

# Sri Lanka's 12th National Productivity and Quality Awards

**T**he National Productivity Secretariat (NPS), the NPO of Sri Lanka under the Ministry of Labour Relations and Foreign Employment, held the National Productivity Awards Ceremony on 12 January in Colombo. That marked the twelfth conferral since the awards were initiated in 1993. Two hundred and sixty-eight enterprises were in competition for the awards in 14 categories under the School Sector, Public Sector, and Manufacturing and Service Sector. Union Chemicals Lanka, Colombo, and K/St. Joseph's Balika Maha Vidyalaya, Gampola, received Gold Awards for the Manufacturing and Service Sector and School Sector, respectively. No Gold Award was given to an institution in the public sector this year.

Over 1,000 attended the ceremony, where the chief guest was Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayake. Minister of Labour Relations and Foreign Employment Athauda Seneviratne, Minister of Science and Technology Tissa Witharana, Minister of Coconut Development and Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Salinda Dissanayake, Chief Minister of Sabaragamuwa Province Maheepala Herath, Governor of the Western Province Alavi Maulana, APO Director for Sri Lanka and Secretary, Ministry of Labour Relations and Foreign Employment, Mahinda Madihahewa, and APO Alternate Director, NPO Head, and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour Relations and Foreign Employment D.L. Kumaradasa were among the guests. In his speech at the award ceremony, the Prime Minister emphasized the importance of improving productivity in all sectors and particularly appreciated the participation of the education sector in productivity-related competitions. He further stressed the importance of enhancing productivity in private-sector institutions as a strategy to be competitive and to face emerging challenges. N.G. Kularatne, Director, Information and Public Relations Department, APO Secretariat, read a message from APO Secretary-General Shigeo Takenaka, and APO Director Madihewa gave the welcome address. Minister Seneviratne and Minister Witharana also delivered remarks. Chairman Dr. A.R.L. Wijesekara, Sri Lanka Standard Institute, proposed a vote of thanks to the organizers and competitors.

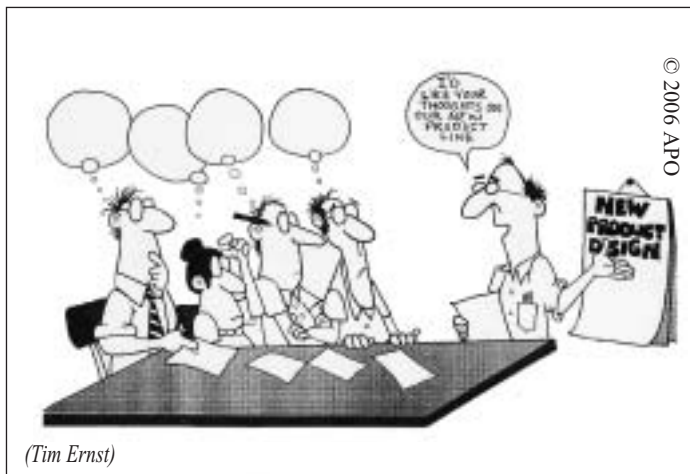
A special award was conferred on Sunil G. Wijesinghe, Chairman/Managing Director of Dankotuwa Procelain, for his outstanding contributions to the promotion of productivity in Sri Lanka, particularly as a pioneer. Wijesinghe also received the APO National Award in 2000 and APO Regional Award in 2005.



*Prime Minister Wickramanayake (R) presenting a trophy to an awardee*

The National Quality Awards were also presented at the same ceremony, which are under the auspices of the Sri Lanka Standards Institute, Ministry of Science and Technology. The award for large-scale manufacturing went to Royal Fernwood Porcelain, for education to Colombo International Nautical and Engineering College, and for small-scale service to TNT International Express.

A poster art competition was organized on the theme "Productivity in Artistic View" as a side event to the productivity and quality award ceremonies, open to individuals from the School Sector, University Sector, and Open Sector. The posters submitted by the winners of 12 awards and 284 merit certificates were exhibited on 11 and 12 January in close proximity to the venue of the National Productivity Award and Quality Award ceremonies. At the opening of the exhibit, Minister Seneviratne stressed the importance of enhancing productivity at home, in schools, and in all workplaces. Sri Lanka's APO Director Madihahewa, Kularatne of the APO Secretariat, and APO Liaison Officer and NPS Director Upali Marasinghe also addressed the spectators. 🌀



*(L-R) Minister Seneviratne, Kularatne, and Madihahewa viewing poster art*