

Press release

Annual Memorial Lecture 2020

19th February 2021 from 1500hrs to 1700hrs

Organized by the Institute of National Security Studies (INSS)

Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) held an Annual Memorial Lecture in memory of late Admiral Clancy Fernando VSV, ndc, psc at the Suhurupaya Auditorium on 19th February from 1500 hrs to 1700 hrs with the participation of members of the family and relatives of the late Admiral, Tri forces, Police, STF, retired military officers, members of the diplomatic corps, Defence services command and Staff College, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, National Defence College, officials from the Ministry of Defence and a few resource personnel attached to the institute.

Welcome remarks were presented by the Director-General of INSS Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage, RSP, VSV, USP, rcds, psc, MSc (DS), MA (IS), Dip in IR, Dip in CR, FNI (Lond). He praised the efforts of late Admiral Clancy Fernando for being a mentor for the junior officers and always being dedicated, and humble in his actions. Moreover, as per Professor Colambage, the late Admiral is a man who can read, write and fight and stressed that the only reason why he was assassinated was because he was the only commander who did something different. Consequently, the Chief guest of the event the Secretary to Ministry of Defence & State Ministry of National Security and Disaster management, General (Retd) Kamal Gunaratne WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil presented opening remarks of the memorial lecture. He shed light on the history of late Admiral Clancy Fernando and expressed his honour to grace the event. Aftermath Mrs. Monica Fernando, beloved wife of late Admiral, garlanded the Portrait of the late Admiral which was a very emotional moment for all..

Succeeding, Cdr (ASW) Chandana Pawuluge introduced the guest orator of the memorial lecture, Admiral Thisara Samarasinghe, RSP, VSV, USP, ndc, psc, DBA. Admiral Samarasinghe conducted an outstanding oration on “Sea Power of an Island Nation and Admiral Clancy Fernando”. In his words, *“Late Admiral foresaw the necessities of securing national interests on the oceans, taking examples of the past history which was his forte!”*

Some of the eclectic contributions by Late Admiral Clancy Fernando was the introduction of an efficient and secure communication by devising the first ever-cryptographic system known as “SINHALE” for Sri Lanka Navy replacing the Royal Navy’s system “BRITEX”. For his phenomenal, patriotic service to the nation, he was honoured with medals including Civil Armed Services Long Services Medal and Clasp, Sri Lanka Navy 25th Anniversary Medal, Sri Lanka Armed Services Long Service Medal and Clasp, Republic of Sri Lanka Armed Services Medal, President’s inauguration medal and Purna Bhumi Medal and Vishishta Seva Vibushanaya medal. He is the highest-ranking military officer and a military commander who sacrificed his life for the nation. Aftermath of the remarkable oration made by Admiral Thisara Samarasinghe on behalf of the late Admiral Clancy Fernando, General (Retd) Kamal Gunaratne presented a Plaque of appreciation to the orator. Mr Nishan Fernando (Son of Late Admiral Clancy Fernando) delivered the vote of thanks and appreciated the successful effort of INSS staff for organizing the event which brought fond memories of the Late Admiral and expressed their gratitude for remembering the sacrifices made by their beloved father even after 30 long years.

Charani Patabendige

Research Assistant intern

Media Release of Institute of National Security Studies, premier think tank on National Security established under the Ministry of Defence.