

ICFIRE 2026

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FIRE SAFETY AND RESILIENCE OF
THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Inaugural Program

Day 1 - Wednesday, July 22 nd , 2026	
8.00 a.m	Arrival of Guests, Registration
9.00 a.m	Lighting of the Traditional Oil Lamp and National Anthem
9.10 a.m	Welcome Address
9.20 a.m	Introductory Address and Corporate Video
9.30 a.m	Address by the Chief Guest
9.45 a.m	Address by the Guest of Honor
10.00 a.m	Address by the Special Guest
10.10 a.m - 10.50 a.m	Keynote Address - Fire Engineering and Design: Emerging Trends in Performance, Testing, and Compliance Prof. Priyan Mendis, B.Sc Eng (Hons), PhD (Monash), FIE (Aust), C.Eng. Professor, Dept of Infrastructure Engineering, University of Melbourne, Australia
10.50 a.m - 11.05 a.m	Vote of Thanks & Group Photo
11.05 a.m 11.20 a.m	Coffee Break



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22-23 JULY 2026

09⁰⁰ TO 17:00

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BAUDDHALOKA MAWATHA,
COLOMBO 07, SRI LANKA

International Conference on Fire Safety and Resilience of the Built Environment Technical Program

Day 1 - Wednesday, July 22 nd , 2026	
Technical Session 1	
11.20 a.m - 12.00 p.m	Holistic Fire Safety Engineering: From Fundamentals to Real-World Applications Dr. Ryan Hilditch, Principal, Halliwell Fire Science, Australia and New Zealand
12.00 p.m - 12.30 p.m	Fire Protection and Resilience in Historical and Heritage Buildings Architect, Ashley de Vos, Consultant, ADV Consultants, Sri Lanka
12.30 p.m - 1.30 p.m	LUNCH
Technical Session 2	
1.30 p.m - 2.00 p.m	Modern Built Environments: Architectural Design Perspective to meet Fire Safety Requirements Architect, Athula Amarasekera, Founder and CEO, Design Team 3, Singapore
2.00 p.m – 2.30 p.m	Modern Built environments: Structural Design Perspective to meet Fire Safety Requirements Eng. Shiromal Fernando, Founder & Managing Director, Civil and Structural Engineering Consultancy (CSEC) Pvt Ltd., Sri Lanka
2.30 p.m – 3.00 p.m	Building Safer Environments: Integrating Fire Safety into Urban Development Eng. M G Hemachandra, Chairman, Urban Development Authority, Ministry of Transport, Highways and Urban Development, Sri Lanka
3.00 p.m. 3.15 p.m	COFFEE BREAK
Technical Session 3	
3.15 p.m – 3.45 p.m	The Fire Regulations, Codes, and Enforcement Frameworks in Sri Lanka Eng. Kosala Kamburadeniya, President of the Institute of Engineering Sri Lanka and Managing Director and Principal Consultant, K2 Consultants (Pvt) Ltd, Sri Lanka
3.45 p.m.- 4.15 p.m	Understanding Fire Dynamics, Fire Growth, Spread, and Smoke Movement Dr Pasindu Weerasinghe, Dept of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
4.15 p.m – 5.00 p.m	Structural Fire Engineering and Performance-Based Design in the Built Environment Dr. Imran Ahamed, Senior Fire Consultant, Halliwell Fire, Brisbane, Australia
7.00 pm	Conference Dinner



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Technical Program

Day 2 Thursday, July 23 rd , 2026	
Technical Session 4	
9.00 a.m – 9.30 a.m	Emerging Fire Risks in Urban Infrastructure: Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and Electric Vehicles (EV) Dr. Ryan Hilditch, Principal, Halliwell Fire Science, Australia and New Zealand
9.30 a.m – 10.10 a.m	Research and Innovation in Fire Research from materials to AI Prof. Kate Nguyen, Leader of Fire Engineering & Deputy Head of Department of Civil & Infrastructure Engineering, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia
10.10 a.m – 10.40 a.m	Recent Advances in Modelling Techniques for Fire Safety and Resilience in Key Buildings Eng. Dilan Kahatapitiya, Manager of Training and Research, Civil and Structural Engineering Consultancy (CSEC) Pvt Ltd., Sri Lanka
10.40 a.m – 11.00 a.m	COFFEE BREAK
Technical Session 5	
11.00 a.m – 11.30 a.m	Human Behavior and Evacuation Strategies Dr Aatif Ali Khan, Senior Lecturer, Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Canterbury, New Zealand
11.30 a.m - 12.00 a.m	Applications and Performance of Fire-resistant Materials Eng. Vajira Attanayake, Group Director, Airow solutions (Pvt) Ltd., Sri Lanka
12.00 p.m -12.30 p.m	AI-Driven IoT-based Fire Protection for Manufacturing Industry Dr Prabath Weerasinghe, Dept of Electrical and Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna
12.30 p.m –1.15 p.m	LUNCH
Technical Session 6	
1.15 p.m – 1.55 p.m	From Laboratory Testing to Compliance: Assessment of Passive Fire Protection Products Dr. Imran Ahamed, Senior Fire Consultant, Halliwell Fire, Brisbane, Australia-
1.55 p.m - 2.25 p.m	Application of drone/aerial technologies in fire protection and emergency response
2.25 p.m – 2.55 p.m	Enhancing Fire Safety in Buildings with Glass Envelopes Dr.Uthpala Rathnayake, Senior Lecturer, Dept of Facility Management, Faculty of Architecture, University of Moratuwa
2.55 p.m – 3.25 p.m	Fire Investigation in Practice: Case Studies, Lessons Learned and Pathways to Reform Mrs Vithyaa Thavapalan, Founder, Managing Director and Forensic Fire Investigator, Forensic Origin and Cause Investigations, Australia
3.25 p.m – 3.40 p.m	COFFEE BREAK
3.40 p.m – 4.50 p.m	PRACTITIONER'S FORUM - Developing the Colombo Declaration
4.50 p.m – 5.00 p.m	Closing Ceremony
END of the Conference	



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