yusoof

Group Chief Executive Officer, Expolanka Holdings PLC

Hanif Yusoof is the group CEO of Expolanka Holdings PLC, who has played a catalyst role in helping transform Expolanka into a leading multinational in Sri Lanka. He is also the founder and President of EFL - an international supply chain company present in 23 countries, generating USD 750+ million in revenue with operations spanning several continents while leading a team of over 2300 staff. In addition to being a graduate of the Stanford International Management Program, he has served as Past President of the Freight Forwarding Association and was selected by United Nations Agency (UN/ESCAP - United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific) as a trainer and examiner for training courses for the freight forwarding industry. Hanif is an advisor to the government, regulatory authorities & various professional bodies in his standing as an industry expert. He was the recipient of the 'Asia Pacific Entrepreneurship Special Achievement Award' by Enterprise Asia and his other notable achievements include receiving the Governor's award for 'Global Commerce Excellence' in light of his contributions to the Sri Lankan economy by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and receiving the "The Outstanding Young Persons - TOYP Award" in 1998 for his entrepreneurial accomplishments.

Ms. Jayanthi Dharmasena

Managing Director, Hayleys Agriculture Holdings Ltd

Jayanthi Dharmasena is the incumbent Managing Director at Hayleys Agriculture Holdings Ltd. She stakes claim to being the first female to be appointed as Executive Director to the Hayleys PLC Board in the group's 140+ year old history. Jayanthi kicked off her career as an apprentice at Ernst & Young, Colombo, where she was exposed to management and consultancy assignments. Subsequently, she joined the Hayleys Group as a Management Accountant in 1991 and has been in agriculture related businesses throughout her journey with the Group spanning 29 years. She has held senior managerial positions in the Hayleys Agriculture Sector including two years as Deputy Managing Director prior to her appointment as Managing Director of the Sector. Following her promotion to Managing Director of Hayleys Agriculture Holdings Limited, she was also appointed to the Hayleys Group Management Committee with responsibility for the Hayleys Agriculture Sector. Jayanthi is a Fellow of CIMA, UK.

Moderator

Mr. Channa Gunasekera

Finance & Operations Consultant

Channa Gunasekera is an Independent Consultant advising Government and private sector institutions on management, finance, strategy and operations. He is Fellow Member of CA Sri Lanka and has served as a Council Member of CA Sri Lanka. Channa is also a Fellow of CIMA, UK and holds an MBA from the Postgraduate Institute of Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. He commands over 20 years of senior management experience in different organizations across manufacturing, port terminal operations & logistics, banking and services sectors; playing key roles in the functions of finance, strategy, operations, human resources and administration. He has also held the positions of Chief Finance Officer of South Asia Gateway Terminals (Pvt) Ltd and Chief Finance Officer of HSBC for Sri Lanka & Maldives and multiple senior positions at John Keells Holdings PLC.

Adopt Me

The pandemic has accelerated the need to find new ways of working and doing business. Technology is forming the bedrock to navigate this rapid change. Speed, agility and innovation are of paramount importance to survive the next decade. Fast adoption of technology and constantly redesigning the way you do business becomes the art of staying ahead of the curve and most importantly staying relevant to be relevant by finding ways to use technology and future proof your business. The most resilient and winning economies in the post-Covid era will be the ones with the most digitally-ready governments and businesses. Are you ready for the journey to Adopt Me?

Speaker

Mr. Thilak Piyadigama
CEO, SDB bank

Thilak Piyadigama currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of SDB bank counting over 32 years of experience in the Banking and Technology Industries. Prior to SDB bank, he was at Nations Trust Bank, Standard Chartered Bank and John Keells Holdings where he held senior management roles. Thilak has spent a major part of his banking career in Singapore, UAE, UK, and Sri Lanka, and his professional experience span Strategy, Banking Operations, Digital Transformation, Technology, Operational Risk, and Client Service. He is a digital evangelist and was widely credited for launching FriMi, the first digital bank in Sri Lanka. Thilak launched UPay, Sri Lanka's Payment Platform in 2019 for SDB bank. Central Bank of Sri Lanka has appointed him the Chairman of the "Working Group of Financial Institutions to Coordinate Implementation of LANKAQR" across Sri Lanka. At Standard Chartered Bank, he spearheaded the setting up of the bank's operations in Afghanistan and Iran. He played a leadership role in centralization initiatives when Standard Chartered Bank moved operations to hubs in Chennai and Kuala Lumpur. He was also a board member of the Lanka Financial Service Bureau and a Governing Council Member of the National Institute of Business Management (NIBM). He is an Engineer turned Banker and holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration and attended management development programs at INSEAD in France and the London Business School.

