

Secretary's Digest

A Publication of the Distinguished Secretaries' Society of Pakistan

September – December 2016

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IN THIS ISSUE

EDITOR'S NOTE

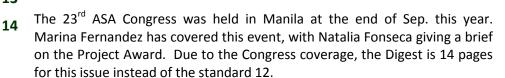
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Congress

2 - 7 Dear Friends,

- ther Thriller lanila!
- 2 4
- Delegations
- 5 6
- ASA Project Award 7
- **DSSP News** 8 - 11
- **ASA News** 12 - 13
- Light your candle for the New Year

We've come to the close of 2016 and with it the end of the Executive Committee's term. We hope you have enjoyed and benefited from the sessions and events we've organised. Everything is a learning experience, even setbacks, and we've all learnt something during this time. We wish the next Execucom the very best for their tenure.



For me, editing the 'Secretary's Digest' and maintaining DSSP's web and Facebook pages has been an exciting and enlightening experience. I have thoroughly enjoyed these past four years. Working closely with two different committees as well as the Congress committee has been very enriching.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Handing over to 29 Jan. 17 the next Execucom

As the saying goes "No man is an island" so too no task can be completed by just one person. My accomplishments with the 'Digest' have been possible because of the support and guidance I have received. The Presidents I worked under, MOK in 2013-14 and Natasha in 2015-16 encouraged my thoughts and ideas enabling me to incorporate them. So too did Cheryl, who has always been a source of guidance and support. I have been very fortunate to have two extremely good proofreaders. MOK, from whom I have learnt tremendously over the years, and my husband, Michael, who is also my most severe critic but whose opinion I value as I get an outsider's perspective from him.

I am happy to hand over the reins to Marina who I'm sure will take the 'Secretary's Digest' to further heights.

Till the next time

Goretti Ali



23RD ASA CONGRESS, MANILA, PHLIPPINES - 2016

Today's Vision Tomorrow's Reality 25 - 29 September, 2019

Another Thriller in Manila!



As a first time participant in the biennial Congress of The Association of Secretaries and Administrative Professionals in Asia Pacific (ASA), I consider myself fortunate to experience and celebrate ASA events in the country where it all began, in the Philippines.

Manila between 25 – 29 September 2016, became the first and only city to host the ASA Congress a record three times. Since 1974, Manila through its Philippine Association of Secretaries and Administrative Professionals, Inc. (PAS) has been the guiding light of the apex body of Secretarial and Administrative Professionals. To my delight one of the eight Asian cities that has already twice played host to the ASA Congress, is my home city of Karachi. As most of you already know. Karachi was the host of the 22nd

most of you already know, Karachi was the host of the 22nd

Congress held in

2014, as well as the 9th Congress held in 1990



25 Sep. 16 - Council of Presidents Meeting and photo-op

24 Sep. 16 - Pre-Congress ASA Council of Presidents and Coordinators' Welcome Cocktail

with our previous DSSP President and Immediate Past President of ASA Ms. Maharukh Bhiladwala (MOK) steering both these Congresses skillfully and successfully.

Over the years, we have been told all 14 active member-states of the Association have built a tight bond and it is that bond, that closeness, that sense of understanding that has nurtured lasting relationships between Asian professionals across the continent and beyond.

This year's ASA Congress began and lived up to its billing of usual Asian efficiency, camaraderie and strong leadership. I was keen to witness this wonderful network of friends and colleagues who would exchange new and innovative ideas. Our contingent from Pakistan this year was perhaps a little leaner especially when compared with the 70 plus Indians or the 51 member Malaysian team, but it was power-packed with strong, independent and ever efficient women from the DSSP.

I could hardly contain my excitement while flying out to Manila with my DSSP colleagues, lured by its long-held reputation of a fantasy and fun-filled land. Ninoy Aquino International Airport, I have to confess was much larger than I expected. Terminal buildings are spread out over a vast area and had our hosts not shepherded us the way they did, we would have been lost, endlessly trudging along the shuttle service, though colourful and endearing, especially for me because I work for a large bus and truck making company, Hino.

