



E-MAGAZINE

Issue 03, June 2025

Special Bulletin



20 YEARS OF COMMITMENT, GROWTH &
IMPACT

SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT



Table of contents

• MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN	01
• MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR / CEO	02
• WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY 2025 - JOINT STATEMENT FOR ILAC, IAF SECRETARIES	03
• ACCREDITATION EMPOWERING SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN SRI LANKA	05
• ACCREDITATION IN SRI LANKA: ESTABLISHMENT OF SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT	07
• SLAB: THE SUCCESSFUL PATH TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION	10
• SLAB: LOOKING FORWARD TO A BRIGHT FUTURE IN ACCREDITATION	13
• SLAB STRENGTH: SLAB TEAM	17
• SCHEMES WE SAIL ON	19
• SLAB: WORKING BEYOND THE NATIONAL BOUNDARIES	22
• SLAB: SERVICE TOWARDS THE QUALITY EDUCATION	24
• SLAB: TOWARDS DIGITALIZATION	26
• SLAB: SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY TOWARDS SELF SUSTAINABILITY	28
• MESSAGES FROM OUR PARTNER NQI ORGANIZATIONS	30
• MESSAGES FROM OUR STAKEHOLDERS	32
• WORKING IN A LONG RELATIONSHIP WITH SLAB	34
• SLAB: FUTURE SCHEME EXPANSIONS	35
• SLAB: A YEAR TO REVIEW	37
• SLAB 20 TH ANNIVASARY CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS	41
• A HEARFELT APPRECEIATION FOR OUR LONG SERVING ASSESSORS	42
• WINNERS OF THE SLAB ESSAY AND POSTED COMPETITION	43

Table of contents

• MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN	01
• MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR / CEO	02
• WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY 2025 - JOINT STATEMENT FOR ILAC, IAF SECRETARIES	03
• ACCREDITATION EMPOWERING SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN SRI LANKA	05
• ACCREDITATION IN SRI LANKA: ESTABLISHMENT OF SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT	07
• SLAB: THE SUCCESSFUL PATH TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION	10
• SLAB: LOOKING FORWARD TO A BRIGHT FUTURE IN ACCREDITATION	13
• SLAB STRENGTH: SLAB TEAM	17
• SCHEMES WE SAIL ON	19
• SLAB: WORKING BEYOND THE NATIONAL BOUNDARIES	22
• SLAB: SERVICE TOWARDS THE QUALITY EDUCATION	24
• SLAB: TOWARDS DIGITALIZATION	26
• SLAB: SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY TOWARDS SELF SUSTAINABILITY	28
• MESSAGES FROM OUR PARTNER NQI ORGANIZATIONS	30
• MESSAGES FROM OUR STAKEHOLDERS	32
• WORKING IN A LONG RELATIONSHIP WITH SLAB	34
• SLAB: FUTURE SCHEME EXPANSIONS	35
• SLAB: A YEAR TO REVIEW	37
• SLAB 20 TH ANNIVASARY CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS	41
• A HEARFELT APPRECEIATION FOR OUR LONG SERVING ASSESSORS	42
• WINNERS OF THE SLAB ESSAY AND POSTED COMPETITION	43

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Prasanna Ranasinghe

*Air Vice Marshal (Retired) Prasanna Ranasinghe
Chairman, SLAB*

As the Chairman of the SLAB, alongside my esteemed Council Members, it is both an honour and a responsibility to reaffirm our commitment to fostering excellence in services that directly impact the quality of life for our citizens.

At the heart of our work lies a simple yet powerful goal, to ensure that every accredited institution whether in healthcare, education, social welfare, or beyond meets the highest standards of integrity, efficiency, and public benefit. We believe that by raising the bar for quality, we can create tangible, positive change in the lives of individuals and communities.

Accreditation is not just a certification it is a pledge of quality, safety, and reliability in services that touch every citizen's life. Together, we can build a future where excellence is the standard, and public trust is unwavering.

On this special day we invite you to engage with us whether as an institution seeking accreditation, a stakeholder providing insights, or a community member holding us accountable. Let's work hand in hand to create meaningful change.

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR/CEO



Chanditha Ediriweera

*Acting Director / CEO
SLAB*

Celebrating World Accreditation Day and 20 Years of Excellence

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to everyone at the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) on the release of this special edition of our e-magazine, commemorating both **World Accreditation Day 2025** and our remarkable journey of **20 years of excellence**.

This milestone offers us a moment to reflect on how far we have come—from our humble beginnings to becoming a trusted national and international partner in accreditation. Our collective achievements are the result of the dedication, expertise, and perseverance of each member of the SLAB family, past and present.

The significance of World Accreditation Day resonates deeply with our mission. It reminds us of the vital role accreditation plays in building the trust for quality of life for all. This year, as we celebrate two decades of impactful service, we recommit ourselves to continuous improvement and innovation in all that we do.

Over these twenty years, SLAB has grown from strength to strength, establishing itself as a cornerstone of Sri Lanka's quality infrastructure. We have witnessed the transformation of industries, the elevation of standards, and the building of confidence in our nation's products and services both domestically and internationally. Each accreditation we grant represents not just compliance with standards but ensures competency and a commitment to excellence that benefits consumers, businesses, and the broader economy.

As we look ahead, the challenges and opportunities before us are equally significant. The evolving landscape of technology, sustainability requirements, and global trade demands that we remain agile, forward-thinking, and committed to the highest standards of integrity and professionalism.

I wish to thank everyone who contributed to this commemorative edition. Your voices, stories, and insights truly capture the spirit and strength of SLAB.

To the Chairman and members of the Governing Council, dedicated SLAB staff, Assessor pool, committee members, valued stakeholders, and trusted partners—your unwavering support has been the foundation of our success.

Here's to the next chapter of excellence, resilience, and growth.

With warmest regards

WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY 2025

ACCREDITATION: EMPOWERING SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

JOINT STATEMENT

by Emanuele Riva, IAF Chair, and ETTY Feller, ILAC Chair



IAF and ILAC celebrate World Accreditation Day (WAD) together on 9 June 2025.

This year's theme spotlights the role that accreditation and conformity assessment play in empowering SMEs (Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises) in driving economic growth, innovation and employment. SMEs represent 95% of businesses worldwide, account for 60-70% of employment and contribute up to 40% of national income in emerging markets. However, despite their importance to global prosperity, SMEs face challenges in accessing markets, competing on a level playing field and demonstrating regulatory compliance, as well as financial constraints that hinder their ability to grow and compete effectively.

Given their major contribution to job creation and global economic development, SMEs are an important part of achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular to 'promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all' (goal 8) and to 'build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation' (goal 9). Accreditation is a proven tool that enables SMEs to deliver this sustainable growth and innovation. This year's focus on SMEs aims to share examples of how accreditation supports SME growth, with the aim of encouraging wider adoption of accreditation by SMEs across the global economy.

WAD focuses on how accreditation, supported by global mutual recognition arrangements established by ILAC and IAF, helps SMEs to compete with larger, more established businesses. It demonstrates that they meet the requirements of regulators to open up new market opportunities, signifies credibility and instils confidence with potential customers. Accreditation also helps drive internal efficiencies and improved company culture. This is evidenced through independent research data and case studies of SMEs that have benefited from the adoption of accredited conformity assessment.

The Mark that makes the Difference





Etty Feller, ILAC Chair, said: “World Accreditation Day 2025 highlights the critical role of accreditation and conformity assessment in empowering SMEs, strengthening their ability to compete, innovate, and expand in both domestic and international markets. Conformity assessment—through testing, inspection, certification, validation, verification and calibration—ensures that products, services, and management systems meet recognized standards and regulatory requirements. It therefore provides a trusted and globally accepted framework for SMEs to thrive”.

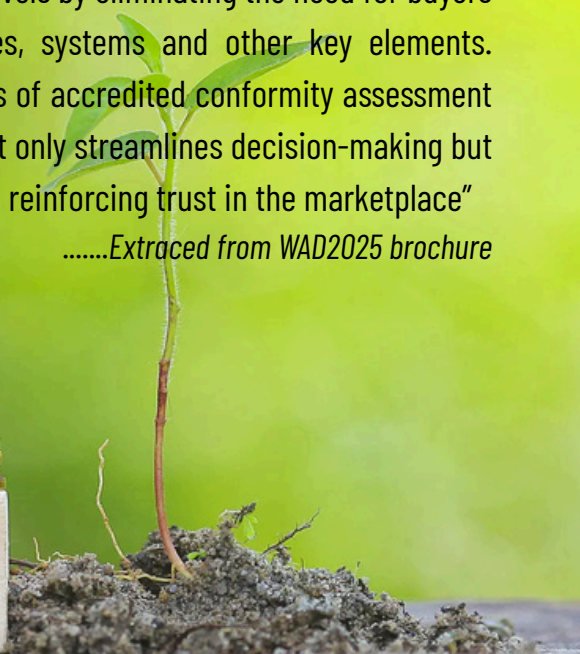
Emanuele Riva, IAF Chair said: “Accreditation is a flexible tool that operates across virtually every sector. It is therefore an essential tool for SMEs to drive sustainable growth, business resilience, and innovation. By reducing business risks and enhancing governance, accredited certifications provide SMEs with the operational guidance they need to thrive. We are proud to maintain close strategic partnerships with organisations such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), as they both recognise the important role that accreditation plays in the achievement of the sustainable development agenda and its impact on SME growth, employment opportunities, and industrial development”.



World Accreditation Day will be celebrated in over 100 economies, and we encourage you to participate to promote accreditation in your economy or sector. Please feel free to use the materials that are published on the ILAC and IAF websites, as well as resources such as business-benefits.org and publicsectorassurance.org to support events, press and television coverage, and workshops or seminars.

“Accreditation simplifies trade at both national and international levels by eliminating the need for buyers to independently verify organisations, their products, processes, systems and other key elements. Instead, they can rely on test reports, certificates and other forms of accredited conformity assessment issued by accredited laboratories and certification bodies. This not only streamlines decision-making but also instils confidence in consumers, regulators, and stakeholders, reinforcing trust in the marketplace”

.....Extraced from WAD2025 brochure



ACCREDITATION: EMPOWERING SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN SRI LANKA



Sri Lanka has engaged in International Trade throughout history and was popular for its Gems, Elephant tusks, Pearls and Spices. A popular quote attributed to the Portuguese about Sri Lanka and cinnamon is: "The vagaries of wind and weather brought Portuguese to Sri Lanka, but the lure of cinnamon made them stay". The existence of Small and Medium enterprises (SMEs) has been marked in the histories mainly related to the trade of spices.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) play a vital role in Sri Lankan Economy contributing 52% of the GDP, comprising over 75% of all businesses, and providing 45% of employment. They are considered the backbone of the Sri Lankan economy. According to the records of the Department of Census and Statistics in the year 2013/2014, SME establishments in Sri Lanka accounted for up to 1.017 million providing livelihood to nearly 2.225 million individuals in the non-agricultural sector.

SMEs have spread over almost all sectors of the economy, including:

- Tourism: Hotels, Homestays, Spas, Ayurvedic centers, Souvenir shops, Surfing and other water sports
- Agriculture: Small-scale farms, small-scale agriculture traders
- Manufacturing: Food processing, Apparel, Handicrafts
- Services: Transportation, Communication, IT services, Guiding services, Business process outsourcing



Almost all SMEs were challenged by the recent economic crisis faced by the country, exaggerated by the COVID-19 pandemic which led to business collapses and a rapid decrease in employment.

In addition to the above SMEs face country-specific and global challenges as follows and have to struggle for their existence:

- Global market fluctuations: Changes in global needs, demands and prices.
- Access to finance: Difficulty in accessing sources of funding (Loans, etc)
- Market competitiveness: Competing with the produces from other countries, at a competitive price and a quality
- Insufficient production: Small-scale production limits the customer base and access to the markets
- Compliance with the global/regional requirements and facing Trade barriers: Quality compliance has not been identified as a crucial requirement by some SMEs.

Government (including the policy-making and support from related government organizations such as Export Development Board – EDB), Chambers of Commerce, related Industries, Financial Organizations, Non-governmental organization and International Organisations (UNIDO, WHO, World Bank, etc) and strengthening the SMEs in various means including; development of suitable policies, provide access to the markets, financial and technical support for the industries, providing training for new niche markets, etc

Sri Lankan SMEs have a high potential to penetrate the global and regional markets through the unique set of products and services they offer. In addition, the growing nature of Tourism has exposed a huge potential for SMEs to provide services related to tourism and competitively manufacture tourist-friendly products.

In this regard, it is important to identify the necessary regulatory and compliance requirements that cause trade barriers. In addition, focusing on high-quality products and services & assurance of their quality through conformity assessments (including Testing, Inspection, Certification, etc) is crucial in building trust among the competitive markets.

