



OPA News

The e-magazine of The Organization of Professional Associations of Sri Lanka

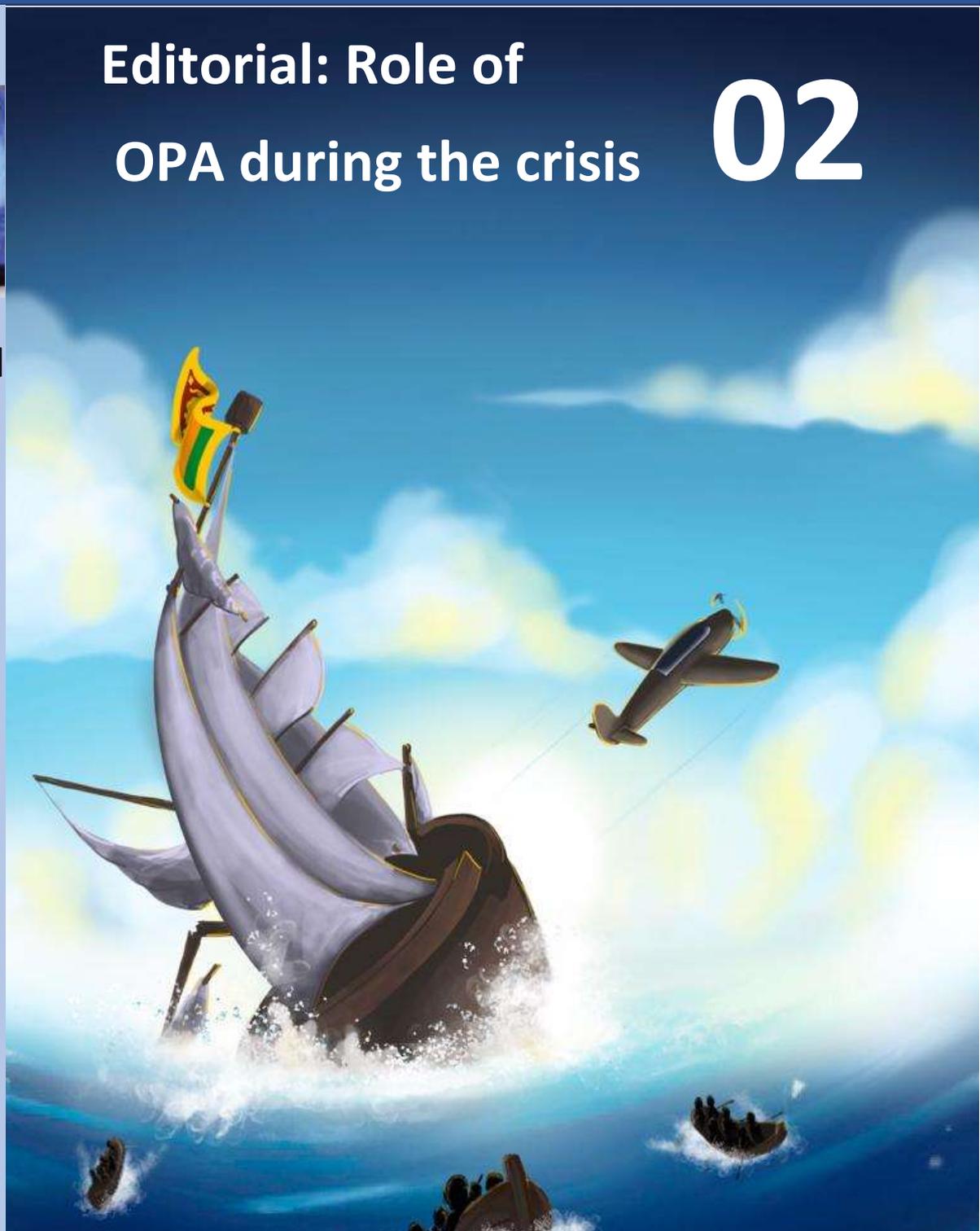
Editorial: Role of OPA during the crisis 02



03 OPA Annual
Conference



12 Seminar
on
Taxation



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OPA News

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Editor's Note



Sri Lanka is going through turbulent times. With the worst economic crisis since its independence in 1948, the nation has defaulted, with its foreign-currency debt rating falling to “selective default”. With the recently introduced tax revision, the burden of the economic crisis will be borne by low-and middle-income households.

