

**CA**



THE INSTITUTE OF  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF SRI LANKA



TOGETHER WE ARE  
**STRONGER**  
TOGETHER WE  
ACHIEVE GREATER

**KEY MILESTONES OF  
CA SRI LANKA FOR THE YEAR 2020**

**Dear Members and Students,**

The year 2020 will go down in history as one of the most challenging years endured in our lifetime, following the COVID-19 global pandemic. Notwithstanding the challenging circumstances surrounding us, CA Sri Lanka stayed true to its position as a world class professional body throughout the year 2020.

Under the visionary leadership of President Mr. Manil Jayasinghe, Vice President Mr. Sanjaya Bandara and the Council, the Institute rolled out a series of key milestones during 2020 for the benefit of our dynamic Members and Students. With the unwavering commitment of the Committees and Staff, CA Sri Lanka continued to remain an important catalyst in the country's professional domain whilst ensuring the same level of commitment and determination despite the challenges of working remotely amidst serious health concerns.

As we embark on a New Year, we take this opportunity to wish you a safe, healthy and prosperous 2021!

**Dulani Fernando**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



# MEMBER INITIATIVES

- COVID-19 Centric Initiatives
- Gearing up During the Pandemic
- Engaging with Regulatory Authorities and Chambers to Rebuild the Economy
- Accounting and Auditing Guidelines Related to COVID-19
- CA Sri Lanka Takes Lead in Uniting Accountancy Bodies to Address COVID-19 Challenges
- Dedicated Member Hotline
- Continuing CPD Amidst Restrictions and Lockdown
- CA Sri Lanka Join Hands with SDB Bank to Drive SMEs Forward
- Enhanced Job Portal
- Free Knowledge Enhancing Webinars
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- CA Business School Goes Virtual
- Virtual Member Networking Opportunities
- Our Contribution and Representation
- Bi-weekly Quizzes for Members
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- New USQ MBA for Members
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- Certified Tax Advisor Programme Goes Online
- Accounting and Auditing Sessions for Members
- Revamping the Annual Report Awards
- SAFA BPA Awards in Sri Lanka
- CA Sri Lanka Continues to Champion for Integrated Reporting
- Adoption of Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards, and Guidance Notes
- Establishment of the Public Sector Task Force
- Public Sector Initiatives
- Other Technical Initiatives

# COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2019

## COVID-19 Centric Initiatives

In our standing as the National Body of Accountants, CA Sri Lanka took the lead role to assist and support Members as well as to help rebuild the economy. In rolling out this important objective, the Institute established a Task Force to ascertain and address the COVID-19 impact, while also taking steps to launch the CA Sri Lanka COVID-19 Resource Hub.

The Institute also signed a MoU with People's Bank to Facilitate a Special Loan Scheme for Members and launched the "Challenge Accepted" Member Support Program for the Membership affected by the pandemic and lockdown.

## Gearing up During the Pandemic

The Council, Committees and Staff of CA Sri Lanka geared up and worked relentlessly throughout the lockdown and other challenging conditions after the COVID-19 global pandemic entered the shores of Sri Lanka.

The Council continued to provide leadership to the team via virtual meetings to ensure important, timely decisions were made promptly, while the numerous committees continued to be actively involved in carrying out the necessary initiatives forward.

The staff of the Institute also worked round the clock despite operating remotely from their homes to assist members, students and other stakeholders on numerous matters

## Engaging with Regulatory Authorities and Chambers to Rebuild the Economy

CA Sri Lanka took the lead to actively engage with Regulatory Authorities and National Chambers to help rebuild the economy and help maintain business resilience throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis.


As the National Body of Accountants, CA Sri Lanka engaged with Regulatory Authorities as well as National Chambers to understand and assess the issues and challenges faced by various stakeholders and explore solutions from the perspective of the Accounting Profession, to weather the storm and sustain businesses and help lay the foundation for a good recovery.