Accreditation has numerous benefits for SMEs through the assurance given to the relevant conformity assessment activities. Key Benefits of Accreditation for SMEs include:

- **Trust and Credibility:** Accreditation demonstrates a commitment to quality and best practices, building trust with customers and stakeholders. This is particularly valuable for SMEs looking to establish credibility in the market.
- **International Recognition:** Through mutual recognition arrangements, accreditation can facilitate international trade by ensuring that products and services meet internationally recognized standards.
- **Access to Larger Markets:** Accreditation can open doors to larger markets and contracts that might otherwise be out of reach for SMEs.
- **Competitive Advantage:** Accreditation can help SMEs stand out from competitors and gain a competitive edge.
- **Improved Operational Efficiency:** Accreditation often requires implementing standardized processes, leading to improvements in efficiency and reduced costs.
- **Reduced Risk:** Accreditation helps minimize the risk of providing unreliable test results or products, ensuring that customers' expectations are met.
- **Compliance with Regulations:** Accreditation can help SMEs comply with regulatory requirements and standards, reducing the risk of non-compliance penalties.
- **Cost Savings:** While accreditation has an initial cost, the long-term cost savings from improved efficiency, reduced rework, and better quality can outweigh the investment.
- **Enhanced Reputation:** Accreditation can enhance an SME's reputation, making them more attractive to investors, partners, and customers.



In nutshell, Accreditation can support Sri Lankan SMEs to enhance their credibility, streamline trade, and facilitate access to new markets and funding opportunities. It further helps SMEs demonstrate compliance with standards, build trust with customers, and potentially overcome technical trade barriers to trade.

ACCREDITATION IN SRI LANKA:

ESTABLISHMENT OF SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT



SANATH. P. MENDIS

*Snr. Quality Policy Expert, UNIDO /
Consultant Quality Infrastructure Development,
Food Safety/Former Director General, SLSI:
Founder Director/CEO, SLAB*

In the year 2025, the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (SLAB) completes twenty (20) years of valuable service to the nation where, SLAB has made a significant contribution in strengthening the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI), which is essential in the delivery of quality related services required by the industry, trade, regulators and the consumer public. The SLAB is the National Accreditation Authority of Sri Lanka, established through an Act of Parliament; Act No 32 of 2005.

The SLAB commenced its operations in September 2005 with the appointment of Director/CEO, by the then Minister of Science and Technology, Prof. Tissa Vitharana. The first meeting of the SLAB Council was held on 6th January 2006 which marked the formal commencement of SLAB activities.

The establishment and development of Accreditation activities at SLAB were well supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). Through the funding provided by Sida, the SLAB development project established an Institutional cooperation between SLAB and Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (SWEDAC), one of the highly-recognized Accreditation Bodies in the European region. This financial and technical assistance programme with SWEDAC included; development of quality manuals and procedures of SLAB; Training of Assessors for SLAB accreditation schemes; Joint assessment of Laboratories with SLAB and SWEDAC participation performed in Sweden and in Sri Lanka. Project activities also included, consultancy visits by SWEDAC, Joint development work, training events and study visits in Sweden.

Recognizing the need to develop quality assurance systems in the Laboratories to be ready to receive accreditation; Concurrently with the development of Accreditation Schemes of SLAB, the project included Support to Testing and Medical Laboratories in fulfilling requirements for Accreditation. Technical and Financial support was provided to the Sri Lanka Association of Testing Laboratories to promote Good Laboratory Practices and provide Training. In house consultancy and training was provided to a number of selected testing and medical laboratories to fulfil accreditation requirements.

The development of the SLAB Accreditation System benefited from the hands-on knowledge and experience of SWEDAC, which enabled SLAB to gain international recognition within a period of four years, in December 2009. The SLAB was admitted as a signatory to the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC - Current APAC) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). This international recognition status was achieved after a rigorous assessment of the SLAB Accreditation system by APLAC Peer Evaluator panel. Currently, SLAB is a full member of ILAC and signatory to MRA; full member of International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and signatory to Multilateral Arrangement (MLA); full member of APAC (Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation) and signatory to MRA.




Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CAB's) forms an important part of the NQI framework which is essential for effective operation of domestic markets and its international recognition is important to enable access to foreign markets. The SLAB, in this twenty-years, has made a significant progress, contributing to strengthening and upgrading the NQI in delivering quality related services required by all stakeholders. The SLAB now operates ten (10) Accreditation Schemes, recognized internationally, which implies that test reports, inspection reports and certification provided by SLAB Accredited CAB's are accepted internationally. International recognition of SLAB services has contributed in facilitating the access to foreign markets of Sri Lankan Products. Accredited test reports are issued for exports, by Testing Laboratories Accredited by SLAB, which ensures the acceptance of such reports in the importing countries.

SLAB Accreditation Services are operated on a voluntary basis and are demand driven. The SLAB has now Accredited a total of 250 CAB's, which includes Testing & Calibration Laboratories, Medical Laboratories, Inspection Bodies, Certification Bodies, Verification and Validation Bodies, and Proficiency testing Providers. SLAB Accreditation Services have been accepted outside Sri Lanka with four (04) foreign CAB's Accredited by SLAB. The income generated by SLAB services has witnessed a steady growth with SLAB becoming financially self-supporting in the year 2024. The SLAB now operates as a financially self-supporting state institution not dependent on any funding from the Government of Sri Lanka. In fact, in the year 2024, SLAB contributed Rs. 19.6 Million to state funds.

In this twenty-years of existence, SLAB has made steady progress and gained recognition as one of the leading Accreditation Bodies in the Asian Region. Several members of the SLAB staff have qualified as Peer Evaluators of APAC, where they participate as Evaluators of other Accreditation Bodies for compliance with ISO/IEC 17011 and APAC / ILAC / IAF requirements. Three (3) SLAB Officers have qualified as Lead Evaluators and Two (2) SLAB Officers function as Evaluators, which has contributed in enhancing international recognition status of SLAB.

In conclusion, in this period of twenty-years SLAB has progressed well beyond expectations, achieving and surpassing all planned objectives. As the National Accreditation Authority of Sri Lanka, and as a core institution in the NQI framework the SLAB has performed beyond expectation with no financial burden on the Government of Sri Lanka.



"80% of trade involves elements of testing, calibration, inspection and certification activities, collectively known as conformity assessment (Source: OECD). Accreditation is the independent evaluation of these conformity assessment bodies against recognised standards to ensure their impartiality, competence and consistency. Accreditation, therefore, plays an important role in reducing the costs of trade and doing business, enhancing technology transfer, and increasing investment. It also enables businesses to integrate into global supply chains, as they can demonstrate product quality through a common "technical language" needed to establish trust between business partners. (Source: The World Bank)."

Extracted from WAD Brochure 2020

SLAB: THE SUCCESSFUL PATH TOWARDS THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION



Thilak Wickramasinghe

*Retired Director / CEO
SLAB*

Sri Lanka as a pioneer nation inspired by strategic directions and aspirations commenced its journey towards quality by commencing testing and product certification services in a few decades back in 1970s through the Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) which is the National Standards Body. This quality initiative was not then sufficient as a country as the industries had started exporting their products and services, especially to the western countries. Those countries had then established national accreditation schemes to provide third party attestation on products for easy and readily acceptance of

products and services provided by buyers and suppliers. This approach eased the suppliers from obtaining additional test reports or conformity certificates on products and services. At that time, some local laboratories were compelled to obtain accreditation for their testing services from foreign accreditation bodies, by bearing difficulties and spending much expenses.

As a remedial measure, the Sri Lankan government through the SLSI initiated an accreditation programme for testing laboratories named Accreditation Scheme for Testing Laboratories (ASTEL) in 1985. Under an UNDP Project, further assistance was obtained by SLSI to develop laboratory accreditation and metrology activities in 1991. By 1998, SLSI had accredited a few testing laboratories under the ASTEL scheme. As accreditation should be an independent and transparent process, the country by this time heavily felt the need of having an independent organization dedicated for accreditation. The initiative in setting up an independent body was badly hampered due to the weak, troublesome and unstructured quality infrastructure in the country.

In 1996, in agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), a technical assistance programme was stated of which the priority was given to the establishment of a national accreditation body. This helped in capacity building of personnel involved with conformity assessments as well as the testing & medical laboratories which were seeking accreditation. Then, this accreditation programme was still operated under the flagship of SLSI.





By Act of Parliament No. 32 of 2005, the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (SLAB) was established in the country and in 2006, the SLAB formally commenced its operations, initially in the fields of testing laboratories. The testing laboratories already accredited under the ASTEL scheme were formally transferred to the SLAB after a re-assessment. The financial and technical assistance programme by Sida was further extended to facilitate the operations of SLAB as well as

uplifting of other institutions in the national quality infrastructure such as SLSI, Measurement Units Standards and Services Department (MUSSD) and regulatory bodies and conformity assessment bodies. With the initiative of SLSI/SLAB, a National Quality Policy was prepared and approved by the HE President of Sri Lanka.

As a novel accreditation body, SLAB continued its accreditation services in the fields of testing, medical testing and calibration laboratories. Within a short span of time, the SLAB applied to the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) for obtaining international recognition for testing services in 2009 and was admitted as a signatory to the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of APLAC and then MRA of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). In 2013, SLAB was smart enough to obtain accreditation for certification activities from the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) and was admitted as a signatory to the Multi-lateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) of International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

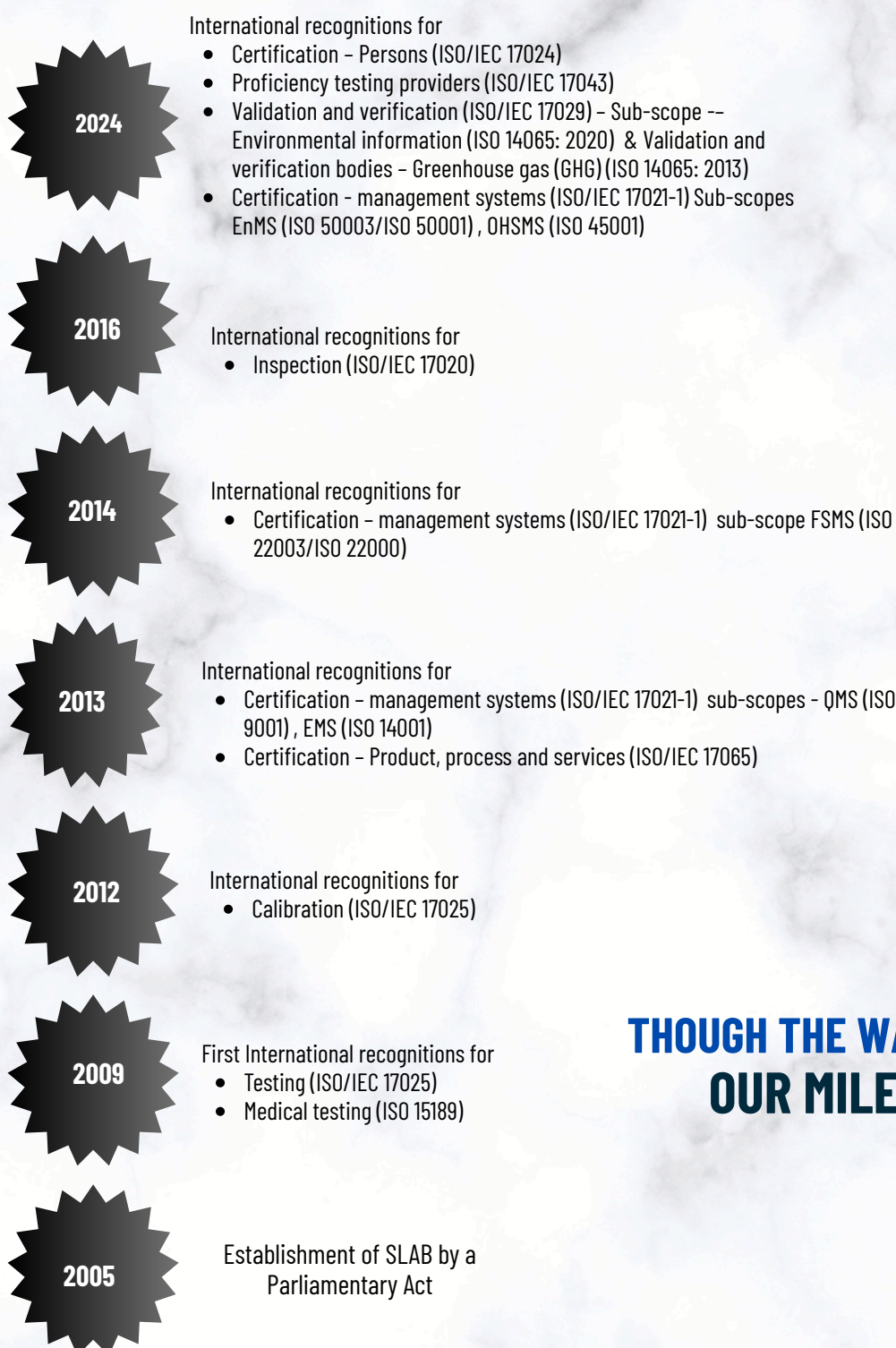
Within the twenty (20) years of journey in the accreditation arena, SLAB has become an internationally recognized accreditation institution which is in par with other leading accreditation institutions in the world. At present, SLAB operates all possible and available accreditation schemes implemented in main accreditation bodies such as testing, medical testing, Good laboratory Practices, inspection, certification, validation and verification bodies etc. and for all the accreditation schemes, SLAB has obtained either ILAC MRA or IAF MLA, as applicable.

The following are the great achievements and significant milestones in the SLAB's steady journey.

