UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
NEWS LETTER

A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

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Times Higher Education World Ranking – 2022

The University of Peradeniya has been ranked among the world's top 500 Universities for the 3rd consecutive year and is also ranked the number one university in Sri Lanka according to the Times Higher Education Ranking 2022.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings is one of the largest and most comprehensive ranking systems in the world. The 2022 ranking includes more than 1600 universities spread among nearly 100 countries and territories. The Times Higher Education ranking takes core areas such as teaching (the learning environment); research (volume, income and reputation); citations (research influence); industry income (knowledge transfer), and international outlook (staff, students and research), into consideration when ranking universities.

More information can be found at
https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2022/world-ranking



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New Appointments

Dean - Faculty of Dental Sciences



Prof. A.M. Attygalla, assumed duties as the Dean of the Faculty of Dental Sciences on 10th of August 2021. Prof. Attygalla has also been the Head and the Chair Professor of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery of the Faculty of Dental Sciences.

Dean - Faculty of Medicine



Prof. Vasanthi Pinto assumed duties as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine on 13th of September, 2021. Prof. Pinto has been the Head and the Chair Professor of the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care of the Faculty of Medicine.

New Director - CDCE



The University of Peradeniya appointed Dr. Rathnayake M. Abeyrathne the new Director of the Centre for Distance and Continuing Education (CDCE). Adhering to Covid-19 health guidelines, he assumed duties in his post on the 4th of August, 2021. He is a Senior Lecturer, a Medical Anthropologist and the former Head of the Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya. At the brief meeting, he mentioned that the vision for the Center during his tenure will be to develop it as one of the centers of excellence in Distance and Continuous Education in the country.

Inaugural Installation of Speakers Hub

The Inaugural Installation of Speakers Hub, organized by the Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Management, was held on the 10th of September, 2021, from 6.00 pm onwards via Zoom. The purpose of installing the Speakers Hub at the Faculty is to provide a platform for the students to develop competencies in public speaking which is a critical soft skill for a future manager. The event was graced with the presence of Prof. Athula Ekanayake, Dean/Faculty of Management, evaluators of the Speakers Hub and all the academic staff members of the Department of Human Resource Management. The invited speakers for the session were Dr. B.A.N. Eranda, Head/Department of Marketing Management and Mr. Ruwantha Katugaha, Toastmaster/Kandy Toastmaster Club.

Tree Planting Ceremony





A tree planting programme and handing over root ball trees was held on the 09th of August, 2021, near the Alwis Pond, University of Peradeniya. The programme was organized by the University of Peradeniya and the State Ministry of Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure. Prof. MD Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake, Secretary/Ministry to the Estate Ministry of Rural Roads and Infrastructure, Dean/Faculty of Engineering Prof. Gemunu Herath, Dean/Faculty of Science Prof. Shaluka Kodithuwakku, Dean/Faculty of Agriculture Prof. Gamini Pushpakumara, Prof. S.P. Nissanka, Mrs. Jayantha Dharmasiri/Acting Registrar and Mr. Nimal Ananda/Curator, were also present at the occasion.



Online Inter-Medical Faculty Debate





The Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Peradeniya in collaboration with the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, University of Colombo, organized an online Inter-Medical Faculty debate on, 'A national DNA database of all citizens should be maintained for law enforcement' on the 16th of August, 2021 at 6.30 pm via Zoom and Facebook.

- Prof. Deepthi Edussuriya participated as a judge at the "Euthyphro 2021" Ethics Competition organized by the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, on 25.09.2021.

- The Department conducted a special case conference on 28.09.2021, regarding a government worker injured by a trap gun on government premises.

Opening of the University Athletic & Hockey Pavilion



The Athletic & Hockey Pavilion complex was ceremonially opened on the 08th of July, 2021, under the distinguished patronage of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Upul B Dissanayake. Although it was a simple and charming ceremony due to the Covid-19 pandemic prevailing in the country, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor S.H.P.P. Karunarathne, and the Deans of the Faculties, together with the Librarian, University of Peradeniya, were present at the occasion. Among the visitors, there were a few administrative officials including the Acting Registrar, Acting Bursar, Works Engineer, and Project Manager as well as the building architect, Mr. Gamini Dissanayake.









Two Undergrads from Peradeniya selected to represent Sri Lanka at the AUSF Chess Tournament





The Asian University Chess Championship was held on a virtual platform from the 9th to 12th of September, 2021. The event was conducted by the Asian University Sports Federation (AUSF). There was a series of selection processes held by the Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association (SLUSA) to chose the players who would represent the Sri Lankan squad; C.L. Jayaweera (S/16/169) and P.K Ranasinghe (E/16/254) were selected to the National University Chess men's team. 14 countries participated in this tournament.

