A Quarterly Update of Significant Events at the University of Peradeniya

NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

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Annual Colours' Award Ceremony 2025 University of Peradeniya







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Welfare, Diversity & Inclusion

University of Peradeniya Commences the New Year 2026



The New Year 2026 was ceremonially commenced on 1 January 2026 at 8.00 a.m. at the Senate Building, under the patronage of the Chancellor and with the participation of the Vice-Chancellor. Multi-religious observances were conducted, the National Flag was hoisted, the National Anthem was sung, and a two-minute silence was observed in memory of war heroes. The Public Service Pledge was then administered to formally commence official duties.

Addressing the gathering, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith highlighted the key achievements of 2025, including:

- Making history as the first university to admit two consecutive batches under the revised GCE Advanced Level examination system (2024).
- Five academics ranked among the top 2% of scientists worldwide.
- Ranking first in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings in Sri Lanka for the second consecutive year.
- Entering into five new Memoranda of Understanding and building research collaborations with 17 universities globally.
- Hosting more than 15 national and international conferences and symposia.
- Receiving a clean audit opinion for the first time in 17 years.
- Professor Roshan Ragel becoming the first academic from the Global South to receive the 2025 IEEE Computer Society Mary Kenneth Keller Award.

The Vice-Chancellor also noted that the University safeguarded more than 12,000 students during the Ditwah storm and pledged swift action to restore flood-affected facilities. The Acting Registrar, Mr. K. A. B. Damunupola, also addressed the gathering. The ceremony was coordinated by the Public Relations Office.

Eighty-Seven Teak Cupboards Donated to Sarasavi Medura Girls' Hostel

Eighty-seven teak student cupboards, stored at Ramanathan Hall since 2017, were formally donated to the Sarasavi Medura Girls' Hostel on 17 March 2026. The cupboards were generously provided by an anonymous donor from the United Kingdom. Each cupboard was designed to be shared by two to four students, providing secure and organised storage for residents, with an estimated market value of approximately Rs. 11 million.

The handover ceremony was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Director of Accommodation, Warden, Past Wardens, Sub-Warden, Student Residents, and staff of the Student Accommodation Division.



Faculty of Allied Health Sciences Holds Inauguration Ceremony for 2024/25 Batch





The Faculty of Allied Health Sciences held the inauguration ceremony for its 2024/25 batch on 20 January 2026 at the Diamond Jubilee Hall. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith officiated as Chief Guest.

The ceremony commenced with a welcome address by Dean Prof. M. D. M. L. D. K. Yatawara, followed by the Vice-Chancellor's keynote address emphasising the role of higher education in shaping students' futures and their responsibility to contribute to society. Senior students added a cultural dimension with a traditional dance performance.

Faculty of Management Holds Welcome Ceremony for BBA Honours Batch of 2024





The University of Peradeniya held the Welcome Ceremony for the Batch of 2024 enrolled in the Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) Degree Programme for the 2025/2026 academic year on 10 February 2026 at the Main Hall of the Faculty of Management. The ceremony was attended by newly admitted students, their parents, and distinguished guests. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith, the Chief Guest, delivered an address highlighting the importance of academic excellence, discipline, and personal development. Dean of the Faculty of Management Prof. Ravi Kuruppuge also addressed the gathering and welcomed the new entrants.

PGIHS Holds Inaugural Ceremony for 2026 Academic Year






The Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS), University of Peradeniya, held its inaugural ceremony for the 2026 academic year on 17 January 2026 at the Arts Theatre. The ceremony formally welcomed new students commencing postgraduate studies in humanities and social sciences.

Rebuild Pera Campaign

Veterinary Biochemistry Laboratory Restored and Reopened Following Cyclone Ditwah



The Veterinary Biochemistry Building of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science suffered severe inundation due to Cyclone Ditwah, resulting in extensive damage to laboratory equipment, furniture, documents, and consumables. In the immediate aftermath, academic and non-academic staff and students collectively cleaned and restored the premises, while a team from the Faculty of Engineering assessed and confirmed the structural integrity of the building.

Refurbishment of the laboratory was subsequently undertaken with financial contributions of LKR 2.4 million from PetsVcare Animal Hospitals (Pvt) Ltd. and Vetgrow (Pvt) Ltd., under the guidance of the Vice-Chancellor, the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, and the Head of the Department of Basic Veterinary Science. Works included floor and staircase tiling and repainting of walls and windows. Additional support from the Veterinary Alumni Association of Peradeniya (VAAP), the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA), and the Veterinary Business Centre of the Faculty enabled the procurement of essential equipment and consumables.

Refurbishment was completed before the commencement of academic activities, ensuring minimal disruption to teaching and research. A Pirith chanting ceremony was held to mark the restoration of the laboratory.

Veterinary Alumni Raise Over Rs. 10 Million to Rebuild Flood-Damaged Faculty



Several facilities of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (FVMAS) sustained extensive damage following the Cyclone Ditwah, including the Department of Farm Animal Production and Health building, the Large Animal Hospital, the Centre for Aquatic Animal Disease Diagnosis and Research (CAADDR), the Biochemistry Building, the student canteen, the examination hall, and the wild animal enclosure.

