

TECH STYLE

TOASTMASTERS SPEECHCRAFT PROGRAMME 2016

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“Toastmasters Speechcraft Programme 2016” was conducted by the Colombo Toastmasters Club for the final year undergraduates of the Department of Textile & Clothing Technology. The programme was organised by the Moratuwa University Textile Association (MUTA) which is the alumni association of the Department. The programme commenced on the 24th of August and spanned till the 7th of December. The prime objective of the programme was to develop a platform to sharpen the public speaking skills of the participants. All the participants were given equal opportunities to deliver prepared speeches and effective individual feedback was given to identify areas of improvements. Round Robin Sessions were conducted as the first segment in each session which provided the participants a refreshing start to suit up for prepared speeches. In

addition to that impromptu speech sessions were conducted to support the participants to stretch their comfort zones further.

Guest lectures were conducted by different senior toastmasters and visiting lecturers during these sessions covering major aspects of a good speech. These included the topics such as formation of a speech, usage of vocal varieties, use of humour, importance of hand & body gestures, aspects of a proper meeting, feedback techniques, technical presentation techniques etc.

In addition to that, all the participants were given opportunities to take part in the meeting procedure through performing various roles such as President, Toastmaster, Round Robin Master, Table Topics Master, General Evaluator, Timer, Ah Counter and other roles specified in the International Toast-

masters Guidelines.

This programme concluded on the 7th of December 2016 from the Grand Finale organised by the participants together with the facilitators of the programme. The Grand Finale was held with the participation of Prof. K.K.C.K. Perera, Dean Faculty of Engineering as the Chief Guest together with the Academic staff of the Department of Textile and Clothing Technology in a grandeur manner. The Grand Finale started with the last meeting of the session followed by the award distribution ceremony. Key note speech was performed by the Guest of Honour ATM Haleem Ghouse and a special speech was delivered by the Dean of Faculty of Engineering University of Moratuwa. The Grand Finale was concluded after the award ceremony followed by fellowship and refreshments.



Raashidha Haque

A RELISHING EXPOSURE TO THE INDUSTRY

Undergraduates of the Department of Textile and Clothing Technology are particularly fortunate in more sense than one. Being beneficiaries and aspiring members of the Moratuwa University Textile Association (MUTA), they reap support in diverse means throughout their university life.



One such occasion is the series of guest lecture sessions organized over the last month, focusing on the 3rd year undergraduates of the Department. The inauguration of this lecture series was marked on 11th of January by Mr. Asitha Madurawala, a senior lean consultant attached to the Freni Group USA. Three well versed hours were spent, imparting knowledge about vari-

ous concepts of lean manufacturing in perfect sync with industry reflections and examples. The undergraduates having just completed their six months of industrial training at various companies, were quick in grasping the teachings that they have become familiar with.

Mr. Asitha managed to not only ignite the audience's curiosity and a need to learn, but also invited them to get involved with him in various projects in the future. By sighting his own life story and how he came to be in this particular field, he also managed to ingrain in some students, some interest in following in his footsteps.



While reminiscing the proceedings of the session with gratitude, we heartily thank Mr. Asitha, for his valuable presence and for enthusiastically sharing knowledge amidst his various other responsibilities.



Indebt we are, to the Lecturers of the Department also representing MUTA, for continuously organizing and facilitating us through all these events.

Hansadi Jayamaha

Speaker's Profile

Asitha Madurawala is currently working as a Senior Consultant for The Freni Group USA, Asitha is a trained lean manufacturer certified by Freni Group Inc, Portland US; TSD consultancy, Kentucky, US and JIPM (Japanese Institute of Plant Management).

He has previously served in many leading companies such as MAS Holdings, Brandix, Avery Dennison Lanka, and STAR

Garments in various capacities such as Head of Fabrics and Trims, Head of Warehouse RM & FG, Project Manager of SAP, Production Manager, Plant Manager, Director of Lean and Operations and Lean Consultant.

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WORKING HARD FOR SOMETHING WE LOVE, IS CALLED "PASSION" SUCCESS STORY OF MALKANTHI HEMAKUMARA

The love I have for textiles, started when I was a teenager. I can remember my self, getting scolded by my mother for cutting her fabric and breaking needles of the sewing machine when she is not around. That was how my interest to textile started, although I had no clue of what the role of a Textile Engineer or Fabric Technologist was all about.

In 1991, when I joined University of Moratuwa to follow B.Sc. Engineering degree, I decided that I will join the Textile Department for specialization. Having graduated as the top of the textile batch and winning the Best Graduate of the Year-1997 from the Textile Institute, I was offered two choices to pick up as my carrier; either to join the academic staffs a university lecturer or to join the apparel industry. While working in the Textile Department, I got the opportunity to join the SR GENT, which was the company who supplied mainly for MARKS & SPENCER.

I started my carrier with SR GENT's in 1997 as their Fabric Technologist. I was the first Sri Lankan to join the Raw Material team there, where I had the opportunity to work with experts from UK where the giants in the Textile field were born. Having three years of strong foundation for my career built at Gents and then decided to move to MAS - Unichela to get more manufacturing experience.

