



**THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA**

*NSW Australia Chapter*

PO Box 1239  
Parramatta NSW 2124  
Australia  
Email: [chapter\\_secretary@ieslnsw.org](mailto:chapter_secretary@ieslnsw.org)

---

# Annual Report

---

Year 2009/2010

---

## Introduction

The Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) NSW Chapter was formed on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2009 to serve the IESL members residing in New South Wales, Australia. This is the first IESL Chapter formed outside Sri Lanka.

The Chapter initially started as an unincorporated association at the beginning and later incorporated under the New South Wales jurisdiction in February 2010.

This first annual report of IESL NSW Chapter (frequently called as “Chapter” in this report) describes all the significant activities took place in year 2009/2010.

## Summary

The first year of operations of IESL NSW Chapter was very successful and opened up the vision for many years to come. At the end of first year, the committee with the support of members, managed to lay a good foundation for the Chapter.

The highlights of the Chapter in year 2009/2010 can be summarised as follows.

- Development of the constitution
  - Essentials to operate such as bank accounts, post office boxes, domain names, email addresses and basic processes were setup
  - Hosted six evening lectures by distinguished professionals with good attendance
  - Hosted a well praised Engineers Nite 2010, with the presence of president of IESL, Eng Dr. Dharmasiri de Alwis, past president of IESL Eng. Ranjith Gunewardena and Sydney Consul General Mr. Dayasiri Fernando. 300 engineers and their guests participated.
  - Facilitated 35 IESL membership reinstatements and 5 renewals
  - Published five newsletters and distributed to approximately 270 engineers in New South Wales
  - For the financial year 2009/2010, reported a gross income in excess of \$20,000 and a net surplus of \$4330
  - Initiated the IESL NSW Chapter web site development
  - Initiated discussions with Sri Lanka Consul General's Office in Sydney for future engineering projects in Sri Lanka
  - Started to build up the relationship with IEAust
-

## Our Beginning

As this is the first annual report of IESL NSW Chapter, it is important to describe why and how it was formed.

It was a long awaiting necessity and a discussion point among IESL members those who had the desire to continue their professional activities as they used to do in Sri Lanka. They also had the desire to contribute to the engineering profession in Sri Lanka. However, many were unable to maintain links with IESL due to various reasons and had their membership status discontinued. Even though these members have served in various engineering professions around the world and made significant contributions to the industry, there wasn't a forum to share such experience in Sri Lankan context.

Having recognized this situation, Mr. Ranjith Gunawardena, past president of IESL explored the possibility of forming an Australian Chapter when he visited Sydney in 2008. He met with a group of Engineers from Lak Saviya Foundation (LSF) in Sydney and discussed the issue in detail. Having identified the long term positive effects for Sri Lanka, Lak Saviya Foundation readily agreed to offer the necessary institutional support for the formation of the Australian Chapter of the IESL.

To this effect a meeting was called by (LSF) for interested engineers in Sydney to discuss the way forward in September 2008. The responses from the participated IESL members and other Engineers were encouraging and constructive. An interim committee was appointed thus paving the way to formally set up the IESL NSW Chapter.

After many rounds of discussions with IESL and few meetings with experts in Australian community on the issues of structure, legality, incorporation, membership etc. the interim committee came up with a proposal to form the IESL NSW Chapter to become the first group of members to formally establish an IESL Chapter in an overseas country.

First formal general meeting was held on 19th July and it was very well attended. The proposal tabled by the interim committee to formally establish the Chapter was accepted and after a healthy constructive discussion, the first committee was formed.

As proposed in the first general meeting, the IESL NSW Chapter was incorporated in early February 2010. The incorporation was formally announced at the Engineers Nite 2010 held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

### Committee 2009/2010

The committee of IESL NSW Chapter for the year 2009/2010 was as follows.

Name	Position
Nihal Fernando	Chair
Tissa Wijayasinghe	Vice Chair
Mahinda Karunaratne	Secretary
Maya Amaraweera	Treasurer
Dayantha Jayaratne	Editor
Athula Amarasinghe	Committee Member
Anurdha Wijayasinghe	Committee Member
Shantha Fernando	Committee Member

Name	Position
Yaso Yasodharan	Committee Member
Prathapa Ravindra	Committee Member

## Activities and Events

### Association Setting Up

As this is the first year of operation for IESL NSW Chapter, the initial setting up tasks such as opening a bank account, acquiring a PO Box, setting up email addresses had to be done.

#### Bank Account

A standard association type bank account was opened at the Commonwealth Bank (Sydney city branch) with four signatories (Treasurer, Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary) in accordance with the constitution. Two out of four signatories are required to sign any account withdrawals.

#### Post Office Box

A PO Box was acquired from Australia Post, Parramatta. The PO Box address of the Chapter is as follows.

