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Our Mission: To inspire the SLIE Entrepreneur Inner Voice across the World



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My Thoughts

Editor-In-Chief



The Second Issue of the SLIE E Periodic Magazine is being released today. This is another step in the long journey in the sphere of entrepreneurship. It is hoped that this venture will pave way for the aspiring entrepreneurs to improve their enterprises and to those who intend to select their career in this field. This will be a forum for the stake holders in the future.

‘We welcome academics, the entrepreneurs to involve in this venture and contribute to move forward with us as we promote public communication through study, research and practice’

With Best Wishes!

M M A Latiff

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Message from the Senior Vice President / Co-Founder (SLIE) and Executive Director, SLIE Project Investments LTD(SLIEPIL)



SLIE Project Investments LTD brings all SLIE Products under one umbrella. Our Products are Sri Lanka Institute of Entrepreneurship, SLIE Academy, SLIE Young Entrepreneurial Society Project (SLIE YES), SLIE Library and SLIE VOice Electronic Magazine.

SLIE is the Platform where you can share the dream and vision of the Potential Entrepreneurs. SLIE strives to become a major resource centre/ knowledge portal on issues of Entrepreneurship development, research, communicate knowledge effectively within Sri Lanka and beyond.

"The SLIE VOice ...is a periodic magazine issued quarterly. There will be new element in each issue. Other than featured articles all content is designed based on SLIE Projects.

The newest addition to the second issue of SLIE VOice is the Research column & International news on Research and Innovation". The SLIE VOice follows three-step process. All research papers submitted are first scrutinized by the Editors to determine suitability. Papers found to be suitable are then assessed by peer referees from the respective discipline of study. The SLIE VOice strives to provide authors with a publication decision. The editorial board always keeps the members & public constantly up to-date on the progress and activity of SLIE via the electronic magazine publication.

My heartfelt appreciation to the SLIE VOice editorial board for the Team Effort. My Special Thank you is for all my Professional Colleagues, who supported us throughout to make this SLIE VOice second issue a reality.

With Best wishes!

Buddhini.J.A.Dankanda

How to Build Trust in Open Entrepreneurial Innovation with SLIE



Entrepreneurs today recognize the value of embracing open innovation by tapping into an outside pool of experts to help them fine-tune their innovative idea/ideas, accelerate their implementation and compete in the marketplace. The Sri Lanka Institute of Entrepreneurship (SLIE) is an ideal source, where unique all-round services are offered.

At the same time, even companies today will see how working with a resourceful and dynamic organization as the SLIE can help them to elevate their current performances, expand their market horizons and have meaningful expansion of their businesses. One of the key platforms for success between the seekers and providers is the building of collaborative trust and relationships for mutual benefit.

Both seekers and providers may worry about protecting their intellectual property but developing honest and clear strategies and mutually agreed approaches to agreements to identify each partner's contribution. For an individual entrepreneur it is much easier than for a company or a large organization to negotiate workable terms, as the latter may have several smaller groups to contend with. One of the most difficult areas for preservation of intellectual property is – *Technology*. This is especially true where open dialogue is the mode for discussion, presentation and involves sharing of ideas. On the other hand, there may be advantages too, finding quicker solutions for difficult problems, forging new trust based partnerships through open dialogue that will generate mutual value and good results.

RESEARCH COLUMN

Plastics Engineering

Polymeric Composite Resins with Rice hulls for Injection Moulding

By Chris Defonseka , Research Engineer

At first, injection moulders were cautious in their approach to using these new concept composite polymer resins but now that they have used them and consider the advantages of using these environment-friendly materials and with constantly improved grades coming on the market, they are using them with full confidence. Surpassing the earlier grades made with wood fiber/flour, composite resins with rice hulls are now opening a whole new frontier with exciting possibilities.

Wood fiber blends have already made a name for themselves and have been in use for some time and now polymer composite resins which were earlier used for extruded products are effectively moving into injection moulding. A good example is polymer composite resins with rice hulls. Some injection moulders may yet be hesitant to use these resins in comparison to the traditional 100% polymer resins they are more familiar with.

However, with growing environmental concerns, rising resin costs, bio-degradable problems and other factors, injection moulders are showing a great interest in these new materials. Constant research and recent developments in the manufacturing of these composite resins have significantly improved the quality, ease of processing and great cost savings. In fact, the latest generation of these composite resins can be effectively processed on traditional machinery and equipment, with minimal adjustments to process settings, with no other physical hardware modification needed.

These PCRH's can be made with a variety of plastics resins such as: polyethylene, polystyrene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride and so on. What's more- they can be either in the form of virgin or recycled wastes or yet again, a combination of both. PCRH resins can be classified as a category of emerging family of materials that can be termed-“Thermoplastic Bio-composites” and it is a huge advantage for injection moulders that they are now available in different grades, properties and colours. In general, the processing parameters for all grades (similar polymers) are more or less the same and very similar to the wood resin composites (WPC).

What are Composite Resins?

They are basically a mix of a standard polymer resins e.g. polyethylene and a biomass material such as wood fiber or rice hull fiber or other suitable fiber, acting as a filler/reinforcement. The polymer content acts as the matrix and the fiber as a property defining agent with up to possibilities of 50% of the total mass. The reduction in polymer volume/mass helps to reduce the environment pollution by using less of the traditional petro-based polymers.

In addition to the “Green Factor” in using biomass wastes, they reduce a moulder’s exposure to frequently fluctuating petroleum prices, reduce energy costs associated with production, while producing products with greater structural rigidity, aesthetically pleasing finishes and a ready-made marketplace. Since rice hulls can be obtained virtually free of cost, these composite resins tend to be lower in costs and weight than unfilled or glass-filled resins and even competitive with resins filled with calcium carbonate or talc. An added advantage is lower density of products, which reduces costs and is beneficial in uses where a premium is put on light weight applications such as: automotive, transportation, sports good, toys, aviation and other consumer products.

Rice Hulls

Rice hulls wastes are abundantly available in most countries at virtually no cost and basically consist of about 20% *opaline silica* and a polymer called *lignin*. From the rice milling process emerge two basic grades-coarse and fine hulls. The particle size of the hulls is naturally important as well as the moisture content and further drying and grinding will be required to make it into a flour for easy mixing and blending. Research has shown that they do no flame or smoulder and does not transfer heat or emit odours.

Basic Conditions for Quality Composites

To achieve good quality finished plastics products, it is important to use high quality composite resin pellets. There are three basic areas vital for producing these quality pellets.

Moisture Content: surface moisture should be less than 1.5%, while the internal pellet moisture content should be ideally less than 1.0%. Increased moisture contents and failure to control them during processing may result in *splay* (white patches) and excessive brittleness. Since most plastics are moulded at high temperatures this may not be a problem.

Pellet Characteristics

Pellets should be clean and relatively consistent in size and shape, irrespective of whether they are round, elliptical or in cubes. The pellets can be self-coloured or in their natural colour and a colour master batch used to obtain any desired colour. Powdery residues will indicate the use of non-standard pellet manufacturing equipment or poor maintenance on the part of the manufacturer.

Use of Correct Grades

As in standard practice, it is important also to select and use the correct grades. One of the benefits of current polymeric rice hulls composite resins, is that they can be easily blended with additional virgin resins, while still maintaining the polymer/rice hulls levels. Through different blending, moulders can achieve different performance characteristics of the final products in addition to the inherent basics such as- flame retardant, coloured, matt or glossy finishes and so on.

Recommended Processing Guidelines

Finished products made by injection moulding of these composite resins, when moulded properly with correct temperatures, injection speeds and a non-resistance melt flow, will exhibit minimal stress, smooth surfaces, uniform colour distribution and no evidence of gassing. The two most important principles to remember when processing polymeric/rice hulls composite resins are to avoid excessive heat and shear.

