

**Presentation by Eng Dhammika Gamage at the IIESL Council of Management meeting on the
INSTITUTE OF INCORPORATED ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA – UAE Branch**

As requested by the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL) Council of Management, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the IIESL - UAE Branch, Eng. Dhammika T. Gamage presented the current status of the branch activities at the IIESL Council of Management meeting on 10 June 2017, as follows:

Since its inception in 2005, the IIESL UAE Branch has worked hard to gain recognition and respect for Sri Lankan Incorporated Engineers in the international arena, through the establishment of mutual recognition programmes and the development of a competency-based professional review system in line with best international practice. Our continuing affiliations with many world-recognized professional institutions such as ICES UAE Region, AIQS UAE Division, CIOB Middle East Branch and universities will ease the pathways of our members towards many academic and professional accomplishments and career advancements. Recently we concluded a project of mapping the IIESL membership competencies with those of RICS and AIQS and in the near future, we shall recommence the dialogue between these institutions for possible reciprocal agreements / exemption arrangements for memberships.

Likewise, we are periodically conducting membership induction programmes and follow-up support workshops for potential candidates to obtain IIESL membership. The document on Membership Development within the UAE and Gulf region, prepared by Eng Dhammika Gamage, was presented at the same meeting and well received by the Council. Also, the Council of Management requested that Eng Dhammika Gamage develop the same document to suit the Sri Lankan context, to use it as a general document for membership development.

We undertake our educational charity programme through our regular Continuing Professional Development activities; over and above the long term partnering with ICES UAE for regular joint CPD events on a monthly basis, we closely associate with AIQS UAE Division and Sri Lankan Quantity Surveyor (SLQS) UAE - the biggest Sri Lankan professional body operating in the UAE - for joint CPD activities.

Furthermore, the Sri Lankan community living in the UAE are being benefited from the re-establishment of the MBA programme of the Postgraduate Institute of Management of the University of Sri Jayawardanapura in Dubai. We informally notified our membership in the UAE that all members must undertake a minimum of 20 hours of CPD per annum. One of the most exciting CPD programmes was recently run - an 8 day-20 hour programme of practical English for professionals conducted by well-known English tutor, Dr. Susil Nanayakkara.

Beyond that, as an extension of the Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, the IIESL-UAE are committed to join hands with the Sri Lankan Consulate General's Office and Sri Lankan Cultural Education Centre in Dubai (Dubai Dhahampasala) in all Sri Lankan national and religious festivals conducted in Dubai. We are also actively taking part in all charity activities of the Sri Lankan Welfare Association, SAHANA in the UAE to better serve our disadvantaged community. During the recent disaster in Sri Lanka due to heavy floods and landslides, we extended our full cooperation to the relief assistance charity conducted by the SLQS UAE.