ACFMX: A Highly Successful International Meeting of Scientists

The Tenth Asian Congress of Fluid Mechanics (ACFMX) held at the Faculty of Engineering, Peradeniya from 17th to 21st May is, perhaps, the biggest international conference of eminent scientists to have been held in Sri Lanka. The Congress was inaugurated on Monday 17th May with Mr Kawaguchi, Councillor of the Embassy of Japan as Chief Guest and Prof. Tissa Vitharana, Honourable Minister for Science and Technology as Guest of Honour. The opening ceremony was attended by about 300 people; Prof. Kapila Goonasekera, Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Masaru Kiya, Chairman, Asian Fluid Mechanics Committee, and Dr. S.D. Pathirana, Dean, Faculty of Engineering addressed the gathering.

contd.
Over two-hundred, foreign countries and regions, participated in the technical sessions that followed. Of the 150 papers published as a book of abstracts and a CD-ROM of the papers, eighteen were by invitation. Twelve of the contributed papers were from Sri Lanka, with another twelve, besides three invited papers, from authors of Sri Lankan origin living abroad. Of the participating authors, over fifty were professors, senior professors or heads of their respective divisions in research organisations. The Congress also had a number of young contributing authors.

The technical sessions were held as four parallel sessions, except for the plenary lectures. A significant number of authors chose to present their papers in poster sessions, so that they could discuss their papers in a leisurely fashion. The poster session also accommodated four research papers based on final year projects by students of Civil Engineering at the University of Peradeniya; these papers were not included in the formal proceedings but were highly commended by the visitors.

The plenary and special invited lectures were by leaders in the field of Fluid Mechanics. The plenary lectures were by Prof. Lord Julian Hunt, Head, Centre for Polar Observation and Modelling, University College London; Prof. Hassan Aref, Dean, Virginia Tech College of Engineering, USA; Prof. KR Sreenivasan, Director and Abdul Salaam Honorary Professor, ICTP, Trieste; Prof. Shiegeo Kida, Head, Theory and Computer Simulation Centre, National Institute for Fusion Science, Tokyo, Japan; Dr P.N. Shankar, an eminent scientist from the National Aeronautical Laboratories, Bangalore; and Prof. He Dexin of the China Aerodynamics Research and Development Centre, Sichuan, China. Prof. He’s paper was presented by Prof. Erjie Cui of the Beijing Institute of Aerodynamics.

The special invited lectures were by eminent fluid dynamicists, including three Sri Lankan engineers resident in North America, namely Prof. JS Fernando, Director, Environmental Fluid Dynamics Program, Arizona State University, Prof. Tissa Illangasekera, Director, Centre for Experimental Study of Subsurface Environmental Processes, Colorado School of Mines, and Prof. Rene Kahawita, Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal, Canada. Respected senior figures such as Profs Hiroshi Sato and RR Long were among contributing authors, while Profs R. Narasimha and H Zhou were among those who came only to attend.

The Congress concluded with a closing ceremony chaired by Prof. Masaru Kiya, who formally declared that the Eleventh Congress will be held in Malaysia in June 2006.

The meticulous care taken in the organization of every aspect of the Congress, including transport, accommodation and catering, was much appreciated by the participants. The Cultural Show on Day Two of the Congress, the Day Tours on Day Three, the Banquet on Day Four and the Post-Congress Tours were experiences that have enhanced the favourable impression in the minds of the visitors about the country and its people.

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### Academic Programmes

#### Commencement of Lectures for students selected on 2003 A/L Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course of Study</th>
<th>Date of Commencement of the English Course</th>
<th>Date of Commencement of Academic Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dental Surgery</td>
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<td>12.03.2004</td>
<td>26.04.2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological Science</td>
<td>22.04.2004</td>
<td>14.06.2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science</td>
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<td>Engineering</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Arts</td>
<td>10.05.2004</td>
<td>07.06.2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Science</td>
<td>28.03.2004</td>
<td>06.05.2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Short Course on DSP Hardware and Software in Power Electronics and Industrial Applications

On 25th and 26th June 2004 the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering conducted a two day short course on DSP Hardware and Software in Power Electronics and Industrial Applications for the benefit of Electrical and Electronic Engineers interested in Processor Based Control and Implementation of Electrical Systems. Resource personnel for the course were Prof. Mukul Chandorkar, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and Dr. S.G. Abeyrathne, Senior Lecturer, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University of Peradeniya. The Engineering Design Centre assisted the Department in organizing and conducting the workshop.

