

BCS IT Leaders Forum Nominees 2023



Somayeh Aghnia

Proposer: Haiyan Wu

Secunder: David Miller

Statement:

Our world is driven forward by changemakers who strive to transform their industries. They have the power to imagine new ways to solve problems, the passion to bring the world with them, and the conviction to break through the barriers along the way. I am dedicated to working with those leaders! I am a technologist with an optimistic view of the world and am excited about building the future we want. As a changemaker, I have co-founded a few tech businesses: Geeks, WordUp, and most recently Sutton Tech which is going to be the UK's first tech-specialised university. As a technology strategist and CEO, I lead Geeks in helping Senior Business Leaders to imagine, design, and implement their Digital Evolution Journey (Strategy, Design, and Engineering) that accelerates their business plans. As a passionate storyteller, I regularly host changemakers or their advisors on The Innovation Room podcast.

We discuss points of view that you will not hear in the mainstream media. As a geekess, I am a big believer in people, their development, and their contributions, regardless of their gender. I find, develop, mentor, and showcase role models who prove the point.

I have been recognised by many national and international award bodies including:

- Winner of Queen's Award for Enterprise in Innovation
- Winner of the UK Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award



Elle Anderson

Proposer: Jacqui Hogan

Seconder: Karl Smith

I have been seeking a rewarding initiative to focus my efforts and contributions and it would be my pleasure to help BCS achieve its goals and I would be delighted to serve as a committee member.

I am a commercially and technically astute product and technology innovation leader with vision, strong business instinct, unwavering drive to make things better, and strong partner-collaboration skills to create products our customers love.

Having been the product lead accountable for several award-winning digital products for household names between 2002 and present, I am passionate about helping reduce friction in B2B and B2C experience, building strong product leaders and high-performing teams. I build strong engineering cultures, exceptional product people, implement product management practices, coach product leaders and teams, design career paths/job families, and consult on innovative products.

I have most recently served as Product Transformation Director at Bupa, where I led a team of 11 deep tech experts in Cloud, AI, MLOps, Data Management, Agility and Digital including engineering, product, agility, and innovation. I am a founding member of Women in Product UK and hold professional qualifications across agility, full stack engineering, Trustee and Charity Board responsibilities, AI, Automation, and my MBA is in progress at Edinburgh Napier University.



Ian Golding

Proposer: Matthew Taylor

Secunder: Norman King

Ian is BCS Chartered Fellow and has been a Chief Information Officer, Chief Technical Officer and Data Privacy Officer, leading global commercial technology programmes for over 20 years. He has recently been Interim CIO at Landsec, Unite Students and last year at Anthesis Group, the world's largest group of dedicated sustainability professionals, and previously Interim CIO at the Natural History Museum. At the NHM he led the organisation's Technology Strategy and Vision to support its dual role as a centre of excellence in leading scientific research and a world-leading museum. He has also worked in interim leadership roles at SThree Plc, the RNLI and Southern Housing Group.

Ian has a passion for fostering collaboration and innovation to exploit the benefits of technology and data in permanent, interim, fractional and private consulting roles. He is also a Fellow of The Institute of Directors, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and a Fellow of the IET. He is also an investor who mentors digital startups. By devoting time to helping emerging businesses, his aim is to help grow the digital ecosystem.



Panagiota Karadimitriou

Proposer: Ian Golding

Secunder :Haiyan Wu

I completed my studies as a Computer Engineer in Greece and then moved to Edinburgh to do a MSc in Computer Science.

It was at that time I discovered the British Computer Society and became a member. I have been a member ever since.

I progressed into CITP and later Fellow and consider my decision to join BCS one of the best ones.

I found great value in BCS; taking input from its amazing publications, its certifications, its events and the peers' network.

It has helped me keeping an eye on IT evolutions, learning the latest technology trends and doing this in a structured way. More than anything else, it is a professional organisation that besides helping IT professionals, also helps society in general.

In my 20 years long experience in IT, BCS has always assisted me find relevant context and support.

I am a Committee Member of the Enterprise Architecture Specialist Group (EASG), the Secretary of IT Law Specialist Group (Law SG) but most importantly the last years, I was also a member of the BCS Hellenic Section BoD.

I would be very honoured to serve the IT Leaders Forum as a committee member.

Vision:

In the IT world, every professional paves a path. The path is never easy. The technology constantly changes and the IT professionals understand early that a lot of skills are needed;

an eye for innovation, the ability for digital transformation, strong and continuous technical expertise but also people management. Internet and jurisdiction, cybersecurity, data protection and data control, emerging technologies are only few of the important areas for any IT professional. Fintech is also emerging without a solid legal frame. It is to the interest of every IT professional to acquire better knowledge and expertise on the trends from specialists of the field and BCS can help in this direction.



Gill Ringland

Proposer: David Miller

Secunder: Matthew Taylor

My CV is on the ITLF web site <https://www.bcs.org/membership-and-registrations/member-communities/bcs-it-leaders-forum/executive-committee/> as a co-opted member of the ITLF Committee in 2023, and there is a LinkedIn profile at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gill-ringland-000963/?originalSubdomain=uk>.

