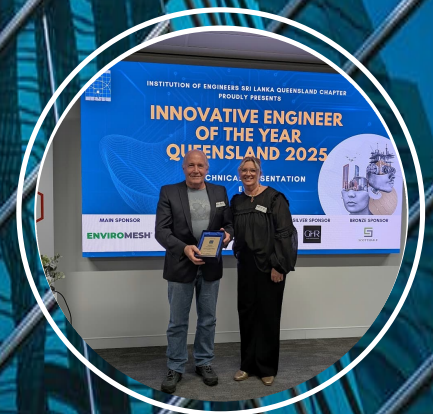
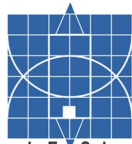


I E S L

IESL QLD CHAPTER

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 01





Message from the President - IESL QLD Chapter



It is a privilege to serve as the President of the IESL Queensland Chapter for the 2025/2026 session. I am grateful to our Immediate Past President, Eng. Dr. Chanaka Abeyasinghe, for his leadership and to the new Management Committee and Subcommittee members who have stepped forward with commitment and enthusiasm.

This year, our focus is on strengthening member engagement, expanding professional development opportunities, and enhancing our contribution to the broader engineering community. The Recent Migrant Engineers Support Program (RMESP) continues to grow, connecting new arrivals with experienced mentors and supporting their transition into the Queensland workforce. We are also progressing several CPD initiatives, including technical webinars and short training programs, to support continuous learning for our members.

A major undertaking for this session is the Innovative Engineer of the Year – Queensland 2026 competition, which aims to recognise engineering excellence and encourage innovation across our community. Preparations are well underway, and we look forward to strong participation from practicing engineers and researchers.

Our Chapter is also playing an active role in the Rebuild Sri Lanka Program, working with sister chapters, IESL Colombo, and the Sri Lankan Department of Irrigation. The recently finalised Volunteer Flood Management Activities (VFMA) Project ToR marks a significant step in formalising our technical support in flood modelling and disaster resilience.

Meanwhile, the ICT Subcommittee continues to enhance our digital platforms, and the Editorial Board remains dedicated to producing timely and high-quality newsletters that reflect the activities and aspirations of our Chapter.

I extend my sincere thanks to all volunteers, sponsors, and well-wishers for their continued support. With your collective effort, I am confident that we will achieve meaningful progress throughout this session and continue to strengthen the presence and impact of the IESL Queensland Chapter.

Jayanath Perera
President – IESL QLD Chapter
Session 2025/26



Message from the President- IESL



It is with immense pleasure that I extend my warm greetings to the members of the IESL Queensland Chapter through this newsletter.

I would like to sincerely commend the Queensland Chapter for the outstanding work carried out over the past period. Your dedication to fostering professional engagement, knowledge sharing, and community building among Sri Lankan engineers in Australia is truly admirable. The range of programs organized jointly with IESL has significantly contributed to strengthening the connection between our local and international membership while promoting continuous professional development and collaboration.

I am particularly pleased to highlight the Flood Modelling Project led by the Queensland Chapter. This initiative is not only timely and nationally significant but also noteworthy, as it is likely the very first collaborative technical project undertaken between Sri Lanka and an overseas IESL chapter. It sets an important precedent for future international cooperation and knowledge exchange within our institution.

In addition, the Queensland Chapter is coordinating several other important collaborative initiatives with fellow Australian chapters—New South Wales,

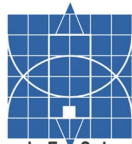
Victoria, and Western Australia, covering critical areas such as slope stability, re-engineering of undergraduate engineering programs in Sri Lanka, and metocean data collection and assimilation. These efforts reflect a forward-thinking approach and a strong commitment to contributing to Sri Lanka's long-term engineering capacity and resilience.

I would also like to acknowledge the continued engagement in the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA), where we work closely with Engineers Australia and our counterparts in Colombo. These partnerships are essential in enhancing professional mobility, maintaining global standards, and positioning Sri Lankan engineers on the international stage.

The continued engagement of the Queensland Chapter plays a vital role in enhancing the global presence of IESL, and I encourage you to further expand your initiatives, partnerships, and outreach activities.

On behalf of IESL, I thank you once again for your invaluable contributions and look forward to even greater collaboration in the future.