While some may think that the rice hulls in the composite will act as an inhibitor, tests have shown that actually, the reverse is true. For example, rice hulls/polypropylene composites flow very quickly at relatively low temperatures and pressures, as a result of which injection moulders can achieve significant energy savings. Added features are: shorter cycle times, reduced filling time, dwell time and cooling time, which means higher productivity.

After many research trials, recommended temperature guidelines for moulding with polymeric composites are:

Rear Zone: 340 to 370 °F Middle Zone: 360 to 390°F Front Zone: 380 to 410°F

Nozzle Tip: 390 to 410°F

Taking these as the basics, moulders may have to adjust these parameters when using different grades -PE, PP, PVC, PS and others- to achieve best results. Moulding pressures will depend on the part design as well as the runner system and the gates. As a principle, moulding with these composites will require less pressure than with traditional virgin materials. However, moulders should be careful with filling speeds. While the material will tend to flow quickly, it is important to avoid excessive shot-fill times, as these materials are sensitive to shear. If streaking occurs, it can be remedied by simply slowing down the injection rate. Given that lower temperatures are used for moulding, hold times are often lower than for standard materials.

The nozzle tip used in processing these composites should have an orifice as close as possible to the diameter of the sprue to minimize shearing. Smaller orifices may cause increased shear, as well as discolouration caused by overheating of the hot melt as it enters the mould. Injection moulded parts with these composite resins are rather “natural” in colour with a very slight brown tone and a uniform grain. They can be coloured and matt or high gloss finishes can be obtained by using dyes and additives.

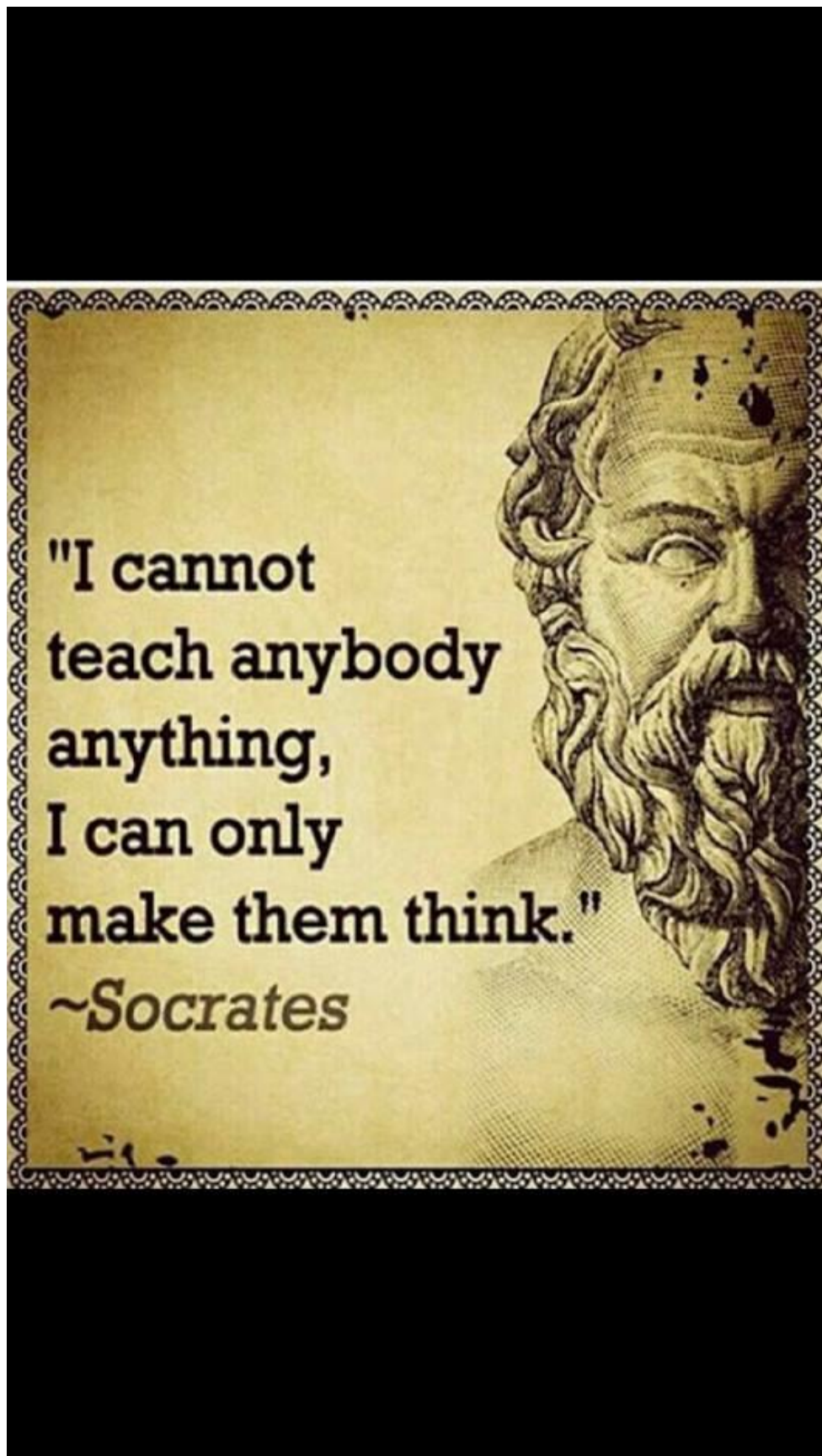
Conclusion

With the abundance of rice hulls biomass wastes available the world over and newer polymers from non-petroleum sources being offered by scientists and researchers in the market place and ongoing development of composite resins, one could conclude that these exciting polymeric composite resins with rice hulls are definitely a material with a great future for injection moulders. The availability of training programs by some of the well-known manufacturers of these composite resins to assist injection moulders, can only enhance and establish the advantages of using them and move away from traditional petro-based harmful gases.

Author’s note: The world markets for these composite resins are millions of tons per year and with the abundance of rice hulls wastes locally, this export-oriented manufacture is an ideal project for Sri Lanka.

https://web.facebook.com/TheSriLankanAnchorman/photos/?tab=album&album_id=328181640709461

Socrates Quote



Fostering Entrepreneurship through Education & Training: The Role of Business Development Providers in Sri Lanka

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Introduction

The Entrepreneurial development is a key to achieve overall development through higher level of business activity. Empirical studies have shown that entrepreneurs are made and not necessarily be born. The development planning strategies in many countries emphasize entrepreneurial development(ED) programs as a vital component in the growth process. As the quality of entrepreneurship differ from region to region, the type of inputs that a particular group of entrepreneurs would require should be understood clearly and the ED Programs tailored accordingly. Business Development Services (BDS) in Sri Lanka at present had been provided by wide range of suppliers representing government, non-government, private sector organization and donor communities. It has been widely recognized that entrepreneurship is essential for not only to solve the problem of unemployment but to achieve the higher level of economic growth. The researcher's focus on the issue 'to what is the role of the Business Development Services could play when fostering entrepreneurship?' .The objective of the paper is to provide a brief overview of the present status of entrepreneurship education and training provided by BDS in Sri Lanka .The discussion is concluded with suggestions to the Policy makers, with emphasis on remedial measures to be taken into consideration to overcome the constraints faced by BDS.

Key words

Entrepreneurship, Education, Training, Business Development Providers, Sri Lanka

Literature Review

Fostering Entrepreneurship

The Oxford Dictionary defines the act of ‘fostering as “to encourage or promote the development of (something typically, something regarded as good)”.Therefore fostering entrepreneurship considers the encouragement and promotion of the development of entrepreneurship.

