Balraj Arunasalam
Immediate Past International President

Balraj Arunasalam, of Colombo, Western Province, Sri Lanka, is the Immediate Past International President of Toastmasters International, the world’s leading organization devoted to communication and leadership skills development. Arunasalam assumed the one-year term at the organization’s 87th annual International Convention, held Aug. 22–25 in Chicago, Ill.

Arunasalam is chairman/managing director of Gemtrans Engineering Company, a maker of industrial belts. Active in his community, he serves as president of the Iyyappan Temple management board, as vice president of the Aarunadu Velalar Society of Sri Lanka and as a member of both the local Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club.

In 2011, Arunasalam helped establish an English course for Rural Voices Unlimited, a project designed to educate youth in rural Sri Lanka. The U.S. Embassy in Colombo recognized him for this ongoing work. Arunasalam holds an advanced-level General Certificate of Education from Trinity College in Kandy, Sri Lanka, and is earning a master’s degree through the Australian Institute of Business Administration.

A dedicated Toastmaster for 29 years, Arunasalam is a member of two clubs, including his home club, Colombo Toastmasters. A distinguished leader, Arunasalam has held numerous offices from the club through the international level. He served as International Director 2011–2013, Second Vice President 2014–2015, First Vice President 2015–2016, International President-Elect 2016–2017 and International president 2017–2018. He holds the Distinguished Toastmaster designation—the highest level of educational achievement in Toastmasters International.

“Toastmasters is a way of life,” Arunasalam says. “It helped me understand the philosophy of leadership, to give and receive respect, and to be humble.”

As Immediate Past International President, Arunasalam is a “working ambassador” for the organization. Serving on the Board, he develops and supports the policies and procedures that guide Toastmasters International in fulfilling its mission.

About Toastmasters International
Toastmasters International is a worldwide nonprofit educational organization that empowers individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. Headquartered in Englewood, Colo., the organization’s membership exceeds 357,000 in more than 16,600 clubs in 143 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators and leaders. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, please visit www.toastmasters.org. Follow @Toastmasters on Twitter.