We were treated to a traditional Filipino welcome, with our ASA guides presenting each of us with a beautiful beaded necklace. What a great way to say, "Mabuhay!".

True to ASA Congress tradition, representatives of different member countries donned their national costumes, showing each other and the world the value by the diversity of its members and bringing colour into the 23rd Congress. The National Anthem of Philippines was played and sung with gusto rousing the Filipinos and other delegates as well.



25 Sep. 16 - Opening Night

Head of ASA Congress Committee Ms. Sally Magalong and Founding President Ms. Virginia Elbinias, read out the welcome message, gave the opening remarks and explained the theme of the event, **Today's Vision Tomorrow's**

Reality. Ms. Elbinias encouraged all the delegates to bond with old and new friends and while doing it to enjoy the Congress. A relaxing dinner followed with performers singing old classics, it was a welcome way to end day one of the Congress.



26 Sep. 16 – Keynote Address, Mr. Sonny Colomo former Presidential Communication Operation Office Secretary

The highlight of the second day was the key-note address of Mr. Sonny Coloma, former Presidential Communication Operation Office Secretary. Mr. Coloma possibly paid the best tribute to secretarial and administrative professionals, by calling them "diamonds in the sky". To illustrate the point further a group of singers later appeared on the stage, honoring the 'Diamonds in the Sky' with Beyoncé's hit song of the same name.



25 Sep. 16 – Opening Night Virginia Elbinias, ASA Founding President



26 Sep. 16 – Opening Day, Natasha Mavalvala, President, Liana Lobo, Secretary, Members- Afroze Tungekar, Marina Fernandez and Natalia Fonseca

Before lunch, the Congress undertook a massive challenge: photographing each delegation with the Senior ASA Congress Officials. Our Pakistani delegates wore their signature green jackets and white

trousers, matching the country's flag. Although all the delegations looked smart in their Congress attire, the most eyecatching of them all were the Chinese who donned shimmery yellow coats and black skirts.

Following that the



26 Sep. 16 - Session in progress

Congress changed track, moving on to a series of useful lectures on subjects as diverse as financial literacy to happiness and complementing each other in the workplace and how Social Media is affecting the world at large. Ex-Beauty Queen Joyce Titular made an appearance and regaled us with her charming anecdotes.

The ASA Bazaar was held at the open lounge of the Marriott Hotel from 05:00 - 06:30 p.m. Most of the items sold out within an hour. The Associations that contributed to the Bazaar were the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Taiwan-China, Japan, Sri Lanka, Brunei, Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea. DSSP made a cash contribution.



26 Sep. 16 – The ASA Bazaar





27 Sep. 16 - City Tour, Fort Santiago and Rizal Park

The next day, Congress delegates were taken on an Educational Tour around the city, planned by Ms. Nenita Usita and Ms. Zena Cantor. We saw the historic Fort Santiago and wandered about its ample spaces. We also visited Rizal Park, which is the final resting place of **Philippines** Nations modern founder Dr. Jose Rizal. From there we proceeded to the breath taking, Manila Ocean

Park and Hotel H2O. The mermaid dance inside the aquarium housed in H2O Hotel was a spectacular sight. The trip was rounded off by a visit to the Mall of Asia, the Philippines fourth largest shopping centre and the 13th in the world.

The fourth day of the Congress was chock full of events. Several speakers gave us new insights into personal development and leadership goals. Motivational speaker and author Mr. Chinkee Tan was, in my opinion, very impressive. He offered us many tips on how to think BIG and unleash the potential in us. The representatives of seven delegations made short and informative presentations on their respective Associations and their activities throughout the year. To my surprise, their focus was on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and humanitarian causes. As the judges later said it was very hard to choose between delegations, but in the end it was Malaysia that stole their hearts and emerged as the Winner of the ASA Project Award. I did feel bad for the other delegates, because it seemed they too were worthy of the Award.