In response, the Veterinary Alumni Association of Peradeniya (VAAP), together with the Association for Companion Animal Practitioners of Sri Lanka (ACAPSL) and the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA), launched a fundraising campaign to support rebuilding of the only Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science in Sri Lanka. A Faculty Rebuild Committee and batch-level fundraising committees were established to coordinate efforts, including a Dialog Star Points donation campaign through the Karuna.lk platform.

Through the contributions of alumni, the public, and industry partners, over Rs. 10 million was raised. Approximately Rs. 4 million has been disbursed to the three most affected departments, funding cleaning, refurbishment, equipment repairs, and replacement of essential equipment. VAAP expressed sincere appreciation to all alumni and well-wishers for their support.

Bank of Ceylon Donates 300 Computers to Support Digital Learning











The University of Peradeniya received a donation of 300 computers from the Bank of Ceylon on 05 March 2026 to support the restoration of digital learning infrastructure damaged during Cyclone Ditwah.

The handover ceremony was held in the presence of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, and senior University officials. Bank of Ceylon was represented by Deputy General Manager Mr. Priyal Silva and other senior officers. The initiative was coordinated by Prof. Malaka Ranthilaka of the Faculty of Arts, with additional support from Freelan Enterprises and Nipuna Rice Products (Pvt) Ltd.

The University expresses its appreciation to the Bank of Ceylon and its partner organisations for their generous contribution.



EWIS Donates 100 Laptops and Smart Board to Reopen Faculty of Management Computer Laboratory









The Faculty of Management Computer Laboratory was officially reopened on 19 February 2026, following its complete destruction during Cyclone Ditwah. Two computer laboratories were rendered inoperable, severely disrupting academic activities for students reliant on digital resources.

E-W Information Systems Limited (EWIS) responded with a contribution of 100 brand-new laptops manufactured at its production facility in Sooriyawewa and an 85-inch widescreen smart board, restoring and modernising the digital learning environment.

The reopening ceremony was attended by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith, EWIS Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Sanjeewa Wickramanayake, and Dean of the Faculty of Management Prof. Ravi Kuruppuge. The University expresses its appreciation to EWIS for its support in rebuilding the Faculty's learning infrastructure.

Rebuild Pera Conference Mobilises Alumni and Industry Partners



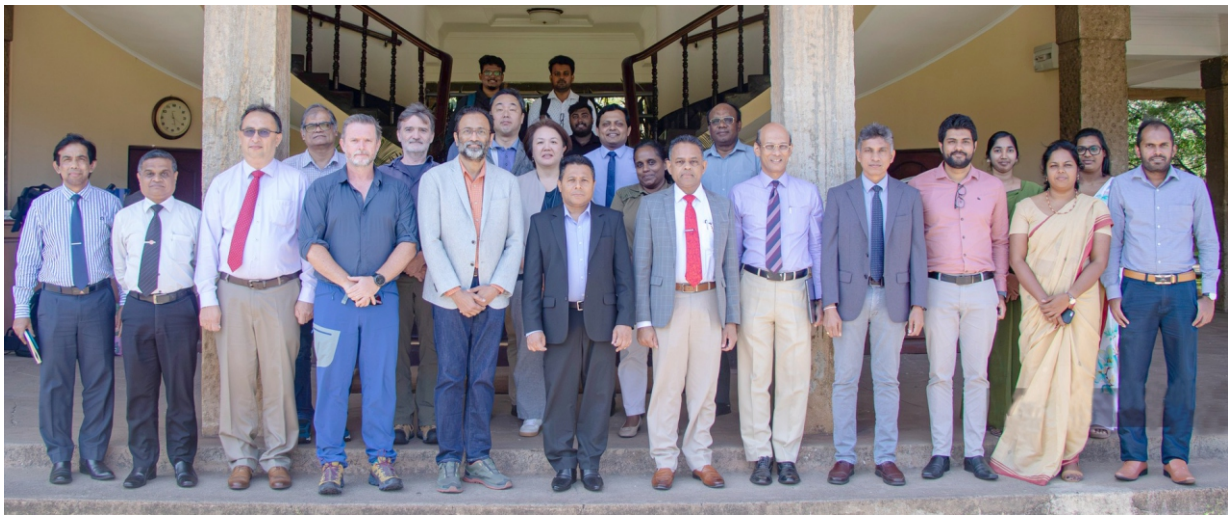


The University of Peradeniya hosted the Rebuild Pera Conference on 12 February 2026 at the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL), Colombo, bringing together alumni, industry leaders, government representatives, and well-wishers to support the University's recovery and rehabilitation following Cyclone Ditwah.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ranjith Pallegama presented the Rebuild Pera Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme and introduced the dedicated Rebuild Pera website for the structured donation campaign. Transparency measures, including clear reporting and continuous progress updates for each project, were outlined. Participants were informed that all donations to the University of Peradeniya — in cash or in kind — qualify as deductible payments when computing taxable income.

