

Message from the President, Institute of Chemistry Ceylon

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The Institute of Chemistry is proud to record a successful remarkable year in several aspects. This year's graduation is special in celebrating the 25th batch of students passing out with a record output of 52 Graduate students with seven first classes. The Institute established a partnership with Northumbria University in UK

for those students who wish to obtain a Degree in Applied Chemistry in UK by following studies for one year in UK after obtaining an Advanced Diploma in Chemistry at the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon, on completion of two years of work in the Graduateship programme.

A record number of 47 received Diplomas in Laboratory Technicians Training Course Awards this year. The Herbal Technology Certificate Course conducted this year was a new dimension which attracted many professional Chemists and it provided an insight into the Science of medicinal herbs and value addition. Gold medal orations in memory of outstanding Chemists who have contributed yeoman service towards education and research in chemical sciences initiated last year were continued. Professor Sultanbawa Memorial Oration Gold Medal was awarded to an eminent scientist, Professor Priyani Paranagama from the University of Kelaniya for her research conducted on 'Exploring small molecule bioactive natural products; selected examples from plant associated fungi, endo-lichenic fungi and essential oil bearing plants'. These orations while honouring our past great Chemists, stimulate research and encourage excellence in research for social well-being.

Due to the inadequate space, laboratory and lecture room facilities in Admantane House we still have no option but to continue part of the lectures and practical classes at S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I state that this year we were successful in securing a land in close proximity to the existing site on a Government 50 year lease in order to expand the building space that is urgently required for carrying out the Institute's educational and professional development activities. Therefore, the building expansion project in the new land would accommodate all lecture hall, laboratory, library and other facilities in close proximity to the existing site. It will facilitate the accommodation of more students for the Graduateship in Chemistry and DLTC programmes and will improve facilities for research.

The new website www.ichemc.com developed this year provides information about the Institute, membership, its activities, education, professional development, students' activities, forthcoming events and some past events. Applications for membership and

registration for the forthcoming event 'International Symposium 2008' can be downloaded.

The forthcoming event 'International Symposium 2008' is organised by the Institute to coincide with its 37th Annual Sessions on the theme 'Innovations in chemical sciences for Social Well-being' and the International Symposium will be held from 12th to 14th June 2008 focussing on 'Innovations in Food Science and Technology and Healthcare for Social Well-being'. Prof K U Kamalgoda, Managing Director, State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka will be the Chief Guest at the Annual Sessions.

Food and Healthcare are areas of life sciences where application of chemical sciences benefit people. Therefore these areas are of interest to the Consumers, to the Industry, Scientists, Medical profession, Nutritionists, Engineers, Policy makers and to both the Government and private sector organizations in meeting the challenges on food and healthcare for building a healthy nation. Diet related non-communicable diseases and food borne diseases affect the social well-being of people. Therefore the Symposium focuses on food supply chain management, food science and technology, functional foods, nutrition in healthcare, developments in disease diagnosis, herbal medicines, immunology in health promotion, pharmaceutical applications etc.

The Symposium will be inaugurated on 12th June 2008. The Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Professor Tissa Vitarana will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest. The keynote address will be delivered by an eminent scientist, Professor Akinori Noguchi, Professor of Food Science at the Ishikawa Prefectural University who has also held several key positions at the National Food Research Institute and the International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences in Japan.

The 'International Symposium 2008' has attracted many world renowned expert scientists from Japan, Australia, USA, UK, Pakistan, Turkey, Oman and India. It provides a learning opportunity to the participants, provides a platform for interaction to share knowledge and experience with the world experts and foster research opportunities contributing towards the country's social well-being.

The Asian Productivity Organization Japan sponsored the participation of some Japanese scientists. Shimadzu Corporation which is a world class recognized company supplying scientific instruments and their partner in Sri Lanka kindly provided financial assistance to sponsor some of the research scientists. The Ministry of Science and Technology, the National Science Foundation, local Industry and many other organisations have pledged financial assistance to make this event a success. We are indeed very grateful for the contributions that enabled the organisation of the event.