

Tribute to Mr.Lal Herath

Mr J.A. Herath - Bsc.(Cey) , CH.Eng.FIEEE, MIEE(Lond.), MIERE (Lond.)

He joined the OTS as an Engineer on graduation from the University of Ceylon in 1960. While at OTS he proceeded to the Cable and Wireless training school in the United Kingdom on a scholarship that was awarded to him.

He left OTS as a Senior Engineer in 1971 and joined SLBC as Superintending Engineer Transmitters . He was in charge of the transmitting stations at Ekala, Diyagama, and new regional transmitting stations that were established during his tenure of office at SLBC.

In 1974 he was selected for training and factory inspection course at Motorola in Illinois USA to familiarize with the Micro wave link that was to be installed at SLBC. He also captained the SLBC cricket team and was very successful in tournaments.

In 1979 he obtained employment at Emirates Telecommunication Corporation UAE as project Engineer Transmission. In the UAE he was instrumental in establishing the first Digital Micro Wave system to connect the seven emirates to the telecommunications network. It was a task that called for a high proficiency of engineering, and the project was completed very successfully to the satisfaction of the management.

In or around 1988 he joined Oman Tel as Project Engineer, and was responsible for the Fiber Optics project of Oman Tel. He returned to Sri Lanka in 1992 and was recalled to SLBC as Additional Deputy Director General Engineering.

During his tenure of office as Addl. DDGE he established the FM Transmitting station at Haputale, inaugurated the new studio complex at head office and at Ruhuna Sevaya.

In 1995 he joined Sri Lanka Telecom (Pv)Ltd. as project Engineer till his retirement in 1998.

He passed away after a brief illness on the 3rd of July 2010 ,aged 72. He will be remembered and missed by the staff of SLBC with whom he associated and worked with enthusiasm and diligence. His honesty and dedication to duty was always appreciated. His integrity was never in question. SLBC was his cherished and treasured institution to which he used to tune in as he was very fond of music. His burial took place at St.Johns Church Nugegoda in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering that included many SLBC staff past and present. His daughter Lakmini predeceased him in USA a few months prior to his death.

He leaves behind his wife Cynthia and son Roshan of BBC Engineering.

May his soul rest in peace