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Conference Announcement

Joint SDC - SLAIHEE April 2007 Conference

on

“Developing Skills in University Lecturers and Students”

Friday 27th April 2007 - 9.30am to 4.30pm

at Staff Development Centre, University of Colombo

with

follow-up half-day **workshop** on *Reflective Practice* on 28th April 2007

All over the world, Higher Education is grappling with the issue of developing skills in students to equip them to face new challenges to utilize the knowledge-resources of today's globalised world. Lecturers are key players in this skill development, for which skills of university lecturers need continuous improvement. Sri Lanka is only different in having put in place required mechanisms for skill improvement in lecturers over relatively recent times, such as the last ten years. Thus, this urgently needed developmental aspect is still being refined, and this conference is targeted at reviewing the work over the last few years, so that the future directions in this critically important development area of *Developing Skills in University Lecturers and Students* can be visioned and planned in a proactive manner, reflecting on our past experiences of;

1. the Critical Success Factors that have paved the way for any limited successes we have been able to record in Sri Lanka, documenting and showcasing 'Lessons Learnt'
2. the difficulties, pot-holes, resistances and human frailties that have stymied our efforts, with a view to minimising their recurrence
3. benefits from 'good practices' that we have found to be effective, with a view to replicating them
4. socio-economic-educational dislocation/disruption events, and using them specifically to evaluate attendant risks, using Risk Management modeling

The Conference will avoid focusing on well seasoned topics such as the (now well-known) 'benefits' of skill development in Higher Education, but will feature presentations that will specifically help Sri Lanka to plan future approaches to *Developing Skills in University Lecturers and Students*.

The Staff Development Centre (SDC) of the University of Colombo has engaged in *Developing Skills in University Lecturers and Students*, using training programmes aimed at developing teaching, management and administration-related skills of staff from all Sri Lankan universities, to drive skill development in university students. The SDC initiated the formation of SLAIHEE, the Sri Lankan Association for Improving Higher Education Effectiveness, a national organization committed to improving life skills and performance capabilities of university teachers and students. The limited success that SDC and SLAIHEE have been able to achieve has meant that fresh inputs need to be made to broad-base and refine our strategies at national level, and it is through this realization that abstracts are being invited for this Conference on areas/topics 1 to 4 (see above). Abstracts should be based on experiences, and not on mere possibilities and rhetoric. Abstracts should deal with areas/subtopics 1 to 4, stated above, and be based within the broad theme *Developing Skills in University Lecturers and Students*.

Conference Theme: This joint SDC/SLAIHEE conference is on the theme '*Developing Skills in University Lecturers and Students*'.

The Conference Experience: The SDC is known for its relaxed, welcoming and positive atmosphere. This would be replicated in the conference, encouraging the sharing of ideas, experience and practice, with supportive, actionable feedback from the participating audience.

Post-Conference Workshop: The Post-Conference Workshop on 28 April 2007 is on “*Reflective Practice for Developing Skills in Lecturers and Students*”. Separate registration is required for this event. Please see “Post-Conference Workshop Registration Form” (Form C).

Participation and Registration: You are invited to participate as a paper/poster presenter, or/and as an active participant, contributing to *Developing Skills in University Lecturers and Students*. The conference and the post-conference workshop will be of particular interest to those with a concern and commitment to quality of higher education in Sri Lanka, including;

- Lecturers, managers and administrators in Higher Education
- Education and Staff Developers
- Policy makers

Registration for - Conference – please use the Conference Registration Form (Form A)

Registration for - Post-Conference Workshop:

- please use the “Post-Conference Workshop Registration Form” (Form C)

Registration Forms, with payment, to be sent to:

- Staff Development Centre, University of Colombo (phone & Fax: 011-533 7207)

Deadline for Receipt of Registration Forms A and C – April 5, Thursday, 2007.

Abstract for Presentations: Proposals for sessions are invited, as Abstracts of papers (for 15-minute oral presentations), or posters. Abstracts should clearly show that they are based on examples that have been used by the presenters, of practices with regard to ‘*Developing Skills in University Lecturers and Students*’. Instructions for Abstract Submission, and self-evaluation, are given in the next section, under “Abstract Submission”.

Abstract Submission: Paper and poster presentations will be accepted, based on submitted abstracts that will be peer-reviewed. In the case of oral presentation of papers, each presentation will be limited to not more than 15 minutes + another 5 minutes for discussion.

For format/details of Abstract preparation – see “Abstract Submission and Poster Guidelines”

The “Abstract Submission Self-Evaluation Checklist” will enable presenters to formatively self-evaluate your own presentation. Reviewers of abstracts will also use this check-list to evaluate your Abstract.

Abstracts for the conference should be submitted by e-mail to: slaiheeconf2007 at gmail dot com. The subject line of the e-mail should be made up of your last name, a space, your initials in lowercase; continued with a space and the letters “ABS” – e.g. an abstract from SB Silva will have a subject line as ‘silva sb ABS’.

Each abstract should be sent with one Abstract Submission Form (Form B), and one Abstract Submission Self-Evaluation Checklist.

Abstracts that do not conform to these submission guidelines will not be accepted.

(Please resend e-mail if abstract is not acknowledged within 24 hours)

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED WITH ABSTRACT;

1. “Abstract Submission Form” (Form B)
2. “Abstract Submission Self-Evaluation Checklist”

LAST DATE for receipt / acceptance of Abstracts: April 3, 2007 (6pm)

Abstract acceptance will be notified to return e-mail address by Thursday, April 19, 2007

IMPORTANT DATES:

Abstract email submission: by 6pm on April 3 (Tuesday) 2007

Abstract acceptance: notified to principal presenter – by April 19, Thursday, 2007

Registration Form and payment: due by April 5, Thursday, 2007

Conference on: April 27, Friday, 2007, 9.30am to 4.30pm

Post-conference workshop: April 28, Saturday, 2007, 9.00am to 12.30pm

Contact information: Staff Development Centre, University of Colombo, Colombo 3

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