

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka) recently launched the Women Empowerment & Leadership Development Forum to encourage female CA's to step in to leadership roles and support their career progression.

The forum which attracted a full house of women Chartered Accountants, kicked off under the theme of 'Be visible, it's a career not a job' at the Institute recently.

Speaking at the event, CA Sri Lanka President Mr. Jagath Perera pointed out that even though the Institute's membership comprised of 32% females, not all were employed. 'We need to make sure that there is a mechanism to absorb them back to the workforce. It doesn't necessarily have to be a 9 to 5 job, but there are options,' he said. 'We need to bring them back, so that they will be actively and directly involved in the development of the country,' he added.

Alternate Chairperson of the Women Empowerment and Leadership Development Committee Mrs. Anoji De Silva disclosed that even though 52.6% of the country's population comprised of females, the labour force participation was only 36% making Sri Lanka one of the countries in the world with the lowest female workforce. 'If we want a productive and developed country for our children, we must increase the female working population in Sri Lanka,' she said.

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A section of the audience comprising of female Chartered Accountants of CA Sri Lanka