

MILESTONES IN THE EDUCATIONAL HISTORY OF I CHEM C

(1971 - 2008)

- 1973 Inauguration of first **Laboratory Technician Certificate Course** at Aquinas College by Mr. M Sivanathan, Secretary Ministry of Industries and Scientific Affairs. The Government Grant was increased from Rs. 5000 to 7500 in order to provide Rs. 2500 for this course.
- March 1977 By Establishment Circular 234 of 09.03.77, the Sri Lanka Government accepted Fellowship, Associate Membership (now referred to as Membership) and Graduateship (now referred to as Associateship) of I.Chem.C. as equivalent to corresponding grades of the Royal Society of Chemistry, UK (FRSC, MRSC, GRSC) for the purpose of recruitment/promotion of Chemists (note that GRSC is equivalent to a Special Honours Degree in Chemistry of a UK University).
- December 1978 **First Graduateship Examination** held by I.Chem.C. (3 out of 7 external candidates were successful at Part I) as the first step in the Graduateship Programme.
- May 16, 1979 **Graduateship Programme** inaugurated at Aquinas College of Higher Studies by **Dr. Stanley Kalpage** (Secretary/Higher Education & Chairman/UGC): 72 selected out of 170 applicants registered for this course. The Institute of Chemistry did not receive any income including registration fee since all the financial arrangement were controlled by Aquinas College.
- December 1979 Second Graduateship Examination held with external examiners (University of Nottingham, UK) for the first time. None of the 12 external Part I candidates were successful.
- September 1980 First Residential Workshop on "Separation Processes in Chemistry & Biochemistry" held at TRI, Talawakelle (many Graduateship students attended this workshop).
- December 1980 Third Graduateship Examination held with first group of our Graduateship Students sitting for same (out of an original 72 only 44 candidates sat and of them only 11 passed the Part I examination).
- 1980/81 Part I structure amended to incorporate a fourth paper on related sections (Mathematics & Biology) with effect from the 1982 Graduateship Examination.
- January 1981 Part II course content was revised to include more industrial & applied subjects; Graduateship Courses were shifted to the New Science Laboratory premises of **S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia** with Mr. A R Manoharan as the first College Co-ordinator. First Part II (Theory) and first Part II (Practical) courses inaugurated. (second batch of students who enrolled for the practical course started Part I only in May 1981).
- May 1981 Part I Course commenced at Mt. Lavinia with 70 students (second batch) registered after selection from amongst 300 applicants.
- July 1981 The Council takes an important policy decision that "Educational Funds in general and Graduateship Course money in particular (including interest) must be utilised as decided by the Educational Committee." It was however also decided that 20% of the Graduateship Student's Registration Fees will be credited to General Institute Funds in order that General activities of the Institute can also benefit financially from the Graduateship Courses.
- 1981/82 For the first time, public and private sector institutions including Ceylon Steel Corporation, Oils and Fats Corporation, GOBU of CCC (fertilizers) Ltd., MSJ Industries Ltd. and Bureau of Ceylon Standards paid tuition fees of Graduateship students who were their employees. Bureau of Ceylon Standards gives incremental credit as well to an employee who passed Part I.
- 6th April 1981 The first **office** of the Institute was declared open on the first floor of SLAAS by **Dr. O S Peiris**, General President SLAAS. The first collection of books for the Institute library from the ODA, UK was forwarded to the CISIR library as the initial nucleus of the Institute Library.
- 1981/82 Educational Committee agrees in principle to start a series of Monographs to provide background reading material for Graduateship Course students.
- 1982 Inauguration of the First Part I Graduateship Course at University of Peradeniya by **Prof. B L Panditharathne**, Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya. This has been continued thereafter in all "even" years although the venue held was to be changed subsequently .
- 1982 Part I syllabus further revised to take effect from 1983 Graduateship Examination
- September 1982 Third workshop on "Instrumental Methods in Chemical Analysis" held at CISIR.
- December 1982 For the first time, our (internal) Graduateship students appeared for the Part II (theory) Examination

1982/83	First Amendment to Second Edition of Graduateship Examination regulations issued revising Part I Course content from 1983 examination.
