



# SLID - ACCA NATIONAL CORPORATE DIRECTOR AWARDS 2025

*Celebrating Visionary Leadership*

**Recognising leadership  
Elevating governance  
Inspiring the future**

SLID - ACCA National Corporate Director Awards 2025  
Organised by The Sri Lanka Institute of Directors & ACCA

28th January 2026 | 6.30pm onwards | The Oak Room, Cinnamon Grand

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# Awards Ceremony

Date: 28th January 2026

Time: 6.30 p.m. onwards

Venue: The Oak Room, Cinnamon Grand Colombo

## Chief Guest

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His Excellency Andrew Patrick

British High Commissioner to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

## Guest of Honour

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Senior Professor D. B. P. H. Dissabandara

Chairman – Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of Sri Lanka

## Special Guest

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Mr. Victor Anthony Pillai

Principal Country Officer – International Finance Corporation (IFC)

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# Celebrating Visionary Leadership

The SLID–ACCA National Corporate Director Awards 2025 represent a landmark initiative jointly presented by the Sri Lanka Institute of Directors (SLID) and ACCA, established to recognise and celebrate exemplary leadership at board level across Sri Lanka.

These inaugural awards honour corporate directors whose governance, strategic stewardship, and ethical leadership have contributed meaningfully to organisational resilience, sustainable growth, and national economic progress. At a time of heightened accountability and complexity, the role of the director has never been more critical. This awards platform acknowledges those who lead with foresight, integrity, and a deep sense of responsibility to stakeholders and society at large.

The awards span the private, public, state-owned, and not-for-profit sectors, reflecting the shared importance of effective governance across all spheres of the economy. Through a rigorous and independent evaluation process, the programme sets a national benchmark for boardroom excellence and professional directorship.

The SLID–ACCA National Corporate Director Awards 2025 are presented as part of SLID's 25th Anniversary Celebrations, reaffirming the Institute's long-standing commitment to advancing director professionalism and strengthening governance standards in Sri Lanka.



THE SRI LANKA  
INSTITUTE OF  
DIRECTORS

# Award Categories

- **Outstanding Independent Non-Executive Director of the Year**
- **Lifetime Achievement Award**
- **Chair's Award for Boardroom Excellence**
- **Business Leadership Award**
- **Greatest Impact on Corporate Boards Award**
- **Sustainability Leadership Award**
- **Equity & Diversity Champion Award**
- **Innovation in Governance Award**
- **Outstanding Young Director Award**





# Brief Overview of SLID

## Srilanka Institute of Directors (SLID)

The Sri Lanka Institute of Directors SLID is the national body dedicated to advancing excellence in corporate governance and board leadership in Sri Lanka. Founded in 2000, SLID was established to strengthen the professionalism, effectiveness, and ethical standards of directors across both the public and private sectors.

Having trained over 1000 individuals, SLID focuses on many aspects of board and leadership development, including corporate governance, risk management, strategy, sustainability, regulatory compliance, ethics, and board effectiveness & more. The Institute delivers structured director development programmes, capacity building initiatives, and knowledge sharing platforms designed to support directors in an evolving business environment.

SLID serves as a trusted platform for engagement and dialogue among business leaders, regulators, professionals, and academia, while aligning local governance practices with internationally recognised best practices. Through education, advocacy, and collaboration, SLID continues to play a vital role in strengthening responsible leadership and promoting long term value creation within Sri Lanka's corporate sector.



# Brief Overview of ACCA

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the only truly global professional accountancy body.

Since we were founded in 1904, we've been breaking down barriers to the accountancy profession. Today we proudly support a diverse community of over 257,900 members and 530,100 future members in 180 countries.

We're redefining accountancy. Our cutting-edge qualifications, continuous learning and insights are respected and valued by employers in every sector. They equip individuals with the business and finance expertise and ethical judgment to lead and drive sustainable value in organisations and economies worldwide.

Guided by our purpose and values, we're leading the accountancy profession for a changed world. Partnering with policymakers, standard setters, the donor community, educators and other accountancy bodies, we're strengthening and building a profession that focuses on people, planet and prosperity to create value for all.



The SLID–ACCA National Corporate Director Awards 2025 mark a defining milestone in Sri Lanka’s corporate governance journey. At a time when organisations are navigating economic volatility, regulatory reform, and heightened stakeholder expectations, the role of the board director has never been more critical. These awards recognise directors who exemplify integrity, strategic foresight, and a commitment to responsible leadership.

As the national body dedicated to advancing director professionalism, SLID firmly believes that strong boards are the cornerstone of resilient institutions and sustainable national growth. This initiative reflects our conviction that governance excellence must be recognised, celebrated, and emulated. Our partnership with ACCA enhances the credibility and global relevance of this platform, reinforcing the vital link between sound governance, financial stewardship, and long-term value creation. Together, we aim to elevate boardroom practices across the private, public, state-owned, and non-profit sectors.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the distinguished panel of judges, the organising committee, our partners, and all nominators for their dedication to a rigorous and transparent process. Most importantly, I congratulate all nominees for their willingness to be held to the highest standards of leadership and accountability.

It is my hope that these awards will inspire current and future directors to lead with courage, wisdom, and purpose—recognising that effective governance is not only a responsibility to shareholders, but a duty to society and the nation.



## Melanie Proffitt

*ACCA Global President*

It is my great pleasure to send warmest greetings and congratulations to all the winners and everyone involved in the SLID-ACCA Director Awards. These awards are a wonderful chance to recognise the amazing contribution which directors make – for their own organisations and Sri Lankan society. At ACCA we like to say that partnership is our super-power. We work with people and organisations all around the planet to grow the accountancy profession the world needs; to create more opportunities to pursue a brilliant business education and a rewarding career; and to serve the public good. Everything we achieve rests on the support of our partners – and in that spirit I'm delighted to pay tribute to our friends and colleagues at the Sri Lanka Institute of Directors. We share a common purpose:

- We strengthen governance
- We uphold ethical leadership
- We support directors in making informed, responsible decisions.

Together, we raise standards across boardrooms and contribute to the development of the accountancy profession. That's so important for Sri Lanka, as it is everywhere, all around the world, in every one of the 180 countries where our three-quarters-of-a-million ACCA members and future members live and work.

These awards celebrate the outstanding individuals, the outstanding leaders, who make a positive difference by building businesses and organisations which deliver long-term value to society – by serving the needs of investors; employees; and the public.

To all the award winners, I'm thrilled to send sincere congratulations. Your leadership and dedication are a shining example, and every day you display the role directors can play in creating resilient, sustainable, successful organisations.

ACCA is proud to support these awards in partnership with SLID. We look forward to continuing our association as we work together to strengthen governance, develop talent, and support the future of the accountancy profession in Sri Lanka.





As Chair of the SLID-ACCA National Corporate Director Awards 2025, I am honoured to celebrate directors who set benchmarks in ethical stewardship, strategic foresight, and innovation in governance—leaders whose decisions create durable value for shareholders, employees, customers, and communities alike. These awards recognise excellence across Sri Lanka's private, public, state owned, and not for profit sectors, reflecting our belief that strong boards are the bedrock of resilient institutions and sustainable national progress.

Our partnership with ACCA underscores the deep alignment between sound governance, financial stewardship, and long term value creation, strengthening the credibility and global relevance of this platform. To uphold that standard, we employ a rigorous, transparent, three step process—-independent technical evaluation, interviews by a distinguished judging panel, and external assurance—so that recognition is earned on evidence, integrity, and impact.

I extend heartfelt thanks to our judges and assurance partners for their diligence, to the organising committee and our partners for steadfast support, and to every nominator for championing exemplary leadership. Above all, I applaud each nominee: your courage to be assessed against the highest bar strengthens market confidence and elevates our collective governance culture. May this evening inspire current and future directors to lead with wisdom, transparency, and purpose—and to remember that effective governance is a duty not only to shareholders, but to society and the nation.



I wish to commend and congratulate the Chairman and Council of The Sri Lanka Institute of Directors (SLID) for launching the inaugural National Corporate Director Awards in recognition of outstanding company directors in Sri Lanka, in collaboration with ACCA Sri Lanka.

I am delighted to be part of the excitement and celebrations tonight as the Chairman of the Panel of Judges, and more so as a former Chairman of the prestigious Institute of Directors. I am a firm believer that better directors make better boards, and better boards make better companies. In that context, recognizing and awarding the better directors is both relevant and inspiring.

Whilst thanking the SLID Chairman and Council for appointing me to the Panel of Judges, I wish to recognise and thank the fellow members of the panel, namely Chandra Schaffter, Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy, Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane, Prof. Malik Ranasinghe, Dr. Arittha Wickramanayake and Ajith Tudawe for their individual and collective contributions during our deliberations in the judging process, and the SLID and ACCA teams for their administrative support.

My hearty congratulations to all the award winners! You are in the limelight shining bright tonight! Whilst you enjoy the limelight, you must remember that winning an award isn't everything. You must sustain yourselves as worthy role models in your boardrooms and be a glowing benchmark for other directors, particularly the young and aspiring, in the future.

To those who were not successful this time, remember failures are the pillars of success. You still have time to build and sharpen your skills and shine next time.

I wish you all a wonderful evening of excitement, inspiration, celebration and fellowship!



It is a privilege to extend my warmest congratulations to all those being recognised at the SLID-ACCA National Director Corporate Awards 2025.

At a time when Sri Lanka and the broader global economy face both significant opportunities and complex challenges, excellence in leadership has never been more essential. These awards shine a spotlight on directors who embody the highest standards of integrity, vision, and stewardship — individuals who contribute not only to the success of their organisations but also to the resilience of the national economy.

The partnership between the Sri Lanka Institute of Directors (SLID) and ACCA Sri Lanka demonstrates a shared commitment to raising the bar for corporate governance and ethical leadership — a force for positive change in the country's business landscape.

Effective directorship goes beyond compliance; it calls for courage in decision-making, innovation in governance, and a steadfast commitment to ethical practice. These qualities build trust, drive long-term value, and inspire future generations of leaders.

I commend SLID and ACCA for establishing these awards — a meaningful initiative that elevates the importance of good governance and celebrates role models for the corporate community. As Sri Lanka continues on its path to sustainable economic growth, leadership that exemplifies accountability, inclusivity, and ethical excellence will be pivotal.

