

## Editors' message

Dear Members,

We BCS Sri Lanka Section published a news letter on behalf of the SL Section as a mark of 20<sup>th</sup> year of BCS Sri Lanka Section. This is with the intention to communicate with the membership periodically and update the members on the activities carried out by the chapter. Currently we are releasing the 3<sup>rd</sup> newsletter for this year; we initially planned to release 2 newsletters for a year and gradually increase it up to 4 newsletters for a year. The support and encouragement given by the BCS Sri Lanka membership pushed us to fast-forward the target within 3 months.

In addition all our releases are targeted towards a specific special interest groups, volume 1 focused on eCommerce & Internet, Volume 2 focused on Application Development & Management, Volume 3 focused on IT Security & Cyber Law and Volume 4 on Management.

Thank you very much for all the encouragement and appreciation shared in this regard through email and in all other means. We hope you will continue to support us on this initiative. Please send us your feedback to [nirmalan@bcssrilanka.org](mailto:nirmalan@bcssrilanka.org) we will try our best to keep up with it.

## Message from the Section Chairman

### Ending the Competition Season with Celebrations

BCS the Chartered Institute for IT Sri Lanka Section (BCSSL) successfully completed the National Best Quality ICT Awards (NBQSA) 2017. The winners of NBQSA were nominated to Asia Pacific ICT Alliance (APICTA) Awards 2017.

The APICTA Awards competition was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1<sup>st</sup> week of December and Sri Lanka won 3 Trophies and 6 merit awards making it the highest most number of awards received by Sri Lanka in one APICTA event up to now. I would wish to contribute this success to high quality products and the guidance provided to the participants in preparation of the presentations and product changes by experienced BCSSL judges such as Mr. Geethapriya Tilekeratne, Mr. Vajeendra Kandegamage etc. for over one month period between NBQSA Awards night and APICTA competition. Further, BCSSL headed by Exco member N. Nirmalan arranged to get over 50 business matching meetings for all the APICTA participants also. Hence, we can assume that all the good work done by the BCSSL has definitely supported the ICT industry do better this year and has definitely improved the image of all section members. This is a definite reason to celebrate!

The YPG team is also planning to organize many seminars for senior professionals and young professional in the near future. The sub-committee which organizes these activities require the support of many volunteers as resource persons and organizers. And BCSSL members who wish to do so are requested to contact the secretariat calling or sending an email.

Further, Executive committee wishes to request all BCSSL members to utilize these opportunities to get involved either as volunteers in organizing activities or as participants of these events to network with professionals and other members.

Executive Committee and I wish take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the season and even more successful year ahead!

Ruwan Amarasekara

*Chairman – BCS the Chartered Institute for IT Sri Lanka Section*

## Articles

### Integrated Thinking

By Rajeev Peshawaria

Chief Executive Officer & Executive Director  
Lclif Leadership and Governance Centre.

In a recent talk he gave, my good friend Raghu Krishnamoorthy, Chief Learning Officer of GE, made a couple of bold statements that hooked his audience immediately: One - Talent is abundant not scarce. Two - Intelligence is now a commodity.

To illustrate his first point, he talked about how GE Aviation redesigned their engine brackets through crowd sourced innovation. They ran a global context for designs to reduce the weight of the brackets by 30%, and offered a prize of \$20,000 for the best design. To their surprise, the winning design came from a small town in Indonesia, which reduced the weight by a whopping 84%. Now how's that for exceeding your innovation KPI by 180% at the cost of just \$20,000? And who would have thought that the world's biggest aviation giant would achieve such a breakthrough for so little, and more importantly, from small town Indonesia?

The GE experiment is just one small example of how drastically the business world is changing. Thanks to Google and 24/7 connectivity, Raghu's second point about the commoditization of intelligence is also easy to see. But I am not sure if the real impact of this knowledge-is-free-and-abundant age is fully appreciated and understood. In a class I gave to 30 emerging leaders from different companies recently, I posed the following three questions:

1. What skills and mindsets determined professional success until the mid-1990s? Why?

2. What disruptive changes began in the 1990s, and how are they shaping the global business landscape today?
3. What skills and mindsets are most important for professional success today and in the next 10-20 years?

The group found no difficulty in answering the first two questions accurately. In essence, knowledge was power until about the mid-90s. The more specialized knowledge one had, the more one was likely to succeed. As Daniel Pink nicely puts it in his wonderful book *A Whole New Mind*, our left brains have made us rich in the last century. Thanks to the knowledge-is-power era, we now live in a world of abundance, where we have an amazing array of choices for anything we want to buy or experience. However, as knowledge is becoming free and easily available, and as computers are replacing human tasks (and thinking) at an alarmingly fast pace, is knowledge likely to remain the key to professional success going forward? My class rightly determined that it will not. However, there was no agreement about the answer to the third question. Some said relationships, others said caring leadership, while still others said integrity. So we discussed the third question at length, and concluded that the following three abilities will determine success going forward:

1. Symphony Making: The ability to think big picture, and to integrate seemingly unconnected elements within and between systems in order to find holistic solutions
2. Connecting Deeply: The ability to touch people's sense of meaning and happiness

3. Designing For Beauty: The art of creating solutions that are visually and emotionally appealing

The three abilities combined together is what we call Integrated Thinking. To paraphrase the words of Daniel Pink again – in today’s “conceptual age,” right brain acumen will be equally if not more important than left brain acumen.

