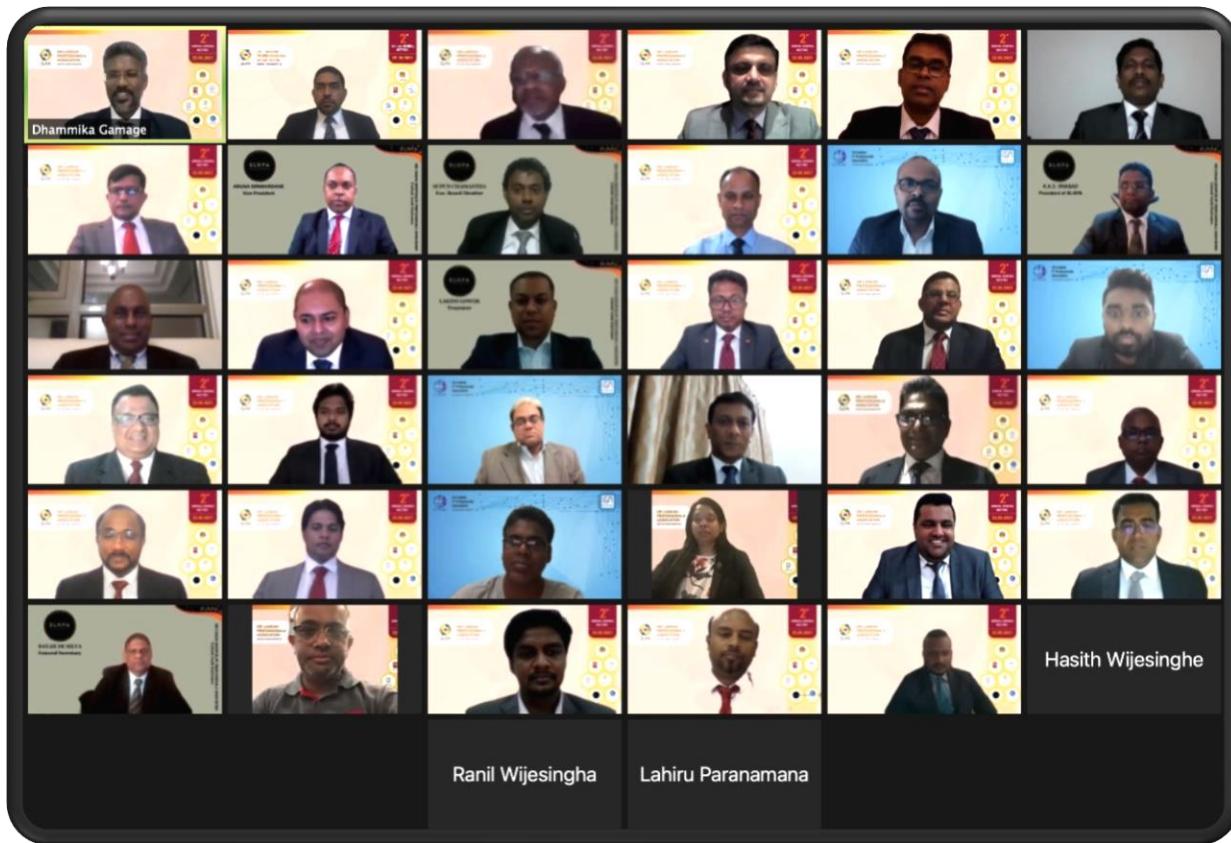


The Second Annual General Meeting of the SLPA-UAE

Dubai, 10th June 2021: The Second Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Sri Lankan Professionals Association in the United Arab Emirates (SLPA-UAE) held on Saturday, 22nd May 2021, as an online event through the Zoom platform. The AGM have had forty-three (43) participants including the Patrons and the Central Committee/Board Members of the respective member associations.



A Segment of Participants at the AGM

His Excellency the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Malraj De Silva, and the Honourable Consul General of Sri Lanka to Dubai and Northern Emirates, Mr. Nalinda Wijerathna, are the Patrons of the SLPA-UAE.

