



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA NEWS LETTER

A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

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Presentation of the Respirone NANO AV 99 Face Mask and the novel low-cost Covid 19 Detection Kit at the Cabinet Meeting.



On the invitation of His Excellency, the President of Sri Lanka, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, the Team Leader of the Face Mask Invention Team, Professor R.M.G. Rajapakse, Senior Professor of the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, and the Team Leader of the COVID-19 Detection Kit, Dr. Ruchika Fernando of the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Pharmacology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, visited the Presidential Secretariat on Tuesday, the 27th of April, 2021 at 9.30 am. The team was invited to present their inventions and to reveal their current status before the President, the Honourable Prime Minister and all the Cabinet Ministers who were present at the cabinet meeting. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Upul B. Dissanayake, gave a short introduction to the two inventions and stated that this is the first time a university academic has addressed the cabinet since the address given by Sir Ivor Jennings on the need to establish universities in Sri Lanka some 75 years ago. Professor Dissanayake thanked the relevant authorities for the invitation to present these discoveries that are in the process of becoming commercial products.



UNIVERSITY OF
PERADENIYA
STATISTICS & INFORMATION DIVISION, SENATE HOUSE



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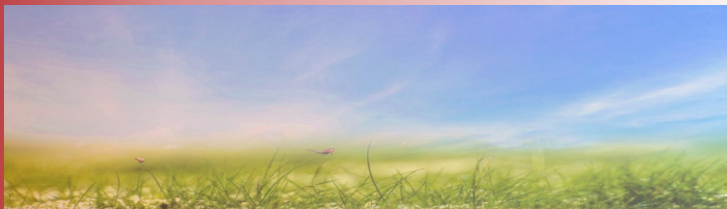
Contacts

 **Web** www.pdn.ac.lk/uop/about/Newsletter/newsletter.html
www.pdn.ac.lk

 **Tel** +94 (0)81 23 92 433 (Ext - 2433)

 **Fax** +94 (0)81 238 8102

 **Email** statofficer@pdn.ac.lk



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Seven Academics from the University of Peradeniya among the top 2% of Researchers of the World



Seven academics of the University of Peradeniya have been ranked among the top 2% of researchers of the world according to a journal article published in PLOS Biology by a group of researchers from Stanford University, USA. Peradeniya is proud of having the highest number of academics ranked amongst the top 2% from amongst all Sri Lankan universities.

According to the journal article authored by Ioannidis et al. (2020) <https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3000918>, researchers have been evaluated under two categories: career-long citation impact and the citation impact in the year 2019. The composite indicator has been developed by the authors based on Scopus eliminating self-citations using h index, hm index, total citations,

total cites in single-authored papers, total cites in first-authored papers etc. The aforesaid authors have filtered out as the top 2% of researchers amongst all the researchers in the world who have published at least five papers in their career. These databases carrying information of more than 161 researchers are freely available via Mendeley <https://dx.doi.org/10.17632/btchxktzyw>.

According to the two databases, seven academics in total from the University of Peradeniya have been placed within the top 2% of researchers in the world. Table 1 provides a ranking based on career-long citation impact until the end of 2019, and Table 2 provides a ranking based on the citation impact in the year 2019. Accordingly, tables 1 and 2 list the top 2% of researchers from the University of Peradeniya.

Table 1. Researchers from the University of Peradeniya listed based on their career-long citation impact until the end of 2019.

Researcher	Field	Sub Field	From - To	No. of Articles	World Rank
Prof. J.B. Ekanayake	Engineering	Networking & Telecommunications	1994 - 2020	154	75,290
Prof. N. Senanayake	Medicine	General & Internal Medicine	1972 - 2014	77	108,070
Prof. C.B. Dissanayake	Science	Environmental Sciences	1972 - 2020	135	153,904
Prof. S.A.M. Kularatne	Medicine	General & Internal Medicine	1993 - 2020	101	176,972
Dr. S.A.H.A. Suraweera	Engineering	Networking & Telecommunications	2004 - 2020	79	237,102

Table 2. Researchers of the University of Peradeniya listed based on their citation impact in the calendar year 2019.

Researcher	Field	Sub Field	From - To	No. of Articles	World Rank
Prof. J.B. Ekanayake	Engineering	Networking & Telecommunications	1994-2020	154	56,888
Prof. S.A.M. Kularatne	Medicine	General & Internal Medicine	1993-2020	101	110,055
Prof. C.B. Dissanayake	Science	Environmental Sciences	1972-2020	135	112,224
Dr. R.P.N.P. Rajapakse	Agriculture	Medicinal & Biomolecular Chemistry	2005-2014	25	216,268
Dr. S.A.H.A. Suraweera	Engineering	Networking & Telecommunications	2004-2020	79	222,915
Dr. B.E.P. Mendis	Agriculture	Medicinal & Biomolecular Chemistry	2005-2014	29	253,208

11th International Conference on Sustainable Built Environment (The Kandy Conference) 2020



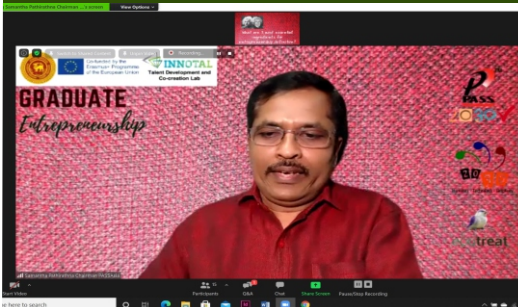
The 11th International Conference on Sustainable Built Environment (The Kandy Conference) 2020, was successfully held via online platforms, on the 10th, 11th and 12th of December, 2020. It is the 11th international conference after ten consecutive successful conferences since December 2010 with the collaboration of many local and global professionals, institutions; especially four Universities namely; the University of Peradeniya, University of Moratuwa, University of Ruhuna, and the Open University of Sri Lanka.

Opening Ceremony of the INNOTAL Talent Development and Co-Creation Lab .



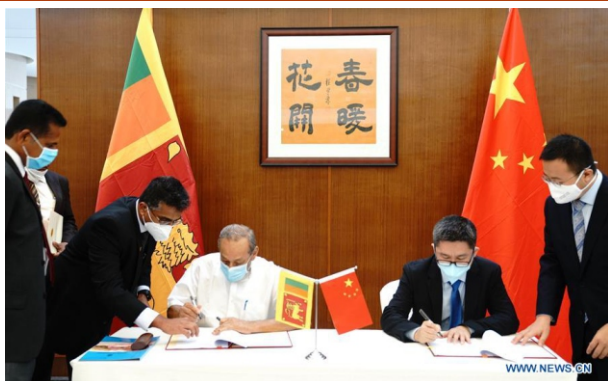
The International Relations Office organized the "Opening Ceremony of the INNOTAL Talent Development and Co-Creation Lab" under the patronage of HE Mr. Denis Chaibi, the Ambassador of European Union Delegation to Sri Lanka & Maldives held on the 20th of November, 2020 at the International Relations Office premises.

Webinar on Graduate Entrepreneurship - Is it a Myth?



The Career Guidance Unit, University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with Talent Development and Co-creation Lab, International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya, organized a Webinar via ZOOM the 14th of December 2020 on the topic of "Graduate Entrepreneurship - Is it a Myth?". This webinar was conducted by Mr. Samantha Pathirathna, Founder Chairman, Managing Director and the Chief Consultant of PASS Asian Private Limited - a globally acknowledged Sri Lankan Research, Consultancy and Training Firm.

Sri Lanka, China Sign Supplementary Agreement on Water Supply, Technology Cooperation Linked with JRDC Activities



Hu Wei, Charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka, and Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Sri Lankan Minister of Water Supply, signed a supplementary agreement in Colombo on Wednesday, October 14th, 2020 on a Memorandum of Understanding on water research and technology cooperation, aimed at providing clean drinking water to several areas of the

island country.

The original MoU between Sri Lanka and China was inked in March 2015 to tackle the chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology (CKDu) and provide clean drinking water for CKDu prevalent areas in Sri Lanka.

Under the MoU, a state-of-the-art Joint Research and Demonstration Center for Water Technology (JRDC) was established recently in the campus of the University of Peradeniya.

Dr. Priyath Bandu Wickrama, Secretary of Water Supply, Prof Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya and Dr. S.K. Weragoda, Project Director (China Sri Lanka Research Grant Project), Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply, were also present at this occasion.

