

Category 3: Science outreach and science education activities

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Sri Lankan Academy of Young Scientists (SLAYS) takes responsible, strong and practical action to bridge the gaps of scientific knowledge dissemination between the scientists, industries and the general public of Sri Lanka. Two main events of the yearly SLAYS calendar are entirely focused on science outreach. SLAYS holds the right to conduct the popular 3 minute thesis (3 MT[®]) competition (with permission from the University of Queensland, Australia) where postgraduate students get to present their latest PhD research projects to a general audience in three minutes. This has created a platform for hundreds of PhD students belonging variety of scientific fields representing the entire country, people of different ethnicities, ages, genders and religions to come together and present their latest research findings to a general audience in a simple manner. This competition is popular among the scientists, public and the investors. The winners of the 3 MT[®] gets the opportunity to publish their research in the mainstream newspapers, magazines, television and other social media platforms. Prime air time in two national television networks, the Sri Lanka Rupavahini cooperation [the main national television channel] and Independence Television Network (ITN) are allocated to SLAYS every week to discuss and present latest research and sciences in native languages in a manner that students and the general public can understand. Every week, two SLAYS members or SLAYS invited scientists participate in these programs. These programs are popular among the students living in the main cities as well as in rural villages. Another major focus of SLAYS is to work towards the reduction of language barrier among the different ethnic groups through the ongoing science outreach programs. That is a main challenge faced by SLAYS, and we are working towards achieving it.