



## Annual General Meeting 2007

Revised annual membership fees:

|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| Fellow     | - 600 |
| Member     | - 400 |
| Graduate   | - 300 |
| Licentiate | - 250 |
| Associate  | - 200 |
| Student    | - 100 |

An application processing fee of Rs. 200.00 will be charged from all applicants, except from student members.

Life members:

To become a life member, 10 years of equivalent fees is required. For active members, up to 5 years membership equivalent fees can be

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual general meeting of the Institute of Physics Sri Lanka was held on March 17, 2007 at the New Physics Lecture theatre, Department of Physics, University of Colombo.

New office bearers and the members of the Council were unanimously elected for the year 2007. Three resolutions were passed, namely, to revise the annual membership fees, to study the membership criteria in order to accommodate various personnel working in Physics and related areas, and to implement a marking scheme for the selection of "Fellow" of IPSL.

The outgoing President of the Institute, Dr. S.R.D. Rosa thanked all the members for the support given by them to conduct his duties, and said it was a pleasure to serve in the council for the past two years. He thanked the two Joint Secretaries, Treasurer and the Council members also for their support in conducting programs during the year 2006/2007.



Member gathering at the 27th AGM

Addressing the gathering, the newly elected President, Prof. D.U.J. Sonnadara thank the outgoing President for his contributions to the institute especially for the introduction of the Physics Olympiad competition. He stated that during the last 10 years past presidents of the institute had introduced various new activities to promote Physics. He stressed the importance of reaching members and stated that member participation had declined over the years. He explained that, in the future IPSL must focus on providing more benefits to the general membership through continuous professional development (CPD) programs. He thanked the members for electing him to represent IPSL for the year 2007/2008.

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## Technical Sessions on WEB

The inaugural Technical Session of the Institute of Physics Sri Lanka was held on March 29, 1985 in conjunction with the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting at the auditorium of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science. Since then, the Technical Sessions were held annually in conjunction with the Annual General Meetings.

Although the proceedings of the technical sessions were not initially published and circulated to members, the institute maintained the abstracts of papers presented at the technical sessions in their archives.

In the year 1997, IPSL council decided to publish the full papers of the technical sessions as 'Proceedings of the Technical Sessions' and made a limited number of copies available to Council members and corresponding authors. This practice was continued until the year 1998, and from there onwards, proceedings of the technical sessions were made available free of charge to all its members and circulated to the University libraries and relevant research organizations.

We are happy to announce to all our members that all abstracts presented at technical sessions are now available to be downloaded free of charge from the web site of the institute. Preprints (PDF) of all papers are available to members on request from 16<sup>th</sup> technical session onwards.

The IPSL Council held the 23<sup>rd</sup> Technical Session on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2007. The abstracts of the papers presented at this technical session are also now available on the web to download.



The Sri Lankan Physics Olympiad Competition will be held on July 7, 2007.

The 38<sup>th</sup> International Physics Olympiad will be held in Iran from 13 to 22 July, 2007.



Two leaders and five students who participated in the 37<sup>th</sup> IPhO held in Singapore.

## Physics Olympiad Competition

Since 1967 the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) competition has been held in different countries. The Asian Physics Olympiad (APhO) competition commenced in the year 2000. Participation in the Olympiad gives opportunities to young bright students from all over the world to share experiences and face challenges in solving Physics problems. It is considered an honour to any country if certificates and medals are won in this highly competitive examination.

According to the Statutes of IPhO and APhO, each nation could send a team consisting of five students and eight students for the IPhO and APhO respectively. The age of the contestants should not exceed twenty years in order to participate in both competitions. During the spare time the organizers will arrange sight-seeing tours, excursions and other cultural events so that the students are fully occupied.

We are happy to inform our members that the Institute of Physics in collaboration with the Department of Physics, University of Colombo and the Ministry of Education continue to make arrangements for Sri Lankan A/L Students to participate in this prestigious event.

## Sri Lankan Physics Olympiad Competition

Annually, the Institute of Physics conducts an island - wide competition called "Sri Lankan Physics Olympiad" to recognize and promote Physics among A/L students. The local competition takes place normally at the universities of Colombo / Peradeniya / Kelaniya / Ruhuna / Jaffna and Batticaloa. The best students will receive medals and certificates from the Institute of Physics, Sri Lanka. Based on the marks obtained from this local competition, the best eight and five students will be selected to participate in the APhO and IPhO, respectively. They will be trained extensively after their local A/L exam before attending the international Olympiad competition. The training camp will be held at the University of Colombo.

