Prof. Ajantha S. Dharmasiri

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Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri is a leading "pracademic" in Sri Lanka with solid "industry experience" and "international academic exposure." He has a rare 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 has over three decades of both private and public sector working experience in diverse environments including Unilever and Nestle. He has engaged in consulting, lecturing, training, and conference speaking in over thirty countries around the globe. He serves in the Boards of Softlogic PLC, DSI Samsons Group, UB Finance PLC and Sri Lanka Institute of Biotechnology (SLITEC) and in the Governing Council of the Benedict the 16th Catholic Institute (BCI). He was as a member of the Governing Council of National Institute of Business Management (NIBM) and the Association of Management Development Institutions of South Asia (AMDISA). He completed his nine year stint as an Independent Non-executive Director at the Citizen's Development Business Finance PLC (CDB) last year. He was an independent member of the ethics committee of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

He became the first home-grown Senior Professor in Management of the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM), University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka and was a former Director / Chairman of the Board of Management of it. He also serves as an adjunct professor in International Human Resource Management at the Price College of Business, University of Oklahoma, USA. 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 a Commonwealth AMDISA Doctoral Fellow, Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellow, and a Commonwealth Postdoctoral Fellow. He holds a Ph.D. and an MBA from the Postgraduate Institute of Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and a B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Moratuwa.

As an academic scholar, he has presented research papers at key international conferences and was the editor of Sri Lankan Journal of Management (SLJM), the pioneer local publication that became the first to be hosted by EBSCO global research database. He has published articles in local and foreign journals and is also an author of ten books. He has won many accolades including gold medals for best papers in two international management conferences, Emerald best paper award in 2014. In 2010, he won the Platinum Award by the Alumni of the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIMA) for outstanding academic contribution. He also was bestowed with the prestigious IPM Lifetime Gold Award 2014, the highest honour for an HR professional in Sri Lanka.

He is a fellow member of the Sri Lanka Institute of Training and Development (SLITAD). He also functions as a certified Peer Reviewer of the South Asian Quality System (SAQS) and an advisor to the Old Royalists' HR Professional Association (ORHRPRA). Prof. Dharmasiri likes to identify himself as one who transitioned from being an "Engineer of Electrical" to an "Engineer of Hearts and Minds."