Short Course on the Welding Technology of Stainless Steel

On 14th and 15th May 2004 the Engineering Design Centre conducted a two day short course on the Welding Technology of Stainless Steel for Small and Medium scale entrepreneurs. About 40 entrepreneurs followed the course, which was conducted in the Sinhala medium.

- Dr. Champika Vithana presented a paper on “Reaction Cavity Geometry Dependent Conformational Transformations on Mixed Crystal Formation” at the Sixth Conference of the Asian Crystallographic Society held in Hongkong, China June 28-30, 2004.

Workshops/Seminars

Three-day Workshop on Concrete Technology

Commencing on 23rd April 2004 a three-day workshop on Concrete Technology was conducted at the Faculty of Engineering for the benefit of the Technical staff of Mitsui Cement Company. The workshop was arranged by the Engineering Design Centre and the resource personnel were Mr. H. Abeyruwan of the Department of Civil Engineering and P.A.G. de Alwis of Engineering Design Centre. 11 Technical personnel from the company participated.

- The Academic Programme of the Faculty of Arts commenced on 07th June 2004 for the Academic year 2004/2005.

- The Postgraduate Programme of the Faculty of Arts commenced on 05th June 2004.

- The Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies Faculty of Arts commenced its Certificate Course in Buddhist Studies on 15th May 2004. The inauguration ceremony was held at the Faculty Seminar Room, Prof. K.G.A Goonasekara, Vice-Chancellor; Prof Ranjith Amarasinghe, Dean Arts & Prof P.D. Premasiri Head/ Buddhist Studies and Academic Staff members participated.

- The University of Peradeniya’s Centre for Continuing Education commenced its Diploma Programme on 5th June 2004 in the Faculty Seminar Room. Prof. K.G.A Goonasekara, Vice-Chancellor; Prof. Ranjith Amarasinghe Dean/Arts participated as the Chief Guests. Mr. Karunatissa Athukorala, Director of the Programme chaired the session.

- The Department of English commenced the Diploma in English Programme for Teachers on 06th June 2004 at the Faculty Seminar Room. Prof K.G.A Goonasekara, Vice-Chancellor; Prof. Ranjith Amarasinghe, Dean/Arts participated as Chief Guests. Prof. Arjuna Parakrema, Director and Dr. C.L. de Silva Co-ordinator of this programme and staff members participated. The third Extension Course in English for professionals conducted by the Department of English started in July under the direction of Dr. C.L. de Silva.
A group of Ornamental Fish Farmers were trained on “Commercial Production of Viviparous Fish Species” on 20th and 21st March 2004 at the Department of Animal Science. Drs. K Samarasinghe and CMB Dematawewa served as resource persons.

One-day workshop on “The Present Status of the Shrimp Farming in Sri Lanka” was held with the assistance of the “Shrimp Farmers’ Association” at the Department of Animal Science on 19th January 2004.

One day workshop on “Web design and 2D-Digital animation”

The Engineering Education Unit has successfully organized a one day workshop on “Web Design and 2D-Digital Animation” on 11-06-2004 for academic staff members of the Faculty of Engineering. The Program started at 8:30 am as scheduled after lighting the traditional oil lamp followed by addresses by Dr. S. D. Pathirana, Dean/Engineering and by Dr. A. G. H. J. Edirisinghe, Director/Engineering Education Unit. The programme had two components. The morning session was on the Introduction to networks and internet and designing web pages using Macromedia Dreamweaver. Mr. Nilesh Piyaweera, Manager Training at Golden Key Computer Systems kindly volunteered to conduct the session. The afternoon session was devoted to 2D Digital animation. Dr. R. Shanthini, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Chemical Engineering was kind enough to volunteer to conduct this session using Macromedia Flash software. Thirty academic staff members attended the workshop. According to the feedback received through a questionnaire distributed to participants, it was revealed that almost all the participants were fully satisfied about the program and were very happy about organizing such a timely and required workshop.

The Committee for Conflict Studies, Faculty of Arts conducted a Seminar on “How Can Constitutions Be Changed” on 30th May 2004 at the Faculty Seminar Room. Prof. Luxman Marasinghe delivered the lecture. Prof Ranjith Amarasinghe, Dean Arts Chaired this session.

The Faculty of Arts conducted a National Conference on “Opportunities & Challenges for the Development of Conflict Affected North East Sri Lanka”, 07th - 09th May 2004 at the Senate Room University of Peradeniya Prof. K.G.A Goonasekara (Vice-Chancellor), Prof. Ranjith Amarasinghe (Dean/Arts) participated as the Chief Guests. Dr. S.H Hasbullah Senior Lecturer of the Department of Geography organized this Conference. A large number of Academics from the North and a representative group of researchers and public & NGO personnel participated.