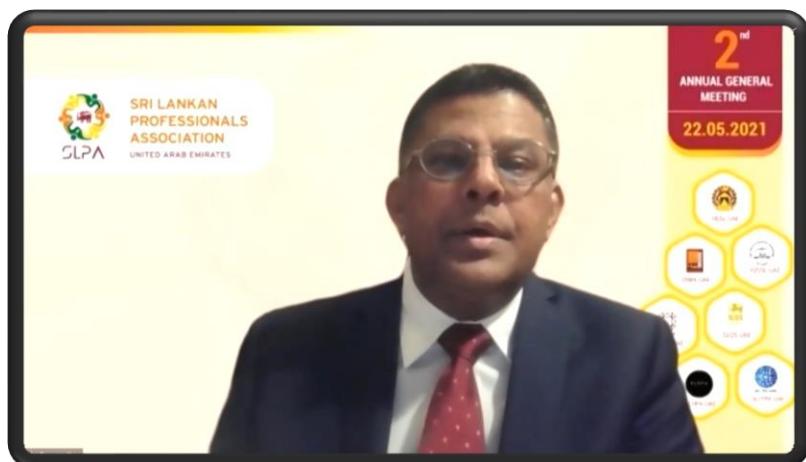
The SLPA-UAE is currently consisting of the following Member Associations:

1. Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka-UAE Branch (IIESL-UAE)
2. Institute of Quantity Surveyors of Sri Lanka-UAE Chapter (IQSSL-UAE)
3. Sri Lankan Quantity Surveyors-UAE (SLQS-UAE)
4. Postgraduate Institute of Management Alumni-UAE (PIMA-UAE)
5. The Association of Quantity Surveyors of the University of Moratuwa-UAE (QSUM-UAE)

6. Sri Lankan Hospitality Professionals Association in the UAE (SLHPA-UAE)
7. Sri Lankan Information Technology Professionals Association in the UAE (SLITPA-UAE)

The commencement of the event has been marked by honouring the National Anthems of the UAE and Sri Lanka, followed by a one-minute silence for the commemoration of the fallen heroes and the people who have succumbed to COVID-19 around the world.

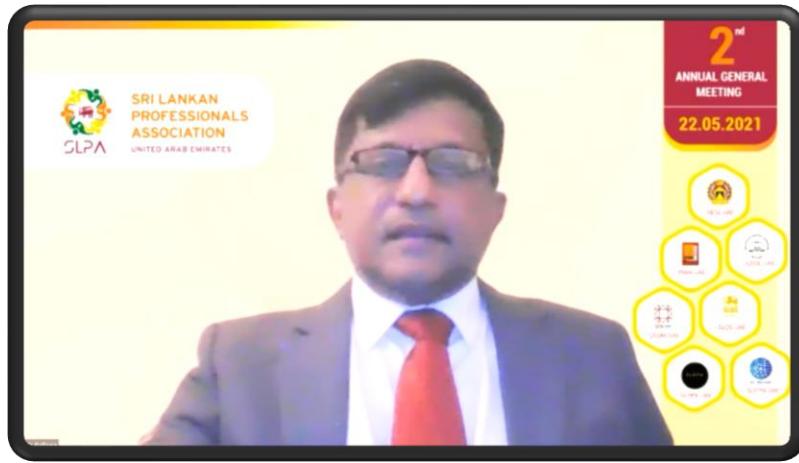
The welcome speech was delivered by the Chairman of the SLPA-UAE, Mr. Ajantha Premarathna. In his speech, Mr. Premarathna has notably welcomed the Sri Lankan Hospitality Professionals and the Sri Lankan Information Technology Professionals who joined the SLPA-UAE as the two new Member Associations. Furthermore, he has described the formation of the SLPA-UAE and its significant progression from the inception on 28th May 2019 to date, and the upcoming challenges which must be overcome by the succeeding Executive Board to be shortly appointed.



Chairman of the SLPA-UAE, Mr. Ajantha Premarathna

The Chairman has conveyed his earnest thankfulness to all the past and present Executive Board Members for their praiseworthy guidance and contribution towards the formation of the SLPA-UAE and in elevating its image to the current state. He was further appreciative of PIMA-UAE for appointing him as an Executive Board Member of the SLPA-UAE and apologetic if he was rigid to some extent in meeting the unified interest of the SLPA-UAE.