Constitutional dilemmas and political instability is far from over. The growing discontent among all sectors is palpable, often spilling out as public protests. Using brute force and draconian rules to curb such public protests without addressing the root cause is often counterproductive. Many professionals are considering migration due to concerns regarding the uncertain political and economic environment.

The dark cloud over Sri Lanka has silver lines too. This is an opportunity to balance Sri Lanka’s foreign policy to be within the global rules-based order and to inculcate

more objective and prudent financial standards. Sri Lanka has an opportunity to re-embrace the democratic values lost due to autocratic manoeuvres in the past and re-democratise the nation’s processes and institutions.

The OPA can play a leading role towards guiding the nation through an advocacy role during this national crisis. Member associations can contribute by generating ideas, solutions, and active contributions. It’s commendable that the OPA has issued several media statements and conducted over 20 well attended seminars relevant to the current situation. However, there is much more to be done. To fulfil the advocacy role during the current crisis, the OPA needs rise to the occasion as an authority recognized by society; an apex organisation sanctioned by the broader community and the public. This recognition can only be achieved by OPA by becoming the unbiased voice, based on a scientific approach, equity, and social justice. The OPA has a golden opportunity to contribute in the best possible manner to guide Sri Lanka away from this turbulent situation.

*Prof. Indika Karunathilake
Editor-in- Chief*

The 35th Annual Conference of the OPA

The 35th Annual Conference was held on 16th and 17th August 2022 at the Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel, Colombo. The theme of the conference was “Expanding the Legal Horizon for Effecting Economic Growth”. Ms Ruchira Gunasekara, Conference Chair and President Elect of the OPA expressed that, “The theme of the conference presents a unique canvas to consider the need for the Economic Growth within the Good Governance framework promoting and challenging the professionals and the general public in the present-day context”. The logo of the conference symbolized the eight precepts enshrined with Good Governance and Participation, Rule of Law, Transparency, Responsiveness, Consensus Oriented, Equity and Inclusiveness, Effectiveness and Efficiency, and Accountability.

The technical sessions were held on the second day commencing at 9.00 a.m. under the following six sub-areas.

1. Alternative dispute resolution methods with special reference to arbitration and local construction approach sustainable economy.

2. Elimination of obstacles to foreign direct investment, good governance, and minimizing of corruption for economic growth.
3. A holistic view on National Food Policy, agricultural practices with health and nutrition for a healthier nation.
4. Supply chain, manufacturing, and entrepreneurship.
5. Finance & accounting, labour law, taxation, incentives.
6. In the energy sector, innovation with career guidance and skills development



Media briefing



Address by the Chief Guest

The 3rd National Apex Awards Ceremony

The 3rd National Apex Awards Ceremony was held simultaneously with the inauguration of the conference. Hon. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe graced the occasion as the Chief Guest whilst the Speaker of the Parliament, Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena was the Guest of Honour. Sri Lanka Conventions Bureau, Sri Lanka Institute of Bankers, Commercial Bank and National Savings Bank were the main sponsors of the event.



Awardees with the Chief Guest and the Organizing Committee

OPA News in General

Meeting with the Hon. Prime Minister

A meeting with the then Prime Minister, Hon. Ranil Wickramasinghe took place on 28th May 2022 at the Prime Minister's Office. Key Office Bearers of the OPA including President Mr. Dulitha Perera, President-Elect Ms. Ruchira Gunasekera, General Secretary Eng. Upali Jayawardena, Treasurer Mr. Bandula Gamarachchi, Past President Mr. Ruwan Gallage, and Member of the Committee Mr. Y.R. Karunaratne, were present at the meeting. The initial proposals as well as additional proposals were handed over to the Prime Minister and his Secretary. The discussion was followed by presentation of OPA proposals.

Proposals were on Development and Sustenance of Foreign Exchange-based sectors of Sri Lanka and to address Sri Lanka's agriculture and food production crisis.



The OPA Delegation at Prime Minister's Office

Meet the Minister

Programme

The Third "Meet the Minister Programme with the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Mahinda Amaraweera, took place on 16th June 2022 at the Ministry. The recently concluded UNHRC meeting, and Sri Lanka's situation were the focus of the discussion.

