



SESSION 2: LEADING INNOVATION

Synopsis

Innovation and leadership are closely related. Visionary leaders establish fertile grounds within organisations for innovative ideas to originate and flourish. They play a key role in getting rid of the innovation stifles - heavy bureaucracy and hurdles, risk averseness or loading people with so much work that they barely have time to think, let alone envisioning something new. Innovation springs from a culture that encourages everyone to come forth with new ideas. Effective leaders are able to inculcate trust amongst employees, enabling improvement in communication and acceleration of productivity, as attention is redirected towards team objectives. Trust would boost employee confidence enabling a culture to induce innovation. This session highlights the role of leadership in driving innovation.

Speaker



Dr. Young-Tzung Shih
Senior Manager
3M Corporate Research Laboratory
Singapore

Dr Y.T. Shih is currently Head of 3M's Corporate Research Laboratory for Singapore and South East Asia. Before he was assigned to 3M Singapore in Jan. 2013, Dr. Shih spent 30 years of his professional career in US and Korea laboratory operation for 3M, known as one of the most innovative global companies. Notably, Dr. Shih led the technical development and business success of 3M Respiratory Protection Products in the personal safety market. Dr. Shih's vast experience in new product development and commercialization and responsibility in building sustainable laboratory operation, has established his specialty and credibility in creating new product platform, business and R&D strategy development, technology leverage and transfer, merging acquisition due diligent and integration, building international and cross functional virtual operation. Most importantly, Dr Shih has

a strong passion for building a working culture around innovation and maximizing employee engagement. Dr. Y.T. Shih grew up in Taiwan, and received his Ph.D. degree in Chemistry from the University of Minnesota.

Panelists



Jayantha De Silva
Vice President IFS
South Asia,
Managing Director
IFS Sri Lanka

Jayantha De Silva holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Systems, University of Washington D.C. and is a Chartered IT Practitioner (CITP). He is a Fellow of British Computer Society (BCS) and was the Past Chairman BCS, was also, Past Chairman of Software Export Association Sri Lanka (SEA). Currently he is the Vice Chairman of Sri Lanka Association of Software & Services Companies (SLASSCOM). He received the BCS Most Outstanding Contribution Award in 2011. He has won the Most Valuable Player Award of IFS consecutively for two years for his innovative contributions and strategic initiatives for the growth of IFS.



Deepal Sooriyaarachchi
Commissioner
Sri Lanka Inventors
Commission

Having started his career as a sales clerk after thirty years of work life, he left the full time employment as the Managing Director of AVIVA NDB, which is now AIA. He currently serves on its board and the boards of Sampath Bank, Pan Asian Power, Hemas Manufacturing as a Non-Executive Independent Director. He also functions as the Commissioner of Sri Lanka Inventors Commission He has given leadership to a number of national level initiatives to promote innovativeness in the country during the last two years since he was appointed the commissioner. He also serves on the Council of the University of Kelaniya, and National Administrative Reforms Commission.