PO Box 1239, Parramatta NSW 2124.

#### Domain Name and Email Addresses

The Chapter acquired the domain name "www.ieslnsw.org". The following email addresses were setup for general communication.

<a href="mailto:chapter_secretary@ieslnsw.org">chapter_secretary@ieslnsw.org</a>	-	For all general communication
<a href="mailto:memberservices@ieslnsw.org">memberservices@ieslnsw.org</a>	-	All membership enquiries and correspondence

#### Insurance

Due to the financial position of the IESL NSW Chapter and considering the risks associated, the committee decided not to purchase a public liability insurance policy initially. All the events conducted by the Chapter were covered either by one off insurance policies or other relevant second party insurances.

Purchasing appropriate public liability insurance for the Chapter is considered high priority for the next year committee.

## Operational and Administration

### Committee Meetings

The IESL NSW Chapter committee meetings were held monthly. For the year 2009/2010 term, 13 committee meetings were held. Further, few special meetings were held to organise events and to discuss specific topics. The chapter committee meetings were held on the first Friday of each month from 8:00pm till 10:00pm in general unless the committee agree to postpone the meeting due to a valid reason.

In addition to face-to-face committee meetings, mid-month action reviews were conducted in a teleconference using Skype in every third Wednesday at 9:30pm. Further, many Skype conferences were conducted to organise Chapter events.

In January 2010, President and Secretary of IESL NSW Chapter had a meeting in Colombo at IESL Head Quarters with IESL President, Eng Dr. Dharmasiri de Alwis, past Eng. Ranjith Gunewardena and Executive Secretary Eng (Ms) Arundathi Wimalasuriya to discuss IESL NSW activities and future direction.

A meeting was held in early August 2010 at Sydney Consul General's Office with Consul General, Mr Dayasiri Fernando to discuss possible avenues to assist significant engineering projects in Sri Lanka.

### Membership Services

Providing membership services was one of the primary tasks of the committee. The service includes the following.

- Maintaining the IESL NSW Chapter contact list. In addition to IESL members resided in NSW, this list has potential members who have varying associations with the Chapter
- Facilitate IESL membership renewals, reinstatements and new memberships

The membership service statistics for year 2009/2010 are as follows.

Statistic	No
Number of IESL membership reinstatements facilitated	35
Number of IESL membership renewals facilitated	5
Number of potential member contacts in the register	277

The following membership processing procedures and instructions in the context of IESL NSW Chapter, were produced and currently in use.

1. Instructions to reinstate IESL membership
2. Instructions to renew IESL membership
3. Process for becoming an Associate Member / Member of IESL

#### 4. IESL Membership Processing Procedure (Reinstatements and Renewals) (agreed with IESL)

### Professional Activities

#### Lectures/Seminars

In the year 2009/2010, the Chapter hosted six evening lectures by distinguished engineering professionals at various venues. They were as follows.

No	Lecture topic	Presenter	Date	Venue
1	Engineering for the new World: Information and Communication Technologies and Social Transformation	Professor Athula Ginige	21 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2009	UWS – Parramatta Campus
2	Robots Everywhere – Recent advancements in mobile robotics	Professor Gamini Dissanayake	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2010	UWS – Parramatta Campus
3	Bridge Load Capacity Assessment and Management of Bridge Asset	Adj. Professor Wijee Ariyaratne	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2010	UWS – Parramatta Campus
4	Fundamentals of Earthing and Lightening for Engineers	Mr Tissa Wijayasinghe	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2010	Macquarie University
5	Capturing, Radiating and Guiding Waves in the Modern Wireless World	Professor Karu Esselle	29 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	Macquarie University
6	Innovative Walling Systems with special reference to a Modular-locking-System (MLS)	Dr. Wimal Samarasinghe	25 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2010	IEAust Auditorium, Chatswood

These lectures hosted by the Chapter were well attended and well received. The attendance varied from 35-60.

#### Short Courses

The Chapter planned to conduct short courses but due to the busy schedule and other reasons, this could not be accommodated. Currently a short course is planned on “Earthing and Lightening for Engineers” by Mr Tissa Wijayasinghe due to the interest shown by many participants of the lecture on “Fundamentals of Earthing and Lightening for Engineers” held in May 2010.

#### Expert Forums

The Chapter planned to form expert forums to share knowledge among engineers. This will be web based and the capability is currently being developed.

#### Paper Submissions for IESL Annual Sessions

The IESL NSW Chapter publicised and facilitated technical paper submissions for IESL Sessions 2010 to be held in Colombo in October 2010. The paper submitted by Dr Prathapa Ravindra, a committee member of the Chapter, on “Shakedown Analysis of Road Pavements - Application to Project Level and Network Level Scenarios” has been selected by IESL and scheduled to be presented in the Annual Sessions 2010.

