

HYPERLEAP

39th National Conference of
Chartered Accountants



08th – 10th October 2018 at the BMICH, Colombo, Sri Lanka



HYPERLEAP

39th National Conference of
Chartered Accountants

As professionals, we must boldly go forward, and not be shackled by the ever changing technologies and social dynamics. We must all embrace challenges and spin them into opportunities and be ready to take that leap, boldly...



39TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
“HYPERLEAP”



08TH OCTOBER 2018

6.00 pm onwards	Inauguration Chief Guest: His Excellency James Dauris , British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Guest of Honour: Prof. Lalith Gamage , Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology Keynote Address: Tony Weerasinghe , Chairman/CEO of Ustocktrade, LLC and Co-Founder/Director at The Cainan Foundation
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09TH OCTOBER 2018

7.30 am- 9.00 am	REGISTRATIONS
9.00 am – 10.30 am	BOLDLY GO: REDEFINING THE IMPOSSIBLE Speaker: James Lawrence , Iron Cowboy, Triathlete, World record holder, Author & Motivational Speaker
10.30 am – 11.00 am	TEA BREAK
11.00 am – 12.30 pm	BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION AND FUTURE OF JOBS Speaker: Kasturi Wilson , Managing Director of Hemas Pharmaceuticals, Hemas Logistics and Maritime Sector of Hemas Holdings PLC Panelists: Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri , Director of Post Graduate Institute of Management, Immediate Past President of Institute of Personal Management. Suvasish Mohapatra , Managing Director Operations – Australia, Asia Pacific, Middle East and Turkey for Accenture Global and Board Member of Accenture Lanka.
12.30 pm – 1.30 pm	LUNCH
1.30 pm – 3.00 pm	WALK WITH DIGITAL DISRUPTION Speaker: Dr. Romesh Ranawana , CTO / Co-Founder at SimCentric Technologies Panelists: Jiffry Zulfer , Founder and Chief Executive Officer of PickMe Jehan Mutaliph , Chief Digital Officer of MAS Holdings Ishan Gunatilleke , Chief Operating Officer, Spectra Logistics
3.00 pm – 3.30 pm	TEA BREAK
3.30 pm – 5.00 pm	NEW BREED OF BUSINESS MODELS IN A DISRUPTIVE ENVIRONMENT Speakers: Bhanuka Harischandra , CEO of Surge Global Aqeel Mohideen and Dila Weerasinghe of Robin Hood Club Dulith Herath , Founder and CEO of Kapruka
6.00 pm Onwards	PRESIDENT’S COCKTAIL

10TH OCTOBER 2018

7.30 am- 9.00 am	REGISTRATIONS
9.00 am - 10.30 am	STAYING AHEAD OF THE CURVE: UNLESS WE CONTINUE TO LEARN BEYOND WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY MASTERED, WE WILL NOT GROW Speakers: Suren Rajakarier , Head of Audit and Assurance, KPMG Sri Lanka and Maldives D.M. Rupasinghe , Director - Financial Intelligence Unit of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka Panelists: Rajendra Theagarajah , Managing Director/ CEO of Cargills Bank Limited Nayana Mawilmada , Sector Head - Property Group at John Keells Holdings PLC
10.30 am – 11.00 am	TEA BREAK
11.00 am – 12.15 pm	THE DNA OF THE FUTURE ACCOUNTANT “REDEFINING LEARNING AND WORKING IN SRI LANKA” Speaker: Dhammika Perera , Chairman of Vallibel One PLC
12.15 pm – 1.15 pm	ENGAGE IN THE PRESENT, PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE Speaker: Peter D’Almeida , Managing Director and Chief Executive of N*able
1.15 pm – 2.00 pm	LUNCH & END OF THE PROGRAMME



Introduction

With the coming of big technological and social changes – which are both mutually reinforcing movements – all established norms and status quos are being challenged, leading up to an increasingly unknown future.

Should we fear these changes or embrace them? Is embracing the change self-defeating or our best shot at continuity?

As futurist and philosopher Alvin Toffler once wrote, "The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."

