



Newsletter

Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration

June 2025



Story of SLIDA

The Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration is a cornerstone in Public Administration and Management education, serving as the premier public sector training hub in Sri Lanka. We are committed to fostering leadership and innovation, offering programs that blend knowledge with practical skills. Our faculty consists of industry veterans, guiding students to become future change-makers. SLIDA alumni contribute significantly across various sectors, embodying our mission to advance governance and public service standards.

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Demystifying AI & Agentic AI

SLIDA hosted a special lecture on "Demystifying AI & Agentic AI", presented by Mr. Sandeep Alur, Chief Technology Officer at Microsoft Innovation Hub, Microsoft India. The session focused on how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can support better and smarter public service delivery. Mr. Pradeep Saputhanthri (Secretary to the Prime Minister), Mr. Aloka Bandara (Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration), Mr. S.M. Piyatissa (Secretary, Ministry of Labour), and Mr. Waruna Sri Dhanapala (Secretary, Ministry of Digital Economy) participated for this event that is showing the importance of this topic at the national level. A team from Microsoft Sri Lanka and Maldives also joined the discussion, adding valuable insights into how AI is being used responsibly and effectively in the public sector.



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Editorial Note

This month's issue of the SLIDA Newsletter highlights our unwavering commitment to capacity development and innovation in public service. The breadth of programs conducted reflects SLIDA's pivotal role in equipping public sector officers with the skills and insights necessary to navigate today's dynamic governance landscape.

Notably, the special lecture on "Demystifying AI & Agentic AI", led by Mr. Sandeep Alur from Microsoft India, brought national attention to the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in public administration. The presence of key secretaries and the Microsoft Sri Lanka and Maldives team underscores the importance of responsible AI integration in government services.

Simultaneously, the "Beyond the Horizon" leadership development program exemplifies our focus on holistic learning and merging experiential fieldwork with thought leadership to foster resilience among senior officers.

From advancing project management, procurement practices, and data science, to enhancing communication and sustainability awareness, our training programs are designed to meet the evolving demands of public administration. Each initiative contributes meaningfully to building a more capable, responsive, and future-ready public sector.

We thank all our resource persons, partners, and participants for their continued engagement and collaboration in making these efforts impactful.

Nilmini Daladawaththa
Editor, SLIDA Newsletter



Beyond the Horizon: Leadership Development through Experience and Insight

As part of the "Beyond the Horizon" workshop series, SLIDA conducted an immersive program designed for Special Grade Officers, centered on the theme "Creating Resilient Leadership for the Future in the Public Sector." A highlight of the program was a field visit to the scenic Pekoe Trail in Nuwara Eliya, offering participants a reflective outdoor experience to complement their leadership learning journey. The series also featured expert-led sessions by Mr. Miguel Cunat, Senior Consultant in Sustainable Tourism Development, and Prof. Ashoka Dangolla of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, University of Peradeniya.

Project Management for SLAcS

An insightful session on project planning and execution was conducted for Sri Lanka Accountancy Service officers to strengthen their essential project management skills.



Training session on cabinet paper guidelines

A special session on Cabinet Paper Guidelines was conducted by former Secretary Mr. Ananda Wimalaweera, focusing on practical aspects of policy development for Sri Lanka Administrative Service Grade I Officers.



World Environment Day 2025 at SLIDA

SLIDA celebrated the World Environment Day with an inspiring talk by Mrs. Mihiri Gunawardhana and a symbolic tree planting. The event emphasized reducing plastic pollution and promoting sustainability.



English for professionals (Induction for Sri Lanka Accountants' Service)

The English module, conducted by Ms. A.M. Sachithra Jayavindi, is strengthening communication skills for new SLAcS officers.



Strategic HR & Personal Development

Participants of Sri Lanka Planning Service explored human resource trends, emotional intelligence, and leadership at sessions held at SLIDA and Kudawa Forest Center, guided by Ms. Anusha Batawala Gamage, Additional Director General (Learning and Development).



Procurement Training for NAITA Officers

Officers from NAITA began training on the new procurement guidelines, with support from senior officials from SLIDA and NAITA. The program is coordinated by Mrs. Manel Kularathne.