02nd International Conference of the Centre for Environmental Studies – Environmental Monitoring and Management (EMM – 2020) Virtual Conference

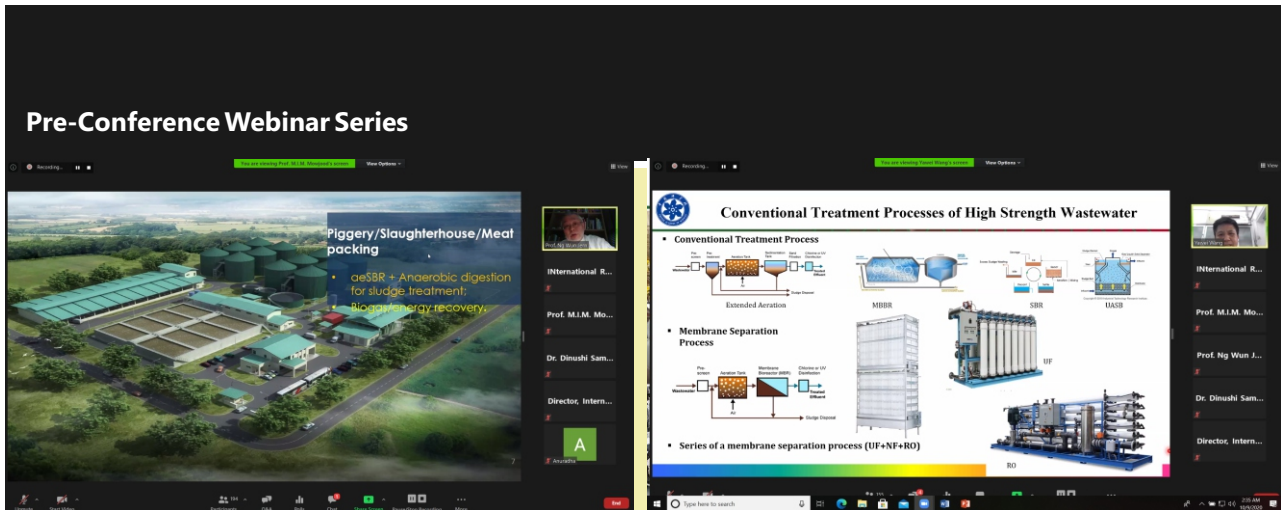


The 2nd International Conference of the Centre for Environmental Studies (CES) on "Environmental Monitoring and Management" (EMM 2020) was successfully held on the 23rd of October, 2020 in the mode of a virtual conference. It was jointly organized by the Center for Environmental Studies, International Relation Office (InRO) and the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) of the University of Peradeniya.

The conference consisted of a grand ceremonial inauguration followed by eight technical sessions in four thematic areas. Prof. Tilak Hewawasam, the conference coordinator and the Deputy Director (Research) of the Center for Environmental Studies, made the welcome address. Prof. S.P. Nissanka, Director of the Centre for Environmental Studies, delivered a speech highlighting the activities conducted by the Centre for Environmental Studies.



Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, delivered a notable speech while thanking the organizers for conducting this conference as a virtual event. Dr. Anil Jasinghe, the Secretary to the Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka, graced the inaugural session of the conference as the Chief Guest. Prof. H.M.T.G.A. Pitawala, the Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Science, chaired the keynote session. Dr. Ananda Mallawatantri, the IUCN country representative of Sri Lanka, delivered the keynote address of the conference. A vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Shameen Jinadasa, the conference coordinator and the Director of the International Relations Office. The inauguration ceremony of the conference was held at the Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya which was broadcast live to all the participants of the conference.



The Center for Environmental Studies (CES) together with the International Relations Office (InRO), University of Peradeniya, organized a pre-conference webinar series in connection with the 2nd International Conference of the CES, "Environmental Monitoring and Management (EMM2020)".

- The first webinar on "Urban Water Management" was held on the 08th of October, 2020 at 2.00 pm Sri Lanka (GMT+5:30).
- The second webinar on "Advances in Wastewater Treatment" was held on the 09th of October, 2020 at 2.00 pm Sri Lanka (GMT + 5:30).
- The third webinar on "Environmental Impact Assessment" was held on the 15th of October 2020 at 2.00 pm Sri Lanka (GMT+5:30).
- The fourth webinar on "Water Quality Monitoring" was held on the 16th of October 2020 at 2.00 pm Sri Lanka (GMT+5:30).

Performing Arts in the Time of a Pandemic – Panel Discussion



The Department of Fine Arts, University of Peradeniya, conducted a panel discussion through Zoom on the challenges for Theatre and Dance during the pandemic on the 27th of November, 2020. This conversation is part of a series of discussions conducted by the Department of Fine Arts called the "Lalitha Kala Kathika." A large audience including veterans of theatre and dance attended this discussion. During the conversation -, which took place in a virtual space - many issues related to the performing arts during the Covid-19 crisis were shared and discussed. The discussion also focused on alternative practices that could be incorporated into the performing arts practices and performing arts education. Playwright and director, Dananjaya

Karunaratne, dancer Taji Dias, actor Hiran Abeysekera, drama critic Ranga Manupriya, dancer Pathum Dharmaratne, and Dr. Sudesh Mantillake contributed as panelists and Chamila Priyanka, Lecturer/Department of Fine Arts, moderated the session.

FISU Online Mind Games – Chess - 2020



The World University Mind Sports Chess Championship 2020, organized by the FISU (International University Sports Federation), was held from the 26th to the 30th of October, 2020. The event switched to an online format due to the Covid -19 pandemic. The game was played on the chess.com platforms.

The following players were selected by the SLUSA (Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association) to represent the Sri Lanka National University Chess team. The selection trial was held on the 8th & 9th of October, 2020 at the University of Peradeniya.

CL Jayaweera (S/16/169), KPCDP Jayaweera (E/17/144), SD Aluvihare (E/16/018), PK Ranasinghe (E/16/254), DA Gunarathne (E/15/111), DH Ketippeararchchi (E/18/176).

Asian University Chess Championship - 2020

The Asian University Chess Championship (online) 2020 was held from the 26th to the 29th of December, 2020 and was organized by the Asian Universities Sports Federation Chess Federation (AUSF). The event was held online. The game was played on the chess.com platforms. 12 countries participated in the tournament. Mr. CL Jayaweera of the Faculty of Science was selected by the selection committee of the Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association to participate in the event. At the conclusion of the event, the Sri Lanka National University Chess team won 07th place.

The Biology Guild of the Faculty of Agriculture Wins BioQuest 2020

The Biology Guild of the Faculty of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Zoologists' Association of the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya participated in BioQuest 2020 and won the overall championship for the second consecutive time, beating their own record last year. The team consisted of 25 students (of which 19 were from the Faculty of Agriculture) who competed against leading universities around the world in mapping the unique biodiversity of Sri Lanka. It was led by Vidheesha Abeysinghe of the Biology Guild. In total, the Pera BioQuesters won 11 awards.

Agribusiness Centre Accepts Project to Map Soil Organic Inventory of Sri Lanka

The Agribusiness Centre has received a project on "Consultancy for Preparation of Soil Organic Inventory and Maps of Sri Lanka". It will be funded by the Ministry of Environment and the value of the grant is Rs. 4,515,000.00. The project will be handled by Prof. R.S. Dharmakeerthi and Prof. W.A.U. Vitharana of the Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.

The Agribusiness Centre has also received a project on "Analysis of the Soil & Litter Samples of the National Forest Inventory" funded by the Department of Forest Conservation. The value of the grant is Rs. 5,130,000.00. The project will be handled by Prof. R.S. Dharmakeerthi and Dr. D.N. Vidana Gamage from the Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture.

TOOLKIT NATIONAL WORKSHOP - "A Global Outlook for Sri Lankan Universities"

The TOOLKIT project is a three-year Erasmus+ Capacity building project co-funded by the European Union, the aim of which is the Enhancement and Modernization of Internationalization Strategies Undertaken by Universities in Asian Countries. In order to enhance and modernize Sri Lankan partner universities, the Universities of Peradeniya and Kelaniya, together with the University of Bologna, Italy, organized an Online National Workshop. The Program was held via Zoom on the 27th of October, 2020 from 1.00 p.m. to 4.15 p.m. Sri Lankan time.

This was an awareness program on internationalization strategies to help Universities in Sri Lanka to enhance their international dimension in teaching, research, and innovation, as part of the TOOLKIT project. Many distinguished invitees from the Ministry of Education, representatives of the government and private universities across Sri Lanka and other partner universities of the TOOLKIT project were present at this event.

