

## FROM THE EDITOR. . . .

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The first rule in our code of ethics states that "Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public and proper utilization of funds in the performance of their professional duties." The last obligation namely; proper utilization of funds, among other things, directs at the application of 'appropriate technology' in all engineering works. In this context, appropriate technology implies applicability, safety and sustainability in the sense of both technology and local economy. To identify and apply appropriate technology in the context of our country, Engineers should be knowledgeable about the needs of the industry as well as latest technologies. With this dual knowledge they would be in an ideal position to adapt cutting edge technologies to local needs in a sustainable manner.

Universities produce most of the Engineers in Sri Lanka under different fields of specialisation. These graduate Engineers had followed a curriculum, which has evolved during the past few decades mainly influenced by the curricula in the universities of the Common Wealth countries. These developed countries generally tend to amend their graduate Engineering curricula to suit the requirements of the times. However, since the needs of the engineering industry in Sri Lanka is somewhat different to that of developed countries, there is a disparity between the demand and supply in the skills of Engineers.

Obviously there should be an active dialog between the industry and the Engineering faculties of the universities on the content of Engineering education. In such a scenario, the natural facilitator should be the IESL. Though IESL has not lapsed in its duty as a facilitator by implementing and continuing 'University Liaison Committee' on a regular basis, further interaction between the parties is needed for fruitful culmination of the objective. In this context the recent initiative by the Civil Engineering Sectional Committee of the IESL, to bring Civil Engineering industry and academia together through a workshop on technology transfer and experience exchange, has to be appreciated. This indeed is a starting block for the other disciplines too, to perpetuate for betterment of all.

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