

President and Prime Minister grace the occasion

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SLIIT Convocation 2017 President and Prime Minister grace the occasion

SLIIT, the premier higher education institute in Sri Lanka held its graduation ceremony recently conferring Bachelors and Master's Degrees in Information Technology, Engineering and Business Management. With seven sessions graced by eminent personalities, the convocation ceremony was held at the SLIIT campus in Malabe on 2 and 3 March.

President Maithripala Sirisena, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, Honorary Prof. University of Hong Kong, Prof. Mohan M. Kumaraswamy, Institute of Policy Studies Executive Director, Dr. Saman Kelegama, WSO2 Founder, CEO and Chief Architect, Dr. Sanjiva Weerawarana, Australia Curtin University Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof. Moses Tade and Sheffield Hallam University, UK Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof. Roger Eccleston graced the convocation as chief guests and delivered the Convocation Address at each session.

Congratulating the new graduates who were conferred with Degrees President Maithripala Sirisena said, "Affordable access to knowledge should be universal and should not be confined to the boundaries of a chosen field of study. Hence, I am happy to note that over the last few years SLIIT has taken giant strides in diversifying its academic offerings to build the skills of its students. I commend the academic and non-academic staff of SLIIT for their commitment to the development of this premier higher education institute".

Students who excelled in academic and extra curricular activities were recognized with special awards. Mohamed Yazdaan Alimudeen received the SLIIT Gold Medal for overall Academic Excellence in the Faculty of Computing in Information Technology, Selvajane Mithushan received the Prof. Lakshman Ratnayake Gold Medal for overall academic excellence in the Faculty of Engineering and Wanya Jerleen Gunawardena received the SLIIT Gold Medal for overall academic excellence in the Faculty of Business.

Prof. Lalith Gamage Gold Medal for Outstanding SLIIT Graduate who has excelled in academic and extra and co-curricular activities was awarded to Dilini Buddhima Rathnayaka Weerakoon. Pasindu Dulanjaya Panditharathna clinched the title for Best Overall Performer.

Commending SLIIT for its service rendered to the higher education sector in Sri Lanka, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said, "In today's competitive higher education landscape, it is pertinent to note that SLIIT has rendered a yeoman service to the field of education. SLIIT has grown admirably, keeping abreast of new developments that take place constantly in the ever evolving sphere of higher education. SLIIT is committed to upgrading knowledge and ensuring that its students are successfully able to cross the threshold of studies in emerging as empowered individuals who can drive the country forward".

Chairman of SLIIT Prof. Lakshman L. Ratnayake said, "So far SLIIT has produced over 20,000 graduates with Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in IT, Engineering and Business, a record unmatched by any other non-state higher education institute in Sri Lanka. I take this opportunity to congratulate all our graduates who received their degrees at the 2017 Convocation and I urge all our graduates to serve our nation efficiently and enthusiastically to bring prosperity to our motherland".

"The annual Convocation is one of the most significant occasions in our calendar and this year it takes on even a greater significance as it marks an important milestone – the graduation of the first batch of our own engineering students. Today, as our country makes giant strides on a path towards prosperity the young men and women who leave the portals of our institute, with their all-round skills, analytical thinking and professional attitudes will no doubt be an asset. I offer my sincere congratulations to each and every member of this year's graduating batch for the hard work, perseverance and diligence in achieving this milestone" said SLIIT CEO, Prof. Lalith Gamage.