## Accounting and Auditing Guidelines Related to COVID-19

CA Sri Lanka issued a series of guidelines in relation to Accounting and Auditing, following the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidelines issued included the following:

- Application Guidance for COVID-19 Pandemic: Implications on Financial Reporting.
- FAQs on Guidance Notes on Accounting Considerations of COVID-19.
- Guidance Notes on the implications on Auditing, issued with the guidance of the Sri Lanka Auditing Standards Committee.
- FAQs and related guidance when carrying out audits based on Sri Lanka Auditing Standard for the Audits of Non – Specified Business Enterprises. (Issued with the guidance of SMP Capacity Building Task Force).
- CA Sri Lanka conducted a series of stakeholder meetings with the Central Bank, Banking Community and Finance Companies to provide the necessary guidance and discussion regarding the applications.



## CA Sri Lanka Takes Lead in Uniting Accountancy Bodies to Address COVID-19 Challenges

CA Sri Lanka played the lead role in banding together the country's Professional Accounting Organizations to collaborate on an initiative aimed at showcasing the crucial role the accountancy profession must play amidst COVID-19.

CA Sri Lanka, together with the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT), Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and the Institute of Certified Management Accountants of Sri Lanka (CMA) organized a series of webinars which highlighted the pertinent role the profession can play to support policy makers, businesses, and accounting professionals to mitigate the economic crisis following the global pandemic. The webinars comprised of a total of 5 thought provoking sessions and engaged 5 speakers and 25 panelists. The webinars were viewed by several thousands of professional accountants.



## Dedicated Member Hotline

In our efforts to provide our Members with a dedicated point of contact, CA Sri Lanka introduced a Hotline for the convenience of Members who wish to contact the Institute for all member-related matters.



## Continuing CPD Amidst Restrictions and Lockdown

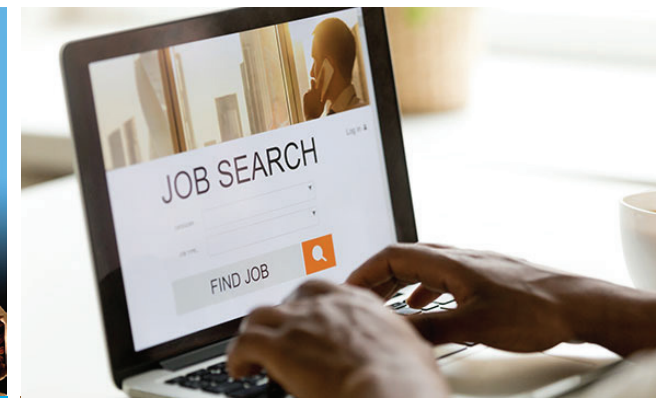
Although it was a challenging task to conduct CPD programmes to enhance the professional development of the Members amidst lockdowns and other restrictions, CA Sri Lanka conducted over 56 CPD programmes during 2020, offering approximately 210 CPD hours enabling the Members to meet the required annual CPD requirement. Most of these CPD events were offered online keeping in line with the health regulations. In addition to the above CPD programmes, 54 hours of CPD were offered via the online academy.



## CA Sri Lanka Join Hands with SDB Bank to Drive SMEs Forward

In a landmark move aimed at reinforcing SMEs in the country, CA Sri Lanka entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Sanasa Development Bank PLC to provide small and medium businesses with better access to finance and essential business acumen for their long-term success. The agreement paves way for SMEs to continue to be an integral part in Sri Lanka's future journey while continuing to be an important pillar in adding value to the socio-economic development of the country.

CA Sri Lanka designed the programme to provide required finance literacy to 500 entrepreneurs across all districts while creating a pool of over 100 mentors which included CA members, CBA members and students who are following Corporate and Strategic levels of the CA program. The mentors will advise the SMEs on how to take their businesses further. The programme was piloted in Galle and will gradually extend to other districts.



## Enhanced Job Portal

Following COVID-19 and the related impact it had on the job market, the Institute took steps to improve the unique Job Portal offered via the CA Sri Lanka website making it an important platform for Members and potential members who are seeking new or better employment prospects.



## Free Knowledge Enhancing Webinars

CA Sri Lanka offered 33 hours of free webinars for the benefit of its Members throughout 2020 and since the initial lockdown in March, which covered a range of pertinent areas including the impact of the pandemic and the inter-connected economic crisis.



## Member Skill Bank

With the vision of expanding the Member Profiles to recognize the skills and competencies of the Members, and the respective industries they serve in, CA Sri Lanka upgraded the Member Data Form which members are expected to submit at the time of their annual renewal in order to create a member skill bank which will be launched in 2021.