This includes both, the stimulation of entrepreneurship, which concerns activities that encourage entrepreneurship and persuade people to consider pursuing entrepreneurial careers. The nurturing of entrepreneurs, which concerns the activities and facilities that support the growth and development of entrepreneurs and their startups (Zande, 2012).Moreover, as Hamza et.al (2016) noted that in the current socio-economic context of the “risk society” characterized by uncertainty and turmoil, entrepreneurship is one of the soft skills that is important among university graduates to ensure their survival in the real world.

Education and Training (ET) for Potential and Practicing Entrepreneurs

The building of knowledge and skills in preparation for starting or operating a business.ET programs target a range of potential and practicing entrepreneurs, regardless of age, level of education, prior experience, or circumstances (e.g., highly skilled and educated, self-employed, underemployed, and informal economy workers).

Sri Lanka Higher Education -The Stimulation of Entrepreneurship

According to the World Bank report on Higher Education of Sri Lanka (2009) has explained the same as follows: “Sri Lanka’s future in the global knowledge economy of the twenty-first century depends critically on the country’s intellectual and human capital. The ability of people to think and act creatively, work industriously and productively, and innovate and adapt available technologies to strengthen economic activities is cardinally important in the modern world. In this context, Sri Lanka needs a higher education system that can produce skilled, hard-working and enterprising graduates.

Also, the country needs research and innovation capacity capable of promoting dynamic economic development”. (Towers of Learning, World Bank, 2009, pp.1). The above statement of the World Bank clearly highlights the direct link between higher education and the economic development of Sri Lanka (cited in Nawaratne, 2014).

The University Grants Commission (UGC) came into existence in 1978 and became the apex body of the University System in Sri Lanka under the Universities Act No.16 of 1978. UGC has the responsibility for planning and coordination of university education, allocation of funds to Universities /Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), maintenance of academic standards, regulation of the administration of HEIs, regulation of admission of students to HEIs and assist in progress and development of all institutions coming under its purview(UGC Annual Report,2012).

Business Development Providers (BDS) and Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE)

In Sri Lanka-An Overview

SMEs plays vital role of entrepreneurship to the country, society and community by creating employment opportunities, mobilizing domestic savings, poverty alleviation, Income distribution, regional development, training of workers and entrepreneurs, creating an environment in which large firms flourish, contribute to export earnings.

Entrepreneurship and training and development as a tool for empowerment and sustainability of their business such as: Knowledge Gaining, Skill Enhancement, Values and attitudinal enrichment. The impact Understanding environment, Major requirements of dealing with the business activities (opportunity seeking, creativity & innovation, critical and positive thinking, networking, functional areas of entrepreneurship: Finance, marketing, leading and Social responsibilities.

The Business development services(BDS) has been recognized as an important element in promoting small and medium enterprises(SMEs).The BDS in Sri Lanka at present is been provided by wide range of suppliers representing government, non-government, private sector organization and donor community.

The white paper(2002) reveals that the BDS system in Sri Lanka is supply driven and found mostly in the urban centers of the western province and only few of them deliver effective and valued services to SMEs and outreach is limited .Most frequent type their support service include information, training programs and marketing.

The Definition for MSMEs in Sri Lanka is as follows:

| Type | Employees | Annual Turnover(Rs.Million) |
|--------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Micro | 1-10 | 1-15 |
| Small | 11-50 | 16-250 |
| Medium | 51-300 | 251-750 |

Table 1-Source: Report of Ministry of Industry & Commerce, 2015

Defining MSMEs in Sri Lanka, when comparing Manufacturing and Service the only difference identified in Service sector is number of employees, 51-200.

Training and Education of Entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka

The researcher noted that entrepreneurship education is gaining popularity among Sri Lankan Universities. Entrepreneurship training in Sri Lanka is conducted by several governmental, non-governmental and private sector agencies. Some of the organizations are Industrial Development Board (IDB), Small & Medium Enterprise Development(SMED) ,Federation of Chambers of Commerce in Sri Lanka(FCCISL),National Enterprise Development Authority(NEDA), Sarvodaya Economic Development Services(Guarantee)Ltd, CEFE(Competency-based Economies through Formation of the Enterprise), Business Consultancy Services(BCS) ,ILO-SIYB Sri Lanka Project and SLIEPIL-SLIE Project.

Entrepreneurship Programs in Sri Lankan Universities

In Sri Lanka there are three levels of business education programmes at University level- Graduate, Post-Graduate and Doctorate level. Graduate studies include programs which leads a student to the graduate degree in business education in 4yrs (Bachelor of Commerce/B.Com, Bachelor of Business Administration/B.B.A and so on).

The Universities offer the post-graduate studies in business leading to the degree –Master of Business Administration (M.B.A) by course work and dissertation. MBA programme is said to be unique in itself with inadequate knowledge of entrepreneurship.

In addition Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) is purely research work which also contributes to entrepreneurship. The doctorate level programmes in Sri Lanka are offered by University of Colombo and Post Graduate Institute of Management (PIM).

Job Opportunities-The intention is to prepare students to for jobs in business, government, and other organizations for teaching and research interests.

Entrepreneurship Education and Training Institutions in Sri Lanka

ILO –SIYB Sri Lanka Project

The ILO-SIYB Sri Lanka Project is been implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) since year 2000,with financial support from the Swedish International Development Corporation Agency(SIDA),under the guidance of the Ministry of Enterprise Development, Investment Promotion and Constitutional Affairs. The main function of the project is capacity building of partner organizations enabling them to deliver Business Development Services (BDS) to potential and existing entrepreneurs independently and in a sustainable manner.

The ILO has developed a new model to match the cultural values: Know about Business (KAB), The Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) is focus is MSEs in particular. The model which has growth objective in mind is called EYB-Expand Your Business (SIYB Reports, 2012/13).

Business Consultancy Services (Pvt) Ltd-The BCS-SL

The BCS is professional organization providing business and management consultancy services to local, regional and global organizations. BCS focus on enhancing and achieving change initiatives of government, non-governmental and private sector enterprises. The BCS-SL had been using the model- New Business Creation (NBC) to train and create new entrepreneurs.

The Special packages used by BCS are CEFÉ Training, Objective Oriented Business Planning(OOBP) Programme and Manitoba Institute of Management(MIM) Canada Training Modules on “Performance Management on Ken Blanchards’s approach of situational leadership: Marketing Management”(BCS Reports,2014).

Sarvodaya Economic Development Services (Guarantee) Ltd

SEEDs (Gte)Ltd was made a separate legal entity in the year 2001,through SEEDs functioned under the Sarvodaya umbrella from the year 1997.SEEDs focuses on micro enterprise development as a sustainable answer to poverty alleviation in Sri Lanka and operates through 2600 village based Sarvodaya Societies spread in all parts of Sri Lanka.

One of the innovative training models used by SEEDs is -My Business Dream booklet based training, Other generic training are entrepreneurship/business management/CEFÉ management, accounting, business development and marketing training also some of the technical training provided for sectors: agriculture, food processing & milk products, garments/footwear manufacturing and ,packaging(SEEDS Reports,2013).

Industrial Development Board (IDB)

IDB was set up under Industrial Development Act No.36 of 1969 vested with the responsibility of development of Industries in Sri Lanka. It functions under the Ministry of Industry & Commerce. IDB has the most number of extension officers and EDP trainers .Centre for Entrepreneurship Development and Consultancy Services (CEDACS) has been set up to give more value added services; In-calculating new entrepreneurial culture with latest managerial skills in order to encourage promotions of industries.

Some of the programmes conducted by the center are entrepreneurship development, technology transfer, management training, Improve your business(IYB),Start your business(SYB),Generate your business(GYB),productivity development and follow up(IDB,2011).