JICA CHAIR Programme

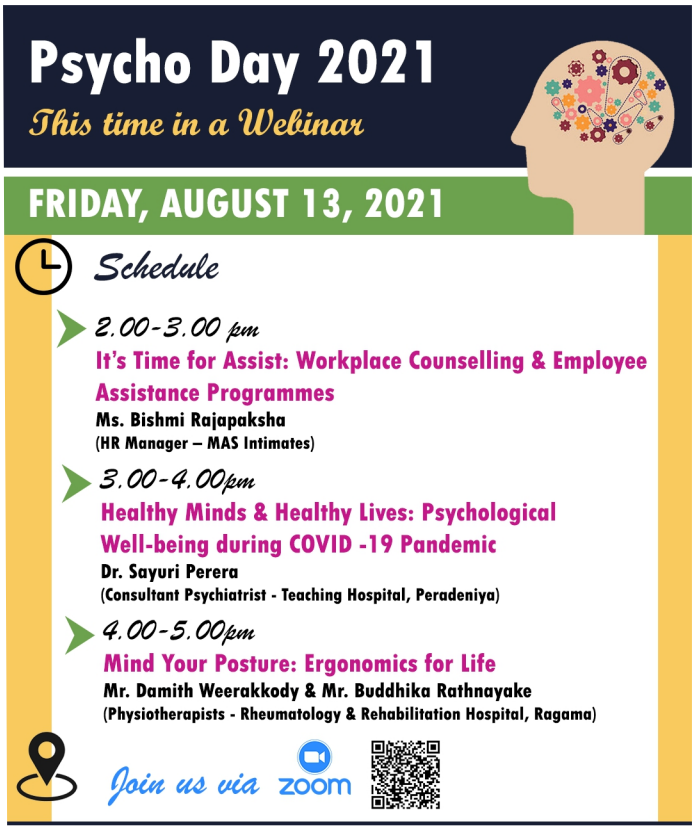


The JICA Chair Programme was initiated at the University of Peradeniya in collaboration with the Sri Lanka - Japan Study Centre. The programme comprises of seven short intensive lectures implemented as web-based seminars on Japan's development experiences, in the fields of politics, economics, public administration, law and others, executed outside the regular curriculum of the University of Peradeniya and implemented in line with the JICA CHAIR initiative of the JICA.

The JICA CHAIR agreement was signed by Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor and Senior Representative of the JICA Sri Lanka Office, on the 19th of July, 2021, at the Vice-Chancellor's Office, University of Peradeniya. Prof. S.H.P.P. Karunaratne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Shameen Jinadasa, Director/International Relations Office, Dr. Jagath Gunatilake, Director/Sri Lanka-Japan Study Center, Prof. Susiji Wickramasinghe and Dr. Shyamantha Subasinghe took part in the occasion.



Psycho Day – 2021



This is an annual event organized by the Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Management. The main objective of this programme is to make awareness on different psychological aspects among the undergraduates and staff members of the Faculty. This year's focus was significant as it provided precious knowledge, skills and attitudes to assure psychological well-being during the COVID – 19 pandemic. Dr. Sayuri Perera, (Senior Lecturer and Consultant Psychiatrist - Teaching Hospital Peradeniya), Ms. Bishmi Rajapaksha (HR Manager – MAS Intimates) Mr. Damith Weerakkody and Mr. Buddhika Rathnayake (Physiotherapists - Rheumatology & Rehabilitation Hospital, Ragama) contributed to the event as resource persons. Psycho Day – 2021 was held on the 13th of August, 2021 from 2.00 pm to 5.30 pm as an online webinar. It was organized as a part of the Industrial Psychology course offered by the Department.

Ceremonial Launch of the Webpage of the University of Peradeniya to raise Awareness on SGBHSV



The webpage to raise awareness on sexual or gender-based harassment and sexual violence (SGBHSV) was ceremonially launched by Professor Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor/University of Peradeniya, on the 26th of July, 2021, at the Vice-Chancellor's Office. Professor Carmen Wickramagamage, Chairperson of the Committee to Monitor Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence (CMSGBHSV), Prof. Kamala Liyanage, member of the CMSGBHSV, and Ms. M.K.F. Fawaza, Assistant Registrar/Legal and Documentation Unit, attended the event in person; several members of the CMSGBHSV were present via Zoom.

Opening Ceremony of the renovated Administration Block, Faculty of Science



The renovated administration block was ceremonially opened by Professor Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor of the University, on the 2nd of July, 2021. Professor S.H.P.P. Karunaratne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor S.R. Kodituwakku; Dean/Faculty of Science, Prof. HMTGA Pitawala, Director/PGIS, Heads of Departments, Directors of the Units, Administrative staff and Non - Academic staff members of the Dean's Office were present at this occasion.





A/L Seminar Series







The Marketing Management Students' Society in collaboration with the Department of Marketing Management organized the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) seminar series targeting the students sitting for the Advanced Level Examination in the year 2021. The objective of the series was to provide students with essential guidelines on framing the answers and emphasizing the key factors to focus on in the examination with regard to each subject. The expectation is that the students will be able to face the examination with confidence.

The first seminar was on Accountancy. The resource person for the seminar was Ms. Sujeewa Kodithuwakku, Head/Department of Business Finance, Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya.

The second seminar was on Business Studies which was conducted by Ms. R. M. C. Kumari, Head, Department of Management Studies, Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya.

The last seminar was on Economics and was conducted by Prof. J.G. Sri Ranjith, Professor in Economics, Department of Economics and Statistics, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya. The seminars were held on the 18th, 19thand 20th of August, 2021, respectively.

Career Guidance Unit

The following CGU online Workshop Series was conducted as a Skills Development program for students:

- Workshop on Artificial Intelligence Applications related to Agriculture for the Faculty of Agriculture - 05.04.2021
- Workshop on 'Overthinking' - 'Path to yourself with Robarosia' conducted by Robarosia Students Society - 13.05.2021
- Workshop on 'Dealing with difficult people' conducted by Robarosia Students Society - 20.05.2021
- Programme on Guidance for future professionals for pharmaceutical students of UOP - 22.05.2021
- Workshop on 'How to maintain a better long-term relationship' with Robarosia Students Society - 27.05.2021
- Programme on 'Handling students' problems for junior academic staff organized by the Staff Development Centre - 03.06.2021
- Workshop on Digital Media & Mental Health with Robarosia Students Society - 26.06.2021

V-Insights 2021

The 200 level undergraduates of the Department of Business Finance, Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya, organized the webinar series titled "V-Insights 2021: Virtual Journeys in Unravelling the Discursivity of Numbers". The webinar series aims to provide the students with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the industry in preparation for an exciting and successful career in Accounting Financial Reporting by integrating academic learning with real-world experience.



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The webinar series consisted of five (05) webinars and was organized with the Course Unit of "ACF 2103 – Intermediate Financial Accounting" by 200 level students specializing in "Accounting & Finance". The students formed five groups and interviewed Chief Financial Officers (CFO) or industry experts and professionals who possess knowledge and experience in accounting/ financial reporting. The students selected a contemporary topic and live streamed the interview session on a virtual platform. Furthermore, the students carried out promotional activities of their webinars through social media using the official Facebook Page, LinkedIn Page and the YouTube Channel of "V-Insights".