Each delegation was presented with Attendance and Recognition Certificates along with our respective group photos, which were handed over to the respective heads of the delegations. All of us were delighted to receive our Certificates. After the tea break was the exchange of gifts between the host and the attending countries. DSSP



28 Sep. 16 - Exchange of gifts The Host and DSSP

President Natasha Mavalvala presented the host with a handcrafted collapsible wooden table. Each Country's President presented their gift in turn. Some of the gifts received were Commemorative laminated shields etc.



28 Sep. 16 - Closing ceremony, ASA 's Council of Presidents and Coordinators

But the day was far from over, we moved on to the group entertainment segments. Delegates from Japan and Sri Lanka enthralled us with their song and dance routines, while Malaysian delegates gave us a slice of their national life and history with a beautifully constructed play. Our delegation from Pakistan kept everyone in stitches with a play, 'The Hapless Robber', especially written for the 23rd Congress by IPP ASA, MOK. It provided muchneeded comic relief to the audience and was thoroughly enjoyed. Final

announcements were made for those leaving early the next day.

The 23rd Congress was much more than a network platform, it was a showcase of diversity and ambition that secretaries and administrative professionals can soar above their dreams and achieve all that they want from life.

28 Sep. 16 - Papua New Guinea to host the 24th Congress with the ASA Flag and G

The 23rd ASA Congress ended on a happy note, not with Paalam ('Goodbye' in Tagalog) but with "See you in Papua New Guinea in 2018!" Papua New Guinea, a country of immense cultural and biological diversity; it's known for its beaches and coral reefs. Inland are active volcanoes, granite Mount Wilhelm, dense rainforest and hiking routes like the Kokoda Trail.

The Delegations



The hosts - Philippine Association of Secretaries and Administrative Professionals, Inc. (PAS)



The Women Secretaries' Association of Thailand (WSAT)



Ikatan Sekretaris Indonesia (ISI)



Singapore Association of Administrative Professionals (SAAP)



Indian Association of Secretaries and Administrative Professionals (IASAP)



Malaysian Association of Professional Secretaries and Administrators (MAPSA)



Chinese Association of Secretaries and Administrative Professionals (CASAP)



Distinguished Secretaries' Society of Pakistan (DSSP)



Japan Secretaries and Administrative Professionals Association (JSA)



The Sri Lanka Association of Administrative and Professional Secretaries (SLAAPS)



Association of Secretaries and Administrative Professionals – Brunei (ASAP)



Professional Secretaries Welfare Association – Bangladesh (PSWA)



Papua New Guinea Association of Administrative Professionals (PNGAAP)

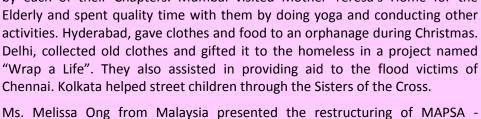
Hosts of the 24th ASA Congress in 2018!

The ASA Project Award in the Philippines!

The second ASA Project Award was held at the 23rd Congress in the Philippines and seven countries participated. There were three local judges for the competition. Ms. Elberia from Columbia International Food Products, Inc., Ms. Nelly from Sawal Group Co. and Mr. Joshua from UP School.

The contest kicked off with Indonesia. Ms. Lusia Soetanto presented her Association's history and the activities they are involved in. These include trainings/seminars on public speaking, grooming, tips for beginners at interviews, etc. After the successful completion of each training/seminar, certificates are awarded to the participants by the certified professional group in Indonesia.

Next, Ms. Sharon Pires from India presented the various activities carried out by each of their Chapters. Mumbai visited Mother Teresa's Home for the Elderly and spent quality time with them by doing yoga and conducting other activities. Hyderabad, gave clothes and food to an orphanage during Christmas. Delhi, collected old clothes and gifted it to the homeless in a project named "Wrap a Life". They also assisted in providing aid to the flood victims of





Natalia Fonseca with Lusia Soetanto

Malaysian Association of Professional Secretaries and Administrators. This included recruiting young blood into the Association, so as to keep up with the changing profession, revisiting their mission and vision, re-defining the roles and responsibilities of members and succession planning. Apart from this, MAPSA obtained an affiliation with NCWO National Council of Women's Organisations, through which their members can attend seminars being conducted through them and brighten their image amongst other organisations. MAPSA also developed in-house trainers from their senior members, as they had vast experience in the secretarial field. The participants, who attended trainings conducted by them, were awarded with certificates from the government, so as to motivate and recognise them for their efforts.