Video available online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZX5-Ed1cBM>

Meeting with Hon. Minister of Labour, Manusha Nanayakkara,

The OPA has called for the recognition of part-timers in labour laws and regulations in Sri Lanka. Proposals to this effect were handed over to Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment, Mr Manusha Nanayakkara by OPA President Dulitha Perera on 14th of September 2022. The OPA Proposals were formulated by the Career Guidance and Skills Development Committee led by Vice President Eng. Ravi Rupasinghe and ably supported by Past President Dr. Lalith Wijethunga.

Overall, the OPA Proposal comprised the following recommendations.

1. Introduce part-time jobs in all sectors (public and private sector) for everybody including employed workers and students who are involved with higher studies, amending existing labour legislation
2. Superannuation, payments/terminal benefits/maternity benefits shall not be enforced for part-time employees
3. All part-time employees should have their insurance as a prerequisite.
4. Students below 18 years but over 16 years are to be limited to the maximum duration for part-time work as 20 hours per week and a maximum of five hours from 08.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. during the day
5. All employed people shall be limited to 20 hours of work per week and limited to 4 hours per day as a part-time employment
6. All undergraduates shall be limited to 30 hours per week and limited to 5 hours per day
7. All permanently unemployed and over 18 years of age can be employed 35

hours per week, limited to 5 hours per day

8. New labour legislation to be introduced and proper mechanisms to monitor the situation
9. Independent Government body to be nominated to monitor the part-time employment practices
10. All part-time workers are to be registered at the body allocated by the Government (DOL or NAITA or any other organization) and shall be given a separate registration number and system to be computerized
11. Their income shall be considered for income tax considering earnings per annum



OPA Delegation handing over the proposal

Unveiling of the Portrait of the 39th President of OPA, Mr. Saman Warusavithana

The portrait of Mr. Saman Warusavithana, 39th President of OPA was unveiled on 29th April 2022 at the OPA auditorium by Dr. Supriya Warusavithana. The Chief Guest of the event was Professor Saman Seneweera, University of Melbourne, and Former Director of the National Institute of Fundamental Studies, Sri Lanka. Mr. Saman Warusavithana represents the Sri Lanka Institute of Agriculture and served the Forum since 2008. He was the General Secretary of the OPA in 2017, and elected President for the year 2020.



Unveiling of the Portrait of the 40th President of OPA, Eng. Shantha Senarath

The portrait of Eng. Shantha Senarath, the 40th President of the OPA, was unveiled on Thursday, 28th July 2022 following the Executive Council Meeting. Eng. Shantha Senarath served the OPA as the President in 2021.

A brief ceremony was held at the OPA auditorium attended by the President, President Elect, General Secretary, the Treasurer, EXCO members, Eng. Shantha Senarath and his spouse accompanied by their family members. Dr. T.A.G. Gunasekara, former Chairman of the State Engineering Corporation, and former Director of the Institute of Technology of the University of Moratuwa graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The function was followed by the dinner hosted by Eng. Shantha Senarath and his spouse.



Workshops and Seminars

Seminar on “Way Forward for Uninterrupted, Blackout Free Power System for the Country”

A joint hybrid seminar with the member association, Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL), was held on 27th April 2022 at the OPA Auditorium. The speakers were General Manager of Lanka Electricity Company, Dr. Narendra De Silva and the Deputy Director General of Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority, Eng. Harsha Wickramasinghe. The session was moderated by Former Additional General Manager of Ceylon Electricity Board, Eng. Bandula Sirimewan Thilaksena and the Vice President of the OPA, Eng. Saman Kandanearachchi. The seminar focused on the lack of national policies, and guidelines in the energy sector and non implementation of existing policies .

Video of the seminar available online:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxx9NKOKdHU>



Resource Persons at the head table during the seminar

Webinar on “Current Economic Crisis and Industry Challenges”

The joint webinar on “Current Economic Crisis and Industry Challenges” in collaboration with Committees on National Issues, Development and Sustenance of Foreign Currency Based Sectors of Sri Lanka, and Seminars, Workshops, and Programmes Committee was held on 08th June 2022 at the OPA Auditorium. The speakers were the Past President of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects, Mr. D.H. Wijewardena, Director/Investment Appraisal Department at the Board of Investment (BoI), Mr. Ranjith Dharamsiri, Former Member Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera and OPA Past President Mr. Ruwan Gallage while Dr. Keerthi Attananayke was the moderator. The resource personnel mainly focused on how the economic crisis has affected the health, construction, and apparel sectors. They further elaborated on burning national issues such as inadequate foreign reserves, lack of ability to fulfil necessities such as fuel, electricity, medicines, and gas, how the crisis has affected the importation and exportation of goods and services, and finally its impact on the people. They also stressed their responsibility as professionals

to find out the real picture of this crisis and to suggest corrective actions to the higher authorities.

