

NEWSLETTER



INSTITUTION OF INCORPORATED ENGINEERS, SRI LANLA - UAE BRANCH

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Working from Home Because of COVID-19?

Here are 10 Ways to Spend Your Time



1. Take care of yourself.

As a first step, don't neglect your physical and mental health. Meditate. Do jumping jacks in your living room. Practice yoga. Whatever it is that works for you, do what it takes to care for your body and mind.

2. Learn a new skill.

Let's face it. If you're stuck at home, you're probably not going to become an expert on how to run a mass spectrometer. But you could beef up your computer

programming skills for instance, by learning how to create a fancy new graph in R or how to produce documents in LaTeX. You could also read a book about a new topic or circle back to that online course that you never finished.

3. Revisit that long forgotten project.

Somewhere in the deep, dark depths of your computer's file system, do you have an unfinished manuscript or unpublished data? If so, then you might want to use this time to dust off the files and figure out whether what you have is, in fact, publishable.

4. Promote your work online.

Consider devoting time to a bit of marketing. Does your personal website need updating? Have you been meaning to set up a Twitter profile and learn what hashtags are?

Would you like to write a popular science article? Or create a YouTube video about your research? If so, this might be the perfect time to wiggle your way out from underneath the rock you've been living under and find new avenues for connecting with other

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- Eng. Sisira Walaliyadde – Past Chairman, IIESL UAE,
- Eng. Nishan Karunaratne – Treasurer, IIESL UAE

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researchers and sharing your work. If you're struggling with social isolation at home, then social media might also help with that giving you a way to interact and commiserate with other scientists, such as those on [#AcademicTwitter](#).

5. Create a graphical abstract of your research.

Graphical abstracts—self-explanatory visual summaries of the main findings of your research are an increasingly popular way to communicate science. They take time to make, but they are a perfect eye-catcher and are recyclable. Once you've made one, you can place it on posters, presentation slides, papers, and social media platforms. It could even help you build your personal brand.

6. Apply for funding.

You might benefit from spending time scouring the internet for fellowships, grants, and awards. Don't just look in the most obvious places, such as federal grant agency websites. Take a look around for industry awards, [lower profile fellowships](#), and little pots of research funding that you might be able to apply for. Even if you don't receive an award, the process of applying will help you master the skill of grant writing.

7. Think about your career plans.

When you're in the lab, it's easy to focus on your next experiment and neglect long-term career planning. So, consider using some of your homebound time to learn more about yourself and your career options. You could read a [book](#) about career planning, test out career options with online [job simulations](#), or use free introspection tools, such as [myIDP](#). These things will help you reflect on the skills you have, brainstorm skills you'd like to develop, and think about where you see yourself headed in the future.

8. Conduct informational interviews.

If you have a few ideas about jobs that might interest you, then take this time to reach out to professionals who currently hold those jobs. In the midst of a pandemic, it's not appropriate to ask them to meet up for coffee. But you can ask them for a quick phone call or Skype chat. The reality is that the people whom you'd like to speak with may be working from home too. What's more, they might be itching for more social contact. So, informational interviews could be a good way to break isolation, learn about someone's career, and build a network, while still keeping a distance.

9. Be nice to your fellow humans.

If you live with others, being cooped up with them fulltime might be less fun than you imagined it to be. Channel your frustrations into something harmless for instance, by punching a pillow, exhausting yourself with pushups, or placing a tea towel between your teeth and screaming as loud as you can. Whatever you do, don't punch anyone.

10. Do fun stuff.

Close your eyes and think back to the time before you went to grad school. What was giving you joy? Is there an old hobby you can pick up again? One upside of your home confinement is that you no longer need to spend time commuting back and forth to work. Can you reallocate that time to doing something that will bring you joy or, at the very least, alleviate some stress?

It's an incredibly turbulent time for most of us. Take care of yourself and others, and remember to wash your hands!

Reference: [American Association for the Advancement of Science](#)

Nominations for the Session 2020-2021 of the IIESL

Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka has called for nominations from the Corporate Members of the IIESL for posts in the Council of Management for the session 2020-2021.

Corporate Members who are qualified for the respective positions may post their applications to the Chief Returning Officer or deposited in the Nomination Box provided at the headquarters of the Institution at No. 27/8, Udumulla Road, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka on or before 12.00noon on 24th June 2020.

[Click here](#) for further details.

IIESL-UAE Webinars

IIESL UAE Branch conducted its first Webinar during the Covid-19 Pandemic time. The Webinar was on “**Project Management in Construction, Resource and Schedule Management**”, conducted by Eng. Nalaka Kanthiarachchi, Secretary of the IIESL-UAE Branch on 19th May 2020. The session was a successful one, attended by a large number of professionals of many disciplines.