Deans of the Faculties of Management, Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, and Agriculture briefed attendees on damage sustained and acknowledged support already received from alumni associations and industry partners. Distinguished alumni Prof. Lakshman Samaranayake and Prof. Malik Peiris, both Emeritus Professors at the University of Hong Kong, addressed the gathering. A discussion session moderated by Prof. Sarath Kodithuwakku (Chairperson, Fundraising Committee) facilitated dialogue among participants joining both in person and online. The conference concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Piyumali Perera, Secretary of the Fundraising and Organising Committees.

Niigata University Presents Relief Donation for Post-Disaster Recovery



A joint international delegation from Niigata University (Japan), Curtin University (Australia), and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, visited the University of Peradeniya on 4 January 2026. The primary purpose of the visit was the handover of a donation by Niigata University to the University of Peradeniya Relief Fund in support of recovery from the Ditwah storm.

The meeting, chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith, also included a presentation on existing collaborations with Niigata University and a proposal by Prof. B. G. L. T. Samaranayake, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, for the establishment of a Disaster Management and Resilience Centre (DMRC) at the University.

TİKA Delegation Discusses Post-Disaster Recovery Support with Vice-Chancellor





A delegation from the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), comprising Mr. Kazim Karabacak (South Asia Desk Officer) and Ms. Yasemin Melez Biçer (TİKA Expert, Architect), met with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith on 5 March 2026 to discuss support for the University's post-disaster recovery.

The Vice-Chancellor briefed the delegation on damage caused by the Ditwah storm to the Faculty of Management, student hostels, the gymnasium, the IT Centre, and surrounding infrastructure. Potential areas of TİKA support discussed included the University Health Centre expansion, laboratory facilities, riverbank protection, and partial relocation of the Faculty of Management.

The delegation invited the University to submit project proposals for consideration.

Prof. Siegfried Zürn of Esslingen University Conducts Training and Explores Expanded Partnerships



Prof. Siegfried Zürn, Director of the International Centre and Graduate School at Esslingen University of Applied Sciences, Germany, visited the University of Peradeniya from 27 February to 8 March 2026. He conducted a two-week intensive programme on Agile Project Management and Gamification for MBA students and a one-day workshop for undergraduates of the Faculty of Agriculture. Arrangements are underway to confer on him the title of Honorary Visiting Professor.

Prof. Zürn also met with the Deans of the Faculties of Engineering and Management to explore extending the collaboration beyond Agriculture, and on 5 March 2026 met with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith to discuss future directions for the partnership.

AI DesignTex Delegation from Norway and Poland Explores Academic Partnerships

A delegation representing the AIDesignTex Norway–Poland collaboration project visited the University of Peradeniya to explore academic and research partnerships. Led by Prof. Chandima Ratnayake of the University of Stavanger, Norway, the delegation included Prof. Katarzyna Grabowska and Prof. Monika Malinowska-Olszowy of Lodz University of Technology, Poland.

Discussions with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith and senior academics of the Faculty of Engineering focused on joint research, staff and student exchanges, and collaborative grant applications targeting European and Norwegian funding, with particular attention to textile recycling and circular economy initiatives relevant to Sri Lanka's GSP+ trade commitments.



Prof. Ravinder Barn of Royal Holloway, University of London, Visits Faculty of Arts





Prof. Ravinder Barn, Professor of Social Policy, Department of Law and Criminology, Royal Holloway, University of London, visited the University of Peradeniya on 24 and 25 February 2026. She met with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Senior Prof. Prasanna Perera, and held discussions with staff of the Departments of Sociology and Law on research and pedagogical collaborations. On the second day, she conducted a capacity-building workshop for early career researchers of the Faculty of Arts, jointly organised by the two departments.

UNDP Resident Representative Visits University of Peradeniya



Ms. Azusa Kubota, Resident Representative of UNDP Sri Lanka, met with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith on 13 February 2026. Discussions focused on potential partnerships in climate resilience and agriculture, digital transformation, access to justice, and financial literacy, with both parties expressing commitment to structured collaboration aligned with national development priorities.

JETRO Conducts Career Awareness Session on Working in Japan

The Sri Lanka–Japan Study Centre (SLJSC) hosted the JETRO Career Awareness Session: Working in Japan on 25 February 2026. Mr. Hiroki Oi, Resident Representative of JETRO Colombo, and Ms. Kajitsu Yoshitake of JETRO Headquarters, Tokyo, presented on career and internship opportunities in Japan, covering recruitment pathways, salary structures, and employment trends. The session drew participation from students across multiple faculties and academic and non-academic staff. The JETRO delegation also met with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith to discuss expanding international career opportunities for students.





