

National Best Quality Software Awards 2004 (NBQSA2004)

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The National Best Quality Software Awards (NBQSA) is an annual event intended to honour significant technological developments & innovations of Software developed in Sri Lanka. The British Computer Society (Sri Lanka section) BCSSL has been organizing this event since 1998 and has already held five successful events since its inception. Last Year BCSSL took the initiative to tie up this local event with International Award programmes such as Asia Pacific ICT Awards (APICTA), World Information Technology Summit (WITSA) awards and (Asia Oceania Computer Industry Organizations (ASOCIO), to meet the growing demand for bench marking software Products in this globally competitive era. NBQSA will be broad based to amalgamate Commercial, Tertiary & Student Awards this year. This year the International Olympiad (IOI) was conducted by the University of Colombo too will under the wings of NBQSA, thus making it the de-facto body in organizing body for recognizing individuals & companies with potential in delivering ICT products in Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lanka association for software Industry (SLASI) the franchise holder of APICTA in Sri Lanka, Software Exporter Association of Sri Lanka (SEA), The computer Society of Sri Lanka , Association of Computer Training Organizations (ACTOS), Universities conducting ICT Degree Programmes, FITIS member associations , Export Development Board (EDB) and Board of Investment (BOI) are supporters of this annual Event. Initial seed funding for the project is provided by Infotel Society and British Computer Society.

The objectives of the NBQSA are to:

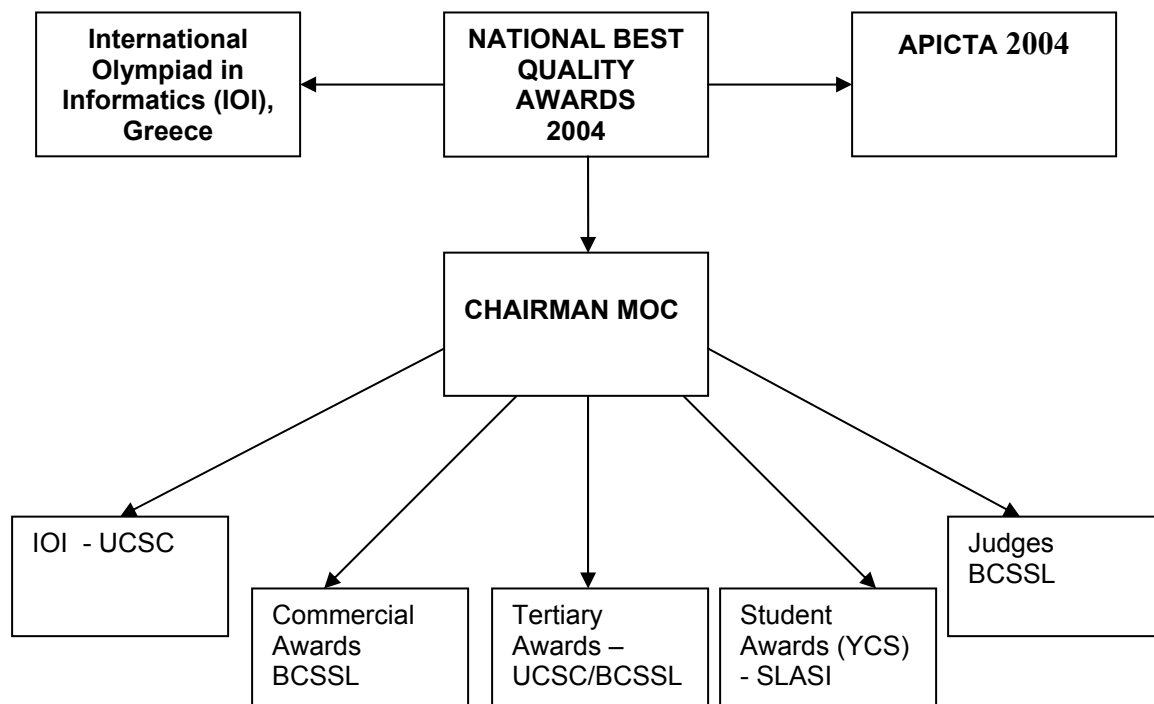
- Provide recognition to outstanding achievements of individuals, organizations of Sri Lanka who have developed high quality software products
- Provide a window to gain International Recognition of Local SW / ICT products
- Improve Quality of Local products & Services to meet International Standards
- Identify the young talent and provide them the opportunity to develop their skills in IT



Structure of NBQSA

NBQSA2004 will be steered by a Main Organization Committee (MOC) and under the MOC there will be four competitions which are shown in the below diagram.

