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Editorial

It's 2009!

"The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective" ... said G.K. Chesterton, the renowned poet, who penned the famous poem "The Donkey".

How true are the words of Chesterton, one may wonder. But one may not agree with him on all. The likes of Mark twain, would also say that "New Year's Day... is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual".

Once again, it's a choice between attitudes, rather not the words. Words can be twisted, but attitudes stands tall.

Even if you believe in Chesterton or Twain, or none, you still have a goal to achieve, a dream to fulfill, for you, your children and your country.

We, at IMSL bear well in minds our responsibilities as the apex management institute in Sri Lanka to "mould and fashion the thinking of managers, especially the younger generation, to maintain ethical standards, replicate 'best practices' and work towards a better corporate Sri Lanka."

Thus 2009, is indeed a hopeful year for IMSL. IMSL will balance between a heavy academic calendar along with a complementary agenda on image building and networking.

More work is on the cards. So let's stop the talk and let the work do the talking.

Manu Tissera-Gunasekara

IMSL-SLFI Public Lecture Series

IMSL commenced its first public lecture series with the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (SLFI) on the 22 January, 2009 at the SLFI auditorium. The first lecture was conducted by Mr. Nayana Mawilmada, a multidisciplinary professional with expertise in management, urban development, tourism development, on the topic, **"People, Power, and Politics: Issues that Make or Break Projects."**

Mr. Mawilmada has with him over 14 years of international and professional experience, and has led a variety of major projects in over a dozen countries, including the USA, Korea, Philippines, Singapore, China and almost every country in South Asia.

The first lecture looked at the often overlooked "soft-factors" in project management that hinder performance and cripple progress in many cases, and highlighted the significance of how systematic attention to people, power and politics early in strategic planning process can boost an organization's performance over the long term.

The event proved to be a huge success with high turnout of participants from both the public and private sector.

Media Highlights:

Daily Mirror, 27 January, 2009--

http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=38833

Daily Mirror, 20 January, 2009 --

http://www.dailymirror.lk/DM_BLOG/Sections/frmNewsDetailView.aspx?ARTID=38192

Await!

IMSL-SLFI Public Lecture Series

2nd Lecture, 19 March, 2009

on the topic

"Global Financial Crisis and Sri Lanka"

by Dr. Saman Kelegama

In Focus

Leadership in Turbulent Times

Not for decades has the term 'crisis' been as prominent a headline-maker and talking point as we have seen recently. Few segments of industry have been spared. Few companies can look forward to long-term prosperity. So how should a business be managed in order to survive a crisis and perhaps even emerge fitter and stronger? Studies reveal that the best chances of successfully bringing current problems under control lie with self-assured, level-headed leaders who apply the cardinal virtues of good business management to resolve the immediate issues while keeping a firm grasp on longer-term strategy.

...leaders face the task of restoring confidence..."

Difficult times have an impact on all of us. They engulf companies and even entire industries without warning, and often with little time for evasive action. Even a good manager may not be able to prevent his company from being sucked into the crisis. But sometimes it is not just the problems raging in the world outside that hit the company, but homemade difficulties, too. Under the impact of a deteriorating operating climate, years of poor, or simply lax, management are suddenly transformed from latent problems into full-blown, life-threatening crises.

Leading in Times of Crisis

Unfortunately, many people in leadership positions think they need to delay or spin the facts — usually in an effort to avoid blame — even when there is no fault. Despite all the evidence, some bosses still don't get it: you need to communicate what you know, when you learned it, how you learned it, and what you're going to do to fix it as quickly as possible. Tell the truth, and don't spin it. The facts are bound to come out eventually, and people have long memories when it comes to such things.

Read more @ <http://www.allbusiness.com/human-resources/employee-development-leadership/10978-1.html>

Spectrum of challenges facing top managers in crisis situations

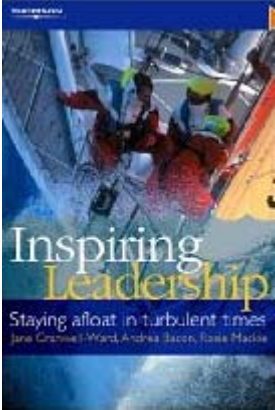
Self-assurance to question everything	vs	Corporate purpose to ensure necessary continuity
Detailed knowledge to make well-founded decisions	vs	View of the big picture to prioritise in context
Personal responsibility to seek success with resolution	vs	Well-developed team spirit to let others perform their duties
Active shaping and moulding to give meaning and direction	vs	Ability to learn quickly to take account of new developments
Consistency in delegation to systematically break down goals	vs	Upward management to influence conditions for success

Read more @ <http://www.ceoforum.com.au/article-detail.cfm?cid=6159>

Reading Pleasure

Members' Forum

Inspiring Leadership: Staying Afloat in Turbulent Times (2002)



Authors: by Jane Cranwell-Ward
Andrea Bacon and Rosie Mackie
ISBN: 1861529821, 978-
1861529824

The authors identify the key attributes and skills which make effective leaders stand out from the crowd and demonstrate how emotional intelligence can be developed to impact on performance. Combining these new findings with existing theories of management and leadership,

emotional intelligence, motivation and team dynamics this book provides managers and MBA students with an in-depth understanding of what makes a high performing leader and demonstrates how to sustain competitive advantage in business.

Leadership for Turbulent Times (1995)



Author: Leonard, R. Sayles
ISBN: 1882197070, 978-
1882197071

Organizations today operate in an increasingly complex and changing world. What are the new skills that must emerge if leaders are to successfully meet the challenges created by this turbulence?

The author, drawing on his years of experience in studying organizations and on the insights generated at a conference that brought together a select group of senior executives and organizational researchers to consider this question, offers his own unique perspective.

We look forward to receive your valuable feedback, criticism, and suggestions to improve the quality and presentation of this newsletter.

Also, we'd like you to contribute to this monthly bulletin, may be with a business success story, crisis management, or challenge which you might like to share with your fellow members. Write to us.

Please forward your queries or comments on the newsletter to:

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or

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