They then uploaded the videocast to the official YouTube Channel and prepared a report based on the interview to publish in the upcoming Annual E-Magazine of "V-Insights". Finally, they distributed e-certificates to the participants and sent letters and tokens of appreciation to the resource persons.

This webinar series provided our students with a tremendous opportunity to join hands with industry experts, gain virtual insights from Accounting and Finance professionals, and enhance their soft skills. In addition to this, this webinar series would contribute nationally to disseminate knowledge in Accounting/ Financial reporting.

"Stepping in to New Normal" Guest Lecture Series 2021

The Department of Sociology conducted a guest lecture series 2021 "Stepping into the New Normal" during 3rd of June 2021 to 9th September 2021 for the undergraduates of the Department. The main purpose of these workshops was to emphasize the importance of personal branding & developing the employability skills needed for careers with the new normal business environment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These professional career development sessions were conducted by industry practitioners and leading professionals from the National Child Protection Authority, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Sri Lanka Social Security Board, Ministry of Justice, Institution of Incorporated Engineers Sri Lanka, Dialog Axiata PLC and John Keells PVT Ltd. Moreover, the academic experts from the University of Sydney, Australia, the University of Colombo, and the Open University Sri Lanka were also collaborators in the guest lecture series 2021.

Opening Ceremony of the TOOLKIT International Communication Hub



International Relations Office organized the opening ceremony of the "TOOLKIT International Communication Hub" on the 2nd of July, 2021 at the New Library Building, University of Peradeniya, under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake. The objective of this event was to declare open the TOOLKIT International Communication Hub at the University of Peradeniya which is co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union for enhancement and modernization of the internationalization strategies pursued by Asian universities, especially in terms of the capabilities displayed by the university governance in building up an "Asian way" to internationalization.

Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor/University of Peradeniya, Prof. S.H.P.P. Karunaratne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor/University of Peradeniya, Prof. Shameen Jinadasa, Director/International Relations Office and the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nimal Dharmasena, Director/Career Guidance Unit and TOOLKIT project team member, Mr. R. Maheswaran, Librarian/University of Peradeniya, along with distinguished guests including Deans of Faculties and Directors of Postgraduate Institutes graced the prestigious occasion on the 2nd of July, 2021.



Vice-Chancellor's Visit to the InRO, URC and BLITTO



Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor/University of Peradeniya, visited the International Relations Office on the 17th of August, 2021, and was welcomed by Prof. Shameen Jinadasa, Director/International Relations Office (InRO), followed by Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith, Director/University Research Council (URC) and Prof. Roshan Yapa, Director/Business Linkage, Innovation, Incubation and Technology Transfer Office (BLIITTO).



After introducing the staff members of the InRO, URC and BLIITTO, the Vice-Chancellor visited the facilities of the InRO premises, including the Innotal Lab, SEIL Lab and Smart Class Room. The main purpose of the visit was to demonstrate the progress of the InRO to the Vice-Chancellor by its Director. The future activities of the InRO were discussed and the Vice-Chancellor paid special attention to the problems encountered during this process.

Tele-Counseling Webinar Series: August- September 2021

The Department of Psychology launched a project to provide tele-counselling during the pandemic; in relation to this project, a training program series comprising of four webinars was organized for the members of the resource pool. These programmes were held to provide general awareness on how to provide psychosocial support during the pandemic and on how to offer psychological support through a tele-counselling service. The details of the four webinars are as follows:



Webinar 01

Date: 19th August
Time: 5.30 p.m.- 7.00 p.m.
Conducted by Dr. Kanthi Hettigoda (Clinical Psychologist)

Webinar 02

Date: 29th August (Sunday)
Time: 7.30 p.m.- 8.30 p.m.
Conducted by Ms. Achini Karunarathna (Clinical Psychologist) and Mr. Suresh Vithanagamage (Psychologist) from the Navy General Hospital

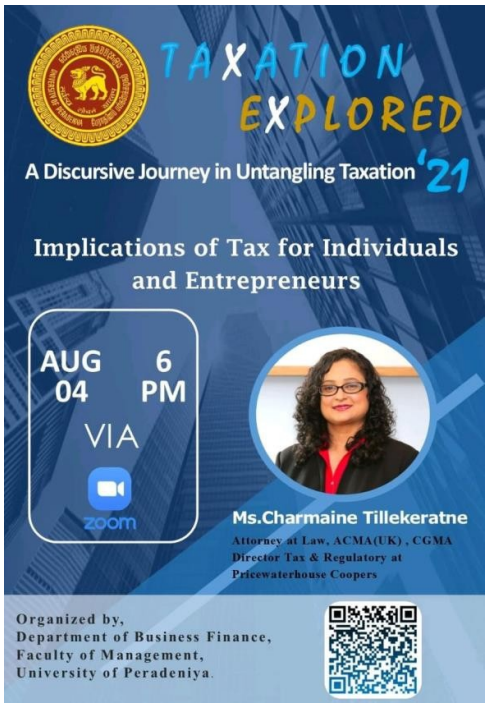
Webinar 03

Date: 7th September (Tuesday) Time: 4.00 p.m.- 5.30 p.m.
Resource Person: Ms. Achini Abeysooriya, Psychological Counsellor/Ministry of Finance and Samurdhi. (Counsellor at the Teldeniya Covid-19 treatment centre established during the second Covid wave)

Webinar 4

Date: 12th September (Sunday)
Time: 10 a.m. -11 a.m.
Resource Person: Dr Kanthi Hettigoda
Topic: "Counselling Skills and Ethics"

Webinar on "Implications of Tax for Individuals and Entrepreneurs"



300 Level Webinar Series - Department of Business Finance

The third webinar of the "Taxation Explored 2021" was conducted by Ms. Charmaine Tillekeratne (Attorney at Law, ACMA-UK, CGMA), Director Tax & Regulatory at Pricewaterhouse Coopers, on the titled "Implications of Tax for Individuals and Entrepreneurs". The webinar was held on 04th of August 2021 at 6.00 p.m. on the Zoom platform.