The Department of Sociology conducted a Seminar on “Teaching Ethics” in the Social Sciences on 29th June 2004 at the Faculty Seminar Room. Prof. Ann Kingsolver, Fulbright Senior Scholar, Department of Sociology made the presentation and Dr. Vijitha Nanayakkara, Acting Head of the Department chaired this session.
The Centre for the Study of Human Rights Faculty of Arts University of Peradeniya conducted a Seminar on “Limiting Limitations and Overcoming Disabilities” on 24th June 2004 at the Faculty Seminar Room. Mr. Dipendra Manocha and Ms. A.I. Kamamura delivered the keynote lectures. Prof. Ranjith Amarasinghe, Dean/ Arts Chaired this Seminar, Prof. D.P.M Weerakkody who was instrumental in organizing the event, introduced the visitors.

Staff Development/Transitions

Academics appointed as chairmen of statutory boards

S.B. Wijekoon, a Senior Lecturer of the Industrial Training and Career Guidance Unit of the Faculty of Engineering has been appointed as the Chairman of the State Development and Construction Corporation. Mr. Wijekoon started his career in 1979 as a site Engineer at the same corporation (SD&CC). After that, he joined the Road Construction and Development Company (Pvt) Ltd. and rose to the position of Deputy General Manager (Central Zone). At present he has been seconded to serve as the National Project Director of the JBIC funded Provincial Road Improvement Project (Central and Sabaragamuwa Provinces) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government. Mr. Wijekoon is a council member of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka.

Dr. A.M.U.S.K. Alahakoon, Head of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Industrial Development Board. (IDB)

Prof. B.C.N. Peiris has been appointed to the post of Specialist of the IRQUE Project at the University Grants Commission.

Drs. H.V.A. Wickramasooriya and M.W.A.P. Jayatilake have been appointed as members of the Advisory Committee on Gender Equity (GAC) of the Ministry of Policy Development and Implementation. The main tasks of the committee are to promote gender equity at all policy levels and to mainstream gender equity into government policy and machinery.

Dr. G. Hitinayake has been elected as the Chairman of the Senior Student Counsellors of the University of Peradeniya for the year 2004.

Dr. C.M.B. Dematawewa has been appointed as the Co-ordinator of the 16th Annual Congress of the PGIA, which will be held on 18 - 19 November 2004.

Resignations: Prof. H.B. Kotagama, Professor in Agricultural Economics resigned from the post after 23 years of service at the University of Peradeniya.

Appointments: Dr. K.A.S.S. Kodithuwakku has been appointed as Head/Agricultural Economics and Business Management for a period of 3 years commencing 10th February 2004.

Prof. R.P. Gunawardane resumed duties at the Department of Chemistry from June 01, 2004.

Dr. D.N. Karunaratne resumed duties as a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Chemistry on June 25, 2004.

Prof. V. Karunaratne returned on June 03rd after vacation leave at the Department of Chemistry, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

Mrs. S. Yatigammana resumed duties at the Department of Zoology on 15th May, 2004 after completing her Ph.D. programme at Queen’s University, Ontario, Canada.
Outreach Activities

- Book Launches: The third issue of the \textit{Saru} – Sinhala popular science magazine published by the Faculty of Agriculture has been released. The theme of the current issue is Pros and Cons of Biotechnology. The magazine can be purchased from the welfare bookshop, Faculty of Agriculture.

- Mr. M.G. Manurathna, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Sociology launched his maiden book on \textit{Gender & Family} on 10\textsuperscript{th} June 2004 at the Faculty Seminar Room. Prof. K.G.A Goonasekera, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Prof. K. Tudor Silva Senior Professor of Sociology delivered the keynote lecture a large number of Academics and students participated in this ceremony.

- Mr. Manoj Alawathukotuwa, Lecturer in the Department of Fine Arts launched his book \textit{Jana Nataka Sangeethaya} (\textit{Musical Science of Folklore Drama}) on 07\textsuperscript{th} June 2004 at the Arts Theatre, Faculty of Arts. Prof. K.G.A Goonasekera, Vice-Chancellor of the University was the Chief Guest. Dr. Michael Fernando, Head Department of Fine Arts chair this ceremony, Dr. Sunil Goonasekara and Mr. K.V.A Wijesiriwardena delivered the keynote lectures on this occasion. Academic members, non-academic staff members participated at this event.

