UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

NEWS LETTER

A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

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iPURSE 2021

The Peradeniya University International Research Sessions (iPURSE) 2021 - the signature conference of the University of Peradeniya - was successfully held on the 11th and 12th of November, 2021. The event was hosted by the Faculty of Arts this year. The inaugural ceremony, which was held on the 11th, was graced by Senior Professor Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo, as the chief guest, and the event was attended by Professor M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Professor Terrence Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Directors of the four Postgraduate Institutes; the Deans of the nine Faculties of the University; academic and non-academic staff and the Chairperson and members of the Organizing Committee of iPURSE 2021. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Wimal Dissanayake of the University of Hawaii, USA, who spoke on the topic "The Complex Interplay: Writer-Text-Reader-Context".The conference consisted of about 550 paper and poster presentations covering eight thematic areas. The technical sessions were held at 12 venues. iPURSE 2021 also included two Invited orations - one by Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri, the Former Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Managemen of the University of Sri Jayewardenapura, and the other by Prof. Malik Peiris, the Chair of Virology at the School of Public Health of the University of Hong Kong. The closing ceremony, which was held on the 12th, was marked by a special felicitation programme to honour the recipients of the University Research Excellence Awards.





Editorial Board

Advisors : Prof. MD. Lamawansa
Prof. Terence Madhujith
Language Editor: Ms. Subhagya Liyanage
News Editor & Coordinator: Ms. Kanchana Atapattu

Graphic & Layout Designer : Mr. TM. Dinesh Thennakoon

Photography by Mr. Janitha Jayamal



Contacts

Web www.pdn.ac.lk/uop/about/Newsletter/newslatter.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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New Appointments

Dean - Faculty of Agriculture



Prof. KASS Kodithuwakku assumed duties as the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture on the 14th of November, 2021. Prof. Kodithuwakku was the former Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics & Business Management of the Faculty of Agriculture.ment of the Faculty of Agriculture.

Dean – Faculty of Arts



Dr. EMPCS Ekanayake assumed duties as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts on the 01st of October, 2021. Dr. Ekanayake was the former Head of the Department of Education of the Faculty of Arts.

Dean – Faculty of Engineering



Dr. DMUI Dissanayake assumed duties as the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering on the 25th of October, 2021, and was the former Head of the Department of Civil Engineering of the Faculty of Engineering.eering of the Faculty of Engineering.

Dean – Faculty of Vet. Medicine & Animal Science



Prof. PGA Pushpakumara assumed duties as the Dean of the Faculty of Vet. Medicine & Animal Science on the 01st of November, 2021. Prof. Pushpakumara was the former Head of the Department of Farm Animal Production and Health of the Faculty of Vet. Medicine & Animal Science.

Bursar – University of Peradeniya



Mr. AMNB Arampath was appointed as the 15th Bursar of the University of Peradeniya with effect from the 02nd of November, 2021. He was educated at St. Sylvester's College, Kandy. He is a professionally and academically qualified individual with a Bachelor of Commerce (Special) Honors Degree (B.Com) and holds Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Commerce (M.Com) Postgraduate Degrees from the University of Kelaniya. He is a Qualified Accountant Member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy-United Kingdom CFFA (CIPFA-UK) and an Associate Member of the Chartered Public Finance Accountant of the CA – Sri Lanka CPFA (CA-Sri Lanka). He is also a Fellow Member of the Association of Public Finance Accountants of Sri Lanka (FAPFASL) and a Member of AAT- Sri Lanka.

Mr. Arampath started his career at the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka as a Senior Assistant Bursar in the year 2005 after 7 years' service in the Auditor General's Department. In 2012, he was transferred to the University of Peradeniya in the same capacity, and was promoted to the post of Deputy Internal Auditor of the University of Peradeniya in May 2015. He served in this position until he assumed the post of Bursar.

Subramania Bharathi Memorial Lecture Series



The monthly 'Bharathi' Memorial Lecture Series conducted by the Department of Tamil was completed on the 31st of December, 2021 with the keynote speech delivered by Prof. M. A. Nuhman. This monthly series was organized to commemorate Subramania Bharati's 100th death anniversary.

Subramania Bharathi was a Tamil writer, well-known poet, journalist, social reformer, polyglot and an Indian independence activist. Popularly known as "Mahakavi Bharathi" ("Great Poet Bharathi"), he was a pioneer of modern Tamil poetry and is considered one of the greatest Tamil literary figures of all time. His numerous works included fiery songs to kindle feelings of patriotism during the Indian Independence movement.

