



SLAYS Open Forum 2018



“Research for Impact: March of the Sri Lankan Young Scientists”

Organized jointly by Sri Lankan Academy of Young Scientists (SLAYS) and National Science Foundation Sri Lanka (NSF) in collaboration with Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI)

4th – 5th October 2018, At Galle Face Hotel, Colombo

Programme

DAY 1 (0815-1500 Hrs)

Session I Inauguration

- 08.15-08.45 Registration and Tea
- 08.45-09.00 Inauguration ceremony (Lighting the Oil Lamp, National Anthem)
Welcome Speech by Dr. Dilushan Jayasundara, President, SLAYS
- 0900-0910 Speech by Prof. Sirimali Fernando, Chairperson, NSF.
- 0910-0920 Speech by Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo.
- 0920-0930 Speech by Dr. Ranjith Mahindapala, President, NASSL.

Session II Theme – “The Young Scientist in Industry”

Session Chair: Dr. Dilushan Jayasundara

- 0930-1030 *Industry Opportunities,*
Prof. Monte Cassim, President, Shizenkan Graduate University, Japan.
- 1030-1100 *The role of young scientists in Industry Research,*
Mr. Harin De Silva Wijeyratne, CEO, SLINTEC.
- 1100-1130 *Young scientist participation in policy,*
Prof. Thusitha Abeytungga, University of Colombo.
- 1130-1200 *How MAS benefited from Hiring Young Scientists,*
Mr. Ranil Vitarana, Chief Technical Officer, MAS Holdings.
- 1200-1230 Panel Discussion: Moderated by Prof. Ajith de Alwis, Project Director, The Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation.

1230-1320 Lunch break and Networking

13.20-1440 SLAYS 3MT® - Three Minute Thesis Presentation Competition

1440-1500 Tea break and Networking

1500 Conclusion of Day 1 Activities at Galle Face Hotel. All Participants are invited to join the NSF Founders Day Event at BMICH (1600 Hrs Onwards)

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DAY 2 (0830-1700 HRS)

0830-0845 Registration

Session III "Research for Impact"

Session Chair: Dr. Lasith Gunawardena

0845-0930 *Developing the researcher in you*, Prof. Ravi Silva,
Director, Advanced Technology Institute (ATI), University of Surrey, UK.

0930-1015 *Impactful research for Impactful Publications*, Prof. Richard de Grijs,
Associate Dean (Global Engagement), Faculty of Science and Engineering,
Macquarie University, Australia.

1015-1040 Tea break and Networking

1040-1125 *The learning researcher*, Prof. S.U.K Ekaratne,
Director - Centre for Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Innovation (CETLI)

1125-1155 *Impactful Research: Sri Lankan Success Stories*, Prof. Nilwala Kottegoda,
Professor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura/ SLINTEC

1155-1230 Discussion Forum (Moderated by Prof. Nilwala Kottegoda)

1230-1330 Lunch break and Networking

Session IV "The Voice of the Young Scientists"

Session Chair: Dr. Tharanga Thoradeniya

1330-1400 *Failing Successfully*, Dr. Asha De Vos, Executive Director, Oceanswell

1400-1430 *Navigating the scientific maze*, Prof. Neelika Malavige, Professor and Director,
Center for Dengue Research, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

1430-1500 *Be a human before a scholar*, Prof. Rangika Halwatura, Professor, University of
Moratuwa, The World Academy of Sciences Young Scientist Award Winner (2017)

1500-1510 *Experiences from Sakura Exchange Programme in Science*,
Ms. Shalini Thiruchittampalam, SLAYS

1510-1520 *Experiences from IAP/AASSA workshop on the SDGs*, Dr. Thilini Perera, SLAYS

1520-1530 *The March Forward* Dr. Chamindri Witharana, President-Elect, SLAYS

1530-1545 Tea break and Networking

1545-1645 3MT Awards Ceremony

Chief Guest:

Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Amunugama, M.P.

Minister of Science, Technology, Research, Skills Development &
Vocational Training and Kandy Heritage.

Guests of Honor:

Hon. Karunarathna Paranawithana, M.P.

Deputy Minister of Science, Technology, Research, Skills Development &
Vocational Training and Kandy Heritage.

Prof. Sirimali Fernando, Chairperson, National Science Foundation.

1645-1700 Closing remarks and Vote of Thanks, Open Forum 2018

Dr. Lasith Gunawardena, Secretary, SLAYS.

1700 Conclusion of SLAYS Forum 2018

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