Available on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zgTC5N-gE>

Press conference on “Road Accidents - Save Lives Save Fuel”

The National Security, Law, and Order Committee conducted the press conference on “Road Accidents- Save Lives Save Fuel” was held on 7th July 2022 at the OPA Auditorium.

Webinar on “Social Media Presence and Your Personality”

A webinar on “Social Media Presence and Your Personality” was held in collaboration with the Seminars Workshops and Programmes Committee, and the Career Guidance and Skills Development Committee on 5th August 2022 at 6.00 p.m. The speaker was Marketing Management Consultant/Trainer Dr. Dhanesh Jayathilake, and the session was moderated by Dr. Ruwan Rekogama. The speaker discussed how social media links to professional backgrounds and the importance of

professional behaviour on these platforms. He further elaborated on the importance of being mindful when using social media, how to build one’s personality on social media, and what etiquette to be maintained in social media space.

Available on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFyD0jbGC8Q>

Webinar on "Complexity, Science, and Technology in Economic Development"



Resource Persons at the head table during the seminar

The joint webinar on "Complexity, Science, and Technology in Economic Development" was held on 19th August 2022 at 6.00 p.m. in collaboration with the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon (ICChemC). The speaker was the Senior Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Gamini Rajapakse. The session was

moderated by Senior Lecturer at IChemC, Dr. A.A. Keerthi. President of the OPA Sri Lanka, Dulitha Perera, President of IChemC, C.N.M.S. Hettigedara, General Secretary of the OPA Eng. Upali Jayawardena and many other distinguished guests attended the hybrid webinar. Prof. Rajapakshe discussed ways and means of adopting new technologies to add value to local products to improve export earnings. He addressed this matter against the backdrop of an unprecedented economic crisis, encountered by the country. Prof. Rajapakshe, as an inventive researcher discussed a few breakthroughs pioneered by his teams, such as technologies that could be used for value addition. Anti-microbial apparel, the Respirone Nano AV 99 face mask, and the use of 3D printing to treat skeletal system-related disorders and injuries, were a few developments among many, despite all hurdles faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. He brought forth answers to real-life crises faced by mankind and highlighted the limitations and challenges experienced by Sri Lankan innovators when reaching the commercial market to sell their products.

Available on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvsku8kcYBM&t=658s>

“Way Forward – OPA View on the Agriculture Issues in the Country”

The sector committee on Land Management consisting of Chairman Mr. Jayatilaka, Mr. Ruwan Gallage, Mr. Saman Warusavithana, Dr. Nimal Kumarasinghe, Mr. Nelson de Silva, Dr. Thilina Wanigasekera, Mr. Ajith Gunasekera, Mr. Rajindh Perera, and Mr. Asley de Vos had a very successful year as detailed in a press conference on the “Way Forward - OPA view on Agriculture” on 27th May 2022, followed up by a document which was presented to the Government. This document was personally handed over to the Prime Minister at that time and to the Minister of Agriculture, who was invited to the program “Meet the Minister”.

Webinar on the “Way Forward on Human-Elephant Conflict”



A Webinar on the “Way Forward on Human-Elephant Conflict” organized by the Land Sector Committee was held on 2nd August 2022. Resource persons were former World Bank Lead Environmental Specialist for the South Asian Region, Dr. Sumith Pilapitiya, Senior Professor at University of Colombo, Prof. Devaka Weekoon, and Director Operations at Wildlife Conservation Department, Mr. Ranjan Marasinghe who shared their expertise. Syr. Sarath Jayathilake moderated the session. The discussion focused on land management, environment, and agriculture, which are directly involved in trying to achieve a sustainable solution to the conflict.

