

MEMBERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Its Birth, Rebirth, Growth and Future

Members' Benevolent Society [MBS] of the Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka was born on December 6, 1983 largely through the untiring efforts of the late Mr. Dayalan S. R. Thamararatnam, for the purpose of assisting the members with financial aid. MBS is 25 years old now. In 2003/04, a scholarship scheme named as Dayalan Thamararatnam Scholarship Fund was inaugurated to assist needy accountancy students. This scheme is still in operation.

To become a member of MBS, an annual contribution of Rs. 6,000 has to be made, which will be credited to the contributor's personal account in the books of MBS. The funds so collected are invested, and the income derived is distributed annually among members, after meeting expenses.

On January 12, 1993 when Mr. Nivard Cabrall took office as the President of the MBS consequent to relinquishing his term of Presidency of the ICASL, attracting the new members was found to be difficult, since young members of the Institute could not be convinced of the idea of a thrift society. The MBS had to adopt a new strategy to attract the new members.

An Insurance Scheme [Personal Accident Cover] for Rs. 100,000 was

introduced on July 13, 1995. This insurance scheme was subsequently revised to natural deaths only, as it was found to be a drain on the finances of MBS. As the value of the rupee fell due to inflation, the minimum monthly contribution was increased in order to collect sufficient funds for investment purposes. This will be further increased to Rs. 500 per month (Rs. 6,000 per annum) from the year 2009/2010.

The logo of the Society hitherto had been 'Helping Hands'. The Committee, which was engaged in building a better image for the Society, after careful consideration, accepted the noble twin swans or 'Hansa Puttuwa' of the Kandyan tradition, holding a weighing scale representing the Accountancy Profession, as the new logo. Twin swans indicate unity, strength and mutual support. This picture is depicted with a border in typical Sri Lankan style.

When Mr Someswaran was the President, the Committee agreed in principle that MBS should not merely act as a thrift society, but extend its benevolence to all the members of the Institute. Members' gatherings became a regular feature after the Annual General Meetings. The members responded very favourably to this move. All these social activities were funded by our advertis-

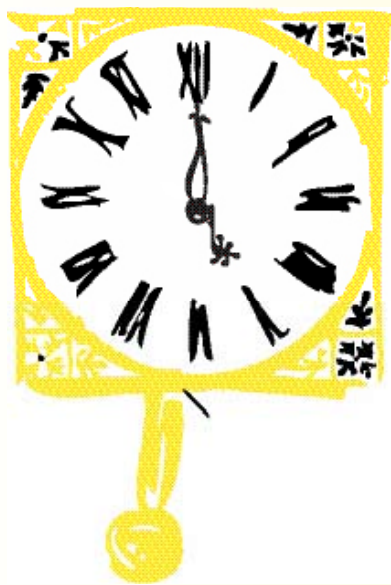
ers and well-wishers. All our committee members were actively involved in finding the sponsors.

Unfortunately, as the Act of Incorporation does not provide for members' welfare, the Institute could not respond favourably to requests made on members' behalf. When the Institute wrote to the members in November 1998 asking them to make suggestions for future revision of the Act of Incorporation, MBS submitted that the members' welfare should be one of the important functions of the Institute. The Institute commenced providing funds to assist needy members from the year 2008.

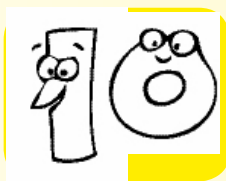
In the same year, the Institute of Chartered Accountants gave a grant of Rs. 500,000 for the first time to help members suffering from serious illnesses. MBS has visited and assisted a few such members.

There is much to be done now that MBS is back on a firm path. It can undertake much more important tasks, such as a pension scheme or a comprehensive welfare scheme for the Chartered Accountants. It is important to note that the population in this country is ageing fast and retirement benefits are vital for an ageing society. MBS plans to meet this challenge in the new millennium.

Top 10 Signs You Work in an Audit Firm



Hurry up!!!! Hurry up!!!!
I'm Going HALF DAY today!!!!
ha ha ha haaa.....



YOU lecture the man on the bicycle selling sweep tickets on ways to improve his processes.

YOU get all excited when it's Saturday so you can wear casual clothes to work.



YOU refer to the tomatoes in your garden as deliverables.

YOU find you really need PowerPoint to explain what you do for living.



YOU normally eat from the Thosai joint and at the most expensive restaurant in town within the same week.

YOU wear gray and white to work instead of pink to make a bold fashion statement.



YOU know the trishaw drivers better than your next-door neighbours.

ASK your friends to "think out of box" when making Friday night plans.



YOU dial 9 before a number, even when you are at home

YOU think a "half-day" means leaving at 5 o'clock.





TAX

1) Q: What do you do?

A: Business.

Tax: **PAY PROFESSIONAL TAX!**

2) Q: What do you do in business?

A: Selling the Goods.

Tax: **PAY SALES TAX!**

3) Q: From where are you getting Goods?

A: From other States/Abroad

Tax: **PAY CENTRAL SALES TAX, CUSTOM DUTY & OCTROI!**

4) Q: What are you getting by selling Goods?

A: Profit.

Tax: **PAY INCOME TAX!**

5) Q: How do you distribute profit?

A: By way of dividend.

Tax: **PAY DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTION TAX!**

6) Q: Where are you manufacturing the Goods?

A: In a factory.

Tax: **PAY EXCISE DUTY!**

7) Q: Do you have an office/warehouse/factory?

A: Yes.