Ms. W.A.S. Samarasuriya (AG/15/119) Excels in Photography

Ms. W.A.S. Samarasuriya (AG/15/119), a final year student of B.Sc. Agricultural Technology and Management degree program, won the first place (category mega and macro fauna) from a photo and video contest on Soil Biodiversity organized by the "Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity" by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Her entry was titled "Secret Colony of Termites under the Soil". Over 700 photos from 60 countries had been submitted to the competition. Five best photos were shortlisted and posted on FAO's main social media page for two weeks to facilitate public voting to select the winner. Five finalists were selected from both categories: mega & macro fauna and meso & micro fauna. In total, the



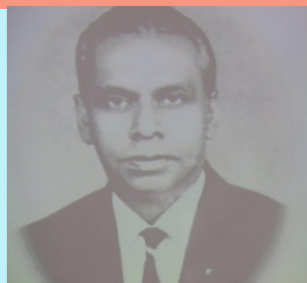
entries received 6,866 likes, 726 comments, and 693 shares. Ms. Samarasuriya, competing from the mega & macro fauna category, received the most significant number of votes. The photo of a secret colony of termites under the soil received 3,000 likes, 332 comments, and 207 shares.

Link to the web page : <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/soil-biodiversity-symposium/contest/en/>



"Secret colony of termites under the soil"

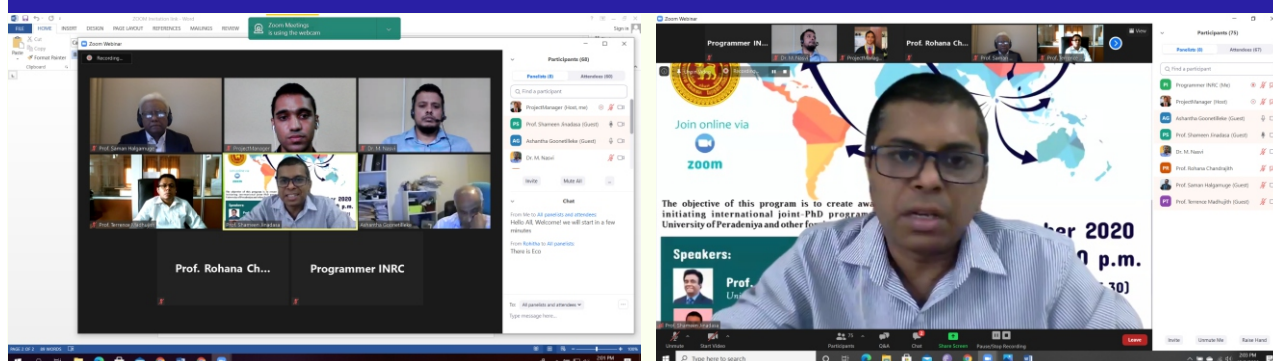
Professor K. N. Jayatilake Annual Commemoration



The Department of Philosophy, University of Peradeniya conducted the Professor K. N. Jayatilake Annual Commemoration on the 17th of February, 2021 at the Seminar Room of the Faculty of Arts. A book, titled Buddhist Epistemology: Professor K. N. Jayatilake Felicitation Volume by Gonalagoda Nanda Thero and Dr. Namali Kumari Handegama, was launched at the event.

Professor K. N. Jayatilake was born on the 1st of November, 1920 and his untimely demise occurred at the age of 49. The memorial oration speech was delivered by Prof. Asanga Thilakarathne. Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Parakrama Karunaratne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Mr. Mangala Dissanayake, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya, Prof. P. Jamahir, Head of the Department of Philosophy, other Heads/Professors/Academic members of the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya, and family members of Professor K. N. Jayatilake graced the event with their presence.

Awareness Program on International Joint-PhD Programs



The International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya, organized an awareness program on International Joint-PhD Programs on the 03rd of December, 2020, via ZOOM. This webinar targeted all the academic and research staff of the universities in Sri Lanka to create awareness in the process of initiating International Joint-PhD Programs between Sri Lankan Universities and other foreign institutes.

CDCE NEWS

The Centre for Distance and Continuing Education (CDCE) conducted four workshops on the preparation of proposals for the following courses meant to be introduced in the future.

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| • Advanced Certificate Course in General English | (Faculty of Arts) |
| • Certificate Course in Basic Tamil | (Faculty of Arts) |
| • Diploma in Computing and Electronic | (Faculty of Science) |
| • Diploma in Laboratory Technology | (Faculty of Science) |
| • Early Childhood Care and Development Degree Programme | (Faculty of Arts) |

Inauguration Programme of the Laboratory Handling Certificate Level Programme for New Entrants - 2021

The inauguration ceremony to mark the registration of new students for the Laboratory Handling Certificate Level Programme in the (Second Batch) academic year 2019/2020 was held on the 29th of January, 2021 at the Committee Room, CDCE, via Zoom. Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Shaluka Kodithuwakku, Dean/Faculty of Science, Professor Mallika Pinnawala, the Director of the Centre, Dr. W.D. Chandrasena, Academic Coordinator of the programme, Ms. Lasni Jayasooriya, Assistant Registrar/CDCE, academic staff, students and staff of the CDCE attended the ceremony via Zoom.

Three-Day Online Workshop on Open Book Take Home Examination

A three days online Workshop on Open Book Take Home Examination organized by the Centre for Distance & Continuing Education (CDCE) in collaboration with the Commonwealth Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) was held from January 06th to 08th.

CGU Online Workshop Series on Soft Skills Development

The CGU has conducted the following online workshops during the first quarter of the year 2021:

- Workshop on 'Life Skills Training' for undergraduates of the University of Peradeniya on 05.01.2021
- Workshops on 'How to Reduce Exam Stress' for undergraduates on 16.02.2021 and 24.02.2021
- Workshop on 'Body Language & Personality Development' for undergraduates on 01.03.2021
- Workshop on 'Critical Thinking Skills Development' for undergraduates on 01.03.2021
- Workshop on 'Essential Employability Skills for Career Development' for final year students on 05.03.2021.

The following online activities were conducted as private-public partnership programmes:

- Workshop on Web Hosting "How to Make Your Website Publicly Visible?" conducted by hSenid Software Lanka on 06.01.2021.
- Workshop on 'Are you safe on the Internet?' (concerns about internet security) conducted by hSenid Software Lanka on 12.01.2021.
- Workshop on 'Are you safe?' a cyber security workshop conducted by hSenid Software Lanka on 27.01.2021.
- Workshop on learning about Google Products for undergraduates conducted by hSenid Software Lanka on 16.02.2021.
- Workshop on "How to Face an Interview Successfully" conducted by hSenid Software Lanka Pvt on 25.02.2021.
- Workshop on Graphic Designing for undergraduates of UOP conducted by hSenid Software Lanka Pvt. on 09.03.2021.
- Workshop on Git, Git branching, commands, an example scenario conducted by hSenid Software Lanka Pvt on 19.03.2021.

3 Notes: A Dance and Community Building Project

The Department of Fine Arts, University of Peradeniya, organized a dance and community building project titled '3 Notes' in November and December 2020. 3 Notes was a collaborative healing and dance project bringing together students and lecturers from three Fine Arts Departments in Sri Lankan Universities: The University of Peradeniya, the University of Jaffna, and Eastern University. This project included a series of workshops, performances, and a symposium with the goal of facilitating dialogue and creative expression amongst students from diverse backgrounds and the Faculty.

Over the course of the project, a total of 30 students and Faculty members gathered virtually for collaborative workshops and movement exchange. The project saw the co-creation of a collaborative choreography and the sharing of dance cultures and theater traditions. In conjunction with the workshops and performances, there was a symposium bringing together scholars, activists, and artists from various fields to discuss sustainable and long-term, arts-based community efforts that will make its effects felt beyond the extent of this project.

Dr. Sudesh Mantillake, Head/Department of Fine Arts was the overall project coordinator - project coordinators of each University were: Ms. Ashley Fagnoli, Ms. Hasanth Niriella (Peradeniya), Dr. K. Rathitharan, Ms. Thavachelvi Rasan (Jaffna) and Dr. S. Jeyasankar (Eastern). The workshops and performances were held between the 15th and the 18th of November, 2020, and the symposium was held on the 5th of December, 2020. Dr. M. Thiruvarangan facilitated the symposium. This project was supported by the Small & Mighty Grants Program - U.S. Embassy to Sri Lanka and Maldives.