CEFE (Creation of Entrepreneurs Formation of Enterprises)

CEFE entrepreneurship training concept designed to stimulate positive interventions in the Micro, Small and Medium scale Enterprise development .The Process is developed and promoted by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ). The CEFE NET Sri Lanka is a nonprofit organization formed in the year 2000 and registered under the companies' act of Sri Lanka 2001, functioned under the Ministry of Policy Development and Implementation.

New Business Creation Programme conducted by CEFE became popular in many countries because of the high success rates. The training methodology has a wider appeal and has been applied in variety of situations .Its core focus remains to be stimulation of growth in the small and medium enterprise development process. The emphasis with entrepreneurs is on improving their business performance while with personnel from enterprise support and regulatory institutions more attention is given to creating a positive enabling environment at the micro and macro level. (CEFE Reports, 2010)

Federation of Chambers of Commerce in Sri Lanka (FCCISL)

Training Department of the FCCISL involved in a wide variety of education and training activities with a scope of supporting the entrepreneurs, employees and unemployed youth of the country in the acquisition of knowledge, sharpening of skills, concepts, rules or changing of their attitudes and behaviours to enhance the performance of their jobs or the future involvements. As the apex organization in Sri Lankan private sector, FCCISL has understood its role in supporting country's entrepreneurship to ensure the quality and the development of their employees to run their businesses profitably for a long period of time while supporting the younger generation of the country to be more employable (FCCISL Reports, 2011).

Small & Medium Enterprise Development (SMED)

SMED is a project of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL) in collaboration with the Friedrich –Naumann Foundation (FNF) of Germany. The project was established in 1989 with a view to developing and promoting the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sector in the country (FCCISL Reports, 2011).

The National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA)

The National Enterprise Development Authority has been established under the Act.no 17 of 2006 to promote, support, encourage and facilitate Enterprise Development within Sri Lanka. Their focus is to empower Small and Medium Enterprise sector of the country. NEDA operates under purview of The Ministry of Enterprise Development and Investment Promotion (NEDA Annual Reports, 2010).

SLIEPIL-SLIE Project

Sri Lanka Institute of Entrepreneurship (SLIE) was founded in the year 2010 and functioned under the SLIEPIL umbrella from the year 2016. This is a unique project which offers novel entrepreneurial training methodology in their programmes; Foundation/Diploma in Entrepreneurship. The unique training courses include both in-depth theory and practice combined into one programme (Defonseka, 2016). “The SLIE strives to become a major resource centre/ knowledge portal on issues of Entrepreneurship development, research, communicate knowledge effectively within Sri Lanka and beyond (SLIEPIL, 2016)”

The Methodology

The research methodology adopted for this study is two-fold, the primary data was collected via Key informant interviews while the secondary data by literature survey; such as published journal articles, working papers, research reports- web based publications, unpublished literature found locally and intentionally were extensively used. Key informant interviews-The officers to be interviewed were identified on random selection from BDS providers in Sri Lanka.

Present Policy and Programmes of Entrepreneurial Training

Policy should be supportive of entrepreneurship programmes. It was proposed to enhance the skills, talent and knowledge of university community and improve the institutional capacity in order to achieve overall objectives of the university education. Accordingly entrepreneurial projects were proposed to implement under the Knowledge Enhancement and Institutional Development program as estimated by the UGC for the year 2012. Entrepreneurship Development: Career Guidance project was coordinated by the MOHE and UGC with the assistance of universities in order to identify, improve or develop entrepreneurs skills of undergraduate students. Accordingly it was proposed to introduce entrepreneurship programs in collaboration with professional organizations in Sri Lanka for 1500 undergraduates in Arts and Management. Further it was proposed to conduct career guidance programs for final year students (UGC Annual Reports, 2012).

Government initiatives in the form of regional industrial development, productivity improvements, support for SME and research and development for innovation continued to be the focus of industrial policy in 2012 (Central Bank Reports, 2013). The comprehensive study conducted by the Institute of Policy Studies and Oxfam International (2014) reveals though importance of promoting SMEs and the measures highlighted in the Sri Lankan government policy documents are still not met. Micro and Small Business lack formal definition across countries since the small often differ significantly between developing and developed countries but it often uses the size of capital and number of employees as its parameters (Frenkel et.al, 2015).

On the other hand key objectives stated in the 'National Policy Frame Work for SME development' emphasis the importance of the government strategy 1-Strengthening training centers by upgrading the course contents and capacity development of resource personals to meet the market sensitive training requirements ,2-Fostering University – Business linkages and ensure curriculum development of Universities and Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) institutions by following a consultative process with SMEs to meet the needs of the industry (Ministry of Industry & Commerce Reports, 2015).

Moreover the views expressed by the design team -Government of Australia need assessment in future studies, “SMEs play an integral role in Sri Lanka’s economy .A number of key constraints, been identified to private sector led development, including: skill gaps in the workforce; access to markets and market linkages; lack of understanding of local and provincial government about the importance of SMEs to economic development; lack of access to finance and quality business development services(DFAT Reports,2014)”

The Drawbacks of the BDS -Sri Lanka Scholar’s View

As Ranasinghe (1996) identified “The focus, content and the structure of BDS’s need changes in order to make the programmes market oriented. The entrepreneurship trainers must play the role of catalysts in releasing the entrepreneurial talent among the youth, rather than being another course of study imparting knowledge and skills. To achieve the objective of BDS providers must be able to integrate the values and experiences of successful entrepreneurs in the delivery of entrepreneurship training”.

Gamage.A (2003) emphasis the need of having a clear definition of SMEs in Sri Lanka. According to the term SME is used to denote micro, small and medium enterprises. Different countries use different definitions for SMEs based on their level of development. The commonly used yardsticks are total number of employees, annual turnover and total investment. In the Sri Lankan context, the SME policy framework defines SMEs based on the number of employees and annual turnover (Ministry of Industry & Commerce Reports, 2015).

As Nimalathasan (2010) discussed that incorporation of entrepreneurship courses into business education still at developing stage in Sri Lankan context and mentioned the absence of a separate entrepreneurship development institute. Consequently Samantha Kumara (2012) justified the courses been introduced after 2012 the needs to better understand the context of entrepreneurial education as self-employment is important. Many believe that higher education in general and business management programs are at crossroads due to students’ perception. Therefore it should be clear that self-employment, an important element in business education as well as policies of the country (Nimalathasan, 2010).

The views of two eminent scholars added much rigor to the discussion; “The philosophy of empowering entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka is largely based on the theories and models that have arisen, predominately, from western paradigm are largely based on rational scientific approaches to analysis, which are not directly relevant to the holistic perspectives necessary for entrepreneurship” (Gamage, 2004; Gamage and Wickramasinghe, 2014).

During a key informative interview a Research officer from SEEDs commented that they have stopped entrepreneurial training due to various constraints (Shantha, 2015); A board member in the Sanasa Development Bank mentioned that their focus is on Micro finance and they are working on the needs assessment survey for potential women entrepreneurs during the year 2015; A message being put across by an eminent scholar for future researchers is that “What is missing is an overall evaluation of Business Development Consultancy services and their failure to accommodate the demands of SMEs today. It needs to be more innovative and creative in their approach” (Buddhadasa, 2016).

The paper further highlights the drawbacks of the public sector BDS. As the private sector target is on larger clients and these too ineffective for SMEs. The government to be act as a facilitator for the role between service and delivery by private sector and their clients by providing incentives for larger BDS providers to redesign their products/services focusing on specific requirement of SMEs (White Paper, 2002).

Entrepreneurship development training programs in most cases were not followed up by support and sustaining assistance. BDS providers as the navigators have a role of navigating the enterprise to its destination .Their focus should be on vital areas of ED: Financial, Technical support, Research & development, Needs assessment and Pre/Post evaluation on follow up. (Dankanda, 2004).The most obvious explanation is that prevailing ineffectiveness of the support system had been identified as the key reason behind the failure of SMEs in Sri Lanka(Buddhadasa,2011).