The students created a fruitful discussion with Ms. Tillekeratne on how individuals and entrepreneurs are obligated to pay taxes, calculating taxes for individuals and entrepreneurs, tax reliefs for individuals and entrepreneurs and challenges and impact of Covid-19 pandemic on taxation of individuals and entrepreneurs.

Meeting with the
Assistant High Commissioner of India







A meeting with the Assistant High Commissioner of India was held on the 19th of August, 2021, with the participation of Prof. M. D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Asiri Abeyagunawardena, Dean/Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Shameen Jinadasa, Director/International Relations Office, Dr. Athira S., Assistant High Commissioner of India, and Mr. Kaplan Singh, the Assistant Attaché from the Assistant High Commission of India.

There were discussions regarding the progress of current collaborations, possible scholarship opportunities and research collaborations related to different fields. A proposal was also introduced to develop an Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) chair for the University of Peradeniya. Tentative plans were made to develop an Indian book corner for the University Library, as well as to organize an India-Sri Lanka cultural day. Organizing a medical camp for the communities in the tea plantations with the collaboration of the Medical Faculty was also discussed.

Meeting with the
Higher Education Commission of Pakistan

A meeting with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan was held on the 16th of August, 2021, with the participation of Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Shameen Jinadasa, Director/International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya, and Mr. Jehanzeb Khan, Project Director/Pak-Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Programme, Ms. Aisha Abu Bakr Fahad, Second Secretary (Politics and Education), High Commission in Colombo, Mr. Javed Hassan Awan, Project Manager/Higher Education Commission, and other officers from the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

Discussions were carried out regarding possible research and academic collaborations between the University of Peradeniya and Higher Education Commission of Pakistan; it was further decided to develop links between the National Universities of Pakistan with the University of Peradeniya with the support of the HEC. This was followed by a discussion regarding the execution of the "Proposal for the Establishment of the Centre of Asian Civilization and Culture".

Extending the collaborations for joint postgraduate degree programmes and research collaborations with the support of the National Academy of Higher Education, Pakistan was also considered during the talks. Apart from possible future collaborations, the progress of current collaborations including the Erasmus+ programmes was discussed as well.



MoU with hSenid Business Solutions (Pvt.) Ltd.

The ceremony to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University of Peradeniya and hSenid Business Solutions (Pvt.) Ltd. took place on the 14th of September 2021, in the Senate Room of the University of Peradeniya. Representing the two institutions, this MoU was signed by Professor M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya and Mr. Sampath Jayasundara, Chief Executive Officer of the hSenid Business Solutions (Pvt.) Ltd. Ms. Jayantha Dharmasiri, Acting Registrar of the University of Peradeniya, attested the MoU.

This collaboration aims at developing knowledge and professional training for undergraduates specializing in Human Resource Management at the Faculty of Management. Prof. E.M.A.S.B. Ekanayake, Dean of the Faculty of Management, Ms. W.A. Edirisooriya, Head of the Department of Human Resource Management and its staff, Ms. Vichalya Wijesuriya, Head of Marketing and Communications and Mr. Mahinda Pathirana, Head of Support and Enterprise Delivery at hSenid Business Solutions (Pvt.) Ltd., graced the occasion.







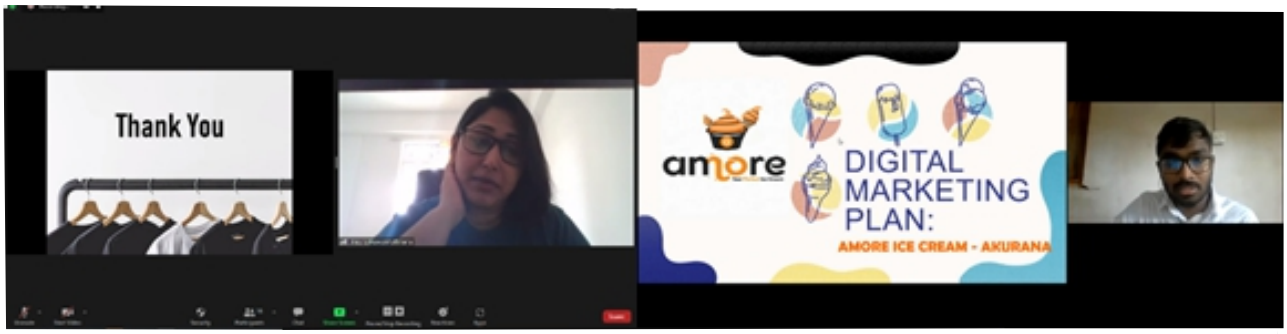
Motivational Speech Series



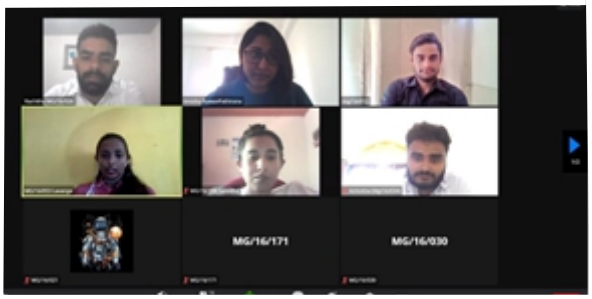


The Marketing Management Students' Society in collaboration with the Department of Marketing Management organized two motivational speeches on 'Follow Your Dream: Aspire to be a Great Marketer' for students specializing in Marketing Management. The aim was to provide the students with a sense of marketing in the professional world so that they will be able to select the best career choice in the marketing field by mapping their skills and competencies with the industry expectations. Another goal was to specifically motivate the students to be focused even in a distant learning environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The guest speakers for the two sessions were Mr. Dilshan Perera, Head of InsurTeach, Group Digital Service, Dialog Axiata PLC, and Mr. Ajeevan Masulamanim, Brand Manager, Cargills Bank, Nawalapitiya Branch. The sessions took place on the 21st of May, 2021 and the 19th of July, 2021, respectively.