The Finance profession has historically been an integral part of economic growth, and the skills we possess best places us to take on the disruptions ahead and come out of it stronger and better. Our willingness to be open to change and to be bold to adapt, will enable us to “hyperleap” into a new economy and business eco-system.



Message from the President of CA Sri Lanka

There has been a considerable impact on the role of the accountancy profession with the influence of disruptive technologies.

Certain practices that were believed to be an inherently human process, is today being automated, with the advent of artificial intelligence, cloud computing, cyber security and data analytics. This has renewed the call for us as professional accountants to comprehend the need to adapt with time, while understanding that technology is here to stay and we have to work beside it, and not against it.

This is why it has become increasingly important for professionals including chartered accountants to take bold strides and leap forward to evolve in their professional role. As professionals, if we don't change and adapt with time, and fall in line with new technologies and methodologies, we risk the possibility of failing, and this is why we must embrace change so that we can thrive while adding value to our corporates and country.

The National Conference in its 39th year, and recognised as Sri Lanka's biggest business summit will no doubt become an important platform to steer the mindset transformation among the delegates at the conference, which will comprise of corporate leaders, change makers and c-suite executives in ensuring that they take that all important 'Hyperleap' so that they can continue to remain relevant and lead their organisations to succeed despite the challenges and complexities.

I wish the 39th National Conference fruitful deliberations.

Jagath Perera
President
CA Sri Lanka



Message from the Chairman National Conference Committee

The National Conference of Chartered Accountants is a momentous event for all Chartered Accountants in Sri Lanka. As the country's biggest and most anticipated business summit, it provides an opportunity to engage with great leaders across the finance and business community who share their experiences and success stories. This year, the National Conference of Chartered Accountants in its 39th consecutive year will revolve on the theme "Hyperleap".

Technology has impelled finance professionals to grow at a rapid speed in order to stay relevant keep up and thrive in this ever-evolving landscape and Chartered Accountants must evolve and change with it if they are to remain relevant. Therefore, this year's theme aims to inspire Chartered Accountants to go boldly and take that all important leap which will help them to succeed in their professional role despite increasing technological disruption, HR challenges, divergent economic conditions and changing business models.

The National Conference of Chartered Accountants attracts Sri Lanka's top business leaders, c-suite executives as well as top accounting professionals. Even though the number of participants who had shown interest to participate have consistently increased every year, the Institute is compelled to limit the registrations due to limited seating at the venue. This year too there will be a live broadcast at the same venue and a webcast for the convenience of those joining from overseas who are unable to participate in person.

The 39th National Conference of Chartered Accountants will undoubtedly be an important event encompassing dispersion of knowledge on emerging topics of relevance for the accounting fraternity. Therefore, I look forward to your participation at this flagship event which will be inspirational, informative and thought provoking.

Dulitha Perera
Chairman, National Conference Committee





Message from the Chairman National Conference Technical Committee

“It is an iron rule of history that what looks inevitable in hindsight was far from obvious at the time.” Yuval Noah Harari.

That disruption is upon us is no mystery. We hear it all around us. Heavy sounding punchlines such as artificial intelligence, block-chains, machine learning technologies, millennial wave, social media revolution, change in global economic order, and so on, are spoken of relentlessly; but the single unanswered question remains as to what this means for us all.

The blunt reality is that no one quite knows exactly what all this entails for our future, but what we do know is that big changes lie ahead and to ride this tide we need to be prepared to change ourselves, boldly.

The topics and speakers that we have lined up for the two days of interaction at the Conference, will focus on our capabilities as professionals and as a nation to not being subdued by the disruptions but to emerge out of them in better shape than before.

Some of the speakers will reflect upon personal life-changing disruptions and the spirit with which they endured them to come out stronger by making the big leaps in their skills, their goals and their perspectives – a hyperleap, so to speak.

As businesses, economies and social structures evolve with a universal faith in algorithms, the greatest challenge will be in creating jobs in which people perform better than algorithms do.

The Conference will include sessions on new breeds of businesses and business models that are spawning around us to cater to fast changing demands and expectations. What work will look like in the future, with emphasis on particularly how the finance profession will transform, is another highlight of this year's conference.