## Communication with Members

The communication with members was primarily via emails and the newsletter. The email communication was effectively used by the Chapter in all communications.

Further, the Chapter published five (5) newsletters which successfully conveyed the messages and articles to the membership. Many members praised the presentation of the newsletters giving excellent encouragement to the Chapter editor.

The Chapter planned to develop a comprehensive web site to communicate with the members. The specification of the web site was produced and the development was contracted to a professional web development company. According to the current schedule, the web site is expected to be launched in late September 2010.

## Networking and Socialisation

The IESL NSW Chapter actively promoted networking and socialisation among the members with few initiatives. They include:

- Engineers Nite 2010
- Networking and socialisation sessions before and after evening lectures
- Committee Get-togethers

Out of these initiatives, Engineers Nite 2010 can be considered as the prime event.

### Engineers Nite

The Engineers Nite 2010 was held in Castle Grand function Centre in Castle Hill on the 20th of March 2010.

Current executive president of IESL, Eng Dr. Dharmasiri de Alwis, past president of IESL Eng. Ranjith Gunewardena and Sydney Consul General Mr. Dayasiri Fernando were the guests of honour of the occasion.

The function was well attended by enthusiastic engineers, their partners and guests. Among them, there were engineers came from Sri Lanka as well as those who came from remote areas in New South Wales. The initiative taken to establish the NSW Chapter of IESL was highly admired by the attended engineers and highly appreciated the opportunity they had to meet their fellow engineers.

Considering the success of this event, the general opinion of the committee is to make this function a regular annual event.

## Financial Status

The financial position of the IESL NSW Chapter during the term 2009/2010 has lifted very significantly. During the financial year 2009/2010, the Chapter reported a net surplus of \$4330. The total income of the Chapter was in excess of \$20,000. The main contribution to the income and the savings was from the Engineers Nite 2010.

The audited financial statement for the financial year 2009/2010 is attached to this annual report.

## Suggestions for the future

From the committee's point of view, the first term of IESL NSW Chapter was a success. The feedback we received from the members and the parent body IESL was very positive and encouraging. However it is apparent that there are many areas to be improved and initiated. As a closing remark, the following improvements and initiatives are suggested for the future development of the Chapter.

1. Networking is very important – continue Engineers Nite in every year
2. Improve lecture series by:
  - Hosting lectures jointly with other institutions such as IEAust, IEEE etc
  - Improving publicity
  - Looking for sponsorships
  - Considering using internet technology for better participation (e.g. webinar)
3. Launch and expand Expert Forums
4. Expand activities with IESL parent body
5. Contribute to engineering in Sri Lanka by initiating few significant projects
6. Expand support for engineers to find employment opportunities
7. Open a separate investment account and build up savings for future

## Thank you!

The IESL NSW Chapter committee would like to thank all who supported the Chapter in its activities including the members, potential members, IESL parent body, other engineering bodies such as IEAust, IEEE, Universities and Sri Lanka Consul General's Office in Sydney.



## **Presentation to AGM**

**THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA**

*NSW Australia Chapter*



## **Annual General Meeting - 2010**



- 3:00pm      Networking and Refreshments
- 3.35pm      Welcome
- 3:37pm      Approving last AGM Minutes
- 3:50pm      Annual Report
- 4:05pm      Questions on annual report
- 4:15pm      Treasurer's report
- 4:20pm      Questions
- 4:30pm      Election of new office bearers
- 4:45pm      Welcome new Chair and committee
- 4:50pm      Address of new Chair
- 4:55pm      Any other business
- 5:00pm      End

**THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA**

*NSW Australia Chapter*



## **Annual Report - 2010**



- Our beginning
- Activities and Events
  - Chapter Setting up
  - Operational and Administration
  - Membership Services
  - Professional Activities
  - Communication with Members
- Financial Status
- Suggestions for the future



- A long awaiting necessity
- IESL Past president Mr Rajith Gunawardena proposed the Chapter
- LSF assisted in setting up
- September 2008 – Interim committee appointed
- 19<sup>th</sup> July 2009 – General Meeting/Committee appointed
- Feb 2010 - IESL NSW Chapter Incorporated
- 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010 – Incorporation formally announce in the Engineers Nite 2010
- Today – 1<sup>st</sup> AGM

## ■ 2009/2010 Committee

Name	Position
Nihal Fernando	Chair
Tissa Wijayasinghe	Vice Chair
Mahinda Karunaratne	Secretary
Maya Amaraweera	Treasurer
Dayantha Jayaratne	Editor
Athula Amarasinghe	Committee Member
Anuradha Wijayasinghe	Committee Member
Shantha Fernando	Committee Member
Yaso Tharan	Committee Member
Prathapa Ravindra	Committee Member



