

# NEWSLETTER

March & April 2026



**BEST  
MANAGEMENT  
PRACTICES  
COMPANY AWARDS  
2026**



**CPM**  
SRI LANKA  
**M.I.13  
MANAGEMENT INSIGHTS  
SUMMIT  
2026**





# Message from the FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF CPM SRI LANKA

**W**ith great pleasure, the Institute of Chartered Professional Managers of Sri Lanka (CPM Sri Lanka) presents its Monthly Newsletter, highlighting the key events and milestones achieved during the months of March and April 2026, together with a preview of the Institute's upcoming initiatives and engagements. This publication reflects CPM Sri Lanka's continuous commitment to keeping its members informed, connected, and inspired, while showcasing the achievements, knowledge, and professionalism within its growing community.

This edition features some of CPM Sri Lanka's most prestigious and highly anticipated events of the year, including the successful 5<sup>th</sup> Best Management Practices Company Awards 2026 and the 13<sup>th</sup> Management Insights Summit 2026, which brought together leading professionals, organizations, and thought leaders to celebrate excellence and share transformative insights. The newsletter also captures highlights from several impactful initiatives such as the 3<sup>rd</sup> CEO Compact Breakfast Forum, the inaugural Future Ready Professional Programme introduced to strengthen leadership excellence among members, the increasingly popular Management Round Table discussions, and many other engaging knowledge-sharing and professional development programmes.

More than a record of events, this newsletter serves as a meaningful platform for professional engagement, collaboration, and learning. Members are warmly encouraged to contribute by sharing professional achievements, industry insights, and emerging topics relevant to their respective fields, enabling a richer exchange of knowledge across the CPM Sri Lanka professional network.

As CPM Sri Lanka continues to expand its impact and professional presence, the Institute remains steadfast in its mission to advance management excellence, empower future-ready leaders, and deliver meaningful initiatives that create lasting value for its members and the broader business community.



**Pro. Lakshman R. Watawala**  
Founder and President

# CPM Sri Lanka Celebrates Women who Lead, Inspire & Transform for the 5<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year

## 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026

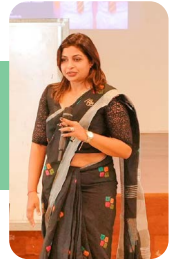
The 5<sup>th</sup> International Women’s Day Celebration 2026, organised by the CPM Sri Lanka Professional Women’s Leadership & Empowerment Committee, was held under the theme “Rights, Justice and Action for All Women and Girls: The Role of Professional Women.” The event highlighted the importance of advancing gender equality and leadership within professional spaces. The occasion was graced by Ms. Mahesha Amarasuriya, Director of Mastercard Sri Lanka, as Chief Guest, and featured a panel discussion with Ms. Lorraine Yu, Co-Founder of the Lanka Alzheimer’s Foundation, and Dr. Dilesha Perera, Co-Founder of La Vivente, moderated by Ms. Nishadi Shanika Rajapakse, Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Chemistry Ceylon and member of the CPM Sri Lanka Professional Women’s Leadership & Empowerment Committee. The session offered valuable insights into the role of professional women in driving inclusive growth and societal progress.



# CPM Sri Lanka Builds an Entrepreneurial Mindset for the Leaders of Tomorrow

## 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026

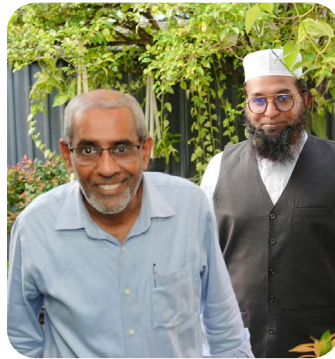
CPM Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Old Boys' Association of Ananda College, Colombo successfully conducted the "NextGen Entrepreneurship & Leadership Programme" for past pupils, providing a platform to foster entrepreneurial thinking and strengthen leadership capabilities. The initiative equipped participants with essential skills to navigate future professional challenges while promoting innovation and an entrepreneurial mindset, reflecting CPM Sri Lanka's ongoing commitment to developing future-ready leaders.



# Solemnizing an Evening of Blessing and Togetherness; Reflecting Unity

## 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026

CPM Sri Lanka hosted an Iftar gathering that brought members together for an evening of reflection, unity, and shared values. The event provided an opportunity to engage in a religious session while fostering a sense of togetherness and community, further strengthening connections among members and reflecting the Institute's commitment to inclusivity.