As Chartered Accountants, being up to speed with the latest developments in the accounting, business and regulatory sphere is pivotal, and therefore we have dedicated one session to take a look at these latest developments.

The Conference will not be complete unless we give perspective between the present and the future. Whilst we gaze beyond the horizon, we must keep our feet on the ground in the present, not losing sight of prevailing priorities.

We look forward to having your active engagement at the CA Conference, as we take you all through an exciting and informative series of talks and discussions that will certainly induce ideas and provoke thoughts beyond your comfort zones. Cheers!

Moiz Rehmanjee
Chairman,
National Conference Technical Committee



Message from the Secretary of CA Sri Lanka

The National Conference of Chartered Accountants is one of the most sought after corporate events in Sri Lanka, which has set new benchmarks and is today recognized as a business summit that provokes thoughts and spurs insights into broader economic and business issues that are relevant in the current context.

As an influential professional body, we take it upon our responsibility to provide leadership and insight for the benefit of the accounting and finance professionals and I believe the National Conference, with a history spanning nearly four decades, is the perfect platform that fulfills this important objective.

The importance of this event has been further endorsed by the consistently increasing number of participants who gather for this annual flagship event. Last year, the conference saw an overwhelming participation of over 1700 delegates including corporate leaders, and decision makers, making it the biggest corporate event in the country.

The 39th National Conference will focus on 'Hyperleap', and will bring together local and foreign speakers and panelists who will steer the conference sharing their insights on how it has become increasingly important for professionals to understand the need to embrace change, and convert challenges into opportunities and thrive.

I am certain this year's conference will set new benchmarks and will be an important platform which will help our professionals take the lead to ensure greater success at corporate and national level.

I wish the Conference and its participants all success.

Prasanna Liyanage
Secretary
CA Sri Lanka





Keynote Speaker

Tony Weeresinghe

Founder/Chairman/CEO Ustocktrade LLC

Co-Founder and Director of The Cainan Foundation

Founder- MillenniumIT & E-Channelling

Member – Executive Team of London Stock Exchange.

Visionary with over 25 years' experience in the IT and Finance industries, Tony has built some of the world's most sophisticated trading systems, including the current platform for the London Stock Exchange.

Today, Tony serves as the Chairman and CEO of Ustocktrade LLC— the first Alternate Trading System (ATS) providing retail investors same-day trade settlement for U.S equity securities. In Summer 2017 Tony took another bold step and launch Ustocktrade Sri Lanka which will be the first stock trading platform to allow Sri Lankan's the opportunity to invest in world financial markets beginning with the United States without requiring an international broker.

Tony's contrarian tendencies have borne serious fruit in the world of global finance. In 2010, his company, MillenniumIT, became part of the LSE group. He then joined LSEG as their Director of Global Development, and in less than a year had successfully migrated one of the world's largest trading platforms without missing a minute of operability. At MillenniumIT, Tony started Echannelling, the first e-commerce company in Sri Lanka. At age 26, he was the youngest country manager for Oracle, and also held positions with Sun Microsystems and Wang during the course of his career.

The company Ustocktrade was founded to financially support The Cainan Foundation, a unique philanthropic venture which seeks to provide a world class education to the world's most underserved children. The Cainan Foundation is an IRS registered 501 (c)(3) organization in the United States



Boldly Go: Redefining the impossible

James Lawrence

Iron Cowboy, Triathlete, world record holder, Author & Motivational Speaker

The pre-defined 'possible' limit human achievement. To go beyond this defined limit seems impossible. But what does it take for the individual, the accountant and the nation to 'hyperleap' and boldly go beyond to achieve the impossible?

Hear it from the Iron Cowboy. The man who did 50 ironman courses in 50 states in 50 consecutive days!

Redefine impossible: You've been told your entire life what is and is not possible. To achieve greatness. You must redefine boundaries and set your sights higher.

James did 50 Ironman triathlons, in 50 days, in 50 states. He was constantly on the move for 12 hours a day, running, swimming and cycling. As soon as he had finished, he had to travel to the next state. Most days James only had about four hours to rest. That's no time for your body to recover. Did he hurt? Did he want to give up? Of course. But James ended up powering through, and breaking a Guinness World Record. At the end of the 50 days, his body had begun to accept that this was its new reality (and he felt like he needed to do another triathlon after he finished!). Humans can push themselves so much further than they think. They just need to get over the mental barriers to see what they can really achieve.