January 1983	First Section B Practical course commenced at Mt. Lavinia. [Note that this was after the first batch sat the Part II (theory) examination].
1983	With the enrollment for the first time of a child of an Institute member it was decided to give a 25% discount on tuition fees for all theory courses.
April 1983	Results of first Part II (Theory) Graduateship Examination released; 8 out of 12 candidates passed while 2 were referred.
August 1983	The Institute of Chemistry office is shifted to the larger Committee room on the ground floor at Vidya Mandiraya.
January 1984	First Graduateship Part II (Practical) Examination.
August 1984	First lot of four Graduate Chemists felicitated at a function held at Vidya Mandiraya with late Dr. Stanley Kalpage as Chief Guest
November 1984	First issue (Vol . 1) of Institute Magazine "Chemistry in Sri Lanka" published and first copy handed over to Sri Lankan President J R Jayawardena by Prof. J N O Fernando (President, I.Chem.C. in the presence of Mr. H S M Pieris (Secretary, I.Chem.C.), and Ms. Dilmini Warnasuriya (Editor).
1984/85	Third Edition (Dec 1983) of Graduateship Examination Regulations issued revising Part II Course content from 1985 examination.
1985	A new grade of TECHNICIAN membership introduced to enable LTCC holders of the Institute to obtain relevant membership in the Institute.
March 1985	A four day workshop on Analytical Chemistry held in association with the Centre for Analytical Research and Development at the University of Colombo enabled many Graduateship students to benefit from exposure to modern analytical instruments.
June 1985	In his Presidential Address to the 14 th Annual Session, Prof. J N O Fernando suggested considering the establishment of a Sri Lanka College of Chemistry and to also consider applying to the UGC for approval as a degree awarding Institute.
June 17, 1985	The Council held a reception to all award and prize-winners as well as the new professionally qualified Graduate Chemists during the evening of the inauguration of the 14 th Annual Session at Vidya Mandiraya. (this reception financed by the Educational Committee/Academic board has been held uninterrupted every year since then during the Annual Sessions until the Convocations were commenced in 2005).
May 8, 1985	In collaboration with the RSC (SL Section) the I.Chem.C. held a full day seminar/workshop on "New Trends in Tertiary Chemical Education in Sri Lanka" at Vidya Mandiraya. [Refer Chemistry in Sri Lanka, 2 (2) 20].
May 1986	Mr. S J Sarath Kumara, one of our first four Graduate Chemists, was the first to register for a post graduate degree (University of Kelaniya) under the supervision of Dr. E R Jansz while working as a Research Assistant at the CISIR. Mr. Sarath Kumara received the Kandiah Memorial Award (2) for his work at the 15 th Annual Session.
August 15, 1985	Passed out Graduate Chemists and Part I students (1984) hosted an appreciatory reception to Lecturers, Council Members and Educational Committee members in appreciation for the services rendered by the Institute [refer Chemistry in Sri Lanka 2, (2) 5].
1986/1987	Mr. S J Sarath Kumara from the first batch of four Graduate Chemists (1984) obtains his M.Phil. (Kelaniya) in 1987 and thus became our first product to obtain a PG qualification.
1988	Mr. K A Eustace from the second batch of Graduate Chemists (1985) obtained her M.Sc. from the University of London. This was the first PG qualification from abroad.
1990/91	Fifth Combined Edition of Course Prospectus and Examination Regulations issued (April 1990) revising Part I Course content with effect from 1991 examination and Part II content with effect from 1993 examination.
1990	Part I Course commences in even years as well at Mt. Lavinia in order to accommodate the huge increase in demand to enroll following the national problems in the country and the prolonged closure of state Universities.

- February 1990 After 3 ½ years of waiting for a priority telephone, telephone (691298) was installed in the Institute Office.
- 1990 Council approval given for the Academic Dress for Graduate Chemists.
- June 1991 For the first time Graduate Chemists join the Ceremonial Procession at the Annual Sessions dressed in the newly approved academic dress.