To all honourees, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. Your achievements reflect not only professional excellence but a deep commitment to advancing Sri Lanka's corporate identity on the global stage.



The inaugural SLID–ACCA National Corporate Director Awards mark a significant milestone in Sri Lanka's corporate governance landscape. Jointly presented by the Sri Lanka Institute of Directors (SLID) and ACCA Sri Lanka, these awards have been established to recognise and celebrate directors who demonstrate exceptional leadership, sound judgment, and an unwavering commitment to good governance. At a time when organisations are navigating heightened economic uncertainty, regulatory evolution, and rapidly changing stakeholder expectations, the role of the corporate director has never been more critical.

Directors today are required to balance performance with purpose—driving sustainable growth while upholding ethical standards, transparency, and accountability. These awards acknowledge individuals who rise to this challenge, providing strategic direction, fostering resilience, and embedding long-term value creation within their organisations. By highlighting exemplary leadership at board level, the SLID–ACCA National Corporate Director Awards aim to reinforce the importance of strong governance as a cornerstone of business success and national economic progress.

ACCA Sri Lanka is proud to partner with SLID on this landmark initiative, which aligns closely with ACCA's global commitment to professionalism, integrity, and public interest. Together, SLID and ACCA seek to elevate governance standards, encourage best practices, and inspire current and future directors to lead with vision, courage, and responsibility. The awards also serve as a platform to recognise the collective impact of directors in shaping sustainable businesses that contribute positively to society and the wider economy.

As we honour the inaugural cohort of award recipients, we celebrate not only individual excellence but also the vital role of boards in building trust, strengthening institutions, and supporting Sri Lanka's journey towards sustainable and inclusive growth. These awards set a new benchmark for recognising governance excellence and reaffirm the shared commitment of SLID and ACCA to advancing strong, principled leadership across Sri Lanka's corporate sector.



The SLID–ACCA National Corporate Director Awards 2025 celebrate leadership that goes beyond compliance and title, recognising directors who shape strategy, culture, and long-term organisational impact. In an increasingly complex environment, these Awards honour those who balance performance with prudence, innovation with ethics, and ambition with accountability.

At SLID, our mission is to strengthen boards and directors through education, advocacy, and recognition. Presented in partnership with ACCA as Co-Partner, this programme establishes a national benchmark for effective directorship, defined not only by outcomes, but by governance quality, sound judgement, and sustainable value creation.

The breadth and diversity of applications received are deeply encouraging. I extend my sincere appreciation to all applicants and nominees for subjecting their leadership and boardroom contributions to a rigorous and independent evaluation process, and to the Panel of Judges for their integrity and professional judgement in upholding the credibility of these Awards.

I am particularly grateful to the Chairman of SLID, Dinesh Weerakkody, for his vision and leadership in championing this bold national initiative. My thanks also extend to the Organising Committee, especially Aadila Hassim and Safna Hanaz, for their tireless dedication, and to the SLID Secretariat team for their professionalism in delivering this landmark programme.

I also wish to thank our valued partners and sponsors for their steadfast support, without which this initiative would not have been possible. Your commitment reflects a shared belief in advancing strong governance and responsible leadership in Sri Lanka.

To all nominees and award recipients, your leadership strengthens trust, resilience, and confidence in Sri Lanka's institutions, and sets a powerful example for the future.

## Guest of Honour



## Special Guest



## Panel of Judges



First Class Honors Bachelor's Degree in Economics with specialization in Banking & Finance; MBA and FCPM.

- Retired veteran banker with long and extensive top management experience in commercial and development banking in Sri Lanka, UK, Australia, India and Pakistan.
- Former Managing Director of Amana Bank PLC. Well known for the outstanding strategic and operational leadership role he has played in initiating, developing and furthering the practice of interest-free banking in Sri Lanka based on the profit and loss sharing business model and establishing Amana Bank PLC as the first interest-free licensed commercial bank in Sri Lanka in which he was the founding Managing Director and CEO.
- Corporate Sector experience exceeds 40 years, including over 20 years at the C-Suite Management level; 14 years at MD/CEO level and over 30 years at Board Director level.
- Former Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka.
- Former Chairman, The Sri Lanka Institute of Directors.
- Former Senior Independent Director of several companies, including banking and insurance.
- Former Board Director of The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.
- Experienced Board director of several diverse companies in the business of banking, finance, insurance, fund management, stockbroking, manufacturing, trading and higher education; has served on State University Boards (Peradeniya and PIM USJ), and several Government and Non-Governmental Committees in the fields of finance, economic affairs, housing development, construction, and higher education.
- Experienced Lecturer in Business Strategy, Corporate Governance, and Corporate Leadership at the Postgraduate Institute of Management, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, and several professional accounting institutes.
- IFC Certified Board Trainer in Board Leadership and Corporate Governance.
- Financial Sector Consultant and Council Member of Gerson Lehrman Group, USA.
- Expert Resource Consultant, Uzabase.

## Panel of Judges



C.T.A. Schaffter is widely recognized as a distinguished business leader and sports administrator in Sri Lanka, with a career spanning over six decades across the insurance, corporate, and sporting sectors. Often referred to as the 'Father of Insurance in Sri Lanka,' he is the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of JXG (Janashakthi Group), one of the country's leading financial conglomerates.

A versatile sportsman, Mr. Schaffter represented Ceylon internationally in cricket and hockey during the 1950s, competing against visiting international sides and leading teams to national titles. His involvement in sport continued in administration, serving as Chairman of the National Cricket Selection Committee and holding senior roles in the Sri Lanka Hockey Federation, Colombo Hockey Association, and Tamil Union Cricket and Athletic Club. He managed the Sri Lankan national cricket team at major tournaments, including the 1999 ICC Cricket World Cup and ICC Champions Trophy, and played a key role in the historic national team tour to Jaffna in 2002.

In the insurance sector, Mr. Schaffter held senior leadership roles, including at Eagle Insurance, and served as President of the Insurance Association of Sri Lanka (IASL). As Founder of Janashakthi Insurance PLC, he built it into one of Sri Lanka's foremost insurance providers, renowned for its customer focus and alignment with national priorities.

His lifetime of service has been recognized with numerous accolades: the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 16th Asia Insurance Industry Awards, Malaysia (2012); the LMD Lifetime Achievement Award (2015); the Platinum Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Sri Lanka Insurance Industry Awards (2016); and the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Sri Lanka Cricket Awards (2024), reflecting his enduring impact on both corporate and sporting spheres.

Mr. Schaffter's legacy is defined by his dedication to institution-building, talent development, and advancing the nation's broader interests. His life's work embodies excellence, leadership, and the sustainable growth of both business and sport in Sri Lanka.



## Panel of Judges

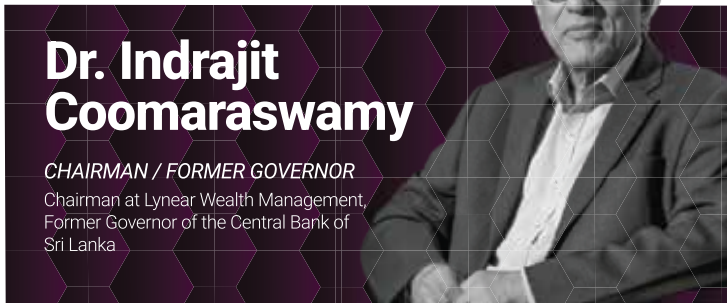


Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane is a former Acting Chief Justice of Sri Lanka and one of the country's most distinguished jurists, with nearly four decades of judicial service across all levels of court, including the apex courts. Internationally respected for her leadership on judicial integrity and ethics, she serves as Deputy Chair of the Judicial Integrity Group and is currently working with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on revisions to the Commentaries on the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct.

Justice Tilakawardane brings deep expertise as a judicial educator, accredited mediator, and arbitrator. She is a former consultant to the Sri Lankan Judicial Training Institute and has spent over a decade training judges, particularly newly appointed judges, on human rights law, gender justice, domestic violence, child rights, environmental law, artificial intelligence and the law, judicial decision-making, and judgment writing. Her work as an international consultant and educator spans more than thirty years, with a sustained focus on human rights, gender equality, child rights, technology, and environmental governance.

Her global engagement includes serving on the International Advisory Board of the U.S. National Center for State Courts and contributing as an international expert on gender stereotypes and judicial reasoning. Reflecting her ongoing thought leadership at the intersection of law, ethics, technology, and sustainability, Justice Tilakawardane has recently delivered keynote and plenary sessions in Odisha, India, on artificial intelligence and environmental sustainability. She continues to lecture widely on the climate impacts of AI and sustainable development, including most recently at the Wildlife & Nature Protection Society's monthly lecture in November 2025.

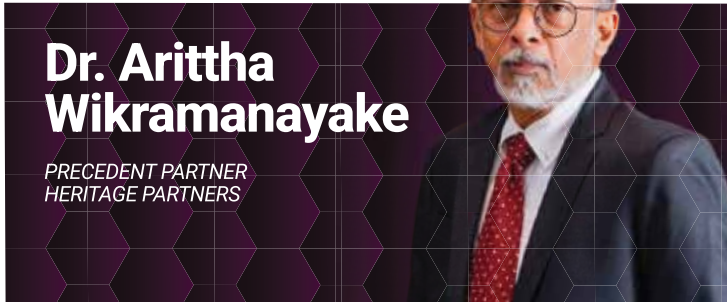
## Panel of Judges



Dr. Indrajith Coomaraswamy has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Economics and Master of Arts in Economics from the University of Cambridge and a Doctor of Philosophy in Economics from the University of Sussex.

Dr Coomaraswamy is the former Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. He was a member of the Monetary Policy Consultative Committee of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka from 2013 - 2015 and an Advisor to the Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade from 2015-2016. Prior to this, Dr Coomaraswamy held several senior level positions at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. He joined the Commonwealth Secretariat in 1990 as Chief Officer - Economics in the International Finance and Markets Section and progressed to become the Director of the Economics Affairs Division and Deputy Director, Secretary General's office before leaving in 2008. He previously served as a Non-Executive Independent Director at John Keells Holdings PLC and Dialog Axiata Group, and currently serves as a Non-Executive Independent Director of Tokyo Cement Company (Lanka) PLC.

