

# TRAINING & EDUCATION REPORT 47<sup>TH</sup> FAPAA ECM

29<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Virtual meeting



## 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 local 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 local and 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.

AITT conducts 3 training courses, namely, the Foundation Course in Multi-Modal Transport and Logistics, targeted for school leavers and anyone who is keen to start a career in Logistics; Certificate Course in Freight Forwarding and Multi-Modal Transport, which is targeted for people who wish to further their knowledge on the industry, and which is a requirement by the DMS to have a minimum of 2 staff members qualified in this course as this program is approved by the DMS; and finally the FIATA Diploma in Freight Forwarding and Logistics, an international qualification for those who wish to pursue higher studies in the Freight Forward industry. This certificate is recognized internationally.

Before COVID-19 affected the country, SLFFA conducted lecture room classes on Freight Forwarding and Multi-modal Transport under its flagship training institution - AITT. When the country went in to a lockdown, these lectures came to a halt but however AITT made arrangements to avoid any disruptions to the training courses and commenced online lectures immediately through the Zoom platform. The response from the students has been remarkable and this has helped students from outstations to join as well.

SLFFA held its last graduation ceremony for students passing out on all 3 courses in September 2020 on a grand scale with over 60 students receiving their awards. The event was held at Shangri-La Colombo.



In 2021, a total of over 100 students for all courses have attended lectures online with keen interest. AITT has completed another batch of students who followed the Foundation and Certificate courses which commenced in January 2021. An awards ceremony is scheduled to be held along with the AGM of SLFFA in September 2021 for the students who are completing their training courses.

SLFFA hopes to expand its online lectures to reach out to those who are interested to acquire greater knowledge on the freight forwarding industry in distant areas such as Trincomalee and Hambantota, to name a few. Students will soon have access to an online portal to view various updates pertaining to the courses they are following. A digital marketing campaign is currently being carried out.

The pandemic has provided SLFFA an opportunity to go beyond its scope of activities and SLFFA is keen to do more for the betterment of the industry.

## **Dangerous Goods Regulations(DGR) Training Program**

The DGR training program was once again conducted by SLFFA's own in-house trainer, who is an IATA qualified instructor during the period 2020/21. The response from the membership for the DGR training programs has been very positive and encouraging.

For the 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, SLFFA conducted its annual Dangerous Goods Regulations(DGR) training program for the staff of member companies by conducting DGR refresher programs during the pandemic in December 2020 and April 2021 with a total of 52 students participating.