Panelists

Mr. Suren Fernando
CEO, MAS Holdings (Pvt) Ltd

Suren Fernando is the Group Chief Executive Officer of MAS Holdings (Pvt) Ltd. Counting over 20 years with MAS, Suren was previously the Chief Transformation Officer of MAS Holdings, overseeing MAS' 2025 transformation. He was also the CEO of MAS Intimates, the largest division of MAS Holdings. Suren holds a BSc. in Engineering from the University of Moratuwa and is a Fellow Member of CIMA UK. He has received extensive overseas business exposure and training, including Executive Education at Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania, INSEAD Business School, and Harvard Business School (Program for Leadership Development). He was bestowed the Silver award for CIMA Business Manager of the Year in 2004 and adjudged winner (Gold Award) of the Chief Financial Officer of the Year, 2007, at the CIMA Janashakthi Pinnacle Awards. Suren was an active member of several working committees of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants Sri Lanka Division, as well as other CSR Project committees, one of which earned him the Certificate of Merit awarded by HelpAge Sri Lanka.

Mr. Nikhil Advani
CEO, AIA Insurance Lanka Limited

Nikhil Advani is the Chief Executive Officer of AIA Insurance Lanka Limited. Prior to taking over as CEO, Nikhil led the functions of Customer Strategy, Transformation and Marketing of the company. He was also responsible for Product and Customer Management, Brand and Communications, Channel and Digital Marketing, Analytics and Corporate Solutions. He has been a part of AIA Insurance Lanka Limited since 2016 and was responsible for the Company's new life insurance product portfolio and expanded footprint in the health market. Nikhil has almost 25 years' experience in insurance and financial industries and has been a part of AIA Group since 2011. Prior to joining AIA Group, Nikhil worked in senior roles at New York Life, Genworth Financial and Jackson National Life in the USA and ICICI Prudential Asset Management in India. He holds a Masters' in Business Administration from Columbia University, USA and a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce from the University of Bombay, India.

Ms. Jayomi Lokuliyana
Co-Founder / Chief Executive Officer, zMessenger (Pvt) Ltd, Chairperson, MYMED International (Pvt) Ltd, Chairperson, Women's Chamber for Digital Sri Lanka

Jayomi Lokuliyana is a multiple award-winning entrepreneur, startup evangelist, promoter of female entrepreneurship and marketing strategist. She is the Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of zMessenger (Pvt) Ltd, which has emerged as one of Sri Lanka's most innovative companies. She is also the incumbent Chairperson of the Women's Chamber for Digital Sri Lanka, a cabinet approved entity to increase women participation across the digital economy. Jayomi is the recipient of multiple awards and was also recognized as Ernst & Young Entrepreneurial Winning Women Asia Pacific 2019 and in 2018, she was honored with the Outstanding Women Entrepreneur (Gold Category) for her exceptional achievements in the field of entrepreneurship at the Top 50 Professional and Career Women Awards. She is also a recipient of the Women Icons (Asia) Awards in Singapore and was awarded South Asia's Best Female Entrepreneur of the Year by the South Asian Business Partnership and Woman Entrepreneur of the Year by the Women Chamber of Industry and Commerce Sri Lanka and was recognised as Echelon's 40 Under 40 Business Innovators. In 2020, Jayomi was awarded 'Class of 2020 Women to Watch' from Essence and Campaign Asia Pacific. She earned her Master of Business Administration from the Postgraduate Institute of Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and a Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing from Chartered Institute of Marketing-UK.

Moderator

Mr. Naresh Abeysekara
Founder / Chief Executive Officer, SECQUORO

Naresh Abeysekara is an Entrepreneur and Founder/CEO of SECQUORO, a business transformation and implementation company specializing in Transformation Strategy, Digital & Technology and Finance with innovation at its core. Naresh was the Group CFO of MillenniumIT, that revolutionized global capital markets having developed the "World's Fastest Trading Technology" powering majority of global equity trading venues in 40 countries operating across 4 continents. He was also a member of the global leadership team of the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG). Naresh was recognised as one of the youngest CFOs of a USD 100 million+ entity and was instrumental in the transformation and listing of one of South Asia's largest manufacturing Companies recognized by Forbes among the "200 Best in Asia." He also co-founded the Institute of Internal Auditors Chapter to strengthen the risk and governance knowledge framework in the country. He was appointed in February 2020 as a Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC). Naresh is a Fellow of CA Sri Lanka, Chartered Management Accountant (UK), Chartered Global Management Accountant (UK) and holds an MBA from the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM).