# CPM Sri Lanka's Highly demanded Deliberative Discussions continue to gain Momentum

11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The CPM Sri Lanka Management Round Table was held under the theme "Digital Humanism: Who will be controlling the emerging technology?", inspired by the work of Hannes Werthner. The session explored the balance between innovation, ethics, and human values in the age of artificial intelligence, with insights shared by Dr. Samantha Rathnayake, Governing Council Member of CPM Sri Lanka, and Mr. Yash Naik, Compliance and ESG Manager at Nisol Diamonds Limited. The event brought together members and learning associates for a meaningful exchange of ideas, reinforcing CPM Sri Lanka's role in promoting thought leadership in modern management practices.

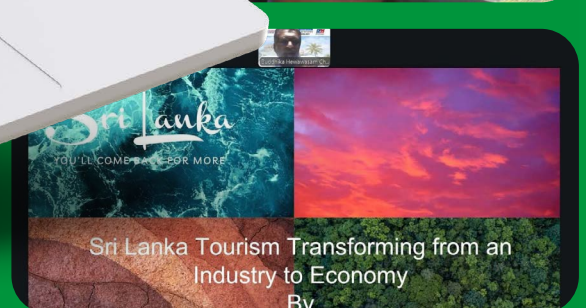


# The Journey of Successful Knowledge Drivers Continues for the 37<sup>th</sup> time!

## 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The 37<sup>th</sup> Evening for Managers (EFM) Presentation was held under the theme “Engineering Tourism Management: Efficiency as a Catalyst for Sri Lanka’s Economic Alpha (2026–2027),” focusing on strategies shaping the future of the tourism sector. The keynote address by Mr. Buddhika Hewawasam, Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, highlighted the role of effective management in driving sustainable growth, while the session was moderated by Mr. Roshan Collas, Governing Council Member of CPM Sri Lanka. The event brought together members and learning associates for an engaging exchange

of insights on advancing Sri Lanka’s tourism industry.



# ‘Chartered Professional Manager’ Professional Programme -Revamping a Powerhouse of Professionals for C-Suite Excellence in Management 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026

CPM Sri Lanka successfully conducted a workshop for the March 2026 intake of the ‘Chartered Professional Manager’ Professional Programme under the Strategic Mastery Phase, with the theme “Cognitive and Emotional Competence in ESG Leadership.” The session was led by Mr. Priyantha Dissanayake, Executive Director of DIMO Lifeline (Pvt) Ltd and Associated Laboratories (Pvt) Ltd and Chief Operating Officer – Healthcare, who shared valuable insights to enhance participants’ emotional and cognitive capabilities in effective ESG leadership.



# Chartered Professional Manager' Professional Programme -Redefining Professional Growth for an upcoming Generation of C-Suite Leaders

## 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026

A workshop on “Advanced Strategic Decision-Making Using AI and Big Data” was successfully conducted under the Strategic Mastery Phase of the CPM Sri Lanka Chartered Professional Manager Professional Programme at the Galle Face Hotel, Colombo 03. The session was facilitated by Mr. Dileepa Ilangakoon, Consultant – Rizing Lanka (Pvt) Ltd., who delivered valuable insights on leveraging advanced AI tools and big data to enhance strategic decision-making capabilities.



The workshop provided Learning Associates with practical knowledge and contemporary perspectives, enabling them to strengthen their analytical and strategic skills in an increasingly data-driven business environment. The active participation and engagement of attendees further contributed to the success of the session, reflecting CPM Sri Lanka's continued commitment to developing future-ready professionals.



# CPM Sri Lanka 13<sup>th</sup> MI Summit 2026; achieves a groundbreaking record of 500+ attendees aspiring for Change 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The CPM Sri Lanka 13<sup>th</sup> Management Insights Summit 2026, held under the theme “Reset: Reform and Realign,” brought together **over 500 participants** for an impactful knowledge-sharing platform. The Summit featured Mr. Sam Hanna, Director, Business and Corporate Development, School of Management of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) as Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker, with Dr. Nirmal De Silva, Governing Council Member of CPM Sri Lanka as Technical Chair, and included an expert panel discussion featuring Mr. Dhananath Fernando, Chief Executive Officer of Advocata Institute, Ms. Zaharah Cader, Legal, Corporate, and Regulatory Affairs Director at Ceylon Tobacco Company PLC, Mr. Thulci Aluwihare, Deputy Managing Director of CHEC Port City Colombo (Pvt) Ltd, and Dr. T. Sayandhan, Chief Executive Officer of Sunshine Medical Devices and Lina Manufacturing of SUNSHINE HOLDINGS PLC., Director Sunshine Healthcare Lanka Ltd & Lina Manufacturing, chaired by Mr. Sandun Hapugoda, Country Manager for Sri Lanka and Maldives, Mastercard, offering valuable insights on reform and strategic realignment.