## CA Business School Goes Virtual

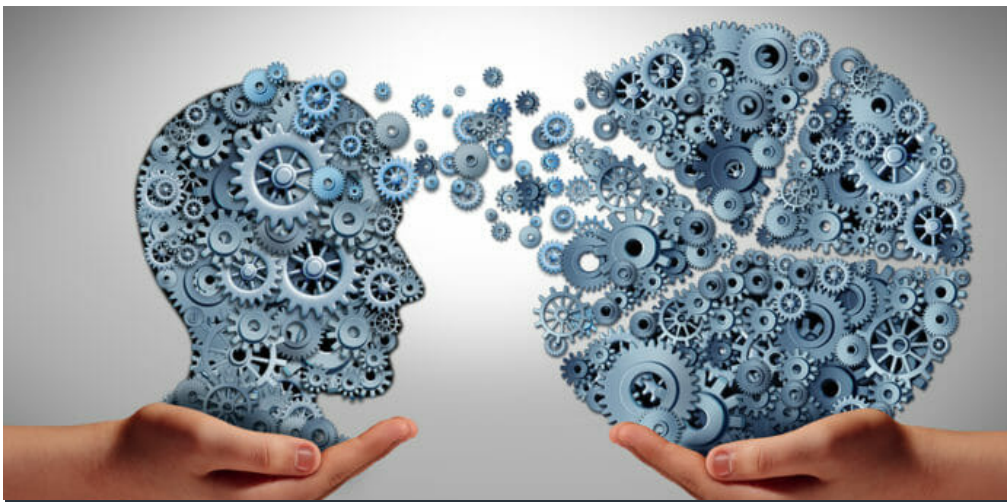
The CA Sri Lanka Business School took steps to conduct all its programmes including the Master of Business Administration, Executive Diploma, Postgraduate Diploma and short courses online for the benefit of the registered participants, which paved way for the students to follow all the programmes without interruptions despite the initial lockdown from March 2020 and other health guidelines.

All relevant examinations were also held online for the first time in the Business Schools' history.



## Virtual Member Networking Opportunities

The traditional networking events and activities were not possible due to the health guidelines in place, as a result CA Sri Lanka organized a Virtual Quiz Night with over 100 resident and non-resident members joining the event which challenged the knowledge and also showcased the talents of Members.



## Our Contribution and Representation

CA Sri Lanka influences national policy formulation in areas related to the accountancy profession and contribute in a significant manner to the national development efforts.

During the year 2020, CA Sri Lanka continued to play a pivotal role and represented several Regulatory Authorities including:

- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards Monitoring Board

## Bi-weekly Quizzes for Members

CA Sri Lanka introduced a bi-weekly quiz for the benefit of Members to help them enhance their knowledge and also obtain CPD hours in a competitive matter. For the year 2020, a total of 9 quizzes with 220 questions were offered through the bi-weekly quiz, with 27 winners being recognised for their exceptional skills.

## Forensic Accounting Course for Overseas Members

For the first time, the much sought after Certificate Course in Forensic Accounting was delivered as an online course, which also paved way for overseas Members residing in Australia, Middle East, Canada, Maldives, Myanmar and Africa to join the programme.



## New USQ MBA for Members

In addition to the popular Master of Business Administration offered in partnership with Australia's University of Southern Queensland (USQ), a new MBA known as the 'Master of Business and Innovation (MBSI)' from USQ was introduced in 2020 for the benefit of Members.

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## BUDGET WEBINAR 2021



For the first time in the history of the annual budget seminar, the CA Sri Lanka Budget Seminar 2021 was held on a virtual platform due to the pandemic and health regulations. Despite the virtual format, the seminar attracted a large number of participants from all over the country.

## Certified Tax Advisor Programme Goes Online

Lectures for the Certified Tax Advisor Programme were conducted online due to the health guidelines issued by the authorities. The programme is conducted at three levels: Awareness, Advisory and Application. Amidst health restrictions, six exams were conducted for the three levels during 2020.