Eng. Kosala Kamburadeniya
President, IESL



Message from the Secretary - IESL QLD Chapter



Being part of this engineering community, I am privileged to address you through IESL Queensland Chapter newsletter.

As Secretary, I aim to bring our engineers closer together and ensure our shared knowledge grows stronger to shape a bright future for our engineers.

The climate change, bridging inequalities, through AI technology, building smart, sustainable and resilient cities, the Engineers are at Forefront. Predominantly Sri Lanka needs your expertise aiding recovery from recent severe 2025 cyclone devastation and ongoing economic challenges and I encourage our engineers to get involved.

This newsletter is a key platform to connect with wider engineering communities, share achievements, inform about upcoming CPD events, opportunities for engineers, and address grievances.

The 8th Annual General Meeting of the IESL QLD Chapter Inc. was held on 23 November 2025 at 2:00 PM at the Brisbane City Council Library meeting room in Mount Ommaney. The office bearers for the year 2025/26 were elected to the Management Committee of the Chapter.

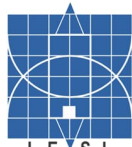


We encourage you to share your project highlights, technical innovations, and successes in future editions of this newsletter.

This Chapter is embarking on a journey to build a more interactive, informative, and collaborative network to support all our engineers.

I look forward to your suggestions to make this newsletter a valuable resource for all.

Prisantha Dissanayake
Secretary – IESL QLD Chapter
Session 2025/26



Chapter Management Committee 2025/26



JAYANATH PERERA
President



CHANAKA ABEYSINGHE
Immediate Past President



THANUJA RANJIVIKA
Vice President



PRISANTHA DISSANAYAKE
Secretary



JAGATH WANIGASEKARA
Treasurer



JEGAN THANAPALASINGAM
Editor



JAYANTHA WICKRAMATUNGA
Committee Member



THILINI PATHIRANA
Committee Member



GIHAN CHAMARA
Committee Member



PUSHPA MURIHANA
Committee Member



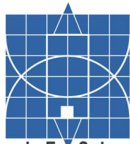
CHANDRAMALI PATHIGODA
Committee Member



HIMANTHI MENDIS
Committee Member



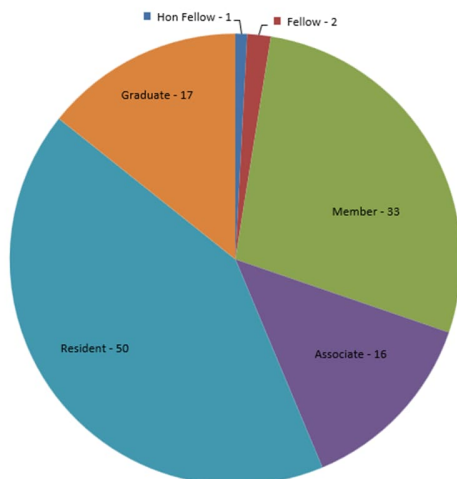
JANITH WATAPULUWA
Committee Member



Subcommittee Reports

Membership Subcommittee

As of the end of March 2026, the total number of memberships of the IESL QLD Chapter stands at 119, including the new members enrolled/admitted to date. This distributed across the different membership categories of Hon Fellow 1, Fellow 2, Member 33, Associate Member 16, Resident Member 50, Graduate Member 17.



Commemorating innovative engineering feats and honour the accomplishments of engineers in Queensland, The Chapter have organised an award "The Professional Engineer of the Year 2026 Queensland" along with the "IESL QLD Chapter Gala Night." This event aims to attract new members and generate inquiries from potential valuable members for our chapter.

Our invitation remains open for more graduates and veteran engineers to join and work with the Chapter to fulfil their engineering career aspirations by participating in various CPD events, contributing to newsletters, and availing of networking Opportunities.

CPD programs delivered by the IESL QLD Chapter to date include the following.