Ms. Dale Wang from China presented their Association's re-union. This was to introduce former members to their current members and develop a forum to meet one another.

Ms. Harumi Ishii from Japan presented the various activities their Association is engaged in. This included educational seminars, friendship meetings, senior forums, CBS examinations (Certified Bilingual Secretaries) and discussions on the current issues and challenges faced by their members at the work place.



ASA Project Chart by MAPSA

Sri Lanka explained and presented their Association's, engagement, which focused on increasing the awareness of the secretarial profession. They also conducted CSR activities which included helping women in need at prisons and rehabilitation centers.

Last but not the least was Korea who presented their Association's involvement in training secretaries in specific fields, which included medical, legal and the public sector.

After all the Presentations, time was given to the judges for final deliberations; in the meanwhile a few countries displayed their activities through Flow Charts and pictorial Presentations. Finally, Malaysian Association of Professional Secretaries Administrators was awarded as the Winner for the ASA Project Award 2016!

By Natalia Fonseca

DSSP NEWS

Donations to Charitable Causes

During 2015 – 16, the DSSP contributed to three charitable causes:



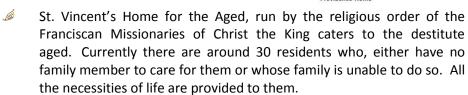
'St Vincent's Home for the Aged'

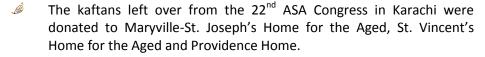
- Little Ariana Quettawalla had a rare blood disorder which only a bone marrow transplant carried out in Singapore could cure. As the family had exhausted all their resources, they turned to the community, friends and family for help. At the 24 Jan. 2016 lunch, the DSSP members present, donated generously and this was combined with DSSP's own funds to help with her treatment. Ariana had the transplant around April, responded well to treatment and is on her way to recovery.
- Providence Home, run by the religious order of the Daughters of the Cross caters to children from broken homes. Presently the Home

houses around 20 girls aged from 6 – 16. Besides educating the girls, they are taught cooking, sewing and other skills enabling them to make a life for themselves once they are grown.



Providence Home





These Homes are under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Karachi.



'Maryville'

AGM / Report on Congress / Elections at the Pearl Continental – 30 Oct. 2016



The AGM in progress

DSSP's AGM (Annual General Meeting) for the year 2015-16 was held on the last Sunday of Oct. at the Conference Room of the PC. The members who attended met the required quorum. President Natasha Mavalvala chaired the AGM proceedings along with IPPXO MOK, Secretary Liana Lobo and Treasurer Mahnaz Irani.

One minute's silence was observed for Bapsy Nari Patel, Tehmina Framroze Putloo and Bapsy Rustom Virjee, senior DSSP members who passed away on 6 and 11 Sep. and 29 Oct. respectively.

The Minutes of the EGM (Extra Ordinary General Meeting) held on 28 Feb. 2016 and the Audited Accounts for 2015-16 were taken as read and approved.



A minute of silence for DSSP's deceased members



Two Past Presidents and two Treasurers, current and past



Winners of the Halloween bags



View from Pearl Continental's Chandni Lounge

The President Natasha Mavalvala informed members of the excellent work done by DSSP's Treasurer Mahnaz Irani throughout her term in office and the auditor's comments and appreciation. Members applauded Mahnaz on her commitment.

Members were apprised of the donation made to little Ariana Quettawalla at the EGM. Ariana has had her surgery, her doctors are happy with her recovery and she has returned to Karachi. Her family is very appreciative of the assistance from DSSP and its members.