Online Workshop Series – 'E-Marketing and Digital Skills'



The Department of Marketing Management successfully conducted a series of workshops on "E-marketing and Digital Skills" in line with the E-Marketing courses (MKT 403 and MKT 3201) specifically targeting the third and final year students specializing in Marketing Management. The resource person for the workshop series was Ms. Imesha Ruwanpathirana, Assistant Manager/Digital Media at Mindshare.



The first phase of the workshop series was on 'Digital Marketing Plan' and was held on the 29th of May, 2021, with the aim of sharing the expertise knowledge and the hands-on experience of the resource person in developing the digital marketing plan for the organization.

The second phase "Crafting Strategies" was held on the 10th of July with the focus of crafting E-Marketing strategies.

The final phase 'Group Project Evaluation' was held on the 31st of July, 2021 where the main aim was to evaluate the group projects of final year undergraduates of the Department with regard to the development of an E-Marketing plan for a selected company.

Obituary Notice

Demise of Professor C.L.V. Jayathilaka



The University of Peradeniya expresses its deepest condolences on the death of Professor C.L.V. Jayathilaka.

Professor C.L.V. Jayathilaka, one of the former Vice-Chancellors of the University of Peradeniya, passed away on the 31st of August, 2021.

Professor Jayathilaka served in the capacity of Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, at the Universities of Peradeniya and Ruhuna, and also as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya and the Chairman of the National Education Commission, was an individual who had made immense contributions in service to his country.

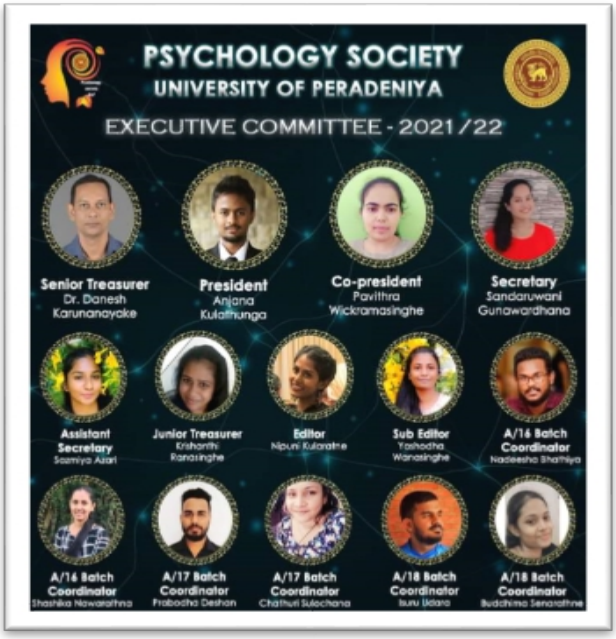
The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya & the University community express their deepest sympathies on the demise of Professor C.L.V. Jayathilaka. May he attain the supreme bliss of Nibbana!

Research Seminar: 'Developing a Research Proposal' - Department of Psychology



This research seminar was conducted in order to develop the understanding and competency of the undergraduates on research proposals. The students were provided knowledge and information about formulating a suitable topic, research questions, deriving hypothesis, developing aims and objectives and so on and so forth. Nevertheless, the format of a research proposal and how a research proposal should be developed were also discussed during this session.The resource person of the programme was Dr. Asanka Bulathwatta from the Department of Psychology, University of Peradeniya.

Partnership with the Golden Z Club, University of Colombo



On the 3rd of July 2021, a webinar on destigmatizing healthcare for the LGBTQ community was organized by the Golden Z Club of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. The Psychology Society of University of Peradeniya supported the event with a networking partnership. The event was successful and saw the participation of four esteemed panelists Mr. Thiyagaraja Wardas, Ms. Bhoomi Harendran, Ms. Kushani Munasinghe and Dr. Mahesan Ganesan.

Department of Geography

Seminar/workshops/training and awareness programs:



An awareness program on "Plagiarism and Examination Rules for Geography Students" was conducted by the Department of Geography. Prof. Nalani Hennayake was involved with the Sinhala program while Ms. Arularasi conducted it in Tamil.





The Department conducted a GIS training programme for students and staff -Survey 123 of ArcGIS on the 01st of August, 2021. Dr. S.I.S. Subasinghe made all arrangements for the workshop.

International Conference / Symposium – Nuclear Medicine Physician





Dr. Damayanthi Nanayakkara attended on behalf of the Faculty:

- The 19th Annual Conference of the Association of Nuclear Medicine Physicians of India (ANMPICON) 2021, Bhubaneswar, under the theme: Nuclear Theranostics: bench to bedside. 17-19 September, 2021.
  SARRC representation: Current status of Nuclear Medicine in Sri Lanka - Speaker

- The 5th QST International Symposium on Radiation Emergency Monitoring and Medicine in Nuclear Disaster - National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology (QST) Japan (virtual) from 21-22 September, 2021 – (participant)

Research Seminar: 'Developing Research Objectives'

The Department of Psychology organized a research seminar for undergraduates on formulating research questions, objectives and hypotheses on the 3rd of September, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The seminar was conducted by Ms. Nethmi Liyanage who is an Assistant Lecturer of the Department of Psychology, University of Peradeniya.