If Pink is right, the implications are huge, particularly for Asia. While educating and developing our kids, we in Asia place a disproportionately high emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Someone studying liberal, fine or performing arts is not always considered smart enough. With some exceptions, while evaluating candidates for key jobs, we still largely regard left brain (STEM) skills higher than right brain skills. It might be time for us to think differently, and give right brain development its due share of focus going forward. The good news is that this is already beginning to happen. Singapore recently established its first liberal arts college, a collaboration between the National University of Singapore and Yale. Similarly, Ashoka University opened its doors near Delhi last year to provide world class liberal arts education in India.

While the education sector is beginning to do its bit, Asian corporations will serve themselves well if they incorporate right brain development within their employee ranks. So far, we do not see enough evidence of this happening. As we partner with companies across Asia to help develop leadership and management skills within their organizations, we routinely work clients’ competency models. In five years, we have seen only one example

where an organization lists Integrated Thinking as a core competency for success. Other than this one, we are yet to see any hint of right brain emphasis in competency models or corporate curricula. If you approve or oversee talent development for your organization, it might be worthwhile looking at your mix of offerings to make sure you have the right balance. Thinking about the following questions should help:

- How is the market place for our products and services changing thanks to automation, 24/7 connectivity and abundance?
- What core capabilities determined our success in the last 10-20 years? How many of them were left brain skills versus right brain skills?
- What capabilities do we need in the next 10 years? Will the left-right mix remain the same? How should we build the new capabilities within our organization?

### NBQSA to APICTA for healthier Success

The prestigious National Best Quality ICT awards competition (NBQSA) is conducted by the BCS - the chartered institute for IT, Sri Lanka - for the 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive years and this year was held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Taj Samudra Hotel Colombo.

Hon Harin Fernando, Minister Information and Technology and Digital Infrastructure, with Mr. Paul Martynenko, President of BCS the Chartered Institute for IT UK. Mr. Ruwan

Further, the event was attended by the elite community of the ICT industry and a large number of key decision makers in public and private sector organizations in Sri Lanka. The event was organized to reflect the highest quality and grand in nature. The exposure and the recognition received by BCS members due to the event were enormous with respect to the ICT professional development and education in Sri Lanka.

The winning products from NBQSA are directed to Asia Pacific ICT Awards (APICTA) competition



Amaraksekara, Chairman BCS the chartered Institute for IT Sri Lanka section and Mr. Melvyn Smith Development Manager for Membership and other products BCS United Kingdom also graced this occasion.

for bench marking local ICT Products against regional products. This has proved to be extensively valuable to the local ICT industry due to the recognition received by these winners at the APICTA from the international judges and the business opportunities received



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by the participants, further strengthening the BCSSL Brand in the country.

25 Nominations were sent to the APICTA 2017 from over 175 participations of the NBQSA including the student categories. And they were able to secure nine awards at the 17th Asia Pacific ICT Awards ceremony held in Dhaka on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017. This is the very first time that the Sri Lanka had taken over all the countries which was only seconded to Hong Kong by an award among 16 countries.

Winners and the selected products also offered with many business opportunities during the very limited period of the APICTA Programme.

Success of the Sri Lankan's was enormous due to the commitments and the dedication of the Executive members of the current BCS Sri Lanka Section.

Vajeendra S Kandegamage  
Chairman NBQSA 2017

### Business Matchmaking, APICTA 2017, Dhaka Bangladesh

APICTA 2017, Dhaka Bangladesh, offered many parallel events for the member countries to participate. As a preparation for this we BCS SL section call for the APICTA nominees including the present and past, to participate in the Digital World “ 2017, (an exhibition of Technology product and services, which was held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC), Agargaon, Dhaka, from 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2017) where a location was arranged to display the SriLankan products and services, and in addition to the Business matchmaking sessions for the accompanying participants/companies of APICTA 2017.

### At the APICTA Desk/Zone, Dhaka Bangladesh, 2017.



In Bangladesh, though we arranged facilities and passes for the confirmed 11 companies to display their products and services at the Digital World 2017. The companies participated met many potential clients and some have converted this to confirmed business.

**We were able to schedule one-to-one business match making meetings with 54 Bangladesh companies' agencyed our 11 confirmed Sri Lankan companies** and we had a historical success of matching more than 50 companies with Sri Lankan companies. Many of these meetings are being converted to productive business partnerships.

### **Pictures of the Business match making sections which took place at the Digital World 2017**



N Nirmalan

APICTA 2017 – B2B Support Committee for Dhaka, Bangladesh, BCS SL Section