Financial Integrity in Uncertain Times

Faithfully representing the future consequences of our business decisions, in monetary terms, involves striking a balance between doing what is convenient and doing what is right. In times of normalcy, it is not so hard to achieve. But in an abnormal time such as what we are going through due to the pandemic, information available to make decisions keeps on changing. Striking the right balance has therefore become increasingly challenging. In this session, we will deliberate on how Chartered Accountants should maintain financial integrity and sustain the reliability of information reported to stakeholders, however volatile the business environment poses to be.



Speaker

Mr. Manil Jayasinghe

President, CA Sri Lanka and Senior Partner, Ernst & Young Sri Lanka

Manil Jayasinghe is the incumbent President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka). Counting over 36 years of extensive experience, he is the Head of Assurance/Senior Partner, Professional Practice Director, in charge of Banking and Financial Services Practice of Ernst & Young, Sri Lanka. Manil is a Fellow Member of CA Sri Lanka and CIMA UK and a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy. At present, he serves as a Board Member and as Chairman of Accounting Standards Committee of the South Asian Federation of Accountants. He is also a Board Member of the Sri Lanka Accounting & Auditing Standards Monitoring Board (SLAASMB). Manil is a Commissioner in the Capacity of Ex-Officio of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC). Manil is also a Council Member of CMA Sri Lanka and a consultant to the Audit Committees of Listed Companies. He is the incumbent Chairman of the Statutory Accounting Standards Committee, and Member of the Statutory Auditing Committee among several others at CA Sri Lanka.



Mr. David Matthews

President, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

David Matthews is the incumbent President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). In addition to being a Council member since 2010, his work with the ICAEW has included membership of the Professional Standards Board (2011-2012) and of the Technical Strategy Board (2012-2018), including as chair since 2013. He recently retired from KPMG where he worked since graduating from the London School of Economics in 1982. He qualified in 1985 and became a partner in 1996, working primarily with large multinational organizations which have included AstraZeneca, Bunzl, Diageo, Cadbury, Eurotunnel, Johnson Matthey, United Biscuits and VT Group. Whilst at KPMG, he held a number of management roles, including a member of both the Board and Executive Committee of KPMG in the UK (2012-2018) and Head of Accounting Advisory Services (2008-2011). Beyond the ICAEW, David was previously a member of the Working Group and Technical Task Force of the International Integrated Reporting Committee and responsible for KPMG's relationships with Tomorrow's Company and the Directors' Forum. He is also a Court Assistant of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, a Justice of the Peace and a trustee of the Treloar Trust.

Moderator



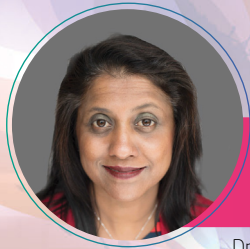
Ms. Nilanthi Sivapragasam

Chief Financial Officer, Aitken Spence PLC

Nilanthi Sivapragasam is the Chief Financial Officer of Aitken Spence PLC, a diversified blue-chip conglomerate listed on the Colombo Stock Exchange. She is a member of the Supervisory Board of the Group and is the Joint Managing Director of Colombo International Nautical and Engineering College (Pvt) Ltd, the largest maritime campus in South Asia, and a Director of several subsidiary and joint venture companies in the Group. She is also the Managing Director of Aitken Spence Corporate Finance (Pvt) Ltd. She is a Fellow Member of both CA Sri Lanka and CIMA UK, and is currently a Board Member of the Taxation Steering Committee and the Accounting Standards and Regulatory Reporting Steering Committee of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and also serves on the Tax Faculty and Financial Reporting Standards Implementation and Interpretation Committee of CA Sri Lanka. She is also a Board Member of Global Compact Network Ceylon (Guarantee) Ltd. Nilanthi was formerly on the Board of CIMA Sri Lanka Division, the Statutory Accounting and Auditing Standards Committees of CA Sri Lanka and a Council Member of the Sri Lanka Institute of Directors. She also served as a Board Member of the Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards Monitoring Board, until 2019. She is a Director of Women and Media Collective, a non-governmental organization involved in the empowerment of women.

The Most Valuable Resource?

Covid19 is a catalyst to reinvent the way we work, and organisations across the world have been forced to transform their workplaces in ways they never considered before. Working from home (WFH) is more a reality than ever before, but not every job can be performed remotely. Companies are at a crossroad; those that come up with the right policies and practices to enable new ways of working will be able to attract and retain the right talent while those that fail to change will be left behind. Reskilling of employees, changing leadership and management competencies, building a culture of trust and openness are some of the areas that companies will need to focus on in this context. In this session we will discuss the challenges faced by companies due to the pandemic and how they are adapting to the future dynamics of work.



