

SLQS-UAE ANNUAL REPORT 2014

On the occasion of celebrating the 30th Get together of the Sri Lankan Quantity Surveyors in the United Arab Emirates, today the 11th December 2014 at Radisson Blu Hotel, Deira; we are happy to revisit our journey during this year.

We celebrated the 29th SLQS-UAE Get-together precisely 364 days ago, i.e. on 12th December 2013 in the Khasaba Ballroom of the Movenpick Hotel in Bur Dubai. The Sri Lankan Ambassador of the UAE, His Excellency Dr. Mahinda Balasooriya was invited as the Chief Guest to the event. The Vice-Chancellor of the Open University of Sri Lanka, Dr. Vijitha Nanayakkara attended as the Guest of Honour. The Director, International Academic Relations Division, Open University of Sri Lanka, Mr. Shenal Basnayake escorted as a special guest. Hon. Consul General, Dubai and Northern Emirates Mr. M.M. Abdul Raheem, and other industry professionals attended as distinguish guests. 330 members along with their families participated for the event.

In his key note speech; Vice-Chancellor announced that Open University of Sri Lanka is taking strides to expand their service offerings through their new International Academic Relations Division that is focusing on servicing the needs of individuals here in the UAE. Further he expressed that their aim is to take on the challenge of providing research and teaching beyond Sri Lanka, through partnerships with capable organizations in the UAE. He expressed that SLQS-UAE will be the potential organization that would be considered for such a partnership. Further, Vice-Chancellor elaborated regarding new courses that are going to be commenced. This includes BSc and MSc program for Quantity Surveyors.



Guest of Honor- Vice Chancellor of Open University of Sri Lanka Dr. Vijith Nanayakkara

The Hon. Consul General Mr. Abdul Raheem commended the SLQS members services and participation and organizing of various welfare activities throughout the year. We thanks Mrs. Raheem for her participation for the event. At the 29th Get-together, Award for the Outstanding Contribution to SLQS-UAE was awarded to Mr. Kusal Nanayakkara and Mr. Manju Sri Nandana Adikari. The Award for the Contribution to Sri Lankan Community in the UAE was awarded to MR. Renchan Perera. In fact this is the second time in the SLQS-UAE Get-together an award as such was recognized. In a previous occasion in 2002 a similar award was honored to late Mr. J.L Karunadasa for his courage to commence Sri Lankan school in the Sultanate of Oman and being the first ever honorable Principal of the Daham School of Dubai.



Kusal Nanayakkara, and Manju Sri Adikari receiving Award for Contribution to SLQS-UAE, Renchen Perera receiving award for the Contribution to Sri Lankan Community of the UAE.

Musical entertainers of the event were “Akinita” band, a well famous Sri Lankan group in the UAE and the singers who flew in from Sri Lanka to the event were Mr. Sohan Perera and Ms. Amila Nadeeshani. Another entertainment group “Papare” band commenced into the event with cheer participants and they lightened up the vibrant dancing floor.



Entertaining

The second Kids’ Day was held on Friday the 7th of March on 2014 at Al-Nasr Leisureland from 4 pm to 10 pm with a participation of around 60 children of members. Children participated for various games such as sack race, blind spotting and cascading while they enjoyed the Leisureland standard offerings such as go-carting, joy-riding and adventure walk etc. The last item was the

talent show and nearly all children contributed either, by signing, dancing or playing instruments. The talent show was filmed and telecasted in TNL television show ‘Saharawen Lankawata’. After the event, the Kids’ Day organizing committee proposed to invite older children to organize the next Kids’ Day event for SLQS-UAE.



SLQS –Kids day 2014

The 19th SLQS-UAE Annual Cricket Tournament was held at Ajman Cricket Grounds on 14th March 2014. 15 teams participated for the tournament and Hon. Consul General of Sri Lanka Mr. Abdul Raheem was the Chief Guest. United Sri Lanka Cricket Club-B, Falcon Abu Dhabi and Eagles Cricket Club were the winners of the Plate, Shield and Trophy respectively. Runner up teams were Sinha Gold, Abu Dhabi Blue Thunder and Hiru-B. A ladies and match for members’ children were also played. Small kids enjoyed with bouncing castle. For the first time, our members and children had an astounding homely experience when a thunder shower stormed the ground. Through the dedications of the organizers, players and the ground staff; final matches were able to be played after eliminating water from the pitch.



SLQS Cricket Tournament -2014

Our SLQS-UAE cricket team that comprises of members from winning and runners up teams participated for the AIQS-UAE Indoor Cricket Tournament. It was held on 13th June 2014. Our team was the runner up in the Plate while one of our team members Dilan Premalal was the Man of the Match.



SLQS Cricket Team at the AIQS Indoor Cricket Tournament -2014

Another remarkable sporting event organized by the SLQS-UAE, i.e. 4th Indoor Cricket Tournament held on 26th September 2014 at InSPORTZ indoor cricket premises. 13 teams participated for the tournament and Dubai Properties Platinum, Desert Cubs Legends and The College of Estate Management took home the Trophy, Shield and Plate respectively while Desert Cub Warriors, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Cricket Team and Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation Warriors were the runners up.



