

My memory in this institution

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Hi, colleagues. Good to see you'll back on the website, as we don't meet very often. At least we can share our past feeling and thoughts once more using the web opportunity. All of us have great movements to remember during the period of our career. I could not erase great times from my memory in this institution. I would like to brief myself since the time I joined SLBC and few things from my childhood days, where I had the rear opportunity off time to walk in and out since the age of seven years as a child, I got this opportunity, as my father too worked since time "COLOMBO RADIO", He's Hettige Don Somapla, well known as "SOME" or by "SOMAPALA" among engineering officers.

Before my real career begins at SLBC as a member of staff, I use to walk in to Torrington square with my father when ever an opportunity had. Those days there were very limited staff was working and everyone knew each other very well. Engineering staff use to work very closely with the other staff with great happiness. I would like to list some of the names still I cannot forget. Mr. Wilmot Subasinghe, Mr. Titus, Mr. Jayasooriya, Mr. M.K. S Perera, Mr. Earvin Perea. Mr. Jayasundara and Francis Savior unfortunately some off my father's close colleagues not with us anymore, there are many more which I don't remember other names. I remember the Canteen was near the continuity studio 1 near corridor of old control room. In 1996 I had the opportunity to watch Kandy Esela Perehera from Queens hall main balcony as that day my father was on out broadcast duty. I remember Mr. Nevil Jayaweera, Mr. R.E.H Perera and Mr. Tilakarathne were there in the balcony with more engineering staff during the broadcast time. I still remember some of the minor staff worked as well in OB, Dharmadasa, Francis (those days's aiyya from Maradana), Gunapala and Driver Wijesinghe. My first visit to a radio transmitter station was Senkadagla MW transmitter in Kandy (1969). Still I remember the OB team who went on duty to Katharagama in late 1960's, when Mrs. Srimavo Bandaranayke laid the foundation stone to build new town. There was no proper road from Tissamaharama to katharagama at that time. Driver Wijesinghe who was driving the old wilily's jeep, which was fitted with a huge cable drum in the back with a telephone cable. This cable was connected from a point in Tissamaharama and drawn up to Irrigation bungalow site at Katahragama were point of broadcast was set. Mr. Wettasinghe and his most enthusiastic CV160 transmitter bus never I cannot forget. It was fitted with a 250W (as I remember power may be not correct) short wave transmitter witch connected broadcast wirelessly to control room in Torrington square. In this OB some names I remember is Mr. R.E.H Perera, Mr. Wettasinghe, Illukkubura my father and few more. Sooner I remember these names I will upgrade this text.

My career starts in SLBC begin as a National Apprentice Board Trainee in year 1976. Where, I had the great opportunity getting trained with many engineering veterans in Radio laboratory, Studio Maintenance / Development, Diyagam medium wave Transmitters and few times with, outside broadcasting. Though This was a three year training period which ended up in 1979.

In 1980 I had the opportunity rejoin the permanent staff of SLBC as Technical Assistant trainee again. My first reporting point became the unforgettable training school. Few months later I was transferred to Diyagama medium wave transmitters. I enjoyed the working environment and the staff who was there that time. Few names officers who worked at that time is, Mr. Kelaniyage (eng), Mr. M.K. Perera(eng), as OIC's Mr.S.D. Fenando, others Mr. Titus Wijesinghe, Ranmuthu, Anura Edirisinghe, Hemapala, Amarasekera,

My tendency was to come back to work in Torrington squire under two reasons. First is my enthusiasm always stayed with studio work not much with radio transmission? However after a long struggle I manage to arrange a mutual transfer with a one of my batch mate. Where, I had the opportunity work in studio maintenance there on ward. Second reason was as many knew; I had a love affair with a girl worked as a receptionist in SLBC. Simply she's my wife since then. She's "Sulekha" who worked in SLBC for nine years.

After 12 years of work I had to terminate my career in SLBC. I went for good to OMAN leaving many things a side. To me it was not a gain. It was a wrong decision in my opinion. Came back to Sri Lanka and worked in three private entities as Technical Manager in Mobile Industry and as a General Manager in a renewable energy company. Now work as freelance project developer in renewable energy sector and technology promoter in energy sector. My specialties are now wind power, thermal, photovoltaic net working, and many more in future technologies. Thank you for reading. Hope to add more in future.