

TECH STYLE

GUEST LECTURE ON “LEAN MANUFACTURING”

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it for us?

The first lecture of the guest lecture series for the final year undergraduates was conducted on the 1st of July 2016 at the Textile Auditorium. “Lean Manufacturing”, which is a very trendy buzzword around the apparel industry was taken as the subject for this lecture which spanned over 3 hours starting from 9 a.m.

The lecture was delivered by Mr. Asitha Suranjith Madurawala, who is an executive coach, a training facilitator and a consultant of lean manufacturing in Sri Lanka as well as overseas. Mr. Madurawala is currently working as a Lean Champion for Avery Dennison and was previously employed at MAS Holdings and Brandix.

During the lecture, Mr. Madurawala was able to explain the underlying reasons for implementing lean philosophies in modern manu-

facturing arena. In addition to that, he was able to illustrate the steps to be carried out in transforming a traditional manufacturing facility to a lean driven unit together with the benefits anticipated out of such process. Further, he had made this lecture more interesting by sharing his on the job experiences in lean implementation at different companies in various parts of the world.

Later, the session was concluded after a valuable Q&A session which has provided the participants to clarify their doubts regarding the subject matter. It was truly an inspirational beginning to the guest lecture series where the undergraduates had the opportunity to learn insights into a novel subject area of Lean Manufacturing.

Tharindu Fernando

Speaker's profile...



Asitha Madurawala started his career as the Head of Fabrics and Trims Division of the Central Warehouse of STAR Garments Ltd. in 1997. He moved into the Intimates cluster of MAS Holdings (Pvt.) Ltd. in 2003 as a Head of Warehouse RM & FG. Before starting as a Warehouse Manager in 2006 he also served as a Head of Business Process Support – SAP and a Project Manager of SAP which is the ERP system of MAS Intimates. At the time of leaving MAS Intimates he had worked in the capacity of a Production Manager at Unichela (Pvt.) Ltd., Panadura and a Plant Manager at Unichela (Pvt.) Ltd., Koggala and has been identified as a MOS – Lean Manufacturing Champion.

With his accumulated experiences in the field of Lean Manufacturing, Asitha joined Avery Dennison Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd. in 2009

as the Enterprise Lean Sigma Manger and was shortly selected as the Director Operations in Sri Lanka to head both Lean and Operations. He was offered to lead Lean Projects of Asia and subsequently promoted to the position of Enterprise Lean Sigma Champion, reporting to the Corporate and to work globally.

Asitha has been working as a Lean Consultant as the Head of Brandix Continuous Improvement Project (BCIP) at Brandix Casuwear Ltd. since 2013. In this capacity he has trained hundreds of Group Leaders, Specialists, Executives and Mangers in Lean Philosophy while implementing Lean from design to delivery and to supporting activities such as Industrial Engineering and Innovations.

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).

Asitha Suranjith Madurawalage Don

asitham@gmail.com | Asitha@thefrenigroup.com

Residence: 0771986554 | Mobile : 0773290908

MOCK INTERVIEW SESSION

Each year, Moratuwa University Textile Association(MUTA), organizes number of events that manage to harmonize the never ending bonds between the batches currently within the Department and also with those that has already passed out from the university.

While each of these events always managed to add value in numerous ways, especially to the undergraduates still within the department, the event that followed on the 27th May 2015, was indeed a highly productive day especially focused at the 3rd year undergraduates of the department.

The undergraduates were gathered at the department by 6pm on this Friday, dressed up in formal clothing with files in hands folding their CVs. The evening was to comprise a mock interview session done by the Departments own passed out graduates who have found their places in the industry and managed

to establish themselves as successful individuals. The event was organized to reinforce and brief the 3rd year undergraduates who will be going into the industry as interns in the coming months on how to face an interview.

The evening started with a presentation done about the normal etiquettes followed and expected to be followed at an interview session. The hour spent managed to give the undergraduates effective advices on how to secure the internship at their aspiring companies by performing well at the real interviews to follow on the following weeks.