- Riverside Express way – Major Challenges and opportunities (June 2017) presented by Mallika Dayananda and Gamini Siriwardena, Managers at Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Medical Diagnosis through smart phone application (September 2017) presented by Dr Udantha Abeyaratne. Former Lecturer at University of Queensland
- A Journey through time to the future for Civil Engineering and Structural Engineering (February 2018) presented by Adjunct Professor Nimal Perera, Queensland University of Technology
- Basic Financial Accounting for Engineers (May 2018) presented by Dr Gemunu Nanayakkara, Former Lecturer at Giffith University
- Cyber Threat and Mitigation Strategies (September 2018) presented by A/Prof. Vallipuram Muthukkumarasamy, Griffith University
- Climate Change and Water: Inconvenient Link (June 2019) presented by Prof Ashantha Goonetilleke, Queensland University of Technology
- Field Trip to Oxley Sewerage Treatment Plant (March 2019)



- Achieving 100% Renewable Energy: Technical Challenges and Potential Solutions (June 2020) presented by Associate Professor Mithulan Nadarajah, Griffith University
 - Waste Management to Resource Recovery; How can Engineers Contribute? (October 2020) presented by Dr Sunil Herat, Griffith University
 - Fire Safety Design of Formed Steel Buildings: How can research contribute? (May 2021) presented by Professor Mahen Mahendran, Queensland University of Technology
 - Insights into Solar Power Generation and Recent Solar Technology Breakthroughs at University of Queensland (August 2021) presented by Professor Tapan Saha, University of Queensland
 - Insights into the Mining Industry in Queensland (November 2021) presented by Ian Macfarlane, CEO QLD Resources Council
 - Lessons Learned in Flood Mitigation: Sri Lankan and Australian Perspectives (September 2022) presented by Dr Prasanna Egodawatta – Senior Lecturer in Water/Environmental Engineering at the Queensland University of Technology; Dr Sharmil Markar – Former Managing Director of WRM Water & Environment, a Brisbane-based specialist water resources consultancy; Prof. K.D.W. Nandalal – Senior Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Peradeniya; Eng. S.P.C. Sugeeshwara – Former Director of Irrigation of the Irrigation Department of Sri Lanka
 - A field visit to Stapleton landfill site in Yatala (June 2022)
 - The use of recycled concrete in road pavements (March 2022) presented by Ruchitha Mendis, Senior Construction Engineer, Logan City Council
 - Best Research Engineer of Queensland 2023 Competition award ceremony (March 2023)
 - A field Visit to Wivenhoe Dam in South Esat Queensland (July 2023)
 - Collaborative Initiatives for a Resilient Future: The role of IESL Overseas Chapters (January 2024) presented by Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake, former IESL President and Dr Chandima Gallage of Queensland University of Technology
 - Strategies for Engineers to manage their tax effectively (16 June 2024) presented by Vajira Jayasooriya and Dhammike Geekiyanage from Austral Accountants
 - Navigate Australian Market: Challenges and Adaptation Strategies Webinar (April 2025) presented by David Morgan, Managing Director of Knight Piesold Australia, Nimal Perera, Adjunct Professor in Civil Engineering of Queensland University of Technology and Shellie Mc Donald, Engineers Australia
 - Professional Engineer of the Year awards 2024 (July 2024)
 - Innovative Engineer of the Year 2025 Competition (July 2025)
 - Vehicle Safety Reflection on Sri Lanka presented by Eng Olga Sudnitsin
- Please contact us through info@ieslqld.org if you are interested in joining and engaging with Chapter activity.
- Prisantha Dissanayake
Chair – Membership Subcommittee



Technical Subcommittee

The IESL Queensland Chapter is planning to conduct a series of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) events throughout 2026. As part of this initiative, we are proposing to deliver a number of paid technical seminars, primarily aimed at young engineers and those who are new to the industry. These seminars are intended to strengthen practical knowledge and bridge the gap between academic learning and industry application.

The key technical areas currently proposed include:

- Concrete design
- Cold-formed steel design
- High-rise building design

In addition to these paid seminars, the Chapter also plans to organise complimentary or member-focused CPD sessions to further support the professional growth and ongoing competency development of our members.

Building on the success of our previous initiatives, the IESL Queensland Chapter successfully conducted the “Innovative Engineer of the Year Award Ceremony” in 2025, which received strong engagement from the engineering community. In 2026, we plan to conduct the “Professional Engineer of the Year Award”, which will be open to all engineers practising in Queensland, regardless of discipline.