- January 25, 1991 The One Rupee commemorative stamp issued on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Institute depicts the progress in the field of higher education leading to professional Graduateship of the Institute. This is shown through a number of Graduate Chemists in cap and gown. The teaching aspect is also illustrated through the white board illustration of the chemical structure of the first natural product calabaxanthoxene isolated in Sri Lanka. The Educational Committee of the Institute organized the seminar on “50 years of Tertiary Chemical Education in Sri Lanka” on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Commemoration at Vidya Mandiraya on this day.
- January 1991 A record number of 117 students registered for the Graduateship Programme although universities were now functioning normally. [refer Chemistry in Sri Lanka, 8 (1) 3].
- 1993 Performance criteria were introduced to enable the award of classes to students on the Overall Results of the Graduateship Examination.
- May 1993 Institute’s own Library opened at 39, Sumanarama Rd, Mt. Lavinia in rented out space and this was followed by a gradual shift of the administrative work involved in the educational domain to Mt. Lavinia. The first personal computer was purchased.
- 1995 The structure of the Part I examination was altered to have the examination in two parts (A) and (B) at the end of the first and second years of study respectively. The most important consequence was that a student could not sit for Part I (B) unless he obtains at least a grade D in the paper on “Principles of Chemistry” at the Part I (A) examination.
- 1996/97 A very extensive review of Parts I & II of the course content as well as the entire examination structure was also undertaken with a view to making the course contents more in keeping with modern trends and developments.
- 1997/98 The major revision of the course content and Programme structure came into operation for the Part I (A) examination with effect from 1997 & Part I (B) examination with effect from 1998 for the 1997 students intake. The number of papers at the Part I (A) was also increased to three with individual papers for Mathematical Concepts and Biological Chemistry instead of one composite paper.
- July 1997 **Australian National Chemistry Quiz Competition** held in Sri Lanka for the first time by the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon. This Competition has been conducted thereafter uninterrupted annually and the twelfth of such competitions will be held in July 2008.
- 1999/2000 A consequential major revision of the course content and course structure came into operation for the Part II examination from the year 2000 examination. While the number of Part II (theory) papers increased to eight double weight papers, a continuous assessment component - comprising three single weight papers came into operation for the practicals in addition to the existing three formal practical examinations, which received double weight status. The classification criteria for Honours also underwent consequential revision as a result with effect from the year 2000 examination.
- July 1998 The Course content of the Laboratory Technician Certificate Course underwent an extensive revision and expansion to a duration of six terms from the original five. The revised course content enables students to acquire knowledge in basic chemistry, laboratory practice, biological chemistry, electronics, chemical engineering, statistics, food chemistry, clinical chemistry and industrial chemistry. The revised programme and duration were also appropriate to upgrade the programme to that of a **Diploma in Laboratory Technology in Chemistry (DLTC)** in its 25th year of enrollment.
- July 1999 Two students in the Senior Level answer correctly all the 30 questions set at the third Australian National Chemistry Quiz Competition to be held in Sri Lanka. It was decided to offer both of them **Millennium Graduateship Scholarships** to follow without payment of any fees the four year Graduateship Programme (2000/2004). This offer has been subsequently made to all students who answered correctly all the 30 questions (Senior Grade). set in the years 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 numbering 2,7, 29, 105, 02, 01, 01 respectively.

- November 9, 1999 The Silver Jubilee of the LTCC and its upgrading to that of a Diploma (DLTC) were marked by a seminar on "Career Development". The 3rd Award Ceremony of the National Australian Chemistry Quiz competition 1998 was also held as part of the proceedings with Mr. Peter Rowe, High Commissioner for Australia in Sri Lanka, as Chief Guest.
- June 2000 Prof. R P Gunawardene, Secretary to the Ministry of Education and Information Technology in his Chief Guest's address at the inauguration of the 29th Annual Session suggests the establishment of a **College of Chemical Sciences** in order to expand and diversify educational and training programmes thus reiterating a suggestion made by the then President, Professor J N O Fernando, in his Presidential address in June 1985.
- 2000 An official ADB based report approved by the Sri Lankan Government and tabled at the Paris 2000 Development Forum lists Chemistry as an on-going professional course in Sri Lanka.