Available on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGNqQbDII-U>

Seminar on Latest Tax Reforms in Sri Lanka

A hybrid seminar organized by the Career Guidance and Skills Development Committee, and Seminars, Workshops and Programme Committee of the OPA was held on 3rd October 2022 at 6.00 p.m. The keynote speaker was Chairman of the Faculty of Taxation, CA Sri Lanka, Mr. Tishan

Subasinghe. Speakers were the Managing Partner of the Ranaweera Associates and Assent Advisory Partners (Pvt) Ltd, Mr. Athula Ranaweera, Founder and Partner at Gajma and Company, Mr. N. R. Gajendran, and Principal of Tax and Regulatory at KPMG, Mr. Suresh R. I. Perera. The session was moderated by the OPA Member of the Executive Council, Mr. Amila Sugathapala and the President of the OPA, Mr. Dulitha Perera. The focus of the discussion was how short-term recovery actions ensure the support of the IMF, and address long-term National Economic Policies through long-term plans which are imperative to bring macroeconomic stability. However, they highlighted that clear policy backing is needed by industrialists to increase domestic production for the country’s survival and development.

Seminar on “Solar Energy Solutions to High-Cost Electricity and Power Cuts”

A hybrid seminar in collaboration with the Engineers Guild of Sri Lanka, Career Guidance and Skills Development Committee, and Seminars, Workshops and Programme Committee of the OPA was held on “Solar Energy Solutions to High Cost

Electricity and Power Cuts”. The hybrid seminar took place on 30th August 2022.



Head table during the seminar



Felicitation of resource persons

Seminar on “HR as a Resilient force to rebuild the Sri Lankan Economy”

The Seminars and Workshops Programmes Committee in collaboration with Career Guidance and Skills Development Committee organized a Seminar on “HR as a Resilient force to rebuild the Sri Lankan Economy’. The seminar was held on 28th September 2022 at the Auditorium of the OPA. Speakers were Mr. P. Weerasinghe, Vice President, CIPM Sri Lanka, Mr. Dammika Fernando, Past President, CIPM

SL, and the seminar was moderated by Mr. Ken Vijayakumar. President of CIPM.



Seminar on “One Year to Lead”

The Career Guidance and Skills Development Committee organized a Seminar on “One Year to Lead”, which was held on 30th September 2022 at the auditorium of the OPA. The seminar was conducted by Dr. Sunil Abeyratne, Attorney-at-Law, Eng. Granie Jayalath, Vice President, Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka. Moderation was by Eng. Ravi Rupasinghe, Chairman, Career Guidance and Skills Development Committee.



During the workshop

Seminar on “From CXO to CEO – How Digital Finance Helps”

A seminar was organized by the Career Guidance and Skills Development committee in collaboration with CIMA Sri Lanka titled “From CXO to CEO – How Digital Finance Helps”. The seminar took place on 13th October 2022.

FROM CXO TO CEO - HOW DIGITAL FINANCE HELPS
Organized by Career Guidance & Skills Development Committee in Collaboration with CIMA Sri Lanka

Speakers:

- Mr. Channa Gunawardana**, Chief Executive Officer, Bankable Finance PLC, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
- Ms. Zahara Ansary**, Senior Manager, CIMA Sri Lanka
- Ms. Rothanie Moraes**, Chief Executive Officer, Lark National Products Pvt Ltd
- Mr. Chathushika De Alwis**, President & Founder, Professional Business & Thought Leadership

Moderator:

- Mr. Dulitha Ponnara**, President CIMA, National & Regional Director
- Eng. Upali Jayawardena**, General Secretary, CIMA
- Eng. Saman Kandaneerachchi**, Vice President & Chairman, Seminars, Workshops & Programs Committee - CIMA
- Eng. Ravi Ruodasinghe**, Vice President & Chairman, Career Guidance & Skills Development Committee - CIMA

13th Oct 2022
6.00 p.m. at the OPA Auditorium

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW](#)

to Register before 12th October 2022
Followed by Fellowship and Dinner
(First come First served basis)

For More Details : 0112 500 268 | Email : opsrilanka@gmail.com | www.opasrilanka.org



Seminar on “Project Management as a Profession and Career with a Future”

A seminar was organized by the Career Guidance and Skills Development Committee in collaboration with CIMA Sri Lanka on “Project Management as a Profession and Career with a Future”. The seminar took place on 14th October 2022.