## Panel of Judges



Dr. Arittha Wikramanayake is a veteran Corporate and M&A lawyer and heads the Firm's corporate and acquisitions practice. During his tenure as the Director General of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), he played a pivotal role in the development and formulation of fundamental laws, regulations and policies - including the formulation of the Takeovers and Mergers Code. He thereafter served as the Precedent Partner of Nithya Partners (Attorneys-at-Law) for nearly 25 years, where he was the driving force in consolidating its position as one of the dominant corporate law firms in Sri Lanka. As one of the leading capital market experts in the country, Dr. Wikramanayake has served in various key regulatory and policy formulating bodies including the Sri Lanka Accounting and Monitoring Standards Board, the Public Enterprises Reform Commission and Committees for the formulation of Codes of Corporate Governance. He also served as the Chairman of the Company Law Advisory Commission, a Member of the Advisory Commission on Intellectual Property Law and as a Member of the National Trade Negotiation Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Sri Lanka to negotiate Free Trade Agreements with Singapore, India, China and Thailand. He is presently a member of the Law Commission of Sri Lanka. In addition, he has been consistently ranked as a leading individual in the fields of Corporate and M&A by Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500 Asia Pacific.

Dr. Wikramanayake received his professional education at the Sri Lanka Law College and was admitted to the Bar in 1981. He thereafter served as a State Counsel with the Attorney General's Department of Sri Lanka till he assumed his position as the Director General of the Securities and Exchange Commission. During this period, he received LL.M degrees from the Vrije Universiteit (Brussels, Belgium), the University of Georgia (Athens, USA) as well as a Master's in Law and Diplomacy (MALD) from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University (USA). Furthermore, in 2013 he was awarded a Doctorate from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

## Panel of Judges



Professor Malik Ranasinghe is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Moratuwa and Vice President/President elect of the National Academy of Sciences Sri Lanka. He is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka, Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, Sri Lanka, Fellow of the Institute of Project Managers, Sri Lanka and Graduate Member of Sri Lanka Institute of Directors.

Prof. Ranasinghe graduated with BSc Eng, (Hons). in Civil Engineering from the University of Moratuwa and obtained his MASc and PhD from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada in Civil Engineering Economics as a Canadian Commonwealth Scholar. He was awarded the DSc (Honoris Causa) by the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka in 2024.

Prof. Ranasinghe is the former Vice Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa, and former Chairman of the Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka. He is former Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Directors of Sri Lanka, Commission Member of the University Grants Commission, Council Member of the National Research Council, Council Member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, former Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, and Chairman, Centre of Excellence in Project Management at the University of Moratuwa. He is a former Fellow of the National University of Singapore.

Since 2003, Prof. Ranasinghe has been involved continuously with the corporate sector in Sri Lanka. He is an independent non-executive Director of Pan Asia Bank PLC and ACL Cables PLC, former Chairman of Sampath Bank PLC, and former independent non-executive Director of Access Engineering PLC, Resus Energy PLC, Teejay Lanka PLC, United Motors Lanka PLC, Sampath Bank PLC, Hemas Power PLC, Lanka IOC PLC, and the Colombo Stock Exchange.

## Panel of Judges



Ajith E Tudawe has combined strategic management, entrepreneurial initiative, and long-term institutional stewardship in shaping Sri Lanka's private tertiary healthcare sector. As Executive Chairman of Ceylon Hospitals PLC (CHPLC), the publicly listed parent of DURDANS HOSPITAL, he has been central to a 28-year trajectory of sectoral innovation, institutional strengthening, and governance reform, including the introduction of an Enterprise Governance framework that embedded Independent Non-Executive Directors (INEDs), enhanced board oversight, and strengthened accountability mechanisms.

Ajith holds a BA (Hons) degree from the CNAA (UK) and is a Senior Chartered Accountant with fellowship status in England & Wales, Australia, and Sri Lanka, and Fellow Member for Life of ACCA (UK). During his presidency at ACCA (Sri Lanka) in 2003–2004, he launched the Annual Sustainability Reporting Awards Scheme, significantly elevating national sustainability reporting standards and promoting transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement. His leadership fostered lasting improvements across multiple industries adopting sustainability reporting practices.

Beginning in the late 1990s, he led a phased restructuring of DURDANS grounded in a disciplined Mergers & Acquisition (M&A) and consolidation strategy that resulted in the creation of Durdans Management Services Ltd (DMSL) as the ultimate holding vehicle with a controlling equity stake in DURDANS HOSPITAL. The restructuring concluded in October 2003 with the public listing of Ceylon Hospitals Ltd on the Colombo Stock Exchange, strengthening transparency, regulatory discipline, and access to capital.

With only 22,500 sqft of infrastructure at the outset, strategic real-estate acquisitions in 2003 and 2009 expanded DURDANS' footprint to nearly 500,000 sqft, enabling a full tertiary healthcare platform and supporting long-term capacity growth. Ajith pioneered Sri Lanka's first dedicated Heart Centre through a strategic alliance with a leading Centre of Excellence in New Delhi, then the largest freestanding Heart Institute in Asia.

This initiative introduced world-class cardiac care to Sri Lanka and enhanced cardiac surgery and interventional capabilities within the private sector. Subsequent expansions included the Sixth Lane facility, adding Orthopaedic Surgery, GU Surgery, Advanced ENT, and a state of the art Imaging and Radiology Department. He also introduced the Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation framework to Sri Lankan private healthcare, with DURDANS becoming the first institution in the country to secure the JCI Gold Seal in 2014. Under Vision 2022, neurological capabilities were advanced through a Centre of Excellence in Neuroscience and the launch of DURDANS REVIVE in May 2025, a 9,000 sqft rehabilitation centre aligned with international post-surgical standards. His current governance focus is at Tudawe Holdings Ltd as Senior Non-Executive Director, emphasising family-enterprise governance, succession, investment oversight, and long-term sustainable stewardship.

## SLID – ACCA National Corporate Director Awards 2025 Award Categories & Recipients

### Outstanding Independent Non-Executive Director of the Year

This award recognises independent non-executive directors who provide strategic challenge, objective judgement, and ethical oversight while contributing meaningfully beyond formal board responsibilities.

#### **Gold (Joint Award)**

- Dr. Harsha Cabral, PC
- Sharhan Muhseen

#### **Silver**

- Rajendra Theagarajah

### Lifetime Achievement Award

This award honours distinguished individuals whose lifelong contribution to board leadership, mentorship, and governance excellence has left a lasting legacy across sectors and generations.

#### **Recipients**

- Mahendra Amarasuriya
- Deshamanya Ken Balendra
- Deshamanya Sohli Captain
- Aban Pestonjee
- Rohini Nanayakkara

### Chair's Award for Boardroom Excellence

The highest distinction of the Awards, recognising an exceptional board leader whose stewardship, integrity, and influence exemplify excellence across all dimensions of governance and board effectiveness.

#### **Recipient**

- Sanjeev Gardiner

### Business Leadership Award

This award honours directors who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in guiding organisational strategy, performance, and resilience while upholding strong governance principles.

#### **Gold**

- Supun Weerasinghe

#### **Silver**

- Tania S. Abeyesundara

#### **Bronze**

- Kishore D. Reddy

**Greatest Impact on Corporate Boards Award**

This award recognises a director whose influence has led to transformative improvements in board effectiveness, governance culture, and long-term strategic direction.

**Recipient**

- Vish Govindasamy

**Sustainability Leadership Award**

This award celebrates directors who have embedded environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles into board-level strategy and driven long-term sustainable value creation.

**Recipient**

- Bernie Stefan

**Equity & Diversity Champion Award**

This award recognises directors who have actively advanced inclusive governance by promoting diversity, equity, and representation within boardrooms and leadership structures.

**Gold**

- Selyna Peiris

**Silver**

- Gayani De Alwis

**Bronze**

- Krystle Reid Wijesuriya

**Innovation in Governance Award**

This award honours directors who have introduced innovative approaches to governance, challenging traditional norms to enhance board oversight, decision-making, and effectiveness.

**Recipient**

- Boshan Dayaratne

**Outstanding Young Director Award**

This award recognises a young director who has demonstrated exceptional leadership potential, ethical judgement, and measurable impact within the boardroom at an early stage of their governance career.

**Gold**

- Hussain Akbarally

**Silver**

- Nikitha Grero

**Bronze**

- Nishal Ferdinando

## Outstanding Independent Non-Executive Director of the Year Joint Gold Award



Dr. Cabral is a President's Counsel in Sri Lanka with thirty-eight (38) years' experience in the field of Corporate Law, Intellectual Property Law, Commercial Law, Commercial Arbitration, Securities Laws, International Trade Law covering both civil and criminal aspects of the said areas of the law. He has been a President's Counsel for twenty (20) years and commands an extensive practice in the Commercial High Courts, the Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Courts of Sri Lanka and has sixteen (16) Attorneys-at-Law working in his Chambers. He holds a doctorate in Corporate Law from the University of Canberra, Australia. He was a sitting member of the ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) International Court of Arbitration in Paris for six years till 2021.

As a member of the Advisory Commission on Company Law in Sri Lanka, Dr. Cabral was one of the architects of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, the current Act. He is a member of the Advisory Commission on Intellectual Property Law, University Grants Commission Nominee on the Post Graduate Institute of Medicine, Member of the Board of Management of the Post Graduate Institute of Management (PIM) University of Sri Jayawardenapura. He served as a member of the Law Commission of Sri Lanka for several decades.

Dr. Cabral currently serves as the Chairman of the National Savings Bank, the Chairman of the Tokyo Cement Group and Nenadiya Guarantee Ltd. He serves on the Boards of Sri Lankan Airlines Limited, Sri Lankan Catering Limited, Ceylinco Life Insurance Ltd, DIMO PLC, Hayleys PLC, Alumex PLC, Chevron Lubricants Lanka PLC, CCC-ICLP International ADR Centre(Guarantee) Limited, Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (Guarantee) Limited (SLIIT), SLIIT International (Private) Kandy Uni Private Limited and he serves on several Audit Committees, Nomination Committees, Remuneration Committees, Recoveries Committees and the Related Party Transaction Committees, chairing most of them. Dr. Cabral is a member of the Corporate Governance Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka. He was the Chairman of LOLC Finance Ltd, Acting Chairman/Director of HNB, Director of Union Bank, Commercial Finance & Leasing, LOLC Insurance Ltd, Arpico Supermarkets and the BOI.