The proposed timeline for the award program is as follows:

Call for applications: March 2026

Nomination Close: 5 June 2026

Notification of shortlisted candidates:
Within two weeks of the final submission deadline

Final presentations: August 2026

Award ceremony: September 2026

Furthermore, the IESL Queensland Chapter is committed to supporting post-disaster recovery efforts in Sri Lanka, particularly in response to recent floods and landslides. As part of this commitment, the Chapter plans to undertake three major technical and community-focused projects including Volunteer Flood Management Activities (VFMA) project, Slope Stability and Road Safety projects. Initial discussions are currently underway to define the objectives and scope of the Slope Stability and Road Safety projects, with collaboration with Sister’s chapters in Australia.

Dr. Thanuja Ranawaka
Chair – Technical Subcommittee



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR - 2026 QUEENSLAND



PROUDLY PRESENTED BY IESL QUEENSLAND CHAPTER

Submit your abstract before **5 June 2026**

The IESL QLD Chapter is excited to announce the launch of the Professional Engineer of the Year 2026 Awards. These awards aim to acknowledge and celebrate exceptional engineers who have made significant contributions to their respective fields as well as their communities through their engineering profession.

DATE	VENUE
SEPT	ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA
16	AUDITORIUM
2026	LEVEL 9, 340 ADELAIDE ST
	BRISBANE QLD 4000

KEY DATES

Nomination closing date - **5 June 2026**

Interview date - TBA

The submissions will be assessed against the following selection criteria:

- Professional Accomplishments
- Leadership and Collaboration
- Impact and Sustainability
- Innovation and Creativity
- Professional Ethics and Integrity

EVENT STRUCTURE

Nominations will be invited from professional engineers holding an engineering degree recognised by the Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) or Engineers Australia (EA), being eligible for IESL or EA membership and living in Queensland. A panel of distinguished experts and professionals from various engineering disciplines will review and evaluate the nominations based on the selection criteria outlined above.

After careful review and evaluation, a shortlist of six finalists will be selected for the interview process. The winners will be chosen from the pool of finalists based on their overall excellence, impact, and contribution to the field of engineering as judged by a panel through a face-to-face interview.

The interview will be held by a panel of distinguished experts and professionals at Engineers Australia Brisbane, and the date will be informed in due course. The interview will be video-recorded for use on the awards presentation night. Highlights of the interview will be used to create a 5-minute (max) video of each candidate to be presented on the awards presentation night.

The winner will be announced and afforded an opportunity to address the gathering to highlight their contribution to the profession. The winner will be presented with a cash prize and certificate/memento. All other shortlisted candidates will be given an appreciation certificate/memento for their participation.

More information is provided in the event information pack prepared for prospective applicants, which can be downloaded from www.ieslqld.org.



For more information, M: 0479 122 636

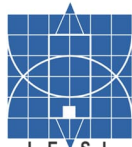
E: thanuja.ranawaka@scottsdalesteelframes.com

JAYANATH PERERA

M: 0450 933 721

E: president@ieslqld.org

Admission to the event is free and this is considered a CPD-claimable event for the IESL and Engineers Australia members. Delegates should check their individual scheme requirements.



ICT Subcommittee



In 2026, the ICT Committee will focus on elevating the Chapter's digital services to better support operational activities and member engagement. This year's initiatives are aimed at improving service quality, strengthening communication channels, and ensuring our technology infrastructure remains secure, modern, and accessible.

A key priority is enhancing the Chapter website, our primary communication platform. Planned improvements will increase the website's visibility, accessibility, and usability, making it easier for members to stay informed about Chapter events and activities.

In addition to the website upgrades, the Committee will be strengthening the Chapter's social media presence, with particular emphasis on LinkedIn and Facebook. These platforms remain central to promoting annual events, sharing updates, and broadening engagement across our professional community.

The Committee will also be reviewing upgrades to the Chapter's internal IT infrastructure to ensure that systems remain efficient, cost-effective, and aligned with the needs of our members. Cybersecurity will continue to be a major focus, ensuring that our digital environment remains safe and resilient.

Chandramali Pathigoda
Chair – ICT Subcommittee



Editorial Board



On behalf of the Editorial Board, we are pleased to present the first newsletter of 2026. This edition reflects the core values of the engineering profession - technical rigor, innovation and excellence, and responsibility to society. The featured articles address both emerging challenges and practical responses within engineering practice, with particular attention to the impacts of recent cyclone events in Sri Lanka and the remedial measures required to restore and enhance infrastructure resilience.