I was in charge of the Raw Material Quality Assurance and Controls. Playing a role in the middle of the production cycle made me realize that my strength is for front-end development of raw material. I also realized, having only technical knowledge will not complete me to make the decisions required for the business. The decision to earn an MBA from PIM and move my carrier towards engaging in the front end was a good call I made in my carrier at this stage.

I took up one of the Fabric Manager roles at MDS in year 2003. There were 14 Fabric Technologists who were mainly

fresh graduates of University of Moratuwa and trained under my supervision at that time. I had developed and sourced many raw materials for high end buyers while working in this role.



The role of Research and Development Manager for Material at MAS Research and Innovation center gave me a different exposure and enabled me to see how this industry can be taken to the next level with the aid of new technologies. Molding, Bonding and Silicone technologies were only a few of the many technologies that I mastered during this period.

Moving to my current role as Divisional Manager Raw Materials at MAST -Sri Lanka was the key decision in my life which is giving me the opportunity to learn and explore the role of a Brand in a value chain. In my current role I manage raw material supply base from Sri Lanka to Pink brand while bringing business to my country as well as slowly establishing Sri Lanka as one of the reliable raw material sources to the textile world. The message I want to share with current day graduates is that always work with a passion and love towards what you do and enjoy what you do. Managing your energy on a positive note, being open to evolving technologies and innovations and keenness to learn are very important for the future of the industry.

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DONATION OF A WATER COOLER TO THE TEXTILE DEPARTMENT



For many years the main water supply of the University has been the only reliable source of drinking water for students. However, lately it was observed that the tap water supply at the Department was not suitable for the purpose of drinking. After carrying out tests it was revealed that consuming it would possibly result in serious health issues. Taking this fact into account, on the suggestion of Mrs. Vijitha Ratnayake, current President of MUTA, the ExCo of MUTA decided to provide necessary financial assistance to install a water cooler at the Department.

This water cooler also consists of an integrated water filter. This type of a filter is incredibly popular mainly because it has the ability to remove all sorts of contaminants that can be a danger to health, as well as making sure the end result is clear and odor free. MUTA invested Rs.85,000 in this regard and the cooler was installed by the Maintenance Division of the University. It was commissioned for use by the President of MUTA in January 2017. This would undoubtedly benefit generations of undergraduates at the Department and would be a solid, long-term solution for the problem.

Sandesha Weerasinghe

EDITORIAL: A COLUMN OF TIPS

The calendar that hangs on my wall has lost only one page. The New Year is still new although a few weeks have passed. Everything that was new at the beginning of the year is still new but, is everyone new? Have we walked back to our old routines and are we touring along our old routes? It is hard to start something new and it is harder to continue it. We can safely rely on what we have been doing in the past and are inclined to follow those known roads than exploring new avenues. So it is high time to take a quick look back and evaluate our journey so far in this year.

Things work best when they are kept simple. It works with New Year's resolutions too. Planning too many resolutions at the outset clutters the brain and keeps it distracted all the time. When there are just a few, motivation can be focused better.

Guide wheels might be needed to ride along some paths. Having someone to hold you accountable can keep you stuck to the resolutions. Additionally to being trustworthy, accountability buddies should also honestly correct your mistakes.

Some resolutions may need trial runs before they are taken into serious consideration. Goals can be altered a bit to make them well-formed. Such goals may lead to enthusiastic behavior making it easier to achieve them.

Measuring progress should also be a top priority in achieving ones goals. Through this it can be ensured that you are on the right path to success. If there is any detour corrective measures can be promptly taken.

Most importantly resolutions need not be made with a new calendar. The power of 'now' never diminishes. Although it is never too late to start something new, starting soon will be rewarding. These little tips might hopefully come in handy to shape up the rest of this year into a victorious chapter in life.

Sandesha Weerasinghe

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Moratuwa University
Textile Association

MUTA
MORATUWA UNIVERSITY
TEXTILE ASSOCIATION

TECH STYLE
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TESS TRIP - 2016

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The Annual TESS Trip, the most anticipated event in the TESS calendar started at the dawn of the 3rd of December 2016 with participation of all the four batches together with academic staff members. The participants first went to the “*Bopath Ella*” which gave them a refreshing start to the trip. Participants were extremely delighted to witness the cascading waterfall and its surroundings. Next stop of the group was the “*Hirikatuoya*”, where the participants got the opportunity to step into the enchanting waters to fulfill their dire need to have a nourishing bath. After a delicious lunch, they reached their destination which was situated in “*Diyathalawa*”, hidden behind the mist and cold weather. The crew gathered at the hall to share some of their talents prior to the dinner. Some beautiful songs were sung by undergraduates together with a drama performance to satisfy the tired eyes and souls of participants after a long journey.

At the dawn of the next day, the group headed towards the Lipton’s Seat where the participants were able to witness an eye-catching sight from the hill top. Further, participants didn’t forget to take few photographs with the statue of Thomas Lipton as a reminder of that day. Then the gathering travelled to the “*Adisham Bungalow*” which was truly an epic and elegant artwork and returned to university late evening. Participants were able to collect golden memories filled with fun & frolic throughout the trip and to strengthen the friendship among the batches.

Moratuwa University Textile Association (MUTA) was one of the kind sponsors of this event.

Tharindu Fernando