Dr. Cabral has authored a large number of books on Corporate Law and is a senior visiting lecturer at several Universities here and abroad and a regular speaker at public seminars. In addition to his active practice in courts and lecturing and a member of the corporate arena, he has been a counsel in many Arbitrations and has served as Sole-Arbitrator, Co-Arbitrator and Chairman in a large number of Arbitrations, domestic and international.



## Outstanding Independent Non-Executive Director of the Year Joint Gold Award



Mr. Sharhan Muhseen is a senior corporate leader and investment banker with extensive experience in board leadership, board governance, corporate strategy, mergers & acquisitions, and capital markets. Sharhan has been instrumental in setting strategy and providing leadership and direction to key corporates in Asia and Sri Lanka. He has held senior roles, collaborating with company boards and leadership teams across Asia to drive their strategic corporate agenda.

He currently services as Chairman of Commercial Bank of Ceylon, Chairman of CBC Finance, and Chairman of Platinum Advisors. He also serves as Director of PCCW Limited Hong Kong, David Peiris Holdings And H2O One. Previously, he served as Deputy Chairman of Amana Takaful Life, Director of Gestetner of Ceylon, and Director of the Lankan Angel Network. He has also served as a Senior Advisor to Great Eastern Holdings, BNP Paribas and TPG.

His prior experience includes leading roles at global investment banks Credit Suisse, Bank of America Merrill Lynch and JPMorgan. His most recent role was as Managing Director, Head of South-East Asia Financial Institutions Group and Head of Asia Insurance at Credit Suisse, based in Singapore. He was also a Director at Merrill Lynch and an as Senior Analyst at JPMorgan. In his Investment Banking career spanning more than two decades, Mr. Muhseen has completed landmark mergers and capital-raising transactions of more than USD 100 billion.

He is credited with leading research reports on banking sector efficiency, currency depreciation, and budget deficits during his tenure as lead economist and head of banking sector research at Jardine Fleming. Mr. Muhseen has also worked at Standard Chartered Bank in the Corporate Banking Division, where he started out as a Management Trainee and at Rodman and Renshaw stock and commodities broker based in Chicago.

Mr Muhseen has policy-level experience, having worked as a Team Leader at the National Council for Economic Development, a World bank funded PPP under the Ministry of Finance, and as a Director at the Task Force to Rebuild the Nation, a Presidential Task Force for rebuilding the economy after the 2004 Tsunami.

He holds an Executive Certificate in Directorship from the Singapore Management University; a master's in economics from the University of Colombo and a Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) from Western Michigan University. He has also completed the Corporate Finance training program with JP Morgan in New York.

## Outstanding Independent Non-Executive Director of the Year Silver Award



Mr. Rajendra Theagarajah is a distinguished financial services leader with a professional career spanning over four decades across the United Kingdom and Sri Lanka. He is a Fellow Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (UK), a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka and holds a Master of Business Administration from the Cranfield School of Management, UK.

A veteran banker at the highest level of the profession, Mr. Theagarajah devoted 37 years to the banking industry, including 16 years as Chief Executive Officer of three licensed commercial banks in Sri Lanka. During this period, he played a key role in strengthening institutional governance, enhancing financial resilience, and guiding organisations through evolving regulatory and market environments. His leadership extended to national policy advocacy, contributing to the Corporate Governance Framework for Banks, the adoption of Basel III standards, Fair Value Accounting practices, financial inclusion initiatives, and the development of the FinTech Sandbox framework for banks.

Mr. Theagarajah has held several prominent leadership roles within the financial and business community, including Chairman of the Sri Lanka Banks' Association, the Association of Professional Bankers Sri Lanka, the Asian Banks Association, and the Lanka Financial Services Bureau. His broader corporate stewardship includes board roles at LankaClear, the Colombo Stock Exchange, the American Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lanka Institute of Directors, in addition to serving as Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce from 2017 to 2019.

He currently serves on the boards of Siam City, Sri Lanka (Pvt) Ltd and the Professional Insurance Corporation of Zambia. Mr. Theagarajah is Chairman of Janashakthi Finance PLC and the Board of Trustees of Colours of Courage Limited, and serves as Chairman and an Independent Non-Executive Director of First Capital Holdings PLC. In 2022, he was conferred the title of Chairman Emeritus of the Asian Banks Association.

Beyond his professional life, he remains committed to social causes and, in 2016, undertook a 674-kilometre walk over 27 days across Sri Lanka to raise awareness and funds for cancer care.

Mr. Theagarajah is married to Sharmani, who holds a PhD in Control Systems from Imperial College London, and has two daughters, Arushka and Anjali, graduates of University College London and the University of Oxford respectively.

## Lifetime Achievement Award



Ken Balendra was the first Sri Lankan Chairman of John Keells Holdings PLC (JKH), the largest company in terms of market capitalisation on the Colombo Stock Exchange. He held this position until his retirement in 2000. He was also Chairman of Brandix Lanka, the Ceylon Tobacco Company, Bank of Ceylon, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.

In an opinion poll conducted by the "Lanka Monthly Digest" in October 2003, he was voted the most effective business leader in Sri Lanka since Sri Lanka gained Independence in 1948. The Lanka Monthly Digest had previously, in 1998, selected him as the "Sri Lankan of the Year."

He was conferred the National Honour of Desamanya (Titular) by Her Excellency the President of Sri Lanka, in 1998, in recognition of distinguished services of a highly meritorious nature.

In 2003 Ken Balendra co-chaired the Joint-Study Group which prepared the Indo-Sri Lanka Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement that was presented to the Prime Ministers of the two countries.

He was appointed by Her Excellency the President of Sri Lanka to serve on the Task Force for Rebuilding the Nation immediately after the Tsunami disaster, focusing on the Roads and Bridges Sector.

He was Conferred a Doctorate in Tourism by the University of Sabaragamuwa Sri Lanka, in 2019.

## Lifetime Achievement Award



Mahendra Amarasuriya is a highly respected Sri Lankan corporate leader with decades of experience in corporate governance, board leadership, and international service. Renowned for his strategic vision, ethical leadership, and commitment to national and global development, he has played a pivotal role in shaping Sri Lanka's financial and business landscape while contributing significantly to international civic leadership.

He holds a BSc from the University of Ceylon and has completed the Top Management Course at the International Institute for Management Development IMD Switzerland. He received his secondary education at Royal College Colombo, laying a strong foundation for a distinguished professional career.

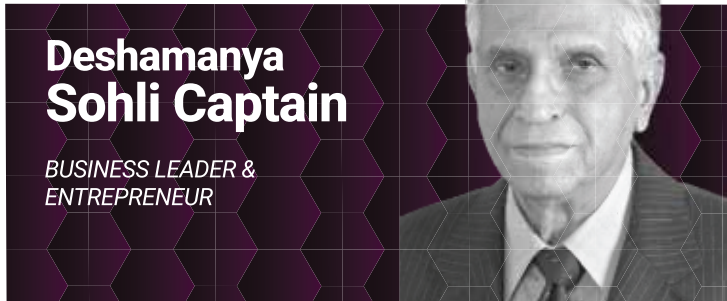
Mr Amarasuriya's corporate leadership is most notably reflected in his long association with Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC, where he served as Chairman from 1995 to 2011 and as a Board Member from 1986 to 1995. During his tenure, he guided the bank's strategic direction, strengthened governance and risk management frameworks, and contributed to its emergence as Sri Lanka's premier commercial bank. His board leadership extends across multiple sectors, including agribusiness, manufacturing, hospitality, and diversified investments. He has held chairmanship and board positions at Hayleys Group, United Motors Lanka PLC, Pelwatte Sugar Industries, Serendib Flour Mills, Unawatuna Beach Resorts, Equity Investments Lanka, and served as a Board Member of DFCC Bank.

On the global stage, Mr Amarasuriya achieved historic recognition as the first Sri Lankan and to date the only one to serve as International President of Lions Clubs International in 2007. He has also served as an International Director, Council Chairperson, District Governor, and is a Charter Member of the Lions Club of Galle. His global leadership was further recognised through his role on the Executive Board of the International Chamber of Commerce Paris. His service has earned him numerous accolades, including the Ambassador of Goodwill Award, Master Key Award, and multiple International President's Awards.

Nationally, he has chaired key institutions such as the Employers' Federation of Ceylon, International Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka, and the National Agribusiness Council of Sri Lanka, and led the Joint Business Forum of all Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Through these roles, he has consistently advocated strong corporate governance, ethical leadership, workforce development, and sustainable economic growth.

Mr Amarasuriya's legacy reflects a rare blend of corporate excellence, global service, and values driven leadership, making him one of Sri Lanka's most distinguished business and civic leaders.

## Lifetime Achievement Award



Sohli Captain is a distinguished leader in Sri Lanka's corporate sector, celebrated for his visionary leadership, strategic acumen, and steadfast commitment to ethical governance. With a career spanning more than four decades, he has played a pivotal role in shaping the nation's manufacturing, investment, and financial services industries, helping to modernize practices and bolster economic resilience. Born into a prominent business family with roots in shipping, manufacturing, and diversified investments, Captain has both preserved and expanded the family legacy by professionalizing operations and building enterprises with significant national impact.

As an early proponent of industrialization, he championed the adoption of advanced technologies, modern management systems, and international-quality standards within manufacturing. His initiatives promoted efficiency, quality and export competitiveness while creating employment and setting benchmarks for best practice in the sector. Through these contributions he established a reputation as a pioneering force who recognized how strategic industrial development could drive broader economic growth.

Captain's influence extends strongly into agriculture and financial services, notably through his governance role at CIC. There, his strategic insight and rigorous oversight helped strengthen risk management, investment policy and institutional resilience. His approach to board leadership, emphasizing professionalism, transparency and long-term stewardship, has served as a model for other corporate boards across Sri Lanka. He is also one of the largest individual shareholders of John Keells Holdings PLC, the country's most diversified conglomerate, where his long-term investment philosophy and engagement reflect confidence in disciplined growth, value creation and sustainable corporate practices.