The Bharathi Memorial Lecture Series was started in December 2020. This lecture series was chaired by the Head of Department, Prof. S. Pirashanthan. Prof. P. Anandakumar (The Gandhigram Rural Institute - Deemed University), Prof. A. R. Venkatachalapathy (Madras Institute of Development Studies), Prof. Y. Manikandan (University of Madras), Prof. V. Arasu (University of Madras), Dr. R. Kamarasu (Tamil University), Prof. N. Subramaniyan (Canada) and various other scholars from India participated in the series and shared their research knowledge. Sri Lankan Tamil scholars Prof. V. Maheswaran and Prof. S. Yogaraja also participated in this lecture series as keynote speakers.

The Bharathi Memorial Lecture Series was appreciated by several scholars, researchers & research students around the world, and an article on it was published in the 'Tamil Murasu' section of the Thamilan newspaper. It was decided to compile the speeches delivered this day into a book and publish it in the near future.



Inter-University Online Chess Championship 2021

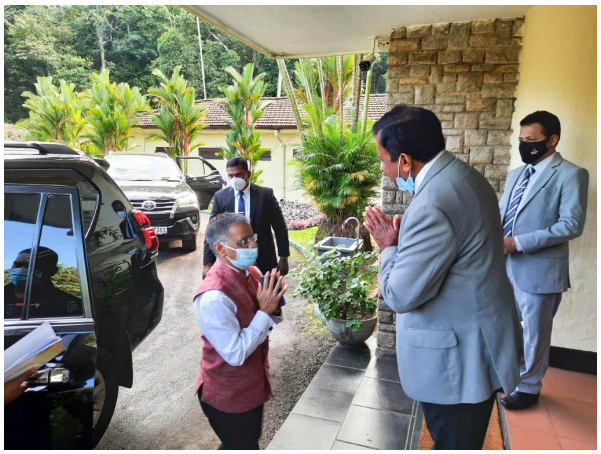
The University of Moratuwa organized the Inter-University Chess Championship – 2021 on a virtual platform on the 06th and 07th of November, 2021. 02 teams (men and women) from each university participated in this online event.

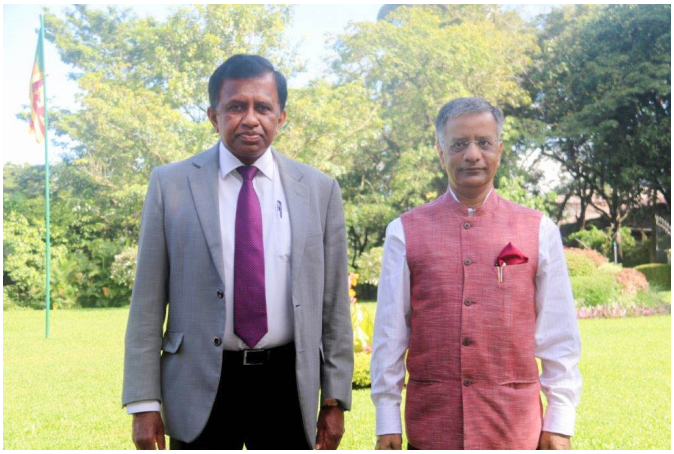
The Men's Chess team of the University of Peradeniya won 2nd Place. The team comprised of the following players.

1. Mr. S.D. Aluwihare (E/16/018)
2. Mr. C.L Jayaweera (S/16/069)
3. Mr. P.K. Ranasinghe (E/16/306)
4. Mr. W.M.G.L.A. Weerasinghe (D/17/064)
5. Mr. D.H. Ketipearachchi (E/19/176)
6. Mr. D.M.G.S. Dassanayake (E/19/063)
7. Mr. S.A.R.B. Bandara (M/19/021)
8. Mr. R.A.R.P.W.M.K. Palipana (E/19/481)

The University of Peradeniya women's team was placed 7th at the conclusion of the tournament.

The Visit of the High Commissioner of India His Excellency Gopal Baglay





His Excellency, Gopal Baglay, the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka visited the University of Peradeniya on the 27th of November, 2021. Mr. Baglay was accompanied by Dr. Sushil Kumar, the First Secretary (Technical Cooperation) & Head of Chancery, High Commission of India in Colombo, and Dr. S. Aritha, the Assistant High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka.

The High Commissioner was welcomed by Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor, and Prof. Terrence Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, of the University of Peradeniya. Professor S.J.S. de Mel, the Director/Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS), and Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, the Director/International Relations Office, were also present. The Vice-Chancellor discussed the close relationship between the two countries and the possible collaborations between India and the University of Peradeniya. Possible future collaborations, including research and academic exchange, were discussed at the brief meeting. Mr. Gopal Baglay conveyed his greetings to the University of Peradeniya and expressed his interest in consolidating a strong relationship with the University.