Government Accounting Principles and Standards

A special session on Government Accounting Principles and Standards, conducted by Ms. Samadhara Jayaratne, Director at the Department of State Accounts, Ministry of Finance (Treasury), was a key highlight of the induction training program of SLAcS. This comprehensive session focused on essential elements of monthly printouts and financial reporting, offering participants valuable insights into the core principles of public sector accounting.



Training Programme on New Procurement Guidelines for Non-Executive Staff

A Training Programme on New Procurement Guidelines for Non-Executive Staff commenced at SLIDA, focusing on enhancing the practical knowledge and procedural understanding of updated procurement regulations among non-executive public sector staff.



Data Science for Analyzing & Modelling Business Process Reengineering

Capturing moments from the Capacity Building Training Programme for Sri Lanka Administrative Service Grade I officers, featuring the module on the "Data Science for Analysing & Modelling Business Process Reengineering" conducted by Mr. N.M.M Nihaaj, Senior lecturer in Construction Project Management -University of Moratuwa.

Training Programme on Procurement Guidelines for Executive Officers

Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) today launched a special 5-day Training Consultancy Program on the New Procurement Guidelines – 2025 for Executive Officers of the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government.



Training Programme for Grade I Officers of the Surveyor General's Department

Certificate Awarding Ceremony was held for the participants who successfully completed the Training Programme for Grade I Officers of the Surveyor General's Department. The programme was successfully coordinated by Dr. A.M.P. Arandara, Senior Consultant, SLIDA.



Sustainability & Disaster Management

Ms. Neranjala Jayasundara (Additional Director General – Organizational Development) coordinated a module on sustainability and disaster management for SLPS Grade II officers on aligning public administration with SDGs and building disaster resilience.





Poson Dhamma Sermon at SLIDA

The Poson Dhamma sermon organized by the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) was conducted with the sincere participation of all staff members. The sermon was delivered by the Most Venerable Royal Pandit Thalalle Chandakitti Nayaka Thero.

The sermon will be broadcast on 10th July 2025 at 7:30 PM on the Buddhist TV channel, with the aim of sharing the gift of Dhamma for the well-being of all beings, both in Sri Lanka and around the world.



Certificate Awarding Ceremony – IT Skills Development for NAOSL Audit Officials

Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) today launched a special 5-day Training Consultancy Program on the New Procurement Guidelines – 2025 for Executive Officers of the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government.



Higher National Diploma in Public Procurement and Contract Administration (2024-2025)

An insightful research session was conducted as part of the Higher National Diploma in Public Procurement and Contract Administration (2024-2025). The session was expertly led by Mr. C. W. K. Kuruppu Arachchi, Senior Consultant at SLIDA, with a strong focus on real-world approaches to data interpretation and analysis of research findings.

Participants actively engaged in hands-on data analysis exercises, guided by Dr. A.M.P. Arandara, Senior Consultant and Module Coordinator.

COMING UP



RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) is pleased to announce the launch of its Researcher Development Program.

This program is designed to foster a strong research culture in the public sector and to enhance the research competencies of public officers, enabling them to contribute more effectively to evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation.



The program
will commence on

29TH AUGUST 2025

and conclude on

05TH DECEMBER 2025

More Info

SANDHARANI RESEARCH CENTRE
011 5980280/281



We warmly invite interested public sector officials to register using the link provided below. Selected applicants will be informed in due course.

FREE HYBRID MODE

Application Deadline
31ST JULY 2025



TIMELESS THOUGHTS

The World's Greatest Defeater: A True Champion of Spirit

In the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, Sri Lankan runner Ranatunga Karunananda finished last in the 10,000-meter race, but he won the hearts of thousands.

Lapped by others and far behind the leaders, he could have quit. But he didn't. He ran every single lap, alone, with dignity and determination. As the crowd realized his courage, 70,000 people rose in a thunderous standing ovation. He may have been the last to cross the finish line, but he became the first in spirit, a symbol of true Olympic values.

"The Olympic spirit is not to win, but to take part," Karunananda said. And through his perseverance, he proved that you don't have to win to be unforgettable.



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