



MINDNET

The Newsletter of the

MBA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

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First Choice in Business Governance

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Executive Committee – 2008/2009

The new Executive Committee for the year 2008/09 was installed at the 13th Annual General Meeting held on Friday 4th July 2008 at the Ceylon Continental Hotel. The new Ex-co is a blend of experience and youth with several newcomers and a few joining from last year's committee.

Seated L to R

Jude Fernando (Vice President), Prasad Jayasuriya (Past President), Indika Tennakoon (Treasurer), Prof (Mrs) Kshanika Hiriburegama (Vice Chancellor), Neil Perera (President), Dr P.S.M. Guneratne (Dean - Faculty of Management Finance), Anusha Wijegunaratna (Deputy President), Pubudu De Zoysa (Asst Secretary), Chris Corea (Past President), Hilary Fernando (Immediate Past President)

Standing L to R

Thusith Gunawarnasuriya (Secretary), Sandun Wickremasinghe, Mahesh Jayasinghe, Hashra Weerawardana, Chandana Weerasooriya, Neil De Mel (Past President), Hemantha De Silva (Asst Treasurer), Rohitha Rajaratne, Sirimal Fernando, Nishantha Jayasuriya

Absent

Upali Ratnayake, Udaya Gamage, Sarma Mahalingam

Address of the President for 2008/09 *Neil Perera*

The President of the Association for the year 2008/09, Mr. Neil Perera, speaking at the Annual General Meeting thanked the executive Committee for the confidence shown in his leadership. He made a special note of appreciation to outgoing president Mr. Hilary Fernando who rose to the occasion an year ago at the sudden demise of the President to be, Mr. Mano Navaratnaraja and despite this set back, turning in a remarkable year of performance. The President presented a token of appreciation to the out going president, following the tradition set last year.

President Neil introduced his theme for the year "Working together, Building each other", which reflects the multiple objectives contained in our Mission Statement that promotes development and adding value to the membership, the MBA



program and the nation through teamwork. He sought the full participation of the members of the Executive Committee and the Faculty and promised to make provision for engaging the Alumni in the activities of the Association in realizing the goals set.

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Recognizing the busy corporate lifestyles of the Exco members, he made way for individuals to make substantial contribution and input in to a few selected events

or activities during a time in the year when they can invest time in the Association and take time away during periods when they cannot afford the time.

The President proposed planning the year in some detail, appointing a Leader and an Assistant for each activity or project at the onset, dispensing with the need for some standing committees that have proved less effective in the recent past.

The Leaders will know ahead of time what is expected of them and the required time commitment. Thus they could plan ahead co-opting people as

needed, including Alumni who are not in the Exco, giving them a preview of the workings of the Association and opportunity to contribute to its progress with limited investment of time. He wanted to involve the new batches of MBA's even before they graduate and make a natural route for them to join the Association, rather than pursue them years down the road.

The President stressed the need for capacity building and empowering office bearers, committee members as well as Alumni in succession planning, thus maintaining the enviable position of leadership the Association has achieved over the years as the "First choice in business governance".

Strategy Planning Workshop



Executive Committee members of the University of Colombo MBA Alumni Association (CMBAAA) embarked on the annual Strategy Planning Workshop on 26th and 27th July at the picturesque Hotel Ceysands, Aluthgama. This was an ideally suited location to stimulated the minds of members to come up with new ideas and methods to plan the calendar of activities for the coming year.

President of CMBAAA Neil Perera, who inaugurated the sessions at the conference hall of the hotel, introduced the objectives of the planning session. Thereafter the brain storming sessions commenced with each member presenting valuable ideas which were then discussed at length. The ideas that were presented

were categorized under PR, membership development, development of the MBA, CSR and relationship building. A new "Big Bang" project in the form of a Marketing Conference was introduced in addition to continuing with successful annual projects such as the Budget Seminar and Management Conference.

Thereafter the ideas that were considered practical and fulfilling the Mission and the objectives of the MBAAA were picked to pursue in the annual calendar of activities. It is noteworthy that the event calendar was prepared identifying the responsibility for each project or activity to a designated committee

member and to be assisted by another committee member. The provision was made to co-opt into project committees Alumni who are not members of the Ex-Co, with a view to affording them an opportunity to get to know the inner workings of the Association and even facilitate easier induction in the future.

Exco members also used this time together to socialize and enjoy themselves during the stay at the hotel. The seminar was successfully concluded on the 27th evening and the members left the hotel with happy memories and also with a determination to successfully execute the tasks that were agreed.