Thereafter, the Annual Report for the Year 2020-2021 has been presented by the Secretary of the SLPA-UAE, Mr. Lalith Gallage.



Secretary of the SLPA-UAE, Mr. Lalith Gallage

In the Annual Report, Mr. Gallage has described the current structure of the Executive Board of the SLPA-UAE, and specifically emphasized on the delivery of 42 activities including Continuing Professional Development (CPD) events, a Training Programme on Leadership Development, assisting the Sri Lankan Cultural Education Centre in Dubai by providing video conferencing facilities, supporting the community projects organized by the Sri Lankan Welfare association (Sahana) and preparing a cost estimate for the proposed Buddhist Temple in Abu Dhabi by IQSSL-UAE, despite the current pandemic situation. Furthermore, SLPA-UAE has secured corporate discounts from a few major hotel chains, so that the benefits can be availed by its membership.

After the conclusion of the annual report, the financial statement for the Year 2020-2021 has been presented by the Treasurer of the SLPA-UAE, Mr. Nalaka Kantharachchi.



Treasurer of the SLPA-UAE, Mr. Nalaka Kantharachchi

Subsequently, the Chairman has called on the Lead Members of the Member Associations to appoint the new Executive Board Members/Office Bearers representing the respective association for the upcoming tenure of the Year 2021-2022. The names of the Member Associations have been called as per the alphabetical order and the order of joining as described in the Addendum 2 to the SLPA-UAE Constitution, dated 10 May 2021. Accordingly, the order followed by the Member Associations in appointing the Executive Board Members: IIESL-UAE, IQSSL-UAE, PIMA-UAE, SLQS-UAE, QSUM-UAE, SLHPA-UAE and SLITPA-UAE.

Nine Office Bearers have been appointed out of twenty-one Executive Board Members. The office bearer positions filled are Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Media Coordinator, Editor and the Internal Auditor.



Appointing the Executive Board Members by
IIESL-UAE, Mr. Anura Jagodage



Appointing the Executive Board Members by
IQSSL-UAE, Mr. S P A Keerthirathna



Appointing the Executive Board Members by
PIMA-UAE, Mr. Damith Fonseka



Appointing the Executive Board Members by
SLQS-UAE, Mr. Lionel Gunathilake



Appointing the Executive Board Members by
QSUM-UAE, Mr. Chamil Rajapakse



Appointing the Executive Board Members by
SLHPA-UAE, Mr. K A C Prasad



Appointing the Executive Board Members by
SLITPA-UAE, Mr. Chamil Mendis

The newly appointed Chairman Mr. Dhammadika Gamage, in his inaugural speech, has extended his gratitude to the founder Member Associations of SLPA-UAE, the very first Executive Board, and all the diplomats and personalities who assisted in forming the organization. He has further emphasized the need for expanding the organization and addressing the challenges that lie ahead along with his vision on overcoming such challenges.



Newly appointed Chairman of the SLPA-UAE, Mr. Dhammadika Gamage



HE the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United Arab Emirates,
Mr. Malraj De Silva



Hon. Consul General of Sri Lanka to Dubai and Northern Emirates,
Mr. Nalinda Wijerathna

The distinguished Patrons of SLPA-UAE, HE the Ambassador, Mr. Malraj De Silva and the Hon. Consul General, Mr. Nalinda Wijerathna in their respective speeches, have highly praised the role of the SLPA-UAE inclusive its Member Associations towards the Sri Lankan Professionals and Sri Lankan Community at large in the UAE.

The successful conclusion of the second AGM has been marked through the delivery of the Vote of Thanks by the newly appointed Secretary of the SLPA-UAE, Mr. Channa Kasthurirathna.



Newly appointed Secretary of the SLPA-UAE, Mr. Channa Kasthurirathna

****Note: This has been published after the first Executive Board Meeting of the SLPA-UAE upon conducting its second AGM, where some procedural changes have been made to the roles of the Secretary and the Media Coordinator.*

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