Honorable Judges

Harsha Purasinghe
CEO, Microimage

Harsha cofounded Microimage in 1993 while at college. He has over 15 years experience in the ICT field with diverse technology from enterprise software architecture/design/development to mobile technologies. Harsha was recognized as the "Most outstanding entrepreneur in IT/BPO industry in Sri Lanka" in 2007. He also completed executive education at Harvard Business School. Under Harsha's leadership Microimage won the inaugural GSMA Asia Mobile Innovation Award and was commended at the GSM World Awards, Asia Pacific ICT Awards (APICTA) and WSA Global Mobile Award. Microimage has also been the recipient of National Best Quality Software Awards (BCS) overall award in 4 occasions and also recipient of the National Science & Technology award from H.E. the President of Sri Lanka. Harsha is also an avid speaker in technology who has represented many global and local technology forums.

Bill Thies
Researcher, Microsoft Research India

Bill Thies is a researcher in the Technologies for Emerging Markets Group at Microsoft Research India. He is also co-founder of Innovators In Health, a winner of the MIT IDEAS competition, that provides technology and operational support for tuberculosis treatment programs in India. His research focuses on building appropriate information and communication technologies that contribute to the socio-economic development of low-income communities, with a focus on education and healthcare. Bill received all of his degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he completed a Ph.D. in computer science.

Nissanka Weerasekera
Partner, Aureos Capital

Nissanka Weerasekera is responsible for investments in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh by Aureos Capital, a leading private equity fund manager focusing on small and mid-cap enterprises in emerging markets worldwide. Prior to that Nissanka was the CEO of People's Venture Investment Company (PVIC) and subsequently Managing Director of Nextventures, both venture capital firms in Sri Lanka. Nissanka is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. He holds a Masters degree in Economics from the University of Colombo and a B.Sc. (Special) in Physics from the University of Peradeniya.

Channna Munasinghe
Head of Value Added Service & Roaming, EtiSalat

Channa Munasinghe is the Head of Value Added Service & Roaming division of Etisalat. He began working for Value Added Services in 2005 as a Brand Manager before being promoted to head the division in 2010. Channa graduated from St. Thomas College Mt. Lavinia in 1996 and has since held a number of managerial positions in industry in Sri Lanka, including the Manager of New Product Development at Reckitt Benckiser and the Brand Manager at Janashakthi Insurance. App Zone - Sri Lankas first Independent 3rd party application development platform (Winner of mBillionth award 2011) and Bookhub - Sri Lankas first ebook store are two key initiatives he is spearheading currently.

Anthony Rodrigo
Group Chief Information Officer, Dialog Axiata PLC

Anthony Rodrigo joined Dialog Axiata as Group CIO in 2010. Mr. Rodrigo is responsible for Enterprise Information Technology, Product and Service Innovation for the Dialog Group. Prior to Dialog he was the Head of North America Systems Integration Business for Nokia Siemens Networks. He was responsible for Solution Development, Systems Integration and Business Management of converged Fixed and Wireless solutions for communication service providers in North America. Mr. Rodrigo has over two decades of experience in Europe, Asia and the Americas in Operations Support Systems/Business Support Solutions and Systems Integration, holding leadership positions at British Telecom, AT&T, Nokia, NSN and Hayleys. Mr. Rodrigo holds a B.Eng from Kings College London, MBA from Regis University Denver, CO. USA and is a Chartered Engineer of the IET.

Janaka Jayalath
Senior General Manager, Marketing, Mobitel

All new value added services product development, goto market and management is under the purview of Janaka. He accounts of 12 years of telecom experience of which 10 years has been working in the are of evaluation, selection and deployment of value added services for Mobitel to be accessed in many modes such as SIM based, SMS, USSD, voice, video and apps. He himself has invented many valued added services and concepts of which the mLearning platform is the most admired. He has a proven track record of not just bring a value add to the market but also to convert them in to profitable and sustainable business.