

Annual Convocation: An unforgettable evening for 29 new Fellow members and 233 new Associates

The Annual Convocation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka marked a significant moment in time for 29 senior members who were elevated to the highest stratum in their professional careers as fellow members; and 233 passed finalists of the Institute's qualification who received their Associate membership. The convocation ceremony held recently at Waters Edge, Battaramulla at the presence of over 800 guests.

Mr. Sunil Sirisena, Secretary to the Ministry of Co-operatives and Internal Trade graced the event as the Chief Guest while Mr. Suresh K. Shah, Director/Chief Executive Officer of Lion Brewery (Ceylon) was the guest of honour at this annual event.

A total of 13 prize winners who fared exceptionally at the 2010/2011 examinations were also recognized at the convocation.

The Institute's President Mr. Sujeewa Mudalige speaking at the convention disclosed that chartered accountants play a leading role in Sri Lanka's boardrooms; with nearly 60 percent of the top 50 companies listed in the Colombo Stock Exchange has a CA Sri Lanka member either as chairman, CEO or finance director. He emphasized that no other profession has demonstrated such command in the country's corporate sector boardrooms.

He stressed that CA Sri Lanka members are recognized as holders of a highly respected business qualification

"As an institute, we should take great pride in what our founding fathers created over 52 years ago. Over the years we have not only laid a firm foundation but progressively strengthened that foundation and as a result the Institute is today a strong institution," Mr. Mudalige noted.

The Chief Guest at the ceremony, Mr. Sunil Sirisena, Secretary to the Ministry of Cooperatives and Internal Trade in his address emphasized that Sri Lanka was today at a threshold of a new era of development and invited chartered accountants to play a more pivotal role in the country's development drive.

Guest of Honour, Mr. Shah in his message noted that being a professional is a privilege and it will bring challenges and rewards. "An accountant sits close to the nerve centre of any organization. This close proximity to the decision making process provides numerous opportunities for career enhancement and growth."

He emphasized that change is always constant but change is not a threat and it indeed is an opportunity. "Yet to take advantage of the opportunities that change brings, accountants cannot remain static, taking comfort from exams completed. This is why continuous professional development is crucial. The reality is that professionals must learn more during the course of their careers than they did for examinations."

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