

Marking yet another milestone in its history, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka) today ceremoniously launched its first ever degree programme in applied accounting at a gala ceremony held under the patronage of the Minister of Higher Education S. B. Dissanayake.

The new degree is another important landmark in the tertiary education sector of Sri Lanka and aspires to bridge the growing gap in the dearth of university level education in the country due to the limited number of intakes to local universities.

CA Sri Lanka President, Mr. Sujeewa Rajapakse addressing the distinguished gathering stressed that the BSc in Applied Accounting which has been approved by the University Grants Commission is yet another feat in the institute's continuing endeavor to provide the country's youth with the best qualifications in the accounting field.

"In recent times, we saw thousands of students losing opportunity to gain entry into universities due to the limited number of intakes, which led to many students spending substantial amounts and following foreign degrees from foreign universities and in some cases students joined foreign universities of questionable repute," he noted.

Mr. Rajapakse emphasized that as a responsible institute and as a leading tertiary education provider, CA Sri Lanka therefore decided to help gap this increasing dearth in recognized higher education opportunities right here in Sri Lanka, and embarked on launching its own degree in applied accounting for the benefit of the country's future generation of professionals.

He also noted that CA Sri Lanka in its capacity as the national body of accountants is steadfastly supporting the government's vision in ensuring the youth in our country are empowered with the necessary professional skills as well as academically for their long term success and to ensure the country has a sufficient skilled workforce.

"I think this degree programme, will play a tremendous role in helping our nation achieve the objectives of a skilled workforce before long, so we can realize our country's development driven ambitions," Mr. Rajapakse added.

The inaugural degree programme which will commence in June this year will be conducted by the institute's fully-fledged School of Accounting and Business (SAB).

Chief Executive Officer of CA Sri Lanka, Mr. Aruna Alwis noted that throughout the institute's five decade long existence, CA Sri Lanka has constantly assured quality education that is accessible to all in accordance to social needs and individual aspirations.

"Therefore, as a step forward and to meet the continuous market demands, the institute is introducing the BSc. (Applied Accounting) General/Special Degree Programme to fulfill the increasing demands in the field of accounting. The main objective of this degree programme is to create employable graduates with the required practical knowledge, skills and attitudes," he said.

Mr. Alwis emphasized that CA Sri Lanka is also equipped with the required modern infrastructure to ensure a rewarding learning experience for all its students. He added that the course modules will be conducted by a highly qualified and experienced academic staff and the Institute will be committed to maintain the highest academic standards stipulated by the University Grants Commission throughout the degree programme.

"I invite the youth of our country to take advantage of this opportunity offered by CA Sri Lanka and embark on a successful and rewarding career," he noted.

CA Sri Lanka is one of the largest tertiary education providers in Sri Lanka outside the university system with a massive student population of over 41,000 students who are studying the institute's globally recognized professional qualification in chartered accountancy.

The Institute boasts of an impressive membership comprising of 4300 fully qualified chartered accountants, a majority of who play a leading role in the country's corporate world often in the capacity of chairmen, managing directors, chief executive officers, chief financial officers and directors.

Accounting is one of the world's most successful professions and unlike other degree programmes offered by both local and foreign universities, the hallmark of the CA Sri Lanka degree programme in applied

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accounting guarantees to create employable graduates required by the industry.



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