

# NETCON'95: Discussions on Lankan initiatives in networking

The second Sri Lanka Networking conference & Exhibition NETCON'95 was held at the University of Moratuwa recently. 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" and was attended by more than 300 participants from the academic, research and industrial sectors.

The conference was organised and hosted by the Department of Computer Science & Engineering of the University of Moratuwa coinciding with its tenth anniversary.

The Conference was inaugurated by Secretary to the Ministry of Education & Higher Education, Mr. M. D. D. Peiris and was followed by addresses from 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 Defense. Prof. G. T. F. de Silva, the Vice Chancellor and Prof B. L. Tennekoon, Dean/Faculty of Engineering.

The technical sessions were organised to cover a wide range of issues surrounding the Internet and were conducted by a panel of highly qualified local

and foreign academics with long years of experience in the design and implementation of IP network which included Dr. Ben Segal, Network Service Manager from the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland, Dr. Gihan Dias from the Department of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Mr. Graham Cope of the Dept of Computer Science & Engineering Dr. Lalith Gamage from the Dept of Electrical Engineering, University of Moratuwa Dr. Ruwan Weerasinghe from the University of Colombo and Mr. C. W. Adams of the UNDP.

At the end of the session Dr. Induruwa who pioneered LEARN - Lanka Experimental Academic & Research Network gave a summary of Sri Lankan initiatives in Networking and discussed the issues related to the implementation of networks of the scale of LEARN. He expressed the hope that problems of island wide connectivity will be solved soon and that he will be able to expand LEARN to connect all universities, postgraduate institutes, research centres and documentation centres in the country thereby giving universal access to computing resources and information services.

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