The extreme physical exertion endured by James is no different in our quest for survival in the business world. Just like James, we need to power through perceived challenges, break away from traditional moulds and equip ourselves with a future – relevant set of skills to survive in a new business eco – system constantly evolving by digitization and geopolitical forces. So, let us learn what it takes to develop our skills and overcome our boundaries to 'hyperleap' beyond our expectations as an individual, an accountant and a nation.



Business Transformation and Future of Jobs

Kasturi Wilson

Managing Director of Hemas Pharmaceuticals, Hemas Logistics and Maritime Sector of Hemas Holdings PLC.

What will the future of work look like amidst the technological advances happening around us? How are millennials disrupting the way we work? In this session, we will look at how a company builds and sustains its culture amidst these rapid changes.

Having joined the group in 2002 as the Finance Director of Hemtours (presently, Diethelm Travels), Kasturi was appointed as the Head of Hemas's Shared Service Unit, Vishwa BPO in 2005. During her two year stint there, she built a highly motivated business support team which streamlined transaction processing and SBU reporting across the group. In 2007, Kasturi was appointed as the Chief Process Officer of Hemas Holdings PLC, where she also managed the group's Process and IT infrastructure which significantly enhanced her scope and influence over the group's processes.

After a successful tenure, she took on the role as Managing Director of transportation sector in 2011 and has since overseen the rapid growth of the Transportation Sector especially in Maritime and Logistics. In 2016 April, Kasturi was appointed as the Managing Director of the Pharmaceutical cluster of Hemas and continued as MD of Logistics and Maritime. In 2017 Kasturi was appointed as a Non Executive Director of Morrisons PLC. She has worked as Financial Controller of Aramex Airborne Lanka and was the Financial Controller of Confifi Hotels prior to joining Hemas.

Her dynamic personality and capacity to work had little trouble in accommodating national basketball practices and tours whilst also settling down to have two sons. She has represented the National Basketball team from 1989 to 1993 which she captained in 1989. She has also represented National Basketball team from 1989 to 1993 which she captained in 1989. Kasturi was also awarded with the Outstanding Women Leadership Achievement Award in 2015 and Women Super Achiever Award in 2016 at the world Women Leadership Congress Awards held in Mumbai India. Kasturi is a Fellow Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants UK and have served on the board of CIMA. She is also a Harvard Business School Alumni. Additionally, she is a member of the sub-committee on Economic, Fiscal and Policy Planning of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and also serves as a member of the National Agenda committee for Logistics and Maritime. Kasturi currently holds the position of Senior Vice President of the Chamber of the Pharmaceutical Industry of Sri Lanka, and is also a Non Executive Board Director of Capital Alliance Ltd.

PANELISTS



Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri

Director Post Graduate Institute of Management University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Immediate Past President of the Institute of Personnel Management

Prof. Dharmasiri, is a Professor in Management, and is also the Director and the Chairman of the Board of Management of the Postgraduate Institute of Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. He is the Immediate Past President of the Institute of Personnel Management (IPM), Sri Lanka and was a Vice President of the Asia Pacific Federation of Human Resource Management (APFHRM). He serves as an Adjunct Professor at the Price College of Business, University of Oklahoma, USA. He has almost three decades of both private and public sector experience having served at Unilever and Nestle. Prof. Dharmasiri has engaged in consultancies in over fifteen countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. He is a Commonwealth AMDISA Doctoral Fellow, Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellow and Commonwealth Postdoctoral Fellow. He holds a Ph.D. and an MBA from the Postgraduate Institute of Management and a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Moratuwa.