New Entrants Registration 2019/2020 Batch, Faculty of Medicine



The welcome ceremony for the new entrants of the 2019/2020 batch was held on the 1st of March, 2021 as a virtual ceremony at the Physiology Lecture Theatre. 225 students were registered from the 2nd to the 5th of March, 2021 at the "Latha Madapaya and the Nelum Pokuna" of the Faculty of Medicine.

Awareness Seminar on 'Role of the Library in the Quality Assurance Cell'

The Quality Assurance Cell of the Library (QAC-LIB), University of Peradeniya, organized an awareness seminar for the preparation of the Institutional Review (IR) writing report. The program was held on Thursday, the 11th of February, 2021 at 10.00 at the Seminar Room, Faculty of Arts. The target audience included the committee members (QAC-LIB), the academic staff of the library, academic supportive staff and Assistant Registrars of the library services.

Prof. R. W. Pallegma, Director/Internal Quality Assurance Unit (IQAU) of the University of Peradeniya, was the resource person. The main theme of this seminar was the "Role of the Library in the Quality Assurance Cell (QAC-Lib)" and the contribution and support of the library in the IR writing process was discussed. The librarian, Mr. R. Maheshwaran, welcomed the audience and Mr. Sunil Premaratne, coordinator/QAC-LIB, delivered the vote of thanks. The Quality Assurance Cell in the Library (QAC-LIB) is the Vice-Chancellor approved cell and this is the first time a unit of this kind was established for the library to help accomplish quality assurance tasks successfully.

Visit of the Assistant High Commissioner of India to the Main Library

The Assistant High Commissioner of India in Kandy, His Excellency Raakesh Natraj, paid a visit to the Main Library of the University of Peradeniya on Friday, the 12th of March, 2021. The Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, R. Maheshwaran, warmly welcomed him and took him on a guided tour of the Library. The Assistant High Commissioner made a valuable donation of Sanskrit books to be added to the Library collection for the benefit of students and academic staff members interested in Sanskrit Language and Literature. The Librarian presented the Assistant High Commissioner with a jade plant as a souvenir to signify the Centennial Celebrations of the Library of the University of Peradeniya. Future support for the library and other collaborations were also discussed during the meeting.

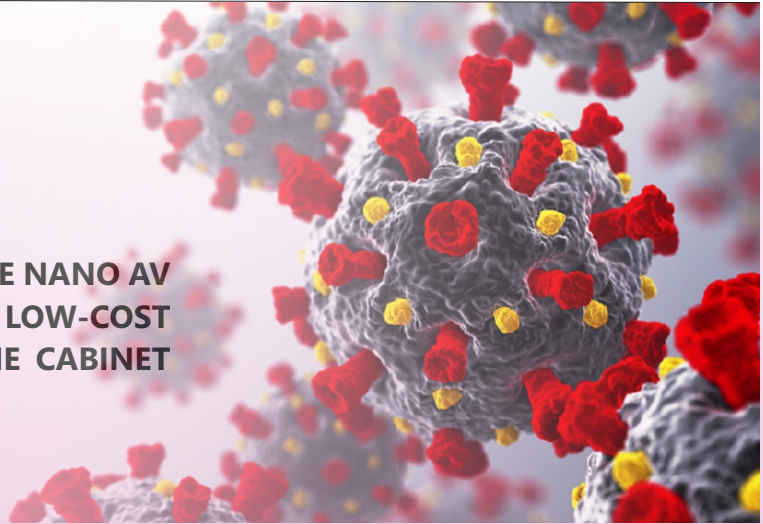
Inauguration Programme of the Diploma in Management Studies - 2021

The inauguration ceremony for new students of the Management and Development Programme of the academic year 2020 was held on the 12th of March, 2021 via Zoom. Professor Upul. B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor/University of Peradeniya, Professor S.H.P.P. Karunaratne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor/University of Peradeniya, Dr. B.A.N. Eranda from Faculty of Management Studies representing the Dean, Faculty of Management Studies, Professor Mallika Pinnawala, Director/CDCE, Ms. W.A. Edirisooriya, Academic Coordinator, Ms. Lasni Jayasooriya, Assistant Registrar/CDCE, academic staff, students and the staff of the CDCE participated via Zoom.

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Cover Story

PRESENTATION OF THE RESPIRONE NANO AV 99 FACE MASK AND THE NOVEL LOW-COST COVID 19 DETECTION KIT AT THE CABINET MEETING



Professor Rajapakse addressed the gathering with a short 5 minute PowerPoint presentation featuring the novel product and the beneficial aspects of the RESPIRONE NANO AV 99 face mask. He stressed the fact that this is the first time any invention made by the University of Peradeniya has been converted into a commercial product thanks to the guidance and assistance provided by the Honourable Minister of Trade, Dr. Bandula Gunawardena, who worked very hard to accomplish this task with the assistance of the manufacturing partner, Sarasavi Industries Pvt. Ltd. The novel face mask is composed of three layers and adjustable ear loops. It is available in three colours - white, black and brown - and comes in three sizes, i.e. large, medium and small. The polybag, in which the face mask is enclosed, is also biodegradable and the mask is packaged in a cardboard box with the important details printed in Sinhalese and English on the front and back sides of the box.

The purpose of this invention was to develop a face mask that is environmentally-friendly, bio-degradable and recyclable without causing any damage to the three layers in order to reduce waste and minimize environmental impact. As such, cotton fabric was chosen as the natural fabric material to develop the face mask. The cotton fabrics used for the three layers have been modified through nanotechnology to have inherent properties. The outer layer cotton fabric was modified to possess superhydrophobicity to ensure that it would repel any aerosol particles containing the virus, blood or any other water-based stains the same way the lotus leaf does. However, if by any chance some particles or the virus penetrates the outer layer and reaches the nanotechnologically modified middle layer cotton fabric, it is electrostatically bound by the microparticles used to cover the pores of the cotton fabric to a level below 300 nm. As such, the aerosol particles and the virus are bound strongly together to prevent them from seeping through; this is done by the mechanical hindrance of the pores - which are smaller than the aerosol particles - and the electrostatic binding of the negatively charged viral envelope on the positively charged microparticles.

The star-shaped nanoparticles present throughout the surface of this layer are able to cut the spike proteins and the viral envelope thus deactivating the virus. The innermost layer is made up of 100% hydrophilic cotton to adsorb carbon dioxide and the moisture present in the exhaled air and to quickly expel them from the head space thereby preventing the re-inhalation of carbon dioxide-rich air.



This is the first time the world has seen the invention of a face mask with all these properties. Professor Rajapakse further demonstrated that these properties remain intact for at least 25 washing cycles. As such, this face mask can be reused after washing/ disinfecting for a period of one month at the least. He also stated that most of the face masks currently available in the market are made of polypropylene and are meant for only one-time use. The current world population is 7.6 trillion and everyone is expected to wear a mask during the pandemic. This means that an estimated 7.6 trillion face masks are discarded to the environment every day and the consequences of discarding non-biodegradable materials in such vast quantities are unimaginable. He also requested that the relevant authorities take necessary action to expedite the process of the NMRA approval to which immediate attention was paid by the Honourable Minister of Health, Pavithra Wanniarachchi. Accordingly, a meeting was scheduled with the higher authorities of the Health Ministry and the NMRA for the 29th of Thursday at 3.00 pm.