Language and Computer Laboratory - Department of Sociology

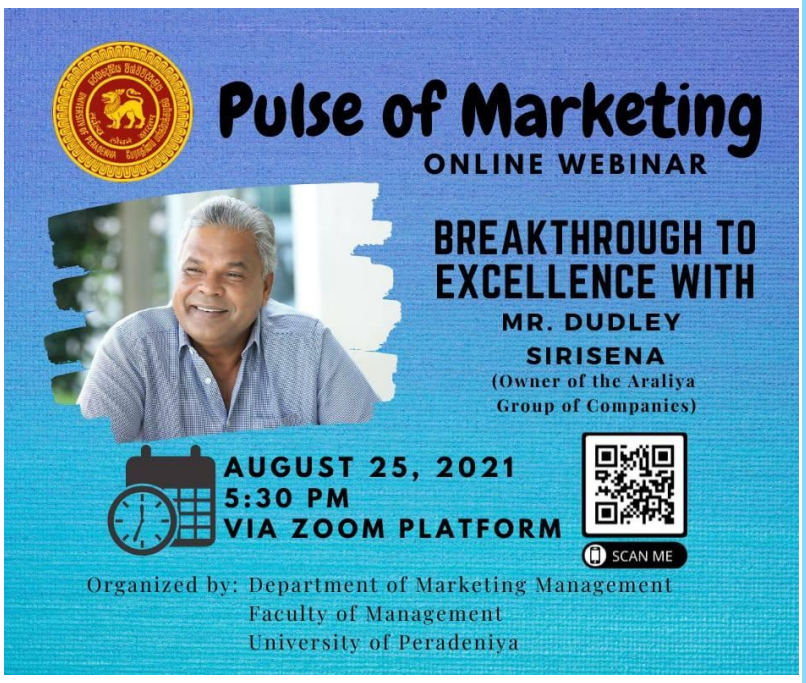


The Department of Sociology (DoS), Faculty of Arts, established a Language and Computer Laboratory under the AHEAD ELTA ELSE Development Project Grant and is opened for staff and students from the beginning of the September 2021. The project objective is to enhance outcome-based education with learner-centered teaching methods and to uphold the professional and employability skills of the graduates of the Department.

The laboratory is well-furnished and fully equipped with branded computers and the latest educational software installed and upgraded as per the need of the Sociology curriculum. The laboratory can accommodate up to 25 students at a time. The language and computer laboratory is also equipped with modern audio-visual equipment and other related infrastructural facilities on par with international standards. Moreover, the whole Department has a completely free Wi-Fi environment accessible to staff and students to enable easy Internet connectivity and better access external resources.

The facility enables students and staff to enrich the teaching and learning process, speed up research and enhance English language training and IT infrastructure in DoS and raise the general level of proficiency in English language and IT skills.

Online Webinar – Breakthrough to Excellence



The Department of Marketing Management organized a knowledge sharing session with Mr. Dudley Sirisena, the Owner of the Araliya Group companies, via Zoom on the 25th of August, 2021. All students of the Faculty of Management were invited for the session with the aim of instilling and disseminating important knowledge regarding entrepreneurship, modern challenges of the business world and strategies to overcome them.

CGU Online Workshop Series for Skills Development

- Two workshops on CV Creating conducted by hSenid Software Lanka – 10.04.2021
- Workshop on creating your own CV conducted by hSenid Software Lanka – 07.05.2021
- Workshop on 'Entrance to the Corporate World" conducted by Unilever SPARKS Students Ambassadors of UOP - 14.05.2021
- Workshop on 'Competing and Surviving in the Corporate World" conducted by Unilever SPARKS Students Ambassadors – 03.06.2021
- Morison VLC online programme for final year students of UOP conducted by Morison Limited of Hemas Holdings PLC – 01.07.2021
- Workshop on SOLID WORKS - technology awareness webinar for undergraduates, postgraduates, lecturers and researchers in the field by Mr. Nidershan Suguneswaran, a certified solid work expert from ACECAM - 09.07.2021

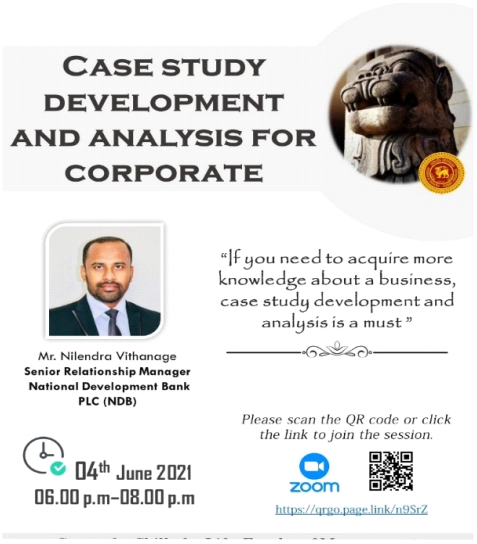
Center for Skills for Life – Faculty of Management

The Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya, won the Enriching Learning, Teaching, Assessment and English Language Skills Enhancement (ELTA-ELSE) development project grant under the AHEAD operation. One of the two main components proposed as part of this grant is to improve the academic and socio-emotional skills of the undergraduates of the Faculty of Management. Thus, the predominant aim of the Faculty is to appropriately prepare the undergraduates to reach success in their forthcoming careers and a career support framework is prepared for each student from the first year onwards to create a vision for their professional life. Hence, to ensure this happens smoothly, the Centre for Skills for Life is established under the AHEAD project which aims at assisting undergraduates in identifying and developing their career goals through a series of career advancement and development programs by fully exploring their inner strengths and competencies. This Centre consists of three pillars, namely, Career Support Services, Internship Unit, and Events Hub.

The following activities were carried out by the Center for Skills for Life.