The recent cyclone impacts in Sri Lanka have underscored the importance of resilient design, robust construction practices, and effective post event assessment. The discussions presented in this edition highlight the role engineers play not only in recovery and remediation, but also in improving future preparedness through informed design, asset management, and risk mitigation strategies.

This edition reflects our ongoing commitment to quality, relevance, and integrity. The articles selected highlight diverse perspectives relevant to current issues, and thoughtful engagement with issues that matter to our community including those impacted by the recent cyclone in Sri Lanka.

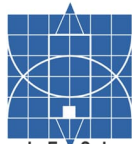
We acknowledge with gratitude the efforts of our authors for sharing their expertise and insights, and our reviewers for their technical diligence and constructive feedback. Their contributions are essential to maintain the high editorial standards expected within the engineering profession.

As the profession continues to adapt to increasing climate variability and growing infrastructure demands, the Editorial Board and Management Committee remain committed to fostering informed dialogue, promoting best practice, and supporting engineering solutions that provide great benefits to our communities and the built environment.

We trust this edition will serve as a valuable resource for our readers and encourage them with continued professional engagement.

Access the past Newsletters of the Chapter via the following link: [Qld Chapter Past Newsletters](#)

Jegan Thanapalasingam
Chair - Editorial Board



Social Subcommittee

Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser

Similar to the inaugural Bunnings BBQ carried out by the QLD Chapter in December 2025, we will look to replicate the success of that fundraising event in June 2026 as a means of growing the Chapter's events budget.



Networking Night – Best Research Engineer Competition

We will host a networking night featuring the 'Best Research Engineer Competition' to promote Chapter membership and increase our influence among students and early-career engineers. In the past, this event has proven to be very popular, with the social aspect serving as a major drawcard for attendees.

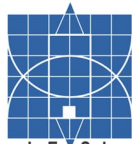
The event attracts participants from a range of cultural backgrounds within the engineering community and creates a relaxed atmosphere, with free refreshments available for attendees to mingle, network, and build meaningful connections outside a formal setting.

The Chapter will actively promote the event to Sri Lankan tertiary students in Brisbane, positioning itself as a valuable source of mentorship to support their career aspirations. By facilitating connections with experienced industry professionals who share their cultural background, the Chapter seeks to help these students achieve their future goals. The event is scheduled for September 2026

Outdoor Social Event – Lawn Bowling

We aim to organise a family-friendly Lawn Bowls event, a possible location can be the Mt Gravatt Bowls Club. It's an excellent venue with reasonable rates, making this an excellent opportunity to bring Chapter members together in a relaxed, inclusive setting. Hosting the event in October 2026 will help us expand the Chapter's reach and foster connections that go beyond the usual professional environment.

Janitha Watapuluwa
Chair – Social Subcommittee



Innovative Engineer of the year – Queensland 2025

The IESL Queensland Chapter proudly hosted Innovative Engineer of the Year – Queensland 2025 on 17th July 2025. Innovative Engineer of the Year – Queensland 2025 held at the Engineers Australia Auditorium with an audience of 80 plus engineers.

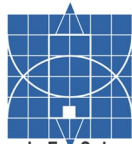
Judging panel included Dr. Chandima Ekanayake (Chair), Dr. Torill Pape, Dr. Darshana Sedera, Dr. Jayantha Epaarachchi, Eng. Arielle Bangalan, and Eng. Aarie Soma.

Management Committee
IESL QLD Chapter

Competition Results:

- Winner: David Oliveira
- 1st Runner-up: Sahani Hendawitharana
- 2nd Runner-up: Lakshitha Rukshan
- Finalists: Manoj Mudiyansele, Saeid Talaie





Gala Nite 2025

The Social Subcommittee organized IESL QLD Chapter Gala Nite 2025 on 2nd August 2025 with the participation of 400 guests. The Redeemers from Sri Lanka headlined entertainment. The event welcomed Eng. Granie Jayalath, President of IESL Sri Lanka, as Chief Guest, and Andrew Reid, President of Engineers Australia Queensland Division, as Guest of Honour. Prof. Mahen Mahendran (QUT) delivered an inspiring keynote speech.