## Accounting and Auditing Sessions for Members

CA Sri Lanka conducted dedicated technical sessions on the Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards which focused on:

- Programme for Banks and Finance Companies on SLFRS 9 with External Challenges
- Discussion on SLFRS 17 Insurance Contracts with Recent Amendments and Challenges in Implementation
- Impact on SLFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers on Different Industries
- Annual Seminar Series on Sri Lanka Accounting Standards
- Dedicated Workshop on SLFRS for SMEs
- Programme on High Level Overview on SLFRSs
- Awareness Programme on Anti-Money Laundering Guidelines issued by Central Bank for Accountants
- Guidance Notes on COVID-19 & the Implications of Financial Reporting
- Guidance Notes on COVID-19 & the Implications of Auditing
- Ethical Consideration for Professional Accountants post COVID-19
- Building Business Resilience in the New Normal – Response to the Crisis
- Meet the Challenges when Carrying out Audits based on SLAuS for the audits of Non-SBEs

55<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
AWARDS  
2019



## Revamping the Annual Report Awards

CA Sri Lanka published the Annual Report Awards Guideline for 2020 and have initiated the process to revamp the prestigious Annual Report Awards Competition by automating the marking scheme, which will come into effect from 2021, when the competition makes a comeback this year.



SOUTH ASIAN FEDERATION OF ACCOUNTANTS

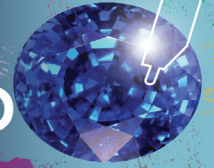
Best Presented Annual Report Awards,  
Integrated Reporting Award &  
SAARC Anniversary Award for  
Corporate Governance Disclosures  
2019

23 December 2020 - Colombo, Sri Lanka

## SAFA BPA Awards in Sri Lanka

CA Sri Lanka hosted the SAFA Best Presented Annual Reports (BPA) Ceremony in December 2020 in Sri Lanka. The awards ceremony is recognized as the most prestigious accolade for financial reporting in the South Asian region.

# INTEGRATED THINKING AND REPORTING



## CA Sri Lanka Continues to Champion for Integrated Reporting

CA Sri Lanka continued to champion companies to adopt integrated reporting during 2020. To fulfill this objective, the Institute organized an insightful forum on "Integrated Reporting: The Winning Story" which shed light on the benefits for companies to adopt integrated reporting and integrated thinking.



# Adoption of Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards, and Guidance Notes

- Adopt SLFRS 16 – COVID 19 Related Rent Concessions on Leases
- Issued Application Guidance Notes on SLFRS 16 - Leases
- Adopt Compilation of IFRIC Agenda Decisions - Volume 1 and Volume 2
- Issue Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing Standards Bound Volumes - 2020
- Adoption of Sri Lanka Standard on Auditing (SLAuS) 315 (Revised 2019) Identifying and Assessing Risks of Material Misstatement in Sri Lanka
- Adoption of Sri Lanka Standard on Related Services (SLSRS) 4400 (Revised) Agreed-Upon Procedures Engagements
- Issue a sample letter format to the Auditors on 'Procedure to resolve matters giving rise to modified audit opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report'
- Submitting comments for the Exposure Drafts, Discussion Papers and Comprehensive Review pronouncements issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and International Federation of Accountants (IFAC)
- Issue Insights on SLFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and SLFRS 16 Leases
- Comparison of full SLFRS, SLFRS for SMEs and SLFRS for Smaller Entities
- CA Sri Lanka engaged with stakeholders including the Central Bank, as well as with the Banking Community, Finance Companies and Insurance Companies to provide guidance and insight on the adoption of the Sri Lanka Accounting Standards.



## Establishment of the Public Sector Task Force

The Public Sector is a vital pillar in strengthening a country's economy. Therefore, in order to help the Public Sector progress further, CA Sri Lanka established a Public Sector Task Force to achieve a set of important objectives aimed at developing the sector further and to showcase the important role Chartered Accountants play in the public sector.



## Public Sector Initiatives

During the year 2020, the public sector wing of CA Sri Lanka, the Association of Public Finance Accountants of Sri Lanka (APFASL) organized a series of virtual sessions on COVID-19 and also conducted a public sector seminar for 100 accounting staff of the Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB).