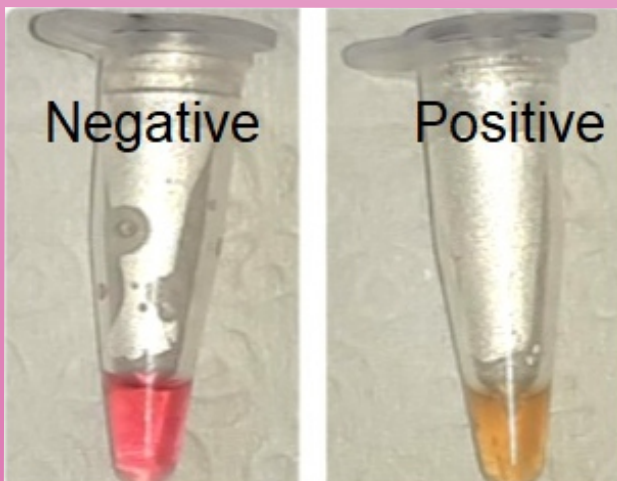
Dr. Fernando then briefed the gathering about the features of the novel test kit invented by the University of Peradeniya to diagnose SARS-CoV-2 infected patients without the need for specialized equipment such as PCR machines. This method is cost-effective and can be done in a relatively shorter time with greater accuracy. Furthermore, Dr. Fernando stated that this kit is based on the Reverse Transcription Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (RT-LAMP) principle, and infected patients are therefore detected based on the amplification of the SARS-CoV-2 virus-specific RNA in the sample and which are compatible with patient samples collected for regular qRT-PCR. He further stated that the cost of a single test of this kit would be around Rs. 1500 and the final results can be provided within 2 hours from the point of collecting the samples (i.e. about 1/3 of the time taken for qRT-PCR). He also stated that the positive agreement of this test kit with qRT-PCR is very high (97%) compared

to similar alternatives such as Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) in which the positive agreement with qRT-PCR can be placed within the range of 12% - 71%. He explained that the test kit is equipped with an internal control assay based on the human beta actin messenger RNA

which can confirm the quality of the patient sample received by the laboratory. Furthermore, Dr. Fernando stated that they are currently validating another version of the same test kit working with saliva samples of the patients to eliminate the need for taking painful nasal swabs and lengthy RNA extraction processes which can be easily deployed at places such as airports, schools, universities and factories.

Finally, Dr. Fernando highlighted the fact that the commercial partner Medivesta Remedies (Pvt) Ltd. has applied for National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) approval and if this is granted, the government can save up to 50% of the spending on diagnosis patients using qRT-PCR. At the end of his presentation, His Excellency, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa asked what kind of governmental aid was necessary to manufacture this kit on a larger scale. Dr. Fernando stated that NMRA approval is essential before commercially manufacturing this kit. At this juncture, the Honourable Minister of Health, Pavithra Wanniarachchi, provided an appointment on 29.04.2021 at 10.30 am to discuss the matter with relevant officials and consider the possibility of expediting this process.

The team left the Presidential Secretariat at 11.00 am for a press conference and interviews with journalists which were arranged at the Trade Ministry. The Honourable Minister of Trade, Dr. Bandula Gunawardena explained the need for a press conference by stating that this would help the launch of the face masks through the State Trading Corporation and be made available for the general public through CWC ("Sathosa") stores throughout the country; the public would also be made aware of the novel, low-cost, fast and accurate COVID-19 detection kit developed by the University of Peradeniya. The Vice-Chancellor and the two leaders of the research teams also addressed the public.



"Centenary Celebrations" of the University of Peradeniya Library



The "Centenary Celebrations" of the University of Peradeniya Library was inaugurated at a ceremony held on Tuesday, 23rd of February, 2021 at the Auditorium of the New Library building under the aegis of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Parakrama Karunaratne, and Acting Registrar Ms. Jayantha Dharmasiri. The event was organized by the Librarian, Mr. R. Maheswaran and the Library staff.

The highlight of the event was the unveiling of the "Centenary Logo" and launching it in the digital format. Subsequently, a press briefing was held and the Vice-Chancellor gave a brief speech detailing the

history, value and services rendered by the University of Peradeniya Library. Exhibiting a few items of historical value was another important feature of this inaugural ceremony. The four monumental articles displayed for the guests were, the very first accession register which was started on the 08th of April, 1921, the first ten books in the accession register which belong to the Arunachalam Padmanabha Collection, the "Mahavamsa" Palm Leaf Manuscript which is soon to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, and the oldest palm leaf manuscript currently held by the Library, namely, "Visuddhi Magga Teeka", which is known to have been written in 1302 C. E. during the Dambadeniya period.



PGIS Research Congress (RESCON) - 2020



The PGIS Research Congress is the major annual research conference of the Postgraduate Institute of Science. The Congress provides an exciting opportunity to share knowledge and network with scientists from across Sri Lanka and abroad, through the presentation of cutting edge research. The Congress was held on the 26th, 27th, and 28th of November 2020. Due to the current situation, the technical sessions were done online via zoom webinar.



The Peradeniya International Economics Research Symposium 2020



The 08th Peradeniya International Economics Research Symposium (PIERS) – 2020 was successfully held on the 10th December, 2020 at the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities & Social Sciences (PGIHS), University of Peradeniya. The event was organized by the Department of Economics & Statistics, University of Peradeniya collaboration with South Asian University (SAU), New Delhi, India.

The theme of the symposium this year was “Stimulating Economic Growth to Face Economic and Social Challenges During and Post Covid-19”. PIERS 2020 provided a platform for economic research which would contribute to the above theme and it was also meant to be an interactive forum for

junior academics and researchers including graduate students to engage in academic discussion and share innovative research findings. The keynote address of the symposium was delivered by Mr. Luxman Siriwardena, Executive Director, The Pathfinder Foundation, under the title of “Post-Covid Economy of Sri Lanka; Challenges and Opportunities.”

This year 58 extended abstracts were received - both local and international -- out of which a total of 28 research papers were selected to be presented at the symposium. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic situation, the conference was held online and as a face-to-face event as well whilst maintaining the health and safety guidelines given by the Health Center, University of Peradeniya.



The Mooting Team of the Department Law to Compete at the Jean-Pictet Competition 2021 (Indonesia)

The mootling team of the Department of Law has been selected to compete at the Jean-Pictet Competition 2021 scheduled to be held in Indonesia during the month of September, 2021. The team was selected out of 80 teams from 36 countries who have applied for the competition. The teams are selected on the basis of merit assessed from the legal essays they submit before the competition.

The Jean-Pictet competition is an internationally renowned event based on International Humanitarian Law and organized in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It is a unique competition as the participants must compete in various role-play exercises and simulations of armed conflicts. They are assigned various roles of parties to the conflict whom they have to represent. This competition takes the law out of text books and teaches the participants to apply it to events in day to day life.

The team from the Department of Law has been selected twice to represent the University of Peradeniya at the Jean-Pictet Competition during the short period of 6 years since officially forming a mootling team. In 2016, the first mootling team of the Department applied to the same competition and competed with 48 teams from 31 different countries at Évian-les-Bains, France.

Ms. Navini Premalal, Ms. Dulmi Jayasinghe and Ms. Kaushalya Bowatte will attend the Jean-Pictet Competition in September 2021 and we wish them all the best.

New Appointments - Heads of Departments

Faculty of Agriculture

- Dr. N.U. Jayawardana, Department of Agricultural Biology, was appointed as the Head of the Department of Agricultural Biology, for a period of three years with effect from 21.11.2020.

Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

- Mr. A.L.I. Prasanna, Department of Physiotherapy, was appointed as the Head of the Department of Physiotherapy, for a period of three years with effect from 01.12.2020.
- Dr. N. R. Amarasinghe, Department of Pharmacy, was appointed as the Head of the Department of Pharmacy, for a period of three years with effect from 01.01.2021.

Faculty of Arts

- Professor Arjuna Parakrama, Department of English, was appointed as the Head of the Department of English Language Teaching with effect from 23.09.2020 to 14.09.2022, subject to approval of the Council.
- Professor S. Pirashanthan, Department of Tamil, was appointed as the Head of the Department of Tamil for a period of three years with effect from 01.10.2020, subject to approval of the Council.

Faculty of Science

- Dr. B.S. Dassanayake, Department of Physics, was appointed as the Head of the Department of Environmental and Industrial Sciences, Faculty of Science for a period of three years with effect from 01.10.2020, subject to approval of the Council.

Faculty of Dental Sciences

- Dr. WBMCRD Weerasekara, Department of Community Dental Health, was appointed as the Head of the Department of Community Dental Health, for a period of three years with effect from 17.12.2020.

Faculty of Management

- Dr. R.H. Kuruppuge, Department of Operations Management, was appointed as the Head of the Department of Operations Management, for a period of three years with effect from 01.01.2021.

Faculty of Science

- Dr. V. Sivakumar, Department of Physics, was appointed as the Head of the Department of Physics, for a period of three years with effect from 15.01.2021.