The President then updated members on the 23rd ASA Congress held in Manila, Philippines from the 25 - 29 Sep. 2016. The Congress had a large attendance from the entire ASA world, but when compared to the 22nd ASA Congress held in Pakistan in 2014, attendees complimented the Pakistan delegation on the exceptional Congress arranged by the DSSP. This was the work of IPPXO MOK, Congress Chairperson Cheryl Mathew and the Congress Committee. Members commended the team on their outstanding work.

The President also informed members that at the CP (Council of Presidents) Meeting in Manila the work of DSSP's Editor Goretti Ali was recognised. Besides publishing the 'Secretary's Digest', Goretti maintains DSSP's web and Facebook pages. In view of her work, ASA requested her to revamp and maintain the ASA web page, which is presently hosted by the Secretariat in Manila. Members applauded Goretti on her dedication. After careful consideration Goretti declined this offer in view of the impediments it could pose for DSSP in terms of payment to the web masters and hosting it from a country other than where the Secretariat is located.

The President introduced the next Execucom to take office for 2017-18. The office bearers are:

President:	Cheryl Mathew	Unopposed
Secretary	Clara Lidwina D'Souza	Unopposed
Editor Newsletter	Marina Fernandez	Unopposed
Executive Member	Caroline Charles	Unopposed
Executive Member	Glenda D'Souza	Unopposed
Executive Member	Monica John	Unopposed
IPPXO	Natasha Mavalvala	

The posts for Treasurer, ASA Coordinator, Social and Joint Secretaries were vacant. Sunnu Golwalla chose to take up the position of ASA Coordinator and was welcomed to the Committee. Mahnaz Irani agreed to continue as Treasurer until her position is filled.

Members were then entertained to three cards of Tombola each playing three games. Some members luckily won more than once. In between each card, lucky names were drawn and nine members won Halloween bags.

At the end of the evening members were treated to a scrumptious Hi-tea at PC's roof top Chandni Lounge which has a spectacular view of the city.

DSSP's Anniversary Gala at the Avari Towers - 26 Nov. 2016

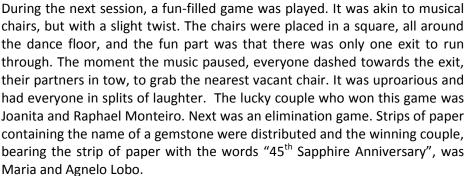
DSSP's 45th Anniversary – Sapphire Gala

The DSSP celebrated its 45th year of existence with a sensational Sapphire Gala. It was a "blue" affair indeed, right from the door gifts, which were presented in blue tote-style bags, to the blue balloons adorning the Khorshed Mahal at Avari Towers. The table pieces, white gladioli in blue water, completed the decor. The hall presented a tranquil and refreshing look as practically all the guests had donned varying hues of the theme colour, blue.

The gala opened with a few words of welcome from the emcee for the evening, Charmaine Fernandes. After that, Natasha Mavalvala, the President, took a few moments to introduce the Committee members and lauded them for their combined efforts in putting together an event such as the Annual Gala.

That being done, the dancing began, superbly managed by the DJ, Alfie Farrell, who got everyone into the mood with a couple of slow numbers, followed by fast tunes. Keeping in line with the theme, people even swayed to the Christmassy song 'Blue Christmas'!

During the next session, a fun-filled game was played. It was akin to musical



A sumptuous dinner awaited all who had worked up an appetite on the dance floor, and also those who were seated and simply enjoyed the dancing.

After dinner, it was time for the much-awaited lucky draws, where each person turned out to be a winner! All the prizes were beautifully giftwrapped in blue and silver packaging. There was an assortment of prizes, from salon and spa treatment vouchers to cakes and complimentary dinners, extravagant hampers, household items, etc. The next dancing session had another interesting game. While dancing, both partners had to pass through a blue elastic loop from head to foot before passing it on to the next couple. The couple who won was Cheryl and Felix Almeida. The dancing continued through the night.