Tax: **PAY MUNICIPAL & FIRE TAX!**

8) Q: Do you have staff?

A: Yes.

Tax: **PAY STAFF PROFESSIONAL TAX!**

9) Q: Doing business in millions?

A: Yes.

Tax: **PAY TURNOVER TAX!**

A: No

Tax: **THEN PAY MINIMUM ALTERNATE TAX!**

10) Q: Are you taking out over 25,000 cash from the bank?

A: Yes, for salaries.

Tax: **PAY CASH HANDLING TAX!**

11) Q: Where are you taking your client for lunch and dinner?

A: To a hotel.

Tax: **PAY FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT TAX!**

12) Q: Are you going outstation for business?

A: Yes.

Tax: **PAY FRINGE BENEFIT TAX!**

13) Q: Have you taken or given any service/s?

A: Yes.

Tax: **PAY SERVICE TAX!**

14) Q: How come you got such a big amount?

A: It was a gift on my birthday.

Tax: **PAY GIFT TAX!**

15) Q: Do you have any wealth?

A: Yes.

Tax: **PAY WEALTH TAX!**

16) Q: To reduce tension, or for entertainment, where do you go?

A: To the cinema or a resort.

Tax: **PAY ENTERTAINMENT TAX!**

17) Q: Have you purchased a house?

A: Yes.

Tax: **PAY STAMP DUTY & REGISTRATION FEE!**

18) Q: How do you travel?

A: By bus.

Tax: **PAY SURCHARGE!**

19) Q: Any Additional Tax?

A: Yes.

Tax: **PAY EDUCATIONAL, ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL & SURCHARGE ON ALL THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S TAX!**

20) Q: Have you delayed in paying any Tax?

A: Yes.

Tax: **PAY INTEREST & PENALTY!**

21) INDIAN: Can I die now??

A: **PLEASE WAIT, WE ARE ABOUT TO LAUNCH THE FUNERAL TAX!**

Award of Honorary MBE

Sri Lankan Chartered Accountant honoured by H M the Queen



Seneka Fernando

HM The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the honorary award of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire to Seneka Fernando ACA for his services to UK-Cambodia commercial relations.

Fernando was a founder in 1995 of the British Business Association of Cambodia and has been one of its leading members since then. He has also acted on behalf of the British Embassy as the first point of contact and advice for British companies wishing to trade or invest in Cambodia.

The award of the MBE marks Seneka Fernando's exceptional contribution to fostering business relations between the UK and Cambodia, and in working for the interests of the international business community in Cambodia.

Honorary Awards

1. The UK honours system recognises exceptional achievement and service to the nation. There are several different types of awards, each one recognising a different type of contribution. All British honours are awarded on merit.

2. Non-British nationals who have made an important contribution to British interests can be nominated for honorary awards. These awards are conferred by HM The Queen on the advice of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

3. The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire was founded in 1917. The order honours civilians and service personnel for public service or other distinctions. It is widely used by HM The Queen to honour non-British subjects who have given outstanding service to the UK, both in the UK and abroad.

4. The honour MBE is that of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. The recipient may put the letters 'MBE' after their name, subject to the rules laid down by the authorities of the recipient's country.

Seneka Fernando is Director at PricewaterhouseCoopers (Cambodia) and is a national of Sri Lanka.

ICASL and Microsoft collaboration to enhance IT education within the Accountancy Profession



Left to Right: Benton Samuel (Consultant, Microsoft), Sriyan de Silva (Country Manager, Microsoft), Nishan Fernando (President, ICASL), Aruna Alwis (CEO, ICASL), Gayan Wickramasinghe (CIO, ICASL)

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (ICASL) and Microsoft Sri Lanka (Private) Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) recently, to enhance the Information Technology related skills of ICASL members, students, staff and interested parties through various skill development training programs.

The agreement for this collaboration was signed by President, ICASL, Nishan Fernando and Country Manager, Microsoft Sri Lanka, Sriyan de Silva Wijeyeratne.

ICASL is committed to serving society by promoting and developing accountancy expertise towards resource management at the highest levels of integrity and competence. Microsoft Sri Lanka – a fully owned subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation, the world leader in software, services and solutions has achieved a wide and impactful reach in Sri Lanka by bringing in new techno-

logical solutions in the business arena, enabling people and businesses to realise their full potential.

The two institutions said that it was the right time to use their best efforts to bring together the joint capabilities and resources to enhance Information Technology among accountancy professionals. “Our efforts at this juncture will complement the Government’s declaration of the Year of IT-2009. We will align our strategies to support this concept,” they said.

Rapid developments in information technology (IT) have posed many challenges to the accounting profession. Following the agreement, Microsoft and ICASL plan to organise seminars on the adoption and usage of ERP solutions, CRM platforms, IT security, Business Intelligence, Using Office Suite more effectively etc. “We will discuss about the needs and will ensure that ICASL

members, students and other beneficiaries acquire necessary IT knowledge/skills through our collaboration. This will also give a chance to ICASL members and students to gain more exposure in the Information Technology field in the future,” they said. The collaboration seeks to enhance the competencies of the finance professionals and increase employability of the students and aspiring members, enabling them to be better equipped to face the digitally empowered future, whilst adding a new dimension to their organisational capabilities.

Further, as part of the above MoU, the computer labs at ICASL will be equipped through the Dynamics Academic Alliance Program, granting them access to the latest versions of Microsoft Dynamics ERP and Dynamics CRM software systems, enabling the students and the member community of ICASL to gain hands-on experience on latest Microsoft technologies.