- Testing (ISO/IEC 17025) - 2009
- Medical testing (ISO 15189) - 2009
- Calibration (ISO/IEC 17025) - 2012
- Certification - management systems (ISO/IEC 17021-1) - 2013 ; sub-scopes - QMS (ISO 9001) - 2013, EMS (ISO 14001) - 2013, FSMS (ISO 22003/ISO 22000) - 2014, EnMS (ISO 50003/ISO 50001) - 2024, OHSMS (ISO 45001) - 2024
- Certification - Product, process and services (ISO/IEC 17065) - 2013
- Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020) - 2016
- Certification - Persons (ISO/IEC 17024) - 2024
- Proficiency testing providers (ISO/IEC 17043) - 2024
- Validation and verification (ISO/IEC 17029) - Sub-scope -- Environmental information (ISO 14065) - 2024
- Validation and verification bodies - Greenhouse gas (GHG) (ISO 14065) - 2024

In 2015, SLAB hosted the APLAC/PAC Joint Annual Meetings in Colombo and about 200 participants from different accreditation bodies and related associations throughout the world attended these meetings.

At present SLAB possesses above 500 trained and competent professionals in different fields who could undertake accreditation assessments and to obtain technical advice in the preparation of accreditation criteria and guidelines with respect to any of the accreditation schemes. Also the assessors who are empanelled with SLAB assessments are participated in the peer-evaluations conducted in many of the conformity assessment fields in other accreditation bodies, organized by the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC).



**THOUGH THE WAY WAS SHORT
OUR MILESTONES**

SLAB: LOOKING FORWARD TO A BRIGHT FUTURE IN ACCREDITATION



Chanditha Ediriweera

*Acting Director / CEO
SLAB*

In an era where quality assurance and international recognition are paramount to economic growth and global trade, the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) stands as a beacon of excellence in the nation's quality infrastructure. Established with the vision of becoming a globally recognized accreditation body, SLAB has made remarkable strides in reinforcing Sri Lanka's position in the international accreditation landscape.

A Foundation of Trust and Credibility

The Sri Lanka Accreditation Board operates as the national accreditation authority for Sri Lanka, providing formal recognition to Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) that demonstrate competence in performing specific tasks. These include testing and calibration laboratories, proficiency testing providers, medical laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies for management systems, products, and personnel and validation/verification bodies.

Since its inception, SLAB has worked diligently to build a robust framework that aligns with international standards. By adhering to international standards and participating in global accreditation forums, SLAB ensures that its accreditation services meet the highest international benchmarks.

International Recognition and Strategic Partnerships

One of the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board's (SLAB) most significant achievements has been its international recognition, gained through Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) and Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLAs) with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). These strategic partnerships have played a pivotal role in enabling the acceptance of Sri Lankan products and services in global markets.

The international recognition of SLAB's accreditation system has been transformative for Sri Lankan industries. Products tested or certified by SLAB accredited conformity assessment bodies (CABs) are automatically accepted in partner countries, eliminating the need for additional testing or recertification. This has opened up new opportunities for Sri Lankan businesses, facilitating smoother access to global supply chains and enhancing the competitiveness of Sri Lankan exports.

SLAB's role extends beyond accreditation itself. It has become a cornerstone of national economic development by ensuring that local industries can meet international standards, build trust with foreign markets, and increase the quality and reliability of their products and services.

Furthermore, there has been a growing demand from foreign CABs seeking accreditation from SLAB, recognizing the credibility and reliability of our framework. SLAB continuously works with foreign scheme owners to provide accreditation, ensuring that Sri Lankan industries remain competitive and compliant with international standards. This ongoing collaboration with foreign partners further reinforces the global acceptance of Sri Lankan products and services.



In addition to fostering trade, SLAB continues to improve technical expertise and facilitate knowledge exchange with international partners. These collaborations not only enhance the credibility of Sri Lanka's accreditation framework but also position SLAB as a trusted and competitive accreditation body in the region. By staying at the forefront of international accreditation standards and continuously updating its procedures, SLAB ensures that Sri Lanka's industries can maintain their competitive edge in an increasingly globalized market.

SLAB's commitment to excellence and global integration has solidified its position as a key player in shaping Sri Lanka's reputation in the international arena, driving quality, compliance, and innovation across industries



Embracing Technological Advancements

Looking ahead, SLAB is poised to embrace technological innovations that are reshaping the landscape of accreditation. Digital transformation initiatives, including the implementation of advanced information management systems and remote assessment methodologies, are high on SLAB's agenda.

We recognize that the future of accreditation lies in our ability to adapt to technological changes. Our focus is on developing digital solutions that streamline the accreditation process while maintaining its integrity and rigor. These improvements will not only reduce turnaround times but also increase transparency and efficiency in the accreditation process.



Expanding Scope and Services

With industries evolving rapidly, SLAB is expanding its accreditation scope to cover emerging fields such as Reference Material Producers, Biobanking, Informational Security and Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, Business Continuity and Antibribery management systems, Renewable energy, difference validation/verification schemes, and environmental management.

Promoting Awareness and Building Capacity for the Future

For accreditation to be truly effective, awareness and education are critical. SLAB is actively engaging with industries, academic institutions, and government agencies to promote the importance of accreditation and conformity assessment through training programs, workshops, and stakeholder engagements.

SLAB's commitment to excellence extends to its human resources development programs. Recognizing that the quality of accreditation services depends largely on the competence of its assessors, SLAB invests significantly in training and capacity-building initiatives.

Regular workshops, training sessions, and knowledge-sharing platforms ensure that SLAB's assessors remain abreast of the latest developments in their respective fields. This focus on continuous learning and professional development positions SLAB as a knowledge hub for quality assurance in the region.



Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

Despite its successes, SLAB faces several challenges in its journey toward achieving its vision. These include:

- Keeping pace with rapidly evolving international standards
- Addressing the accreditation needs of emerging sectors
- Expanding the pool of qualified technical assessors and team leaders
- Raising awareness about the importance of accreditation among small and medium enterprises

However, these challenges also present opportunities for growth and innovation. By addressing these areas proactively, SLAB can further strengthen its position as a leading accreditation body in the South Asian region.



Conclusion: A Vision for Excellence

As Sri Lanka navigates the complexities of global trade and economic development, the role of SLAB becomes increasingly significant. With its unwavering commitment to quality, integrity, and international best practices, SLAB is well-positioned to lead the nation toward a future where Sri Lankan products and services enjoy unquestioned acceptance in global markets.

The journey ahead may be challenging, but with stakeholder support, strategic partnerships, and a forward-looking approach, the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board is set to achieve its vision of becoming a globally recognized symbol of quality and competence.



SLAB STRENGTH: SLAB TEAM

Celebrating Two Decades of Unity, Dedication, and expertise.

At the heart of SLAB's 20-year journey is a team defined not only by technical brilliance but by unwavering commitment to excellence in accreditation. From the Governing Council to the pool of external assessors and experts, every individual has played a vital role in building SLAB into a trusted national and international body.



The strength of SLAB lies in its multidisciplinary structure:

The Governing Council of the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board is the main policy-making agency. The chairman, who leads the council, brings a wealth of leadership experience to guide the organization's vision and growth. The director, who serves as both the chief executive officer of the board and the secretary to the council, is responsible for organizing and directing SLAB's work in line with the policies set by the council.

Under the leadership of the chairman and director, the SLAB team is supported by experienced staff in accreditation, finance and administration, internal audit, and other support functions.

Accreditation staff manage accreditation activities, liaise with clients, coordinate assessments, and implement SLAB's accreditation schemes in alignment with established criteria, performance goals, and financial targets. Technical managers, appointed from among the accreditation staff, oversee the technical functions of their respective accreditation schemes.

The Finance and Administration Division ensures SLAB's financial health and smooth internal operations.



This synergy guarantees not only technical competence but also integrity, impartiality, and continuous improvement. SLAB's multidisciplinary approach allows it to uphold rigorous standards and adapt to evolving national and international requirements.

SLAB's assessors and technical experts engaged in a shared vision of national development through quality assurance. Their collaboration with internal staff forms the backbone of SLAB's support for laboratories, inspection bodies, Validation/Verification bodies, and certification bodies across Sri Lanka and beyond.



The Legacy of Former Staff

Former staff members have also played a crucial role in establishing SLAB's reputation and operational foundations. Their contributions continue to shape the organization's culture of professionalism and teamwork.

Over two decades, SLAB has been shaped by many dedicated individuals who brought their expertise and passion to the organization. Many served long tenures, building a strong base of knowledge and professionalism. Their legacy is reflected in SLAB's reputation for impartiality, confidentiality, and commitment to quality. Through succession planning and knowledge transfer, current staff continue to build on the achievements of those who came before.

As we mark our 20th anniversary, we recognize that our greatest asset is not only just our systems or structures—but the people behind them. SLAB's strength is—and always will be—THE TEAM.

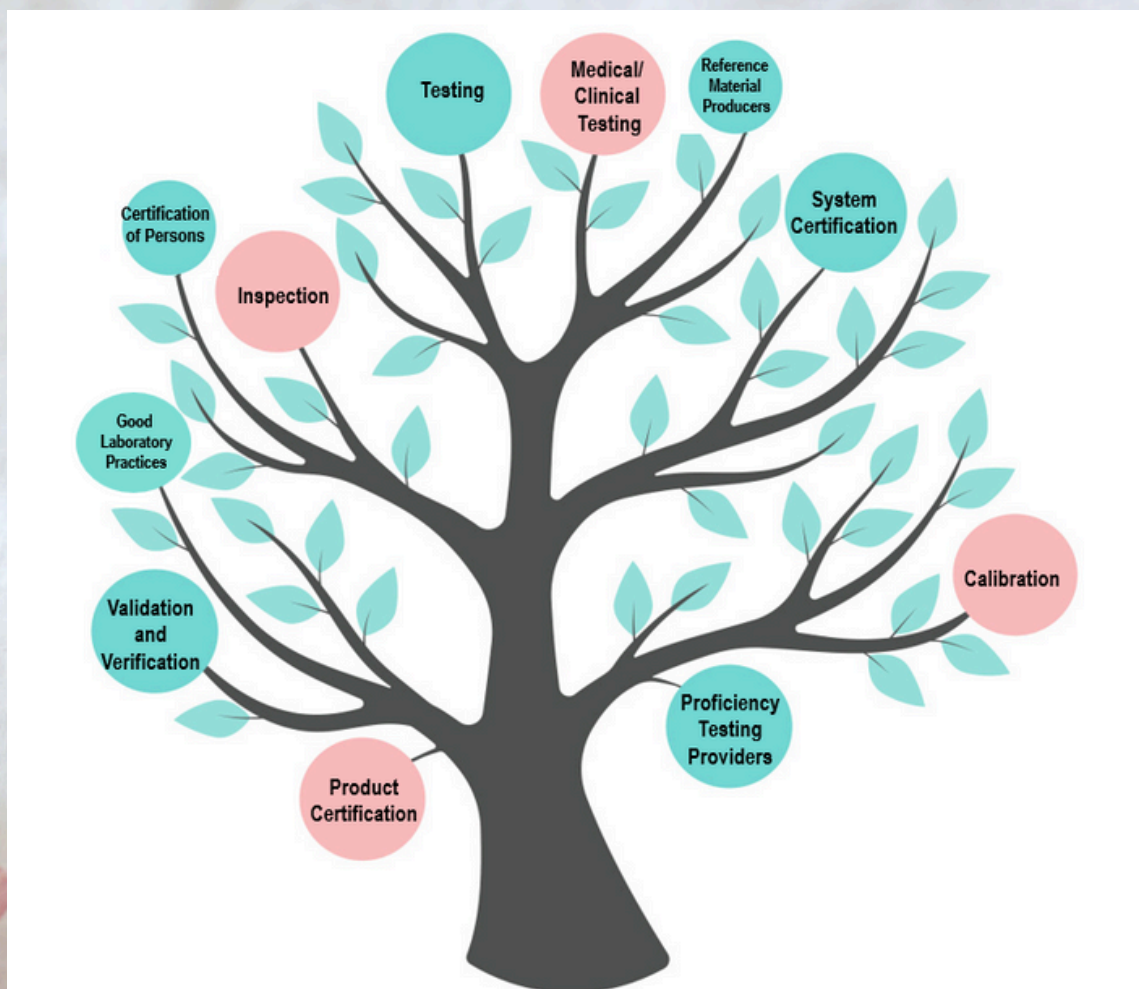


Shashini Ishara
Assistant Director - Accreditation
SLAB

The Mark that makes the Difference



SCHEMES WE SAIL ON



Sri Lanka Accreditation Board currently operates following accreditation schemes:

- Testing (ISO/IEC 17025)
- Medical Testing (ISO 15189)
- Calibration (ISO/IEC 17025)
- Inspection (ISO/IEC 17020)
- System Certification (ISO/IEC 17021 - 1)
- Product Certification (ISO/IEC 17065)
- Certification of persons (ISO/IEC 17024)
- Validation and Verification (ISO/IEC 17029)
- Proficiency Testing Providers (ISO/IEC 17043)
- Reference Material Producers (ISO 17034)
- Good Laboratory Practices (OECD GLP)

Testing and Calibration Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025)

The accreditation scheme for testing and calibration laboratories is based on ISO/IEC 17025, which outlines the general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. This scheme covers all types of laboratories, including those involved in chemical testing, biological testing, physical and mechanical testing, and calibration.



