

## Message from the Chief Guest at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sessions

**Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakse**

*Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms*



It is with great pleasure that I issue this message on the occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sessions, 2023 & 82<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon which is one of the oldest professional bodies in Sri Lanka. Being the successor to the Chemical Society of Ceylon founded in 1941 the Institute has been established in 1971 and incorporated by Act No. 15 of 1972 as the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon. It is the professional body of Chemists in Sri Lanka for the general advancement of Chemical Science and the practice of Chemistry in all its branches. I am aware that, it serves as the apex body to offer training programmes for the professional development of Chemists and to recognize eminent Chemists, by electing them as Members/Fellows and Chartered Chemists.

I am also aware that it has been possible to commence educational activities as far back as 1973 and the Institute has become one of the leading and government-approved degree-awarding institutes in the field of chemical sciences. Your institute can be proud to be among the few professional bodies in Sri Lanka providing a program of study for professional carrier development at the tertiary level. During the past several decades, it has produced a large number of professionals in the field of chemical science who contribute to the growth of industries in the local context and in foreign countries as well.

I understand that it has been possible to commence educational activities as far back as 1973 with the inauguration of the first Laboratory Technicians Certificate Course. The Graduatship in Chemistry (GIC) course which is a professional qualification has commenced subsequently in 1979. The Royal Society of

Chemistry, UK (RSC) has accredited your Graduatship qualification as fulfilling the academic requirement for the grant of the higher Chartered Chemist status. I am pleased to note that your Institute is the very first non-University institution and the first in Asia, to achieve this distinction.

Under the Section 25A of the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978, your Institute has been recognized as a Degree Awarding Institute for the purpose of developing Higher Education and, you have also commenced a new BSc Honours in Chemical Science Degree program providing ample career opportunities for the students in the industry and academia. I am happy to note that, so far the Institute has been able to produce 1931 professional graduates (Graduate Chemists), 1637 laboratory technicians, and also 41 graduates through the newly commenced BSc programme contributing to the economic development of the country through the professional development of Chemists and quality improvement in the Chemical Industry.

I am happy to learn that the Institute is fully committed to complementing the government efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030 of the UN by mobilizing the resources and the services of professional chemists in Sri Lanka. The theme of the current Presidential Year “The Role of Chemists in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals” is also relevant to the above commitment. I am aware that, your Institute is already involved in a multitude of activities to achieve these goals and I am sure that all the professional chemists who will be working in the country in various fields such as education, industry, health, nutrition etc can contribute much to achieve these Goals.

I extend my sincere thanks to the President and the Council of the Institute for the invitation extended to me to serve as the Chief Guest of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sessions, and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebrations which are the most significant events of the Institute this year. I have been made aware that the Annual Session and its connected technical sessions are participated by eminent Chemists, University Academics in chemistry and related fields,

industrial representatives as well as the representatives of relevant Ministries, Departments, ITI, SLSI and other scientific organizations.

I request the Institute for greater involvement in the economic activities of Sri Lanka through empowering chemists as in other similar organizations such as Institute of Chartered Accounts, Institute of Engineers and Chemistry Institutes in other Countries. The Institute may involve in certification of products manufactured in the country and also those imported and exported with a view to ensure public safety and health and also advise the government in the relevant fields as stated in

the objectives of the Act of the Institute of Chemistry. I believe that your institute can play a greater role on these issues through the National Secretariat that has been established by the Institute under its by-laws.

Finally, while congratulating the President and the Council, Members, Staff of the Institute and the College of Chemical Sciences and all the students on this special occasion, I wish all the success in conducting the Annual Session and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of the Institute and its future endeavours.

## Guest of Honour at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sessions

### Mr. Rajitha Kariyawasam

*Main Board Director, Hayleys Plc & Managing Director, Haycarb Plc  
Deputy Chairman, Dipped Products Plc & Hayleys Fiber Plc*



**Mr. Rajitha Kariyawasam** joined Haycarb as Managing Director and was appointed to the Board of Haycarb PLC in 2010. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Hayleys PLC and is the Deputy Chairman of the Eco Solutions sector and Dipped Products PLC.

He was appointed to the Board of Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (Private) Ltd., (SLINTEC) as a Nominee Director of Hayleys PLC in March 2019 and as a lead member of the Hayleys ESG Steering Committee representing the Hayleys Executive Directors in 2022.

Holds a BSC Engineering (Electronics and Telecommunications) from the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Fellow Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK. Also a Six Sigma (Continuous Improvement Methodology) Black Belt, certified by the Motorola University, Malaysia.

Before joining Hayleys, held the position of Director/ General Manager of Ansell Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. Served as the Chairman of the Manufacturing Association of Export Processing Zone, Biyagama.