



# SKÅL INTERNATIONAL

International Association of Travel and Tourism Professionals  
Founded 1934

## Skål International Colombo

### Young Skål the future voice of Tourism



Skål International Colombo recently organised an evening presentation and panel discussion titled “The Future of Tourism and Hospitality –” targeting the Young Executives in the Travel and Hospitality Industry. The aim of the event was to introduce Skål to the audience and to show the benefits of joining Skål to the young members of the Industry.

The panel comprised Skål members who were leaders in their respective fields. Mr Hiran Cooray, the Chairman of the Jetwing Group which has Sri Lanka’s largest hotel chain comprising over 35 hotels and villas, many General Sales Agencies, a Destination Management Company and an IATA Travel company and also a former Chairman of PATA, Mr Sunil Dissanayake a Hotelier, HR professional and the Chairman of Sri Lanka’s leading Hotel School and Mrs. Dushy Jayaweera, a Past President of Skål International Colombo and the current Director for Young Skål and Student Exchange for the Asian Area and the Regional Director of Hemas Aviation (Pvt) Ltd, Sri Lanka’s largest group of Airline General Sales Agencies. The discussion was moderated by Mr Nisthar Cassim, a well-known media personality and the Editor of Sri Lanka’s leading Business newspaper “The Daily Financial Times”.

The current Young Skål members of Skål International Colombo took an active part in organizing the event with the Vote of Thanks being presented to the Club’s first Young Skål Member, Ms. Shanika Jayaweera, the Events Manager at the Shangri-La Hotel in Colombo. The event was very well conceptualized and coordinated by the Director Young Skål of Skål International Colombo, Mr Rohitha Mendis and the President, Mr Bernard Wijetunge.

A total of 108 Young Executives attended the event and listened to the speakers give their perspective of the future opportunities in Tourism and Hospitality and the benefits of joining Skål that will accrue to the younger generation. The event was a great success as there were many pre and post event newspaper articles giving wide publicity to Skål and Young Skål.

The success of the event could also be judged by the many requests for Membership Forms from the youngsters in the audience and already ten applications have been received by the local Secretariat for Young Skål membership.