University of Peradeniya Hosts China–Sri Lanka Academic Exchange and UoP–JRDC Working Meeting



Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith welcomed a joint delegation from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the International Water Association (IWA) on 26 March 2026 at the Vice-Chancellor's Office, to discuss future collaboration and progress of the Joint Research and Demonstration Centre (JRDC). The CAS–IWA delegation was led by Prof. Min Yang, Director, Centre for Overseas Environmental Technology Cooperation, CAS, and Prof. Kala Vairavamoorthy, Chief Executive Officer, IWA.

Discussions focused on strengthening cooperation among the University of Peradeniya, CAS, IWA, and the Ministry of Water Supply in joint research and water and environmental research. Key topics included the role of the UoP–JRDC as a regional focal point, the proposed establishment of a permanent institutional framework through a dedicated Act, long-term financial sustainability through government and multi-source funding, and research priorities in water quality, pollution control, and broader environmental areas including air, soil, and marine sciences. The meeting also addressed strengthening academic engagement through Adjunct Professorships, postgraduate research opportunities, and positioning the JRDC as a regional training and technology transfer hub.

University of Peradeniya and MedirAI Sign Letter of Intent for AI-Driven Healthcare Research







The University of Peradeniya and MedirAI, a medical AI startup based in Montreal, Canada, signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) on 24 February 2026 at the University Senate Room. The LoI, signed by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith and MedirAI CEO Mr. Jean Francois Djoufak, establishes a partnership between the Multidisciplinary AI Research Centre (MARC) and MedirAI in medical imaging and early cancer detection.

The ceremony was attended by Her Excellency Isabelle Martin, High Commissioner of Canada to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. The partnership, organised by Dr. Chathura Withanage under the guidance of MARC Director Prof. Janaka Ekanayake, is expected to facilitate student exchanges, joint publications, and co-development of AI diagnostic tools.

University of Peradeniya Signs MoU with Blue Lotus 360 (Pvt) Ltd.



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Peradeniya and Blue Lotus 360 (Pvt) Ltd. on 9 February 2026 at the Vice-Chancellor's Office. The MoU was signed by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith and Mr. Nadarajah Uthayakumar, Chief Executive Officer, Blue Lotus 360 (Pvt) Ltd.

The collaboration focuses on integrating the Blue Lotus 360 Cloud ERP system into undergraduate education, providing hands-on training, curriculum enrichment, and capacity building for students and academic staff of the Department of Business Finance, Faculty of Management. The MoU aims to bridge the gap between academic theory and industry practice in business and management education.

Dr. Robert Easter Addresses University Leaders on Governance and Leadership



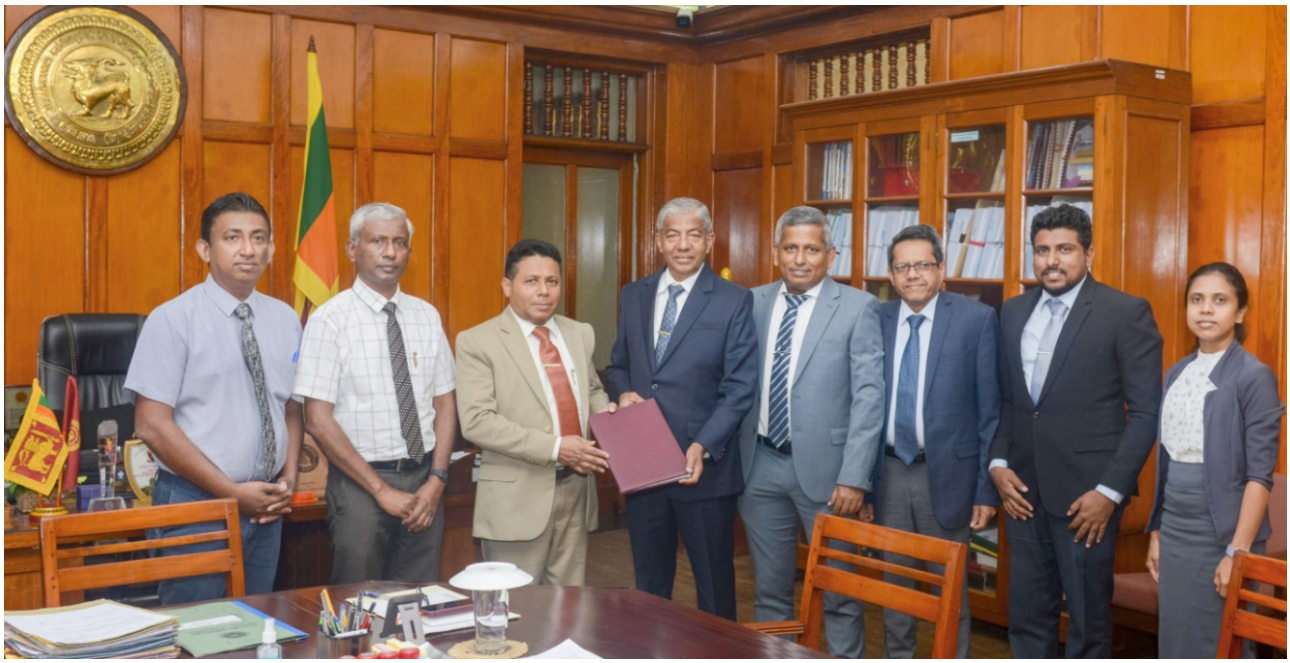


The University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with Sivananthan Laboratories, hosted a seminar on university governance and leadership attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Deans, Heads of Departments, and academic and administrative staff.

