

### **Business School confers graduates with MBAs and Postgraduate diplomas at 2011 Convocation**

It was an evening of great accomplishment for 135 graduates who were conferred with Masters Degrees and Postgraduate Diplomas by the CA Business School at a gala event held at the Cinnamon Lakeside, Colombo recently.

For 74 professionals, the 2011 business School Convocation will go down as an important day in their life as they were conferred with Masters in Business Administration, from the University of Southern Queensland, while another 61 graduates were awarded Postgraduate Diplomas in Business and Financial Administration conducted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka.

The evening was further boosted with the presence of Prof. Allon Layton, the Dean of Business and Law and Pro Vice Chancellor at University of Southern Queensland who flew specially to Sri Lanka from Australia to grace the occasion as the Chief Guest while Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer of Chevron Lubricants Lanka PLC, Mr. Kishu Gomes was the guest of honour.

Chairman of the business School, Mr. Yohan Perera in his welcome address disclosed that 250 students were following the USQ MBA conducted at the Business School.

He noted that the business school was also exploring opportunities to launch other programmes with USQ.

Mr. Perera emphasized that apart from its courses offered at the Institute, the Business School has also recognized the need of the corporate sector and conducted various high level programmes such as the recently concluded leadership programme with INSEAD and various business valuation workshops with AMBA Research.

“This is just the beginning and we will strive to continue to assist the leaders of the corporate sector with more thought provoking programmes in the future,” he added.

The Institute’s President Mr. Sujeewa Mudalige in his speech emphasized that the Institute and USQ has enjoyed an extraordinary relationship for almost ten years.

He noted that good times were ahead for post war Sri Lanka which is seeing huge opportunities following the ending of the war.

“When countries in the West are struggling for survival, Sri Lanka has been insulated and have not been affected by the crisis facing US and EU countries,” he noted.

He added that optimism and enthusiasm was mounting following the announcement by President Mahinda Rajapaksa that Sri Lanka has discovered gas off Mannar. “For you graduates, these are huge opportunities, the time is here for you to dream big,” Mr. Mudalige

said.

Chief Guest Prof. Allon Layton in his address declared that USQ's partnership with the Institute was the most successful partnership it enjoyed. "We are happy to partner with CA Sri Lanka, our partnership with the Institute is successful in every dimension and we are happy to partner with a country which has everything going good for it," he noted.

He added that USQ was happy to partner with CA Sri Lanka to contribute to the development of the country by providing the required qualifications for professionals in Sri Lanka.

Guest of Honour, Kishu Gomes commended the Institute for taking the initiative to generate truly qualified professionals to the country.

Addressing the graduates, he said, "the world is going to be a more challenging place to live, there will be greater challenges ahead and if you are to achieve your life aspirations, you have to take on these challenges to succeed in your ambitions."

The evening was wrapped up with a vote of thanks delivered by the Institute Vice President Mr. Sujeewa Rajapakse who urged the graduates to continue to study despite the completing of their Masters Degrees and Postgraduate Diplomas.

"Study and learning are part of a lifelong journey, and you should not stop your knowledge gathering exercise but continue in this endeavor."

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