During the past year I have co-chaired – with Professor Ed Steinmueller- the Service Resilience Working Group and submitted evidence to a government call for views software on behalf of BCS. The paper reporting on this year's work of the WG is at <https://www.bcs.org/membership-and-registrations/member-communities/bcs-it-leaders-forum/papers/> and forms the briefing to a RoundTable to be held with the National Preparedness Commission and the Business Continuity Institute (BCI) at BCS Cophthall Avenue on October 25th. BCS Product Development are investigating a joint certification programme on service resilience with BCI.

Ed and I will present the work at a Long Finance webinar on 1st November. The technical aspects of the work are being taken forward by ISSG and IRMA, and BCS Publishing are considering a book on service resilience.

If elected to the Committee I would seek to

- Contribute to the design and delivery of a programme of ITLF events
- Build links with BCS HQ, other SIGS and BCS Women
- Support the overseas members of ITLF in developing/accessing/promoting education, training and events.



Lakmal Senanayake

Proposer: Jonathan Leeson

Secunder: Shakeeb Niazi

I believe my 25+ years of industry exposure in both state and private sectors, in Data centers, Digital transformation, Digital forensic and Sustainable drive, can add immense value to the BCS IT Leader Forum. I am passionate and deliver as a collaborative leader, spearheading over 100 engineers representing multiple nationalities, in my corporate positions as an Assistant General Manager – IT at National Savings Bank (NSB) Sri Lanka and as the Vice President (ICT Security, Facility and Engineering) at SCICOM (MSC) BERHAD Malaysia.

Further I was able to actively contribute the NSB, Sri Lanka in receiving multiple awards over the past 3 years such as Public Sector Most Outstanding ICT Achievement, Best Common ATM Enabler of the Year 2022, Bank of the Year for Excellence in Customer Convenience 2022, Gold Award for the NSBPay App, Best Common ATM Enabler of the year 2023.

My journey with the BCS and IET began as an associate member in 2001 and I have volunteered for the BCS & IET for the past 14 years in various roles as follows: BCS: Council Member, BCS London 2013 – 2023, Chartered Membership Assessor (EC - IEng and CEng) & (SC – CSci) 2012 – Present, Assessor Fellowship 2012 – Present, SFIA Skills Editor and Reviewer 2014 – 2018. Judge – BCS The National Best Quality ICT Awards Sri Lanka 2012 – Present IET: Member of the Registration Group 2022 – Present, Assessor (Computer, Software, ICT, Electronic, Control, Semiconductor) 2018 – Present, Assessor Fellowship 2018 – Present, International Professional Registration Advisor, 2013 – Present, Advisor - Continuing Professional Development 2019 – Present, Executive Committee Member (Sri Lanka and New Zealand).

International Federation for Information Processing: Member of the technical task force 2022 – Present. I feel privileged to have been able to help promote the ICT and Engineering profession to approximately 1,000 engineers through sessions I have carried out over the past 12 years during which I have addressed large audiences on the importance of professional qualifications. I have also helped uphold membership standards and encouraged members to advance their careers through professional registration. I aim to revive enthusiasm and hope in professionals, young and old, to thrive in a post pandemic era as resilient individuals through the professionalism and strength of the BCS. I would relish the opportunity of becoming a council member of the BCS IT leader forum.

I believe I could use my breadth of experience to influence and support the future direction of the BCS and encourage professionals, from diverse backgrounds, to join society and help solidify the professionalism of ICT and engineering. I believe I've got so much to give back to the society and its community of practice and consider it as an honor to serve the BCS.



Harsha Wijayawardhana

Proposer: Gill Ringland

Seconder:

Algirdas

Pak¹tas

I'm the Chief Operating Officer of Theekshana, which was set up by the University of Colombo School Of Computing (UCSC) as one of the initial two companies that the University sector in Sri Lanka founded. I serve as a board member of the Road Development Authority (RDA) of Sri Lanka and the LK Domain Registry. I also served my full term of three years as a Non-Executive Director of the biggest Bank in Sri Lanka, the Bank of Ceylon, from January 2020 to January 2023. I have been involved in Government ICT projects and designed and implemented government networks such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Information Department of Sri Lanka, the Presidential Secretariat, etc. I'm one of the Internet and Sinhala Unicode Pioneers of Sri Lanka. I'm the current chair of the Local Language Working Group, which is responsible for maintaining the Sinhala Unicode Chart.

Currently, I lead the Software Development Team of the Electronic Government Procurement (eGP) Project at Theekshana. The World Bank funds the above project. I led the Software Development team for the Development Team for Automated Finger Print Identification System. I was the founding President of the ISOC Sri Lanka Chapter. Currently, I lead ICANN's Universal Acceptance Local Initiative Project, and I'm part of ICANN's UASG Coordinating Team as the Sri Lankan lead.

https://www.theekshana.lk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Harsha_WijayawardhanaResumeEdited_28_2_2021_CITP.pdf
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