Workshop on Conducting an Autopsy on Sea Turtles and Cetaceans



A three-day workshop on the autopsy of sea turtles and cetaceans commenced on the 06th of December, 2021, at the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science. The inaugural session was graced by Prof. M. D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Ms. Darshanie Lahandapura, Chairperson/Marine Environmental Protection Authority (MEPA), staff members of the Faculty, Veterinarians from the Department of Wildlife Conservation, and the Department of Animal Production and Health. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, the Marine Environmental Protection Authority, the Department of Wildlife Conservation, and the Department of Animal Production and Health. The main objective of the workshop was to share knowledge and skills in conducting autopsies on turtles and cetaceans. Prof. Sandro Mazarriol, Dr. Guido Pietrolongo, and Dr. Giuseppe Sciancalepore from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Padova, Italy, and Dr. Kavindra Wijesundera of the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, UoP, contributed as resource personnel. Different aspects of forensic study, histopathology, and toxicology were focused on during the the three-day event organized under the guidance of Prof. P. G. A. Pushpakumara, Dean/Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, and Dr. A. W. Kalupahana, the Head/Department of Veterinary Pathobiology.

The Visit of the New Zealand High Commissioner, His Excellency Michael Appleton



The High Commissioner of New Zealand to Sri Lanka, His Excellency Michael Appleton visited the University of Peradeniya on the 10th of November, 2021. The High Commissioner was accompanied by the Deputy High Commissioner of New Zealand to Sri Lanka, Mr. Andrew Traveller, and the Honorary Consul for New Zealand in Sri Lanka, Mr. Senaka Silva.

The High Commissioner was welcomed by Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya. Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. P. G. A. Pushpakumara, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science, Dr. Madura S. Munasinghe, Former Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science, Prof. K.A.N. Wijayawardhane and Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director/International Relations Office.

An overview of the University was presented by Prof. Terrence Madhujith at the beginning and the Vice-Chancellor discussed possible collaborations between New Zealand and the University. The progress of ongoing collaborations between the Massey University of New Zealand and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science, University of Peradeniya, was discussed at the brief meeting. Special concern was paid to obtaining accreditation for the curriculum of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council.





Donation of a Chainsaw to the Landscape Division



Mr. I.M.L.P. Herath, who graduated from the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya, recently donated a chainsaw worth nearly Rs. 125,000. This has been a long-felt need of the landscape division of the University. Dr. Suranjith Gama-Arachchige from the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, who currently serves as a curator of the University as well, initiated the donation. The University appreciates such donations, which are very helpful in meeting some of its needs.

The Certificate Awarding Ceremony - Career Guidance Unit





University students who successfully completed the course on Career Development conducted by the Career Guidance Unit (CGU) of the University of Peradeniya were awarded certificates on the 22nd of December, 2021 at CGU premises.

This was a three-month-long program targeting the first and second-year university students. The syllabus and course modules were developed by the University Grants Commission in accordance with the Commission Circular no 934. The course was offered from July 15th to September 15th, 2021 and covered 60 hours. An introduction to career development, effective transition from school to the university, the role of the undergraduate, programming for future success, the best career opportunities available for students within and outside the University, effective study skills and motivated goal–directed learning, and personal organization and life management were some of the key areas covered during the program.

The certificate awarding ceremony was graced by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. Terrence Madhujith, and Director of the Career Guidance Unit, Prof. Nimal Dharmasena. The Career Counselors at CGU, Ms. Sumudu Lankathilake and Mr. Suchinthana Dasun, and a few selected participants were present as well.

Programmes Conducted by the Career Guidance Unit

Student Support Programmes Conducted from October to December 2021:

The following CGU physical/online workshops were conducted as skills development programmes:

- Online Learning & Mental Health – Tamil Medium students of UOP, Mr. M.S.M. Asmiyas, Director/Social Development Policy, Research & Publications, National Institute of Social Development.- 15.09.2021
- Counseling & Mental Health for the academic staff of the Department of Law, Mr. S.A.S. Dasun, Career Counselor/CGU - 21.10.2021
- Soft Skills Required for Success at University and Beyond- Online programme for undergraduates of the University of Colombo, Ms. Sumudu Lankathilaka, Career Advisor/CGU, UOP - 01.12.2021
- Meeting with the Multiplus Company - Graduate placement in the IT Sector, Staff of Multiplus Company, Staff of Multiplus Company & Staff of CGU- 15.11.2021
- Meeting with the Manager of Third Space Global, Third Space Global, Manager of Third Space Global & Staff of CGU - 22.11.2021
- Graduate Entrepreneurship Programme (Online) Business Proposal Development training was conducted with the staff of the National Enterprise Development Authority - NEDA Graduates & Undergraduates of UOP-29.11.21 & 30.11.21