Gala Night 2025 was a memorable success, celebrating engineering innovation, professional unity, and cultural fellowship.

Special thanks to our generous sponsors:

- ENVIROMESH® (Major), Central Innovation (Platinum), Infrastructure Products Australia (Gold),
- Global Hotels & Residences (Silver),
- Scottsdale Construction Systems (Bronze).

Additionally, the IESL QLD chapter would like to thank all souvenir sponsors.

Management Committee
IESL QLD Chapter





IESL QLD Chapter's Support for Sri Lanka Following Cyclone Ditwah

Cyclone Ditwah caused severe flooding and widespread damage across Sri Lanka, exposing critical vulnerabilities in dam operations, flood preparedness, and community resilience. In response to this national emergency, the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) and its overseas chapters have mobilised to provide coordinated technical support. The IESL Queensland Chapter plays a central role in this effort through the newly established Volunteer Flood Management Activities (VFMA) Project.

The VFMA initiative was developed collaboratively with the Sri Lankan Department of Irrigation, IESL Colombo, and sister chapters in Australia. Its purpose is to strengthen Sri Lanka's flood risk management capability by connecting experienced Australian based engineers of Sri Lankan origin with local technical teams. The recently endorsed Terms of Reference outline a structured framework for this collaboration, ensuring clarity of scope, responsibilities, and expected outcomes.

Under the VFMA program, volunteer engineers will support the Department of Irrigation in several key areas:

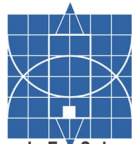
- Hydrological and hydraulic modelling to assess dam spillway performance under extreme rainfall.

- Development of operational guidelines for irrigation dams to improve flood mitigation capability
- Flood forecasting and scenario analysis for high-risk catchments.
- Risk mapping and community impact assessments.
- Capacity building and knowledge transfer through workshops and technical training

These contributions are intended to complement the Department's ongoing work and help build long-term resilience across Sri Lanka's river basins. The initiative also strengthens professional ties between Sri Lankan and Australian engineering communities, fostering a collaborative approach to disaster risk reduction.

The IESL Queensland Chapter remains committed to supporting this important national effort. As the VFMA Working Group begins its technical activities, we encourage qualified engineers within our community to consider volunteering their expertise and contributing to Sri Lanka's recovery and future preparedness.

Management Committee
IESL QLD Chapter



Rebuild Sri Lanka Program

We are pleased to share that the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) has actively joined forces with the Government of Sri Lanka in the national recovery efforts following Cyclone Ditwah. It is encouraging to see the strong global support being mobilised for the rebuilding process.

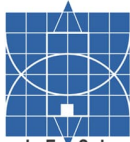
The IESL Queensland Chapter, in collaboration with our sister chapters in Western Australia, New South Wales, and Victoria, is providing technical expertise and specialised personnel to support the national rebuilding initiatives. Our focus areas include flood modelling, slope stability assessment, and cost-effective housing solutions.

In addition to these efforts, the IESL Queensland Chapter hosted a fundraising BBQ at Bunnings Warehouse, Mount Gravatt, on Saturday, 13 December 2025. Through this event, we were able to donate \$1,400 to the Rebuild Sri Lanka Fund.

This initiative reflects the core objectives of our Chapter, as outlined in our Constitution, and we hope it inspires more Sri Lankan-origin engineers to join the Chapter and contribute their skills to assist our motherland in this critical time.

Management Committee
IESL QLD Chapter





**MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

SRI LANKA



PUBLIC NOTICE

**CALL FOR
VOLUNTEER
PROFESSIONALS**

The Ministry is seeking full-time volunteer professionals to support the rebuilding of rail and road infrastructure damaged by the Ditwah Cyclone Disaster.

PROFESSIONAL CATEGORIES

- Engineers
- Quantity Surveyors
- Planners
- Architects
- Geotechnical Specialists
- Other relevant professionals

CONTACT

EMAIL

secretary@mohsl.gov.lk

TELEPHONE

071 310 1651

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Qualified individuals and firms are invited to submit their expression of interest with details of their qualifications and experience.