- 2000/2001 Past President Seetha Rodrigo transfers the copyright of her book on "Advanced Level. Chemistry: Facts, Patterns and Principles" to the Institute together with the balance copies left unsold from the first edition. The Institute thereafter (2001) published the second revised edition. The book has enabled a regular income to the Building Fund (50%) and to a reserve fund. The third Edition reprint appeared in 2007.
- January 2001 The I.Chem.C. Office shifts to a much more spacious two roomed office (including a Council Room) on the ground floor at Vidya Mandiraya just before the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.
- January 25, 2001 Prof. R P Gunawadena, Secretary to the Ministry of Education and Information Technology inaugurates the **College of Chemical Sciences** during the Diamond Jubilee Ceremony by unveiling a commemorative plaque.
- June 2001 By-laws of Institute of Chemistry Ceylon amended to legally provide for the College of Chemical Sciences with its **Academic Board** replacing the Educational Committee as a more autonomous statutory Board, which included the I.Chem.C President and a Secretary as ex-officio members.
- March 2002 The year 2001 Graduateship Examination results released reveal that the largest ever number of 48 Graduate Chemists up to that time passed out of the Institute.
- March 2002 Prof. J N O Fernando appointed as the first (**Honorary**) **Dean** of the College of Chemical Sciences. Mr. N I N S Nadarasa appointed as the first **Registrar** of the College of Chemical Sciences.
- April 2002 Vol 1 No.1 of the tri - annual Educational CCS Newsletter issued.
- June 22, 2002 The College organised (jointly with the Sri Lanka Section of the RSC) in association with FACS a regional seminar/workshop on "**Curriculum Development on Undergraduate Chemistry**" immediately after the Annual Session.
- June 27, 2002 **Foundation Stone** laid for the **Headquarters Building** of the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon, by Architect Ranjith Cooray, Mayor of Sri Jayawardenapura associated with Dr. R O B Wijesekera (Chairman, College of the Past President), Prof. Tuley de Silva (President, I.Chem.C.) Prof. J N O Fernando (Dean/College of Chemical Sciences) and Prof. W S Fernando (President-elect, I Chem.C.).
- August 2002 To commemorate the unique & decisive contribution made to the Institute and to the cause of Chemistry in Sri Lanka, the Council launched a Memorial Fund in Memory of Professor R S Ramakrishna who departed this life at the age of 70 years on 25.06.02. The Academic Board made the first donation of Rs 100,000 towards the **R S Ramakrishna Memorial Fund**.
- October 2002 New intake into Part I of the Graduateship Programme advanced to October 2002 from March 2003 in order to accommodate students passing the GCE (A/L) Examination that was advanced to April 2002.
- Nov/Dec 2002 **25th Graduateship Examination** was held.
- December 2002 The Institute of Chemistry nomination for the first independent commissions was recognised when Professor J N O Fernando was appointed to the Public Service Commission for a period of three years.
- December 2002 **Unilever Ltd** commences at its own expense and in their premises a new optional course on "**Fundamentals of Business Management**" for our Part II Graduateship students.

- January 3, 2003 The Academic Board organized its first ever Training Seminar in memory of Professor R S Ramakrishna on “**Modern Analytical Methods**” at Hotel Hilton Colombo. The Seminar was held on his 71st birthday anniversary & was inaugurated by his daughter Jeewaki. Professor H D Gunawardhana delivered the Keynote Address. The sum of Rs 90,064.20 earned through this seminar was credited to the Prof Ramakrishna Memorial Fund which was used towards furnishing the Ramakrishna Laboratory.
- April 2003 Logo of the College of Chemical Sciences was unveiled by the President, Prof. W S Fernando, during the Press Conference held at Vidya Mandiraya to ceremonially inaugurate the Silver Jubilee Year (1979 - 2004) of the commencement of the Graduateship Programme
- April 25, 2003 The second CCS Training Seminar on “**Facing Challenges of Water Recourse in the 21st Century: Scientific Perspectives**” was held at Hotel Trans Asia to commemorate the UN year for fresh water.