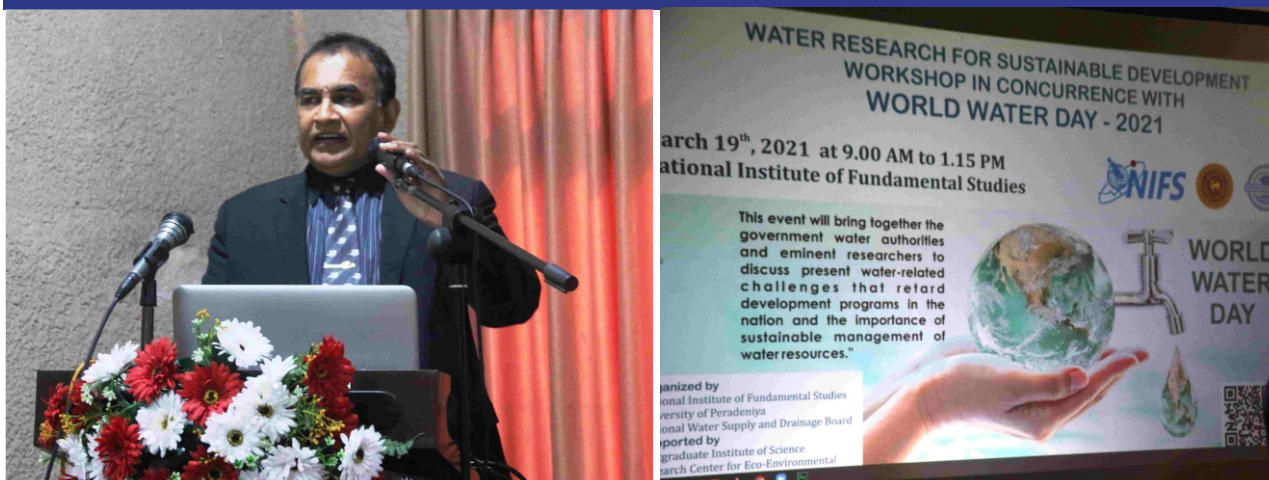
Biochar for Improving Soil Functions – Technical Session



Biochar after production, in a large pile

A Technical Session organized jointly by the 32nd Annual Congress of the PGIA and the Soil Science Society of Sri Lanka on "Biochar for Improving Soil Functions" was held online on 19.11.2020. Prof. R.S. Dharmakeerthi, Dr. W.S. Dandeniya, Dr. A.D. Igalavithana and Dr. A.K. Karunaratne served as invited speakers. This session was coordinated by Dr. A.M.C.P.K. Attanayake and chaired by Prof. W.A.U. Vitharana.

Water Research for Sustainable Development Workshop in Concurrence with Water World Day – 2021



The National Institute of Fundamental Studies (NIFS), University of Peradeniya (UoP) and the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) organized a one-day seminar on “Water Research for Sustainable Development”, in concurrence with the World Water Day-2021. The event was held on the 19th of March 2021, at the Cyril Ponnampere Auditorium, NIFS, Kandy.

Prof. S. Senewera, Director/NIFS, welcomed the gathering. Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, graced the occasion as the chief guest and delivered a speech at the programme. Prof. S.H.P.P. Karunaratne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Athula Sumathipala, Chairman/NIFS, along with many distinguished guests, graced the event with their presence.

Mr. A.C.M. Nafeel, Additional Secretary (Development), Ministry of Water Supply, addressed the gathering on Government's Focus on SDG6 – Clean Water and Sanitation. A speech was delivered on water resources development in Sri Lanka by Eng. (Mrs.) W.N.C. Wickramasinghe, Director of Irrigation, Water Resources Planning Branch, Irrigation Department. Prof. M.I.M. Mowjood, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, and Prof. R. Weerasooriya, National Institute of Fundamental Studies, Kandy, also enlightened the audience by delivering speeches on University Water Research and Directions, and Summery National Centre for Water Quality Research – Role of Basic Research, respectively.

Two technical sessions were conducted to discuss

present water-related challenges in the nation. Dr. S.K. Weragoda of the Joint Research and Demonstration Center for Water Technology, Ministry of Water Supply, Dr. Thushara Chaminda, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna, and Dr. Anurudda Karunarathna, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, participated as eminent resource persons in the first technical session moderated by Prof. G.B.B. Herath, Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya. In the second technical session, Dr. Pubudu Silva, Ministry of Health, Mr. D.N.D.S. Gunatilleke, NWSDB and Prof. Nimal Gunawardena, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, participated as distinguished resource persons. The session was moderated by Dr. Herath Manthirithilakae of the International Water Management Institute.

This event brought together influential researchers in the water/wastewater sector and government water authorities, thereby creating an ideal platform to discuss present water-related challenges that retard development programs in the nation.



32nd PGIA Annual Congress was Held as a Virtual Event



The 32nd Annual Congress of the PGIA was held during 19-20 November, 2020 at the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya. For the first time in its history, this year's event was held as a virtual conference, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The inaugural session was held on the 20th of November, 2020 with a very limited number of on-ground participants. H.E. Mr. Denis Chaibi, Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and Maldives, graced the inaugural session as the chief guest. The winner of the World Food Prize 2020, Distinguished Professor Ratan Lal, from Ohio State University, USA, delivered the keynote speech on 'Managing Soils for Addressing Global Environmental Challenges'. Professor John Dixon, University of Queensland, Australia and Professor John W Crawford, University of Glasgow, Adam Smith Business School, Glasgow delivered the main speeches.

39 oral and 17 poster presentations were made under 11 scientific sessions this year. The best presenters in each session, as well as the overall best presenter, were selected and awarded, thereby promoting scholarly work among budding scientists.

Workshops on Inspection and Monitoring of GMO/LMO

Five workshops on Inspection and Monitoring of GMO/LMO were Conducted online from 24 - 24 of September, 2020 at Agricultural Biotechnology Centre.

Target audience:

- Public Health Inspectors
- Food and Drugs Inspectors
- University Academics
- Researchers from government and private research institutions and postgraduate research students
- Officers from the Central Environment Authority, Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources, Department of Animal Production and Health, Officers from the Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medicine, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
- Officers from the Department of Agriculture

Resource persons who assisted with practical demonstrations included:

- Prof. P.C.G. Bandaranayake, Director/Agricultural Biotechnology Centre, University of Peradeniya
- Dr. Lalitha R Gowda – Former Chief Scientist/Central Food Technological Institute, Mysore, Member/Scientific Committee, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Govt. of India
- Dr. Vibha Ahuja – Chief General Manager/Biotech Consortium India Limited, New Delhi, India
- Ms. R.H.M.P. Abeykoon, Director/Biodiversity Secretariat, Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources and National Project Director/Bio-safety Project
- Ms. Surani Pathirana, Environment Management Officer/Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources
- Mr. Shanaka Gunawardena, National Project Manager/Bio-safety Project
- Dr. Bhagya Charasekera, Agricultural Biotechnology Centre/University of Peradeniya

Appointments made from Academic Staff from 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2021

Name	Designation	Place of Work	Effective Date
Dr. C. Abeykoon	Lecturer (Prob.)	Vet Clinical Science	29-10-2020
Dr. E W Kosgallana	Lecturer (Prob.)	Anatomy	02-12-2020
Ms. Y Y Senevirathna	Lecturer (Prob.)	Management Studies	02-11-2020
Ms. K A D T D Kuruppu	Lecturer (Prob.)	Management Studies	02-11-2020
Mr. P H Abeysundara	Lecturer (Prob.)	Operations Management	02-11-2020
Mrs. U N Jinadasa	Lecturer (Prob.)	Archeology	09-11-2020
Mrs. K G A M S K N Menike	Lecturer (Prob.)	Archeology	02-11-2020
Ms. P M Embuldeniya	Lecturer (Prob.)	Archeology	09-11-2020
Dr. E.N. Jayaweera	Lecturer (Unconfirmed)	Physics	16-12-2020
Mr. B.D.K.K.L.B. Dhanawansa	Lecturer (Prob.)	Physics	12-11-2020
Dr. H.C.S. Perera	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Physics	12-11-2020
Mr. E. M. L. J. Ekanayake	Lecturer (Prob.)	Computer Unit	04-11-2020
Mrs. S.S.K. Chandrasekera	Lecturer (Prob.)	Agricultural Engineering	09-11-2020
Mr. A.B.P. Bandara	Lecturer (Prob.)	Agricultural Engineering	14-10-2020
Dr. S.M.N.P. De Silva	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	MI – Crop Science	14-10-2020
Dr. HDWS Kudagammana	Senior Lecturer Gr.II	Microbiology	01.03.2021
Dr. R.M. Dandeniya	Lecturer (Probationary)	Physiology	05.02.2021
Dr. V.N. Gunawardhana	Senior Lecturer Gr.II	Vet Pathobiology	15.02.2021
Dr. WMKBN Wijeyarathne	Senior Lecturer Gr.II	Physics	26.01.2021
Dr. G.L.D.S. Kahanda	Lecturer (Probationary)	Physics	22.02.2021
Dr. J.M.U.U.K. Jayasinghe	Senior Lecturer Gr.II	Computer Engineering	15.01.2021
Miss. M.A.S. Preethika	Lecturer (Probationary)	Chemical & Process Engi	11.01.2021
Dr. A.N. Madusanka	Senior Lecturer Gr.II	.Chemical & Process Engi	02.03.2021
Ms. W.K.H. Dheerasesera	Lecturer (Probationary)	MLS	15.02.2021
Ms. P.R.M.K. Fernando	Lecturer (Probationary)	Animal Science	15.03.2021
Ms. L.M.J.N.K. Dissanayake	Lecturer (Probationary)	Animal Science	15.03.2021
Dr. R.P. Illeperuma	Senior Lecturer Gr.I	Oral Pathology	01.03.2021
Ms. D.M.Y. Abeywardhana	Lecturer (Probationary)	Sociology	15.03.2021
Mrs. I.U. Gunarathna	Lecturer (Probationary)	Sociology	17.03.2021
Ms. M.A.A. Banu	Lecturer (Probationary)	Arabic & Islamic Civilization	17.03.2021