The seminar featured Dr. Robert Easter, President Emeritus of the University of Illinois, who spoke on the themes "From Governance to Greatness: Leading and Managing Universities" and "The Backbone of the Modern University: Establishing a Foundation." Dr. Easter drew on four decades of experience to address the role of visionary governance, ethical leadership, strategic planning, and institutional transparency in building universities of global relevance.



University of Peradeniya Signs MoU with New Anthoney's Farms for Antibiotic-Free Poultry Verification



The University of Peradeniya entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with New Anthoney's Farms (Pvt) Ltd. on 20 January 2026, establishing a framework for independent, third-party laboratory verification of antibiotic-free chicken meat production in Sri Lanka.

The collaboration will be implemented through the Food Safety and Quality Assurance Laboratory (FSQAL-UPDN) of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science — the only ISO/IEC 17025-accredited laboratory within the Sri Lankan university system. FSQAL-UPDN will test chicken meat samples at different stages of broiler production to verify the absence of antibiotic residues, supporting consumer confidence and responsible antibiotic stewardship in the context of growing global antimicrobial resistance (AMR) concerns.

The MoU was signed by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith and Mr. K. A. Emil Stanley, Managing Director, New Anthoney's Farms (Pvt) Ltd., and will remain in effect for five years.

University of Peradeniya Signs MoU with Aurora RCM (Pvt.) Ltd.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Peradeniya and Aurora RCM (Pvt.) Ltd. on 14 January 2026 at the Vice-Chancellor's Office. The MoU was signed by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith and Mr. Shakir Cader, Manager – People & Culture, AuroraRCM.

Aurora RCM is a revenue cycle technology company with its global delivery centre in Colombo, Sri Lanka, serving the US healthcare industry. The MoU covers entry-level talent acquisition through internships and graduate employment, knowledge-sharing through guest lectures and workshops, and commercialisation of collaborative research outcomes. Activities will be coordinated by the Science-Industry Interaction Cell and the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science.



Sri Lanka Air Force Donates Antonov Aircraft Engine to Department of Mechanical Engineering











The Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) ceremonially handed over a fabricated AI-20D Series 5 turboprop engine of the Antonov An-32B aircraft, together with its propeller assembly and a separate propeller hub, to the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya, on 23 February 2026.

The engine and propeller system will serve as a teaching and research asset for undergraduate and postgraduate students, supporting hands-on learning and applied research in propulsion systems, aeronautical engineering, materials science, vibration analysis, and maintenance engineering. The handover ceremony was attended by Deputy Chief of Staff of the SLAF, Air Vice Marshal Gihan Seneviratne, and Director General Aeronautical Engineering, Air Vice Marshal Indika Wickramasinghe, along with Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Prof. Lilantha Samaranayake and Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering Prof. Primal Fernando.

MARC Research Team's Paper Accepted at ICLR 2026



A research paper by the Multidisciplinary AI Research Centre (MARC), University of Peradeniya, has been accepted at the International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2026, one of the world's leading conferences in Artificial Intelligence and machine learning research. ICLR ranks 8th overall across all disciplines and 2nd in the AI category according to Google Scholar Metrics.

The paper introduces COSMO-INR, a complex modulation-based framework addressing spectral attenuation in Implicit Neural Representations (INR), supported by Chebyshev polynomial approximations and harmonic distortion analysis. COSMO-INR demonstrates superior performance across image reconstruction, denoising, inpainting, neural radiance fields (NeRFs), and 3D object reconstruction tasks.

The research was conducted entirely by recent graduates and faculty of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. The team comprised Pandula Thennakoon, Avishka Ranasinghe, Mario De Silva, and Buwaneka Epakanda, supervised by Prof. Roshan Godaliyadda, Prof. Mervyn Parakrama Ekanayake, and Dr. Vijitha R. Herath.

The full paper can be accessed at: https://lnkd.in/gezcqYcw

Career Development

Long Service Awards and Flood Relief Appreciation Ceremony



The Long Service Awards and Appreciation Ceremony was held on 1 January 2026 at the Senate Room, under the patronage of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith. The ceremony honoured non-academic staff members who have completed 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of dedicated service to the University.

The event also paid special tribute to staff members who demonstrated exceptional commitment and bravery in safeguarding students and protecting University property during the Ditwah storm and subsequent flooding.