Project Management Institute, Colombo Sri Lanka

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AS A PROFESSION AND CAREER WITH A FUTURE
Potential Opportunities for Development of Sri Lanka

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY CAREER GUIDANCE & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE & SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE OF THE CIMA WITH PMI COLOMBO SRI LANKA CHAPTER

Speakers:

- SHAMUKA De Silva**, Principal - Consulting, Ernst & Young
- AMELA Arifhwalz**, General Manager, Projects, Mahindra Pvt. Ltd
- HASEETH Premaratne**, Managing Director, Festasia Group, Magaya Group
- DUSHYANTHA Dassanayake**, Assistant General Manager, Information Technology Systems, Sampath Bank PLC
- DULITHA Ponnara**, President - CIMA, Partner - Advisors, PPMO
- UPALI Jayawardena**, General Secretary, CIMA

Date: 14 OCT 2022
Time: 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm
Followed by fellowship

Venue: OPA Auditorium, 275/76, P.O. Building, Waparamulla Rd, Colombo 7

PMICSL | pmicsl | PMIColomboChapt | 0777 010899 | info@pmicolombo.org

Register at: www.pmicolombo.org/events/
To confirm your participation

2 PDUS APPLICABLE

Staff Development

Training Programme on “Personal Development and Motivation”

A training Program on “Personal Development and Motivation for staff of the OPA was conducted on 7th September 2022, organized by the Career Guidance and Skills Development Committee. The speakers were, Mr. Sanath Senanayake, Vice President, Eng. Ravi Rupasinghe.



Training Programme on “Managing Stress at the Workplace”

A Skills Development Program on “Managing Stress at the Workplace” was held on 15th September 2022 for all staff of the OPA. Several members from Member Associations also participated. The speakers were Archt. Russell Dandeniya, President of Institute of Architects, Sri Lanka and Prof.

Indika Karunathilake, Editor of OPA and Past President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association.



Staff Skills Development
Managing Stress at Workplace

Date : 15th September 2022
Time : 2.00 p.m.

Click Here to Register

Keynote Speaker: Archt. Russell Dandeniya, President - Institute of Architects, Sri Lanka

Presenter: Prof. Indika Karunathilake, Editor - OPA, Secretary-General, Asia Pacific Academic Consortium of Public Health (APACPH)

Mr. Damitha Perera, President - OPA

Eng. Ravi Rupasinghe, Vice President - OPA, Chairman - Career Guidance & Skills Development Committee

Organized by Career Guidance & Skills Development Committee of the OPA
For more details : 9112 580 298

Training Programme on “Being an Effective Secretary Under Information Society”

A Staff Development Training Program organized by the Career Guidance and Skills Development Committee on “Being an Effective Secretary Under Information Society” was held on 7th September 2022 for the Staff of the OPA and Member Associations. The speakers were Mr. Damitha Hettihewa, President of the Computer Society of Sri Lanka and Dr. Sunil Abeyrathne, Senior Attorney at Law and Member of the General Forum of the OPA.

Articles

Role of digitalization in challenging situations and way forward: a perspective report in Sri Lanka

Dr. G.K.M.Eranda Janaka

*Senior Registrar - Health Informatics,
Ministry of Health*

Today we live in a challenged society where an unlimited demand competes for limited resources. It is important to use resources in an optimal manner, obtaining the maximum efficiency while considering the favourable effect on humans and the environment. Availability of data and information in a real-time manner is key to making optimal policy-level decisions. The use of real-time data in digital format in a secured and shared manner is has been proven to be successful. This digital transformation is known as digitalization and in today's world, it is a domain with exponential growth.

The science behind this is considered “data science” which is an umbrella term that covers everything including data acquisition, data analysis, modelling,

prediction, machine learning, deep learning, and artificial intelligence to name a few.

The importance of the availability of real-time data was evident during the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing financial crisis where routine services are heavily disrupted. During the COVID-19 pandemic, almost all supply services were affected. The systems that were running on ordinary paper-based methods were more seriously affected while the digital platforms were able to survive. The best example of this was the media. Almost all printed media was affected while digital media became the main source of information.

The importance of digitalization further came into light during the recent financial crisis. Resource management is of utmost importance during the financial crisis as limited resources should be shared in a fair manner.

During a crisis, health, power and energy, essential goods, education, and transportation can be considered the most critical areas of interest. The only way to manage these essential services was with the introduction of several digital platforms in collaboration with respective organizations. However, these measures

sometimes became challenging due to the existing digital divide.

The digital divide is a term that refers to the gap between demographics and regions that have access to modern information and communications technology (ICT), and those that don't or have restricted access.

These challenges further highlighted and emphasized the importance of introducing a digital culture to improve IT literacy in the community.

