



SESSION 1: INNOVATION IN ACTION

Synopsis

The manufacturing sector has undergone a tumultuous decade: developing economies leaped into the first tier of manufacturing nations, a severe recession choked off demand, and manufacturing employment fell at an accelerated rate in advanced economies. Yet, manufacturing remains critically important to both the developing and the advanced world. In the developing world, it continues to provide a pathway from agriculture to increased income levels and improved living standards. In the advanced world, it remains a vital source for innovation and competitiveness, contributing to research & development, exports, and productivity growth. Innovation involves constant rejuvenation and effective market creation. This session focuses on the evolution of the manufacturing sector, stemming from innovation, and how innovation could help Sri Lanka take itself to the next level in terms of manufacturing.

Speaker



Rohan Pallewatta
Executive Chairman
Lanka Harness Co., (Pvt) Ltd

Rohan Pallewatta an Attorney at Law by profession also holds a B.A. (English Special) and a MBA from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. He is presently the Executive Chairman of Lanka Harness Co., (Pvt) Ltd., the core business of which is the manufacturing of impact sensors for automobile airbags and seat belts for world-renowned automobile manufacturers. The quality requirement of this product is 1 PPM; which means only a single defect would be tolerated for a million produced. The uniqueness of this organization is that this is the first time that Sri Lanka has entered the international market with a 1-PPM quality product. Last financial year the company recorded a turnover of USD 38

million. The Junior Chamber International in 2006 awarded Mr. Pallewatta the most prestigious TOYP in the category of Business and Entrepreneurial accomplishment. In May 2013 Mr. Pallewatta was conferred the PLATINUM HONOUR by the alumni of the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM) affiliated to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for his lifetime contribution to management excellence. Mr. Pallewatta's most recent appointment is as the Director of Recently incorporated State Resources Management Corporation. A product of St. Anthony's College, Kandy was the College Head Prefect in the year 1987.

Panelists



B R L Fernando
Chairman
CIC Holdings

Mr. B.R.L. Fernando is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka having qualified in 1970. In 1973 he joined Browns Group as an Accountant and moved to CIC Holdings PLC [formerly Chemical Industries (Colombo) PLC] in March 1977. In 1980, he was invited to join the Board of CIC Holdings PLC. He functioned as the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the company from 1988 to 1995. In April 1995, he was appointed Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the company. He relinquishes his Executive role with effect from 1 April 2009 and continues as Non-Executive Chairman of the CIC Holdings PLC Group.



Prof. Ajith De Alwis
Project Director
Coordinating Secretariat
for Science, Technology
and Innovation, (COSTI)
Sri Lanka

He is a Professor at the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering at the University of Moratuwa and is the Director of the University of Moratuwa-Cargills Food Process Development Incubator. He was also the Science team leader for Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLINTEC) from its inception in 2008 to 2011. He served in several national policy formulation sub committees – Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, e-waste etc. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences Sri Lanka. He is currently the Project Director of recently instituted Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI) Sri Lanka.