NBSQA – STRUCTURE 2004



The MOC consists of Representation from BCSSL, SLASI, SEA, CSSL, ACTOS, and a University Representative. Four of these committee members are assigned the task of coordinating activities of Commercial Awards, Student (YCS & IOI) Awards, Tertiary Awards and judging respectively. The rest of the MOC would handle Sponsorship, Marketing & Operations of the event.

Evaluation Model

NBQSA Models its competition in line with APICTA which has enhanced & formalized its systems & processors significantly this year. This will provide a clear path for selection Sri Lankan representation to APICTA. APICTA is an association of Asian Pacific ICT Trade/Professional organizations with an aim of Developing and Promoting the ICT Industry in the region by recognizing and rewarding ICT companies & Individuals for their excellence in delivery of Products & services, through an annual event.



NBQSA – Commercial Awards

Conducted By

The British Computer Society Sri Lanka

Eligibility

The competition will be opened to any Sri Lankan organization or individual who has developed applications on the under mentioned categories and implemented at least at one site and in operation for a minimum of one year (in exception of Research & Development category).

Standard Award Categories

Competition will be held for the following award categories.

Code Number : 1

Category: E-Government and Services

Product Definition:

Any application of software and/or hardware that enables transformation of internal and external business processes toward customer-centricity based upon service delivery opportunities offered by new communication technologies (such as web-based technologies) to better fulfill the purposes of government to provide efficiency and effectiveness as well as fairness and equitability.

Code Number : 2

Category: Education and Training

Product Definition:

Any application of software and/or hardware that promotes a program or programs to develop and support the training, general knowledge, or academic, technical, and vocational skills and cultural attainments of individuals in a community or other given political area. These programs may be conducted by schools, including preschool activities and child care centers, colleges, universities, schools for the mentally retarded or physically handicapped, educational radio and television stations, libraries, or museums.



Code Number : 5

Category : Applications and Infrastructure Tools

Product Definition:

Any software program designed to operate hardware through basic operating systems and programming languages, increase the efficiency of systems personnel through system performance measurement tools, improve the operating capabilities of the hardware system by routing the flow of data among machine units, and handle data entry and delivery, or to insure program integrity through maintenance and security programs, convert programs from one language to another, organize data resources through sort/merge products, and monitor machine usage. Also include in this category an a program that allows users to retrieve, organize, manage and manipulate data and databases. This group is divided into four sub-categories: data access/retrieval, data management, data manipulation, and program design, development. It includes all database management system (DBSM) software; decision-support and executive information system (EIS) programs; spreadsheet programs; front-end and back-end CASE tools; and emerging areas like cooperative processing and/or object management application development tools.

Code Number : 6

Category: Research and Development

Product Definition:

Any ICT creation that is coming from a practical application of scientific and engineering knowledge for discovering new knowledge about products, processes, and services (research), to create new and improved products, processes, and services that fill market needs.

Code Number : 7

Category: General Applications

Product Definition:

Any application of software and/or hardware to support a range of functions that are commonly used by an enterprise or any business or organization entity. Includes in this category are: back office applications, office productivity tools, human resource information system, administration tools, procurement system, etc.



Code Number : 8

Category: Financial Applications

Product Definition:

Any application of software and/or hardware that relates with the process of transferring and managing capital or funds or monetary related entities within or across the enterprise in a various related industry such as banking, insurance, stock exchange, and multi finance.

