

My Biography at SLBC

Jinadasa Amarasekara



I joined then the Radio Ceylon at that time, on 2nd September 1963, together with four others as trainee technical assistants. The other colleagues of my batch were M/s W.A.D.Sumathipala, Brian Janzz, Merrill Boteju and H.B.Perea. I, Mr. Sumathipala and Mr. Boteju were put to the Studio Maintenance section under Mr. Tudor Perera officer in charge of the Studio Maintenance section.

The other senior officers in studio maintenance section were Mr. Anton Perea and Mr. Gerry Holsighor. I and Mr. Sumathipala were put to studios to learn the maintenance work of audio consoles under the guidance of senior officers.

Most of the audio mixing consoles were Marconi from England and they all were thermionic valve types. During this training period of three years we had to study and had to pass City and Guilds Telecommunication exams in order to get our promotions to technical assistant grade 3. At the end of three years I was lucky enough to get my promotion to T.A. Grade 3 with the right qualifications.

With the requisite qualifications I became engineer in 13 years I was appointed Engineer Studio Development. After serving the corporation for 10 years as engineer I was promoted to superintending engineer studios. During this period renovation to studios A, B, C & D was carried out both acoustically and replacing old thermionic consoles with new solid state consoles.

The Director General at that time Mr. Themis Guruge wanted to build more studios in old canteen area. This is along the main corridor in front of the old control room. Here four more broadcast studios were built and they were named as studio 11, 12, 13 and 14. Furthermore 30 years old pioneer Sinhala, Tamil and English continuity studios renovated replacing Marconi consoles with solid state consoles.

After the death of Mr. Tudor Perera OIC Studio Maintenance I had to take over regional studio construction, starting with Ruhunu Sevaya Studio complex, after this Rajarata studio complex and Mahanuwara studio complex all these projects were handled by me for both studio acoustics and equipment installation. These projects were executed during the period of Director General Mr. Themis guruge.

During my stay in office I won three scholarships, One to Malaysia to study on studio acoustics, the second one also to Malaysia to study how to train trainers, and the third scholarship to Japan to study about studio acoustics and studio techniques. Those scholarships helped me lot to gain knowledge on studio techniques and studio acoustics.

I conducted several training courses to my colleague technical officers and operational assistants about Studio techniques, Microphone techniques and also on Studio Acoustics. I was very happy sharing the free knowledge I got from scholarships among staff of technical assistants and operational assistants.

I cannot forget the times I spent building about 13 broadcast studios for Gamudawa during the period of Mr. President R. Premadasa. Travelling to remote areas and spending the time with colleague member staff and working together was a fun and that was memorable time I spent in the Broadcasting Corporation.

I retired from the service in 1997 after serving the corporation for 34 years, at the time of retirement I held the post of superintending Engineer Studios.