

## How our website became a reality

By Dananjaya Hettige



Year 2009, 28<sup>th</sup> December is the special day of the SLBC Ex engineer got to gather after long laps, after leaving service under various circumstances. However all of us are precedent employees of pioneer radio broadcasting station in Sri Lanka (Ceylon).

I received the good news about 2009 get together from Sunil de Silva our college, two month before the decided date. He called me over the phone and said get together is going to be held and if there's any suggestion he and the committee will be willing to consider.

So, its point of chance, I got to give my proposal to them. After few days later I called Sunil and said we should launch a website for our members. He did not accepted it right there, as he had a bit of doughty related to benefit of doing it. Then I spoke about my terminology of ideas to him about the benefit of a website and special benefits to our colleagues living out of the country. Then he agreed to put forward my idea to the committee for approval. He discussed with the committee and told me to carry on with appropriate arrangements.

We did not have any finance to go ahead with the project. This was our SLBC Ex engineer's organizations first project to be launch. I got a freelance web developer who is capable of doing this at a very nominal fee. Both of us got together and developed a sample model. Then I got permission to display (presentation) the model in front of our members in the inaugural 2009 get together. I had a bit of drawback in mind about the response from members. However I took guts to do this without telling anyone. I made myself with my assistant to do this presentation.

Just after the inaugural meeting I was given a chance to do the presentation. To be on the safe side I used my assistant to do it. He started it. It was a really demo and idea presentation. Unfortunately as sooner the presentation was started, the same time they opened up the bar too. Over fifty percent accept the ladies all our guys ignored the presentation and walked out to the bar, like someone in desert looking water for thrust. Place became very noisy. No one could hear a word of the demo. I saw W. D. Fonseka and Sanath Jayanayake trying to concentrate on the demo but not many others. I had to advice my assistant to stop the demo when it was half way through. I thought it was the end to my idea.

So I joined the party. All the members of the committee told me will discuss this later after few days from the event. I agreed as it good news with a lots of hope to launch this. After six months

later Sunil called me and told that he has pass and discussed the idea again with many and majority is interested in this specially the colleges living in aboard. So I reactivated the whole operation.

To bring this to a success Sunil and W.D did great job by collecting data and supplying it to me. Sunil did all communications from his personal phone. It would have cost him a fare amount. I personally paid for the domain, rest of the money collected from committee members personal and well wishers who sent their personal extra contributions.

Amount of response and supply of data has been very low by the average membership. We have plenty of space left for data.

After passing restless and hectic time to develop the web, with all difficulties we manage to launch the web site in year 2010 get together on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November making an historic mile stone in our organization. Thanks for all support given by Sunil, W.D, other committee members, Rangoda for supplying projector, members who supported with articles & photographs, and specially to my assistant Mikthum Thaha how got tremendous pressure from me for not doing things in time.

Very special thanks to all members appreciated our website and our work. Also pointing out error and upgrade needs is welcome. Also our hit rate for the first day was 169, which are great. In future please send upgrades and data you have from the past and any news you want to publish. I'm in the process of opening a page for members to advertise positions and products in our web at a nominal fee, which will utilize for next expenditure when needed.