- June 2003 Institute by-laws were amended by the introduction of a new by-law 7 A to permit **the award the designation of Graduate Chemist (Grad. Chem.)** to all Institute Graduate Chemists
- June 2003 The first ever Orientation session was held as an awareness session for applicants to follow Graduateship programme
- November 11, 2003 A full day Training Seminar for GCE (A/L) Chemistry Teachers was held at Hotel Taj Samudra
- February 2004 Overall results of the Graduateship Examination released within the shortest ever period of 3 months of the end of the Examination. The second largest group of 33 Graduate Chemists passed out in this Silver Jubilee year of the Graduateship programme. A second generation daughter (Ms B C J Cooray) of a father (Mr B A Cooray) who followed the first Programme in 1979 successfully completed and became a Graduate Chemist.
- 29-30 April 2004 A very successful two day conference on “**Chemical Education for National Development**” was held at Hotel Trans Asia to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the commencement of the Graduateship Programme. The conference was inaugurated by Mr Karu Jayasuriya M.P. who was the Chief Guest while the two Guests of Honour were the President, Federation of Asian Chemical Societies (Professor H S Thoang) and the President of the Education Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry, UK (Dr Michal Gagen). The 33 Graduate Chemists who passed out in 2003 were presented Graduate Chemist Medals during the inauguration. Professors H D Gunawardhana, J N O Fernando & E R Jansz who had been lecturers in the programme for 25 continuous years were presented Dedicated Service (Silver) Medals. Several papers were presented by both local & foreign participants under five session themes. Amongst the other academic events during the conference were a plenary symposium on “**Graduateship Programme, Future Vision & Prospects**” and a Symposium on “**Chemistry Industry Interaction** at the which several industrialists were panel speakers. The Silver Jubilee Raffle to collect funds to hold the conference was also drawn at the felicitation reception to Graduate Chemists & Overseas Guests on 29.4.07. A Cocktail Reception at Hotel Trans Asia funded by industry brought the right royal collaboration to a glorified finish. For the first time an Executive Council meeting of the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies was held on 28.4.04 just before the above conference. 10 foreign delegates were present. As a consequence, all these delegates were also present at the conference and many presented papers. **The Silver Jubilee Commemoration Fund** ended with a net credit balance of Rs. 6 lakhs. Scholarships & Part II Prizes are now being awarded from this fund.
- 19.12.04 & 2.1.05 For the first time a research seminar presented by Graduate Chemists on holiday from USA was held for the benefit of our students. Mr Piyal Ariyananda, Graduate Chemist (1997) co-ordinated this programme.
- 2004 **Mr S Vasanthan**, Graduate Chemist, was appointed as the **first full time Teaching Assistant** of the CCS.
- 25th January 2005 A training seminar cum workshop on “**Sampling, Statistics an Standardisation in Chemical Analysis and Environmental Management**” was organised by CCS at Hotel Trans Asia.
- 31st January 2005 A **soft opening** of the new **Headquarters Building** took place with the shift of the Office. The event was preceded by a multi faith religious ceremony .
- 25th February 2005 This was indeed a **Red Letter Day** for the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon. The 4 storeyed **Building** of the Institute/CCS was ceremonially declared open by Dr R O B Wijsekera, Past President, at a well attended function. The Guests of Honour were Mr Piers Pringiers (Managing

- Director/Loadstar Ltd). Dr David Ponniah (Warden, S Thomas' College, Mt Lavinia), Prof Tuley de Silva (General President/SLAAS), Professors P P G L Siriwardena, J N O Fernando, H D Gunawardhana & E R Jansz and Mr T Kandasamy (Chairman, College of Past Presidents).
- 25th February 2005 The air conditioned **Clodagh Nethsingha Library** was ceremonially declared open by Mr Lucien Nethsingha, brother of Ms Nethsingha. Her portrait painted by Mr Prasanna Iroshan was also unveiled by him in the Library. The Clodagh Nethsingha Oration was delivered by Professor E R Jansz
- 01st March 2005 **Dr Sisira Welwegamage, PhD, BSc (Peradeniya)** was appointed as the first ever full time academic of the College of Chemical Sciences.