Details of Promoted Academic Employees form 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2021

Name	Designation	Place of Work
Prof. G.S.P. De. Silva Gunawardhana	Professor	Veterinary Pathobiology
Prof. R. S. Kalupahana	Professor	Vet. Public Health
R.M.H.W. Rathnayake	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	M.L.S
T P Gamagedara	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	.Basic Science
Dr. R H Kurupuge	Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Operations Management
Mr. G C I Gunarathna	Senior Lecturer Gr. I	tOperations Management
Ms. P R W M C S Weerakotuwa	Lecturer (Transitional)	Human Resource Management
Ms. W A Edirisooriya	Lecturer (Transitional)	Human Resource Management
Mr. T S S Fernando	Lecturer (Transitional)	Management Studies
Ms. H M N K Mudalige	Lecturer (Confirm)	Business Finance
Dr. N U Jayawardana	Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Agriculture Biology
Dr. S V N Shalika	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Agricultural Biology
Dr. J M P N Anuradha	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Agricultural Extension
Mrs. S H I P Rathnapala	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Computing Centre
Rev.(Dr.) J Dhammaloka	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Classical Language
Dr. S I S Subasinghe	Lecturer (Transitional)	Geography

Details of Promoted Academic Employees form 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2021

Name	Designation	Place of Work
Prof. B.M.N.W. Balasooriya	Professor	Geology
Prof. W.A.P.P. De Silva	Professor	Zoology
Mr. W.M.C.S. Wijesundara	Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Zoology
Dr. D.R.A. Mendis	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Physics
Mr. P.M.P.C. Gunathilake	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Stat. & Computer Science
Dr. M.P.C.S. Dhanapala	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Molecular Biology & Biotechnology
Prof. M.M.A.N. Navarathna	Senior Professor	Chemistry
Prof. A.H.H.M. Jayaweera	Professor	Paediatrics
Prof. K.A.P.A. Kariyawasam	Professor	Physiology
Prof. L.P.M.M.K. Pathirage	Professor	Medicine
Prof. C.D. Gamage	Professor	Microbiology
Prof. R.N. Waduge	Professor	Pathology
Prof. R.H. Kuruppuge	Professor	Operations Management
Prof. M.M.A.N. Navarathna	Senior Professor	Chemistry
Dr. D.M.M.D. Dehideniya	Senior Lecturer Gr.II	Stat. & Computer Science
Dr. D.R.A. Mendis	Senior Lecturer Gr.II	Physics
Dr. T.M.W.T. Bandara	Senior Lecturer Gr.I	Physics
Prof. K.P.P. Pathirana	Senior Professor	Civil Engineering
Dr. U.W.S. Rathnayake	Senior Lecturer Gr.II	Nursing
Dr. E. Liyanage	Senior Lecturer Gr.II	Physiotherapy
Dr. K.L.T.D. Jayawardena	Senior Lecturer Gr.II	MLS
Dr. M.G.R.S. Perera	Senior Lecturer Gr.II	Radiography/ Radiotherapy
Dr. D.V.P. Prasad	Professor	Agri. Econ & Business Management
Dr. H.M.G.S.B. Hitinayake	Professor	Crop Science
Dr. R.M.C. Deshapriya	Professor	Animal Science
Dr. C. K. Benaragama	Professor	Crop Science
Dr. W.E.M.L.J. Ekanayake	Senior Lecturer Gr.II	Animal Science
Dr. K.W.L.K. Weerasinghe	Senior Lecturer Gr.I	Crop Science
Dr. H.M.S.C. Dissanayake	Lecturer	Community Dental Health
Dr. R.M. Jayasinghe	Senior Lecturer Gr.I	Prosthetic Dentistry
Dr. G.K. Edirisinghe	Senior Lecturer Gr.II	Restorative Dentistry
Prof. W.A. Liyanage	Professor (Chair)	Sinhala
Prof. W.M.P.S. Bandara	Professor	Fine Arts
Rev. J. Dhammaloka	Senior Lecturer Gr.II	Classical Language
Prof. R.P. Senevirathna	Professor	Classical Language
Dr. S.I.S. Subasinghe	Lecturer (Transitional)	Geography
Prof. R. Hettiarachchi	Professor	History

Details of Resignations received from Academic Staff from 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2021

Name	Designation	Place of Work	No. of. Service Years
Prof. G.H.K.K. Gunawardhana	Professor of Obs. & Gyn.	Obstetrics & Gynecology	05

Details of Retired Academic Employees from 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2021

Name	Designation	Place of Work	No. of. Service Years
Prof. D C Bandara	Senior Professor	Agricultural Biology	41 Years
Prof. K A Nandasena	Senior Professor	Soil Science	41 Years
Dr. H V A Wickramasooriya	Senior Lecturer Gr. I	Agricultural Extension	40 Yers
Mr. W R M U Wickramasinghe	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Ind. Tr. and C. G. Unit	35 Years
Prof. S D Pathirana	Professor	Manufacturing Engi.	42 Years

Details of Retired Academic Employees from 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2021

Name	Designation	Place of Work	No. of. Service Years
Prof U de S Jayawardana	Senior Professor	Civil Engineering	35 Years
Mrs. R M S Dissanayake	Senior Lecturer Gr. II	Engi. Mathematics	39 Years
Dr. S.B. Wijekoon	Senior Lecturer Gr.I	Industrial Tr. & Career Guidance Unit	23 Yrs

Appointments made from Non-Academic Staff from 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2021

Name	Designation	Place of Work	Effective Date
Mr. R.V.S.P. Rajapaksha	Registrar	Office of the Registrar	26.10.2020
Mr. L.A.U.B. Pilapitiya	Technical Officer (ICT) (Grade III)	Dept. of Agric. Biology, Fac. of Agriculture	07.12.2020
Mr. R.M.N.S. Ratnayake	Technical Officer (ICT) (Grade III)	Computer Unit, Faculty of Science	15.12.2020

Details of Resignations received from Non-Academic Staff from 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2021

Name	Designation	Place of Work	No. of. Service Years
Mr. U.A.W. Upasena	Works Aide (Grade III)	Maintenance Division	08 years
Mr. P.K.G.N.B. Samarasiri	Works Aide (Grade III)	Main Library	12 years
Mrs. P.M. Samaranayake	Nursing Officer (Dental) (Sp. Grade)	Department of Prosthetic Dentistry	28 years
Mr. A. I. Abeywickrama	Gymnasium Supervisor (Grade III)	,Physical Education Division	01 year
Mr. K. M. Wickramasinghe	Works Aide (Grade II)	Department of Animal Science	27 years
Mrs. H.A.B.V.C. Udugama	Management Assistant (Grade III)	Capital Works Division	28 years

Details of Retired Administrative Employees from 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2021

Name	Designation	Place of Work	No. of. Service Years
Mr. D.M.S.K.W.B. Palipana	Curator (Landscape) Grade II	Landscape Division	18 years

Details of Retired Non-Academic Employees from 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2021