Dubai Properties – Platinum

Desert Cubs Cricket Academy

College of Estate Management

Annual SLQS Indoor Cricket Tournament -2014

SLQS-UAE conducted the highest number of Continuous Professional Development programme within this year. A total numbers of 28 CPDs were held while 3 of them were held with joint Institutes of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka – Dubai branch where one was held in Colombo on the 1st and 2nd of August 2014 at BMICH. APC supported CPDs were held free of cost for which SLQS-UAE contributed more than AED12k. An average of around 50 SLQS-UAE members attended for the CPDs. The Colombo CPD Contract Administration Foundation Course conducted by Professor Samaratinga very successful and 342 members participated. They are mainly working in Sri Lanka, however there were a couple of fellow quantity surveyors who are in Sri Lanka during summer vacation also attended. An Indian Project Manager who had followed Contract Administration courses in Dubai commented that due to the Professor’s knowledge enhancing effort; a number of disputes in the construction industry in the United Arab Emirates have reduced. In fact at the time of celebrating the 30th SLQS-UAE Get-together coinciding with the 43rd National

Day of the United Arab Emirates which is the construction hub of the world, SLQS-UAE is glad to hear such remarkable comments about one of its Member's contribution to the construction industry. This is definitely a very valid point in administration of varied works that will cost billions of dirhams unless parties understand the right methods to be applied. Special thanks must go to Mr. N. Narendra Vasudeva who inspired and coordinated the event in Colombo. Furthermore, there were two CPD workshops conducted by SLQS-UAE; one in Dubai and one in Abu Dhabi. These workshops were open for all nationals and were delivered in five hours' time. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Ajantha Premarathna regarding the writing of claim report related to Extension of Time.



Two days Contract Administration Training Session in BMICH in Colombo Sri Lanka

SLQS-UAE organized a five days training course -Contract Administration for Quantity Surveyors- from 15th June to 19th June 2014 at Al Futtaim Training Center. Professor Indrawansa Samaratunga again conducted this event for a very minimal fee for SLQS-UAE Members. 83 students participated for the course and 41 students submitted final report and graduated for certificate. It is worth to mention here that Professor Samaratunga donated whole his revenue to a temple in Sri Lanka which is more than 300 years old. This is the second time Professor Samaratunga conducted a similar training course and donated whole his revenue to a temple.

On 30th May 2014, SLQS-UAE organized Vesak Blood Donation drive at the blood bank of Latifa Hospital (former Al Wasal Hospital) with the aim to join hands with the effort to alleviate the health of Dubai's ailing children. It was a rather remarkable event and a number of 102 donors including our members and other organizations participated for the event. Another remarkable recognition was received to SLQS-UAE for organizing the highest number of blood donation drives in the UAE and the plaque was awarded to one of our member Mr. Dhammika Gamage by the Health Authority of UAE. SLQS-UAE thanks all blood donors and other organizations that volunteered for this worthy course.



SLQS Blood Donation Programme - 2014

On 6th July 2014, SLQS-UAE conducted another charity drive. This time, 91 students of two schools at Galewela were benefitted receiving school bags, uniform and stationary. Furthermore, furniture for library and a printer was also donated. Teachers of schools were also gifted as appreciations of their efforts to bring up these children. Our 230 members had donated circa AED10k for this charity event. Both school principals, teachers, students and their parents highly appreciated SLQS-UAE ' S commitment. Mr. Anuradha and Mr. Dhammika represented SLQS-UAE for the event.



SLQS Charity Programme - 2014

In 26th July 2014, members of the advisory committee to UNIVOTEC met the Head of Curriculum Development as well as panel of industry experts at the curriculum revision workshop. This was to review and validate the syllabi proposed by the advisory committee for the new degree program for technically qualified quantity surveyors. Mr. Ananda, Mr. Kamal and Mr. Yasas attended for the Workshop while Mr. Ajantha was stand by on skype.

SLQS-UAE continued the Tsunami Scholarship Program. Thanks to Professor Samaratunga and the CPD sub-committee, we managed to secure circa LKR500,000 for the Tsunami Scholarship Fund. Accordingly our target to conclude the program by 2022 can be realized. However, we observed the number of beneficiaries have gone up by four and now the new list includes 20 beneficiaries.

SLQS-UAE continue to represent Sri Lankan Welfare Association SAHANA and Sri Lanka Professional Association SLPA associations. Mr. Anuradha Jayarathna and Mr. Saman Edirisinghe as well continue to represent SLQS-UAE in SAHANA while Mr. Saman Liyanage continue to in

SLPA. Furthermore, SLQS-UAE and members contributed to the Vesak festival organized by the Cultural Education Center affiliated with the Sri Lanka Consul General Office and the Poson festival organized by a community group.

On 14th November 2014, SLQS-UAE Members joint hands with ‘Clean up the world’ Drive organized by Dubai Municipality in collaboration with the United Nation Environmental Protection program. The cleanup campaign was held at Dubai Land Sky Court area on Dubai – Al Ain road close to Outlet Mall. 22 members participated for this event and our thanks goes to those members who participated for the event.



SLQS Participation for the Dubai Cleaning Programme -2014

On 18th October 2014 SLQS-UAE special committee meet SLQS-UAE members representing QSUM. QSUM was represented by its Central Committee members. Both parties agreed to formalize Working Procedures for SLQS-UAE. Existing Working Procedure are to be published, reviewed and commented by SLQS-UAE Members. Upon the receipt of comment from Members, a general meeting will be called to establish the Working Procedure. Such Special Forum will be called on or before 28th February 2015.

On 22nd November 2014 SLQS-UAE Central Committee Members met Sheffield Hallam University Sri Lankan Alumni – UAE Chapter (SHUA-UC) representatives at Traders Hotel, Dubai. SHUA-UC expressed their intention to form the alumna is to support their members and willingness to work with SLQS-UAE.

It is worth to mention here that Central Committee and Sub-Committee Members together with Members have sacrificed a lot from their personal commitments to their families and spent remarkable time to witness success in all of the events they have organized in the UAE and in Sri Lanka. Our sincere thanks therefore go to them for their audacity and their families’ commitments.