He is a Chartered Electrical Engineer, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management, UK and an independent Director of several boards. Being an author of six books and editor of the longest publishing management journal in Sri Lanka, he has won many accolades including gold medals for best papers in two international management conferences, Emerald best paper award in 2014, and in 2010, and the platinum award by the Alumni of the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIMA) for outstanding academic contribution. He also won the prestigious IPM Lifetime Gold Award 2014, the highest honour for an HR professional in Sri Lanka. Prof. Dharmasiri likes to identify himself as someone who transitioned from being an "Engineer of Electrical" to an "Engineer of Hearts and Minds."



Suvasish Mohapatra

Managing Director Operations - Australia, Asia Pacific and Middle East & Turkey for Accenture Global and Board Member of Accenture Lanka

Better known as Suv, Suvasish leads Accenture Operations for India and is responsible for taking to market, Accenture Operations capabilities to Indian enterprises. A leader with comprehensive experience in finance and technology services at senior levels, he has served in various continents spanning Australia, Asia and the Middle East. He believes in creating a consultative partnership with clients, focused on developing a transformative strategy and end-to-end technology based solutions to facilitate growth and excellence.

Prior to joining Accenture, Suv was with Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), where he headed the strategic sales centre (SSC), focused on mega deals and sales enablement activities in the Asia Pacific and Japan region since 2010, based in Singapore.

Prior to that, Suv was on the buy side, having managed a private equity fund in Dubai and held retail banking executive positions with the National Australia Bank and Westpac Banking Corporation. As a Harvard Business School alumni, he is also a mentor for aspiring Harvard students in Singapore which is a joint initiative with the Ministry of Education. A global nomad, a sports and a foodie, Suv has relocated to Mumbai with his family spread between Australia and Singapore.



Walk with Digital Disruption

Dr. Romesh Ranawana
CTO / Co-Founder at SimCentric Technologies

“When digital transformation is done right, it’s like a caterpillar turning into a butterfly, but when done wrong, all you have is a really fast caterpillar” SMACIT (social, mobile, analytics, cloud, and Internet of Things) and the proliferation of other readily accessible digital technologies is acting as the perfect catalyst for digital disruption. While presenting businesses with the unique opportunity to redefine its value proposition, digital disruption dares by the exhilarating transformation it promises to bring along with it. Clearly, the competitive landscape is changing rapidly and the effects of digital disruption are massive; In this backdrop, businesses must brace themselves for the inevitable.

An entrepreneur with a strong track record in building successful products and companies geared towards a global market, Dr. Ranawana’s proven technical expertise and experience is backed by a DPhil (PhD) in Artificial Intelligence from the University of Oxford. He co-founded Tengri UAV in Singapore, and its development office Tengri Aero in Sri Lanka. Tengri UAV develops and sells a line of customizable UAV platforms to a global customer base. Dr. Ranawana manages day to day activities and product management along with the other directors in his current capacity as it’s Director, which is a position he has been holding since 2015. Dr. Ranawana also oversees all software development at Tengri. He is also the co-founder/CTO and Managing Director of SimCentric Technologies, which was founded in 2008 in Australia. He also founded the SimCentric’s development office in Sri Lanka in 2009, which commenced with just 3 staff members but has today grown to be an organisation with over 100 staff members. The Sri Lankan office now handles all product development, quality assurance, release management, product management, project management and support for SimCentric’s 3 other international offices and more than 150 customers across 35 countries. Dr. Ranawana continues to manage all technical development and strategy for the company in his capacity as the incumbent global CTO.

SimCentric is today a global leader in simulation technology with over 25 nations using it’s software as a core part of their training pipelines, computer scientist, inhibox. Dr. Ranawana was instrumental in researching, designing, developing and launching the automated pharmaceutical drug lead discovery system - DrugFinder. He is a Clarendon Scholar, Unilever Scholar of the University of Peradeniya, and has a BSc (Hons) in Computer Science (1st Class Honors).

PANELISTS



Jiffry Zulfer
Founder and Chief Executive Officer of PickMe

A serial entrepreneur counting 17 years of founding and successfully running several technology-based ventures, Zulfer, currently has himself invested in the most successful tech-based start-up in the country, PickMe.

As the Founder and CEO of PickMe - a ground breaking technological innovation that addresses an everyday problem i.e. taxi hailing - Zulfer has driven the company from its start-up to its growth phase within a relatively short period of three years. He has also inspired many others to take up the challenging route of ‘technopreneurship’ in the local ICT space.