- Webinar on My Future Career was held on the 6th of August, 2021, which aims to provide students with space to reflect and articulate on their future career goals and support them for the preparation of their career prospects. The panelists of the session were Prof. Athula Ekanayake – Dean/Faculty of Management, Dr. BAN Eranda – Head/Department of Marketing Management, Dr. Lalith Weragoda – Group learning officer, Sampath Bank PLC, Mr. Kushan Amarasinghe – Head of Manufacturing, Coca-Cola Beverages Sri Lanka, and Mr. Kanishka Weeramunda – CEO/Co-Founder SquareHub, Pay Media.
- A workshop on 'Case Study Development and Analysis for the Corporate Sector' was held on the 04th of June, 2021; it aimed at raising awareness amongst students on how to develop a case study for the corporate sector and to provide knowledge on how to analyze the case study with appropriate theoretical applications. Mr. Nilendra Vithanage, Senior Relationship Manager/NDB Bank PLC, was the resource person of the session.
- A training session on CV writing, preparing a video CV and creating a professional LinkedIn account was held on the 11th of June, 2021. The trainers were Ms. Sharon Amarasinghe - Client Partner/Inxision Pvt Limited, Ms. Kanishka Paternott - Human Resources Business Partner/Fonterra Brands Lanka, and Ms. Ayona Hettiarachchi - Recruiter/McKinsey & Company.
- A workshop on 'Business Etiquette' was facilitated by Mr. Kumar De Silva, a certified personality development and corporate etiquette trainer.
- To create a platform for the final year students to secure internship opportunities whilst nurturing their interview-facing skills, the Virtual Industry Day was held on the 6th of August, 2021 with the support of 19 companies. The session was graced by Dr. Kishu Gomes, Group CEO/Dreamron Group of Companies.
- A workshop on 'How to Kick Off Your Self-Discovery Journey' was held on the 22nd of September, 2021 aimed at providing a theoretical understanding and practical exposure to students in order to perform a realistic SWOT analysis and to identify their passion, values, and preferences to reach their future career aspirations. The session was facilitated by Ms. Keshavi Puswewala, HR business partner – corporate functions, R&D, and employer branding lead, Unilever Sri Lanka.





Bankers' Insights 2021



"Bankers' Insights 2021" was organized by the 200 level undergraduates of the Department of Business Finance, Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya. The webinar series was conducted as a three-day program with the support of experts from various industries. The first webinar was held at 4.30 pm on the 16th of August, 2021, titled "Payment Settlement Systems and New Trends in Banking" by Mrs. K. Ambagahawita, Senior Assistant Director of the Payment Settlement Department, Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The second webinar was held at 4.30 pm on the 17th of August, 2021, titled "The Role of Banking in Entrepreneurship" by Mr. E.G. Nanayakara, Founder and Chairman of Nelna Farm Pvt. Ltd. The Third webinar was held on the 21st of August, 2021 at 4.30 pm titled "University Education and Happiness through Prosperity" by Dr. A.A.S.S.M Amarasinghe, Consultant Veterinarian, Sri Lanka Veterinary Council. Professor Athula Ekanayake, Dean/Faculty of Management, Mrs. Sujeewa Kodithuwakku, Head/Department of Business Finance, guest speakers, the academic staff, and the undergraduates of the Department of Business Finance, were present at the virtual gathering. The participants were able to gather significant knowledge and understanding about banking and other social aspects, which will be beneficial for their educational purposes and general knowledge.

Webinar - 'Gender-based Violence and Cyberbullying



The Department of Psychology organized a webinar on Gender-based Violence and Cyberbullying conducted by Miss. Sunethra Dewangani who is a Psychological Counsellor at MAS holdings. The program was held on the 27th of August, 2021 from 9 a.m. onwards with the participation of students from the Department of Psychology.

International Training Course for Nuclear Medicine Technicians



The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)), Vienna, Austria conducted an online Virtual Training Course on the 'Production and Quality Control of Theranostic Radiopharmaceuticals using Alpha and Beta Emitters' from 14th to 16th September 2021. Two Nuclear Medical Technicians named below participated in the training. Below named two nuclear medicine technicians participated at the training.

- Mr. WKK. Perera
- Ms. GK. Samarakoon

Virtual Industry Day 2021





As the first virtual Industry Day in its history, the Faculty Internship Committee, in collaboration with the Center for Skills for Life, Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya, organized the 'Virtual Industry Day 2021' via Zoom on the 06th of August, 2021. The Virtual Industry Day 2021 was initiated under the theme of "Stepping Across the Line: The First Step Towards the Space Industry". The aim of this programme was to create a platform for the current final year students to secure internship opportunities whilst nurturing their interview-facing skills. The event was graced by Prof. E.M.A.S.B. Ekanayake, Dean/Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya. Dr. Kishu Gomes, the Group CEO/Dreamron Group of Companies, was invited to the inaugural session as the guest speaker to share his inspirational insights to motivate undergraduates eagerly waiting to begin their journey. Around 150 undergraduates from the BBA and B. Com Degree Programmes benefited from the programme and were able to secure internship opportunities at the partner companies and enhance their interview-facing skills through real-time insights and guidance from the interviewers.

Workshop on "Digital Based Teaching and Learning"

The Department of Sociology made a remarkable transition to online higher education in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To increase the academic staff capacity on online-based education, Department of Sociology organized a workshop on "Digital Based Teaching and Learning" on the 10th of March 2021 conducted by Prof. Harshana Rambukwella. The workshop facilitated the use of various digital platforms and applications, including digital learning management systems, collaboration platforms for live-video communication, and tools for creating learning content.

Chemistry Revision Programme for G.C.E. (A/L) Students (Online)

The Science Education Unit (SEU) of the Faculty of Science organized an online revision programme on Organic Chemistry for G.C.E. (A/L) Science and Mathematics students on the 15th of September, 2021. The above programme was conducted by Dr. V.N. Seneviratne, Senior Lecturer/Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science. About 415 G.C.E. (A/L) students participated in this programme from the Central Province, Western Province and the North–Western Province. The participants were highly appreciative of the knowledge they received from the programme.

Workshop series on "Revising the curriculum in line with SLQF guidelines"



The Department of Sociology (DoS) conducted a workshop series on "Revising the curriculum in line with SLQF guidelines" on the 9th of July 2021 for the academic staff of the DoS, Faculty of Arts, under the AHEAD ELTA ELSE Development Projects Grant.

