

The IESL President's visit to IESL NSW Chapter Convention 2019 May

The IESL NSW Chapter organised week long activities for the visiting IESL President Eng. Prof. T. M. Pallewatta to have firsthand experience on construction activities, research and development work, meetings with organisation leaders and further provided him with opportunities to meet IESL NSW members and other personnel to develop networking and to promote IESL stature among them. This document provides a synopsis of the IESL President's visit to IESL NSW Chapter Engineering Convention 2019.

Day 01 - Wednesday 22 May 2019: The IESL president arrived at Sydney airport at about 2000 hrs., was received by current IESL NSW Chapter Chairman Rohitha Silva and Past Chairman Sarath Wijayapala. President was accompanied to his hotel at Norwest. Photographs at the airport can be found [here](#).

Day 02 - Thursday 23 May 2019: In the morning, the President visited Northconnex tunnel where he met the Contractors Engineering Director Ulrike Plez. He presented Ulrike, IESL Index on Technical Publications as a token of appreciation. He and the team went through half an hour safety induction and visited the Northconnex(NCX) tunnel Southern end. He had an opportunity to see tunnel construction activities, safety system put in place, QA and QC system used during construction, various ongoing construction activities etc. He was able to get better understanding about design and planning of road tunnels. The NCX tunnel site visit photographs can be found [here](#).

In the afternoon, he visited Engineers Australia (EA) Sydney Division office, where he met the EA Sydney division General Manager Greg Ewing and Co-Vice President of EA Sydney Division Julia Rathnayake. He was accompanied by NSW Chairman Eng. Rohitha Silva, Past Chairman Sarath Wijayapala and Committee Member Eng. Gnasothy Pramasothy. During more than one-hour meeting President had discussion about the renewal of MoU for IPEng between IESL and EA. He queried EA representatives on involvement of EA in regulating standards of Engineering Education. He further requested EA to assist in maintaining and regulating standards of Australian Universities and other bodies offering engineering education in Sri Lanka. At the onset of the meeting President elaborated on the proud history of IESL in the arena of technical communications by presenting IESL Index on Technical Publications spanning over a century. IESL committed support for the celebration of EA centenary. During the meeting president exchanged the mementos with EA. The IESL President's meeting with EA representative's photographs can be found [here](#).

Day 03 - Friday 24 May 2019: In the morning, the President and the team left to visit the University of Wollongong (UoW) Research Centre for Geomechanics and Railway Engineering. At the facility, he was received by UoW research members, and was able to witness the state of the art testing equipment used for rail research and blast testing facility. Then he visited UoW where more than 30 plus research and academics greeted him and explained various rail research work undertaken by the UoW under the supervision of Distinguished Prof. Buddhima Indraratna. At the UoW, IESL president delivered a 45 min presentation regarding the proposed Colombo Suburban Railway Project. During Q&A session, he requested from the audience which comprised of academics and researchers to provide an answer to current problems faced in the design. The presentation was presided over by Distinguished Prof. Buddhima Indraratna to whom President presented mementos. The UoW visit and presentation photographs can be found [here](#).

In the afternoon, from UoW, President and the team came to Chatswood, Sydney where he had a meeting with World Federation of Engineering Organisation (WFEO) President Dr Marlene Kanga. During the meeting, Dr Kanga requested IESL to have an active participation in the WFEO activities, preparation for world engineering day on March 4th 2020, working towards 2030 sustainability goals, maintain standards of engineering education, to help other countries to get WA status to maintain the engineering education standard. The IESL President's meeting with WFEO president photographs can be found [here](#).

In the evening, President attended the IESL NSW Chapter Engineering Conference as the chief guest and delivered a speech where he witnessed high quality engineering work presented by IESL NSW Chapter members. The program was concluded past 10pm in Sydney time. The IESL NSW Chapter Engineering Conference 2019 photographs can be found [here](#).

Day 04 - Saturday 25 May 2019: The President participated the IESL NSW Chapter Engineering Excellence Awards Presentation and Gala Nite 2019. He was the chief guest. President addressed 300 guests and presented awards to Excellence Award Winners, Chapter Past Chairs, public lecture speakers, young engineers and sponsors etc. During Gala Nite, he got an opportunity to meet more than 150 engineers. He entertained the crowd by singing the last song of the evening at mid night.

Day 05 - Sunday 26 May 2019: In the evening, the President met a group of Engineers (high level academics) for a networking session. During the meeting he got commitment from the Chapter members to support IESL and enhance the knowledge sharing activities. President explained the DLA facility in the IESL. The IESL NSW Chapter will provide formal document to develop a proper framework for knowledge sharing activities. The IESL President networking session at Dr. Premaratne's place photographs can be found [here](#).

In the evening, the Chapter Chair Rohitha Silva hosted a dinner for President, Past Chairs and current committee members. Before the dinner, President explained the current status of the core activities of IESL and opportunities were given to Past Chairs and committee members to provide input to how Chapter could help for the betterment of IESL and Sri Lanka. The IESL President's meeting with IESL NSW Chapter Committee and Past Chairs photographs can be found [here](#).

Day 06 – Monday 27 May 2019 - In the morning, The President visited the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Autonomous Centre System. At the centre, he got an opportunity to see the robots developed for various applications: to improve worker health and safety; increase workplace productivity and output quality across a range of sectors; assist people with health conditions and disabilities to engage more fully with life etc. He got an opportunity to listen to the engineers and academics who are working at the centre. In the afternoon (3pm), he visited Western Sydney University (WSU), Parramatta CBD Campus and met WSU academics. He got an opportunity for networking, discuss opportunities to collaborate with IESL and university. For the meeting WSU Deputy Dean for Business, Engineering and various Heads of Departments and academics participated. During president's visit IESL Chair and committee members accompanied him. President's visit officially ended up at about 7.00 pm in the evening. The IESL President visit to UTS photographs can be found [here](#). The IESL President visit to WSU photographs can be found [here](#).