Like many other success stories around the world, Zulfer too started off as a mean-teen with a vision to make a change. At just 17 years old, while still schooling, Zulfer began his first server solutions business and ran it out of his own room. He then went on to develop a peer-peer trading platform for which he closed the initial round of funding, this was during the time when the dot com bust and twin tower attack occurred. Subsequently Zulfer set up a fully-fledged Internet Agency and eventually exited successfully.

Crediting his efforts in technopreneurship the young Zulfer was awarded the FCCISL Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in April 2004 and the ICTA Young IT Professional Award in May 2006. Prior to founding PickMe, he contributed as CTO and part of the founding management of anything.lk which was founded back in 2009 and was later re-branded as wow.lk following its acquisition by Dialog.

Anything.lk, a daily deals company, was the first of its kind in the e - commerce space in Sri Lanka and is still successfully the market leader of the daily deals business. Zulfer exited wow.lk in 2014 to give life to his new brainchild, PickMe.



Ishan Gunatilleke
Chief Operating Officer of Spectra Logistics

An accomplished leader with 18 years of end to end supply chain experience, focused on the consumer goods and retail space, Ishan has a proven track record in facilitating operational efficiency, developing capability and delivering transformational change. Ishan has deep functional expertise in demand and supply management, warehouse and transport operations, network optimization, inventory strategy and supply chain systems integration.

His diverse global experience encompasses work in developed and emerging markets across the globe, including North America, Russia, Turkey, APAC, China, India and MENA, developing supply chain capability to service large scale retail and fragmented small format retail environments. He has demonstrated leadership abilities in a matrix global operating model, embracing cultural dexterity and honing skills to collaborate, influence and build capability in organization structures across the maturity spectrum.

He has a proven ability to embrace, define and execute transformational change across the supply chain, holistically from concept through delivery, leading business case development, solution definition, change management and organization capability development to deliver and sustain (Digitizing supply chain planning for Asian markets, new distribution model for North America). As a Global COE (internal consulting) lead, Ishan drove process capability deep dive to analyze processes, recommend and implement change in markets across the globe including Russia, Turkey, India, China, Egypt, APAC and North America.



Jehan Mutaliph
Chief Digital Officer of MAS Holdings

Jehan, has won respect across many national and international forums as a tech professional with a genuine pulse for business. With over 18 years of experience, Jehan has previously held a number of tech leadership positions across the EU through Attune, and eventually moving on to lead the e-commerce and retail systems with Pentland Brands in the UK. As a tech evangelist with a strong business acumen, Jehan is often referred to by those around him as a millennial stuck in a gen-X body.

New Breed of Business Models in a Disruptive Environment

The new generation of influencers (mostly the millennials) are indeed an interesting bunch. By becoming the world's most powerful consumers, they are spearheading a wave of business transformation that is spawning a new and divergent breed of businesses and business models. Let us catch a glimpse of how they have started to rock our traditional business world.

SPEAKERS



Dulith Herath
Founder and CEO of Kapruka

Dulith is a well-known, highly successful Sri Lankan serial entrepreneur. He is known as the King of E-commerce in Sri Lanka, and is the founder and chairman of Sri Lanka's largest e-commerce organization, kapruka.com. In addition to Kapruka which is his largest creation, Dulith has also founded many successful startups in Sri Lanka including Grasshoppers, an e-commerce logistics enterprise.

Dulith has won numerous awards including the Asia Pacific Young Entrepreneur Award, and Sri Lankan Entrepreneur of 2017. He was also chosen as an Eisenhower fellow by the President Eisenhower foundation in USA in 2017.

He recently secured the country account for Amazon.com for Sri Lanka where now local produce could be sold on global platforms via his unique cross border e-commerce fulfilment network.



Aqeel Mohommad Mohideen
Lead volunteer Manager at
Robin Hood Army

Robin Hood Army referred to as "Robins", they mediate between restaurants which have fresh excess food available and serve them to the less fortunate members of the society.