- 14th March 2005 The **P P G L Siriwardane Auditorium** on the 4th level was declared open by Dr R O B Wijesekera, who delivered the P P G L Siriwardana Oration and unveiled Professor Siriwardane's portrait painted by Mr Mevan Pieris.
- 18th March 2005 The **First Convocation** of the CCS was held at Hotel Trans Asia. Professor P P G L Siriwardanae was the Chief Guest and delivered the Convocation Address. 28 Graduate Chemists & 17 DLTC Diplomates received their Medals, Certificates & Awards.
- 06th May 2005 One of the two laboratories on Level 2 was named **M U S Sultanbawa Laboratory** and his portrait (drawn by Mr Premith Geekiyanage) was unveiled by the Chief Guest, Attorney-at-Law Mr Richard Kulathunga (Prof Sulthanbawa's life long friend) who delivered the M U S Sultanbawa Oration.
- 28th June 2005 The lecture hall on Level 3 was named **J N O Fernando Hall** and his portrait ably drawn by Mr Mevan Pieris was unveiled by the Chief Guest, the Rt Rev Duleep de Chickera, Bishop of Colombo. The Guest of Honour was Emeritus Professor Nalini B Ratnasiri. The J N O Fernando Oration was delivered by Mr Mevan Pieris. The Mandrupa & Oleap Fernando Hall Opening Scholarship was endowed by Professor & Mrs J N Oleap Fernando during this event.
- June 2005 The first ever **Kandiah Memorial Graduateship Award** was won by Ms Gayathiri Pathberiya for her Postgraduate work at the University of Sri Jayawardenapura under supervision of Professor E R Jansz.
- 25th September 2005 The Part I Course with a record number of 151 registrants enrolled for the Graduateship programme that was inaugurated for the first time at the new Headquarters. The inaugurate address was delivered by Mr Mevan Pieris, Chief Guest.
- October 2005 The **Dean's Emergency Fund** was established to provide limited financial relief in an emergency to CCS students in need/distress
- October 2005 The Council accepted a recommendation of the College of Past Presidents to name the new Headquarters Building as "**Adamantane House**". Adamantane is the cyclic saturated hydrocarbon that was adopted as the Institute logo in 1971. Please refer Chemistry in Sri Lanka, Vol. 22(2), Page 15, Chemistry in Sri Lanka, Vol 22(3), Page 10 -13, for historical/critical accounts about the logo and the Adamantane molecule
- 25th November 2005 Mr E G Somapala, Government Analyst inaugurated the Diploma in Laboratory Technology Programme at Adamantane House. The venue of the programme was thus shifted from Aquinas College of Higher Education with the commencement of this 33rd intake which was a record with 62 enrollments. The programme also came to be conducted at week ends.
- 01st January 2006 **Professor S Sotheeswaran** was appointed as the first ever full time Visiting Professor of Organic Chemistry in the College. He delivered the Inaugural Professorial Lecture on "Natural Products Revisited" on 20.1.06
- 27th January 2006 The **Second Convocation** of CCS was held at Hotel Trans Asia. The Convocation Address was delivered by Emeritus Professor G P Wannigama, who was the Chief Guest. 43 Graduate Chemists and 14 DLTC Diplomates received their medals, certificates & awards.
- 09th March 2006 CCS organized a training seminar at Hotel Trans Asia on "Trends & Advances in Electrochemical Technology". This was inaugurated by Prof Keerthi Tenekoone, Director/IFS.
- April/May 2006 A five day Certificate Course in Food Science was held by the College of Chemical Sciences in association with the College of Past Presidents. This was inaugurated on 21.4.06 by Dr Anura Ekanayake, Director /HRD, Unilever Sri Lanka.

- 9th October 2006 For the first time, the students organized a Navarathiri programme at Adamantane House
- 14th October 2006 Professor E R Jansz inaugurated the 2006 Graduateship programme with the highest ever enrollment of 165 students.