### Virtual Sessions:

- Developing our Economy Post COVID-19
- Professionalizing Public Financial Management to Revive the National Economy post COVID-19



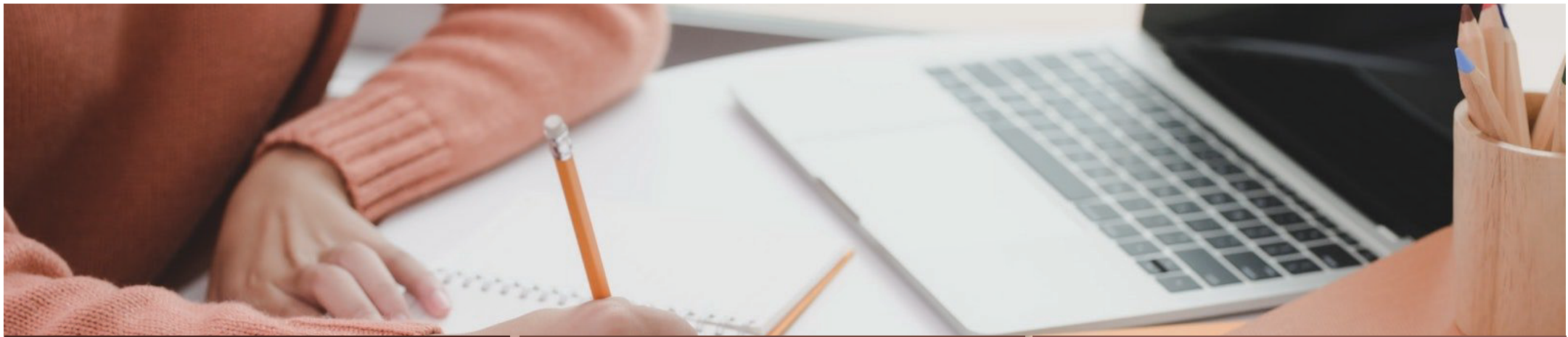
## Other Technical Initiatives

- Obtain the ACFE Training Accreditation Status to Sri Lanka.
- Second Phase of the Guidelines on Minimum Recommended Scale of Fees in Audit Services provided by the Practicing Chartered Accountants in Sri Lanka – 2018 covering Public Interest Entities as well.
- Initiate the CA Business Incubator platform for entrepreneurial Members and Students of CA Sri Lanka.
- Initiate the Member Blog: Digital Natives Platform.



# STUDENT INITIATIVES

- CA Sri Lanka Makes History as its Exams Go Digital
- Online Case Study Exam for Overseas Students
- Mocks to Gear Students for Online Exams
- Online Registration for New Students
- Releasing of Exam Results Expedited
- Submission of Assignments and Viva Voce Interviews Digitally
- Strategic Partnership with ACCA
- Education Centric Developments
- Over 300 Hours of Educational Webinars for CA Students
- Taxation Study Guides
- COVID-19 Challenges Faced by Training Partners
- Skill Development Programme Goes Digital
- Concessions for Strategic Level Training
- E-Practical Training Agreement
- Curriculum Revision of BSc. Applied Accounting Degree
- Exemption from SAB Graduates to Obtain CA Qualification
- SAB Goes High-Tech with Virtual Lectures and Exams
- Relocation of SAB to Bambalapitiya
- MELC Gets Cyber-Savvy
- New English Courses for CA Students
- IT Training Gets Digitalized
- Implementation of an ERP System
- Accounting Webinars Benefit Over 6500 Advanced Level Students



## CA Sri Lanka Makes History as its Exams Go Digital

Marking an important milestone in its 60-year long progressive history, CA Sri Lanka conducted several online exams as an alternative to the conventional physical exams, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Among the exams conducted digitally were the Corporate & Strategic Level online exams in December 2020 with a total of 1983 candidates.

## Online Case Study Exam for Overseas Students

Following travel restrictions on account of the global pandemic, CA Students residing overseas were unable to travel to Sri Lanka due to non-availability of flights. Therefore, the Institute took steps to conduct the case study exam digitally as an alternative to the physical exam. The online case study exam was conducted successfully for candidates based in Qatar, Dubai, Maldives, Bahrain, Kuwait and India. The students were monitored by a group of online exam proctors based at the Institute.

## Mocks to Gear Students for Online Exams

In order to ensure that the Business Level I & II students were geared to face examinations successfully under the new syllabus for the first time, a series of mock exams were conducted. Mock exams were conducted for Business Communication 1 as well as for the Corporate and Strategic Level.