Health is one of the main sectors that generate a large amount of data, especially in clinical and administrative services. The health sector is being gradually transformed by digital platforms where real-time data can be obtained and shared for decision-making. In clinical setups, health information management systems (HISS) are being implemented and the services are gradually transforming from paper-based to digital. Although the initial investment to develop and implement HISS is high the ROI is excellent in the long run, as it helps to streamline processes and optimal utilization of available resources.

During the pandemic, both health staff and stakeholders faced challenges when delivering and obtaining services due to

travel restrictions, etc. The government introduced several online platforms to continue health services (consultation, delivery of drugs, etc) even during challenging circumstances. In the current financial crisis, the shortage of stationery and X-ray films further highlights the importance of electronic systems.

Proper nutrition of the community is an important area to be considered especially during a financial crisis. The use of real-time data tracking systems is crucial to generate real-time information and make decisions. This will reduce the need for paperwork and digitalized data can be analyzed by the system. Interactive dashboards and data sharing capability will make the process smoother.

Energy plays a key role in the modern world. This was highlighted during the recent fuel crisis. The availability and price of fuel determines the price of all other services. The QR code-based mobile app is a illustration of the use of technology to manage limited resources.

During the period of travel restrictions and shortage of fuel, purchasing essential items, and food became a serious issue. Supermarkets and some Government

suppliers introduced online purchasing via mobile and web platforms and delivery services to doorsteps. This measure helped to reduce COVID-19 risk and to save fuel and electricity.

The entire educational system hovered at the brink of collapse during the pandemic and financial crisis, especially due to the fuel shortage and extended power cuts. Hybrid and online education were the only option. There were several challenges in implementation, including high-cost and tariffs and variable connectivity.

Transportation is another important area that is critical for all other services to function smoothly. In Sri Lanka, transportation is mainly by fossil fuel-based vehicles despite the smaller number of electric vehicles (EVs). The introduction of EVs leads to zero emission. This will reduce heat generation, air and sound pollution, and disposal of chemical oils during the services.

“Three critical areas to be considered when it comes to improving the productivity of any context, such as sustainable energy, connectivity (internet), and green transportation (EVs)”.

Elon Musk

Killer Games Online for Free: Thrilling or Killing Sri Lanka

Aparrajitha Ariyadasa

Attorney-at-Law and Lecturer in anti-cyber terrorism and digital evidence, International Commercial Arbitration and Cyber Law

What are the killer games?

"Sensitive or younger viewers should avoid watching Squid Game on Netflix," says the Australian Government.

Killer Games are role playing games with thrilling shooters and other killers where you may unleash your inner murderer. It doesn't matter whether you're playing as a samurai, a contract killer, a sniper, or a chainsaw wielder; the point of these games is to murder your opponent.



Do you wish for the death of a monarch, the completion of sniper missions, or the massacre of cartoon characters? Then you've found the perfect spot since the genre has some very enjoyable games for both children and adults to check out. Anyone looking for a "hobby killer" may find

their game, whether it is Counter Strike or Battlefield. Here, one may engage in wild anarchy in cyberspace, destroying all obstacles in one's path with a chainsaw, or spreading dread as a murderous clown. The gamer can quickly progress through the levels and master them all by eliminating enemies as efficiently as possible.

Do killer games give happiness and thrill?

The prevalence of gaming disorder has increased its profile, with strong links towards suicide and homicide committed by children. While playing video games may be a lot of fun for children, it's vital to remember that there are severe psychological, sociological, and legal impacts that can occur.

It is proven that there is a correlation between playing violent video games and real-world violence. Obsessive gaming brings out a pre-existing aggressive streak in persons and kids with social or psychiatric problems. Among several incidents, Eric Harris, and Dylan Klebold,



two kids in the US, massacred 13 people and themselves. Doom, a first-person shooter computer game with elements of science fiction and horror, is said to have been an obsession for Harris. Harris reflected, "I feel like God, and I wish I was," in one of his journals.

Do you know killer games threaten national security?

In 2003, Hezbollah, like other extremist organizations, began utilizing video games as a recruiting tool. Extremist narratives and methods are appearing in video games and (near) gaming platforms, and there are several obstacles to overcome to counter them.

What is happening to Sri Lanka?

"Violent video game ends man's life- Daily News-2022.04.29"

When I went back to all the alarming suicidal incidents of youth, seven teenage deaths were observed through a simple Google search. This news rings alarm bells that we are threatened. It is proven that playing violent video games is more likely to lead to severe depression than playing non-violent video games. According to Dr. Vic Strasburger, Professor of Paediatrics at the University of New Mexico School of

Medicine, teenagers who have played video games for five hours or more per day had considerably higher rates of depression, suicidal thoughts, and suicidal planning. Since 90% of online games are killer and violent games, no wonder Sri Lankan kids are already exposed to this catastrophe.