The night was long, with each of the 3rd year undergraduates getting an opportunity to face the mock interviews and also getting a feedback directly after it. The event ended at around 2am the next morning with a general feedback session by the interviewers at the end of all the mock interviews.

With sincere gratitude and admiration, we again reminisce the efforts made by the graduates of the Department through the unruly hours for the betterment of the undergraduates throughout the session.

Hansadi Jayamaha



GUEST LECTURE ON BONDING AND ULTRASONIC TECHNOLOGY

The second, in the series of guest lectures organized by MUTA for the final year undergraduates of the Department was held on Friday, 22nd July at 4.00 pm at the department auditorium. The lecture was on bonding and ultrasonic technologies used in the apparel industry. Mr. Amila Perera, an alumnus of the Department participated as the resource person. Mr Amila is a “Tech Lead - Innovations” at Linea Aqua with expertise in the areas of Wearable

Technology and Bonding Technology.

Bonding is a superior and effective alternative for sewing in most cases which has shown a growing popularity in recent years within the Sri Lankan apparel industry. The lecture covered the basics of the subject including types of bonding and ultrasonic machines, types of fabric bonding, types of adhesives used in bonding, parameters to be considered in bonding, common defects, machine settings etc.

The lecture was accompanied by a very informative presentation with clear and exact images and props which made learning effective and interesting for the audience, who previously have had only limited exposure to the subject. The focus on practical aspects of bonding and ultrasonic technology rather than the theoretical aspects will make the information valuable to undergraduates evermore.

Sandesha Weerasinghe

SUCCESS STORY OF INDIKA NARASINHA

Indika Narasinha is the Director Operations of Star Garments pvt Ltd, one of the pioneers of Sri Lankan Apparel Industry for over 30 years specializing in ladies outer wear and night wear. Indika is a graduate of University of Moratuwa where he received B.Sc. second upper class honors in Textile and Clothing Technology after completing his secondary education from Nalanda College Colombo. He also holds MBA from University of Colombo and Licensed GSD UK Practitioner.

After graduation, Indika launched his carrier at Brandix as Management trainee. Where he decided to build his carrier in Industrial Engineering Department moved up ladder virtually every year and became Custer IE Manager for the casual wear cluster until he left Bandix in 2005.

Wanting to change in to some different challenges in carrier, Indika moved to Orit Apparels Lanka pvt ltd as Group Industrial Manager and then moved up the ladder in Orit and changed direction of his carrier by moving in to production as Head of Production and finally he was leading Orit operation in the capacity of Group General Manager Operation until 2011.

In 2011 Indika joined Epic Designers Pvt Ltd in the capacity of Head of Operation to lead one of it's largest operations in

Bangladesh. Epic, one of the fastest growing manufacturers in Bangladesh entrusted Indika with the responsibility of setting up their newest units in Bangladesh, moved him up the ladder by promoting him as chief Operating Officer.

After 2 and half years, Epic handed over Indika, one of their toughest and challenging operations in Vietnam as COO and Country Head. Helped Epic to convert a non-profitable operation in to a profitable operation and by expanding Epic's Operation in Vietnam by setting up 2 more new units.

He is very strong in building teams where ever he worked. With his IE background and knowledge he believe in process innovation if we are to succeed in this challenging industry.



Indika Narasinha

Director Operations
Star Garments pvt Ltd

Direct +94114837102 | Mobile - +94769213178

Email- indikan@star.lk | Fax - +94112252940

SUCCESS STORY OF YASAS SAMARAKOON

After successfully completing my A/L examinations in 1994 at Richmond College Galle, I got an opportunity to enter the University of Moratuwa Engineering faculty in 1996. As common for many of us, I struggled to get used to the university culture and English language. But with continuous effort and support from many, I was able to come out from the situation and able to enjoy university life meaningfully with joy.