Beyond his direct business achievements, Sohli Captain is widely respected as a mentor to emerging leaders, advocating for accountability, ethical conduct and a balance between ambition and prudence. His professional ethos ties innovation to social responsibility, asserting that durable success rests on trust and sound governance. This combination of strategic foresight, operational modernization and principled leadership has left a lasting imprint on Sri Lanka's corporate governance landscape.

In recognition of his contributions to entrepreneurship and national development, he was awarded the national title of Deshamanya by the President of Sri Lanka. Today, Sohli Captain's lifetime of work, from industrial pioneering to influential investment stewardship and governance advocacy, marks him as a paragon of corporate stewardship whose legacy continues to inspire and shape Sri Lanka's business community.

## Lifetime Achievement Award



A dynamic and accomplished business leader with over five decades of experience in the business world Mrs Pestonjee's vision, leadership and entrepreneurial spirit have been instrumental in driving the growth and success of the Abans Group. She is an embodiment of the company's ethos of 'identifying a need and fulfilling it'. Mrs Pestonjee's passion, drive and courage as a South Asian woman in a male - dominated business world have served as an inspiration to subsequent generations of Sri Lankan businesswomen.

Among the repertoire of accolades received by Mrs Pestonjee is the Global Strategy Leadership Award presented at the World Strategy Summit, Award of Excellence for Women Achievers for Outstanding Achievements presented by the SAARC Women's Association and the Bronze Award under the large business category at the Woman Entrepreneur of the Year awards by the Women's Chamber of Industry and Commerce - both in the year 2000, KOTRA Plaque of Appreciation presented in 2005 for forging strategic foreign economic ties between Korea and Sri Lanka, Leading Woman Entrepreneur of the World Award presented by the Princess of Thailand in 2006, Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award by the Women's Chamber of Industry and Commerce at the Woman Entrepreneur of the Year 2017 Award as well as the Gold Award in the Extra Large Business Enterprise Category and Sri Lanka's Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the Derana Sri Lankan of the Year Awards in 2017.

In 2021 she was recognized as one of Sri Lanka's most admired leaders at the Most Admired Companies Awards organized by the International Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. Mrs Pestonjee has been interviewed by The Harvard Business School, and the transcript of the interview is held in the school's Baker Library, available to students for research and case studies.

Mrs. Pestonjee also holds directorships at Abans Electricals PLC, Abans Retail Holdings (Pvt) Ltd, Abans Environmental Services (Pvt) Ltd, Abans Land (Pvt) Ltd, Abans Construction and Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, Abans Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, Abans Tourist Hotel (Pvt) Ltd, ABS Gardner Dixon Hall International (Pvt) Ltd, Abans Investments (Pvt) Ltd, Abans Marketing (Pvt) Ltd, Crown City Developers (Pvt) Ltd, Abans Auto (Pvt) Ltd, Abans Engineering (Pvt) Ltd and Colombo City Centre (Pvt) Ltd.

## Lifetime Achievement Award



Mrs Rohini Nanayakkara obtained her BA 2nd Class Honours Degree from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and a Diploma in French from the Chamber of Commerce, Brussels. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Management & the Institute of Bankers, Sri Lanka.

She was the first woman executive to join a Commercial Bank with the rare distinction of being the first woman General Manager/CEO of a Bank in Sri Lanka and the Asian Region. At Bank of Ceylon - the largest Sri Lankan Bank, she managed a work force of 10,300 bank employees with a local branch network of 321 branches and several overseas branches. Some of the main highlights of her tenure of office as General Manager/CEO was the major restructuring and reform program of the Bank in association with international management consultants and the World Bank and also the opening of the first Sri Lankan Bank branches in India and Pakistan. She had the opportunity of working in International Banks such as Midland Bank-UK & Banque Brussels, Lambert, Brussels & working with several International banking correspondents across the globe.

She was also a Chairman/Director of several financial institutions such as the National Development Bank, DFCC Bank, Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka, the First Capital Group of Companies, NDB Venture Investments (Pvt) Limited, Ayojana Fund Management (Pvt) Limited and the Taprobane Investment Group of Companies. She was also a Director of Trans Asia Hotels Limited and the largest property development companies namely, Mireka Capital Lanka Limited and Overseas Realty Limited as a nominee of the main Singapore investor.

After her retirement from the Bank of Ceylon, she was appointed as the General Manager/CEO to set up the Private Sector Infrastructure Development Co Ltd, a company under the Ministry of Finance with World Bank assistance. The main infrastructure project funded by this company is the South Asian Gateway Terminal Project of the port of Colombo.

Having completed this assignment, she decided to come back to the Banking and Financial World and share her experiences with one of the largest private sector Banks, namely Seylan Bank, as Director-General Manager/CEO. During her tenure of office, she was successful in improving the performance of this Bank with acceptable credit ratings and ISO standards and as a major player in the market.

In August 2004 she accepted the invitation extended to her by the shareholders of LOLC to be the Chairperson of the LOLC and Browns Group of Companies, which comprised over 35 entities at the time.

In January 2005, Her Excellency the President of Sri Lanka appointed her as a member of the Task Force to Rebuild the Nation (TAFREN). This Task Force will be converted to a special authority by an Act of Parliament to undertake the rebuilding exercise over the next 5 year period.

In 2015, Mrs Nanayakkara retired from the LOLC Group. However, she continued as a Director of several unlisted public and private companies of the Browns Group and relinquished her duties from all Boards in 2025.



## Chair's Award for Boardroom Excellence



Mr. Sanjeev Gardiner is the Owner and Chairman of The Gardiner Group, which owns The Galle Face Hotel, one of the oldest Hotels in Asia, established in 1864. He is also the Group Chairman of the GALLE FACE GROUP, a group of Companies engaged in leisure, hospitality, Investments and includes among its portfolio a reef under development in the Maldives.

With the Groups involvement in the Heritage Tourism sector, Mr. Gardiner acquired the KANDY HOTELS COMPANY (1938) PLC, a Public Quoted Company which owns three of the largest hotels located in the heart of the city of Kandy (Sri Lanka's second largest city). Namely: The Queens Hotel, Hotel Suisse and Radisson Kandy

Mr. Gardiner is the Chairman, majority shareholder and principal owner of CEYLON HOTELS CORPORATION PLC. which comprises 18 Properties spread across the country under its fully owned subsidiaries.

Amongst his several accolades, specific to the leisure industry, Mr. Gardiner was selected "Entrepreneur of the Year" for year 2012 by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority

Mr. Sanjeev Gardiner presently sits on the Boards of several Companies some of which are Public Quoted,

Mr. Sanjeev Gardiner has been a Council Member of the Governing Body of HelpAge Sri Lanka (HASL) for over a decade. HASL which is an approved charity was established in 1986 consequent to the First World Assembly on Ageing held in Vienna in 1982 which is dedicated to improve the quality of life of Older Persons in Sri Lanka and achieve the objective of UN principles on Ageing. HASL covers a whole spectrum of Social Projects including Community Based, Resident Houses, Day Centers, Health Camps, Distribution of Disability Aids and Youth Education Programs: focusing on caring marginalized and desperate elders.

He is the Lay Trustee of Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Trust which amongst other donations helps several schools around the country with endowments. He is a life member of many prestigious charitable organizations where millions have been donated in the name of the Gardiner Foundation.

Mr. Gardiner was appointed as the Brand Ambassador for the prevention of Chronic Kidney Disease in Sri Lanka from 2015 to 2019 by His Excellency The President of Sri Lanka



## Business Leadership – Gold Award



Mr. Supun Weerasinghe is the Executive Director and Group Chief Executive at Dialog Axiata PLC, a position he holds since 2017. His career in telecommunications began with Dialog in 1999, where he progressed through various key roles, including Head of Strategy, CEO of the Mobile Business, and Group Chief Operating Officer.

In 2013, Mr. Weerasinghe functioned as the Group Chief Strategy Officer at Axiata Group Berhad in Malaysia. He then led Robi Axiata Limited in Bangladesh as the CEO and Managing Director from 2014 to 2016.

Mr. Weerasinghe serves on the Boards of Hemas Holdings PLC, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and UNGC Network, Sri Lanka.

He is a Fellow Certified Management Accountant, Sri Lanka, Fellow Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy and Financial Management from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka. Mr. Weerasinghe holds an MBA from the University of Western Sydney, Australia, and is an alumnus of the Harvard Business School.

## Business Leadership – Silver Award



### Tania Abeyesundara: From Small Beginnings to Boundless Horizons

At the age of twenty three, when most are still seeking direction, Tania Abeyesundara took her first bold step into entrepreneurship. With vision as her compass and resilience as her anchor, she founded Senvin Collection (Pvt) Ltd, determined to create a landmark in Sri Lanka's garment industry. What began with her alone has now grown into a flourishing enterprise employing more than six hundred people, a testament to her perseverance and daring spirit.

Tania was among the pioneers who introduced the concept of a one-stop solution for the industry at a time when Sri Lanka depended heavily on imported finished goods. Her efforts helped transform the sector, which she describes as having evolved from a cocoon into a butterfly - an industry now thriving, with her contribution woven firmly into its fabric.

Her leadership has expanded far beyond her first venture. Today, under the umbrella of the Senvin Collection Group, she steers multiple companies including Tytanco (Pvt) Ltd, AARA Café, Sentya (Pvt) Ltd, S & A Green Apparel (Pvt) Ltd, and Skai (Pvt) Ltd. Each initiative bears the mark of her courage to innovate and her ability to turn challenges into opportunities. Philanthropy, too, defines her journey. During the pandemic, she founded the Ceylon United Business Alliance (CUBA), becoming a voice of strength when the nation faltered. Her lineage in hospitality and garments, combined with twenty three years of entrepreneurial experience, continues to shape her as both leader and mentor.

Her impact has been recognised with prestigious honours, including Wanitha Abhimani Diriya Matha in 2019, Businesswoman of the Year in 2019 and 2022, the Doctor of Business Management (Honoris Causa) in 2023, and the International Business Icon Award. Most recently, she was celebrated as Lak Wanitha Bimani 2025 – The Empowered Woman of the Year, Globala CEO TOP Business Women 2025, Sri Lanka ICONIC Women 2025. The Best woman Entrepreneur Award In Sri Lanka -People's Excellency Awards 2025, National winner( Chairman / Women Entrepreneurs – International World Record Of Asia Tania Abeyesundara's story is one of courage, compassion, and conviction – proof that from small beginnings can emerge boundless horizons.