Queensland–Ruhuna Joint Webinar on Flood Risk Management

The IESL Queensland Chapter, in collaboration with the IESL Ruhuna Chapter, successfully conducted a joint technical webinar on Flood Risk Management – Queensland Insights for Sri Lankan Application as part of the Rebuild Sri Lanka Program. The webinar attracted over 70 engineers from Sri Lanka and Australia, highlighting strong professional interest in knowledge exchange on flood resilience and water resources management.

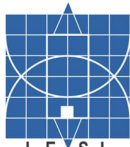
The session featured three distinguished speakers:

- L. S. Sooriyabandara, Director – Hydrology & Disaster Management, Department of Irrigation, Sri Lanka, who provided valuable insights into Sri Lanka's current flood risk management challenges and institutional context;
- Jayanath Perera, President of the IESL Queensland Chapter, who presented Brisbane's evolution towards a risk-based flood management framework following major flood events; and
- Himanthi Mendis, Senior Civil Engineer (Water Resources & Flooding), who shared practical experience from Australian flood modelling and catchment scale risk assessment projects.

The webinar stimulated engaging discussion on the applicability of Queensland's planning, governance, and technical approaches to Sri Lankan river basins, particularly in the context of climate change and increasing flood risk. Participants also gained insight into emerging flood modelling tools, data driven decision making, and the importance of integrating land use planning, mitigation infrastructure, emergency management, and community resilience.

The Management Committee extends its sincere thanks to the speakers, the IESL Ruhuna Chapter, and all participants for contributing to a highly successful and impactful event. This webinar represents an important step in strengthening collaboration between overseas and local IESL chapters and reinforces the Queensland Chapter's ongoing commitment to supporting Sri Lanka's long term flood risk management capability.

Jayanath Perera
Working Group Chair, Volunteer
Flood Management Activities (VFMA)
Project



An initiative from IESL QLD Chapter Australia under Rebuild Sri Lanka Program in collaboration with IESL Colombo and Irrigation Department of Sri Lanka.

QUEENSLAND AND RUHUNA CHAPTERS PRESENT

WEBINAR ON FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

Queensland Insights for Sri Lankan Application

Webinar Highlights

- Post-Ditwa opportunities for strengthening flood risk mitigation and water resources management
- Insight from the Queensland context in flood risk management practices and approaches
- Emerging technological capabilities in flood modelling and catchment-scale risk assessment.

Join in Zoom

Meeting ID: 946 8634 8895
Passcode: Jh7k4ry

Online CPD

Tuesday 28th of April 2026
3.00 PM (Sri Lanka) | 7.30 PM (Brisbane)

The admission to the event is free and this is considered as a CPD claimable event for IESL and Engineers Australia. Delegates should check their individual scheme requirements

QUEENSLAND AND RUHUNA CHAPTERS PRESENT

ENG. L.S. SOORIYABANDARA
BSc Engineering (Hons), PG Dip Water Resources Engineering & Management, PG Dip Civil Engineering, MIESL

A civil engineer with extensive experience in hydrology, hydraulic engineering, and disaster management. He has been serving in the Irrigation Department since 1999, working on the planning, design, and construction of irrigation structures and water management in irrigation schemes. He currently serves as the Director – Hydrology & Disaster Management at the Irrigation Department, contributing to hydrological assessment, disaster risk management, and water resources planning.

ENG. OUSWATTA PERERA (JAYANATH)
BSc Engineering (Hons), FICE, CEng, FIEAust, CPEng

A civil engineer with flood risk management experience across Australia, Sri Lanka, and the UK, working for government agencies on resilience planning and infrastructure development. He distils complex hydrologic and hydraulic findings into clear, defensible advice that supports policy decisions, emergency planning, and long-term mitigation investment. He is known for bringing government and community stakeholders together to deliver practical, cost-effective flood-resilience outcomes.

ENG. HIMANTHI MENDIS
Senior Civil Engineer, Water Resources and Flooding

A civil and environmental engineer specializing in flood risk management, hydrologic and hydraulic modelling, and catchment-scale analysis. She has over seven years of experience delivering flood studies and operational flood risk assessments across Australia for government agencies, utilities, and major infrastructure programs. Her work focuses on translating complex flood modelling into practical advice that supports planning, emergency response, and long-term flood risk mitigation. She also has a strong interest in nature-based solutions and blue-green infrastructure to improve flood resilience.