IIESL plans to conduct more webinars during the pandemic time and the details will be published soon.



Career Advancement of an IIESL-UAE Past Chairman

Eng. Jayantha Hettiarachchi, Past Chairman of the IIESL-UAE Branch who left UAE recently has assumed duties as a Lecturer of the Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa (ITUM), Homagama.

IIESL-UAE Branch congratulate Eng. Hettiarachchi and wish good luck and success in his future endeavors.

Processing of IIESL Memberships Online

IIESL has made arrangements to process the applications of the prospective members, online. The details of the application procedure have been published in IIESL’s web site.

Candidates for memberships can use the online application which can be downloaded from IIESL’s web site.

- Please click [here](#) for further details of the application procedure.
- Please click [here](#) to download the applications.

Engineering Council of Sri Lanka (ECSL) Registration

Corporate Members and Associate Members of the IIESL who have obtained their registration under Engineering Council of Sri Lanka (ECSL) as Incorporated Engineers and Engineering Diplomats for the year 2019, should renew their registration for the year 2020. Information and the details required for the renewal of the registration can be obtained from:

<https://ecsl.lk/>

Corporate Members and Associate Members of the IIESL UAE Branch, who have not obtained their registration yet, under the Engineering Council of Sri Lanka, can obtain their ECSL registration to enable them to practice as engineering practitioners in Sri Lanka, as defined under Section 15 or 18 of the [Engineering Council, Sri Lanka Act No 4 of 2017](#).

IIESL-UAE's CSR

IIESL-UAE Branch has made donations as noted below and taken action as a part of its Corporate Social Responsibility towards the Covid-19 pandemic effected Sri Lankan community in the UAE.

- Donated 20 packs of dry ration, worth AED 2,800.00 to the Consulate General of Sri Lanka for their programme to help needy Sri Lankans effected by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Donation of AED 2,500.00 to Sahana, the Sri Lankan Welfare Association who are providing various kinds of assistance including dry rations, medical assistance etc.
- Members of the IIESL UAE Branch supported the effected IIESL members in the UAE with financial assistance to cover up their day to day requirements.

IIESL-UAE Branch has formalized a system to support the members of the IIESL in the UAE who are affected due to Covid-19 pandemic and the procedure have been established. The pandemic is expected to prevail in the country for long and the IIESL-UAE are working out the means for supporting their effected members.

Consulate General of the Democratic
Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



الفنصلية العامة لجمهورية
سري لانكا الديمقراطية الاشتراكية

19th May 2020

Dear Members of Institute of Incorporated Engineers Sri Lanka – UAE

This is to convey my sincere appreciation and thanks for the generous contribution made by your esteemed Institution to this Consulate General Office strengthening our efforts in assisting fellow Sri Lankans in the UAE who got adversely affected by the prevailing Covid 19 pandemic.

I am sure that your contribution has made their lives better in this hour of need.

Your continuous cooperation to this Consulate General office is highly appreciated.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

Nalinda Wijerathna
Consul General



Resilience in Aviation Industry During the Time of Pandemic

Before we go to our topic as to how resilience could be applied in Aviation during the pandemic, let me take a bit around the back ground of aviation industry, which I feel is necessary.

As you know, Aviation industry is a vast field where we have something to learn every day. Aviation industry is known as a mass transporter of people & freight in shortest possible timelines across the globe. Today, once the lucrative & glamorous industry is in absolute danger, with only about 5% of the world's aviation is currently in operation. Aviation & the travel trade is the hardest hit industries sine the Covid-19 pandemic broke out.

Most of you have vastly travelled in the past on various airlines to so many countries and obviously every one of you also had also gone through various formalities in many international airports. As you do, it's natural to come to an understanding as to how the Airport & Airline teams work hand in hand, and coordinate with various levels of flying staff who are necessary to take you from Point A to Point B through the air.

Today, with the dawn of the covid-19 attack, that well-oiled teamwork in aviation between both civil aviation and the airlines around the world; has virtually come to a grinding halt, with record falls in passenger demands for the aviation industry and airports around the world which are facing long period of inactivity and facing huge financial losses.

As you know the `watch word' - "**safety**" is the paramount word in this aviation business, as you can visualize, unlike a vehicle on a road, and a ship in the sea, an aircraft cannot stop in the mid-air, and rectify what has gone wrong with it! Therefore, even as the thousands of airlines are grounded in- active mode, their companies are subjected to maintain them in top order and up to date to maintain their fleet to required airworthiness levels as demanded by their regulatory authorities. These all add up to the expenses for the aviation industry while they do not get any income by flying them in return to service **despite** having invested millions of dollars.