## Business Leadership – Bronze Award



Kishore Reddy is a prominent Sri Lanka-based business executive with a strong presence in real estate, capital markets, investments, and bilateral investment promotion. He is a key figure in fostering economic and socio-cultural diplomacy between India and Sri Lanka.

As Managing Director of Platinum Realty Investments (Pvt) Ltd., Reddy has led the development of luxury residential projects like Platinum 1 on Bagatelle Road, Colombo 3. He also heads Pragnya Tech Parks Lanka (Pvt) Ltd., which developed the HSBC Center in Rajagiriya, a notable IT park building with foreign direct investment. Reddy's expertise spans Investments, Real Estate, IT, consultancy, hospitality, travel, and tourism, with leadership roles in multiple companies.

Reddy is a vocal advocate for the real estate sector's contribution to Sri Lanka's GDP and emphasizes the need for policy support to attract investments. He serves as President of the Indian CEO Forum - Sri Lanka (ICF), promoting Indian investment in Sri Lanka, and is Chairman of the Shine Lanka Initiative of ICF. He is also a founding Board Member of the Condominium Developers Association of Sri Lanka (CDASL), the only non-Sri Lankan to hold this position.

In bilateral and cultural engagement, Reddy is Vice Patron of the Sri Lanka-India Society (SLIS) and has led initiatives like commemorative dinners, cultural tours, and blood donation drives. He believes deeper India-Sri Lanka ties are crucial for mutual prosperity. His leading role in providing assistance from the Member companies of the Indian CEO Forum and Colombo Indians to assist the victims of Cyclone Ditwah is noteworthy.

Reddy's strategic outlook focuses on investment promotion, real estate innovation, and public-private partnerships. He advocates for Indian investment in Sri Lanka, citing its economic strength and proximity. He has introduced technological innovations in the construction and real estate sector.

As a developer, investor, and India-Sri Lanka bridge-builder, Reddy facilitates partnership development, investment, and cultural diplomacy. He is a relevant actor in Sri Lanka's strategy to attract foreign capital, strengthen bilateral ties with India, and develop its tourism and high-end urban property sector.

## Greatest Impact on Corporate Boards Award



He is a visionary business leader and industry veteran with over 26 years of experience in socially responsible entrepreneurship, contributing meaningfully to the evolution of Sri Lanka's private sector. He currently serves as the Deputy Chairman of Sunshine Holdings PLC (CSE: SUN), a diversified conglomerate ranked among Sri Lanka's top 50 listed companies, with interests spanning healthcare, consumer goods, agribusiness, and allied sectors.

Renowned for his strategic foresight, strong governance principles, and value-driven leadership, he has played a pivotal role in building Sunshine Holdings' portfolio of trusted consumer brands that positively impact millions of lives. He is widely credited with transforming Watawala Plantations PLC, following its privatization, into the highest capitalized regional plantation company listed on the Colombo Stock Exchange.

A significant milestone in the Group's growth was achieved in 1998 with its entry into the branded tea segment through iconic brands such as Zesta, Watawala Tea, and Ran Kahata, which continue to enjoy strong local and international recognition. He was also instrumental in establishing Healthguard, now Sri Lanka's largest pharmacy chain, recognized for its quality standards and customer-centric service.

His leadership experience extends across multiple sectors through prominent board-level appointments. He currently serves as a Director of Dialog Axiata PLC, Softlogic Life Insurance PLC, United Motors Lanka PLC, and Lanka Island Resort Ltd, contributing strategic oversight across telecommunications, insurance, automotive, and hospitality industries.

At the national level, he serves as a Board Member of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and was elected Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce in 2021. Leading Sri Lanka's foremost business chamber representing over 600 blue-chip companies, he provided unifying leadership during a critical period, advocating private sector resilience and sustainable economic growth.

His leadership excellence has been recognised by LMD Magazine's 100 Club, which named him among Sri Lanka's Top 10 CEOs in 2019 and 2020.

Beyond corporate leadership, he is deeply committed to social impact through initiatives in health and education. He was educated at Trinity College, Kandy, and holds an MBA and a BSc in Electrical Engineering from the University of Hartford, USA.

## Sustainability Leadership Award



Bernhard (Bernie) Stefan is the Chairman and Managing Director of Nestlé Lanka Limited, overseeing Nestlé's business in Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and brings with him extensive international leadership experience across global consumer goods markets, board governance, and cross-border stakeholder engagement. He was appointed Chairman and Managing Director in August 2025, having previously served as Managing Director of Nestlé Lanka from March 2023 to July 2025.

He commenced his career with Nestlé Waters in France in 2000 as M&A Manager, before moving to Germany, where he progressed through senior leadership roles, including Commercial Director and Operations Director, before being appointed Country Business Manager for Nestlé Waters Germany. He subsequently served as Head of Sales Operations at Nestlé Peters Ice Cream in Australia. He later held the role of Vice President – Strategy and Business Development for the Nestlé Greater China Region, followed by his appointment as Vice President – Regional Management for Zone Asia, Oceania and Sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to his appointment to Nestlé Lanka, he served as Corporate Vice President (Deputy Zone Head) for the Nestlé Greater China Zone.

Bernie holds a Master of Business Administration from EU Business School, Geneva, Switzerland, and has completed the Program for Executive Development at the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), Lausanne, Switzerland, one of the world's leading executive education institutions. His academic background is complemented by decades of senior leadership experience within the Nestlé Group and other international organisations. In addition to his executive responsibilities at Nestlé Lanka, Bernie currently serves as a Board Member of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. He also serves as the Chairman of the Public–Private Partnership (PPP) Steering Committee of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, where the Committee actively advocates and contributes to shaping Sri Lanka's economic development agenda through effective public–private partnership frameworks, policy engagement, and private sector collaboration with the State.

Bernie has held several prominent board and advisory roles internationally. He previously served as a Non-Executive Director of Nestlé Pakistan Limited, a publicly listed company, and as a Board Member of Hsu Fu Chi International Group in China, a major confectionery business within the Nestlé portfolio. His broader engagement with bilateral trade and business communities includes service on the Advisory Board of the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Board of the Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce, and as President of the Swiss Chamber Beijing.

Throughout his career, Bernie has demonstrated strong leadership in driving sustainable business growth, strengthening corporate governance, and fostering constructive relationships with regulators, industry bodies, and multinational stakeholders across diverse markets. His strategic insight, global perspective, and commitment to responsible business practices continue to support Nestlé Lanka's long-term value creation and contribution to Sri Lanka's economy.

## Equity & Diversity Champion – Gold Award



Selyna Peiris (Attorney-at-Law) is an impact entrepreneur and policy specialist advancing ethical business from Sri Lanka to global markets. As Director & Chief Growth Officer of the Selyn Group - one of Sri Lanka's largest Fair Trade social impact enterprises - she leads international expansion, export strategy, and global partnerships, positioning Sri Lankan ethical products competitively worldwide.

She has driven the Group's strategic diversification by founding Femme-Care Pvt Ltd and spearheading the Selyn Foundation-led #BleedGood movement, scaling climate-friendly menstrual solutions through institutional and cross-border collaborations to advance menstrual equity. A Stanford Seed changemaker, TEDx alumna, and Global Board Director of the World Fair Trade Organization, Selyna advises governments, UN agencies, and private-sector bodies, championing women's economic empowerment, climate resilience, and systemic change with a distinctly Sri Lankan voice.

## Equity & Diversity Champion – Silver Award



Gayani De Alwis exemplifies a rare combination of technical mastery, governance excellence, and sustained advocacy for equity and diversity, making her a distinguished candidate for national recognition.

Her professional career spans over two decades at Unilever Sri Lanka, where she progressed to the role of Director Customer Service and served as a member of the Management Committee. During this period, she acquired deep expertise across supply chain operations, research and development, and quality assurance, providing her with strong operational grounding and a holistic understanding of complex business systems. This experience is reinforced by her MBA from the Postgraduate Institute of Management and an MSc in Food Process Engineering from the University of Reading, equipping her with analytical rigor and structured decision making that consistently enrich boardroom deliberations. Her ability to translate technical precision into strategic insight is a distinguishing strength, particularly in non executive leadership roles.

As an Independent Non Executive Director of Singer Sri Lanka PLC, Ms. de Alwis has played a pivotal role in guiding the organization through one of the most challenging economic periods in Sri Lanka's recent history. Her contributions strengthened supply chain resilience, supported retail transformation initiatives, and enhanced governance oversight, ensuring business continuity and long term value creation. In addition, her board roles at Logicare (Pvt) Ltd, Global Marine Investments, and CSR Sri Lanka reflect her versatility and ability to add value across diverse sectors and organizational contexts.

Her governance impact extends beyond corporate boards. Ms. de Alwis serves on the Women's Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Council of the Open University of Sri Lanka, where she actively contributes to institutional governance, leadership development, and inclusive policy advocacy.

A defining aspect of her leadership is her commitment to equity and diversity, delivered through systemic and sustainable initiatives. As Global Chairperson of Women in Logistics and Transport (WILAT), she provides leadership across more than 80 countries, shaping global strategies to advance gender equity in traditionally male dominated sectors. As the Founder of WILAT Sri Lanka, she initiated locally relevant interventions, including the IGNITE mentorship programme, which was later adopted globally. Through these efforts, she has directly mentored over 100 women into leadership roles, creating a measurable and enduring impact.

Ms. De Alwis's career reflects principled leadership, strategic depth, and a commitment to inclusive governance. Her influence spans corporate, institutional, and global platforms, positioning her as a role model for ethical leadership and a highly deserving candidate for national honours.



## Equity & Diversity Champion – Bronze Award



Krystle is a first-generation entrepreneur and the Chief Executive Officer of We Are Team Rocket, a UK-Sri Lanka based growth marketing and commercial intelligence firm supporting technology, professional services, and high-growth enterprises to scale internationally. She is an Independent Non-Executive Director within the financial services sector, contributing to board-level oversight. Krystle has chaired key board subcommittees, including the Related Party Transactions Review Committee, Human Resources and Remuneration Committee, and the Nomination and Governance Committee. Through these roles, she has contributed to strengthening regulatory compliance, ethical oversight, strategic planning, process optimization, risk management and institutional resilience.