What started off as an act of kindness in India has now become a worldwide Zero – funds volunteer organisation, serving over 6.5 million people in 77 cities with a building asset of 16, 542 Robins. 82% of hungry people live in countries with food surpluses, not food shortages, where hunger kills more people each year than AIDS, malaria and terrorism combined and every 10 seconds a child dies from hunger. This established one of Robin Hood Army's primary principles: Their work is only 1% done. With over 850 million hungry people around the world, along with over 1/3 food going to waste; The Robin Hood Army identified this as a critical issue and operates by the simple conduct of redistribution. Studying international business management at Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology.



Bhanuka Harischandra
CEO of Surge Global

Bhanuka is a gamer turned passionate marketer & entrepreneur, who specializes in analytics, data, content, distribution and all things growth. He is the Founder & CEO of Surge, a digital marketing and technology company that works with startups to fortune 500 companies across the world.

Surge is a team of designers, developers, analysts & innovators. Creators that get together to empower brands with sophisticated storytelling. Together, the team at Surge has built and launched million-dollar apps, built up market leaders from the ground up and served content to a network expanding over billions of impressions worldwide. By understanding content that goes deeper, audiences that consume it and the data around it. Surge helps brands make data-driven decisions that help them grow and scale through Content, Social, Search, and everything in between.



Dila Weerasinghe
Entrepreneur & Artist.
Volunteer at the Gateway Special Needs School and the Robin
Hood Army
Managing owner of Fired Earth (Pvt) Ltd.

Staying Ahead of the Curve: Unless We Continue to Learn Beyond What We Have Already Mastered, We Will Not Grow...

Being abreast of the latest developments in the accounting, business and regulatory sphere is pivotal in enabling us to better our value proposition. In this session, we will take a look at the latest regulatory and accounting developments that are shaping the future role of the Accountant.

SPEAKERS



Suren Rajakarier

Head of Audit and Assurance of KPMG Sri Lanka and Maldives

Suren leads the People, Performance and Culture function for the Firm. He is a Fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, ACCA and CIMA of UK. He previously held the position of Head of Financial Services for the Middle East & Southern Asian region of KPMG consisting of 15 countries and has also worked in the KPMG offices in Oman, Dubai and the Financial Business Unit in London. He also serves as the Chairman of the ACCA Sri Lanka Member Network Panel.

Suren is the Chairman of the Statutory Auditing Standards Committee set up under the statute. He has served as the alternate chairman of the Statutory Accounting Standards Committee, the Audit Faculty and the Financial Reporting Faculty set up under the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka and continues to serve as a member in many of these Committees, to assist in setting policy and providing guidance. Suren is a regular presenter at national conferences and several other thought leadership forums and training sessions.

Suren has completed executive education programmes at the INSEAD University, in France on Banking, the KPMG Summer School in Berlin on Financial Risk Management and The Global Insurance Academy held at The Wharton, University of Pennsylvania, USA.



D.M. Rupasinghe

Director, Financial Intelligence Unit of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Rupasinghe was reappointed as Director, Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) - Sri Lanka and was previously the Addl. Director of FIU – Sri Lanka. He has served in the Economic Research Department and Public Debt Department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka as a Senior Economist and a Deputy Superintendent, respectively. Rupasinghe has held many senior positions in the Central Bank of Sri Lanka including Controller of Exchange, Director of Regional Offices Management, Director of the Centre for Banking Studies, Director of Macro-prudential Surveillance and Superintendent of Public Debt.

Rupasinghe has also held a number of different positions in important institutions in Sri Lanka during his career including a member of the Board of Directors and a member of the Audit Committee of the Gem & Jewellery Authority of Sri Lanka, a member of the Working Group on International Trade Facilitation at the WTO and in Sri Lanka Customs, an Advisor of the Working Group to assess and report on Impact of LTTE International Affairs and their Implications for National Security, a member the Steering Committee on Aging Study, a member of the Technical Evaluation Committee on Study of Economic Significant of Coastal Region, a member of the Steering Committee on National Health Accounts, a member of the Committee on BIMSTEC Business Forum, a member of the Steering Committee of Plantation Sector Reform Project.

