

YPF INSPIRE YOUNG LOGISTICIANS

“The world has become much simpler and less frustrating” ...

...says the general public but as to how far this is true remains a question. This statement made by the people is based on what they see and experience, today if you require a household item, an oven, a laptop as such one has to just simply log in to the computer or the mobile phone and it takes only one simple click to make that product appear at your doorstep but what happens between this click and goods being delivered to the door step is a mystery to many.

This work in between done by the people specialized in the field of logistics and Transport spread across nations to make sure that people get what they want at the exact time they want it in the exact quality and quantity most of the time goes unnoticed. This is where bodies like the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) makes their entrance. Being the professional body for logisticians it creates a large network which connects industry professionals around the world and shows the importance of the field of logistics in today's context.

The Young Professionals' Forum Sri Lanka (YPF- SL) of the CILT as the name implies consists of young professionals and undergraduates studying logistics. One of its main objectives other than creating a well-connected network among young logisticians is educating the public including the school leavers on the importance of logistics, the personal benefits and career opportunities a person has in this industry. The YPF organizes many events in line with its objectives throughout the year.

Abiding by one of their main objectives, the YPF-SL organises “INSPIRE” event every year with the purpose of educating the public and to share new ideas, best practices related to modern day business environment by inviting eminent speakers. The inaugural INSPIRE event was held in 2014 at the Kenimadala Conference Hall of the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority, Rajagiriya with the presence of five guest speakers from the industry namely Mr. Ravi Edirisinghe, Mr. Chulendra De Silva, Mr. Sanjeev Walgampaya, Mr. Indika Fernando and Mr. Sanjeeva Abeygoonewardena.



With the success of its inaugural event INSPIRE managed to secure its place in the YPF event calendar and it was held for the second consecutive time in 2015 too at the Kenimadala Conference Hall of the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority. The event was held under the theme of



“*Entrepreneurship and innovation*” where 3 speakers Mr. Dulith Herath, Ms. Lonali Rodrigo and Mr. Mano Sekaram being entrepreneurs themselves enlightened the audience with their success stories and most importantly their failures.



Sticking to its event calendar YPF INSPIRE was held for the third consecutive year at the Centre for Banking Studies Auditorium on the 29th of June 2016. This year’s YPF INSPIRE event was jointly organised with Women in Logistics and Transport (WiLAT) under theme “ Motivation”. The event held with the presence of Captain Lasitha Cumaratunga Chairman of CILT Sri Lanka and Mrs Gayani de Alwis

Chairperson WiLAT, council members of CILT Sri Lanka and several other dignitaries from the transport and logistics industry. Organized in a much grander scale this time, the event received an overwhelming response with over 300 participating from universities, private institutes and from the corporate sector.

INSPIRE 2016 organized by the Core-Committee of YPF-SL under the guidance of Mr. Ramindu Liyanage Chairman of YPF - SL in collaboration with WiLAT - Sri Lanka where Ms. Mareena Fernando of YPF-SL and Ms. Yashodha Nirupamala of WiLAT Sri Lanka took on the responsibilities as the Co-Chairpersons of the project.



Three guest speakers who are known for their skill, dedication, courage and unwillingness to quit shared their experiences including their ups and downs with the youngsters in the audience giving them an idea on what they are going to face once they enter the corporate world and what they must do in order to survive and thrive.



Mr Ted Muttiah the chief commercial officer of SAGT being the first and most senior speaker at the event enlightened the audience by sharing his story since the childhood and how he managed to achieve

the things that he has achieved today. Mr Muttiah was able to light up the young minds with his wisdom and experience by showing them what they can achieve in the future by being a part of this industry and persuading them to focus on the long term benefits.

Ms. Kasturi Wilson managing director of Hemas pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd, Hemas logistics and maritime sector was the women's' voice in the event. She managed to mould especially the minds of the ladies in the audience through her story by showing them that gender is not an obstacle to rise up in the industry. Ms. Wilson made it perfectly clear that even women can climb to the top of the ladder in what is called a male dominated industry. Her speech inspired the young and the old encouraging them to achieve greatness after making them realize where they stand.



The final speaker of the event Mr. Sunesh Rodrigo managed to capture the audience and hold them in utter amazement as he shared each and every single life event with the curious minds in the audience. The lessons and the experiences he shared were much easier for the audience to relate mainly due to the fact that Mr. Rodrigo was not much older than many in the audience. His words convinced every young mind in the audience that they too can achieve great things at a very young age.

INSPIRE 2016 concluded on a higher note with requests from the audience to organize it for the fourth consecutive time next year without fail and with participants commenting;

“It was truly an amazing evening...”

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Sri Lanka