- Mr. Mahinda Rathnayake a special final year student launched his maiden book on \textit{Baddata Mun} on 18\textsuperscript{th} June 2004 at the Faculty Arts Theatre. Prof. Ranjith Amarasinghe, Dean Arts participated as the Chief Guest. Mr. Senarathne Kariyawasam, lecturer in Sinhala delivered the keynote lecture; Prof. W.M Gunathilake, Head/Sinhala also, spoke.

- The book \textit{Poverty Measurement; Meanings, Methods and Requirements} by Dr. Dilini Gunawardena, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts was launched on 21\textsuperscript{st} June 2004 at the German Cultural Institute Auditorium, Colombo. Dr. Nimal Sandarathna and Dr. Indra Tudawe delivered the keynote speeches.

- Rev. Bamunugama Shanthawimala, Senior Lecturer, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, launched his book on \textit{Budhudahamai Shraddawai} at the Faculty Seminar Room on 29\textsuperscript{th} June 2004. Prof K.N.O. Dharmadasa Senior Professor of the Department of Sinhala delivered the keynote lecture. Prof. Ranjith Amarasinghe, Dean Arts chaired this Ceremony and Prof. P.D Premasiri, Head Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies and the academic staff of the department participated.

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- The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies unveiled its annual magazine \textit{Saragaweshi} on 28\textsuperscript{th} June 2004 at the Auditorium, Department of Education, Faculty of Arts. Prof P.B Meegaskumbura was the Chief Guest. Prof. P.D Premasiri, Head, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies and several senior academics participated.

- The Department of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology was fortunate to be able to acquire the services of Prof. S.K. Ballal from the Department of Biology, Tennessee Tech University, USA as a Fulbright Scholar for a period of four months from May 2004. He would be conducting courses for undergraduate students during his stay at Peradeniya.

Extra curricular activities by Prof. D.B. Nugegoda – Head of the Department of Community Medicine

\begin{itemize}
  \item Address to the employees of the Labour Secretariat on “\textit{Stress and Heath}” - 02.05.2004
  \item Address to the teachers of St. Sylvester’s College, Kandy “\textit{How to lead a stress-free life}” - 03.06.2003
  \item Talk to employees of Peoples Bank, Peradeniya on “\textit{The Latest Scientific Findings on Meditation}” - 03.06.2004
  \item Talks to employees of People’s Bank, Regional Office, Kandy on “\textit{Overcoming stress in day to day living}”
  \item Address to Counsellors – Cancer Home on “\textit{Why Counsel Cancer Patients}” - 28.06.2004
\end{itemize}
What’s new in the UP Library Network

Asia Foundation SAARC Managers visit

On 29 April Dr. Leda Shamszai Programme Officer of Asia Foundation in Afghanistan and Mr. Syed Zahid Abbas Rizvi, Manager Pakistan visited the UP Library Network for a tour and to inspect how effectively the book donations are utilized in the Network.

Quality Teams

The Main Library has initiated “Quality Team” Project to update the Sinhala and Tamil Collections. Miss. Champa Alahakoon Assistant Librarian and Mr. R. Maheswaran Senior Assistant Librarian have taken the leadership to run this Project.

Bibliographic Data Entry Project

Interscan Lanka was awarded the above Project to data enter approximately 150,000 bibliographic records into e-format utilizing ALICE for Windows. It is expected that within the next 4 months the total UP Library catalogue (approximately 3 ½ lakhs of bibliographic records) will be in e-format and be available for searching through On-line Public Access (OPA) terminals in the entire Network.

Recommendations on Non-returned Library Materials

Audit and Management Committee has made ten recommendations approved by the Vice-Chancellor with regard to actions which should be taken when members of the Teaching Faculty delay in returning library materials. These will be implemented in the Network during 2004.

Training On Membership Record Format in ALICE

Academic and non-academic staff were trained on how to create Membership Records in ALICE from 7 to 9 June by Softlink Asia (Sri Lanka). The training will lead to creation of Membership Records at each Library as part of the Automation Project.

Annual General Meeting of ULA

At the 23rd Annual General Meeting of University Librarians’ Association held at the University of Peradeniya, Mr. Harrison Perera, Librarian University of Peradeniya was elected as the President and Mr. R. Maheswaran, Senior Assistant Librarian and Head Tamil Division as the General Secretary for a 2 year term.