The event also showcased presentations by the Top 10 winners of the Best Management Practices Company Awards 2026 including Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC, Silvermill Group of Companies, Insee Ecocycle (Pvt) Ltd., 99X Technology Limited, CEAT Kelani (Pvt) Ltd., Horana Plantations PLC, Omega Line Ltd., CBL Foods International (Pvt) Ltd., Hayleys Fabric PLC, and George Steuart Health (Pvt) Ltd, highlighting excellence in innovation, leadership, and sustainability, while reinforcing CPM Sri Lanka's role in promoting management excellence.



# Best Management Practices in Action: Over 1,000 Attendees Witness the Success of 170+ Companies at the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the CPM Sri Lanka BMPC Awards

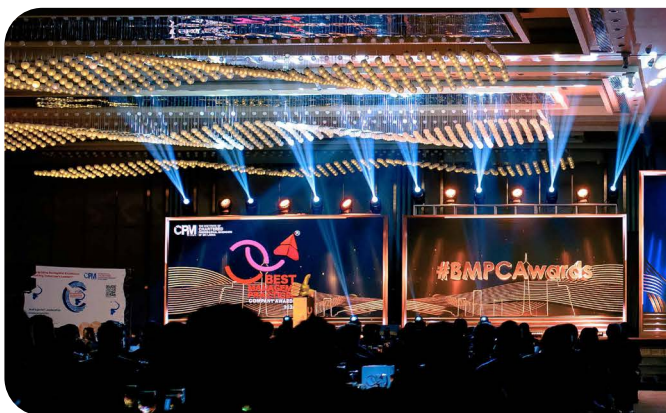
## 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

CPM Sri Lanka successfully hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Best Management Practices Company Awards 2026, reinforcing its commitment to advancing excellence in corporate leadership and organisational management. Recognised as a flagship event in Sri Lanka's corporate calendar, this year's Awards attracted a record participation of **over 170 companies** across diverse sectors, out of which 151 companies were awarded, making it one of the most competitive editions to date. Following a rigorous evaluation process, organisations were assessed on key management dimensions including strategic leadership, governance, people management, operational efficiency, and sustainable practices. The event was graced by Mr. Sam Hanna, Director – Business and Corporate Development at the School of Management, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), as Chief Guest.



The programme also featured expanded award categories, including Leadership Recognition Awards and Excellence Awards, and the Forty Outstanding Awards. The overall Gold winners were 99X Technology Limited and CEAT Kelani (Pvt) Ltd, while Omega Line Limited and INSEE ECOCYCLE (Pvt) Ltd secured Silver, and Silvermill Investment Holdings (Private) Limited was awarded Bronze, reflecting outstanding achievements in management excellence and sustainable growth.





# Upskill, Reskill, Lead: A New Initiative for CPM Sri Lanka Members

25<sup>th</sup> April 2026

The Future Ready Professional Manager Programme, organised for CPM Sri Lanka members, was successfully held at the CPM Sri Lanka Secretariat, offering an exclusive platform for learning, growth, and leadership development. The session was conducted by Mr. Roshan Collas, Chairman of the Membership & Continuing Development Committee and Governing Council Member of CPM Sri Lanka, whose insightful presentation enabled participants to further strengthen their managerial capabilities and prepare for future leadership challenges.

The programme marked the beginning of a transformative initiative aimed at grooming members to become future-ready leaders, equipping them with the confidence, skills, and strategic mindset required to thrive in an evolving business environment.



# The 3<sup>rd</sup> 'CEO Compact' Breakfast Forum discussed 'Beyond Turbulence: Disruptive Globalisation'

## 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026

The 3<sup>rd</sup> 'CEO Compact' Breakfast Forum organised by CPM Sri Lanka was successfully held at the Jubilee Hall, Galle Face Hotel, Colombo, bringing together senior leaders for an engaging and insightful morning of dialogue and networking. Held under the theme "Beyond Turbulence: Disruptive Globalisation," the forum explored emerging global challenges and the strategic responses required from today's business leaders.

The session was led by Prof. John Meewella, Professor of International Business, Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Artificial Intelligence & Digitalisation at Nobel International Business School (NiBS), Finland, whose thought-provoking insights challenged conventional perspectives and inspired forward-thinking leadership. The event provided a valuable platform for distinguished participants to exchange ideas, gain contemporary insights, and strengthen connections, reinforcing CPM Sri Lanka's commitment to fostering leadership excellence.



