

The Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon

The Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon, established in 1971 is the professional body representing the interests of Chemists in Sri Lanka. As successor to the Chemical Society of Ceylon founded in 1941 the Institute is the oldest professional body in any field of pure sciences in Sri Lanka.

The main objectives of the Institute are :

- (1) to promote and advance the science of chemistry and its application in Sri Lanka.
- (2) to advise the Government and give counsel to Public Corporations, local bodies and other institutions on all matters connected with the application of chemistry to the progress and development of the country.
- (3) to promote education in chemistry at all levels and promote, encourage and foster original research in chemistry.
- (4) to conduct or provide for the conduct of examinations for the award of diplomas, certificates and other distinctions in chemistry and to prescribe, approve or provide courses of study for such examinations.
- (5) to establish and enhance the status of the profession of chemistry in Sri Lanka.

MEMBERSHIP

In the institute, there are two grades of corporate membership — Fellow and Associate and three grades of non corporate membership — Graduate, Licentiate and Student.

EDUCATION

The institute is actively engaged in an education programme organised by an education committee comprising chemists with wide experience in teaching. At present two courses are being conducted.

The graduateship course in chemistry is conducted using the laboratory facilities of St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. The examination of this course is held in two parts every December.

The institute also conducts a course of one and a half years duration leading to the laboratory technician's certificate. This course is open to those employed as laboratory technicians as well as to others who have the necessary minimum attainment at the GCE (Ord/Adv level).

AWARDS AND MEDALS

Two Kandiah memorial awards for research in

chemistry are awarded every year in commemoration of the first Professor of Chemistry at the University of Ceylon, the late Professor A. Kandiah, DSc.

Each award in the form of a medal and a book voucher is intended to be given for the best piece of current research in chemistry carried out by a postgraduate student working in Sri Lanka in (a) any higher educational institution (as defined in the Universities Act) in the case of one award and (b) any other institution in the case of the other award.

The 'Institute of Chemistry Medal' donated by Mascons, Ltd., is awarded for the most outstanding contribution in the use of any branch of chemical sciences for the development, application or innovation in industry and/or National Development in Sri Lanka.

All awards are made at the Annual Sessions of the Institute.

ACTIVITIES

The Annual Session of the Institute is held in June every year. The institute also organises lectures, seminars, workshops and symposia on topics of current interest. "Strategies, priorities and problems of applied research", "Quality control of consumer products and consumer protection", "Facilities for postgraduate training of chemistry graduates in Sri Lanka" were some of the topics selected for the year 1981/82.

A newsletter, the 'Orbital', is released quarterly to the members of the institute.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The Institute also fosters links with foreign chemical societies and other bodies with interest in chemistry. A regional workshop on 'Chemistry, industry and the citizen' is scheduled for June 1982. It is the first time the institute has launched on a venture of such magnitude. The workshop will bring together participants from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Philippines, Indonesia, Japan and Korea for interchange of experiences in the areas of (1) relationships between universities and chemical industry, (2) use of the chemical sciences in utilisation of local resources, (3) environmental studies and industrial waste, (4) chemistry and alternative energy sources and (5) chemistry and transfer of technology.

The articles in this issue of 'Vidurava' centres around the objectives of the Workshop and have been contributed by eminent scientists all of whom are actively involved in the relevant fields. The release of this issue will coincide with the opening of the Regional Workshop in June 1982.