National Conference on Library and Information Studies (NACLIS)

Ms. Ira Mudannayake, Ms. Sriyani Ileperuma, Ms. Sriyani Perera Branch Librarians of Agriculture, Science and Medical Libraries and Mrs. Rita Liyanage – Head Cataloguing Division respectively were invited to deliver presentations at the NACLIS organised by the Sri Lanka Library Association on 24 June held at BMICH Colombo 7.

Late Mr. Ian Goonetileke’s Collection of paintings

The walls of Reading Room I in the Main Library adorn some of the paintings donated by late Mr. Ian Goonetileke. These paintings eventually will be moved to the new museum planned next to the Dept. of Fine Arts.

Library Signage Project

Lands Buildings and Maintenance Committee has approved a pilot project on signage for the UP Library Network. Mr. Harrison Perera Librarian and Mr. Palipana Curator with the guidance of Dr. Gurusinghe of the Faculty of Engineering are expected to finalise the signs under this Project.

Farewell to Staff

Library Welfare Society bid farewell to Mrs. Samudra Weerasekera of Science Library and Mr. H.D.G. Fernando of Engineering Library on 23 June. Both served the UP Library Network over 30 years. We wish them enjoyable retirement.

Felicitation for research

On 2 May Mr. R. Maheswaran Head / Tamil Division was felicitated by the Ministry of Hindu Religions Affairs for his research work done on “Royal Temples and Constructional activities in the Chola Period”
**Assisting National Librarianship**

- Mr. Harrison Perera, Librarian and Ms. Ira Mudannayake, Branch Librarian Agriculture Library were invited as Resource Persons to address the Public Librarians of the Central Province on 27 May and of the Uva Province on 17 June respectively.
- Mr. R. Maheswaran and Mr. Harrison Perera were invited to assist the training of Teacher Librarians in the Central Province under the World Bank General Education Programme 2 from 22 to 25 June.
- Mrs. Rita Liyanage, Head Cataloguing Division was elected as the Regional Representative of the Central Province at the Annual General Meeting of Sri Lanka Library Association held on 25 June.

**Sports**

**Inter Batch Competitions**: The inter batch competitions of the Faculty of Vet. Medicine and Animal Science, Faculty of Dental Sciences and Faculty of Agriculture were held from 22nd May to 19th June 2004.

**Inter Faculty Competitions**: The Inter Faculty Freshers Tournament for 17 sport items were conducted by the Department of Physical Education from 14th June to 02nd July 2004. During these competitions there was a remarkable participation from the Faculty of Arts and they won the women’s and over-all championship. The men’s championship was won by the Faculty of Engineering.

**Friendly Matches**: The University of Peradeniya Football team took part in a friendly football match with Peradeniya Football club on 10th June at the University Grounds.

**Major Tournaments**: The President’s Cup Triangular Table Tennis Championship 2004 which was organized by the Central Province Table Tennis Association was held from 07th June to 09th June at the University Gymnasium. 05 students from the University participated.

**Tours**: University of Peradeniya Women’s Elle team, Volleyball Team and Netball Team (27 students) went on a sports and Educational tour from 21st May to 27th May 2004. Miss K.M.B.M. Piyarathne, Instructor in Physical Education participated as the Manager.

**Physical Education & Sports Programme**: A 10 hour Physical Education & Sports Programme was conducted by the Department of Physical Education for the freshers of the Faculty of Vet. Medicine and Animal Science from 27th May to 17th June 2004.

**3rd Part of the Diploma Course in Physical Education commenced on 19th May 2004**: A National Residential Swimming Coaches’ clinic and Coaching Camp was held from 03rd to 12th June 2004 at the University Gymnasium and Swimming Pool. This programme was organized by the National Amateur Aquatic Coaches Association and American Swimming Coaches Association. 25 Swimmers & 20 coaches participated and they were accommodated at the University Gymnasium. Also the University of Peradeniya Swimming Pool was named as a National Training Center for Aquatic Sports.

**Recreational Activities**: Aerobic and staff fitness activities are held every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

**Awards Ceremony**: The Annual Colours Awards Ceremony 2003 of the University of Peradeniya was held on 21st May 2004 at the University Gymnasium under the distinguished patronage of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kapila Goonasekera.

140 Sportsmen & 110 Sports women received colours for their outstanding performance.

The Awards Ceremony of Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association (SLUSA Awards 2003) was held on 26th June 2004 at the University of Peradeniya Gymnasium. 30 sportsmen and 25 sports women from the University of Peradeniya received Awards for their outstanding performance at the Inter University Championships and International Level competitions.

**Donations**: The National Swimming Coaches Association donated a set of Starting Blocks and a Pace Clock worth about Rs.265,000=.