Medical Testing Laboratories (ISO 15189)

Medical laboratories can be accredited to ISO 15189, which specifies the requirements for quality and competence in medical laboratories. This standard was developed with input from the medical, scientific, and clinical communities. It outlines the necessary criteria for diagnostic laboratories to demonstrate their competence in delivering timely, accurate, and reliable results.

Inspection Bodies (ISO/IEC 17020)

The accreditation scheme for inspection bodies is based on ISO/IEC 17020, which outlines the general criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspections. This scheme provides formal recognition to inspection bodies for their integrity, reliability, and competence in delivering inspection services.



System Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC 17021 - 1)

Certification of a management system means of providing assurance that the organization has implemented a system for the management of the relevant aspects of its activities, products and services, in line with the organization's policy and the requirements of the respective international management system standard.

Product Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC 17065)

SLAB accredits certification bodies against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065- Conformity assessment – requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services to deliver a range of Product certification Schemes such as organic, agriculture, Energy labeling, green building, fisheries, food sector, etc.



Personnel Certification Bodies (ISO/IEC 17024)

SLAB offers accreditation to certification bodies that meets the requirements of this international standard ISO/IEC 17024. Certification for persons is one means of providing assurance that the certified person meet the requirements of the certification scheme. Certified professionals across different sectors are increasingly relied upon by regulators and industries to ensure compliance with regulatory practices. In Sri Lanka, this is an emerging area, with a focus on supporting international trade. Professions such as quality auditors, quality and environmental inspectors, food inspectors, compliance managers, energy managers, health and safety engineers, welders, electricians, beauticians, NDT inspectors, consultants, trainers, cinnamon peelers, vehicle inspectors, and motor mechanics all require certified personnel. Personnel certification validates the competence of individuals to perform specific services or duties, achieved through the issuance of a certificate of competence.

Validation and Verification Bodies (ISO/IEC 17029)

ISO/IEC 17029 is an international standard that provides general principles and requirements for the competence, consistent operation, and impartiality of bodies performing validation and verification conformity assessment activities. It's applicable to validation and verification bodies (V/VBs) in any sector providing validation and verification services

Proficiency Testing Providers (ISO/IEC 17043)

The Accreditation scheme for Proficiency Testing Providers (PTPs) of the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) is based on the requirements laid down in ISO/IEC 17043- Conformity Assessment Requirements for Proficiency Testing. Proficiency Testing covers a wide range of fields including inter-comparison programmes conducted among calibration laboratories as well as National Measurement Institute.

Good Laboratory Practices

The Accreditation Scheme for Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) is based on the requirements set out in the OECD Guidelines for GLP (1997). Under a GLP system, the principles of GLP are applied to research and development studies focused on nonclinical health and environmental safety. This scheme aims to ensure the quality and validity of test data produced by non-clinical studies, as well as to promote the mutual recognition of study data across international borders. For more details, please refer to www.oecd.org.



Reference Material Producers (ISO/IEC 17034)

ISO 17034 accreditation provides confidence and assurance to users of reference materials that the producers have complied with internationally defined requirements for the production of the materials. This includes such things as assignment of property values to the material, stability, homogeneity through to the labelling and distributions of the materials.



Nadeesha Kumari
Assistant Director - Accreditation
SLAB

SLAB: WORKING BEYOND THE NATIONAL BORDERS

It is said “ONCE ACCREDITED: IT IS ACCEPTED WORLDWIDE”, which implies that the accreditation is not limited to a particular proximity, but is valid to everywhere. Being an Internationally recognized accreditation body, SLAB has also marked its presence in various aspects of accreditation globally.



Initial Exposure from the Foreign Accreditation Bodies

In its early years, SLAB received technical guidance, training, and exposure to the accreditation environment from SWEDAC under the Sida project, aimed at developing the National Quality Infrastructure of Sri Lanka. This collaboration continued for nearly a decade, providing valuable insight into the role of accreditation in facilitating international trade.

Ongoing International Training and Competency Development- improved

Exposure to international training has been one of the major sources of competency within SLAB. Over the past two decades, SLAB has benefited from a wide range of training programs conducted by apex bodies such as APAC, IAF, and APLAC; peer organizations; and international institutions like ISO, WTO, and ICAO, often through intergovernmental partnerships. These experiences have significantly enhanced the technical capabilities of SLAB personnel, enabling them to perform their duties with professionalism and competence.



Partnerships with other accreditation boards

SLAB partners with other accreditation bodies as a peer in joint accreditation assessments conducted both within Sri Lanka and internationally. These collaborations help build trustworthy relationships among peers and provide greater exposure to region-specific aspects of conformity assessments.

Foreign assessments

SLAB has expanded its accreditation services internationally, primarily through accreditations granted to validation and verification bodies, as well as product certification bodies under various schemes. Its growing client base includes organizations from countries such as the Netherlands, India, Malaysia, Vietnam, Australia, Latvia, the UAE, and others.



Regional evaluations & peer evaluations

SLAB evaluators participate in regional and peer evaluations conducted by other regional and accreditation bodies. Currently, SLAB has one regional evaluator, three lead evaluators, and two peer evaluators, all of whom are qualified to perform evaluations in nearly all accreditation schemes. These voluntary evaluations expose SLAB evaluators to the aspects of harmonization between regional and peer bodies.



Trainings for the foreign participants

SLAB organizes both routine and specialized training programs on various aspects of accreditation, with participation from both local and foreign individuals. In addition, SLAB conducts customized training sessions upon request, including awareness programs, training on Quality Management Systems (QMS), internal auditing, assessor training, and more, specifically tailored for foreign participants.

Technical partnerships

In addition, SLAB collaborates with global organizations such as Sida, PTB, and UNIDO through technical partnerships focused on various aspects, including the development of the National Quality Infrastructure.

Global Presence and Future Outlook

Although it has only been two decades, SLAB has managed to make its mark globally through various efforts. One of SLAB's major objectives for the coming decades is the expansion of its activities beyond national boundaries.



Natasha Jayamanne
Deputy Director - Accreditation
SLAB



The Mark that makes the Difference



SLAB: SERVICE TOWARDS THE QUALITY EDUCATION

As Sri Lanka continues to develop its knowledge economy and strengthen its position in the global education landscape, SLAB's role becomes increasingly critical. Quality education stands as a cornerstone of the national development. SLAB contributes to quality education through multiple channels, creating a comprehensive framework that addresses various aspects of the educational system. The accreditation process and other services of SLAB such as training programs requires significant resources such as specific technical expertise, where SLAB undertakes the expertise from local and international external sources , thereby ensure the credibility of the services.

SLAB provides accreditation services for testing laboratories according to ISO/IEC 17025 standards, also for research laboratories as per the OECD guidelines for Good Laboratory Practices ensuring facilities that meet international benchmarks. This laboratory accreditation is particularly valuable for higher education institutions, where research capabilities and practical training form essential components of the educational experience. By ensuring that laboratories maintain proper equipment calibration, methodological consistency, and appropriate safety measures, SLAB contributes significantly to the quality of practical education in technical fields.

Beyond laboratory accreditation, SLAB provides accreditation services to educational institutions, particularly those offering technical and vocational education. SLAB also accredits specific educational processes and management systems. Through ISO 9001 quality management certification, educational institutions can demonstrate their commitment to consistent processes that prioritize quality outcomes. Similarly, ISO 21001 certification, specifically designed for educational organizations, helps institutions implement effective management systems tailored to educational contexts. Furthermore, services such as degree programmes, diploma programmes, course programmes, can be accredited through ISO/IEC 17065. These certifications encourage educational institutions to adopt systematic approaches to quality management, leading to more consistent educational delivery, better documentation of processes, and improved mechanisms for addressing stakeholder feedback.



SLAB's personnel certification services extend to educational contexts, where they help verify the competence of educational staff, including teachers, trainers, and assessors. By establishing clear competency criteria and assessment methodologies, these certifications ensure that educational delivery is conducted by qualified personnel who meet established standards of expertise and professionalism.



Further to assessment functions, SLAB actively contributes to educational improvement through its training programs. These initiatives help institutions understand accreditation requirements, develop internal quality assurance mechanisms, and prepare for conformity assessments. By building institutional capacity for quality management, SLAB creates sustainable improvements in educational quality that extend beyond the formal accreditation process.

Above stated services in support of quality education, SLAB also contributes to the strengthening of the national quality infrastructure by providing expert input to regulators, government bodies, and academic institutions as the National Accreditation Authority. By fostering an environment that emphasizes continuous improvement, transparency, and alignment with international standards, SLAB plays a vital role in advancing the country's broader educational and developmental goals.

Conclusively, enhanced collaboration between SLAB and educational bodies such as universities, schools, education institutes, would be an initiative towards releasing SMART graduates, delegates, certified personnel for both domestic and global opportunities, ultimately enhancing the national development.



Sanduni Perera
Assistant Director - Accreditation
SLAB

SLAB: TOWARDS DIGITALIZATION

THE ENDLESS JOURNEY



The digitization of the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) roots back to 2013-2014. Beginning in the latter part of 2014, the third-party team that developed the SLAB website began working on a system to accept applications via the online system under the SLAB website. However, the SLAB sought technical assistance from the Information Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) in 2015 after realizing that its attempts would not succeed. Once more,

in 2017, the SLAB anticipated receiving guidance from ICTA and beginning the foundation work for it. In order to reach a memorandum of understanding between the parties, ICTA Projects used ADB funds to extend their hands and start setting up for an ERP system. Although this project proceeds slowly, it also exhibits many blunders because of the increased turnover of pertinent staff and the government's announcement that it would be winding down the ICTA

Conversely, the SLAB began to sense the urge for digitization more and more. The number of applications that the SLAB receives has begun to rise daily due to the worldwide demand, and broadening the scope by the existing clients, is a cause for such a sense. Additionally, SLABs used hard copies as a method of record maintenance at that time. By the time the accreditation-related activities were finished, two or three files had been opened for a single assessment within the SLAB, and the files began to accumulate up to 10-12 files for a client's accreditation cycle. And since most of the SLAB's accreditation officers manage the accreditation case files (projects) for accreditation and participate in the accreditation assessments as team leaders and assessors, they made the obstacles to meet the impending demand. The aforementioned facts highlight the growing need for a digitalization system.

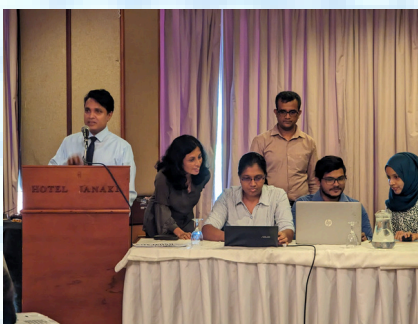
SLAB faces another challenge in picking an ERP-based coded system to accommodate the dynamic changes in ISO standards, while operating all 12 different schemes and several scheme owner requirements, despite knowing that the organization has received numerous warning alerts daily to have a digitalized system. Becoz, every year, SLAB must pay more than the initial cost to accommodate that dynamicity with the coded system. As a result, creating such a system became difficult, and choosing the development provider became uncertain. Since the Covid pandemic began in 2020, digitalization has become a crucial global reality. Soft copies have replaced hard copies in the wake of the pandemic, and on-site evaluations have given way to remote ones.

On the other hand, the SLAB's accreditation process was already infested with duplications and an overwhelming amount of clerical work, making it exceedingly hard to provide adequate services to fulfil the clients' growing needs. Following that, SLAB requested ICTA for assistance once more with the aim to develop a document

management system and to obtain an estimate from them. But, SLAB is unable to afford the price offer that was presented. Then, in the hopes of identifying a system that could meet SLAB's needs, SLAB asked ICTA for helping hands in creating Expressions of Interest (EOI) documents for the supplier selection approach. The necessary financial authorities approved the EOI, and SLAB ultimately developed a more user-friendly and practical system of pipes. With the assistance of ICTA and the International Trade Centre (ITC), a joint organization of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), SLAB chose a system that fulfilled its requirements with the approval of all relevant authorities.

It was discovered during the implementation and establishment phase that the IT officer's involvement in the creation of Automated workflows fell short and could not go as planned due to the high employee turnover and the government limitation from May 2022, SLAB has struggled to hire new officers. The work process, though, was carried out with the other SLAB Accreditation officers' time availability and commitment. SLAB nevertheless successfully completed the system covering for the Testing scheme and for all stages of the Accreditation process with all features and began operating live on 2024-12-02. As of today, SLAB has finished the implementation stage and set all other schemes in the automated system.

SLAB Workflow management system was developed in two stages: Phase I and II. In Phase I step 01- SLAB Automated the Accreditation process of Testing laboratories, from application to granting of accreditation. SLAB uses Workhub24 an Enterprise Automation Platform for the automated system. WorkHub24 is a No-Code Platform for RAPID creation of digitalized forms and workflows using No Code Business Process Automation. This software allows users to automate business processes without the need for coding. It provides an initiative, drag-and-drop interface that enables organizations to streamline workflows, improve efficiency, and reduce errors by automating repetitive tasks and processes. It requires little to no coding, which makes it easier for the user to build, manage, automate & share their digital forms and workflow applications.