Code Number : 9

Category: Healthcare

Product Definition:

Any application of software and/or hardware that relates to the services provided to individuals or communities by a health care system or by professionals to promote, maintain, monitor, or restore health. Healthcare contains a broad spectrum of services and activities delivered by a team of health personnel.

Code Number : 10

Category : Industrial Applications

Product Definition:

Any application of software and/or hardware that is required by many industries to help them increasing the process performance of creating products and services. Some examples of such applications are: Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing (CAD/CAM), optimization devices and system, process effectiveness monitoring tools, etc.

Code Number : 11

Category: Communication

Product Definition:

Any application of software and/or hardware that relates with any transmission of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, voice, video, data, or intelligence of any nature by digital or analog electromagnetic or electronic signals (e.g., radio, telephone, television, facsimile, computer/modem).

Code Number : 12

Category: Media and Entertainment

Product Definition:

Any application of software and/or hardware that relates to the process of combining text, sound, pictures, and videos, to create a diversion that holds the attention (entertainment).



Code Number : 13

Category : Tourism and Hospitality

Product Definition:

Any application of software and/or hardware that relates with a service based industry comprising a number of tangible and intangible component such as transport, foods and beverages, tours, souvenirs and accommodation, education, culture, adventure or simply escape and relaxation.

Winners

The NBQSA2004 will select award winners for First, Second and Third places for each category according to the judging conditions stipulated below. The announcement of the competition will be in early June and closing date of applications will be on 15th July 2004. The judging process will be in the month of July and August and the winners will be notified by 15th September 2004, and be presented with the awards at the ICT Awards night to be held on 8th October 2004. These winners are automatically eligible to participate in the Asia Pacific ICT Awards competition which will be in held on December in Hong Kong. **Overall winners** for the Year will be selected amongst the Category winners.

Sri Lanka Association for the Software Industry will present “**Best Small Company Product Award**” to one of the National Best Quality Software Awards winning Product / Project which has been developed by a company of turnover less than Rs. 12 million per Annum and not owned by an IT group of companies. This is to encourage small entrepreneurs.

Software Export Association will present “**Best Software Export Product Award**” to one of the National Best Quality Software Awards winning Product / Project which has one site overseas and which has been judged best overall Product / Project among all categories.

Judges & Judging Process

The judges will be selected from a pool (Pool of Judges) depending on their knowledge and domain expertise Each Award Category will be judged by a separate Panel of Judges. Each Panel will have a coordinating judge who will be responsible for judging process. A judge can be in more than one category depending on his expertise. A Chair Person of panel of judges will be appointed by the MOC who will coordinate the total judging process of the competition. A separate Judging Committee headed by the Chair Person will select the winners of the Overall Winners, Best Export Product and Best Local Software Product of the year. The rules governing the judging process include the following:



- The process commences from the date of closing of nominations.
- The Judging Panel of the respective Award Categories may modify the judging criteria and weightings to suit the respective Category in consultation with the Committee of judges.
- The Panels in consultation with the Committee of Judges may transfer any nomination received to another Category to ensure "best fit".
- Short-listed Nominees will be requested to meet the Panel of Judges to make oral presentations and to demonstrate their products.
- The decisions of the Judging Panel are final and binding.
- The Panel of Judges reserves the right not to make an award for any one or more Categories if no suitable nominations are received.
- The final results will be announced during the Gala Dinner at the ITC Awards Night

Calendar of Events

- **Call for Nominations** : By 15th June 2004
- **Presentation to potential Nominees** : Last Week of June or 1st week of July
- **Nominations Close** : 15th of July 2004
- **Judging** : From 15th July 2004 to 30 September 2004
- **Announcement** : 15th of September 2004
- **NBQS Awards** : 8th of October 2004
- **Nominations to APICTA** : 15th October 2004
- **APICTA Awards** : 8-10th December 2004

To be circulated among:

BCSSL Members, FITIS members, SLICTA members, EDB, BOI, professional Bodies (CIMA, CIM, PIM, SLIM and Others) and Universities

Sample Application Form Attached

Entry Fee : Rs 15,000/- Per Product Nominated. Cheques to be drawn in Favour of "British Computer Society Sri Lanka Section"