Are there advantages in gaming?

Research has shown that well-designed, non-violent games may enhance performance in activities requiring comparable brain processes to those engaged in the game. Professional organizations can work with game designers to use game design principles in educational and cognitive development settings. Professionals must urge the video game industry to design games that include increased parental control and create games that are appropriate to users' age and psychological development.

Policymakers in Sri Lanka must push for forming an Entertainment Software Rating

Board to improve the way they rate games. I thoroughly believe those game ratings should "reflect the degrees and features of violence in games," the reality is that parents have the primary influence on their children's video gaming habits to prevent killer games and control internet time for other games.

So what?

Killer games may be a threat to society by fostering psychopathic tendencies and challenge national security by becoming a tool of violent extremists. Therefore, killer games should be banned, casual games should be controlled. Sri Lanka needs healthy kids with leadership qualities, teamwork, analytical skills, happiness, and empathy.

Another question as food for thought: Why these killer games are given for free, a big question mark?

Social Activities

Sinhala-Hindu New Year Celebration

Sinhala/ Hindu New Year celebration was organized by the Social Events, Outreach Programmes, and Young Professionals' Committee on 24.04.2022 at the OPA for the fourth time entertaining 120 children from Child Development Centers in the Western Province.

In addition, two educational programmes relating to the health sector were presented. Thereafter, a magic show was conducted to improve their mental wellbeing.



Vesak and Poson Poya celebrations

The entire OPA premise was decorated with Buddhist flags. Due to the prevailing situation in the country, electricity was not used for the decorations.

News from OPA Member Associations

Graduate Nurses' Foundation of Sri Lanka (GNFSL)

The Graduate Nurses' Foundation of Sri Lanka (GNFSL) published the inaugural issue of the first nursing journal in Sri Lanka "Sri Lankan Journal of Nursing (SLJN). It is available in Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL).

Available on: <https://sljn.sljol.info/>

Webinar on "Academic Writing by Using APA Format"

A webinar on "Academic Writing by using APA format (7th Edition) was held on 29th April 2022 from 7.00 p.m. The speaker was Dr. B. Sunil S. De Silva, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, The Open University of Sri Lanka.

Webinar titled "On the Verge of Crisis"

A webinar titled "On the Verge of Crisis" was held on 25th June 2022 from 9.00a.m to 11.00a.m. It included two educational sessions; a lecture on "Food Crisis - Let's

Think Differently & Act Wisely” was delivered by Mr. Aruna Ranawaka, Assistant Director (Research), Department of Export Agriculture, University of Peradeniya. A lecture discussion was conducted on “Management of Health Care Resources in the Current Crisis: Nursing Perspective” by Ms. R.A.D.C. Karunaratna, Chief Special Grade Nursing Officer, National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo.

Workshop on Advanced Wound Care Management

A joint workshop on “Advanced Wound Care Management” was held as a hybrid session on 26th August 2022 from 9.00a.m. to 12.00noo in collaboration with the National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL). The speaker was Dr. Hiran Jayawardana, NHSL.

Sri Lanka Medical Association

The 135th Anniversary International Medical Congress 2022 was held from 28th September to 01st October 2022 at the BMICH. The main theme of the congress was “Planetary Health and Global Security”. The congress included an array of orations, plenaries from local and interesting panel discussions on timely issues that has affected the global health.

Engineers Guild of Sri Lanka

The Annual General Meeting of the Engineers Guild was held on 27th April 2022, at the OPA Auditorium. Eng. Ravi Rupasinghe (Vice President, OPA) was appointed as the new President of EGSL.

OBITUARIES

Prof. M.T.F. Furkhan was a gentle giant and respected by everyone at the OPA. He attended almost all meetings of the Executive Council as well as the General Forum and his input was always of value. He was a Past President of CIMA. His demise was a great loss to the OPA.

Mr. Parama Dharmawardena was a Member of the Executive Council as well as the General Forum for a long period of time who had contributed immensely towards the development of the OPA. He also served in the Finance & Budget Committee and his input was always highly recognized. Further, he always respected his fellow Members and was a friendly soul. May he attain the Supreme bliss of Nibbana.



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