"Today, SLAB experienced success as a government organization that fully Digitalized its System, providing its functionality through a digitalized automated workflow system. This will enhance its capability and also be in line with national policy on digitalization under the umbrella of Accountability, Credibility, Transparency, and Efficiency"



Punya Liyanage
Deputy Director - Accreditation
SLAB

SLAB: SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY TOWARDS SELF SUSTAINABILITY

Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) has emerged as a shining example of financial independence and international competitiveness. Established in 2005 with a modest footprint and heavy dependence on government funding, SLAB has grown into a dynamic and innovative national body, with its sights now set firmly on global recognition.



SLAB was initially founded with the vision “to be recognized as the leading accreditation body in the region.” For over a decade, the Government of Sri Lanka supported SLAB’s capital and recurrent expenditures, allowing the organization to grow steadily under a few core accreditation schemes.



With the evolving economic landscape and international demands, SLAB revamped its vision to: “To be a globally recognized, dynamic, and innovative accreditation body contributing to the national economy and social wellbeing.”

Today, SLAB administers more than ten accreditation schemes, including newly introduced ones such as Reference Materials Production and Bio Banking Accreditation. These expansions not only diversify its offerings but also position SLAB as a competitive force against global accreditation entities. While maintaining its foundational values of impartiality, competence, transparency, and accountability, SLAB continues to gain ground on international platforms by accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in countries like the Netherlands, Malaysia, and India. These efforts have enabled the organization to generate valuable foreign exchange earnings, further enhancing national economic resilience.

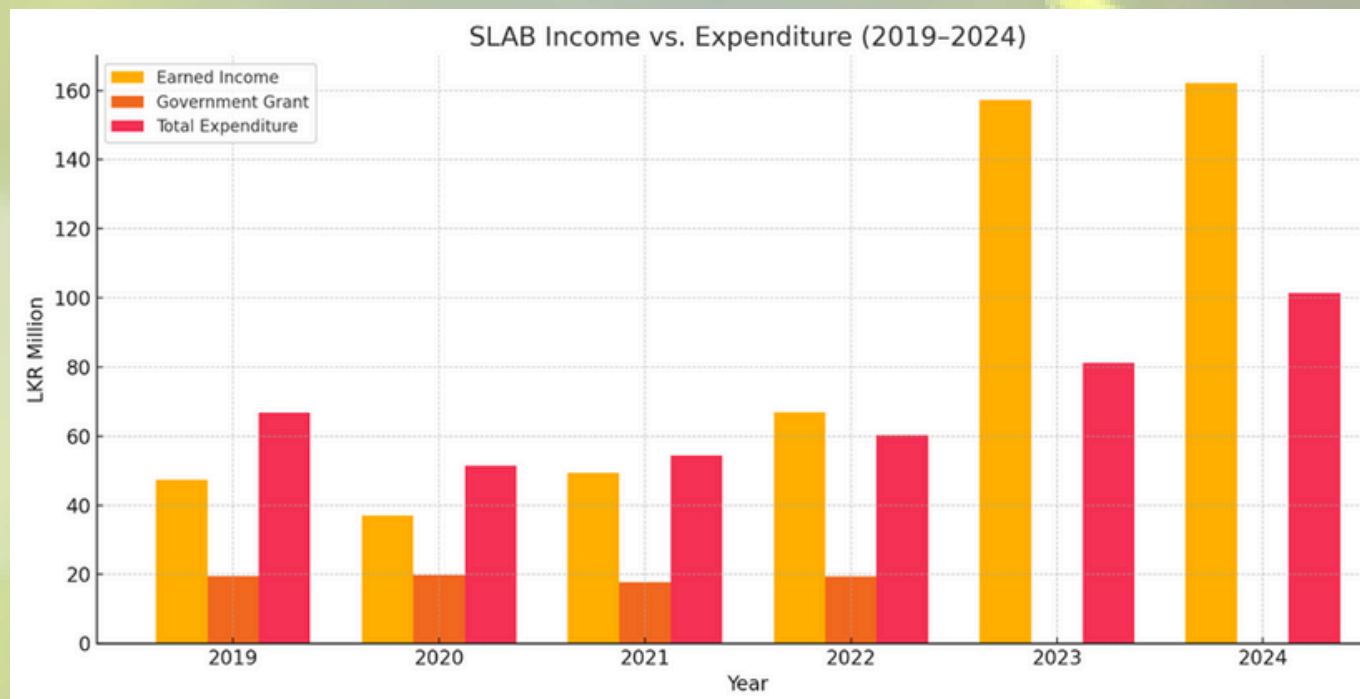


Harsha Chandrasiri
Assistant Director - Finance & Admin
SLAB

Perhaps the most significant milestone in SLAB’s recent history is its complete financial independence from government funding in 2023. What began as a state-supported initiative has now become a self-sustaining entity, with earned income surpassing expenditures for the first time in 2022.

This transition from Treasury dependence to a self-financing model is not just a financial success, but a strategic national achievement,” said a senior official at SLAB.

The following graph illustrates SLAB’s journey in financial performance from 2019 to 2024:



Accreditation is an effective marketing tool for testing, medical, calibration and measurement laboratories, and a passport to submit tenders to contractors that require independently verified laboratories. Laboratory accreditation is highly regarded both nationally and internationally as a reliable indicator of technical competence.

Many industries, from clinical, chemical, construction, forensic science, electrical and food sectors, routinely specify laboratory accreditation for suppliers of testing or calibration services.

Extracted from ILAC Brochure “Advantages of being accredited”



LET'S HEAR FROM PARTNER NQI ORGANIZATIONS



DR. SIDDHIKA G. SENARATNE
DIRECTOR GENERAL/ CEO
SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION
NATIONAL STANDARDS BODY OF SRI LANKA

The Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) wishes to congratulate Sri Lanka Accreditation Board on their 20th anniversary and take the opportunity to thank SLAB for their continuous support over decades towards SLSI's certification and testing services.

The accreditations from SLAB contribute to the international recognition and credibility of SLSI's services for facilitating trade and ensuring the quality and safety of products and services in Sri Lanka as the Guardian of Quality in the nation.

www.slsi.lk

LET'S HEAR FROM PARTNER NQI ORGANIZATIONS



SUJEEWA AKURANTHILAKA
DIRECTOR, MEASUREMENT UNITS, STANDARDS AND
SERVICES DEPARTMENT (MUSSD)
NATIONAL METROLOGY INSTITUTE OF SRI LANKA

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB), and in celebration of World Accreditation Day 2025, the Measurement Units, Standards and Services Department (MUSSD) extends its warmest congratulations.

As the National Metrology Institute of Sri Lanka, MUSSD is proud to collaborate closely with SLAB by providing metrology expertise for accreditation assessments, training, and international peer reviews under the APMP and RMO frameworks.

Over the past two decades, SLAB has played a vital role in strengthening Sri Lanka's National Quality Infrastructure, enabling industries—especially SMEs—to improve product quality, access global markets, and enhance public confidence.

We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with SLAB in advancing quality, trust, and international recognition for Sri Lanka.

www.measurementsdept.gov.lk

Control Union acknowledges SLAB's vital role in enhancing our conformity assessment services through accreditation for key programs, including several Textile Exchange Standards, HACCP, ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 22000, ISO 50001, SL Organic, and more to come. These accreditations reinforce our technical competence, global recognition, and credibility across a wide range of industries.

Thushara De Silva - Quality Manager, Control Union Inspections (Pvt) Ltd

SGS Lanka is honored to be associated with the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) as an accredited multi-laboratory, textile laboratory & natural resources inspection operating under various schemes. Over the years, SLAB's robust accreditation framework and adherence to international standards, such as ISO/IEC 17025, ISO 17020, ISO 17021 have significantly enhanced our operational excellence, technical competence, and customer confidence. The recognition we have gained through SLAB accreditation not only strengthens our position in the local market but also reinforces our credibility and competitiveness on a global scale. As the world's leading testing, inspection, and certification company, we value SLAB's contribution in fostering a culture of quality and integrity, and we congratulate the board on this remarkable milestone of 20 years of service.

*Himali Hettige - Quality & Technical Governance
Manager, SGS Lanka (Pvt) Ltd.*

Asiri Laboratories, the largest accredited medical diagnostic chain in Sri Lanka, congratulates the SLAB for two decades of steadfast dedication and commitment towards the continuous improvement of quality and standards in the country. SLAB has been instrumental in helping us achieve international accreditations including JCI (American) & ACHSI (Australian) standards for the Group Hospitals.

Asiri Laboratories

We are proud to have our wastewater, noise, ambient air, refrigerator, and lamp testing laboratories accredited by SLAB. This accreditation has enhanced our credibility, enabled regulatory compliance, and supported global recognition for quality and technical excellence

*Prabhashi perera - Principal Research Engineer/Head of the Department,
Energy and Environmental Services Department, NERD Center*

VOICES FROM OUR STAKEHOLDERS

The Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) has been a vital partner in developing and uplifting the quality and consistency of the Vehicle Emission Testing (VET) Programme. Through their commitment, SLAB has ensured that each district benefits from at least one accredited VET center, resulting in over 50 accredited centers nationwide. Their technical expertise has been crucial in maintaining consistent emission testing that aligns with global standards, bolstering Sri Lanka's international recognition. We are proud of the progress of the first island wide VET Programme in South Asia, achieved through SLAB's dedicated efforts. Wishing SLAB continued success in their mission to uphold excellence and quality for years to come!

*CEng. I. G Dasun Janaka - Project Director, Vehicular Emission
Test Trust Fund.*

Heartfelt congratulations to the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) on its 20th anniversary! Your dedication to accreditation has been instrumental in strengthening SMEs, promoting sustainability, and enhancing environmental compliance. As we mark World Accreditation Day 2025, we applaud SLAB's efforts in fostering a greener, more resilient economy through trusted quality assurance."

Prof. Tilak Hewawasam - Chairman, Central Environment Authority (CEA)

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to SLAB for 20 years of unwavering commitment to upholding the highest standards in being an accreditation body. We are grateful for the guidance, credibility, and continuous support that SLAB has provided us throughout many years. We look forward to many more years of working with you."

*Daluka De Silva - QA Lead, Bureau Veritas Consumer Products
Services Lanka (Pvt) Ltd*

Accreditation of the Sri Lanka Climate Fund (SLCF) by the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) provides significant national and international benefits by confirming its compliance with globally recognized standards. Nationally, it builds trust among government agencies, industries, and stakeholders, enabling the effective implementation of climate policies and environmental regulations. For small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), this accreditation offers access to reliable validation and verification services, helping them meet environmental standards. This improves their ability to compete in environmentally conscious markets and integrate into green supply chains. Internationally, the accreditation enhances SLCF's credibility and global recognition, allowing it to act as a trusted validation and verification body for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions under international mechanisms such as the Paris Agreement and emerging carbon market platforms. It opens doors for cross-border collaboration, eligibility for international funding and carbon credit schemes, and participation in global climate initiatives. Furthermore, it strengthens Sri Lanka's representation in the global climate governance system, promoting transparency, environmental integrity, and sustainable development.

Sri Lanka Climate Fund

**VOICES FROM
OUR
STAKEHOLDERS**

The Mark that makes the Difference



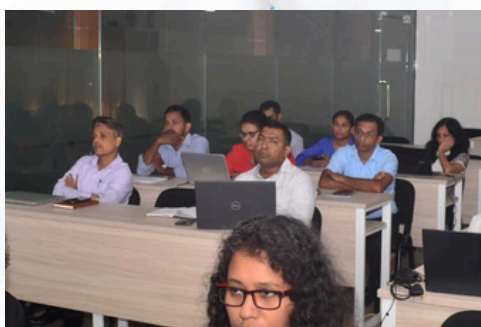
WORKING IN A LONG RELATIONSHIP WITH SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD

My long-standing relationship with the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) has been professionally rewarding and personally meaningful. Over the years, I have had the privilege of engaging with SLAB in various capacities—from technical assessor, team leader and committee involvement to policy-level discussions—and each phase has deepened my appreciation for the vital role this institution plays in ensuring quality and trust in Sri Lanka's conformity assessment systems and to elevate the status of Sri Lanka in Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GOII).



Dr. H.P.P.S. Somasiri

Additional Director General -Technical Services, Industrial Technology Institute



SLAB, as the national accreditation authority, has consistently upheld international standards while tailoring its approach to meet the unique demands of Sri Lanka's evolving industrial, environmental, and scientific landscapes. Being part of this journey has allowed me to witness firsthand how accreditation not only enhances technical competence but also builds confidence among stakeholders, including regulatory bodies, industries, and the general public.

One of the most fulfilling aspects of working with SLAB has been the opportunity to contribute to developing guidelines and evaluation criteria that align with global benchmarks. Collaborating with dedicated professionals at SLAB has always been a source of inspiration, and the organization's emphasis on transparency, scientific rigor, and continuous improvement is truly commendable.

As we look ahead to new challenges—ranging from climate change to technological disruption—SLAB's role becomes ever more critical. I am proud to have walked alongside this institution for so many years and remain committed to supporting its mission of promoting excellence through accreditation.

I wish a prosperous future for SLAB on its twentieth anniversary celebration!



SLAB: FUTURE SCHEME EXPANSIONS

SLAB Efforts in Developing New Accreditation Schemes

Accreditation is a tool that builds competence, not just a mark of quality. Whether ensuring food safety, maintaining data privacy, or upholding compliance across industries, accreditation instills confidence in the systems organizations and the public rely on. In response to evolving global trends and national needs, we are expanding our portfolio by developing and offering new accreditation schemes that reflect current challenges and opportunities. In keeping with these objectives, SLAB is working on both new schemes in emerging areas and expanding within existing sectors.