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# LEADERSHIP in Quality Engineering: Building a Culture of Quality

**W**ith the current demanding global economic conditions, organisations are increasingly required to provide high-quality goods and services while controlling expenses and enhancing operational efficiency. Economic uncertainties, supply chain disruptions, and rising customer expectations have elevated quality to a critical organisational priority. In this context, Quality Engineering (QE) leadership has become essential in developing and sustaining a strong culture of quality.

Quality Engineering no longer remains at the stage of inspection or defect detection at the end of production processes. Instead, it has evolved into a proactive and systematic approach that integrates quality considerations across the entire product or service lifecycle. This shift in quality thinking is enabled by effective leadership through its integration into organisational strategy, processes, and culture.

A culture of quality begins with leadership commitment. When management prioritises quality as a strategic objective, it influences how employees behave and make decisions. Leaders who actively promote quality demonstrate that it is not limited to a specific department, but rather an organisational value. This mindset motivates employees across all functions to take ownership of quality outcomes.

Cost management and resource optimisation are also key concerns in the current economic climate. However, reducing costs without considering quality can lead to long-term consequences such as product failure, customer dissatisfaction, and reputational damage. Quality leaders must therefore balance cost efficiency with quality assurance. Through structured quality management systems, continuous improvement initiatives, and preventive quality practices, organisations can reduce the cost of poor quality (COPQ), including rework, waste, warranty claims, and operational disruptions.

Another important dimension of quality leadership is fostering a culture of continuous improvement. Organisations that adopt Quality Engineering often implement approaches such as Lean, Six Sigma, and Total Quality Management (TQM) to improve efficiency and eliminate waste. Leaders should encourage employees to identify process gaps, analyse root causes, and implement corrective and preventive actions. This promotes innovation and operational excellence by empowering employees to contribute to quality improvements.

Collaboration and communication are also critical in building a culture of quality. Leaders must ensure that quality objectives are clearly communicated across the organisation and that teams work together to achieve them. Cross-functional collaboration helps identify risks early, improves problem-solving capabilities, and ensures that quality considerations are embedded in business operations.

Furthermore, leadership should invest in employee training and development. With evolving technologies, changing processes, and increasing market expectations, organisations need skilled professionals who understand modern quality tools, data-driven decision-making, and process optimisation techniques. Continuous training programmes help employees stay updated and strengthen the organisation's ability to maintain high-quality standards.

Finally, Quality Engineering leadership is about embedding quality into every process and decision. Organisations that prioritise quality are better positioned to enhance customer satisfaction, reduce risks, and achieve sustainable growth in a competitive and uncertain environment.

*Author:*  
**Dr. M. Shenthuran, MCPM**

# EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES through Financial Literacy: Lessons from Sri Lanka's Educational Initiatives



**F**inancial inclusion, which refers to the availability and accessibility of cost-effective financial services for everyone, plays a crucial role in economic development and alleviating poverty. In Sri Lanka, where a large share of the population lives in rural areas, enhancing financial literacy is vital to achieving this objective. Education remains a powerful means of closing the gap between the formal financial sector and the unbanked population.

Financial inclusion among rural populations in Sri Lanka is often obstructed by a lack of trust in formal financial systems, restricted access to financial institutions, and insufficient information. The key factor enabling these communities to make informed choices regarding saving, borrowing, investing, and insurance is financial literacy. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) indicates that financial literacy rates in rural areas are considerably lower than in urban areas, exacerbating economic inequalities. Educational initiatives specifically designed for rural communities can tackle these issues head-on. Programs that provide practical advice on personal finance management, credit comprehension, and the use of digital banking tools can greatly improve financial inclusion.

Sri Lanka has introduced various initiatives to enhance financial literacy in rural areas. In particular, a partnership between the CBSL and educational institutions has led to the inclusion of financial education in school programs, laying a foundation of knowledge for younger individuals. Community-oriented initiatives have also yielded positive results. NGOs and microfinance organisations have facilitated workshops for women and small business owners in rural regions, combining theoretical knowledge with practical skills such as budgeting and obtaining microloans. Furthermore, digital tools, including mobile apps and online courses tailored for rural populations, have widened access by addressing geographic and infrastructural challenges.

