

**IMSL  
National Management Conference 2009**

**19<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

**Galle Face Hotel, Colombo**

**The Concept**

***Global Citizenship and Management: Capacity Development in Challenging Times***

Proximity to persons and resources is a far less challenging situation than in the past. Communication technology enables people far apart, to discuss and take collective decisions in an increasingly shrinking and integrated world. Ease of Travel and the ability to be in different places in quick succession is possible. This phenomenon enables people to move rapidly and engage in diverse tasks with people from different cultures. This necessitates greater tolerance of cultural diversity and the ability to deal with varied individuals and communities. This is becoming more important in a world where labour markets are more fluid.

The concept of a nation state is increasingly seen as a constraint to human progress than a binding and enabling factor. Coalescence of people in regional blocks, global partnerships among countries, interest groups, professional groups, etc., bring people together in new and different ways.

Tensions between groups that still assert identity power, who are compelled to assert coercion and want to lead and govern, often result in violence and destruction. Many still lack basic needs while the world boasts of surplus production and production technologies that were unimaginable a decade ago.

Social norms change and have become more inclusive, liberal and tolerant of diversity. The citizen of the “new world” needs a new array of skills and character to be an effective person.

In the midst of seeming chaos and strife there is also an emergence of universal values and a coalescence of voices demanding that fundamental rights and dignity of humans be respected. These concerns override the narrow goals of corporate profits, national egos and cultural hegemonies. Breakthroughs in the social order of the future world devoid of violence will rest in a new human order that is more respectful and able to celebrate diversity. Such an order is possible if people are provided the means of developing the required skills and capabilities.

The NMC 2009 attempts to address this challenge. The conference will bring panels of experts from academia and the business community to share their views on the three themes related to ***making a global citizen***.

**Purpose of the NMC 2009:** The Institute of Management Sri Lanka (IMSL) will organize the annual conference this year to bring together practitioners, academics, students and leaders to a common platform of sharing and learning. The conference is designed to ensure that the participants:

- Relate the main themes discussed at the conference to enhance their role and inputs to organization they work for
- Identify specific interventions in capacity development in organizations and follow up with a personal agenda for change
- Address critical needs of socio-economic development as responsible and leading private sector organizations, to steer the country towards a more hopeful future

### **Conference Themes:**

1. Innovative approaches to enhancing skills and capabilities for future employment - keeping abreast with global trends. Learning challenges for organizations and personnel
2. Business as a catalyst for social integration – life beyond profits
3. Need for a new global ethical order to make the best of human ingenuity

### **The Conference Structure**

The conference is planned in two segments. The first – opening session – setting the tone and second – discourse.

The opening session will set the tone of the conference and highlight the challenges that the private sector faces in playing its vital role as a leader in the development of the country.

The second session will focus on the three key themes of the conference where panels moderated by a facilitator will draw on the experience and wisdom of the panelists in interactive learning sessions where the participants too will be actively engaged.

The conference will conclude by adopting a common declaration and with pledges to follow up.

### **The Opening Session**

The opening session will have a presentation by the keynote speaker who will place the theme of the conference in the present context of the country. The chief guest will make his own observations on the topic of the conference in the context of his experience and world-view.

## The Panel Discussions

**The panelists:** There will be panels of speakers who will address each of the three themes of the conference. Each panel will consist of an expert who will present the main concepts and two other panelists who will reflect on the role or the response of the private sector organizations.

**Moderation:** The panel discussions will be moderated by a facilitator who will conduct the session in a question and answer format. However the expert will start by making a 8-10 minute input which will be followed by the moderator requesting each of the panelists to respond to a question posed on the inputs made by the expert.

**Space for discussion:** After two rounds of questions and answers with the panel the topic will be opened for discussions / clarifications to the participants. The participants will make their comments or questions in writing that will be read out by the facilitator.

**The Declaration:** The proceedings of the conference will be summarized into a conference declaration that will be finalized during the final session and shared with the member organizations of the IMSL and with other organizational managers.

**Follow-up:** IMSL will undertake follow up action based on the outcomes of the conference.

## NMC 2009 Organizing Committee

Dr. Wijaya Jayatilaka (Chairman)  
 Mr. Anver Dole (President – IMSL)  
 Ms. Manu Tissera Gunasekera  
 Mr. Ranjan Nadesapillai  
 Mr. Gershaun Arulanantham  
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 Mr. Raj Subramaniam

## Contact Information:

IMSL: [wijaya@flict.lk](mailto:wijaya@flict.lk) / [nujith.sam@capitolaei.com](mailto:nujith.sam@capitolaei.com)