Can Entrepreneurship be taught or learned?

Kirby (2004) Argues that the traditional education systems stultifies rather than develops requisite attributes and skills to produce entrepreneurs, proposes that if entrepreneurs are to be developed, considerable changes are required in both learning, in particular it suggests that considerable changes in the models of both the content and process of learning., suggests the need to be a shift in the emphasis from educating “about” entrepreneurship to educating “for” it.

In the Green Paper Entrepreneurship in Europe (2003)

“Entrepreneurship is the mind-set and process for creating and developing economic activity by blending risk-taking, creativity and/or innovation with sound management, within a new or an existing organization.’ Whereas according to the SMED Reports (2014) “Developing an entrepreneurial mindset is about developing attitudes and providing opportunities for creative thinking”. Experiential education emerged to solve complex nature of entrepreneurship and the wide range of knowledge, behaviours and motivations involved in the entrepreneurial process (Robinson & Josien, 2014).

Concluding Remarks

Though many Sri Lankan BDS providers in public and private organizations have contributed to entrepreneurship education and training, how-ever their efforts are inadequate. May be BDS should move forward with the training challenge, a new methodology in their training programs. Successful implementation of introducing values and attitudes as a novel approach.

Sri Lankan Universities are trying their best promote entrepreneurial a spirit among students. Can they achieve this alone? As discussed, “If the government could act as a facilitator for the role between service and delivery by private sector., As well as redesign their products/services focusing on specific requirement of SMEs” (White Paper, 2002) .

The point I am making is that ‘Public and Private Institutions should blend their methodology to match the current need’. Also well-defined national policy on entrepreneurship and Support system is needed. Finally in order to stream-line the process government intervention is needed.

This study will address the research gaps by suggestions to policy makers, providing insights in how entrepreneurship is fostered by BDS as well as provide evidence on how different initiatives at those training institutions contribute to start up success.

Suggestions-

- 1- Creation of entrepreneurial development support agencies with government intervention to increase industry & academia interaction
- 2- Simulating entrepreneurial training at universities with as soft skill programme to raise student’s awareness of self-employment as a career option, as an entrepreneur
- 3- Introducing a mechanism to absorb the graduates for internship business practice @ BDS in the final year.

Limitations and Further research

The study is limited to literature survey and key informant interviews. Researcher’s attempt to explore existing entrepreneurship education and training methodologies, strategies generated interest for further research; Developing more appropriate mechanism by proposing training model for implementation in the Sri Lankan context for Micro and Small Business by laying the foundation at universities in near future.

Acknowledgement-I would like to express my deepest gratitude and acknowledgements to Dr. Sarath Buddhadasa, Dr. Samantha Kumara and Dr. Sunil Nawaratne who has commented on this article and encouraged me to publish.

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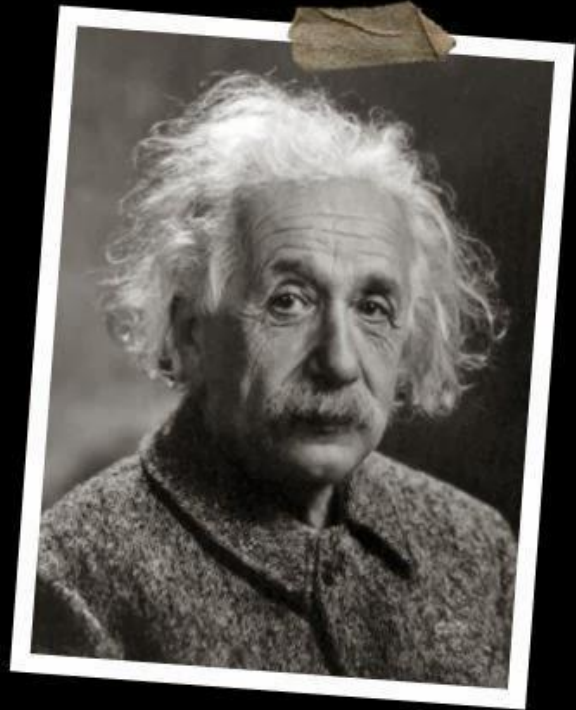
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SLIE SLOGAN

**"Education is not
the learning of
facts, but the
training of the mind
to think."
-Albert Einstein**



SLIE NEWS & EVENTS

Business Entrepreneurship Competition 2016

Stage 01: Business idea competition

Call for creative business ideas. 20 best ideas will be selected based on the creativity and innovation.

Deadline : 31st July 2016

Stage 02: Week-Day/End workshop

A comprehensive workshop on business planning and enterprise development will be provided for the above selected candidates.

Stage 03: Business plan competition

The 4 teams will then prepare and present their business plans.

◆ Importance of the event

- Participants will be aware of skill development regarding entrepreneurs.
- Enrich their own business ideas.
- An opportunity to gain practical knowledge in starting a business.
- Get a chance of meeting best people in the field.
- To Join SLIE YES(SLIE Young Entrepreneurial Society)

◆ Guide lines for the competitors

- The competition is open to all Ordinary Level Students and Young entrepreneurs.

Submissions should be sent via email to <slieyes.info@gmail.com> or alternatively submissions can be sent via Sri Lanka mail to: C/o Project Coordinator, SLIE Project Office at #1A/62, 1st Lane ,C.Cyril Mathew Mawatha,Wedamulla ,Kelaniya.Tel:0115682849

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Business Entrepreneurship Competition 2016

**DISCOVER A NEW WORLD WITH
SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SLIE)**

Best Business Ideas Will Be Selected
Based on Creativity & Innovation

**Attractive Gift Package & Scholarships
Will Be Awarded To The Winners**

**Students Between 16 - 20
Young Entrepreneurs Between 18 - 25**

Closing Date of Application 31st July 2016

SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP



SLIE

EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEUR

Contact: 0115682849

 <https://web.facebook.com/SriLankaInstituteOfEntrepreneurship/>



SLIE

SLIE - First Annual Undergraduate Multi-Disciplinary Research Poster Competition 2016 Forum 2017

An opportunity to share your creativity @ The SLIE Forum 2017

Forum Theme : "Enhancing Entrepreneurship Education and Skills Development"

CATEGORIES

- Business Incubators
- Business Planning
- Creative Ability in Business
- Entrepreneurship
- New Business Concepts
- New Market Oriented Products
- New Product Marketing
- Success in Business
- Technological Innovations

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

(1) Abstract should be no more than 250 words in length and include the following parameters:

1. The Title of the Poster
 2. The Introduction
 3. Issues addressed in your work
 4. The theoretical framework(s)
 5. The Results/ Conclusions
- (2) Include your full name, institution/ university, contact details in a separate page

REGISTRATION FEES:

It is free to submit an abstract, however if you are selected as a presenter, SLIE Forum Registration fees payable as follows:

- Overseas Participants-\$100
- Participants from SAARC Countries-\$50
- Local Participants-Rs.2000/- By registering you will have full access to all Forum Events

SPECIFICATION & IMPORTANT DATA

- a. Poster dimensions should not be larger than: 48 inches x 36 inches
- b. All posters must be laminated.
- c. Although we request an advance e-copy of the poster, you are required to bring a physical copy of your poster presentation.
- d. Support materials needed (computers, technical services..) for the poster presentations are the responsibility of each presenter.

Registration deadline: September 04th 2016

Submission Deadline: Poster abstracts - August 04th 2016

E-copy of Poster Presentations - August 7th 2016

via < slieacademy@gmail.com >

Submission Method

Submissions should be sent via email to slieacademy@gmail.com> or alternatively submissions can be sent via Sri Lanka mail to: c/o Project Coordinator, SLIE Project Office # 1A/62, 1st Lane, C. Cyril Mathew Mawatha, Wedamulla, Kelaniya. Tel-01 15682849

ELIGIBILITY

- Submissions should be based on research conducted during your time as a student.
- If the research submitted incorporates the efforts of a professor or a professional researcher, it is a disqualification.
- You may submit only one poster abstract in which you are the Lead presenter. First author must be an Undergraduate Student and the submission must encompass one of the categories listed.

