

## **BIO DATA OF Dr. Mrs. M.T.P. HETTIARACHCHI**

Dr. Mrs. M.T.P. Hettiarachchi graduated from University of Moratuwa in 1982 with a First Class Honours degree in Civil Engineering having been awarded the A.N.S. Kulasinghe Award for the Best Civil Engineering Graduate and the Award for the Best Civil Engineering Student in Building and Structural Engineering. She also received the Manamperi Memorial Award for the Best Final Year Student Project presented by the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science. On graduation she joined the academic staff of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa. In 1983, she proceeded to the Department of Civil Engineering of Imperial College of Science and Technology, London on an Open Commonwealth Scholarship. She successfully completed the Master's Programme in Timber Structures and Technology having obtained a Distinction level pass and then pursued further studies on the bending of plywood, which led to a PhD in 1987.

Having completed both the Masters and PhD in 4 years she returned to serve the University of Moratuwa in 1987 and has since continuously been actively engaged in teaching structural design at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and research and consultancy in construction materials and structural design. She is responsible for introducing the latest revisions to Codes of Practice including the Eurocode Recommendations in Timber and Steel to the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Curricula at the University of Moratuwa. While her primary research interests are in the structural use of timber and steel, she also researches into structural forms, learning from structural failures and structural engineering education. She has received awards for both teaching and research; the Senate Research Award in 2004 and the first ever Teaching Excellence Award in 2007-8, She was a joint recipient of the SD&CC Award for the best research paper in the Journal of the Institution of Engineers (IESL), Sri Lanka in 1990 and the NSF Research Award in 2008/2009. More recently, she was a joint recipient of the Raghu Chandrakeerthy Gold Medal for the best paper at the Annual Sessions of the Society of Structural Engineers, Sri Lanka on two occasions in 2014 and 2019. Her research findings have been disseminated both in the written and verbal form. Since much of her research is of a Sri Lankan context, it has been published mainly in local research proceedings and journals.

She has contributed immensely to Continuing Professional Development of Structural Engineers by serving as a resource person on short courses organised by the University of Moratuwa and Society of Structural Engineers and also at seminars organised by ICTAD, SSE SLSI, CCI and NCASL. She is an active member of the Society of Structural Engineers (SSE) since its inception having served on its executive committee and been a regular contributor to MODULUS, She has also served as Editor of MODULUS and the Annual Proceedings of the Society. She was also the Editor of the Annual Proceedings of the Seminar 'Research for Industry', conducted by the Engineering Research Unit of the University of Moratuwa, during its formative years.

In 1990-91 while on leave from the University, she had the privilege of working with ARUP UK, a world renowned consulting firm, on the design of the UK Pavilion for EXPO 92.