Speaker

Dr. Archana Arcot

Associate Vice President, Head of Client Business & Talent Integration,
Infosys McCamish Systems LLC

Dr. Archana Arcot brings more than 20+ years of Global HR experience and has widespread expertise in leading large scale People Transition (M&As, Rebadge, BOT Model) programs and has extensively worked in the BPM/BPM & Platform Industry for the last 15+ years. Archana has a proven track record in establishing and leading International HR/People organizations across USA (Puerto Rico), Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico & Brazil, India, Sri Lanka & Romania. More recently she is leading a large-scale People Integration & Transformation program for a Hi-Tech Client across USA, Dublin (Ireland), Manila (Philippines) and Singapore. Archana has successfully directed a global HR team in a leadership role for over 10+ years and she has comprehensive experience in providing leadership in developing and executing people & talent strategy and HR transformation aligned to strategic priorities of the organization. She holds a Doctoral Program in Human Resources, MBA in Human Resources and holds a Global Professional Human Resources (GPHR) certification. Archana has successfully completed Stanford Leadership Certification (USA) and INSEAD (France) Management Development Program.

Panelists



Mr. Mahendra Jayasekera

Managing Director, Lanka Tiles PLC

Mahendra Jayasekera is the Managing Director of Lanka Tiles PLC, Lanka Walltiles PLC, Lanka Ceramic PLC and Swisstek (Ceylon) PLC, which are all listed on the Colombo Stock Exchange. He is also the Managing Director of Swisstek Aluminium Limited. Mahendra serves on the Boards of HNB Assurance PLC and Unidil Packaging Limited. He is the incumbent Chairman of the Cost & Management Accounting Standards Board of the Institute of Certified Management Accountants of Sri Lanka and serves as a Council Member of the Employers' Federation of Ceylon and CA Sri Lanka. He is also a Past President of the Sri Lanka Ceramics & Glass Council. A Fellow Member of CA Sri Lanka, Mahendra also holds a Honors Degree in Business Administration from the University of Sri Jayawardenapura.



Ms. Chandi H. Dharmaratne

Vice President Human Resources, Virtusa (Pvt) Ltd

Chandi Dharmaratne is the Vice President - Human Resources at Virtusa (Pvt) Ltd. She has held the position of Board Director at multiple professional bodies such as LAN, AMCHAM, SLASSCOM and AHRP. She earned her Bachelor's at the California State University, Los Angeles in Business and Economics and has participated in the executive education program by INSEAD.



Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri

Director/ Chairman of the Board of Management,
Postgraduate Institute of Management

Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri is the Director and Chairman of the Board of Management of Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM), University of Sri Jayawardenepura. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Price College of Business of the University of Oklahoma, USA. Prof. Dharmasiri is a Past President of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM) and was a Vice President of the Asia Pacific Federation of Human Resource Management (APFHRM). He is also the editor of the pioneering Sri Lankan Journal of Management (SLJM). Prof. Dharmasiri is a conference speaker, corporate trainer, strategy consultant, author and an academic. He has a rare combination of being a Chartered HR professional, Chartered Electrical Engineer, and a Chartered fellow member of the Management Institute (CMI), UK. He is a Commonwealth AMDISA Doctoral Fellow, Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellow, and a Commonwealth Postdoctoral Fellow. Prof. Dharmasiri is also an independent director at several boards and serves in several governing councils. He carries three decades of private and public sector experience including at Unilever and Nestle, with consultancy engagements in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Moderator



Ms. Shyamali Kirinde

Senior Manager - Strategic Services, Brandix Apparel Ltd

Shyamali Kirinde is the Senior Manager – Strategic Services overseeing the Accenture Brandix partnership, managing process transitions and providing overall governance on the outsourced operations. She is a Fellow Member of CA Sri Lanka and a Fellow of ACCA, UK, and holds an MBA from the University of Southern Queensland. Shyamali counts for over 15 years of experience in outsourcing having worked as both service provider and client across different organizations. She kicked off her career at KPMG and has worked as an Assistant Vice President at WNS Global Services and then at BPO Connect, Australia playing key roles in client management, transitions, finance and administration.

Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



Print Media Partners



Electronic Media Partners



Reservations: Dale Peterson

Tel: (+94 11) 2352081

Email: caconference@casrilanka.org

For more info: <http://caconference.casrilanka.com>

*Conference format - Virtual