For the first Sri Lankan Physics Olympiad competition held in 2005, a total of 559 students participated. Institute awarded 46 students Gold, Silver and Bronze medals. In the year 2006, a total of 834 participated and 78 were awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze medals.

The competition is open for students of both Physical and Biological Science streams. Application forms and more details related to the competitions are now available on the web site of the Institute of Physics Sri Lanka.

## Past Achievements

### 36<sup>th</sup> International Physics Olympiad, Spain, 2005 – Two Honorable Mentions

The awardees were, Mr. Nuwan Ganganath of Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala and Mr. Gayan Jayasumana of Kalutara Vidyalaya. In addition, Mr. Nuwan Ganganath was able to win the special prize awarded to the best student from the newly participated countries in the last three years.

### 37<sup>th</sup> International Physics Olympiad, Singapore, 2006 – One Honorable Mention

The awardee was, Mr. Tharindu Rukshan Bandaragoda of Richmond College, Galle.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Asian Physics Olympiad, China, 2007 - Bronze Medal

The first ever medal for Physics won by a Sri Lankan student was secured by Mr. Buddhi Wejerathna of Maliyadeva College, Kurunegala. Furthermore, he was the recipient of the special prize awarded to the best student among the newcomers.

## Event Calendar 2007

|           | Technical Sessions | IPSL Journal        | Olympiad              | Other Activities     |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Apr, 2007 | Publish on the web |                     | Asian Olympiad        |                      |
| May, 2007 |                    |                     | Deadline—May 15       |                      |
| Jun, 2007 |                    | Publish on the web  |                       |                      |
| Jul, 2007 |                    | Call for papers (2) | National Competition  | Seminar for students |
| Aug 2007  |                    |                     |                       |                      |
| Sep, 2007 |                    | Deadline—Sep 30     |                       | Teacher Workshop     |
| Oct, 2007 | Call for papers    |                     |                       | CPD Workshop         |
| Nov, 2007 | Deadline—Nov 30    |                     | Award Ceremony        | Prof. MML            |
| Dec, 2007 |                    | Publish on the web  |                       | CPD Workshop         |
| Jan, 2008 | Request softcopies | Call for papers (1) |                       |                      |
| Feb, 2008 |                    |                     | Call for applications |                      |
| Mar, 2008 | Presentations      | Deadline—Mar 31     |                       | AGM—Mar 15           |

### Important dates:

Sri Lankan J. of Physics—  
Deadline for submission of  
manuscripts:

Vol 8, Issue 2—Sep 30,  
2007

Vol 9, Issue 1—Mar 31,  
2008

Olympiad Competition—  
National examination will  
be held on Jul 07, 2007

Teacher Workshops—Towards  
Sep 2007

Seminar for school students—  
July 2007

Prof. Mailvaganam Memorial  
Lecture—Nov, 2007

IPSL Technical Sessions—  
Deadline for submission of  
papers: Nov 30, 2007

CPD workshops—Tentative  
dates: Oct/Dec 2007

Annual General Meeting—Mar  
15, 2008

## Inventors Competition 2007

An all island invention competition for school children was organized by the IPSL jointly with the Department of Physics of the University of Colombo. This was conducted with the aim of enhancing knowledge in Physics and skills in technology among school children. The competition was held on the 02<sup>nd</sup> of March, 2007 at the University of Colombo. There were about 140 inventions presented by about 100 students from various schools covering most part of the country. The most valuable inventions were awarded five gold medals, 5 silver medals and 4 bronze medals. In addition, 14 merit awards have also been awarded. The award ceremony was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, 2007 in conjunction with the AGM. The inventors competition was coordinated by Dr. D.D.N.B. Daya of the Department of Physics, University of Colombo on behalf of the IPSL.

