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Issue 45

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA

President's Message



Eng. K.L.S. Sahabandu
President (ACESL)

Dear Members of the Association of Consulting Engineers
– Sri Lanka,

It is with great humility and a deep sense of responsibility that I address you following the Annual General Meeting of ACESL 2025. I wish to sincerely thank the members and the Council for the confidence placed in me during my tenure as the 16th President of this esteemed Association. I also place on record my heartfelt appreciation to our past Presidents and Council Members, whose dedication and voluntary service over more than four decades have laid the strong foundation on which ACESL stands today.

Since its establishment in 1980 and subsequent recognition by Act of Parliament in 2003, ACESL has served as the national body representing consulting engineers in Sri Lanka and as a member association of FIDIC. Through conferences, forums, workshops, and international engagement, the Association has continuously worked to uphold professional standards, ethical conduct, and the collective interests of our members, while contributing meaningfully to national development.

The past few years have been among the most challenging periods faced by our profession. Sri Lanka's economic crisis, compounded by global disruptions, severely affected the construction and consultancy sectors. Many projects were suspended, professional staff were displaced, and consultancy practices faced unprecedented

uncertainty. While there are signs of gradual recovery, the industry remains fragile and requires consistent policy support, professional stability, and ethical leadership.

At the same time, we have witnessed increasing challenges to the traditional role of the Consulting Engineer, particularly in contract administration and technical decision-making. Bureaucratic intervention, unstable employment practices, and the emergence of nonprofessionally led consultancy entities pose risks to accountability, continuity, and professional integrity. As ACESL, we remain committed to engaging constructively with all stakeholders to safeguard the independence, authority, and ethical standing of Consulting Engineers, while promoting collaboration across disciplines.

Despite these challenges, the year under review has been productive and forward-looking. We strengthened communication through an upgraded website and regular newsletters, and organized professional forums addressing emerging technical and industry issues. A major milestone was securing the opportunity to host the FIDIC Asia Pacific Conference (ASPAC) 2026 in Colombo. This achievement, formally announced at the ASPAC 2025 Conference in Bali, places Sri Lanka prominently on the regional and global engineering map. The Conference, scheduled for 15–17 November 2026, will focus on the theme “AI Revolution in Engineering and Project Implementation”, reflecting the evolving role of technology in our profession.

I am also pleased to note the revival of the Young Professional Forum, which had been inactive in recent years. Through a transparent process, a new committee has now been established, and young professionals have been nominated to regional FIDIC future leaders' platforms. This initiative represents an important investment in leadership development and the long-term sustainability of the profession.

Looking ahead, the successful organization of ASPAC 2026 will be a key responsibility of the incoming Council. In addition, ACESL will continue to focus on strengthening engagement with government and industry stakeholders, enhancing public recognition of consulting engineers, updating our rules and by-laws, expanding international collaboration through FIDIC, and promoting

continuous professional development, ethics, and leadership.

In conclusion, I extend my sincere gratitude to my fellow Council Members and to all ACESL members for their cooperation, trust, and unwavering support. I am confident that, through unity and professionalism, ACESL will continue to safeguard the integrity of our profession and guide it towards a resilient, innovative, and sustainable future.

Thank you.

Eng. K.L.S. Sahabandu

B.Sc. Eng. (Hons.), Pg. Dip. (Hydraulic Eng.), M.Sc. (Structural Eng.), C.Eng. M. Cons E(SL), M.I.C.E.(U.K.), F.I.E.(S.L.), Hon. F.S.S.E.(S.L.)

Annual General Meeting - 2025

The Annual General Meeting of Association of Consulting Engineers, Sri Lanka for its session 2024/2025 was held on 19th December 2025 (Friday) at 17.30 hrs. at Opulent River Face Hotel, No. 166, Koswatta Road, Nawala, Rajagiriya. with participation of members and representatives of member firms.



Members arrival at registration desk

AGM was convened by the reading of AGM notice dated 19th December 2025 by the Hon. Secretary, Eng (Dr) P D Dharmaratne followed by 'two minutes of silence' in memory of all demised members of ACESL.



Two minutes' silence to honour the members who had passed away



The Secretary, Eng. (Dr.) Dhammika Dharmawardena reading minutes of meeting of last AGM



The President, Eng. K.L.S. Sahabandu addressing the AGM

The President of ACESL, Eng. K.L.S. Sahabandu addressing the gathering warmly welcomed distinguished

invitees, members, and member firm representatives for the Annual General Meeting of ACESL.



The Treasurer, Eng. Ranjan Gunawardena presenting Audited Statements of Accounts



President of Young Professional Forum, Eng. Dilini Gamage delivering her speech



A Group photo of Members and Member firms Participants



Members and Member firms Participants

Election for ACESL Council for the Session 2025/2026



Scrutineers Getting Ready to Announcement of Results of the Election



Announcement of Results of the Election

Following members were elected to ACESL Council for the Session 2025/2026.