On the whole, it was a beautiful evening. Kudos to the entire Committee for putting up a very well organised show!

By Francesca Fernandez - PPL



The table decor



Alfie and Terry – the lively DJ's



Enjoying the event



The ladies' bag

Year-end Lunch at the Marriott - 11 Dec. 2016



A festive affair



Winner of 'Dinner for Two'



Delicious Pakistani Cuisine



The Execucom

Amidst the festive season, the DSSP celebrated the term (2015-16) and year end with a lunch to an almost full house. This was held on Sun. 11 Dec. 2016 at the Dumpukht, Karachi Marriott. The hall and tables were tastefully decorated with tinsel, table tents etc. in Christmas colours enhancing the joyful ambiance. Members were requested to wear red and green with a touch of Sapphire which added to the festivities. In the spirit of the event everyone received a gift bag. Gala bags were also on sale at cost price.

Natasha Mavalvala, DSSP's President welcomed all to an afternoon of gaiety and festive fun. A table game 'Thread that Gem' organised by Charmaine Fernandes, DSSP's Social Secretary was played. Every table was given a paper bag containing the items to make a necklace. These were in the anniversary colours of sapphire and silver as the DSSP celebrates its 45th (Sapphire) Anniversary this year. Each group had 15 minutes to put together the chain with a participant modeling it. Nine artistic secretaries displayed their necklaces and it was fun to see the creation of each table as they walked around the hall. The judges were MOK (IPPXO), and Charmaine. The winners were Maria Lobo's table with Rosemary D'Silva's as runners-up. The winners each received a solar powered lamp with the option to charge through electrical mains as well.





Modeling the necklaces

Before lunch, there was a lucky draw with gifts including a voucher for Dinner for Two at the Movenpick, a cake from Cillies, etc. Lunch was a delectable Pakistani cuisine of Mutton Korma, Chicken Biryani, Beef Nihari, Palak Paneer, Tarka Daal, Lahori Fried Fish etc. A wide variety of salads and desserts complemented the main course.

The last item of the day was a set of three rounds of Tombola conducted by MOK, where several ladies walked away with generous cash prizes!

The event ended with the President wishing all a merry Christmas, a happy New Year and the very best of the festive season, announcing that the ceremony to hand over charge to the incoming Executive Committee 2017-18 would be held on Sun. 29 Jan. 2017. This event would be organised by the 2015-16 Executive Committee at the behest of the incoming President, Cheryl Mathew.

MISA CONGRESS LIFE LIF

ASA NEWS

The 23^{rd} ASA Congress was held in the Philippines from 25 – 29 Sep. 2016. Representation from the ASA world was :

- 71 from IASAP India (7 chapters)
- 51 from MAPSA Malaysia
- 40 from SLAAPS Sri Lanka
- 39 from PNGAAP Papua New Guinea
- 29 from PSWA Bangladesh
- 20 from PAS The hosts, Philippines
- 9 from CASAP China or Taiwan
- 8 from WSAT Thailand
- 5 from DSSP Pakistan
- 3 from SAAP Singapore
- 3 from ISI Indonesia
- 2 from JSA Japan
- 1 from ASAP Brunei



PAS' Christmas meeting

PAS (Philippine Association of Secretaries and Administrative Professionals, Inc.) had their Sep. GMM (General Membership Meeting) on the 1 Oct. 2016 at the Commerce and Industry Plaza.

An annual Administrative Professionals Conference titled 'The Ultimate Administrative Professional – Performing as Manager' was scheduled for the 24 - 26 Nov. at the Crown Regency Hotel and Towers, Cebu.

Their Dec. GMM with a Christmas theme was held on Mon. 12 Dec. 2016.



WSAT's session

WSAT (The Women Secretaries' Association of Thailand) conducted a one-day workshop for Secretaries and Administrative Assistants on 24 Sep. 2016

WSAT has changed their webpage colour to black and white in commemoration of their King Bhumibol Adulyadej passing on 13 Oct. 2016.