Workshop on Advancing Global Health Nursing Held in Collaboration with UIC and Sivananthan Laboratories



The Department of Nursing hosted a workshop titled "Advancing Global Health Nursing: A Joint Initiative with UIC and Sivananthan Laboratories, Inc." on 9 February 2026 at the auditorium of the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences. The programme was led by Prof. Rohan D. Jeremiah, Associate Dean for Global Health and Professor of Human Development Nursing Science, University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), bringing together UIC, Sivananthan Laboratories (Chicago), and the University of Peradeniya.

A total of 72 nursing officers from government hospitals participated. Sessions covered global health foundations, nursing leadership, ethics and equity in practice, health diplomacy, and opportunities for nurse leadership. The workshop was coordinated by Prof. Damayanthi Dassanayake.

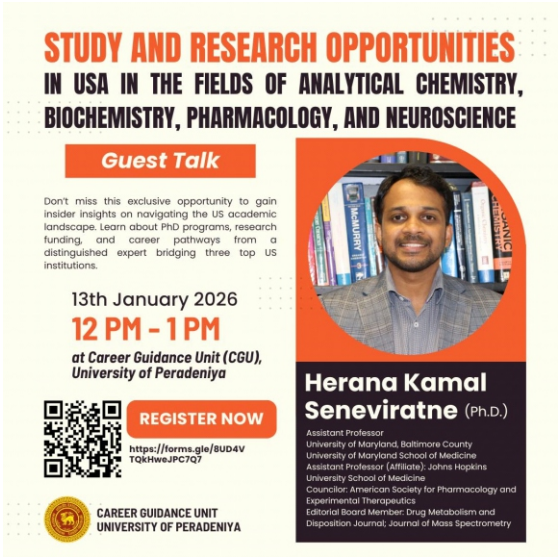
Career Guidance Unit Hosts Session on International Education and Banking Careers





The Career Guidance Unit conducted a guest talk and educational guidance programme on 6 February 2026 from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at the Geography Theatre. Dr. Duminda Silva and Ms. Dhanika Perera shared insights on education, business, branding, and career development, while the DFCC Bank HR team provided guidance on internship and employment opportunities. The event was organised in collaboration with Spectrum Overseas Education Consultancy.

Career Guidance Unit Hosts Talk on Study and Research Opportunities in the United States



The Career Guidance Unit (CGU) conducted a guest talk on "Study and Research Opportunities in the USA" on 13 January 2026 at the CGU premises. The session was delivered by Dr. Herana Kamal Seneviratne, Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland and Affiliate at Johns Hopkins University. Topics covered included PhD programmes, research funding, and academic career pathways in the United States, with a focus on analytical chemistry, biochemistry, pharmacology, and neuroscience.

Information Session on Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Scholarships

The Career Guidance Unit conducted an information session on Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Scholarships on 29 January 2026 at the CGU, WUS Centre, in collaboration with the Erasmus Mundus Association – Sri Lanka Branch. The session was delivered by Ms. Gayathra Bandara, National Coordinator of ECOP, who provided guidance on scholarship opportunities and the application process for higher studies in Europe.



Information Session on Fulbright and Education USA Scholarships

The Career Guidance Unit conducted an information session on "Study in the U.S. – Fulbright and EducationUSA Opportunities" on 19 February 2026 at the CGU, in collaboration with the United States–Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission (US-SLFC) and EducationUSA. The session provided guidance on Fulbright scholarships, the US university application process, and one-to-one advising.

Workshop on Practical Use of Generative AI in Engineering Research



The Engineering Education Unit (EEU) conducted the workshop "Practical GenAI for Research in Engineering" on 31 March 2026 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. at the Department of Computer Engineering, as part of the impactED Workshop Series for Academic Staff. A total of 24 academic staff participated in the interactive session, which focused on the responsible and practical integration of Generative AI into research workflows, covering literature reviews, scientific writing, code development, data interpretation, and research ethics.

The workshop was facilitated by Prof. Roshan Ragel, Professor, Department of Computer Engineering and Director, Staff Development Centre, and Dr. Damayanthi Herath, Senior Lecturer and Director, Engineering Education Unit.

University of Peradeniya Hosts Sri Lanka's First ICPC Regional Contest











The International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) Sri Lanka Regional Contest 2025/26 was held on 25 January 2026 at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya — the first time an official ICPC regional contest has been hosted in Sri Lanka. The contest brought together undergraduate teams from all state and non-state universities in Sri Lanka and selected teams from the Asian region, following a national online preliminary round conducted earlier in January.

The Chief Guest was Mr. Waruna Sri Dhanapala, Secretary, Ministry of Digital Economy. The Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Heads of Departments, and senior academic and industry delegates also attended.







Department of Geology Conducts Rapid Landslide Assessment in Minipe Following Ditwah Storm



Staff and students of the Department of Geology, together with postgraduate students of the MSc in Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology from the Postgraduate Institute of Science, conducted a one-day rapid landslide assessment mission in the Minipe Divisional Secretariat Division on 25 January 2026, at the invitation of Divisional Secretary Mrs. Chamila Wijerathne.

