

TRAINING & EDUCATION REPORT 46TH FAPAA ECM

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TRAINING, EDUCATION & AWARENESS PROGRAMS

The Association has always been mindful of the developments taking place in the international freight forwarding arena and continue to keep the Sri Lankan freight forwarding industry abreast with the rest of the world. The Association is working towards raising standards within the industry and making the industry a dynamic and more professional trade sector. Thus, the Association has placed great emphasis on human resource development within the industry through international training programs.

The Academy of international Trade and Transport (AITT) is the training arm of the Sri Lanka Logistics & Freight Forwarders Association (SLFFA). It is a body endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) and an Accredited Training School (ATS) of International Air Transport Association (IATA). It is also a training institute approved by the Directorate of Merchant Shipping, Ministry of Ports & Aviation.

Logistics & Multimodal Transport Training - The year 2018 took off with the commencement of new intakes for the Foundation Course in Multimodal Transport & Logistics and the Certificate Course in Logistic Services, Freight Forwarding and Multimodal Transport drawing in participants from the industry as well as school leavers.

The year saw the passing out of 39 candidates who successfully completed the Foundation Course, and Certificate Course 77 Students, total of 116 Students. 49 candidates who received their final certification from the world body, FIATA based in Switzerland for successful completion of the FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding. These Diploma holders were also awarded the FIATA Air Cargo Certificate.

Dangerous Goods Regulations Training - For the 19th consecutive year, SLFFA conducted its annual Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) training program for the staff of member companies. A Refresher course was conducted in November 2018 with a total of 24 students in attendance. An Initial course was conducted in November 2018 and 22 participants completed the course. In March 2019, another Refresher course was conducted in order to revalidate the certificates of the students and 25 participants attended from member companies. Therefore, we are pleased to record a total of 70 DGR course participants completed training during the year under review.

The DGR program was once again conducted by SLFFA's own in-house trainer, Mr. Janaka Sumithrarachchi, who received his initial and subsequent training directly from IATA Singapore. The response from the membership for the DGR training programs has been very positive and encouraging.

SLFFA Breakfast Meetings – The Association conducted a series of “SLFFA Knowledge Sharing Events” for the emerging generation of Forwarders for their awareness in the ever changing global trends. The breakfast meeting for 2018 was held at the Hilton Residencies Hotel on 20th September, which provided an insight on the world market. The topic of the Meeting was “Controlling your own destiny with unmatched flexibility and adaptability”. It amply brought out the technologies that are reshaping global forwarding & 3PL operations conducted by Mr. David Houser, Senior Vice President of Highjump Warehouse Execution Group.

Another Breakfast Meeting was held on 22nd March 2019 at the Galadari Hotel and the meeting was conducted by Mr. Chamara Ranasinghe, Head of Cargo, Sri Lankan Airlines on the topic “The role of national carrier in the formation of a logistic hub in Sri Lanka”. Participants had networking opportunities with these industry professionals who provided an insight on their road to success and individual experiences.