A session on 'Beena's Blueprints - Building a Successful Career' was held on 26 Nov. 2016



SAAP's Installation Ceremony

SAAP's (Singapore Association of Administrative Professionals) Management Council 2016-17 Installation Ceremony was on Sat. 12 Nov. 2016 afternoon at Bliss House, Halal cum Theme Restaurant. The afternoon's activities included the inauguration of new members, presentation of SAAP Loyalty Awards and a Hair Beauty Talk.



IASAP's 45th AGM

IASAP (Indian Association of Secretaries and Administrative Professionals) had a talk at the YWCA International Centre on Fri. 21 Oct. from 6 – 8 pm. Ms. Benaisha Kharas spoke on 'The Power of Personal Appearance'. The way we look affects the way we think, act and feel and in turn the way others respond to us.

The 45th AGM of IASAP was held on Friday, 4th Nov. 2016 at 6.30 p.m. at Holy Name High School Hall, Colaba, Mumbai. Ms. Homai H. Mehta President Emeritus announced the names of the elected members. Ms. Sharon Pires continues as All-India President.

A Christmas party was held in December, where contributions from members are given to charity, matched by the same amount from IASAP's kitty.

IASAP Pune organised a Pre-Congress Tour of Vietnam and Cambodia from 20 - 24 Sep. 2016.



IASAP Delhi's Pearl Anniversary

On 10 Sep. 2016 IASAP Hyderabad organised a session on 'How to get financially fit' by Ms. Aparna Kaushik, Deputy Vice President – Equity & Private Banking, HDFC Bank Ltd. This was sponsored by Caspian Impact Investment Adviser Private Limited and held at their office.

Ms. Sravanthi Reddy, CA intern and member of the Internal Audit team of several companies shared a fresh young perspective on the government's overnight declaration for demonetisation of India's two biggest notes which has created a huge 'cash chaos' across the country. This event included lunch and was held on Sat. 26 Nov. 2016.



Mr. Colin Fitzgerald speaking to the members

On Sat. 10 Dec. 2016 IASAP Hyderabad visited Bala Tejassu, orphanage for young boys. They interacted with the children, arranged for lunch and donated in cash and kind.

IASAP Delhi celebrated their Pearl (30th) Anniversary on 1 Nov. 2016.

IASAP – West Bengal (Kolkata) organised a workshop on Sun. 13 Nov. 2016 at Hotel Niharika. The resource person was Mr. Colin Fitzgerald, HR Consultant and the topic 'My Personality'.

IASAP – West Bengal's (Kolkata) Christmas Party is scheduled for Sat. 17 Dec. 2016



SLAAPS Winners at Members Day

SLAAPS (The Sri Lanka Association of Administrative and Professional Secretaries) Members Day was held on Sun. 27 Nov. 2016 at The Gateway Hotel Airport Garden, Seeduwa. The theme was 'Unity is Strength'. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the Member of the Year Award. This year had two winners. The day's programme included games and the performance at the 23rd ASA Congress was also staged.

LIGHT YOUR CANDLE FOR THE NEW YEAR

DSSP'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY OF WISHING you THE VERY BEST OF THE SEASON AND A HAPPY, PROSPEROUS ANDPEACEFUL 2017!



Light the candle in your soul,

Carry it into the dark.

If you find a flame that's lost its glow

Light it with a spark.

The flame only grows brighter
When it gives another light,
And a billion burning candles
Can drive away the night.

Believe in yourself to the depth of your being,
Nourish the talents your spirit is freeing.
Know in your heart when the going gets slow,
That your faith in yourself will continue to grow.
Don't forfeit ambition when others may doubt,
It's your life to live, you must live it throughout.
Learn from your errors, don't dwell in the past,
Never withdraw from a world that is vast.
Believe in yourself, find the best that is you,
Let your spirit prevail, "Steer a course that is true."

Hold up your candle for all to see,
Reach from shore to shore,
And light the world with kindness
Now and forever more!

Author Unknown