

SLQS UAE Annual Report - 2013

On the occasion of celebrating the 29th Annual Get together of the Sri Lankan Quantity Surveyors in the United Arab Emirates, today, on the 12th of December, 2013, at the Movenpick Hotel in Bur Dubai, we are happy to revisit our journey during this year.

We managed to continue on our journey following the 28th Annual Get together. However, it is fitting that we mention the 28th Get Together here, as there would be no other place to appreciate that event. The 28th Annual Get Together was held on 13th December, 2012, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Deira, Dubai, UAE. The Sri Lankan Ambassador to the UAE, His Excellency Dr. Mahinda Balasooriya, graced the event with his presence as the Chief Guest. The Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Sri Lanka, Dr. Sunil Jayantha Navarathna, attended as the Guest of Honour. Mr. M. M. Abdul Raheem, Consul General, Dubai and the Northern Emirates, and a few other industry professionals attended as distinguished guests.

On this occasion, Dr. Navarathna invited the SLQS UAE to provide valuable information for the enhancement on increasing the university intake quota for expatriate children and allocating a fixed quota for Middle Eastern countries. Even though we managed to initiate the proposal and to witness the highest current intake of expatriate children into Sri Lankan universities during this year, our desires have not yet been fulfilled.

In the same evening, the Seagulls band entertained around 250 guests, including of our members and their families. Kudos to the Get together Functional Committee members for a successful event.



The 18th Annual SLQS UAE Cricket Tournament was held on 8th March, 2013, at the Ajman Cricket Council Grounds, as a day and night fixture, with the participation of 12 teams. The Eagles Cricket Club, Abu Dhabi Blue Thunders and Hard Hitters won the Cup, Shield and Plate respectively, while the United Sri Lankan Cricket Club "A", Abu Dhabi Active Boys and Sinha Gold became the runners up in those categories. Furthermore, a ladies' match and a match for the talented children of our members were held in a very fun-filled atmosphere. In addition to the trophies and awards, many prizes were given away. We are grateful to the Ajman Cricket Council for umpiring the entire tournament. Mr. M. M. Abdul Raheem, Consul General of Sri Lanka to Dubai and the Northern Emirates attended as the Chief Guest. Around 200, including families, participated in the event. Our thanks go to the Sports Sub-Committee members for organizing this event.



The Inaugural Children's Day was held on 15th March, 2013, at the Al Mazaya Sports Complex at Qusais. More than fifty children participated in various events, under several age groups. Games included blind spotting, balloon bursting, musical chairs, treasure hunting, sack races, basketball and badminton. An art competition and a talent show were also held. Prizes and certificates were awarded to the winners of each event. In addition to the committee members, many parents voluntarily assisted to make this event a success. Our thanks go to the subcommittee.

The SLQS UAE Blood Donation Drive 2013 was concluded on 31st July, 2013, at the Latifa Hospital Blood Bank, during the holy Ramadan period. We are immensely grateful to the 58 donors who managed to donate blood. Many thanks and merits go to the subcommittee.

Following on from last year, we managed to continue with the Tsunami scholarships. The total number of recipients remains 16 and we plan to continue till the year 2022.



The SLQS UAE organized its 3rd Continuous Professional Development (CPD) event in Sri Lanka. The CPD event was held on 24th July, 2013, at the ICTAD Auditorium in Colombo, as part of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) towards our Motherland, the soil from which we received the courage and nourishment to serve the world. The topic of the CPD was 'Writing of a Claim Report Related to an Extension of Time'. Mr. Ajantha Premarathna delivered the CPD session in a semi-workshop format in an interactive mode. The IQSSL President, Mr. Hemantha Aponsu, chaired the panel discussion with Mr. Thilak Kolonne and Mr. Ajantha Premarathna at the end of the event, to a full house. Our thanks go to the lecturer, the members who chaired the panel discussion. Our thanks go to the CPD organizing committee.



The 3rd Inter-club Indoor SLQS UAE Cricket Tournament was held on 4th October 2013 in the Insportz courts at Al Quoz, Dubai, with the participation of 13 teams. Insportz officials umpired the entire tournament. Mr. M. M. Abdul Raheem, Consul General of Sri Lanka to Dubai and the Northern Emirates, attended as

the Chief Guest. Our thanks go to the subcommittee.

The Midsummer get-together was held on 19th September, 2013, at the Traders Hotel. The event was coloured by our own singers and performers from the SLQS members and their families. The musical group 'Akanita' performed the music. Our thanks go to the sports subcommittee.

The SLQS UAE conducted nine (9) CPDs in Dubai during the year. This included two joint CPDs with IIESL and one with RICS and AIQS. Furthermore, on 21st November 2013, the SLQS UAE arranged a 'Road Show' on behalf of the IQSSL, aiming to promote their membership. Our thanks go to the CPD speakers and the CPD subcommittee.

Members of the Advisory Committee to the UNIVOTEC comprised of SLQS members; Ajantha, Ananda, Edward, Yasas and Kamal completed the developing of outlines syllabi for new degree programs for technically qualified quantity surveyors. At present the syllabi is under review by the UNIVOTEC.

The SLQS UAE had another successful meeting with the IQSSL delegation to understand membership routes and to promote IQSSL membership. The meeting was held at the Traders Hotel Business Center and the meeting continued past midnight.

The SLQS UAE continued in the participation of the Professional Associations and the Sri Lankan welfare association SAHANA. Furthermore, the SLQS UAE and their members contributed to the Vesak festival organized by the Cultural Education Center affiliated with the Sri Lanka Consul General Office and the Poson festival. Also, Central Committee Members conducted a farewell dinner for two ex-committee members and one committee member who left the UAE for good.

Of course, we have encountered some difficulties in understanding the challenges to be faced in the coming years. This includes new rules for employment, the booming economy of the UAE and the surrounding countries, and the aspirations of parents who need to send their children back to Sri Lanka for higher education. We hope that our members realize their overriding priorities and actively participate to overcome these challenges. The SLQS UAE Central Committee assure you that we always fulfil the current and future requirements while following the norms established by the SLQS UAE over three decades in the Gulf region.