PRIZES

Three finalists selected will gain due recognition at the SLIE Forum and Awards Ceremony to be held on January 14 & 15th 2017. "All accepted proposal presenter's names will also be published in the SLIE E Magazine-The SLIE VOICE Quarterly"

- 1st Prize** -  +  + 
- 2nd Prize** -  +  + **Cash Award**
- 3rd Prize** -  +  + **Cash Award**

Further Instructions to Presenters :

- *Poster Presentation Sessions -Dates will be informed in due course to all Participants
 - *A research poster presentation must describe a novel contribution and good presentation. The criteria for selection will be: the Concept, Innovation and Quality.
 - *All submissions will be reviewed during August 15th - 26th 2016
 - *The SLIE Education Faculty will select the abstracts that are most suitable for the competition and winners will be announced on August 29th 2016 via email notification.
 - *On successful completion of the Undergraduate Multi-Disciplinary Research Poster Competition, the selected presenters will be awarded in accordance with the provisions in the Sri Lanka Institute of Entrepreneurship.
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VOLUNTEER JUDGES

Volunteer judges are needed to assist in judging the competition posters. Undergraduate faculty members in particular are encouraged to participate.

If U are interested in Becoming a Judge, Then U are welcome to read the Info/details:

1-The SLIE Undergraduate Multi-Disciplinary Research Poster Competition is always looking to recruit judges. **If you have a Masters in the specialized area of studies**, this is the opportunity to volunteer at the SLIE First Annual Events- 2016 & 2017

2-What research areas are you comfortable judging? Select all that apply. Presenters at the Symposium are expected to be able to discuss their research with non-experts, so you are encouraged to judge posters outside your area of immediate expertise.

For further details PL contact,

A-Project Coordinator (Humanities Social Sciences)-Buddhini (0717222487),
<buddhinidankanda@yahoo.com>

B-Project Coordinator (Engineering Technology) –Gayan

(0773556191), <ranaraja@gmail.com>

C-Project Coordinator (Health Science)-Dr. Deepaka Sanath

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D- Project Coordinator (Education)-Rifa (0718274832),

<rifahome@yahoo.com>

E- Project Coordinator (Natural Sciences)-Tel: 0115682849, <slieacademy@gmail.com>

Judging and Awards

Each poster will be judged by a panel of Highly Professional members from academia and industry from each discipline.

With Best Wishes!

Organizing Committee. All rights reserved @ SLIE Project Investments LTD

SLIE Young Entrepreneurial Society Project (SLIE YES)

SLIE YES Mission: "To foster entrepreneurship among students and developing future leaders by establishing SLIE Young Entrepreneurial Societies - (SLIE YES)"



Become a SLIE YES member today -- you won't be disappointed!!!

"We welcome students, undergraduates or graduates and potential entrepreneurs"

We are delighted to announce the eligible Age/Group criteria for SLIE YES membership - : Group (A) 15-19, Group (B) 20-24 and Group (C) 25-29.

Here's a link to our SLIE YES membership application form Email<slieyes.info@gmail.com> , or For more information please Contact Our Project Coordinators and meet them on prior appointment: PL Charaka(Colombo)-0774737172, Anoj(Matale)-0719531095, Wathani(Jaffna)-0714524844

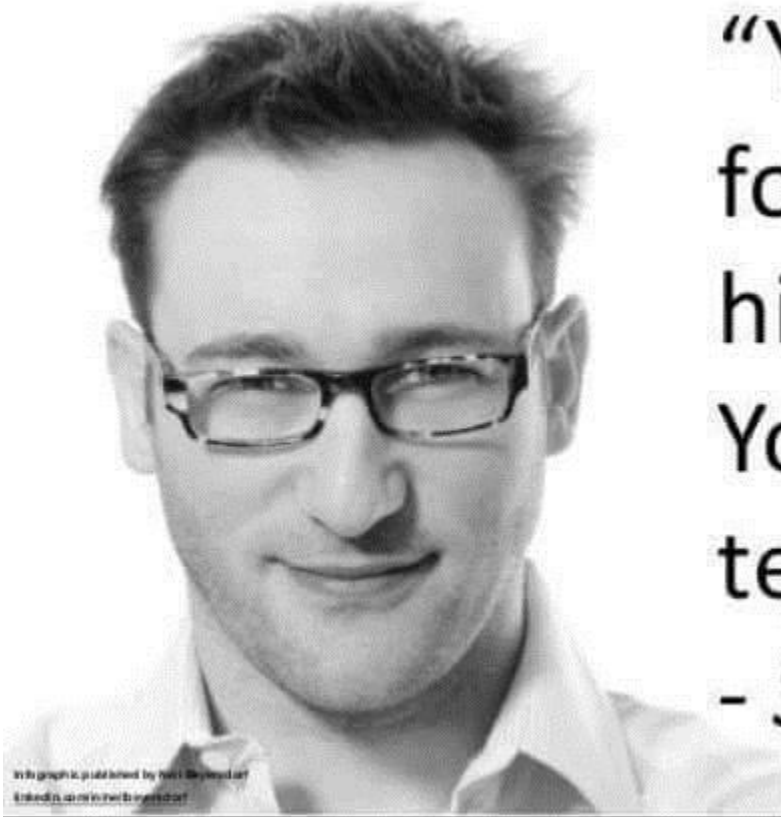
With Best Wishes!

SLIE YES Project TEAM/Twitter (slieyesproject)

"SLIE YES"-SLIE Young Entrepreneurial Society is Organized and Managed by the Sri Lanka Institute of Entrepreneurship

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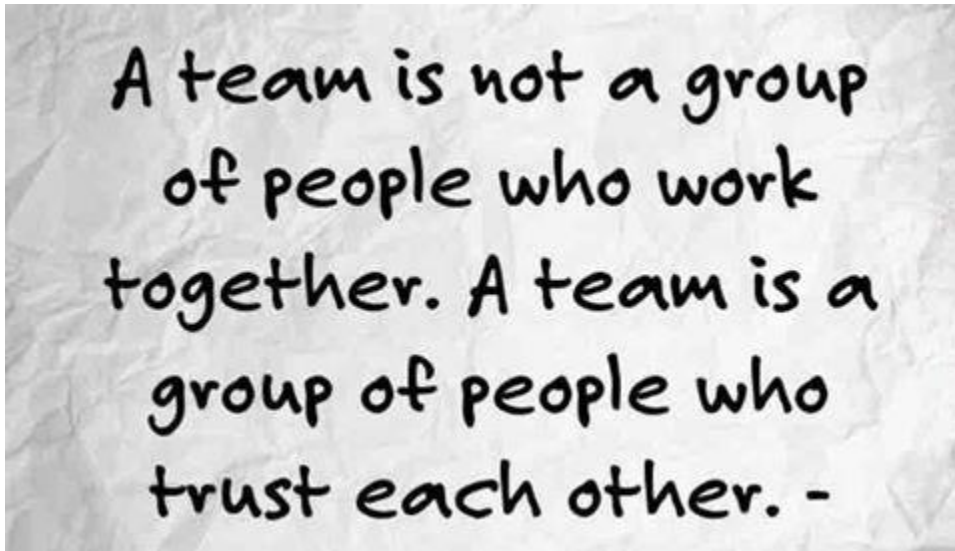
SLIE Quote



“You don’t hire
for skills, you
hire for attitude.
You can always
teach skills.”
- *Simon Sinek*

Infographic published by www.linkedin.com/company/sinek

SLIE Board Of Management and the TEAM



Sri Lanka Institute of Entrepreneurship (SLIE) was founded on 10th March 2010 and is governed by its Constitution dated 03rd September 2015.