The objective of the workshops was to enhance the knowledge of the academic staff on designing courses for outcome-based education with learner-centered teaching (OBE-LCT) methods, and to educate the staff members on the importance of curriculum design in OBE-LCT. Prof. M. P. W. K. Sethunga, Department of Education, University of Peradeniya, and Dr. Upali M. Sedere, Rector/CEO of SIBA Campus, facilitated as resource persons.

Three workshops on "Socio-Emotional Skills Development"

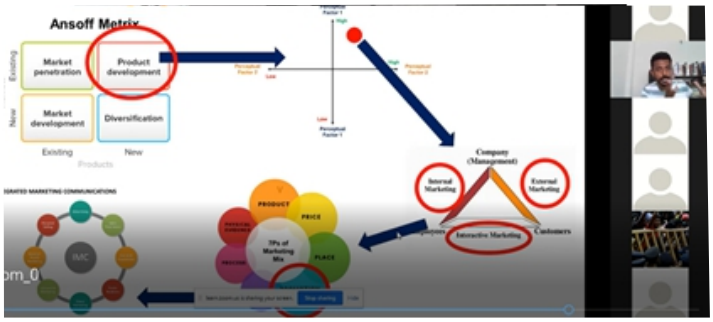
The Department of Sociology organized three workshops on "Socio-Emotional Skills Development' during 24th of June 2021 to 30st of June 2021 conducted by Prof. Piyanjali De Zoysa of the Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Colombo, with the aim of:

- building and improving the socio-emotional skills of the academic staff
- identifying different techniques for the development and improvement of socio-emotional skills of students
- identifying possible areas to be addressed during curriculum development processes to align with socio-emotional skills development.



Webinar on 'Services Marketing in Practice'





The Department of Marketing Management organized a webinar on 'Services Marketing in Practice' on the 17th of July, 2021, particularly targeting third year students specializing in Marketing Management. The resource person for this workshop was Mr. Chandika Kumara, Products and Propositions Manager at AIA Sri Lanka. The purpose of the webinar was to provide the students with the real world application of services marketing practices enabling students to link the theoretical aspects they learnt under the 'Service Marketing' course.

Library News

Barcoding of the Reference Collection in the Main Library

The Main Library of the University of Peradeniya started barcoding its Ready Reference Collection from the 20th of August, 2021 using the KOHA Library Management System. These collections are located at the Ground Floor and the First Floor of the Main Library and the resources are located in the Reading Room I and II.

Completion of the Barcoding of the Dumbara Lending Collection

The lending collection of the Main Library is comprised of 'Dumbara Books' that were housed at the Dumbara sub-campus before they were shifted to the University of Peradeniya premises. Before merging these books with the main library collection, a re-classification procedure was conducted according to the Main Library Classification Scheme. Barcoding this collection began in 2017 with the KOHA software and this project of barcoding the lending collections in the Main Library has now been completed. The books brought from the Dumbara campus have also been amalgamated with the Main Library Collection.

"Sampath Saviya" - Entrepreneurship Development Programme



The Department of Marketing Management organized a webinar on "Sampath Saviya" Entrepreneurship Development Programme targeting students specializing in Marketing Management. The main aim of the session was to empower third year and final year undergraduates to become entrepreneurs and inspire them to be Job Creators rather than Job Seekers and develop them as Future Business Leaders. The session was graced by Prof. E.M.A.S.B. Ekanayake, Dean/Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya. The session was held on the 01st of September, 2021, and the resource person was Mr. Sampath Illangasinghe, Assistant Manager, CSR & Corporate Sustainability, Sampath Bank.

Pressure Interview Session - Department of HRM



The Pressure Interview Session is an annual event organized by the Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Management, for 400 level students. The main objective of this session is to equip the undergraduates with required interview-facing skills while providing them with practical exposure. Twenty industry experts representing renowned companies conducted virtual interviews for 170 final year undergraduates. The session was organized as a part of the Personality and Skills Development course offered by the Department.

Department of Forensic Medicine

- The autopsy complex of the Department was upgraded to conduct high risk autopsies. A camera system was also installed to enable the remote viewing of autopsies.
- Professor Amal Vadysinghe conducted an awareness program on "The role of the teacher in prevention of child abuse" for primary school teachers of Medadumbara Divisional Secretariat on 07th April 2021 Auditorium, Teldeniya on 07th April 2021.
- The Department of Forensic Medicine conducted a workshop on "Medico-legal issues for Emergency Medicine Trainees" on the 06th of August, 2021. Lectures were conducted by Dr. Prabhath Senasinghe (Consultant JMO, Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya), Prof. Sarathchandra Kodikara, Prof. Dinesh Fernando and Prof. Amal Vadysinghe.





Webinar Series - Taxation Explored 2021



The 300 level undergraduates of the Department of Business Finance, Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya, organized the webinar series titled "Taxation Explored 2021: A Discursive Journey in Untangling Taxation". The webinar series aims to provide the students with exposure to the industry to gain insight from professionals in taxation by integrating academic learning with real-world experience. The webinar series consisted of five (05) webinars and was organized in collaboration with the Course Unit of "ACF 3103 – Taxation" by 300 level students specializing in "Accounting & Finance".

MOU with University of Alberta, Canada





Recognizing the mutual benefits to be gained through a cooperative programme promoting scholarly activities and international understanding, the University of Peradeniya and the University of Alberta entered into a Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU was signed by Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice-Chancellor, and Prof. Gamini Pushpakumara, Dean/Faculty of Agriculture, on the 22nd of July, 2021, at the Vice-Chancellor's Office, University of Peradeniya. Prof. S.H.P. Parakrama Karunaratne, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Shameen Jinadasa, Director/International Relations Office, Dr. L.N.A.C. Jayawardena, Head/Department of Agriculture Extension, Dr. Uvasara Dissanayeke, Senior Lecturer/Department of Agriculture Extension, were present at the occasion.