1. Eng. Eng. K.L.S. Sahabandu
2. Eng. H.P.R Gunawardena
3. Eng. Srimal Munasinghe
4. Eng. (Mrs) K.G Samanthika
5. Eng. (Mrs) Rasika Kahatapitiya
6. Eng. R.M. Ananda Senerath
7. Eng. T.M.C.R. Weerakoon
8. Eng. Chandana Dalugoda
9. Eng. R.K.C.N. Thilakasiri
10. Eng. Muditha Chandralal Weerawardena
11. Eng. W. Suminda Udaya Kumara



Council Elected for the Session 2025/2026

Awarding Membership Certificates to the newly Enrolled Members

The following members were awarded the Membership certificates.

1. Eng. K.N.W.K. Wimalarathna
2. Eng. (Mrs) P.M.P.K. Senanayake



Newly appointed member receiving membership certificate from the President

Appointment of Auditors

It was decided to continue the service of the M/s. Tudor V Perera Company as the Auditor for the session 2025/2026.

Conclusion of AGM

AGM of ACESL Session 2024/2025 was concluded with the vote of thank by the Assistant Secretary followed by the dinner.



Assistant Secretary, Eng. Samanthika Gamage delivering vote of thanks

Council for the Year 2025/2026

Council Meetings, Activities and Decisions

The 1st council meeting of session 2025/2026 (410th Council Meeting of ACESL) was held on 2nd January 2026 at board room of CECB headoffice at No. 415, Baudhaloka mawatha, Colombo 7

The following members and office bearers were elected for the council of session 2025/2026.

President	Eng. K.L.S. Sahabandu
Vice President	Eng. H.P.R Gunawardena
Hon. Secretary	Chandana Dalugoda
Assistant Secretary	Eng. (Mrs.) Rasika Kahatapitiya
Treasurer	Eng. R.K.C.N. Thilakasiri
Assistant Treasurer	Eng. T.M.C.R. Weerakoon
Editor	Eng. Srimal Munasinghe
YPF Coordinator	Eng. K. Samanthika Gamage
Council Member	Eng. R.M. Ananda Senerath
Council Member	Eng. Muditha Chandralal Weerawardena
Council Member	Eng. W. Suminda Udaya Kumara

FIDIC ASPAC Conference 2026 - Colombo



Following committee was appointed by the council for the FIDIC ASPAC Conference 2026 which is to be held at Colombo, Sri Lanka on 15th -17th November 2026.

Post	Nominated Officer
Chairman	Eng. K.L.S. Sahabandu
Secretary	Eng. (Dr.) P.D. Dharamaratne
Treasurer	Eng. T.M.C.R. Weerakoon
Editor	Eng. Chandana Dalugoda
Public Relations	Eng. Srimal Munasinghe

Coordinator	Eng. (Mrs) Samanthika Gamage
YPF Coordinator/ Graphic Editor	Eng. (Ms) Dilini Gamage
Assistant Editor	Eng. (Ms) Methsika Prabodini
Advisory Organizing Panel	Eng. K.L.S. Sahabandu Mr. Widhoon Mr. Suddhir Eng. Malith Mendis Eng. (Dr.) Kamal Laksiri
Technical Committee	Eng. Sarath Piyadasa Eng. M.A.C. Perera

ACESL Representation to Outside Organizations/Association etc.

ACESL council has emphasized the continuation of the representations of ACESL in following outside institutions by active involvement in their activities for the betterment of the engineering industry. Accordingly following members were appointed to represent ACESL at each following outside organizations

- CIDA Board – Eng. K.L.S. Sahabandu
- CIDA Advisory Committee - Eng. Ananda Senerath
- CIDA Credential Committee – Eng. Ranjan Gunawardana and Eng. Srimal Munasinghe
- CIDA Publication Committee – Eng. T.M.C.R. Weerakoon
- CCI Committee – Eng. Srimal Munasinghe

A Word from the Editor

The most devastating impact on the lives of people, infrastructure, the environment, and ultimately the economy of Sri Lanka in recent times was caused by the Ditwah Cyclone, which struck in November 2025. This disaster claimed nearly a thousand lives and caused extensive physical damage, estimated at approximately Rs. 1.4 billion.

As attention turns toward recovery, the highest priority must be given to the reconstruction of housing and essential infrastructure. These are fundamental to restoring the living conditions of the communities directly affected. In this context, engineers play a critical role, with consulting engineers bearing a significant share of the responsibility.

Consulting engineers must work closely with government bodies and local authorities, providing expertise in the selection of suitable land for housing, the development of environmentally sustainable and resilient engineering designs, identification of alternatives to avoid vulnerable ground conditions, and the implementation of cost-effective solutions and procurement strategies.

At the same time, there are public concerns attributing part of the disaster's severity to certain development projects undertaken during previous administrations, particularly in hilly areas, where planning and design may have been inadequate. As engineers are responsible for many of the technical aspects of such projects, it is inevitable that some degree of criticism is directed toward the profession. Therefore, it is essential that engineers carry out their duties in strict accordance with professional codes of ethics.

The rebuilding of infrastructure, especially the restoration of railway lines, roads, and bridges where the supporting ground has been severely eroded, poses a significant challenge. Engineers must respond with innovative designs and practical, resilient solutions. This difficult situation, however, also presents a valuable opportunity for consulting engineers to demonstrate their expertise, creativity, and commitment to sustainable development.

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