- Bank account with Commonwealth bank
- Post Office Box (PO Box 1239, Parramatta NSW 2124)
- Registered domain name [www.ieslnsw.org](http://www.ieslnsw.org)
- General email addresses created:
  - [chapter\\_secretary@ieslnsw.org](mailto:chapter_secretary@ieslnsw.org) -For all general communication
  - [memberservices@ieslnsw.org](mailto:memberservices@ieslnsw.org) -All membership enquiries and correspondence
- Public Liability Insurance – not taken but a priority for the new committee





- Developed the Constitution for Incorporation
- 12 x committee meetings
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month 8:00pm
- Mid month action reviews (via teleconference)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month 9:30pm
  - Used Skype
- Many other special meeting and teleconferences for specific purposes
- One meeting with IESL officials in Sri-Lanka
  - 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010
  - IESL President, Past President and Executive Secretary
  - Chair and Secretary participated from IESL NSW Chapter
  - Very positive discussion





- One of the primary tasks of the Chapter
- Maintained a email contact list
  - Currently 277 entries
  - Includes members and potential members
- Facilitated IESL membership reinstatements and renewals
- Prepared membership processing instructions and procedures

Statistic	No
Number of IESL membership reinstatements facilitated	35
Number of IESL membership renewals facilitated	5
Number of potential member contacts in the register	277



## ■ Lectures and seminars

- 6 x lectures
- Different fields,
- Locations: UWS, Macquarie University, IEAust Auditorium
- Well attended 35~60

No	Lecture topic	Presenter	Date	Venue
1	Engineering for the new World: Information and Communication Technologies and Social Transformation	Professor Athula Ginige	21 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2009	UWS – Parramatta Campus
2	Robots Everywhere – Recent advancements in mobile robotics	Professor Gamini Dissanayake	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2010	UWS – Parramatta Campus
3	Bridge Load Capacity Assessment and Management of Bridge Asset	Adj. Professor Wije Ariyaratne	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2010	UWS – Parramatta Campus
4	Fundamentals of Earthing and Lightening for Engineers	Mr Tissa Wijesinghe	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2010	Macquarie University
5	Capturing, Radiating and Guiding Waves in the Modern Wireless World	Professor Karu Esselle	29 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	Macquarie University
6	Innovative Walling Systems with special reference to a Modular-locking-System (MLS)	Dr. Wimal Samarasinghe	25 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2010	IEAust Auditorium, Chatswood





## ■ Short Courses

- Planned but not finalised
- A short course on “Earthing and Lightning for Engineers” by Mr Tissa Wijesinghe is planned

## ■ Expert Forums

- Web based forums planned
- Currently being implemented

## ■ Paper Submissions for IESL Annual Sessions

- Publicity given
- Technical paper on “Shakedown Analysis of Road Pavements - Application to Project Level and Network Level Scenarios” by Dr Ravindra Prathapa accepted





- Primarily by email
- 5 x IESL NSW Chapter newsletters published
- Website is under development – expect to launch in late September





- Chapter actively supported networking and socialisation
- Highlights are:
  - Engineers Nite 2010
  - Networking and socialisation sessions before and after evening lectures
  - Committee Get-togethers
- Engineers Nite 2010
  - 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at Castle Grand
  - 300 (full capacity) Engineers and their partners and guests attended
  - President of IESL Dr Dharmasiri De Alwis, Past President Mr Rajith Gunawardena and Consul General Mr Dayasiri Fernando attended
  - Appreciated by members
  - Surplus of \$4244





- Reasonably secured the financial position
- Total income for financial year 2009/2010 - \$21,304
- Net surplus for financial year 2009/2010 - \$4330
- Bank balance on 05<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010 (today) - \$4454
- IESL 33.33% membership fee is due at the end of the year
- IESL maintains book entry for IESL NSW Chapter
- Detailed financial report will be presented separately



- Committee's view – 2009/2010 is a success
- Feedback from stakeholders positive and encouraging
- Much more to do in the future
- Suggestions:
  - Networking is very important – continue Engineers Nite in every year
  - Improve lecture series by:
    - Hosting lectures jointly with other institutions such as IEAust, IEEE etc
    - Improving publicity
    - Looking for sponsorships
    - Considering using internet technology for better participation (e.g. webinar)
  - Launch and expand Expert Forums
  - Expand activities with IESL parent body
  - Contribute to engineering in Sri Lanka by initiating few significant projects
  - Expand support for engineers to find employment opportunities
  - Open a separate investment account and build up savings for future







- Thanks to all members and potential members for their participation and encouragement
- Thanks to IESL parent body
- Thanks to all sponsors and support organisations (IEAust, IEEE, UWS, Maq Uni, LSF etc)
  - Sponsoring lectures
  - Providing facilities
  - Advertisements in souvenirs etc
- Thanks to SL Consul General's Office
- Thanks to the committee!