Let us see the ways to maintain the *resilience in aviation industry* and how it will bounce back to re-enter their regular services.

A) What is the Impact on Aviation Industry (Current and Future)?

Aviation industry as any other industry in the world depends on marketing terms of Top Line & Bottom Line for survival. The aviation industry is driven by passenger and cargo preference without which it cannot survive. Currently the passenger confidence is at rock bottom on the fears and mind-set of covid-19 dilemma in more than 150 countries where the casualties are growing daily at an alarming rate and deaths are occurring due it, which we have not experienced in our life time. The governments are increasing their lockdown periods or strictly blocking their international borders.

Basically any airline will depend on;

TOP LINE- Revenue

BOTTOM LINE- Profit

CASH FLOW – Which is the critical factor for liquidity.

Currently the business Top Line is totally in grave situation, since almost all airlines have grounded more than 2/3 of their fleet parked for indefinite period. The airlines were once competing neck to neck to woo the passengers to travel with them, loyalty programs created and many perks to passengers were dished out. Currently the only income the airlines are generating to survive and sustain their staff and pay their bills, seems to be **transporting cargo and freight and in between the humanitarian flights to repatriate the people back to their homes. This norm has become the top resilience factor in the Airlines flying today.**

B) What Risk Strategies, Airlines have Taken in Returning to Service?

Re-entering to service for many airlines will not be a crystal ball, all in aviation will have to test waters before they set foot. **Sustainability** will be the key during this risk taking period of resilience, and airlines will have to forget about their market share and keep less hopes on profitability, **with an eye on the cash flow and the revenue as the top most factors as I see.**

I feel, the following key strategies would be the benefits for the aviation industry, in return to its service.

1. The Governments of the countries the airlines belongs to; need to bail them out in the form of equity injections and stimulus funding's.
2. A global frontier to agree in reducing taxes which they had been charging the airlines during pre-Covid era. Work out synergies with other airline companies and service providers.
3. The countries should lift travel restrictions and allow all airlines to use ***5th freedom of air**; so, airlines can generate income with that allowance.
4. Encourage and facilitate Forward Bookings by getting customer confidence back by promoting the hygienic factors which the Airlines like to promote and attract the passengers who are looking forward for their health and safety.
5. Postpone investments on new fleet of aircrafts, lease returns of Aircrafts which are not required to keep in the fleet and think of network changes to bring more profitable routes using fuel efficient aircrafts to increase the profit margin.
6. Invest less on sophistication of Aircraft cabin – which was on severe competition among the airlines during pre-Covid era.
7. Work out a reasonable ticket structure, affordable to many passengers who may have got cash strapped due to their income levels slashed badly during the Covid-19 period due to recession and job losses.
8. Reduce company travel as much as possible & try to manage with the team meetings via the new technology which has come up as a winner during this period.

*** Five Freedoms of Air;**

Freedom 1- Transit / overfly without landing.

Freedom 2 – Can land in country B for technical stop, but not allowed to take passengers and proceed to Country C.

Freedom 3- Can carry full load of passengers to country B from home.

Freedom4- Can carry full load of passenger from country B back to home.

Freedom 5 – Can carry traffic back and forth from any foreign territory countries, B/C/D/E until destination from home & back to home.

Freedom 6 – Can carry traffic within territory (from their internal airports) of a foreign nation.



Eng. Deepal Rajaguru
Vice Chairman IIESL-UAE
NDT, MBA (PIMA-USJ), MIIESL, GCGI (UK),
AMRAeS, I Eng.

IIESL Memberships for Members of other professional institutions

IIESL Members having corporate membership of other foreign Institutions can now obtain Corporate Membership of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL). Interested Members can verify if their professional qualifications are acceptable for the IESL by logging into [IEA web site](#).

Click [here](#) to see the requirements and to download the application form for obtaining Corporate Memberships of the IESL.

Obituaries:

IIESL-UAE Branch announce the passing of the beloved father of Eng. Nalaka Kanthiarachchi, secretary of the IIESL-UAE in Sri Lanka on 26th May 2020. Members of the IIESL-UAE Branch sent their condolences to Eng. Nalaka and his family in Sri Lanka.

IIESL Past Chairman Eng. Jayantha Hettiarachchi attended the funeral ceremony representing the IIESL UAE Branch.

IIESL UAE Branch - Academic & Professional Achievements

Sr. No	Name of the Member	Academic/ Professional Achievements	Designation/ Title	Awarding Body, Institution or University	Year
1	Eng. Anura Jagodage	Fellow	FRICS	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, UK	May 2020
2	Mr. Ramanathan Arisanan	Graduate Membership	GMICE	Institution of Civil Engineers, UK	March 2020

Untimely Demise of Mr Dinusha Sahan Balasuriya



IIESL-UAE deeply saddened by the news of the untimely demise of Mr. Dinusha Sahan Balasuriya, beloved son of IIESL-UAE Member, Eng. Rohidha Balasuriya, in Melbourne, Australia on 15th June 2020.

