

Saumya Kumari Pathirana.



I am Saumya Kumari Pathirana, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ceylon Institute of Space Science, an Astrophysicist, Lecturer, and a Social Server. After I completed my B.Sc. degree with the First class, I focused my studies towards Physics. I completed my Masters of Physics Education and started my PhD in the field of Astronomy and Space Science. At present, I am actively engaged in Astronomy and Metaphysics research.

I started my career at the Department of Mathematics in the Open University, Nawala, Sri Lanka and worked as a visiting lecturer of Physics up to the recent past. I got an opportunity to train 1000 teachers as the Administrative Assistant of the project on *Change Education towards STEM Education Through Inquiry-Based Learning for Sri*

Lankan Schools. I was privileged to become a member of the Local Organizing Committee of *the XXIII International Astronomy Olympiad Competition (IAO)*. I worked as a Research Scientist at the Astronomy and Space Science Unit, Department of Physics, University of Colombo, until the end of year 2023. From the year 2018 up to the year 2023 I completely handled the Astronomy Olympiad competitions under the supervision of Prof. Chandana Jayaratne. During the same period, I have actively contributed to the organization and coordination of the School Inventors Competition organized by SLAAS. I have also worked as a Scientific Investigator, at the National Research Council, Sri Lanka to evaluate the validity and reliability of the research proposals applied for the NRC PPP grants.

I am the *Sri Lankan Ambassador of the International Astronomy and Astrophysics Competition (IAAC)* and National Contact of the Beamline for Schools Competition conducted by *CERN*. I am also a Lifetime member of the Sri Lanka Association of Advancement of Science (*SLAAS*) and the Institute of Physics, Sri Lanka (*IPSL*).

I have done research in the fields of Astronomy, Metaphysics and Physics Education. Few of my published research are *Development of a simulation model to estimate the risk of an asteroid colliding with the Earth, based on the trajectory, velocity of the asteroid, and the location of the Earth, Thermal modeling of cometary nuclei to monitor volatile sublimation driven evolution of the nuclear shape and rotation, Learning Physics with Concept Cartoons*. A lot more research is being done progressively specially in the fields of Astronomy and Metaphysics and will be published in the future.

My ultimate ambition is to encourage Sri Lankan students to conquer the field of Astronomy by developing and unleashing the intellectual potential and inherited knowledge of Sri Lanka concerning the universe.