Fourteen expert teams were deployed jointly with the National Building Research Institute (NBRI) and the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), in collaboration with the Divisional Secretariat, Sri Lanka Police, Grama Niladharis, and local community members. The teams investigated active and potential landslides, assessed storm-related damage, and provided on-site risk evaluations, enabling resolution of over 60% of reported issues and allowing many affected residents to safely resume daily activities. The mission also identified critical slope instability and drainage issues across several villages, and strengthened the capacity of Divisional Secretariat officers to recognise early warning signs of landslides.

Completion Ceremony of the Ocean Country Partnership Programme MPhil Scholarships



The Completion Ceremony of the Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP) MPhil Scholarships Project was held on 13 February 2026 at the Centre for Aquatic Animal Disease Diagnosis and Research (CAADDR), Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science.

The OCPP, funded by the UK Government's Blue Planet Fund through the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and delivered by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), supported six Sri Lankan students to pursue MPhil research on sustainable seafood at CAADDR. Scholarships were administered by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). The scholars are expected to complete their studies by June 2026.

The ceremony was attended by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Dean Dr. A. W. Kalupahana, senior representatives from Cefas, the British High Commission, and academic supervisors. Dr. Samanthika Jagoda, OCPP MPhil Programme Coordinator, expressed appreciation to Cefas, ACU, and the University for their contributions. The initiative also strengthened laboratory capacity at CAADDR through the provision of equipment, training, and research materials.

Ceylon Journal of Science Indexed in Web of Science

The Ceylon Journal of Science (CJS) has been included in the Web of Science Core Collection: Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), reflecting the journal's growing international visibility and academic credibility. CJS is also indexed in Scopus, EBSCO, DOAJ, SLJOL, Biological Abstracts, BIOSIS Previews, and Zoological Records, strengthening its global reach across diverse scientific disciplines.

University of Peradeniya Receives Bronze Award at BARA Awards 2025



The University of Peradeniya was awarded the Bronze Award in the University Category at the Best Annual Reports and Accounts (BARA) Awards 2025, organised by the Association of Public Finance Accountants of Sri Lanka (APFASL), the public sector wing of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka). The award recognises the University's Annual Report and Accounts for 2024.

The ceremony was held on 5 February 2026 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH), Colombo. The 9th BARA Awards saw 260 public sector institutions compete, of which 45 were recognised as winners and 187 received Compliance Certificates. The Bronze Award was received on behalf of the University by Mr. A. M. N. B. Arampath, Bursar, and Ms. Kanchana Atapattu, Statistical Officer, who subsequently presented the award to the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Acting Registrar on 9 February 2026.



Prof. Manoji Pathirage Receives National Awards for Best Presentations in Neurology and Stroke



Prof. Manoji Pathirage, Head of the Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, was awarded the Deshamanya Dr. J. B. Peiris Award for the Best Presentation in Neurology and the National Stroke Association of Sri Lanka Award for the Best Presentation on Stroke. The awards were presented for the paper titled "Comparative Evaluation of Tenecteplase and Alteplase in Acute Ischaemic Stroke in a Tertiary Care Hospital, Sri Lanka: A Stratified Functional Outcome Analysis" at the 58th Anniversary Annual Academic Session of the Sri Lanka College of Physicians.

AI-Assisted SAQ Assessment Tool Developed at Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Thilanka Seneviratne, Head of the Department of Pharmacology and Lead of the Multidisciplinary AI Research Centre for Healthcare and Well-being, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, has developed an AI-assisted Automated SAQ Assessment Tool for use in teaching, learning, and research. The software, valued at USD 8,000, was developed and donated free of charge by Dr. Lalani Werake, Founder and Principal Engineer, myteraAI Inc., and former Technology Development Process Engineer, Intel Corporation, USA. The completed tool has been donated to the Department of Pharmacology in collaboration with the Multidisciplinary AI Research Centre for Healthcare and Well-being.

Prof. Saman Nanayakkara Awarded Honorary Fellowship of the College of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists of Sri Lanka



Prof. Saman Nanayakkara has been awarded the Honorary Fellowship of the College of Anaesthesiologists and Intensivists of Sri Lanka, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to anaesthesiology and critical care.

19th IEEE International Conference on Industrial and Information Systems (ICIIS 2025) Held at University of Peradeniya









The 19th IEEE International Conference on Industrial and Information Systems (ICIIS 2025), organised by the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya, was held on 16–17 January 2026. The conference, technically co-sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), focused on the theme "Next-Gen Engineering for Industry 5.0: Innovating Intelligent Systems for a Human-Centric Future."

The event brought together researchers, academics, and industry professionals from around the world, with sessions covering artificial intelligence, robotics, power systems, communications, and embedded technologies. The programme featured keynote addresses, parallel technical sessions, and pre-conference workshops.

