

NetCon 95 : a meeting of Technologies

NETCON 95, the second Sri Lanka Networking Conference & Exhibition was held at the University of Moratuwa from 13th to 15th January. NETCON 95 was the sequel to NETCON 92, the first Sri Lanka networking conference which was held in April 1992 and dealt with early academic networking issues in Sri Lanka.

The theme for NETCON 95 was "The Internet - Techniques and Services." More than 300 participants from the academic, research and industrial sectors attended. The confer-

ence of 1995 is also of special relevance to the University of Moratuwa as well as to all who are engaged in computers and communications, for it is the year that Dr. Arthur C Clarke, Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa and the father of satellite communications, celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of his famous Comsat article in the *Wireless World* which first proposed the use of geostationary satellites for global communications. The benefits of satellite communications are now reaped the world over.

The conference was inaugurated by Secretary to the



Prof GTF de Silva lights the oil lamp & passes the flame to Dr. Induruwa.

Research Network, gave an introduction to the Internet by looking at the world overview of the network. He invited the Chief Guest Mr Pieris to inaugurate the first ever on-line digital data link running IP - the Internet Protocol - at 64 Kbps, between the University of Moratuwa and the University of Colombo and gave a brief demonstration of the World Wide Web. The University of Colombo was thereby accorded the distinction of being the first outside node of LEARN.

As a measure of their commitment to the promotion of higher education and training in the country, Messrs Metropolitan Computers Ltd, in collaboration with Onward Novell of India, donated a Novell Ver 4.01 package to the Department of Computer Science & Engineering.

range of issues surrounding the Internet and were conducted by a panel of eminent local and foreign academics with many years of experience in the design and implementation of IP networks.

Opening the session on IP Technology, Dr. Ben Segal, Network Services Manager, European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN), Switzerland, gave presentations on IP networking, TCP/IP - Protocols for Internetworking and Network Security on the Internet. In his introduction to IP networking Dr. Segal discussed implementation issues and recent developments in TCP/IP and emphasised the importance of network security by highlighting the inherent weaknesses of the Internet.

Dr. Gihan Dias from the Department of Computer



Secretary to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Mr. M.D.D. Pieris inaugurates the conference by lighting the traditional oil lamp while Prof GTF de Silva, Vice, Chancellor, University of Moratuwa and Dr Abhaya S. Induruwa Head, Dept of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Moratuwa look on.

ence was organised and hosted by the Department of Computer Science & Engineering of the University of Moratuwa, coinciding with the department's tenth anniversary. Dr. Abhaya S Induruwa, Head, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, said that NETCON is of particular relevance to the department, which has been taking the initiative to establish computer networks and data communication infrastructure in Sri Lanka primarily for the benefit of the academic and research community.

Welcoming the distinguished gathering at the conference, Dr Induruwa stated that

Ministry of Education & Higher Education, Mr M.D.D. Pieris. Prof K K Y W Perera, Acting Chairman CINTEC and Advisor to the Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications and Mr Rohan N Wijeratne, IT Consultant to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Human Resources Development and IT advisor to the Ministry of Defence, addressed the gathering next. This was followed by addresses by Prof G T F de Silva, Vice Chancellor, University of Moratuwa and Prof B L Tennekoon, Dean/Faculty of Engineering.

Dr. Induruwa, who pioneered LEARN - Lankan Experimental Academic &



Chief guest Mr. M.D.D. Pieris addresses the gathering.

Moratuwa University. The technical sessions were organised to cover a wide

Science & Engineering.

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