He also served as a Co-chair of Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) during 2017-18 and is currently serving as a member of Special Presidential Task Force on Recovery of State Assets of the Government of Sri Lanka. Rupasinghe holds a Master of Economics Degree from the Colorado State University in the United States.

PANELISTS



Nayana Mawilmada

Sector Head, Property Group at John Keells Holdings PLC

Nayana is a key advocate and spokesperson for sound urban development policy and planning in Sri Lanka. Nayana's unique perspective has been shaped by over 20 years of experience in urban development, real estate and design, spanning 15 countries in the public and private sector domains. In Sri Lanka, he served as the Director General of the Urban Development Authority and was a thought leader behind some of the country's most ambitious public initiatives: laying out a roadmap for sustainable urban transformation of Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, as well as its second largest city, Kandy.

Nayana currently heads the Property Group of John Keells Holdings, where he is driving the company's transformational strategy on large scale urban development. He has an MBA from Harvard Business School, a Master of City Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor of Architecture from Hampton University, in the USA.



Rajendra Theagarajah

Managing Director/ CEO of Cargills Bank Limited

Theagarajah has 35 years of experience in the Banking industry, both locally and internationally including 14 years in the capacity of a CEO. He is the incumbent Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.

Theagarajah is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka and Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK. He holds a MBA from the Cranfield University, UK. He is the Present Chairman of



DNA of the Future Accountant “Redefining Learning and Working in Sri Lanka”

Dhammika Perera
Chairman of Vallibel One PLC.

The past decade has witnessed, amongst other significant changes, the development of advanced technologies and rising administrative cost which has posed many challenges for Accountants and sparked concern of what the future holds for the Accountant.

Whilst these concerns hold true, the opportunities ahead are stronger if the profession is swift to accept and adapt. To remain relevant, Accountants must embrace new technologies such as AI, mega data analytics and blockchain into their domain of expertise and leapfrog the profession into the new age of business.

Dhammika is one of Sri Lanka's most successful entrepreneurs and visionary leaders. His story is defined by his vision, perseverance, passion and his constant drive to go against the grain in not just one sector, but in diversified areas of business.

A visionary in every sense, Dhammika is renowned in Sri Lanka's business circles for his acumen and foresight. A proven leader and successful industrialist, with over 30 years of business experience, he has imbued the spirit of Sri Lanka with global paradigms to create world-class corporations. As Chairman of Vallibel One PLC, an investment vehicle with significant shareholdings in publicly quoted and private companies in Sri Lanka, he is recognized as an icon of expertise in corporate re-engineering and revival. Today his empire boasts 29 listed companies – that's more than 9 per cent of all companies traded on the Colombo Stock Exchange. The companies under Dhammika's ownership and management contributes to 5 per cent to the nation's corporate tax revenue and employ over 60,000 employees out of which 1880 are based in overseas branches in an array of sectors. Dhammika was featured in the Forbes Asia Magazine in 2013. He is renowned as a visionary, humanitarian and transformational leader.



Engage in the Present, Prepare for the Future

Peter D'Almeida
Managing Director and Chief Executive of N*able

Passion and engagement are virtually synonymous for excelling in the task at hand. And whilst you remain immersed in the present don't let it stop you from looking into the future, which will be full of new possibilities.

Peter founded N-able in 2008 with 12 others. The company today employs over 200 people, to provide technology-enabled business solutions; 'connecting people and things, with insight, for an efficient and intelligent world'. Before his involvement with the IT industry, Peter was a banker. During this time, he also served as the Treasurer of the Ceylon Bank Employees' Union where he was actively engaged in championing worker benefits for its employees nationwide.

While his diverse career spans nearly three decades in the banking, advertising and IT industries, Peter has enjoyed a parallel career in the Arts, as an actor and a director. He has starred in plays, television dramas and films. Today, Peter has gained traction as a public speaker for a variety of forums across the education, business and technology sectors.

Through his speeches, Peter has focused on the importance of creativity and the need to push past the narrow boundaries that confine our personal, professional and political lives. This was also the theme at Peter's keynote at TEDx Colombo 2017, where he urged the audience to think differently about the future – their own as well as of the nation. Peter is an alumnus of the INSEAD School of Business.



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