Australian TUFLOW modellers leading the work with Irrigation Department engineers

Assisted by:

- Hemal Jayawickrama (VIC)
- Dr Shamil Markar (QLD)
- Siraj Perera (VIC)
- Rupa Rupasingha (QLD)
- Jayanath Perera (QLD)

Modellers and Basins:

- Nilantha Karunarathna (QLD)** - Nilwala ganga Basin
- Amila Prasad (WA)**
- Chamath Akalanka (QLD)** - Kalu ganga Basin
- Ramith Fernando (QLD)** - Kelani ganga Basin
- Himanthi Mendis (QLD)** - Attanagalu Oya Basin
- Eranda Perera (QLD)** - Deduru Oya Basin

Sri Lanka River Basins

Scale: 1:1,200,000



Appreciation

“Asoka Thittagala: A Life of Grace and Dedication”



I first met Asoka Thittagala in 2000 in Brisbane, and from that moment onward, our paths remained closely connected. Over the years, we built a deep and lasting friendship through our shared involvement with the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka Queensland Chapter, the Ananda College Old Boys' Association, and many family and social gatherings.

Asoka was the inaugural Editor of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka Queensland Chapter (IESL Qld Chapter), and his contribution from the very beginning was truly outstanding. He was the creative force behind the IESL Qld newsletter, bringing exceptional writing and editing skills to the role. He also played a key part in developing the IESL Qld Chapter website, which continues to reflect his vision, dedication, and technical expertise. His knowledge of information technology was remarkable and well beyond what one would typically expect.

During the challenging COVID years, when many organisations struggled to survive, Asoka stepped forward to lead the IESL Queensland Chapter as President from end - 2021 to end - 2023. Under his leadership, the Chapter continued to function smoothly and without interruption. While others saw limitations, Asoka saw possibilities. Fondly remembered as our “COVID President,” he approached challenges as opportunities, demonstrating creativity, intelligence, and a solution-focused mindset.

Asoka also held deep respect and affection for his alma mater, Ananda College, Colombo. He joined the Ananda College Old Boys' Association of Queensland (OAAQ) in its early years and served with dedication on its Management Committee for many years. True to his nature, he played a quiet yet significant role in nurturing and strengthening the Association.

Many will remember Asoka as a gifted and engaging Master of Ceremonies at IESL Qld Chapter and OAAQ events. He was a familiar and much-loved presence at Ananda Old Boys' Charity Walks, IESL Qld Chapter barbecues, and numerous social gatherings. His gentle humour, engaging stories, and the beautiful music he played on the mouth organ, accordion, and violin brought joy to every occasion. These moments remain cherished memories for us all.

To me—and to many others—Asoka was truly special because of the remarkable qualities he displayed throughout his life.



Appreciation Contd.

He never followed the crowd, instead thriving on creativity and identifying opportunities to improve systems and outcomes. His commitment was unquestionable; I recall him spending nearly three hours travelling up and down by train from Caboolture to attend meetings in Mount Ommaney. He was a true role model—someone who consistently under-promised and over-delivered.

Asoka faced many challenges in life, experiencing both setbacks and achievements, yet his journey was marked by resilience, determination, and quiet strength. I personally saw him as a source of knowledge, clarity, and stability. He listened patiently, never judged, and offered guidance with wisdom and compassion. He was a mentor not only to me, but also to developing the IESL Qld Chapter website, which continues to reflect his vision, many young graduates who had migrated and were finding their way in a new country.

Above all, Asoka treated his family, relatives, and friends with kindness and respect. He celebrated the successes of others and showed thoughtfulness even in the smallest moments. Calm under pressure and never seeking attention, his presence created a sense of reassurance and warmth that naturally drew people to him.

Asoka was truly one of the kindest and most gentle souls I have known. I fondly remember meeting him in the city with friends—sharing laughter, stories, and even enjoying his card tricks, as he was also a wonderful magician.

He will be deeply missed, and it has been a great honour and privilege to have known and associated with him for over 25 years.

May he attain Supreme Nibbāna!

Jayantha Wickramatunga
Committee Member
IESL QLD Chapter





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