The mock exam for Business Level I & II recorded the highest number of participants with a mammoth 6500 students sitting for the mock exam. This initiative no doubt helped students prepare and face the examination confidently.

## Online Registration for New Students

CA Sri Lanka introduced an online platform for new students to register from the comfort and safety of their homes. The online registration facility was an important initiative as it also limits physical attendance of new students to the Institute, thereby adhering to health and safety protocols.



## Releasing of Exam Results Expedited

The inaugural Business Level I & II exams under the newly launched Curriculum 2020 was conducted physically in September 2020, while adhering to the prescribed health regulations. CA Sri Lanka also expedited the releasing of the exam results within just 24 days, as opposed to the standard 60 days taken to release results in the past.



## Submission of Assignments and Viva Voce Interviews Digitally

CA Sri Lanka implemented a system which permitted students to submit their assignments online. The assignment submission is a pre-qualification to apply for the Case Study Exam. CA Sri Lanka also conducted online viva voce interviews for students (residing locally and overseas) to ensure timely completion of the viva process.



## Strategic Partnership with ACCA

CA Sri Lanka and ACCA entered into a Strategic Partnership Agreement to establish mutual cooperation between the two professional bodies, as both CA Sri Lanka and ACCA share common interests in the advancement of the accountancy profession especially in relation to the maintenance and strengthening of professional capacity and building accountancy infrastructures in Sri Lanka and across the globe.



## Education Centric Developments

CA Sri Lanka initiated the Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF) for the new curriculum which came into effect in 2020, while also taking steps to initiate a quality management system (ISO) for the Education Division. The Institute also rolled out several important initiatives in 2020 to further enhance the delivery of the CA Programme. The initiatives included:

- Revision of learning partners and lecturer accreditation evaluation process and evaluation criteria to cover both physical mode and online mode of delivery.
- Development of the curriculum in relation to the specialization areas under the new curriculum.

## Over 300 Hours of Educational Webinars for CA Students

During the year 2020, CA Sri Lanka worked tirelessly to update the knowledge of students from the comfort of their homes amidst health protocols due to COVID. The Institute offered over 300 hours of educational webinars for students of the Business Level I & II in all three languages, while virtual sessions were also conducted for the benefit of students of the Corporate & Strategic Levels. The webinars covered key theoretical areas, revision sessions, mock exam and pilot paper discussions. The sessions also focused extensively on areas where students had performed poorly at exams in an effort to provide them with the required guidance to succeed at future exams.



## Taxation Study Guides

CA Sri Lanka developed and published two taxation study guides. The publications were:

- Study Guide in Tax Case Law
- Study Guide on Tax Administration

# TRAINING



COACHING



TEACHING



KNOWLEDGE



DEVELOPMENT



LEARN



EXPERIENCE



SKILLS

## COVID-19 Challenges Faced by Training Partners

In our standing as the National Body of Accountants, CA Sri Lanka conducted an online survey to identify challenges faced by training partners due to COVID-19 and conducted a follow-up discussion with the training partners to provide assistance and address the identified issues.

## Skill Development Programme Goes Digital

CA Sri Lanka converted the 3-day residential programme into a virtual skill development programme for the benefit of Strategic Level and Case Study students. The programme helped students augment their knowledge on soft skills and the important role it plays in helping students progress to be holistic professionals. 228 students participated in the programme (both residential & virtual) which were held in February, August, September, November and December 2020.

## Concessions for Strategic Level Training

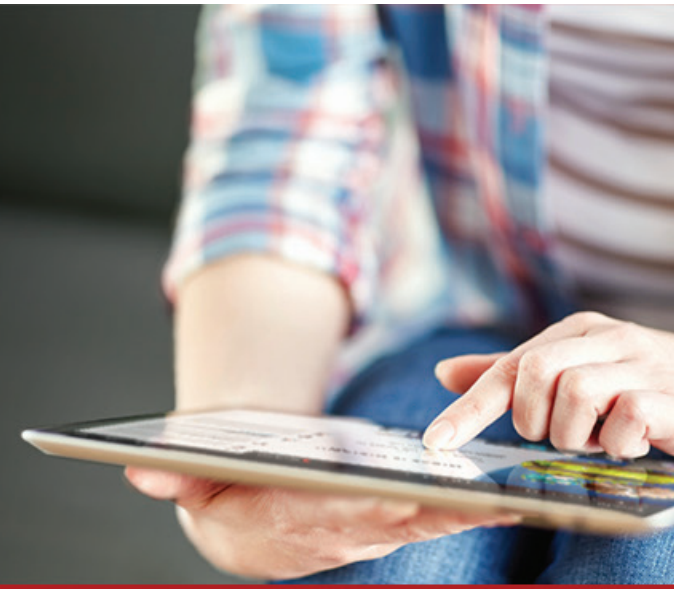
Concessions were granted by CA Sri Lanka for the training requirement to sit for the Strategic Level examination in October 2020, due to the lockdown imposed in 2020.