- 27th October 2006 A programme on Music, Mind and Leadership was organized by Mr Mevan Pieris, President & presented to CCS students by Prof Ajith Abeysekera & Mr Sooriya Kumar Veerasingham.
- 10th November 2006 The **H D Gunawardhana Instrument Centre** on Level 3 was declared open by Sarvodya Chief Dr A T Ariyaratne, Chief Guest. The H D Gunawardhana Oration was delivered by Mr B S P Mendis (Director General, Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment). Prof. Gunawardhana's portrait ably drawn by Mr Mevan Pieris was unveiled by Mr Lalith Weeratunga (Secretary to the President). This was the fourth portrait to be drawn & gifted by Mr Pieris.
- 29th November 2006 The CCS with the College of Past Presidents conducted a Panel Discussion on "Coconut Oil in the Diet".
- December 2006 A new optional course on "Research Methods in Chemistry" was introduced into Part II of the Graduateship programme to enable final year students to opt to undertake a research/study project in lieu of a written paper. 9 students from the 2007 final year batch registered. These students were able to make use of the research facilities now available in the H D Gunawardhana Instrument Centre for this purpose.
- 3rd January 07 Professor J N O Fernando, Honorary Dean/CCS, was invited to be the Chief Guest at the First R S Ramakrishna Gold Medal Award Oration which was delivered by Dr Thusitha Abeytunga, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry, University of Colombo. Professor A P de Silva & Mr T Kandasamy were the Guests of Honour. The CCS hosted the Tea & Refreshments on this occasion.
- 09th February 2007 The **Third Convocation** of the CCS was held at Hotel Taj Samudra with Professor Arjuna Aluwihare as Chief Guest. Professor Aluwihare, who delivered the Convocation Address, was conferred Honorary Fellowship of the Institute of Chemistry during the Convocation and thus become the first non-Chemist to be accorded this honour. 31 Graduate Chemists & 16 DLTC Diplomats received their awards, designations & medals at the convocation.
- May 2007 With the adoption of the revised course content and revised examination regulations under the new structure for all four levels of the Graduateship programme, provision has been made for students to exit the programme at Level 2 with an Advanced Diploma in Chemistry and at Level 3 with a Licentiate Chemist designation. Transitional provisions were also introduced to permit students who followed the Old structure to opt to obtain the Licentiate Chemist designation.
- 13th June 2007 The College organized a Training Seminar on Solid Waste Management at the Galle Face Hotel. Mr S K Cyril Suduwelle, Chairman, Waste Management Authority of the Western Province was the Chief Guest.
- August 2007 The second full time Academic, **Dr. Vinitha Thadhani, B.Sc., M.Phil., (Sri Jayewardenepura), Ph.D. (Peradeniya)**, appointed to the CCS staff.
- 31st October 07 **Northumbria University** formally handed over the letter of recognition and acceptance of two years successful study in our Graduateship programme in lieu of the first two years of study at Northumbria University, UK.
- November 2007 The 25th (Silver Jubilee) batch of 52 Graduate Chemists pass out from the CCS increasing the total number of Graduates Chemists over 25 batches to 519. This included 7 first classes, 15 second uppers, 6 second lowers, 8 Third classes and 16 passes. This is the highest number of Graduate Chemists ever to be produced by the College & is more than double the maximum number usually produced annually by any other Sri Lankan institution.
- December 2007 The first Inter Level Debating Competition was held amongst CCS Graduateship students. Level 3 team won the competition.
- December 2007 The **Silver Jubilee Raffle** was organized to collect funds for the Graduate Chemist Silver Jubilee Fund. A sum of over Rs 3 million was collected & will be used for silver jubilee celebratory events, students' extra-curricular activities and scholarships, bursaries & prizes.
- 15th February 08 The **Fourth Convocation** of the College to be held at Cinnamon Grand Colombo with Mr Stanley Langer, (International Affairs Officer, RSC,UK) as Chief Guest and Dr David Ponniah, (Warden, S Thomas College, Mt Lavinia) as Guest of Honour. 52 Graduate Chemists, 5 Licentiate Chemists & 47 Diplomates are scheduled to receive their awards, medals & certificates on this occasion.