Beyond the Boardroom, Krystle is a NextGen Council Member of the Council for Business with Britain promoting trade and investment between the UK and Sri Lanka and a Working Committee Member of the Young Directors Forum of the Sri Lanka Institute of Directors. She is a Fellow of the Asia Society, the World Economic Forum, Salzburg Global Inc, the Nippon Foundation, the Royal Commonwealth Society and ChangemakerXchange. In 2019, she was selected as one of 50 young leaders globally to attend the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos and currently serves on the Forum's Longevity Economy and Foresight Taskforce.

A recognized Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and ESG integration champion, Krystle's work focuses on the intersection of inclusive leadership, workforce sustainability, responsible governance, and intergenerational equity. Her approach is grounded in systems-level and intersectional analysis, addressing structural barriers related to disability, gender, socioeconomic background, and geography. This commitment led her to establish the Enable Lanka Foundation and the GenUth Initiative. In 2017, she became the first Sri Lankan to receive the Commonwealth Young Person of the Year Award, presented by Queen Elizabeth II.

Krystle is an accomplished public speaker and thought leader on future-driven leadership, foresight, intergenerational dialogue, and systems-level leadership, bridging corporate governance, entrepreneurship, and social impact. She has spoken at global platforms including the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, and the United Nations. Her work has been featured in 'I Am Inspired' book, BBC, the House of Lords in London, Commonwealth articles, SBS Australia, the Institute of National Security Studies and many other newspapers and television channels.



## Innovation in Governance Award



Boshan Dayaratne stands as a seminal figure in Sri Lanka's technological landscape, blending over 25 years of executive leadership with a visionary commitment to digital resilience and national progress. His journey from the nation's top ranked tennis player to a foremost authority in cyber security and digital transformation epitomizes a rare fusion of strategic acumen, technical expertise, and patriotic dedication.

As Group Director/CEO of CICRA Holdings, Boshan commands a formidable portfolio in cyber security, leading an elite team that delivers cutting edge solutions across offensive and defensive security, GRC, and digital forensics. His influence extends globally, since 2013, he has been a keynote speaker for the United States Pacific Command, advising senior military officials from 28 nations. His strategic counsel is further formalized through board roles, including for the US-Malaysia Command and Control Interoperability Board.

Boshan's digital transformation initiatives demonstrate an unparalleled ability to drive economic growth through innovation. He led the historic digitization of the Colombo Tea Auction during the pandemic, ensuring business continuity and generating Rs. 1.2 billion in revenue an achievement lauded by the IMF and Microsoft. The eLG platform, has modernized local government operations across major municipalities. From revolutionizing the betting industry with zero latency systems to pioneering ADB supported SME digitalization in tea and developing an upcoming vegetable auction platform for rural farmers, his projects consistently marry technological sophistication with tangible socioeconomic benefit.

His governance and strategic influence are extended through a portfolio of key board appointments, bridging the corporate, financial, and digital spheres. His latest role as a Non-Executive Director at Durdans Medical and Surgical Hospital (DMSH) from January 2026 follows his tenure as an Independent Director at the Regional Development Bank (RDB). He further contributes as a Board Member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Sri Lanka, where he chairs the pivotal Digital Economy Sub-Committee.

His foundational role in building national cyber capacity is highlighted as the Founder Chairman of the SLASSCOM Cyber Security Center of Excellence, complemented by his former board membership at SLASSCOM and his current position on the board of the Cloud Security Alliance (CSA) Sri Lanka Chapter. His expertise has been formally sought at the national policy level, having served on the Thematic Group on Cyber Security & Privacy for the Government's National Digital Strategy 2030.

## Outstanding Young Director – Gold Award



Mr. Hussain Akbarally currently serves as an Executive Director of Akbar Brothers (Pvt) Ltd and its subsidiaries, Sri Lanka's largest exporter of Ceylon Tea and one of the country's most prominent conglomerates.

The Group has a broad portfolio spanning Power Generation, Property Management, Manufacturing, Hospitality, Agriculture, Logistics and Manufacturing.

Mr. Akbarally has played a pivotal role in driving strategic expansion, particularly in Energy, Hospitality, and Private Equity investments, helping strengthen long-term value creation and international partnerships. His leadership is characterized by a strong focus on governance, sustainability, and operational excellence. In addition to his role at Akbar Brothers, Mr. Akbarally serves on the listed boards of Windforce Plc and JAT Holdings Plc. He is the Chairman of Glowbal Outlets and Glowbal Retail (Pvt) Ltd, a company specializing in reverse logistics and retail lifecycle solutions, with commitment to innovation and circular economy practices. He also serves as a Director of Barista Sri Lanka and The Colombo Coffee Company, where he contributes to brand growth, market expansion, and strategic oversight within the food and beverage sector.

Mr. Akbarally holds a Bachelor's degree in Science from the University of Melbourne and an MBA from Harvard Business School. He is a Past Chapter Chair of the YPO Colombo Chapter, where he actively contributed to leadership development and peer learning among business leaders, and has also served as Treasurer of the Ceylon Motor Sports Club, supporting the governance and growth of the sport in Sri Lanka.

Beyond his professional commitments, Mr. Akbarally has a personal interest in classic automobiles, art, and architecture, pursuits that reflect his appreciation for craftsmanship, heritage, and design excellence. With extensive experience across emerging and mature markets, he continues to play an influential role in shaping enterprise growth, cross-border investments, and sustainable business models.

## Outstanding Young Director – Silver Award



Mr. Nikitha Grero is a visionary leader passionate about transforming the landscape of education, transport and life solutions in Sri Lanka. As the Group Chairman and CEO of conglomerate Lyceum Global Holdings, he leads a team of over 5,000 professionals, in addition to driving innovation and impactful change across 10 branch schools serving over 27,000 students nationwide.

Building upon Sri Lanka's educational heritage, Mr. Grero has been contributing to redefining holistic education, integrating early childhood learning, primary and secondary education, and higher education into a seamless learning ecosystem. As a result, under his leadership, Lyceum International Schools, Lyceum Leaf Schools, Lyceum Campus, and Lyceum Daycare have grown into the nation's largest private educational network.

Beyond education, Mr. Grero founded NCG Holdings (Pvt) Ltd, through which he has introduced strategic innovations to the transportation sector, most notably securing Sri Lanka's exclusive national dealership for Yutong, a leading global luxury bus brand. This milestone significantly paved way for new benchmarks in the nation's transport infrastructure and service standards.

As a thought leader, Mr. Grero reinforces automation, personalization, and organisational empowerment. His guiding philosophy centers on Empowerment, Enrichment, and Meaningful Change, ensuring that every team member, student, and community connected to Lyceum benefits from an education that extends beyond academics.

His achievements include:

- Leading one of Sri Lanka's largest private educational ecosystems with over 27,000 students.
- Establishing Lyceum Campus to bridge secondary education with higher education and employment opportunities.
- Introducing innovations to transform Sri Lanka's transport sector through NCG Holdings.
- Securing an exclusive Yutong national dealership, elevating the country's public transport standards.
- Advocating for lifelong learning and human-centered education models in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Grero additionally holds a Master's in Education (Leadership, Policy, and Change) and a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting & Management) from Monash University, Australia. He is also the Founding President and Chairperson of the Sri Lanka International Schools Association (SLISA), and is a Member of the Chamber of Young Lankan Entrepreneurs (COYLE) and The International Schools of Sri Lanka (TISSL).

## Outstanding Young Director – Bronze Award



Nishal Ferdinando is a dynamic, results oriented leader with a strong track record of performance in high pace organizations with over 15 years of experience functioning at CEO and Executive Director Level. He was on the Board of Access Projects (Access Group of Companies) at the age of 27 and functioned as the Executive Director for the company for 7 years, where he spearheaded several significant projects such as construction of Cape Weligama resort, restoration of the Galle Face hotel, refurbishment of Chaaya Blu and Chaaya Tranz. Under his leadership the company obtained the highest ICTAD accreditation at that time.

Thereafter in 2017, he joined JAT Holdings PLC as the Chief Executive Officer and was appointed to the board in 2021.

He lead the JAT Holdings IPO successfully in 2021 to be listed in the CSE, set up a fully owned subsidiary in Bangladesh to manufacture wood coatings, established JVs in Kenya and Australia, ventured into the EV charging space through Volt Charge which is a subsidiary of JAT and acquired Mirotone New Zealand Limited a 60 year old company and the leader in wood coatings in NZ.

Under his leadership, JAT Holdings has won several international and national level awards including the overall bronze award at the National Business Excellence Awards by the National Chamber of Commerce. Further the company has been listed in the top 100 most respected companies, top 20 most awarded companies and the top 100 listed companies on consecutive, multiple occasions in his tenure and was also awarded a Fitch AA rating.

In addition to being the CEO / Director of JAT Holdings PLC, he is the Chairman of Asia Coatings Ltd (Bangladesh), Director of JAT Paints Africa, Mirotone New Zealand Ltd and Volt Industrial Company.

He is an Alumni of the Harvard Business School, holds an MBA from the University of Wales, an Advanced Diploma in Management Accounting from Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (UK) and a Post Graduate Certificate in Project Management from University of Southern Queensland.