SLIE Executive Board of Management (BOM) shall function as the ‘Think-Tank’ of the Institute.

The Official Executive BOM and the Team for the year 2015/ 2016 are as follows:-

Mr. Tennakoon P B Dankanda (President /Co-Founder),

Mrs. Buddhini.J.A Dankanda (Senior Vice President /Co-Founder & CEO/ Chief Academic Officer),
Vice President (Mr. Patrick Rodrigo),

General Secretary (Mr. Chandrasiri Gannile), Treasurer,

3 Corporate Members (Dankanda Plantations Management Ltd, D P Management Ltd & Saviya Management Consultancy Associates) and 3 Patrons.

The rest of the TEAM are Advisory board from Industry, Academia and Legal, Auditor,

Academic Staff-Education Faculty, SLIE VOice Editorial Board, SLIE YES Project TEAM and

SLIE Education Quality Assurance Review Board

(Dr. Sarath Buddhadasa, Dr. Sunil Nawaratne, Professor Gamini De Alwis)

SLIE Honorary Fellow Membership

- a) This is the highest professional distinction offered by the Institute. It is awarded on invitation only by the Executive Board of Management (BOM) on recommendation of Co-Founders of the Institute.
- b) Honorary Fellow membership is awarded to outstanding Entrepreneurs/ Professionals and academics who are non-members of the Institute and Corporate Members of the Institute.
- c) **Persons who have in the opinion of the Executive Board of Management (BOM), rendered noteworthy and memorable service towards the attainment of the objectives of the Institute may be only elected as Honorary Fellow Members.**

The Success Of Teamwork

Coming together is a beginning.

Keeping together is progress.

Working together is success.

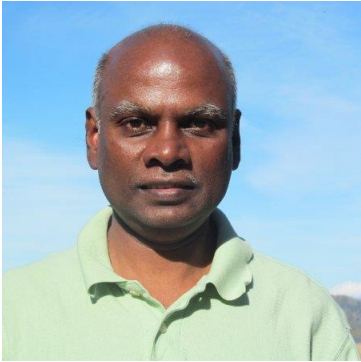


~ Henry Ford ~

**Special Announcement from President / Co- Founder, Tennakoon P B Dankanda,
Sri Lanka Institute of Entrepreneurship (SLIE)**

‘There are eight names been nominated for the SLIE Honorary Fellowships and Six members been selected. The final decision of SLIE Executive Board Of Management(BOM) been duly ratified by the President (SLIE) at a special meetings held respectively on the 22nd September 2015 and 14th January 2016 @ Colombo.

The President & the SLIE BOM wish to congratulate the newly elected distinguished personnel by conferring the status of an Honorary Fellow of the Institute, which will carry the professional designation of – Hon. FSLIE.

Hon. FSLIE-2014/2015

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1-Prof.R M J George</p>  | <p>2-Dr Nalin Abeysekera</p>  | <p>3-Mr Wilfred Klaassen</p>  |
|---|---|---|

Hon. FSLIE -2015/2016

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1-Mr Chandrasiri Gannile</p>  | <p>2-Mr Patrick Rodrigo</p>  | <p>3-Mr Chris Defonseka</p>  |
|---|---|---|

“Important Official Announcement from SLIE”



The Sri Lanka Institute of Entrepreneurship (SLIE) is a duly constituted and registered Business entity and governed by its constitution. The Public is hereby noticed that SLIE will not be responsible for any transaction or communication by any unauthorized party or parties, who attempt or may attempt to use valuable SLIE advertising content through negligence or otherwise.

"Please note that this notification is also applicable to Honorary Fellows who are no longer members due to termination during their probationary period. They will not be entitled to avail themselves or enjoy any of the privileges of SLIE membership"

For any queries: Please contact the SLIE Executive Board of Management via email at <saviyamca@gmail.com> or <slieplc.info@gmail.com>

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Welcome Message from Vice President & Chairman / Membership Sub Committee, SLIE

SLIE Membership (2016/ 2017)



"Join SLIE-Your Professional Partner in Business" 'Make a Difference as a SLIE Ambassador'

All Members need to go beyond extra mile to survive -Probationary period of 30days in the SLIE Organizational culture'

Applications for membership in the Institute are to be directed to the Membership Manager of SLIE via <saviyamca@gmail.com>

** SLIE Membership Benefits-

- Professional Recognition – Designatory Letters (FSLIE, MSLIE or AMSLIE)
- SLIE Community/ Groups & Get-Together's
- SLIE Faculty for Education & Enterprise Support
- Membership Directory

Please note that- 1-'Only a member -MSLIE, upgraded to a Fellow' and

2- Every cent of your money is utilized to sponsor a SLIE Project **

With Best wishes!

Patrick Rodrigo

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SLIE YES (SLIE Young Entrepreneurial Society Project),

SLIE Library & SLIE E Research Magazine-SLIE VOice

In order to improve goals of SLIE in the future we have focused on many activities for our members.

*SLIE Library (e reference), Special events-the SLIE Forum, Business PLAN Competitions, Coordinate with SLIE Undergraduate, Multi-Disciplinary Research Poster Competitions, SLIE Publication -SLIE VOice Quarterly.

SLIE Library-Valuable and informative books will be available for reference to SLIE Staff/ members and students. Donations of books from publishers and well-wishers would be most welcome

Business Plan Competitions-Trophies, Certificates, Scholarships for winners (Entrepreneurs & students)-Annual event

Multi-Disciplinary Undergraduate Research Poster Competition

Trophies, Certificates and Cash Awards for winners? -Annual event

SLIE Awards -Each year, SLIE YES Organizers will be awarded for their efforts. Sponsor an award, and help us celebrate these outstanding people and organizations at our Annual Awards Ceremony

SLIE Grants Projects-V welcome SLIE members to identify projects taking place in communities that need support.

SLIE Educational Outreach- Your sponsorship for SLIE Educational Outreach: - Providing information for educational and research purpose.

Event Cost –For further details U are welcome to Contact us at: Promotion & Advertising Unit

slieplc.info@gmail.com, Tel: 0115682849

Entrepreneurs Corner-The Voice Uncut

‘We Think We Think’

By: T. Arjuna



"*We are what we think. All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make the world.*" In that time and period when the Buddha said this, most peoples of that country were conscious thinkers; and they cherished values that had value. They were not the type of people who lie and steal in an effort to steer their way to the top. They believed that the first principle of values hinges on moral foundations because this is a moral universe, and moral laws were just as binding as the physical laws. Thus, their minds were pure; and because of it, life was mostly joyous. Compare this with our society today: sick to the core, self-centered and deceitful, life is lived for the sake of possessions, outward success, publicity, power, luxury, and not principles nor values. I am ashamed to think how easily we succumb to positions and names, to boastful displays and frivolous accomplishments. Thus, it is no wonder we are a society that is full of anxiety, stress, anger, and hopelessness.

The result: we medicate on alcohol, food, and drugs in order to cure, what in the first instance was the result of our making, our non-thinking lifestyles. The emblem of our anxious society is the elevation of tea and toddy for the poor, and coffee and Coke for the rich, to the status of national beverages. Eating muck has become our national pastime, probably making the poor one of the most out-of-shape people on earth due to lack of sustenance; and the unscrupulous rich, overweight gluttons. We escape reality and suffer from a mass cultural dissociative disorder as we live increasingly in a fantasy world of non-reality created by spin-doctors and political mirages; media generated images and TV personalities; cyberspace relationships and disaster-of-the-day newscasts.

