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## KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA

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### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for the Year 2013 was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at the Royal Colombo Golf Club, Colombo 8. The AGM was well attended.

### The Council for the year 2014:

Eng. Dr Kamal Laksiri	-	President
Eng. Prabodha Jinasena	-	Vice President
Eng. R. N. Perera	-	Hony. Secretary
Eng. Ananda Senarath	-	Hony. Treasurer
Eng. Malith Mendis	-	IPP & Editor

#### Council Members:

Eng. S.A.U.D.C. Siriwardena  
Eng. K.Suntharalingam  
Eng. D.R.P. Pathirage  
Eng. Dr Mervyn Gunasekera  
Eng. R.P. Lokuratne  
Eng. J Karunaratne  
Eng. A. M. Jaws

### Council Meetings and Activities

Nine Council meetings were held in the year 2013 and also three workshop meetings were held during the year. Following activities were initiated by the Council.

- Representing ACESL at the TCDPAP/FIDIC - ASPAC Conference in Thailand in March 2013
- ACESL list of Adjudicators and ACESL list of FIDIC Adjudicators set up
- Two day Workshop on Dispute Resolution, Dispute Boards and Adjudication on FIDIC Contracts with a FIDIC Trainer
- Two Day Workshop on Practical Use of ICTAD Conditions of Contract
- Forming the Young Professionals Forum
- Representing ACESL at FIDIC Centenary Conference in Barcelona, Spain in September 2013

### FIDIC-ASPAC & TCDPAP 2014 Conference in Bali.

Eng. Malith Mendis, the Immediate Past President, Eng. Raj Lokuratne, Council Member, represented the ACESL at the above conference which was successfully held in Bali, Indonesia from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2014. Almost all the member countries were represented at this conference.

Eng. Malith Mendis and Eng. Raj Lokuratne presented technical papers.

The theme of the conference was Business Sustainability - Asia Pacific collaboration for global partnering in Consulting Engineering. The Conference drew the attention to the Young Professionals Forum. The YPF is active in many of the member countries.

### President's Message

I am happy as the incoming President to issue this short message in the first release of the Newsletter in this session. New Council of the ACESL elected for the session 2014/15 will continue with the programmes planned in the previous session. At present the discussions are underway to hold a FIDIC training workshop in May /June period. The Council of the ACESL is in discussion with ADB and JICA to obtain financial assistance to meet the cost. The details of the workshop will be finalized shortly.

Neighbouring Countries' Economic Development Agency of Thailand has included Sri Lanka as a beneficiary country and has indicated their interest in investing in projects in Sri Lanka with lending on concessionary/commercial terms. The Council has already initiated action to coordinate with External Resources Department (ERD) in this regard. It is expected that ACESL will be able to play a key role in local consultancy works in this affair. More on this to be expected in the coming months.

I expect the active participation of all the members in the future events of ACESL in this session.

Eng. Dr. Kamal Laksiri

## Young Professionals Forum

The need for the YPF was identified at the FIDIC& TCDPAP conference in 2013 held in Bangkok, Thailand and FIDIC world conference held in Seoul, South Korea, where ACESL drew attention about the concept.

The YPF was formed in order to uplift the industry where new ideas could be generated to assist and promote the industry and also to identify possible problems which the industry may be facing. The Forum will also involve capacity building of Young Professionals and will make a platform to create opportunities for knowledge sharing among the professionals and the member firms.

The inaugural meeting of the YPF was held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013 with the participation of the President and the Secretary of ACESL. Eng. Damkith C Siriwardane will take the responsibility as the coordinator and representative of ACECL. The committee consists of nine members and the first Chairman and the Secretary of YPF have been elected are Eng. Deshapriya Weerakkody and Eng. Yasoja Gunawardena respectively.

## International Communication

*by Hank Sydor*

### Strange Lawsuits

I came across a list of strange lawsuits and I thought I would pass them on so you could enjoy them too. The article claims these are actual situations that eventually developed in to the reason for a lawsuit. As you will readily see most of the lawsuits were for wrongful dismissal.



➤ A chicken attacked an employee's mom when she was making a purchase at a market where her son was employed.

➤ A bowler got his finger stuck in a bowling ball and could not remove it.

➤ A hair transplant did not grow evenly and the customer claimed he was embarrassed because his transplant was so noticeable.

➤ An employee had a neck injury after falling asleep at his desk while he was supposed to be working.



➤ A cow broke in to the house at a farm where the house was provided to the employee by the farmer.

➤ An employee's girlfriend threw a toy through a window in his home. He had not paid for the toy and claimed he was testing the toy for the employer to make sure the toy was of good quality.

➤ An employee managed to get some food stuck in his kitchen disposal. He took the food from his employer without paying for it.



➤ An employee called from a noisy bar just after 5 p.m. He said he was quite sure he would not be feeling well in the morning.

➤ An employee said he could not come to work that day because he was not feeling particularly clever. (No kidding!!!)

➤ An employee could not come to work because he needed to mow the lawn to appease the homeowner's association and avoid a lawsuit. Guess what? It ended up in a lawsuit anyway when he was fired and he sued for wrongful dismissal.

➤ An employee could not come to work because he had burned his mouth eating pumpkin pie on thanksgiving.

➤ An employee (in the USA) ran out of gas while boating on Lake Erie, but failed to notice it was the Canadian Coast Guard that came to his rescue and, when they towed him to shore, they towed him to Canada. I would assume he had a really long commute to work that day.

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