ISO 20387 (Biotechnology – Biobanking – General requirements for biobanking)

With the growing emphasis on medical, Research and public health, biobanks are playing a crucial role in preserving biological materials. SLAB has established the accreditation scheme in line with ISO 20387, which is applicable to all organizations engaged in biobanking of biological material from multicellular organisms—such as humans, animals, fungi, and plants—as well as microorganisms for research and development. We are now ready to accept clients seeking to demonstrate their competence, traceability, and ethical practices in biobanking.

As part of our continuous improvement efforts, SLAB is also adding new schemes under the management system certification umbrella. These schemes address modern organizational needs and align with ISO/IEC 17021-1 requirements:

ISO 21001 specifies requirements for a management system for educational organizations:

SLAB now accepts applications for accreditation under ISO 21001, the Education Organizations Management System (EOMS). This standard supports educational institutions in enhancing teaching, learning, and stakeholder satisfaction. It applies to all types of curriculum-based organizations and promotes effective operations and continuous improvement in the education sector



ISO 37001 – Anti-bribery management systems:

This scheme supports organizations in preventing, detecting, and responding to bribery by establishing a dedicated anti-bribery management system. It applies across sectors, addresses direct and indirect bribery, and can function as a stand-alone system or be integrated into an overall management system.

Food Safety System Certification (FSSC 22000):

This globally recognized scheme enhances food safety by ensuring robust controls throughout the food supply chain. SLAB is actively reviewing applications and progressing with its implementation, aiming not only to assure safer food for all but also to promote the economic development of the country by supporting local producers, exporters, and food businesses in meeting international market requirements.





ISO/IEC 27701 – Privacy Information Management System:

With data privacy being a key concern worldwide, and especially crucial in today's increasingly digital environment, this scheme ensures that organizations handle personal data responsibly and in accordance with international best practices. It supports the implementation of robust privacy controls, helping organizations protect sensitive information and build trust with stakeholders in an era where data security is critically important.

ISO 37301 – Compliance Management System:

This scheme supports organizations in meeting their legal, regulatory, and ethical obligations. Accreditation under this system builds trust with regulators, partners, and customers.



ISO 22301 – Business continuity management systems:

Disruptions such as from whether from natural disasters, pandemics, cyberattacks, etc., can threaten business operations. SLAB's new scheme helps organizations build resilience and continue critical operations during crises.

SLAB has also expanded available services within existing accreditation frameworks, particularly under the Validation and Verification Bodies (VVB) scheme. The following areas have been formally established and are ready for client engagement:

- **Carbon Neutrality:** Helping organizations validate their carbon neutrality claims in line with international environmental expectations.
- **Carbon Financing:** Supporting economy through reliable third-party verification for carbon credit projects and mechanisms.
- **Environmental Labelling & Declaration:** Enabling trustworthy and transparent product and service claims related to environmental impact, aligning with sustainability initiatives.

As we mark two decades of accreditation excellence, SLAB remains committed to supporting national growth, international trade, and public confidence through credible and internationally recognized accreditation services.

We warmly invite all stakeholders to partner with us as we expand our services.

Let's grow together—with confidence, competence, and credibility.



N D S K FERNANDO
Assistant Director - Accreditation
SLAB

SLAB: A YEAR TO REVIEW

2024 / 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

The Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) has had an eventful 2024/2025, marked by a series of impactful training programs, community engagement initiatives, and participation in key exhibitions. As the national accreditation authority, SLAB continues to uphold its commitment to excellence in conformity assessment while fostering professional development and community goodwill. Here's a look back at our highlights from the past year.

Capacity Building & Training Programs

SLAB conducted a series of specialized training programs targeting laboratories, inspection bodies, and certification entities throughout the year. These sessions covered a broad range of accreditation-related topics, including ISO/IEC 17025, ISO 15189, ISO/IEC 17020, and ISO/IEC 17021, among others. The programs aimed to ensure continual professional development, compliance with international standards, and overall improvement in quality infrastructure.

A key highlight was the Assessor Training Program, designed to build a skilled pool of assessors to support SLAB's growing assessment demands. Participants gained comprehensive insights into assessment methodologies, practical implementation of standards, and ethical practices in accreditation.



Assessor Training Programme - ISO/IEC 17021



Training on Business Continuity Management Systems



Training of FSSC 22000 Version 06



Assessor Training Programme - ISO 15189

Staff Development Workshops

Throughout the year, SLAB organized internal training sessions to enhance the skills of its employees, covering areas such as quality management, technical evaluations, and Management skills.



Participation in Exhibitions

Trade Up Exhibition, Matara: SLAB proudly participated in the Trade Up Exhibition held in Matara in November 2024, showcasing our role in enhancing quality and safety standards for Sri Lankan industries. Our booth attracted hundreds of visitors, including local businesses and exporters, who learned about SLAB's accreditation services and their impact on global trade competitiveness. Interactive displays and consultations with our experts highlighted the importance of accredited testing and certification, reinforcing SLAB's commitment to supporting economic growth.



Mahapola Exhibition, Ja-Ela: SLAB participated in the Mahapola exhibition planned by the Ministry of Trade in December 2023. The main intention of the exhibition is to enhance the knowledge of the general public on trade activities. SLAB was able to use this exhibition to popularize accreditation among the general public through various activities: Quizzes, Videos, etc



Internal Capacity Building & Workflow Modernization

In a landmark move to enhance operational efficiency, SLAB introduced a new Workflow Management System in 2024. This digital platform is designed to streamline assessment and accreditation processes. To support the rollout, dedicated training sessions were held for SLAB staff and assessors, enabling smooth adoption and ensuring effective utilization of the new system. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, and the system is now being integrated into daily operations with promising outcomes.



Knowledge sharing among the Accreditation community

SLAB has supported a peer Accreditation Body - Accreditation Office for Standards Conformity Assessment Capacity (AOSC), Vietnam, conducting a series of Trainings including an Awareness training and Assessor Training followed by witnessing of it's assessors for evaluation of competency for the Inspection scheme (ISO/IEC 17020).



In addition, SLAB has engaged with knowledge sharing sessions, capacity building programmes and awareness sessions on various accreditation schemes; Testing laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025), Calibration Laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025), Inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020), Validation and Verification bodies (ISO/IEC 17029) locally and globally (Maldives, Oman, UAE) on request.

Community Engagement & Cultural celebrations

SLAB believes in fostering a strong workplace culture while giving back to society. New year celebration is one of the main event SLAB celebrates annually .



SLAB celebrated Vesak in a unique way by organizing an Ice Cream Dansal. The event promoted team bonding and the spirit of sharing, aligning with the values of Vesak.



SLAB's initiatives in 2024-2025 reflect a steadfast commitment to quality, continuous improvement, and community engagement. Through targeted training programs, staff development, and active participation in national events, SLAB continues to play a pivotal role in promoting accreditation and enhancing standards across Sri Lanka. As we move forward, SLAB remains committed to excellence in accreditation, continuous learning, and community involvement. We thank all our stakeholders, staff, and partners for their support in making 2024/2025 a successful year.

SLAB 20TH ANNIVASARY CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS

Sri Lanka Accreditation Board is celebrating its excellence over 20 decades in a grand way. Following activities are planned in-line with the 20th Annivasury celebrations in 2025.

- **World Accreditation Day Celebration** focussing on building awareness among the general public and regulators on accreditation. This event will be planned with the World Accreditation Day Celebration on June 09th 2025 Morning.
- **Celebration of Two Decades of excellence on World Accreditation Day Programme** focussing on having a flashback at the SLAB history and appreciation of the personnel who committed for SLAB achievements. This event will be planned with the World Accreditation Day Celebration on June 09th 2025 evening.
- **Appreciation programme** for the Ex-employees, Present employees, Assessors and Committee members who has given a long term service to the SLAB.
- **Poster and Essay Competition** focussing on the awareness creation on accreditation among the school children and general public. The competition announce under two categories: Open and School. Winners of the competition will be awarded at the World Accreditation Day Celebration on June 09th 2025. Winning essays and posters are displayed in the SLAB E-Magazine.
- **SLAB E-Magazine**, Issue 03, 2025 will be launched at the World Accreditation Day Celebration on June 09th 2025. The E-Magazine will be hosted to the SLAB website: www.slab.lk/publications
- Launching Coin demarking Two Decades of excellence of SLAB
- Developing SLAB promotional videos, banners, leaflets focussing on WAD 2025.



A HEARTFELT APPRECIATION FOR OUR LONG SERVING ASSESSORS

As the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) proudly celebrates its 20th Anniversary, we take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to a remarkable group of professionals—our assessors/committee members—who have dedicated over ten years of continuous service. Since our establishment, SLAB has been fortunate to collaborate with assessors / committee members whose knowledge, experience, and professionalism have been crucial in maintaining the integrity and international recognition of our accreditation services.

These long-serving assessors/committee members have been instrumental in strengthening Sri Lanka's quality infrastructure by supporting the rigorous assessment of conformity assessment bodies across the country. In recognition of their decade-long commitment and invaluable contribution, SLAB is pleased to present a token of appreciation to all assessors/committee members who have continuously served for more than ten years.

This gesture reflects our deep gratitude for their unwavering support and the pivotal role they have played in our success over the past two decades.

On this important milestone, we extend our heartfelt thanks to each of these professionals for being an integral part of SLAB's journey and for helping us uphold the highest standards of quality and trust.

Former Chairmen - More than 10 years' Service to SLAB in Technical Capacity

- Prof. H D Gunawardena
- Mr. D D Kodagoda
- Dr. S B Wahala

Former Director / CEOs

- Mr. B S P Mendis
- Mr. T Wickramasinghe
- Mrs. Chandrika Thilakarathne

Former SLAB officers - More than 10 years' Service to SLAB

- Mr. L H D Bandusoma
- Mr. D J Amupitiya
- Mr. D G Pushpakumara
- Ms. Nelum Dias

Assessors - More than 10 years' Service to SLAB

- Mr. E G Somapala
- Ms. S Jayasinghe
- Ms. S A N S Rathnasekara
- Dr. D M S Munasinghe

- Mr. J A G Jayasinghe
- Ms. Y N Amarathunga
- Ms. M K D R Dayarathna
- Dr. K R W Abeywickrema
- Ms. I P Edussuriya
- Ms. N P T Perera
- Dr. H P P S Somasiri
- Prof. K M S Wimalasiri
- Mr. T G G Dharmawarda
- Ms. Champa Magamage
- Dr (Ms). S I Abeygunawardene
- Dr. Ms. Chandrika Nanayakkara
- Professor. (Mrs) I V N Rathnayaka
- Dr. H Karunarathne
- Prof. (Ms) S C Wijeyaratna
- Mr. T S Amarawansa
- Dr. N De Silva
- Mr S N Niles
- Mr. R G Perera
- Mr. G K K S Kumara
- Mr. D D Ananda Namal
- Mrs. A J G M Bogahawatte
- Mr. G H Asoka
- Mr. R G S A Perera
- Ms. S Udakara
- Mr. H P N J Gunasekera
- Ms. S M Silva
- Mr. R D M Alanka
- Ms. W A J S Perera
- Mr. J N R Kumara
- Mr. V Perera
- Dr. (Ms) M N Tudawe
- Prof. K A C Wickremaratne
- Dr. (Ms) V Ratnamalala
- Dr. (Ms) D G N N Ranasinghe
- Dr. (Ms) V C P Gunawardena
- Dr. (Ms.) R C Meegama
- Dr. (Ms.) I D Siriwardene
- Prof. (Ms.) S Wijeratne
- Dr. (Ms.) G Katulanda
- Dr. (Ms) R P Samarasinghe
- Dr. B K T P Dayanath
- Dr. (Ms.) T P K Herath
- Dr. (Ms.) K M Hirimutugoda
- Dr. M Dissanayake
- Dr. (Ms.) J P Elvitigala
- Dr. (Ms.) P Somaratne
- Dr. (Ms.) S K Jayathilake
- Dr. (Ms.) D Vidanagama
- Dr. (Ms.) N S Chandrasiri
- Dr. P B V Navaratne
- Prof. (Ms.) Jennifer Perera
- Dr. (Ms.) S P Gunasekara
- Dr. (Ms.) C S P Sosai
- Dr. (Ms.) K C K Wasalaarachchi
- Dr. (Ms.) D P S Nanayakkara
- Prof. (Ms.) A Manamperi
- Prof. D G G P Karunaratne
- Mr. V R Sena Peiris
- Mr. Wasantha Meewaddhana
- Mr. J M S Jayathilake
- Prof. (Ms.) A H L R Nilmini
- Prof. (Ms.) C D Jayaweera
- Ms. S S K Muthurathne
- Dr. (Ms.) G C S Galagoda

SLAB ISLANDWIDE POSTER AND ESSAY COMPETITION

SLAB in the view of Celebration of its two Decades of excellence together with World Accreditation Day 2025 has organized an "Islandwide Poster and Essay Competition".

Main aim of the programme is building awareness on accreditation among the general public. Both competitions were held under two categories: Open and School.