Sri Lanka's path toward empowering rural communities emphasises the vital importance of financial literacy for equitable development. Significant obstacles persist, including national financial literacy at approximately 35%, rural literacy rates that are similarly low, and 73% of the population residing in rural areas where poverty is more prevalent. The heavy reliance of women on informal financial systems underscores the need for targeted intervention. Nonetheless, data show a significant positive correlation between financial literacy and financial inclusion, suggesting that enhanced knowledge directly leads to increased economic engagement. There are several strategic lessons to be learned from these, and the first is that financial education needs to be localised, using real-world examples from rural livelihoods, as well as language. Second, for greater reach and efficacy, cooperation between the government, financial institutions, non-governmental organisations, and education departments is crucial. Third, if infrastructure and training are given top priority, digital tools and mobile banking can greatly increase accessibility. Fourth, women need extra attention because their financial empowerment benefits the entire household and the community. Lastly, ongoing assessment and monitoring are required to gauge the program's success and enable prompt modifications.

It is crucial to adopt a sustainable, multidimensional strategy that incorporates community involvement, policy support, technology, and education.

Financial literacy must move beyond theory into practical application, enabling rural populations to access formal systems, make informed decisions, and build lasting resilience, fostering a more inclusive and economically empowered Sri Lanka.

*Author:*  
**Mr. Sankha Thilakarathne, ACPM**

# Congratulations !

## **Ms. Mahesha Amarasuriya, FCPM**

on your new appointment as the  
**President of PIM Alumni Association  
(PIMA) for 2026/2027**

CPM Sri Lanka is very proud that a Fellow Member of the Institute, has risen to such a high post.



# Congratulations !

## **Prof. Tissa Ravinda Perera, LFCPM**

on your new appointment as the  
Director of the Career Guidance Unit,  
University of Colombo

CPM Sri Lanka is very proud that a Fellow Member of the Institute, has risen to such a high post.



# Congratulations !

## **Mr. K.R. Naguleswaran, FCPM**

on your new appointment as the  
President of the Trade Finance  
Association of Bankers.

We commend your efforts.



# Congratulations !

## **Mr. Rohana Bandara Weerakoon, FCPM**

on your new appointment as the  
Actg. General Manager/Chief Executive Officer  
of National Savings Bank

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAY**  
**07**  
2026

**CPM Sri Lanka 4<sup>th</sup> E-waste Project  
in collaboration with Commercial Bank  
of Ceylon PLC**

**Inaugural Batch-Future Ready Professional  
Manager Programme  
- Day 02**

**MAY**  
**09**  
2026

**MAY**  
**13**  
2026

**Professional Development Programme  
on "Leveraging AI Medical Device Marketing" in  
collaboration with The Sri Lanka Chamber of Medical  
Devices Industry (SLCMDI)**

**Launch of the March & April Newsletter  
2026**

**MAY**  
**14**  
2026

**MAY**  
**15**  
2026

**Launch of the 'Chartered Manager Journal'  
Special Edition - BMPC Awards 2026  
(E-version)**

**Inaugural Batch-Future Ready  
Professional Manager Programme  
- Day 03**

**Workshop on "Articulating and Integrating Enterprise  
Risk Management with Strategy and Performance"  
(Strategic Mastery Phase)**

**Workshop on "Driving Strategic Agility Through  
Innovation, Analytics, and Future-Ready Leadership"  
(Enterprise Performance Phase)**

**MAY**  
**16**  
2026

**MAY**  
**20**  
2026

**12<sup>th</sup> Management Round Table**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Inaugural Batch-Future Ready  
Professional Manager Programme  
- Day 04

MAY  
**23**  
2026

JUNE  
**02**  
2026

CPM Sri Lanka Kadala Dansala

Inaugural Batch-Future Ready  
Professional Manager Programme  
-Day 05

JUNE  
**06**  
2026

JUNE  
**13**  
2026

Inaugural Batch-Future Ready  
Professional Manager Programme  
-Day 06

CPM Sri Lanka 38<sup>th</sup> Evening for  
Managers

JUNE  
**17**  
2026

JUNE  
**20**  
2026

Workshop on "Strategic Leadership  
for Technology-Driven Governance"  
(Strategic Mastery Phase)

Poson Bakthi Gee

JUNE  
**26**  
2026

JUNE  
**30**  
2026

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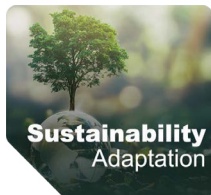
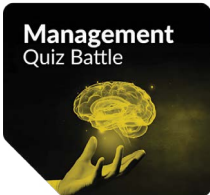
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