

Message from the Chief Guest at the 52nd 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 52nd Annual Sessions, 2023 & 82nd 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 Graduateship in Chemistry (GIC) course which is a professional qualification has commenced subsequently in 1979. The Royal Society of

Chemistry, UK (RSC) has accredited your Graduateship 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 52nd Annual Sessions, and the 82nd 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,