EXPERT JUDGE PANEL FOR SLAB ESSAY COMPETITION

1. Mr. T. Wickramasinghe - Retired Director / CEO, SLAB
2. Mr. L.H.D. Bandusoma - Former Deputy Director, SLAB
3. Mr. S. Prabagar - Senior Research Scientist, ITI

EXPERT JUDGE PANEL FOR SLAB POSTER COMPETITION

1. Dr. B. L. J. S. Balasooriya - Vice President, Sri Lanka Economists Association
2. Mr. Nihal Rodrigo - Vice President, Sri Lanka Economists Association

ESSAY COMPETITION - WINNERS OF THE SCHOOL CATEGORY

FIRST PLACE: Mr. H. M. Marshalee Meuna Shiladhithya, Sivali Central College, Rathnapura

SECOND PLACE: Mr. A. H. Senul Dimsara Gunawardhana, Richmond College, Galle

THIRD PLACE: Ms. A. M. S. N. Abeykoon, Attanakadawala National College, Polonnaruwa

MERIT AWARDS

Mr. A. T. K. Ujitha Sudharshana, Richmond College, Galle

Ms. S. Yogamohan, Hindu Ladies College, Jaffna

Adshaya Muralitharan, Hindu Ladies College, Jaffna

Accreditation: Empowering small and medium enterprises.

Every product tells a story - not just about what it is, but about who made it, how it was made, and why we should trust it. In a world overflowing with choices, trust is what sets one product, one service and one business apart from the rest. And trust doesn't happen by chance - it's built on consistency, safety and standards. That's where accreditation comes in.

WINNER SCHOOL CATEGORY



MS. H. M. MARSHALEE MEUNA SHILDHITHYA
SIVALI CENTRAL COLLEGE
RATHNAPURA

Each year on June 9th we mark World Accreditation Day, and this year's theme could be more relevant to Sri Lanka's future: Empowering small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through accreditation. It's more than just a theme; it is a recognition of the everyday dreamers and doers who make up the backbone of our economy. From home bakers and organic farmers to tech start ups and family run factories - these small and medium businesses form over 75% of Sri Lanka's economic engine.

But being small couldn't mean staying small. Many SMEs have the passion, the skills and trust. That's what accreditation gives them: a way to prove their quality to the world. It gives them the voice they need in competitive markets, both locally and globally.

Imagine a small herbal skincare business in Southern Sri Lanka. The team uses traditional knowledge and local ingredients. Their products are genuinely good. But without credible testing, customers hesitate.

Now imagine those same products tested in a lab accredited by the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB). The moment they print "Tested by SLAB" on the label, everything changes. That seal becomes a promise: this product is safe, standardized, and trustworthy.

SLAB plays a quiet but powerful role in these transformations. It ensures that laboratories, inspection services, and certification bodies follow globally accepted standards. This connection to international systems is what makes SLAB's accreditations so valuable - they open doors for Sri Lankan SMEs to trade confidently beyond borders. Whether it's agriculture, food processing, IT, engineering, or education, accreditation levels the playing field.

And this isn't just theory. Accredited services directly lead to improved product quality, better safety, reduced waste, and easier access to funding or partnerships.

For a developing nation like Sri Lanka, this means stronger exports, more employment, and faster economic growth. There's also a deeper social impact. When SMEs succeed, they create jobs. They keep youth from migrating unnecessarily. They inspire innovation in rural areas. They build community pride. And all of that can start with something as simple as a certificate — if it carries real value.

That's why SLAB's role matters so much. It's not about handing out awards. It's about building a reliable system where businesses know what is expected and customers know what to trust. SLAB links us to international accreditation networks like ILAC and APAC, ensuring that Sri Lankan products tested or certified here are respected abroad. As a student, I see all of this not as a policy, but as an opportunity. Accreditation helps small dreams become big realities. It gives young entrepreneurs like my friends and classmates the confidence to build something from scratch — knowing that if they meet the standards, the world will listen.

This World Accreditation Day is more than a celebration. It's a reminder that trust isn't given — it's earned. And Sri Lanka, accreditation is the bridge that connects local talent to global recognition. Let's invest in that trust. Let's value that Logo. Because when small businesses rise, so does our nation.

ESSAY COMPETITION - WINNERS OF THE OPEN CATEGORY

FIRST PLACE: Ms. Jehosheba Lois Thiagarajah, Kotagala

SECOND PLACE: Ms. Kirushanthi Thangavel, Jaffna

THIRD PLACE: Ms. H. Nawodi Nishadya Haputhota, Ampara

MERIT AWARDS

Ms. Mukulanjalee Gunarathne, Gampaha

Ms. Brintha Rajeswaran, Trincomalee

Mr. H. Pubudu Chandana Bandara Hewa, Ruwanwella

Ms. Amali Hettige, Boralesgamuwa

Mr. M.B.M. Irsath, Mannar

Ms. Kavya Dharshani Edirisingha, Weligama

Ms. K.L. Nisansala, Koswatta

Ms. D.L.D.L. Madhurangika, Gothatuwa

Ms. K.G. Iresha Udani, Pannipitiya

Ms. Salma Rukshana Ismail, Kandapola

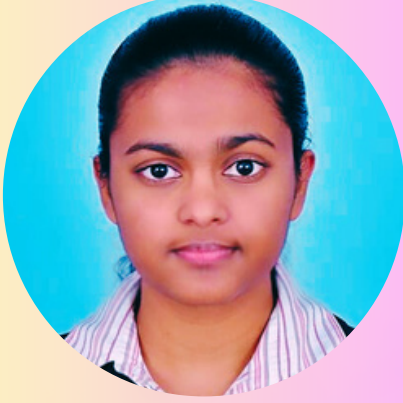
Ms. H.S.P.N. Sandeepani, Angulugaha

Ms. Buhuni Dhanushma Kodithuwakku, Eheliyagoda

Ms. W.M. Nanduni Pabasara Wijethunge, Kaduwela

SLAB ESSAY COMPETITION

WINNER OPEN CATEGORY



MS. JEHOSEBA LOIS THIAGARAJAH
KOTAGALA

அங்கீகாரம் : சிறு மற்றும் நடுத்தர நிறுவனங்களை
மேம்படுத்துதல்

தலைவரின் வேகமாக வளர்ச்சியடைந்து வருகின்றன பொருளாதாரத்தில் சிறு மற்றும் நடுத்தர நிறுவனங்களானது கண்டிப்பும், வேகமாய்ப்புடன் மற்றும் பிராந்திய அபிவிருத்தி ஆகியவற்றில் பாரியளவிலான பங்களிப்பினை அளித்திருக்கின்றன. 75 % வியாபாரங்கள், 45 % வேகமாய்ப்புடன் மற்றும் 52 % உள்நாட்டு வியாபார உற்பத்திகளிலும் SMEகள் பங்கெடுத்து, தலைவரின் பொருளாதாரத்தில் முதுகெலும்பாக திகழ்கின்றன. திறந்தவைய முக்கிய பங்கினை வகிக்கும் திறநிறுவனங்களில் பல தினமும் அபிவிருத்தியடைந்து, சர்வதேசளவில் போட்டியிட முடியாமல் உள்ள சந்தைகளுக்கானோ அடங்கி, அங்கீகாரம் பெற முடியாதென்கின்றன. அங்கீகாரமானது மாற்றத்துக்கு வழிவகுக்கும் முதலாக, தரமான உத்தரவாதத்தையும், சந்தைகளில் அனுபவமும், நிலையான ஓர் ஆதரவும் ஏற்படுத்துகின்றது.

அங்கீகாரத்தையும், அதன் முக்கியத்துவத்தையும் உணர்த்துகின்றவருக்கு மிகவும் அவசியமானவையாகும். அங்கீகாரம் என்பது எந்தவிதமான நிறுவனம் திறந்தவையும், போட்டிகள் அல்லது சவால்களையும் வெற்றி கொண்டு ஓர் நம்பகத்தையான வாடிக்கையாளர்களுக்கு வழங்குகின்றதோ, அந்நிறுவனத்தை யாவதும் அறியும் முதலாக சமீபவகையாகும். இது அந்நிறுவனமானவர்கள் மற்றும் பங்குதாரர்களால் வழங்கப்படுகின்றது. அங்கீகாரம் SMEகளுக்கு சான்றிதழ் மட்டுமல்ல; ஒரு புதிய நம்பிக்கையை, திறம்பட மேலும் சாதிக்க வேண்டியென்ற உத்தேசத்தை தருவதோடு அர்ப்பணிப்பையும், புதிய சந்தர்ப்பங்கள், மற்றும் வாய்ப்புகளென்கான திறவுகோலையும் தருவதோடு தருகின்றது. இது வாடிக்கையாளர்களின் நம்பிக்கையை மேம்படுத்தி, பொருளாதார வளர்ச்சியையும் உருவாக்குகின்றது.

கிடை எல்லாவற்றையும் விடத்து, தற்போதைய SMEகளின் நிலைமையை கருதுவோமாயின், என்ன தான் முக்கிய பங்கினை ஆற்றினாலும் கூட, கிளீனம் சிதாதிநாட்ப ரீதியிலும் சரி, கட்டமைப்புகள், பணிவேகங்கள் மற்றும் நிதி வசதிகளிலும் மாற்றங்களைகள் நிலவ தான் எதிர்ப்பார்க்கின்றன. மத்தியளவில் உள்ள சிறிய மசாலா தயாரிப்பாளர் முதல் மட்டங்களில் உள்ள துணிக்கை முதலாளி வரை யாவதும் திறந்தவைய தின்களை சந்திக்கின்றனர்.

பொருளாதார தட்கிப்பாடுகள் முக்கியமானதும், புறக்கணித்த முடியாதுமண் திடர்ப்பாடாடும். அங்கீகாரம் பெற்ற திருவனங்கரிலிருந்து போதியளவிலான திதி சலுகைகள் திடைக்க பெறாமல் திருப்பதால் அவர்கள் அங்கீகாரம் பெறாத திடங்களை நாடி தகன்று தீதவையற்ற வகைகளில் தித்தி ததாங்கின்றனர். அது மட்குமல்லாமல், வரி திதாதை பாரியளவில் திருப்பதும் பாரிய அச்சுறுத்தலாடும். திலையான மற்றும் திதாடர்ச்சியான வணிக துழைல் போணி ததாங்குவதிலும் திடர்ப்பாடுகள் ஏற்படுகின்றன. திதாடர்நுண்மையு போனுவதில் போதிய வழிகாட்டலின்மையானது திதற்கு காரணமாகின்றன. தித்திலைமையானது உறுதிப்பாட்குதும், வளர்ச்சிக்கும் பாரிய துடையாக அமைகின்றது.

அதுமட்குமின்றி, அங்கீகாரம் பெற்ற துரமான சான்றிதழ்கள் தில்லாமல் சர்வதீதர தீதிக்கு தடுதொடுக்க முடியாமல் SME த்கள் துமொறுகின்றன. தித்திலைமையானது அவர்களின் வளர்ச்சிக்கு துடைக்கல்லாத மாத்திரமே திருப்பது தன்பதை யானம் மறுக்க முடியாது. அதுமட்குமல்லாமல் திது ஏற்றுமதி மற்றும் துடுங்குதூத தீதவகைக்கு திக்கலை துருகின்றது. போயும் வாழக்கையாளர்களுடன் தம்பிக்கையான திணைப்பிணை ஏற்படுத்துவதிலும் திக்கலை துருகின்றது.

திவ வல்லாவற்றுக்கும் தீர்வாகவும், திறு மற்றும் துதீதர திருவனங் -களின் வலிமைவை உதக்குவிகவும் அங்கீகாரம் அவசியமாகின்றது. SME தள் திவ்வாறு அங்கீகாரம் பெற்றால் அவர்களால் சர்வதீதரவிலான துரத்துக்கு உற்பத்தி ததய்ய முடியும். திதனுடான அங்கீகாரத்துால் சர்வதீதர சந்தைகளுக்கு துகைய முடியும். உதாரணத்துக்கு, துவதிரலியாவில் உள்ள திதங்கு உற்பத்தியாளர் 180 22000 துர சான்றிதழை திதாண்டதும் அவரால் தீதரதயானவே ஜுதிராப்பிய சந்தைகளுடன் உருளைக்கிழங்கு ஏற்றுமதி வியாபாரத்தை மேற்கதான்றும் வாய்ப்பு திடைக்கின்றது. அத்துடன் தும் நாட்டின் பொருட்களின் துரம் உயர்வது மட்குமல்லாமல், பெருகா துரகும் உயர்வடைகின்றது.

அங்கீகாரம் பெற்ற நிறுவனங்கள் தூர அர்ப்பணிப்பினை ஒரு சமிக்ஞையாக வழங்குகின்றன என கூறலாம். திது வாழக்கையாளர்களுக்கு GME மீதான நம்பிக்கையை அல்லது நம்பகத்தன்மையை உலாங்கவிற்கின்றது. தித்த நம்பிக்கை காலப்போங்கில் நிறுவனம் மீதில் தேர்மையான வாழக்கையாளர் அமைப்பினை உருவாக்கும். அதுமட்டுமல்லாமல், நிறுவனமும் உள்ளுருள் மட்டுமல்லாது சர்வதேச ரீதியிலும் போட்டயிதில் அளவுக்கு வியாபிக்கும்.

