

FROM THE EDITOR.....

The Centenary Year of the Institution is coming to a close. No doubt that we have grand plans for the next century of the 'Engineering Renaissance' in Sri Lanka. So, this is an opportune moment to look back and see what we have achieved in the past, to mould our aspirations for the future. Any person, group or a nation desires to achieve greatness in the world. To be the greatest is the pinnacle of achievement. If our aspiration is to be the greatest, then it is something worthwhile to look forward.

Over hundred years ago our Institution was initiated at the ancient city of Anuradhapura. This same city also is the seat of many Engineering marvels of our ancestors. One such imposing example is the Jethawana Dageba, constructed by our Engineers in the era of king Mahasen (AD 276 – 305). According to Mahawansa, this dageba had been originally 400 feet high. However, through the passage of time, being subjected to vandalism and destruction by invaders, the present projected height to the pinnacle is 262 feet from the ground. Excavations have revealed that the foundation of the structure, 670 feet square, extends 252 feet below ground level to the bedrock. In this light, even the present dageba inclusive of the foundation is taller than the Great Pyramid of Egypt measured similarly (450 feet, total height), which makes Jethawanaramaya the tallest masonry structure in the world.

In an era where air travel, global communication, Internet were not there to know what record breaking achievements are made over the world, in an era where nations were more or less confined to their geographical boundaries, our ancestors have created Engineering records unbroken to the present day. In this sense we had not only been great, but has been the greatest. Today, with all the benchmarks known, why can't we achieve the same?

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