## Platinum Partner Profile

### Huawei Technologies Lanka Company (Private) Limited

Huawei Technologies Lanka Company (Private) Limited serves as the Sri Lankan subsidiary of Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., a global leader in ICT infrastructure and smart devices, connecting over one-third of the world's population. Since entering Sri Lanka in 1998 and establishing its local office in 2005 with just three employees, Huawei has grown to a dedicated team of nearly 350 professionals—90% of whom are Sri Lankan nationals. Through its operations and partnerships, the company indirectly supports over 1,000 jobs nationwide each year. For over 25 years, Huawei has worked with Sri Lanka's main telecom operators to expand mobile coverage across the island and improve overall connectivity. This includes contributions to network upgrades and efforts to bring reliable services to rural and remote areas, in line with national broadband and digital economy plans. Beyond telecom, Huawei empowers over 200 customers across government, transportation, finance, and energy sectors with intelligent infrastructure, cloud platforms, and AI-driven applications that enhance efficiency and enable data-informed decisions. Huawei supports Sri Lanka's clean energy shift and grid upgrades. Through policies and initiatives like Soorya Bala Sangramaya, the country has rapidly expanded solar, reaching nearly 2 GW by 2025, much of it enabled by Huawei's smart PV inverters and solutions. This forms a major part of the ~3.5 GW total renewable capacity. Working closely with utilities, government, and partners to improve grid flexibility, system integration, and sector modernization, Huawei shares global best practices and policy insights to scale green energy. Future plans include ~1 GWh of battery storage to better balance the grid, absorb more renewables, and boost reliability, following worldwide trends for stable high-renewable systems. Huawei actively fosters AI innovation, with experts contributing to initiatives like the 2025 National AI Expo & Conference, sharing knowledge on AI infrastructure and 5G integration. Committed to talent development, Huawei nurtures local ICT skills through the Huawei ICT Academy, NAITA programs, university collaborations, Seeds for the Future, and partnerships with SLASSCOM, FITIS, and CSSL. This focus on upskilling, including in emerging AI areas, supports industry growth. Huawei Sri Lanka fosters a high-trust environment with robust training, mentorship, and career development, earning Great Place to Work® recognition as one of Sri Lanka's Best Workplaces in Technology. Headquartered in Colombo's World Trade Centre, Huawei remains dedicated to delivering a fully connected, intelligent world for every person, home, and organization in Sri Lanka.



## Gold Partner Profile

### LYNEAR Wealth Management

LYNEAR Wealth is a boutique asset manager serving a broad spectrum of institutional clients and high net worth individuals, delivering tailored investment solutions aligned with long-term client objectives. Our services include Equity and Fixed Income Unit Trusts, Private Wealth Management, Multi-Family Office services, and Institutional Asset Management, offering sophisticated solutions to meet the evolving needs of our clients.

Founded over a decade ago by four partners with pioneering expertise across Sri Lankan and international markets, LYNEAR was established to serve a select clientele with bespoke wealth management grounded in integrity, discretion, and independence. We operate as a true partnership, guided by enduring principles of confidentiality, client service, and disciplined stewardship of capital.

Our team is built on the belief that human capital is our greatest asset. Widely experienced, intellectually rigorous, and inherently discreet, our professionals bring deep market insight across cycles and geographies. This enables us to serve as trusted financial advisors, risk-conscious portfolio builders, and experienced investment managers within a robust and compliant framework.

At LYNEAR Wealth, we are committed to building enduring client relationships and delivering sustainable long-term value. Through disciplined investment processes, independent thinking, and unwavering adherence to our principles, we safeguard and grow our clients' wealth with care, foresight, and conviction, today and for generations to come.



## **Assurance Partner Profile**

### **Ernst & Young Sri Lanka – Company Profile**

Ernst & Young (EY) is a global professional services organization driven by a clear and inspiring purpose: to build a better working world. This purpose guides how EY supports clients, develops its people, and contributes to communities worldwide. Empowering individuals to shape careers aligned with their aspirations while equipping them with the skills and mindset needed to succeed in an increasingly complex and fast-changing business environment.

EY delivers a comprehensive range of services including Assurance, Tax, Consulting, Strategy, and Transaction Services. Through objective and independent examinations, EY helps organizations meet their reporting and regulatory obligations while providing timely insights and constructive challenge to management and audit committees. This approach strengthens transparency, accountability, and long-term stakeholder confidence.

EY's culture is grounded in strong values—integrity, respect, teaming, and inclusiveness—combined with energy, enthusiasm, and the courage to lead. These values define how EY builds trusted relationships and consistently does the right thing. With a global network of over 400,000 professionals across more than 150 countries, EY is recognized as one of the world's most trusted and distinctive professional services organizations, focused on creating long-term client, people, social, and financial value.

EY Sri Lanka, established in 1907, is a leading firm of Chartered Accountants and a member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited. With over 115 years of experience, the firm is supported by 24 Partners and Directors and more than 100 qualified Managers, delivering Assurance, Tax, Consulting, Strategy, and Transaction Services. Headquartered in Colombo with offices in Kandy, Galle, Matara, and Kurunegala, EY Sri Lanka serves a diverse client base including multinationals, public companies, state institutions, and international funding agencies, combining deep local insight with global expertise to deliver high-quality, tailored solutions.



## Print & Media Partner Profile

Wijeya Newspapers is one of Sri Lanka's most respected and influential media organisations, with a strong legacy of credible journalism, editorial independence, and wide national reach. Through its diverse portfolio of publications, Wijeya Newspapers plays a pivotal role in informing public discourse, shaping business and policy conversations, and engaging audiences across multiple segments.

Its flagship business daily, Daily FT, is widely regarded as the country's leading source of business, finance, and economic analysis, trusted by senior corporate leaders, policymakers, and professionals. Daily Mirror delivers comprehensive, timely news coverage with strong digital and print presence, while the Sunday Times is renowned for its in-depth reporting, investigative journalism, and authoritative commentary across business, politics, and society. Complementing this portfolio, Hi! Magazine offers premium lifestyle, celebrity, and cultural content, engaging a wide and aspirational readership.

Together, these publications reflect Wijeya Newspapers' commitment to journalistic excellence, audience relevance, and impactful storytelling, making the Group a valued media partner for national initiatives that celebrate leadership, governance, and professional excellence.





***Tirelessly Creative Since 1990***

## **Creative Partner Profile**

Holmes Pollard & Stott is a leading advertising agency in Colombo. Since our inception 35 years ago, we have built a legacy of propelling brands to the top through creative insights. The secret lies in our communication strategies. We have also earned a reputation for our innovative approach. Over the years, we have launched and repositioned a number of breakthrough brands, and today we have a strong portfolio of clients, including listed blue chip companies. Among other things, we were the first agency in the country to pitch in Sinhala and the first to create an animated TV ad. We also helped launch several start-ups that went on to make waves in the Sri Lankan market.

Consumer insights give us a deep understanding of what makes brands tick. Our success is largely based on a good knowledge of the local idiom. With the right communication mix, we know what it takes to build and nurture a brand. Our team is passionate about delivering campaigns that are creative as they are effective. This has enabled us to win a plethora of prestigious awards, including TV Commercial of the Year on multiple occasions.

Led by Pradeep Amirthanayagam, a well-known media and advertising personality, the agency has a successful track record. Our communication strategies have covered a variety of fields. From banking & finance, FMCGs, tourism and aviation to healthcare, insurance, real estate and education, our campaigns have left a lasting impression.

It's been well over three decades since our story began. We entered the field with a fiery passion and injected a new energy into advertising. Today, as a creative powerhouse, we have a singular aim – to keep delivering insightful work that redefines brands and propels them to new heights.

# Partners & Acknowledgements

*"Excellence is never achieved alone; it is the result of shared commitment, trust, and collaboration."*

*The SLID–ACCA National Corporate Director Awards 2025 are made possible through the valued partnership and commitment of organisations and individuals dedicated to advancing governance excellence and ethical leadership in Sri Lanka.*

- *Distinguished Guests: We are honoured by the presence of H.E Andrew Patrick, British High Commissioner to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, as Chief Guest; D. B. P. H. Dissabandara, Senior Professor and Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka, as Guest of Honour; and Victor Anthony Pillai, Principal Country Officer of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), as Special Guest. Their presence underscores the importance of strong governance and leadership in national and institutional development.*
- *Event Partners: We extend our sincere appreciation to our event partners for their valued support—Huawei as Platinum Partner; Lynear Wealth as Gold Partner; Holmes Pollard as Creative Partner; Daily Mirror, The Sunday Times, Hi! Magazine, and Daily FT as Print Media Partners; PR Wire as PR Partner, EY as Assurance Partner; Cinnamon Grand Colombo as Hospitality Partner; Yamaha & Porsche as Other Partners.*
- *Panel of Judges: We place on record our sincere appreciation to the distinguished Panel of Judges, whose independence, integrity, and professional judgement ensured the credibility and stature of the Awards; Faizal Salieh (Chairman), Hon. Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane, Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy, Dr. Arittha Wikramanayake, Prof. Emeritus Malik Ranasinghe, Chandra Schaffter & Ajith E. Tudawe*
- *Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Distinguished Invitees, and Guests – for honouring the occasion with their presence and contributing to the stature of the SLID–ACCA National Corporate Director Awards 2025*
- *All Applicants – for their willingness to be assessed against the highest standards of board leadership and governance excellence*
- *Award Winners – for exemplifying integrity, strategic foresight, and outstanding impact at board level*
- *Live Productions Team – for the professional delivery of all audio-visual production*

- *Ruwan Senanayake of Job Enrich PVT Limited– for the effective coordination and seamless execution of the event*
- *Arun Dias Bandaranayake – Master of Ceremonies – for guiding the programme with clarity, energy, and poise.*
- *Soundari David and Soul Sounds Academy – for the elegant and uplifting entertainment provided throughout the evening*
- *Kent Trophies – for the craftsmanship and quality of the awards presented*
- *Print Styles – for the professional design and printing of event materials*
- *Cinnamon Grand Colombo Staff – for their exemplary hospitality and operational support throughout the event*
- *SLID & ACCA Secretariat: Our heartfelt thanks to both secretariat team's for their professionalism and dedication in delivering this national initiative.*

## Remarks

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# SLID–ACCA National Corporate Director Awards 2026

The SLID–ACCA National Corporate Director Awards, jointly presented by the Sri Lanka Institute of Directors (SLID) and ACCA, are established as a permanent, annual national recognition programme dedicated exclusively to board directors. These Awards honour exemplary board leadership, ethical stewardship, and sustained excellence in corporate governance, reinforcing the pivotal role of the board in shaping resilient and well-governed organisations.

As an annual platform, the Awards will continue to recognise directors whose influence extends beyond the boardroom—leaders who consistently demonstrate integrity, strategic foresight, independence of judgement, and accountability, while creating long-term value for organisations, stakeholders, and the nation.

Open solely to serving board directors from listed companies, private sector organisations, state-owned enterprises, and not-for-profit institutions, the Awards represent the highest benchmark of governance excellence in Sri Lanka, and affirm SLID's commitment to elevating the standards of directorship year after year.

**Nominations for the next Awards will open in August 2026!**



**ACCA**



THE SRI LANKA  
INSTITUTE OF  
DIRECTORS



**SLID - ACCA National Corporate Director Awards 2026**

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