Workshop for MBA Graduate Students

This event was very capably organized by the faculty for the benefit of the MBA Graduate Students. The association played an active role by arranging two eminent speakers from the business community namely, Dr. Rohan Fernando- Director, Aitken Spence Plantations and Mr. Ramal Jasinghe, CEO, Asian Alliance Insurance. Neil Perera the President addressed the gathering and motivated the budding MBA's to become members of the Association as soon as they graduate. Chris Corea, Past President was invited to Chair one of the sessions. Exco members Jude Fernando (Vice President) and Rohitha Rajaratne also participated in the workshop.



Past President's Review of the last year

Past President Hilary Fernando informed that all events that were targeted to improve the networking were very successful with record levels of participation. MBA night, Re-Union walk and member's day, Annual trip were some of the events he highlighted that were successful.

He was happy to inform that enough information has been collected from over 450 members to create a MBA graduate directory.

Touching on the events that were focused to enhance the image of the association in the eyes of the business community he mentioned that management conference was a successful event with five eminent business personalities who shared their success story as speakers.

The ample publicity that we managed to get through the year for the activities and affairs of the association were very important in building our image.

In relation to working with the University, the president mentioned that during this year the association has strengthened the relationship with the faculty hierarchy including Vice Chancellor, Dean, Course Coordinators.

He also mentioned about the charity project at ward No. 07 of Kandana District Hospital where a new dressing room was constructed and handed over to the Hospital. He sincerely thanks the principle sponsors, media sponsor, event sponsors, the Exco members, Vice Chancellor, Dean, Registrar, and Course Coordinators for their support.

Mr. Rohan Seneviratne our Past President

Attended an International Visitor Leadership Program on the invitation of Government of USA



Mr. Rohan Seneviratne attended an International Visitor Leadership Program on the invitation of the Government of USA from 10th June to 04th July 2008. The International Visitor Leadership Program Mr. Seneviratne attended was on the subject of "Clean Energy and Alternative Fuel Solutions".

According to Mr. Seneviratne, this program covered a wide cross section of aspects on the subject and promoted international cooperation to expand the availability of alternative sources of energy, reducing global dependence on oil and helping meet the growing energy demands of the modern life.

Summing up his experiences in USA, Mr. Seneviratne emphasizes that "International Visitor Leadership program offered me a priceless opportunity to understand the USA and the American people through direct contact. It also gave me an opportunity to make valuable contacts with top professionals in the USA. I have learned many aspects on "Clean Energy and Alternative Fuel Solutions" during my stay in US and hope to share my experiences with top decision makers of my country in order to address current energy and environmental issues. The friendship I built with fifteen future leaders who participated this program is invaluable. I am immensely grateful to the government of USA for conducting such a valuable program which undoubtedly benefited me in many ways in my professional career"

Association continuing its Good Work

Association continuing its good work at ward No.7 of Kadana District Hospital built and handed over an examination room.



The DMO and other medical officer with Exco members at the opening ceremony



Regular ExCo Meetings

Regular Exco meetings are attended by the course coordinator and the Dean representing the Vice Chancellor who is the patron of the Association.



A recent meeting where Vice chancellor Prof. Kashanika Hirimburegama herself was present

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12th Annual General Meeting

Held on 4th July 2008 at Ceylon Continental Hotel

The twelfth Annual General Meeting of the MBA Alumni Association, University of Colombo was held on 04th July 2008 with the highest ever participation of members.



The guests of honour were Alumnus L.G. Perera, Managing Director / CEO, DFCC Vardana Bank, and Dr. P.S.M. Guneratne, Dean Faculty of Management and Finance.



2008/2009 Event Calendar

Event	Scheduled for
Evening Discussions	Aug `08, Jan `09, May `09
Case study Competition	Aug `08- Mar `09
CSR Project	Aug `08, Aug `09
MBA Night	Sep `08
Newsletter	Sep `08, Dec `08, Mar `09
Budget Seminar	Nov `08
Members' Day	1st week of Dec `08
CEOs & Speaker's Evening	Jan `09
Managers' workshop	Jan `09
Marketing Conference	6th Feb `09
Management Conference	Mar `09
Member's outing	May `09
AGM	Jun `09
Annual Report	Jun `09
Brainstorming	Jul `09
Field Trips	As required
Guest Lectures	As required

AWAIT !!

**Annual Budget Seminar
on the day following the national
budget.**

Line up of Speakers and Discussion Panel

- Mr. N.R. Gajendran
- Mrs. Anila Dias Bandaranayaka
- Mrs. Lakmali Nanayakkara
- key personalities in the speaker pannel

Time 2.30- 5.30pm

07th November

at

**Ceylon Continental Hotel,
Colombo 01**

Next Attraction!
MBA NITE 2008

DINNER DANCE AT GALADARI HOTEL- COLOMBO
18th October 2008

7.00pm onwards

Contact:
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