At the time of passing away, Sahan was an undergraduate student of Deakin University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Funeral was held on Friday, 19th June 2020 at the Sanctuary Chapel, Bunurong Memorial Park, 790, Frankston-Dandenong, Australia.

There are no words for such an unimaginable loss. Sahan is in our thoughts, prayers and heart.

We extend our sincere condolences to our Comrade, Eng. Rohidha and family.

We sincerely thanks and appreciate the timely assistance provided by the Sri Lanka Engineering Diplomates Association of Australia (SLEDAA) to the relatives and friends of Eng. Rohidha for the funeral arrangements.

IIESL-UAE



Free Webinar #2



CONTRACTUAL LETTER WRITING

Objectives and Outcome:

- ▲ Participants will enhance their knowledge on Contractual Letter Writing
- ▲ Guidelines to create the writer's own Contractual Letters and customize each version of the message for each recipient.

Course Outline:

- ◆ Understanding the basics of Contractual Letter writing.
- ◆ How to write the content of a letter, clear, specific and contractually enforceable.
- ◆ How to write your message as you want.
- ◆ How Contractual letters reflect the contract agreement between the two parties.
- ◆ How to collect information for your Contractual Letter.
- ◆ Co-relating of references from the Conditions of Contract.
- ◆ Project Scheduler/ Planner's input.
- ◆ Variations, Claims- EOT and Cost, Notifications.

Target Group:

- ▲▲ Engineers, Quantity Surveyors, Contract Administrators, and those interested about successful project management.

Speakers:



Eng. Sisira Walaliyadde,
Associate Director, WSP Middle East Ltd.
NDT, FIHESL, MCGI(UK), MICE, MIESL, CEng., I Eng.

Friday, 10th July 2020
at
9.00am to 12.00pm
UAE time.



Eng. Dhammika T. Gamage,
NDT, CCGI(UK), IEng., FIHESL, FIQS, CQS, FICostE, FCInstCES, FRICS,
Director - AIQS and Committee member of AIQS UAE Branch
Chairman - Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors UAE Region
UAE Representative - Institute of Quantity Surveyors Sri Lanka

Registration to attend Free.

Click to link below.



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Wit and Humor During the COVID-19 Pandemic

(AOFAS)

If there ever was a time in our lives that we could use a smile or good laugh, it's probably now. Thousands have died, and each day, the headlines grow more bleak as the COVID-19 pandemic progresses. Hopefully, the curve can be flattened and lives saved. This process will take time, however, and as such, we are likely facing a prolonged crisis that will last several months.

With teamwork and fortitude, we will get through the current crisis and grow stronger for it. Until then, there will certainly be some challenging times. Smiles and laughter can hopefully brighten those moments, ease our stress, and help us get through this together. As one emergency room nurse concluded, "Humor absolutely relieves tension because it allows us all to laugh, decompress, and bond."

Little bit of Humor from Construction Industry....

Construction Industry Terms Explained.

- **Tender Submission:** A poker game in which the losing hand wins.
- **Tender Sum:** A wild guess carried out to two decimal places.
- **Successful Tenderer:** A contractor who is wondering what he left out.
- **Architect:** A man who knows very little about a great deal, and keeps knowing less and less about more and more until he knows practically nothing about everything.
- **Consulting Engineer:** A man who knows a great deal about very little, and goes on knowing more and more about less and less until he knows practically everything about nothing.
- **Quantity Surveyors:** People who go in after the war is lost and bayonet the wounded.
- **Lawyers:** People who go in after the quantity surveyors and strip the bodies.
- **Cost Plan Estimate:** The cost of construction in heaven.
- **Management Contract:** The technique for losing your shirt under perfect control.
- **Completion Date:** The point at which liquidated damages begin.
- **Liquidated Damages:** A penalty for failing to achieve the impossible.
- **Subcontractor:** A gambler, who never gets to shuffle, cut or deal.
- **Contractor:** A man who starts out knowing practically everything, but ends up knowing nothing due to his association with architects and consulting engineers

Q: How many safety inspectors does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Four. One to change it and three to hold the ladder.

Q: How many estate surveyors does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: Ten! One to hold the bulb, seven to turn the room around the bulb, one to take a picture for the brochure and one to charge you 1.5% commission to cover costs.

Q: When is a one-story house a two-story house?

A: You get one story before you buy and the second story after.

Salesman: This computer will cut your workload by 50%.

Property Manager: That's great, I'll take two of them.