Five gold medalists were A.H. Kavisha Kaushalya of Bomiriya MMV, Kaduwela, (Modified Bucket) G.A. Tharindu Madushan of Bomiriya MMV, Kaduwela (Gas meter and transport for Domestic gas cylinder), L.D.Y. Kanchana Lokuge, of Ananda College, Colombo 10 (Safety Staircase), P.L. Nuwan Udara Alwis of Rahula College, Matara., (Safety Sky Rocket Launcher ) and N.W.S. Ishara Dayaratne of Rahula College, Matara (Robot Arm)



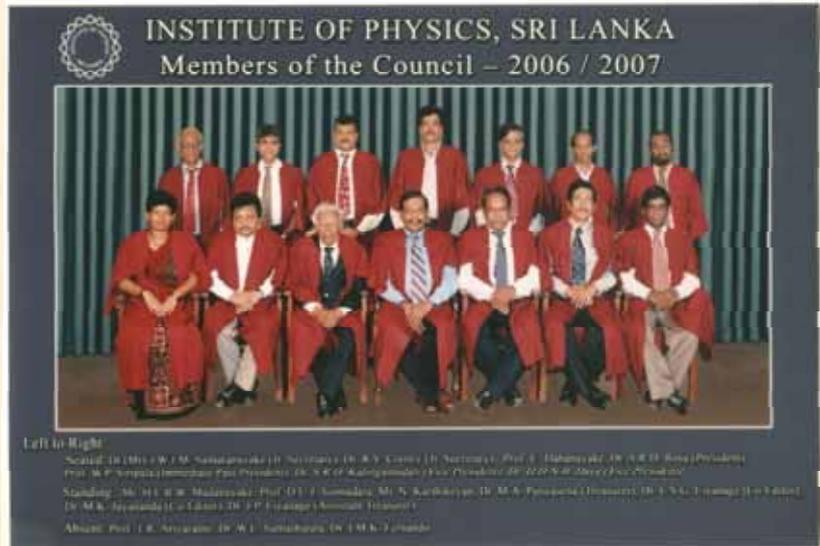


### Council Members 2007/2008

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### INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS, SRI LANKA

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Left to Right:  
 Seated: Dr. D.U.J. Sonnadara (President), Dr. S.R.D. Rosa (Past President), Dr. S.R.D. Kalingamudali (Vice President), Dr. D.D.N.B. Daya (Vice President), Dr. W.J.M. Samaranayake (Jt. Secretary), Dr. C.M. Edirisinghe (Jt. Secretary), Mr. N. Karthikeyan (Treasurer), Dr. J.P. Liyanage (Asst. Treasurer), Dr. M.K. Jayananda (Editor), Dr. R.V. Coorey (Editor)  
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### Call for papers

### Sri Lankan J. of Physics (Vol 8, Issue 2)

Email: [editor@ip-sl.org](mailto:editor@ip-sl.org), Web: <http://www.ip-sl.org>

## General Activities

### Teacher Workshops

Considering the importance of promoting Physics education in this country, the Institute of Physics supported a one-day seminar and exhibition organized by the SLAAS Section E1 for GCE A/L students at Anuradhapura Central College in November, 2006. Demonstrations covering various fields in Physics were displayed in the exhibition and about 600 A/L physics students from many schools in the Anuradhapura district participated in this exhibition.

### Mailvaganam Memorial Lect.

The Mailvaganam Memorial Lecture, which is held annually in the memory of the late Professor Mailvaganam, was

held in November 2006. The lecture "Building Blocks of the Universe - Have we discovered them?" was delivered by Prof. W.G.D. Dharmaratna of the Department of Physics, University of Ruhuna.

### Guest Lectures

Four Guest Lectures were held at the Department of Physics, University of Colombo, during the last year. The topics of these lectures are as follows:

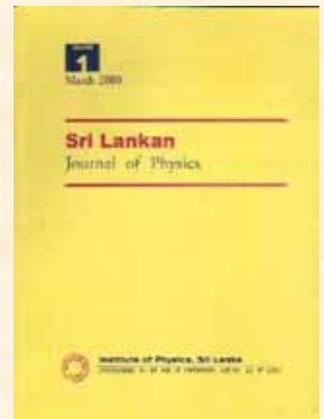
- Landslides
- Sharp Infrared Eyes: The Journey of Photon Detectors from Bulk Materials to Nano Materials

- Robotic Exploration of Solar System and Beyond
- Mars through the new eyes of humanity

### Membership

The membership of IPSL as of 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2007.

| Category        | Enrolled |
|-----------------|----------|
| Honorary Fellow | 01       |
| Fellow          | 21       |
| Member          | 77       |
| Graduate        | 34       |
| Licentiate      | 28       |
| Associate       | 04       |
| Student         | 05       |
| Total           | 170      |



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