மேலும், திதுமில்முறை சார்ந்த வினைத்திசுகளை விரத்தி செய்யவும் தரம் வாய்த்த முகாமைத்தவத்தை வுங்கவும், மேம்படுத்தவும் மற்றும் கீண்விரயங்களை குறைத்து திகாள்ளவும் முடியும். திதி வசதிகளை பெற்று திகாள்ளும் வகையில், திதி நிறுவனங்கள் அங்கீகாரம் பெற்ற GME களை அச்சுறுத்தல் குறைத்தணவையாத பாவித்து, முதலிகளை செய்யும் வாய்ப்பு அதிகரிக்கின்றது. தடன்வசதிகள் பெற சதுகைகளும் அதிகரிக்கின்றன. குறித்தவாத பிரதேசம் சார்பாத கருதின, அப்பிரதேச ரிபண்டர் மற்றும் திகைகர்கள் நடத்தும் வணிகங்கள் அங்கீகாரம் பெறுதல் மேல் அப்பிரதேசம் அபிவிருத்தியடைய வாய்ப்புகண்ண.

அங்கீகாரத்தினை வழங்குவதில் திலங்கை அங்கீகார சபையான SLAB பாரிய பங்கினை வகிக்கின்றது. திச்சபையானது தூரமானதும், நிர்ணயம் மித்ததுமான சான்றுகளை வழங்கி அங்கீகாரம் அளிக்கின்றது. SLAB ஆனது ஆய்வுகூடங்களுக்கு தேவை வழங்குவதிலும், சிறிய மற்றும் கைத்திர வணிகங்களுக்கான அங்கீகாரம் வழங்குவதிலும் பணியாற்றி வககின்றது. ஆய்வகம், சான்றிதழ் வழங்கும் நிறுவனங்கள் மற்றும் ஆய்வு கண்காணிப்பு நிறுவனங்களுக்கு அங்கீகாரம் வழங்குவதன் மேல், SLAB ஆனது சிறு மற்றும் குறித்த நிறுவனங்களுக்கு தூர சான்றிதழ்களை ரிபுவதற்கான நம்பகமான வழிகளை ஏற்பகத்துகின்றது.

தவ்வாறான தேவைகள் நதரங்களிலும், ரிபரிய நிறுவனங்களிலும் மட்டுமின்றி, திராமப்புறங்களில் உள்ள சிறு முயங்கிகளுக்கும் தருங்கி தேர வேண்டும். SLAB ஆனது அங்கீகாரம் என்பது சகல திதுமில்லகளுக்கும் சம வாய்ப்புக்களை வழங்கக்கூடிய சத்தி வாய்த்து தருவி என உணர்ந்தும்

அங்கீகாரத்தினால் SME வளர்ச்சியடைய செய்ய ஒருங்கிணைந்த உத்தியோக பூர்வமான முயற்சிகள் மேன்மையடையப்பட்டு வருகின்றன.

SLAB, அரசாங்கம் மற்றும் தனியார் நிறுவனங்களானவை SMEகள் அங்கீகாரம் பெறுவதற்கு சில வழிமுறைகளை கையாள்கின்றன. மக்கள் கிது சம்பந்தமான விழிப்புணர்வு கூட்டங்கள் நடத்தப்படல் நன்று. கிது கிணையதளங்கள், உடைகங்கள், துணைபிரசுரங்கள் மற்றும் சுவரொட்டிகள் மூலம் மக்கள் அறிவுறுத்தப்படலாம். கிதுக்கு கிணையதள வழிமுறையாக நிதி ஆதரவு வழங்கப்படலாம். குறைந்த வட்டி விகிதங்களில் கடன் மற்றும் மானியங்களை கிதுநிறுவனங்களுக்கு வழங்குவது அவர்களை பாதிக்க உதவியாக அமையும்.

மேலும், மேம்பாட்டு பயிற்சிகளை ஒழுங்கமைப்பதன் மூலம் திறனை உண்கப்படுத்த முடியும். உற்பத்தி பொருட்களை எவ்வாறு மேலும் தரம் உகாண்டதாக மாற்றுவது, குவணங்களை கிண்டதாலத்துக்கு பராமரித்து, ஒழுங்குபடுத்ததல் என்பன குறித்து பயிற்சிகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட முடியும். அங்கீகாரமானது தெரிய சட்டவமைப்புகளின் ஒன்றாக கிணைக்கப்படுவது நாட்டின் பொருளாதார பாதுகையில் முக்கிய திருப்புமுனாக அமையும்.

அங்கீகாரம் என்பது, கிணைய நவீன பிரபஞ்சத்திலும் கூட, சில கிராமப்புறங்களில் வாரும் திறமையான தொழிலில் சாத்திப்பவர்களுக்கு அவ்வளவு அறிமுகம் வாய்த்து சதால்லாக கில்லை. பல்கலைக்கழகங்களை கிப்பணித்திட்டத்தில் SLAB மற்றும் அரசாங்கம் கிளர்த்து கிணையதளங்கள் அது SME களின் முழுமையான வளர்ச்சிக்கான கித்திட்டாக அமையும். கிதுன் மூலம் நாட்டின் பல்வேறுபட்ட பிரதேசங்களுக்கு குறிப்பிட்ட கால பிரமாணத்துக்கள் சதத்தியை அல்லது அறிவுறுத்தல்களை வழங்க முடியும். கிதுவல்லாமல், புதுப்புது கருத்துக்கள், யோசனைகள் என்பன உன்னதக்கப்பட முடியும். மேலும் பயிற்சி முதலாளிகள், கிதுப்புணர்வு திட்டங்களில் நவீன தொழிநுட்ப சபாதி மற்றும் சாயலை உன்னதக் கிணைய முடியும்.

அங்கீகாரம் என்பது விவறுமனை சான்றிதழ் மட்டுமல்ல. கிது தரத்தும் நிடைத்தின்ற அங்கீகாரம் ஆகும். கிவ் அங்கீகாரம் நிடைத்த பெறுவதால் கிலங்கை தயாரிப்புக்கள் சர்வதீரச சந்தையல் நம்பகத்தன்மையுடன் நாட்சியரிக்கும். தரம் வாய்த்து பொருட்களை நம் நாடு உற்பத்தி செய்குமாம். தரத்துக்காக அர்ப்பணித்தப்பட்ட சிறு மற்றும் நடுத்தர நிறுவனங்-களின் முன்னேற்றமானது ஒரு தேசிய திறாக்கமான மாறு வேண்டும். சமயம் கிதில் பங்கிடுகத்த வழியமைத்த தேண்டும்.

மேலும், அங்கீகாரம் மூலம் நிலையான வளர்ச்சி உருவாகுதோடு, தரநிலை, நம்பகத்தன்மையுடன் விவரிநாட்டு முதலீடுகள் நம் நாட்டில் உருவாக்கப்படும். கிதனால் நிறுவனங்களுக்கு கிலாபம் கிடைப்பது மட்டுமல்லாமல், ரிதாழிலாளர்கள் மற்றும் பல சமூகத்தினரும் பலனடைவர். கித்தகைய வளர்ச்சி பண்பாட்டை உருவாக்க யாவரும் ண்றிணைந்து செயற்பட வேண்டும். ஆகவே, அங்கீகாரமானது சிறு மற்றும் நடுத்தர நிறுவனங்களின் முன்னேற்றத்துக்கான அடிப்படை கருவியாகும். கிது சூக நீதி, சமத்துவம் மற்றும் பொருளாதாரத்தை வழியமைத்தின்றது. கிதனை உறுக்குவிப்பதனால் நாடு முன்னேறும் என்பதே திண்ணம்.

POSTER COMPETITION - WINNERS OF THE SCHOOL CATEGORY

FIRST PLACE: Ms. W. B. A. K. M. Perera, Girls College, Dankotuwa

SECOND PLACE: Ms. W. A. D. L. L. Wanigasundara, Ranpokunagama M.V. Ranpokunagama, Nittambuwa

THIRD PLACE: Ms. E. L. N. S. Perera, Don Pedrick College, Horana

MERIT AWARDS

Mr. N. G. K. V. K. Namalgamuwa, Eheliyagoda Dharmapala Maha Vidyalaya, Eheliyagoda

Mr. M.Ramanujahn, Tamil M.M.V, Vavuniya

Mr. T.H.M. Dulnitha, Ranpokunagama M.V. Ranpokunagama, Nittambuwa

POSTER COMPETITION - WINNERS OF THE OPEN CATEGORY

FIRST PLACE: Mr. M.D.S.S. Abeysinghe, Dodangaslanda

SECOND PLACE: Ms. B. D. Kodituwakku, Eheliyagoda

THIRD PLACE: Mr. K. A. C. Perera, Nugegoda

MERIT AWARDS

Ms. F. S. Iomath, Kelaniya

Ms. K. Thangavel, Jaffna

Mrs. Tharushi Nethmika, Nugegoda

Ms. D. G.B.A.S. Ishara, Kelaniya

Ms. P.G.P.D. Darmasiri, Kotiyakumbura

Ms. V. L. Abeyaratne, Monaragala

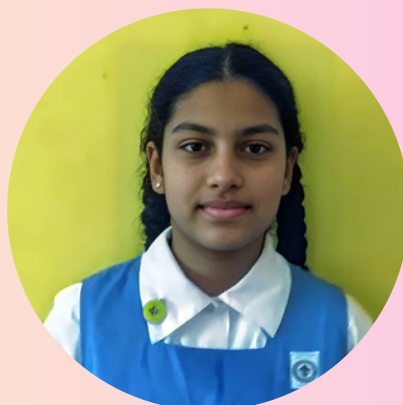
Ms. G.H.T. Dilhara, Galle

Mr. M.A. Sunil, Veyangoda

Ms. Dhanushka S. De Silva, Water Resource Board

Ms. A. Yoganathan, Vavuniya

WINNER SCHOOL CATEGORY



MS. W. B. A. K. M. PERERA,
GIRLS COLLEGE,
DANKOTUWA

ප්‍රතිභාවය යනු කුමක් ද?

- ප්‍රතිභාව ආයතනයක් විසින් නියම කරන ලද නිශ්චිත කණ්ඩායම ප්‍රමිතීන්ට අනුකූලව සංවිධානයක් හෝ ආයතනයක් ඇගයීමට ලක් කර හඳුනා ගන්නා ක්‍රියාවලිය ප්‍රතිභාව ලෙස හැඳින්විය හැකි ය. එය අධ්‍යාපනය, සෞඛ්‍ය සේවා අංශය ඇතුළු ඕනෑම කර්මාන්තයකට අදාළ විය හැකි ය.

ප්‍රතිභාව සඳහා දායක වන ආයතන

- දේශීය වශයෙන් සහ අයතනයක් සඳහා ශ්‍රී ලංකාව තුළ භාණ්ඩ හා සේවාවල අණාත්මකභාවය සහ විශ්වසනීයත්වය සහතික කිරීම ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රතිභාව මණ්ඩලයේ (SLAB) කාර්යභාරය වෙයි.
- මේ යටතේ,
 - SLS
 - ITI
 - SGS
 වැනි ආයතන ක්‍රියාත්මක වෙයි.

කුඩා හා මධ්‍ය ව්‍යවසායන් බල ගැන්වීම සඳහා ප්‍රතිභාවේ කාර්යභාරය.

1 PEOPLE	2 ENERGY	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	

කුඩා හා මධ්‍ය පරිමාණ ව්‍යාපාර

- වළං කැපීම
- කුළුබඩු වර්ග සෑදීම
- ඇඳුම් මැදීම
- විසිතුරු ද්‍රව්‍ය නිර්මාණය
- උළු වෙළඳාම

ප්‍රතිභාව, කුඩා හා මධ්‍ය ව්‍යවසායන් සඳහා වැදගත් වන්නේ කෙසේ දැයි විමසා බලමු.

- ප්‍රතිභාව මගින් ව්‍යාපාරවල වැඩි දියුණු කළ සුඛ ක්ෂේත්‍ර හඳුනා ගත හැකි වීම.
- ප්‍රතිභාව මගින් ලැබෙන සහතිකය නිසා පාරිභෝගිකයන්ගේ විශ්වාසය දිනා ගැනීමට හැකි වීම.
- වෙළඳ ද්‍රව්‍ය අපනයනයේ දී වැදගත් වීම.
- ව්‍යාපාරය කුඩා ලෙස ආරම්භ කළ ද, අනාත්මක භාවය සහතික කර ගැනීමෙන් එය සංවර්ධනය කර ගත හැකි වීම.
- උසස් තත්ත්වයේ සේවා නිෂ්පාදන බලාපොරොත්තු වන පාරිභෝගිකයන් ආකර්ෂණය කර ගත හැකි වීම.

මෙසේ ප්‍රතිභාව මගින් කුඩා හා මධ්‍ය පරිමාණ ව්‍යාපාරිකයන්ට තම ව්‍යාපාරය දියුණු කර ගැනීමට ලැබෙන ලාභ රැසකි. එමෙන් ම මෙමගින් රටේ සංවර්ධනයට ද විශාල දායකත්වයක් ලැබේ.

SLAB
SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD

WINNER
OPEN CATEGORY

MR. M.D.S.S. ABEYSINGHE,
DODANGASLANDA





SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

NO. 44, DEDICATED ECONOMIC CENTRE, KIRIMANDALA MAWATHA, NARAHENPITA, SRI LANKA



94 11 2 689 157 / 94 11 2 689 158



slabmail@slab.lk



www.slab.lk