

Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri is a leading “pracademic” in Sri Lanka with solid “industry experience” and “international academic exposure.” He has a combination of being a Chartered Manager, Chartered HR Professional and a Chartered Electrical Engineer. He is acclaimed as a conference speaker, corporate trainer, strategy consultant, author and an academic. He is the first home-grown Senior Professor in Management of the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM), University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and was a Director / Chairman of the Board of Management of it. He is the Immediate Past President of the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) – Sri Lanka Chapter. Being a Past President of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM), he became the first Sri Lankan to lead both CMI and CIPM. He was also a Vice President of the Asia Pacific Federation of Human Resource Management (APFHRM). He is an Adjunct Professor at the Price College of Business, University of Oklahoma, USA. He carries three decades of private and public sector experience including Unilever and Nestle, with consultancy engagements in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. He is a Commonwealth AMDISA Doctoral Fellow, Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellow, and Commonwealth Postdoctoral Fellow. He holds a Ph.D. and an MBA from the Postgraduate Institute of Management and a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Moratuwa. He serves on several governing councils and is an independent director of several boards. Being an author of ten books and former editor of the longest publishing management journal in Sri Lanka (SLJM), he has won many accolades including gold medals for best papers in two international management conferences, Emerald best paper award in 2014, and in 2010 the Platinum Award by the Alumni of the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIMA) for outstanding academic contribution. He also won the prestigious IPM Lifetime Gold Award 2014, the highest honour for an HR professional in Sri Lanka. Prof. Dharmasiri likes to identify himself as one who transitioned from being an “Engineer of Electrical” to an “Engineer of Hearts and Minds.”