## **ComBank Wins Green Building -Platinum Award**



Commercial Bank's Assistant General Manager Services Mr Chinthaka Dharmasena (second from right) receives the award from GBCSL Chairman Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake in the presence of the Bank's Chief Manager – Premises Department Mr Tilak Wakista (extreme left) and Engineer – Premises Department Mr Ravindra Kumara.

The heritage building, which is home to the Galle Fort branch of the Commercial Bank of Ceylon won a Platinum award from the Green Building Council of Sri Lanka (GBCSL) for its eco[friendly features after it was restored last year to its original grandeur by the Bank. The Platinum award is the highest rating achievable based on a set of performance standards used to certify the operations and maintenance of a building.

Key aspects taken into con[]sideration by the GBCSL to be[]stow this rating on a commercial or institutional building includes management, sustainable sites, energy and atmosphere, mate[]rials and resources, indoor environmental quality, innova[]tion and design process, and social and cultural awareness. The Bank's pivotal features of a Green Building, such as energy efficiency and renewable en[]ergy, water efficiency, environ[]mentally preferable building materials and specifications, waste reduction, toxics reduc[]tion, indoor air quality, smart growth and sustainable devel[]opment were focused on during the restoration. The building consists of the Commercial Bank's Galle Fort Bank branch, the Bank's Regional Office and a holiday home. It also houses a mini museum containing ar[]chives and items used since the inception of the branch, which has now become a popular tour[]ist attraction.

The Platinum rating was ac corded to the building for the restoration process that in cluded the recycling of all im perishable material in an envipronmentally friendly manner, using only locally sourced, specified green rated raw mate [rial in the renovation, disposal of debris in compliance with the Department of Archaeology and the Galle Heritage Foundation, installing a 15kW rooftop solar energy generation system, in stallation of a rain water har vesting system and eco-friend ly food recyclers for all meal rooms, and the fitting of a fire protection system, back-up generator, energy efficient Variable Flow Refrigerant (VFR) air conditioning system, and a LED lighting and electrical system to complement the state-of-the-art banking opperations of the branch. The building has achieved 45 percent energy saving compared to the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Condi⊓tioning Engineers (ASHRAE) standard baseline and consumes minimal portable water with the use of a tube well and a pump powered by solar energy, the harvesting of rainwater, and the installation of efficient sanitary fittings. The mechanically ven<sub>l</sub>tilated areas of the building are fitted with energy-efficient air conditioners and the carbon dioxide levels of office area are continuously measured to maintain a healthy indoor en vironment for its occupants.

Commenting on the renovation that earned the building the GBCSL Platinum Rating, Chinthaka Dharmasena, Assistant General Manager – Services, Commercial Bank said: "Sustainability is one of the key pillars of the Bank's corporate agenda, while the preservation of heritage sites and traditions is one of the causes we support through our CSR Trust. Both these aspects were addressed in the renovation of our Galle Fort branch as one of the initiatives to celebrate our centenary year in 2020."