

Sanjeewa Wickramanayake - A 30-Year Odyssey Leading the EWIS Group with Vision and Tenacity

In the realm of Sri Lanka's tech landscape, Mr. Sanjeewa Wickramanayake stands tall as a visionary entrepreneur, guiding the trajectory of EWIS Group of Companies for over three decades. With an illustrious journey that mirrors both challenges and triumphs, he now celebrates 30 years of steadfast leadership at the helm of EWIS, a renowned Software and Hardware Development Company.

An alumnus of KCK and the Chairman of EWIS Group of Companies and Toppan Forms Colombo Ltd., Sanjeewa Wickramanayake's journey is a testament to perseverance, innovation, and dedication. With more than 30 years of experience in the IT industry, he is not just a leader, but a leader with a difference. His passion and determination have ignited a revolution in Sri Lanka's IT sector, marked by his unwavering commitment to excellence.

Under his guidance, EWIS has spearheaded numerous nationally significant projects, leaving an indelible mark on the country's technological landscape. From implementing ICAO standards for the National Identity Card to automating examination processes and publishing results online at the Department of Examinations under the Ministry of Education, Sanjeewa's leadership has driven innovation and efficiency across diverse sectors. His contributions extend to vital areas such as event management for the prestigious CHOGM 2013.

One of his noteworthy achievements was introducing Security Printing and Data Print Outsource operations in collaboration with Toppan Forms (Japan), a global leader in security printing. This move brought state-of-the-art technology to Sri Lanka, benefiting leading Telcos, Banks, and financial institutions and further solidifying Sanjeewa's reputation as a pioneering force.

In 2013, Sanjeewa once again revolutionized the industry by establishing the first-ever Original Device Manufacturing Plant, proudly presenting the EWIS & OCTA brands to the local market. This monumental step not only expanded opportunities for rural youth in the Hi-Tech Electronic Manufacturing Industry but also projected Sri Lanka onto the global stage.

Sanjeewa's excellence has garnered recognition, evident in his Entrepreneur of the Year 2018 awards—both the National Silver Award (Large Category) and the

Provincial Silver Award (Large Category Western Province). His influence extended beyond the confines of EWIS as he served on main boards at BOI and EDB, while also contributing as a member of the National Sports Council and the ICT/BPM Sector Advisory Committee of the EDB.

Yet, amidst his remarkable achievements, Sanjeewa remains a philanthropist and a fervent sportsman. His journey encapsulates the spirit of leadership that transcends business, encompassing community upliftment and personal passion.

In an exclusive interview, Sanjeewa once revealed the ethos driving his journey. With EWIS, he aimed not just to build a business but also to redefine the narrative of Sri Lankan technology. He drew inspiration from the successful industrialization stories of Asian countries, emphasizing the potential of electronics assembly and manufacturing. With a resolute vision, he ventured into computer manufacturing, overcoming challenges such as finding land and training a skilled workforce.

Sanjeewa's unique leadership approach emphasizes the necessity of embracing innovation, especially during challenging times. He advocates harnessing technology to uplift various sectors of the economy, bridging the gap between rural aspirations and digital advancements. Amid global and local economic uncertainties, he calls upon Sri Lankans to be architects of their own solutions.

Sanjeewa Wickramanayake's journey is more than a success story; it's a blueprint for aspiring entrepreneurs. His role as a visionary leader, tackling obstacles with determination and innovation, sets a remarkable example for young entrepreneurs. As he celebrates 30 years at EWIS Group, Sanjeewa's legacy shines as a beacon of leadership, reminding us that with vision, dedication, and resilience, the path to success can be paved even in the face of challenges.