I took part in extracurricular activities which helped me to develop my personality, confidence and my language skills. The Internship placement was a key milestone in my life. The Exposure, knowledge and networking which I learned immensely helped me to position myself. As a great achievement, we were able to initiate a foreign student exchange program in 2000 and I'm very glad to inform that program still continues and is immensely beneficial to university students to get foreign exposure. Today as an organization we are helping foreign students to take part in internship programs, in return our Undergraduates get an opportunity to go overseas. As final year Batch Representatives, we were able to initiate 'MUTA', which was a lacking element for the department for a long time.

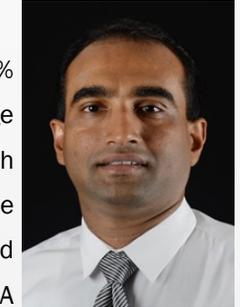
Right after the final year examinations I was able to go to Germany to work as a Research Assistant for a period of one year. Thereafter I joined MAS Shadowline in year 2001 as a

Garment technologist.

During the first 3 years, I put my 200% commitment to learn and grab knowledge in diverse areas of the business, which helped me to fast track moving up the career path. Meantime I also completed marketing qualifications in CIM UK, MBA and earned required business acumen to be a good professional rather than being just a technical expert.

Today I'm holding 3 Chartered titles in three different areas namely Textile, Marketing and Engineering.

Having exposure in diverse areas helped me to shape up to the current level where I am. My advice to graduates and under graduates is, don't let go of any opportunity which comes your way, Try to go beyond your main area of expertise where business acumen is key to success. And always think how to bring value to the business or company while doing the right thing.



Yasas Samarakoon

BSc (Eng), CEng, CText ATI, MCIM, MBA
Director – Technical & Product Innovation

YasasS@masholdings.com

+94777583350

Connect with us

www.muta.textile.mrt.ac.lk



Moratuwa University
Textile Association



BREXIT: WHAT'S IN IT FOR US?

MORATUWA UNIVERSITY TEXTILE ASSOCIATION

Department of Textile & Clothing Technology,
University of Moratuwa,
Moratuwa,
Sri Lanka.

Phone : +94112640480

Fax : +94112651787

Email : muta@uom.lk

President

Mrs. Vijitha Rathnayake

Email: vijithar@uom.lk

Secretary

Mr. Sonal de Silva

Email: sonal@mclarens.lk

Editorial Committee

Udara Somarathna

Email: udaras@uom.lk

Sandesha Weerasinghe

Email: wsandesha@gmail.com

The fancy portmanteau, 'Brexit' has been the buzzword in the global political and economic area for quite some time now. The mandate given by the British to exit the world's largest single market was historic.

This happened at a time when the apparel industry of Sri Lanka was eyeing for the Generalized System of Preferences Plus (GSP Plus) trade concession awarded by the EU. Although many experts say it is still too early to predict the consequences of this event pondering over possibilities is worthwhile.

About 35% of total exports to the EU from Sri Lanka amounting US\$ 1 billion is received by the UK. Over 80% of exports from the island to the UK comprises of apparel and textile products.

With Britain no longer in the EU, Sri Lanka will fail to tap this sizable UK market with GSP Plus backed trading. However, it also paves way to enter into new bilateral trade agreements with the UK which may in fact turn out to be more favorable to the country. Given that the Brexit process may take as long as two years to fully materialize, there is sufficient time for responsible policy makers to devise such alternative mechanisms.

The mandatory need to share the economic benefits of stronger economies such as the UK with other EU nations was one major factor which backed the Brexit referendum. The rise of nationalist sentiments against loss of sovereignty of the country was also voiced out. This situation coupled with the UK's need of a global organization in place of the EU as a strategic measure might earn the Commonwealth of Nations a preferential treatment by the UK. Sri Lanka which also holds Commonwealth membership might thus be benefitted of any such development.

It was experienced that as a result of the weakened pound and euro, and the comparable appreciation of the rupee, substantial export gains were wiped off adversely affecting the local export sector. On the other hand the economic instability that can be created by Brexit in the region will have significant long-term effects especially on developing economies such as Sri Lanka in terms of trade, currency swings, overseas development assistances (ODAs) etc.

Editorial Committee