

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY TO THE COLLEGE OF CHEMICAL SCIENCES, INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY CEYLON



As President of the Royal Society of Chemistry and on behalf of the RSC Council, our 43,000+ members worldwide and more than 300 staff, it gives me very great pleasure to send the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon, its College of Chemical Sciences, its members, graduates and students our sincerest greetings and warmest congratulations on this important Silver Jubilee celebration of Chemistry in Sri Lanka through its Graduateship Examinations.

The Institute is an important member of the worldwide family of national chemical societies. The Royal Society of Chemistry has always played a part in the Institute's Graduateship Examinations by helping with the external examining. The Institute, and now also the College as the largest source of chemistry graduates in the country, can be justly proud of the education offered and its enormous contribution to the economic and scientific development of Sri Lanka.

The Royal Society of Chemistry recognises Graduateship of the Institute as appropriate for Associate Membership of the Society – a unique partnership. The script assessors have long recognised the high standard of your Graduates and this is continually borne out by the comments from the assessors year after year.

On behalf of the Royal Society of Chemistry, I wish you a most successful Convocation celebrating the 25th anniversary since the first passing out ceremony in 1983.

Yours sincerely

Professor W J Feast, CBE, C.Chem., FRSC, FRS, President, Royal Society of Chemistry

CHIEF GUEST AT THE FOURTH CONVOCATION OF THE COLLEGE OF CHEMICAL SCIENCES ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2008 AT CINNAMON GRAND COLOMBO



Mr Stanley Langer, C Chem, CSci, Manager, International Affairs of the Royal Society of Chemistry, UK will represent the RSC at the Fourth Convocation of the College of Chemical Sciences. Mr Langer, who has been a principal officer of the RSC for many years and has been to Sri Lanka twice before will be the Chief Guest and deliver the Convocation Address on the subject "**Chemistry in the Developing World**". We are thankful to the RSC for using this opportunity to gift to the CCS library some text books and also for gifting some books to the passing out students.

RSC has been very helpful to the Institute of Chemistry in the successful conduct of its Graduateship Programme over the past 30 years. RSC continues to give support by identifying external examiners from the UK: initially from the University of Nottingham & later from the University of Sussex. Over the past few years, the pattern has changed with the RSC Registrar coordinating the activity from the RSC Headquarters at Burlington House in London, UK since we have three examiners from three locations: Sussex, Imperial College & Central Lancashire.

The RSC was very quick to recognize our Graduateship qualifications as equivalent to those of the RSC thereby permitting our Graduate Chemists to obtain Associate Membership of the RSC by exemption. In fact the large bulk of the new admissions to the RSC from Sri Lankans today comprises our Graduate Chemists.

In his **Convocation Address**, which will be published in full in the Convocation Souvenir (and in the next issue of Chemistry in Sri Lanka), Mr Langer says that our Institute can be justly proud of the achievement of producing this year such a record number of Graduate Chemists, Licentiates and Laboratory Technologists and anticipates it to continue to grow in excellence and achieve still higher aspirations. He has been much taken up by the comment of the Chief Guest (Professor Arjuna Aluwihare) at last year's Convocation when he suggested that the College is the academic parent to the Graduands. This is a lovely way to think of the College and he hopes very much that Graduands will all continue to maintain contact with the College and all it offers.

Noting that past Convocation Addresses have dealt largely with local issues and concepts, Mr Langer deals about external matters. Mr Langer's role within the RSC is devoted to international affairs and involves extensive travel, mainly to countries in the developing world. He recalls his last visit to Sri Lanka in 1991 for an RSC (SL Section) symposium on 'Poverty Alleviation through Chemistry for Improved Food Production', which was during the Golden Jubilee of our Institute. On his first visit in 1986, he recalls being taken on a bus with several others to visit a hydroelectric project: it remains in his mind because the bus broke down several times and he can well remember (together with our Honorary Dean who was also in the same group) helping to push the bus at midnight! Wonderful times! He goes on to deal about the developing world. Mr Langer's Convocation Address summarises some of the recent activities of the RSC globally and particularly in the developing world.