Faculty of Engineering Hosts Sri Lanka's Inaugural CAPSLE Colloquium







The Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya, hosted the inaugural Colloquium in Academic Preparation for Sri Lankan Educators (CAPSLE) from 10–14 January 2026. The event — the first of its kind in Sri Lanka — was sponsored by the United States–Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission and Sivananthan Laboratories, USA. The concept was developed by Prof. Bopaya Bidanda, Ernest Roth Professor of Industrial Engineering, University of Pittsburgh, in his capacity as a Fulbright Specialist in Sri Lanka for 2026.

The inauguration was addressed by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Dr. Robert Easter, President Emeritus, University of Illinois, and Prof. Sivalingam Sivananthan, Distinguished Professor of Physics, University of Illinois at Chicago. CAPSLE 2026 gathered more than 20 resource persons from local and international academia and industry, with 38 selected participants representing nine Sri Lankan universities. The colloquium was designed to build the teaching, research, publication, collaboration, and fundraising skills of junior faculty members and research assistants in engineering and business.

Blooming Season 2026 Transforms the University of Peradeniya Campus



The University of Peradeniya has entered its annual Blooming Season, with the campus transformed by a spectacular display of yellow and gold. The Balal Pahuru vines (Dolichandra unguis-cati) are in full bloom, their bright trumpet-shaped flowers cascading over trees and structures, while the Golden Trumpet Trees (Tabebuia chrysantha) stand crowned with brilliant clusters of golden-yellow flowers against the backdrop of the Hantana mountain range.

Typically seen from March to April, the season adds a distinctive seasonal charm to the University's already picturesque setting, where colonial-era and traditional architecture is framed beautifully by the flowering landscape.



Tree Planting Programme Launched to Stabilise Cyclone Ditwah-Damaged Mahaweli Riverbank









The Zero Plastic Society of the University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with MAS Linea, launched a tree planting programme on 28 February 2026 to restore and stabilise the Mahaweli riverbank damaged by Cyclone Ditwah. The programme commenced at 9.00 a.m. near the Department of Animal Science premises, Faculty of Agriculture.

Approximately 2.5 km of University land borders the Mahaweli River, and the riverbank suffered severe erosion following Cyclone Ditwah. Supported by the Mahaweli Authority and the University Gardens Division, a large group of student volunteers planted approximately 300 saplings of Kumbuk, Mee, and Karada species along the riverbank. The programme is planned to continue on an ongoing basis.

The event was attended by Dr. Kanthi Hettigoda, Advisor to the Zero Plastic Society; Ms. Sandra Pilapitiya, Human Resources Manager, MAS Linea; and Mr. Mahesh Abeywickrama, Public Relations Officer, University of Peradeniya, along with a large number of students.







Annual Colours' Award Ceremony 2025 Celebrates Sporting Excellence

The Annual Colours' Award Ceremony was held on 27 February 2026 at the E. O. E. Pereira Theatre, recognising the outstanding sporting achievements of undergraduates during 2025. A total of 249 students were honoured with university colours — 150 men and 99 women — including half colours, for performances at Inter-University, National, and International competitions.

Special awards were presented for 18 national-level performances. Athletes who set two new Sri Lanka University Games records at the SLUG Swimming Championships, one university record at the SLUG Track & Field Championships 2025, and three powerlifting records were also recognised. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith served as Chief Guest, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ranjith Pallegama as Guest of Honour.



ICC T20 World Cup Trophy Visits University of Peradeniya



The ICC T20 World Cup trophy was brought to the University of Peradeniya as part of the official ICC trophy tour, the first time in recent history that an ICC trophy has been displayed at the University on 30 January 2026.

The trophy was officially received by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith, with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, the Acting Registrar, the Bursar, the Director of Physical Education, academic and non-academic staff, students, and four university cricket teams in attendance. Ms. Sandamali Hewage, Director of the Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Tourism of the Central Province, and Dr. Prabhath Ekanayake, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, facilitated the visit.















Inter-Faculty Freshers' Sports Championships 2026 Commence



The Inter-Faculty Freshers' Sports Championships 2026 commenced with an opening ceremony on 14 March 2026 at 5.00 p.m. at the Gymnasium, University of Peradeniya. Organised annually by the Physical Education Division with the support of the Sports Council, the championship encompasses 21 sports conducted over two sessions. The first session commenced on 14 March 2026, with the second session scheduled from 20 April 2026.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith officiated as Chief Guest, with Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, Director of Physical Education Mr. S. U. Wijesinghe, and the Deans of the Faculties of Arts, Science, and Medicine also in attendance. The champion's trophies and challenge shields were declared open at the ceremony.



Pera 6's Hockey Tournament 2026







The annual inter-university invitational hockey tournament, Pera 6's, was held on 21 February 2026 at the University of Peradeniya grounds, organised by the Peradeniya Hockey Family.

In the men's category, the University of Peradeniya and the University of Colombo reached the final. The match was stopped due to heavy rain and the joint championship title was awarded to both teams. The University of Sri Jayewardenepura was second runners-up. In the women's category, the University of Peradeniya and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura shared the joint championship title under the same circumstances, with the University of Colombo as second runners-up.