We are economically reckless. We vow to eliminate the deficit, only to have the sense of urgency fade away again due to our collective amnesia. As a society we let our public spaces - roads, schools, civic buildings, libraries and parks deteriorate while pouring money into cathedral-like corporate headquarters, gated communities for the wealthy, and palatial commercial malls. When the prices of imported goods skyrocket, we resolve to wean ourselves off foreign products. As soon as the prices come back down, or temptation takes the better of us, we forget all about it. We swing wildly back and forth between contradictory solutions, because we have already forgotten what happened the last time we tried them.

We obsess on scapegoats, looking for people on whom we can pin all our troubles. The entire nation obsesses on minor but sensational escapades involving sports and entertainment celebrities. We turn to gambling for hope. People dream about the lottery. People want to hit it rich. The poor in this country see themselves as temporarily embarrassed millionaires, not as an exploited proletariat. The lottery is their link to million-rupee dreams, salvation from the rat race that is killing them. On the other hand, governments get into the gambling business to generate non-tax revenues as quick-fix solutions to financial problems. A new generation grows up placing their hope for the future in "winning the jackpot," as they become increasingly hopeless about finding meaningful work and earning a decent living. Our national pastime is talk. TV talk shows, radio talk shows. We talk nervously, we gossip, we rant and rave.

We have cultural phobia and we only feel safe while enveloped in the cocoon of our ignorance.

It is no measure of health to be a sane person in a profoundly sick society of people who think that they think. Had those who are responsible to think and do, given more thought to their doings than those that think that they think; would we ever give welfare benefits that reward poverty and illegitimacy in order the poor can have a chance to improve their lives. Would we exhibit repetition without insight and irresistible compulsions to do something in order to relieve our anxiety? That is why I say that as a society, and a sick society at that, we have recurring amnesia due to our non-thinking habit. Our national political anxiety makes us turn to the Greens with the hope that they will restore prosperity and traditional values. Then our anxiety makes us turn to the Blues to save us from the Greens. Soon disgust takes over and disillusioned voters either stay home or vote unenthusiastically and elect the least unpopular - the lesser of two evils. Some people hope for a candidate, a knight in shining armor to save the day, a military hero, a successful personality - any man or woman who can put an end to the usual pattern of politics. Meanwhile, the powerful but sputtering engine of capitalism churns out a glut of processed food, alcohol, drugs, consumer products and electronic entertainment - modern bread and circuses - to keep the populace distracted while the nation decays around them. Underneath lies, a deep depression, a profound sense of disillusionment, and a gnawing hopelessness about the future. These indeed are indications of a society that is sick; a society incapable of logic and analysis; a society - for want of better knowledge and abilities - that think they think. The truth is, knowledge acquired under compulsion obtains no hold on the mind.

This column will not endeavour to be a solution to all problems; nor be an answer to all or any of our troubles. But it will try to induce the thinking habit: thinking about matters that matter; matters that matter not immediately but still for all, matter. I believe, thinking is not over thinking, nor under thinking. It is about right thinking. Hence this column: We Think We Think will hopefully induce the right thinking habit.

See you this day next week. Until then, keep thinking; keep laughing. Life is mostly about these two activities.

For views, reviews, encomiums, and brick-bats: t_arjuna@yahoo.com

"Originally published in Ceylon Today Sunday. By curtsey of Author."

International News

CURRENT RESEARCH AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMES

By Chris Defonseka, Hon. FSLIE

This section is presented for the benefit of the readers to keep abreast of some of the activity taking place on a global scale covering Research, Industrial, Educational, Manufacturing & Entrepreneurial sectors.

- **Environment-** most Western countries & Europe are phasing out petro-based fuels to solid biomass fuels like wood pellets. Huge markets are already established in countries like UK, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, Canada, USA, Serbia and so on. The current supply is way below demand and the average market price for wood pellets is around Euros 220-240 per metric tonne made to ASTM & DIN standards. Resulting residues will be converted to value-added products.
- **Industrial-** Polymeric composite lumber made with plastics wastes and biomass is replacing traditional natural wood in Canada, USA & Europe. Applications are: decking, outdoor furniture, fencing, park benches, flooring, ceilings, facades, railway sleepers, roof tiles and many more. Traditional wood working tools can be used easily to fabricate these new family of bio composites which will be cheaper and has better properties. Most of them are made to wood grain finishes.
- **Research-** Canada has commenced research into the use of solid fuels made from wheat husks wastes in phase 1 and phase 2 will see further research to convert them into liquid fuels. This new liquid fuel will be designed to blend with the standard diesel oil as Canada has huge sources of oil and not aimed as a complete alternative to diesel.

- **Educational-** Universities are now including a course on Entrepreneurship in their curriculum and also will phase out to include training for specific trades to counter the problem of unemployment even after graduation. In North America, many post school training centers are being set up for multi-disciplinary learning which will enhance finding employment or setting up own businesses. Most will be for training applicants for skill trades.
- **Manufacturing-** North America is expanding its use of solar panels energy systems and have in place complete systems to run an average home. Other applications are solar powered boats, machines, engines and others. Since, installation costs are high; some manufacturers are coming out with biomass generators for single houses. Also, a new product on the market will be a biomass electrical power generator which will generate 18 -20 KW power and bigger outputs are being designed. A special feature will be that these units are portable.
- **General-** A novel way of road paving, which originated in India is now becoming a practice in the West- i.e. mixing plastics wastes (any type, colour or grade) up to 50% with bitumen, which gives a much better surface without cracks, water seepage and less wear and tear of tyres with tests showing longer life than standard bitumen ones. Addition of ash residues are being researched in this application as a filler and an enhanced moisture barrier.

CHRIS DEFONSEKA TO WRITE BOOK ON BIOMASS FOR PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL GERMAN PUBLISHER

International Plastics & Management Consultant, Research Engineer and Published Author, Chris Defonseka of Toronto has been given an assignment to write a book by an International German Book Publisher.

This assignment was finalized recently at a meeting held at the Hilton Hotel downtown, where Dr. Mark Smith, Senior Acquisitions Editor of the publisher hosted Mr. & Mrs. Defonseka for lunch.

This book on polymer chemistry and plastics technology, will be the fourth by Mr. Defonseka and at the request of the publisher will be so designed as to be used as a textbook for educational purposes, especially for the Universities.

Since universities are in the process of including more practical curriculum, especially towards entrepreneurship, this book is expected to support and boost the technical knowledge of graduates with entrepreneurial aspirations, while also imparting advanced technical knowledge for graduates to find employment, particularly in the fields of plastics and polymer research.

The Sri Lanka Institute of Entrepreneurship (SLIE) in Sri Lanka has invited Chris Defonseka to assist them in the capacity of a Consultant and also serve on their committee. For services rendered to date, the Board of Management has recognized his services by conferring the status of a Fellow of the Institute, which will carry the professional designation of – Hon. FSLIE. Among the current research projects undertaken by him, is the all-important one of finding alternate fuels for diesel and coal, which are petroleum-based and harmful to the atmosphere.

His suggestions of solid biomass fuels by converting wheat husks wastes, which are available in abundance throughout Canada into solid pellet fuels has been well-received by the governments of Alberta and Manitoba. This will also offset the current practice of wood pellets, which will deplete our forests.

He intends to extend his research to produce liquid fuels from these wastes as an ideal solution. Towards this end, he is closely working with a colleague, Dr. Ivan Attanayke- Research Scientist at the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka and very hopeful of achieving this.

When successful, this will be a tremendous boost for Canada as a pioneer in liquid biomass fuels which will reduce the carbon footprint by as much as 50% and also create a booming export market.

Author's note: For those interested in these research projects, Chris Defonseka can be contacted via his email: defonsekachris@rogers.com

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It is what we do around here”**

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SLIE VOice editorial TEAM!**

Thank you

Managing Editor/Twitter (bjadankanda)