## E-Practical Training Agreement

To limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and to ensure the health and safety of students as well as staff of CA Sri Lanka, the Institute initiated the issuance of E-Practical Training Agreements as opposed to the paper-based agreements used in the past. By the end of 2020, a total of 130 E-Agreements were issued.

# BSc. Applied Accounting

## School of Accounting and Business (SAB)



### Curriculum Revision of BSc. Applied Accounting Degree

The School of Accounting and Business (SAB) of CA Sri Lanka revised the curriculum of the BSc. Applied Accounting Degree which is offered as a general and special degree. The Ministry of Higher Education has approved the curriculum revision and SAB commenced the new intake in September 2020 under the new curriculum.

### Exemption for SAB Graduates to Obtain CA Qualification

As per the new curriculum introduced by SAB, graduates of the BSc. Applied Accounting Degree, who complete the four-year special degree programme, can fast-track their way to become Chartered Accountants by completing only the Strategic Level of the CA Sri Lanka programme, while enjoying exemptions from 12 subjects out of a total of 17 subjects.

### SAB Goes High-Tech with Virtual Lectures and Exams

Due to COVID, SAB took the initiative to go high-tech in 2020, taking steps to conduct lectures for the degree programme online. Both the March and September intakes were conducted as per schedule, while also conducting the relevant examinations online. At present, over 760 students are following the online lectures conducted during weekdays and weekends.

### Relocation of SAB to Bambalapitiya

SAB has finalized plans to relocate to Galle Road, Bambalapitiya where all activities of the CA Sri Lanka BSc. Applied Accounting Degree programme will be conducted under one dedicated roof. Construction and refurbishment are currently in process at the new location, and SAB hopes to shift to the new premises by early 2021.



## MELC Gets Cyber-Savvy

The Multimedia English Language Centre (MELC) introduced a seamless online registration facility for the benefit of students who wish to register for its courses. MELC also conducted online interactive courses for Corporate Communication (CS3) and Strategic Communication (CS4), while taking necessary steps to conduct online placement tests for Business Communication I and II (CS1 & CS2) and speaking exams for Corporate Communication (CS3) local exam where nearly 300 students benefited.

## New English Courses for CA Students

CA Sri Lanka launched a new Business Communication 1 (CS1) course at Business Level I to enhance the Business English and Academic English Skills of CA students in order to prepare them for the English Medium stream. CA Sri Lanka also introduced a new Local Business English course and exam for Corporate Communications (CS3), which is equivalent to the Cambridge BEC Higher but provides more flexibility and affordability for students. A new Speechcraft Programme and an Advanced Business Report Writing Workshop series were conducted for 162 Strategic Level students.



## IT Training Gets Digitalized

CA Sri Lanka provided online registration and online learning facilities for students of the Business Level II (IT1), Corporate Level (IT2) and Strategic Level (IT3). CA Sri Lanka also successfully conducted the final assessment of the IT3 course online and the hands-on IT training workshops for CA students to help enhance their IT literacy. A total of 900 students benefited since the IT Training component of the CA Programme was digitalized.

## Implementation of an ERP System

CA Sri Lanka is currently in the process of implementing the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system for the School of Accounting & Business, School of Taxation and the Business School. The project will go live in January 2021, and upon implementation, the operations of the three schools will be further streamlined.

## Accounting Webinars Benefit Over 6500 A-Level Students

Utilizing technology, CA Sri Lanka offered a series of educational webinars for the benefit of over 6500 GCE Advanced Level Students where subject experts shed important knowledge in relation to the Accounting subject. The webinars which was live streamed for the benefit of the students also featured a series of mock paper discussions.