Name	Designation	Place of Work	No. of. Service Years
Mr. G. Piyadasa	Tractor Operator (Special Grade)	University Unit, Mahailuppallama	35 years
Mr. N. Nanayakkara	Supervisor (Maintenance) (Grade I)	Maintenance Division	26 years
Mr. R.M.U. Ratnayake	Carpenter (Grade II)	Maintenance Division	21 years
Mrs. P. H. Renuka	Senior Staff Management Assistant	Accounts Unit, Faculty of Agriculture	36 years
Mr. W.A.A. Gunawardena	Security Guard (Higher Grade)	Security Division	27 years
Mrs. Y.R. Ambanwela	Staff Technical Officer Grade I	Electronic and Electrical Workshop	25 years
Mr. N.K. Wijeratne	Driver (Grade I)	Health Centre	36 years
Mr. T.M. Chandraratne	Works Aide (Special Grade)	Department of Community Dental Health	31 years
Mr. R.K. Weesingharachchi	Works Aide (Special Grade)	University Experimental Station, Dodangolla	38 years
Mr. W.P.G.W. Rajapaksha	Laboratory Attendant (Higher Grade)	Dept. of Pharmacy, Fac. of Dental Sciences	35 years
Mr. U.G. Abeyratne	Health Services Labourer (Special Grade I)	Health Centre	26 years
Mr. M.G. Ranjith	Works Aide (Special Grade)	Office of the Dean, Fac. of Dental Sciences	31 years
Mr. U.G. Abeyratne	Health Services Labourer (Special Grade I)	Health Centre	28 years
Mr. M.G. Ranjith	Works Aide (Special Grade)	Office of the Dean, Fac. of Dental Sciences	36 years
Mr. P.D. Sumanaweera	Staff Technical Officer Grade I	Computing Centre	24 years
Mrs. E.G. Indrani	Senior Staff Management Assistant	Ramanathan Hall	35 years
Mrs. S.M.P.C.C. Senanayake	Senior Staff Assistant (Library Services)	Main Library	32 years
Mr. D.M. Upasena Banda	Works Aide (Grade I)	Engineering Workshop	22 years
Mr. W.M.C. Bandara	Staff Management Assistant	General Services Division	27 years
Mr. S.G. Anura Bandara	Works Aide (Special Grade)	Arunachalam Hall	36 years
Mr. R.A. Sunil Kumara	Laboratory Attendant (Special Grade)	Department of Chemistry	36 years
Mr. D.M.M. Dissanayake	Works Superintendent(Special Grade)	Engineering Workshop	28 years
Mrs. A.M.I.K. Abeyesinghe	Works Aide (Grade I)	Ediriweera Sarachchandra Hall	25 years

Details of Retired Non-Academic Employees from 01.10.2020 to 31.03.2021

Name	Designation	Place of Work	No. of. Service Years
Mrs. T.K.D.E. Divulgama	Staff Technical Officer Grade I	Department of Physics	29 years
Mrs. N. A. Mahalekam	Staff Technical Officer Grade I	Department of Prosthetic Dentistry	35 years
Mr. S.M. N. Seneviratne	Laboratory Attendant (Special Grade)	Department of Chemistry,	25 years
Mr. K.G. Jayasooriya	Works Aide (Grade I)	Department of Mechanical Engineering	28 years
Mr. J.C.A. Fernando	Security Guard (Supra Grade)	Security Division, Mahailuppallama	34 years

The Opening Ceremony of “The Latha Mandapaya and the Nelum Pokuna” at the Faculty of Medicine

The opening ceremony of the “Latha Mandapaya and the Nelum Pokuna”; a leisure area specially designed for the students and the staff of the Faculty of Medicine was held on the 6th of January, 2021 with the participation of the Vice-Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne as the chief guest. Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. S.H.P.P. Karunaratne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Asiri Abeyagunawardena, Dean/Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Kapila Gunawardena, former Faculty LBMC Chairperson, Prof. Manoji Pathirage, present Faculty LBMC Chairperson, and other invited guests were also present and helped to make the ceremony a success under prevailing health regulations.

**Introductory Webinar on Social Entrepreneurship**

alleviation of poverty and empowerment of the poor

BRAC

\$485M in annual revenues, 90% earned, operating numerous commercial enterprises that employ low-income men and women (retail handicraft chain stores; second largest liquid milk plant in Bangladesh; poultry hatcheries and feed mills; sericulture process centers; fish and prawn hatcheries; indolol soft factory; cattle breeding; vegetable export; others)

One of the largest NGOs in the world: Serves more than 110 million people and employs more than 117,000 in Bangladesh alone – based in Dhaka, but also operates in six other countries

Founded: 1972

www.brac.net

Fazle Hasan Abed

The Career Guidance Unit, University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with the Talent Development and Co-creation Lab, International Relations Office, University

of Peradeniya, organized an Introductory Webinar on Social Entrepreneurship on the 11th of December 2020, via ZOOM. The objective of this program was to introduce the concept of Social Entrepreneurship to undergraduate students in Sri Lankan Universities. The webinar was conducted by Dr. S. Maheswaran, Head, Department of Operations Management, Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya. A brief Q&A session was also conducted after the presentation by Dr. Maheswaran. Many interested participants across the faculties of the University of Peradeniya joined this online program.

Implexx Sap Flow Sensor System donated by Watawala Plantation PLC



The Watawala Plantation PLC donated a Sap Flow Sensor System - used to measure stemflow of trees - to Prof. S.P. Nissanka, Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, and the University of Peradeniya, symbolizing a cordial and effective public-private partnership. The handing over event

was held on the 11th of February, 2021 in the presence of Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Peradeniya, Prof. D.K.N.G. Pushpakumara, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Mr. Vish Govindasamy the Director, Mr. Binesh Panangala, the Chief Executive Officer, and a group of executive staff of the Watawala Plantations PLC, Heads of the Departments of Crop Science and Soil Science, and final year students specializing in Crop Science at the Board Room of the Faculty of Agriculture. A demonstration on the use of the equipment was conducted by Dr. Nayanaka Vidanagamage. On behalf of the University of Peradeniya, the Vice-Chancellor expressed his sincere appreciation of this donation and considered this a long-term investment from which both parties would benefit.

A Four-day Training Program for the Marshals of University of Peradeniya



A four-day training program on "Excellence through Discipline" for the Marshals commenced on the 18th of January, 2021 and was held on the 18th, 19th, 21st and the 22nd of January, 2021 from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the Staff Development Centre.

Prof. Parakrama Karunaratne/Acting Vice-Chancellor, Ms. Jayantha Dharmasiri/Acting Registrar, Mr. E.A.R.M. Edirisinghe/Bursar, University of Peradeniya and Prof. Chalinda Beneragama, Director/Staff Development Centre, graced the inaugural ceremony of the program.



The Execution of a MOU between the University of Edinburgh and the University of Peradeniya



The execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University of Edinburgh, Scotland and the University of Peradeniya took place at the office of the Vice-Chancellor on the 26th of October, 2020. Professor Upul B. Dissanayake, the Vice-Chancellor, placed the authorized signatory on the official documents on behalf of the University of Peradeniya.

This particular MoU has been generally designed to foster academic and research collaborations across three disciplines, namely Community Medicine, Nursing, and Veterinary Clinical Sciences. The Deans of the Faculties of Medicine, Allied Health Sciences and Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science, the Heads of relevant departments and a couple of academics who initiated this MOU as coordinators representing the three Faculties, were also among the dignitaries present at this special occasion.

A Webinar Series on Soft Skills Development

Human Resource Management and equip them with the latest industry core skills.

Four virtual sessions were conducted on the themes of Career Planning, Writing a Winning CV, Corporate Ethics and Work Life Blend with the collaboration of eminent human resources specialists from renowned companies in Sri Lanka.

A webinar series on soft skills development organized by the Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Management, was successfully completed via virtual platforms in the month of December. The main intention behind this series of sessions was to uplift the soft skills of undergraduates specializing in

The virtual event saw the participation of a large audience including the academic staff and undergraduates. The workshop series encouraged participants to prepare themselves for the demands of the industry and minimize the rift between the academy and the industry.

A training session on Market Linking for Potential Floriculture Growers



"The Agribusiness Centre of the Faculty of Agriculture conducted a training session for the members of the Central Province Womens' Chamber of Small Industries and Commerce on "Market Linking for Potential Floriculture Growers" on the 8th of September, 2020 as a community support activity in a post-COVID-19 environment.