Community Service Activity:

- Capacity Building for Effective Implementation of Drug Control, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation (TreatNet) - Treatment Staff of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB)- 10th,11th,17th,18th,24th, 25th, 2021.
- CV Writing and Interview Facing Workshop for students of Youth Training Center, Polgolla, Mr. S.A.S. Dasun, Career Counselor/CGU - 23.11.2021
- A Five-Day Online Workshop on "Mental Health of the School Community during the Pandemic" for teachers at Ibbagamuwa Zonal Education conducted by the CGU staff.

PGIS Celebrates the 25th Anniversary.



The PGIS research congress is a premier event in the academic calendar of scientists in Sri Lanka. It provides an opportunity for researchers to disseminate their findings and update their knowledge on cutting-edge scientific research. The scientific content of RESCON is categorized into five themes;



I. Earth and Environmental Sciences
II. ICT, Mathematics and Statistics
III. Life Sciences
IV. Physical Sciences
V. Science Education

The inauguration ceremony was held at the PGIS, with the Chief Guest, His Excellency Holger Seubert, the Federal Republic of Germany Ambassador to Sri Lanka. The keynote speech was delivered by Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake, an eminent scientist in biochemistry. The inauguration ceremony was broadcast live through YouTube and the RESCON website.

Technical sessions of the PGIS Research Congress was held on Saturday, the 30th of October, and Sunday, the 31st of October. There were over 240 abstract submissions and after a rigorous review process, 180 were selected for the event, making this one of the most extensive RESCON installments. The presentations will be held in the form of a webinar.

This year, there was an invited speech by Prof. Upul Wijayantha, an eminent scientist in sustainable energy and a professor in chemistry at Loughborough University, the United Kingdom. In addition, there were five invited speeches (categorized into themes) by five eminent scientists from their respective fields.

A Research Grant from The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)

In November 2021, Dr. Janaka Alawatugoda of the Department of Computer Engineering secured a research grant from The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). TWAS is a UNESCO program unit and its headquarters are located on the premises of the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy. A grant amount of US$ 11,800 was awarded for two years until November 2023. The research project aims to construct robust security protocols to safeguard sensitive information exchanged over the Internet, and to construct secure authenticated key exchange protocols against stronger attackers in particular. Dr. Tatsuaki Okamoto, Director of the Cryptography & Information Security Laboratories of NTT Research, USA, is one research collaborator. Dr. Okamoto is a renowned researcher in the field of Cryptography whilst Dr. Alawatugoda is a Senior Lecturer of the Department and an Adjunct Research Fellow of the Institute for Integrated and Intelligent Systems of the Griffith University, Australia. Dr. Alawatugoda leads the Cryptography Research Laboratory (CRL) at the Department.

Meeting with the First Secretary (Technical Cooperation) & Head of Chancery, High Commission of India in Colombo



His Excellency Dr. Sushil Kumar, the First Secretary (Technical Cooperation) & Head of Chancery, High Commission of India in Colombo, visited the University of Peradeniya on the 28th of October, 2021. The First Secretary was accompanied by Dr. S. Aritha, the Assistant High Commissioner of India.

The main objective of the visit was to develop research collaborations between the University of Peradeniya and Indian universities and research institutes, especially in the field of agriculture. He highlighted the importance of finding solutions to current agricultural issues through collaborative work. Furthermore, a decision was made to organize monthly webinars for staff and students conducted by scholars/scientists from India to address current issues and topics related to agriculture in Sri Lanka. Prof. Terrence Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Gamini Pushpakumara, Dean/Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Neil Alles, Director/International Relations Office and Heads of the Departments of the Faculty of Agriculture were present at the meeting.

Internship Awareness Week - 2021



The Faculty Internship Committee in collaboration with the Center for Skills for Life, Faculty of Management took a significant step in conducting the Internship Awareness Week - 2021 for the final year undergraduates of the BBA Degree programme. The aim of organizing the Internship Awareness Week was to provide the BBA final year undergraduates with an understanding of the Internship Project - which has the highest weightage when it comes to evaluation- and to expose the students to an experience sharing session.

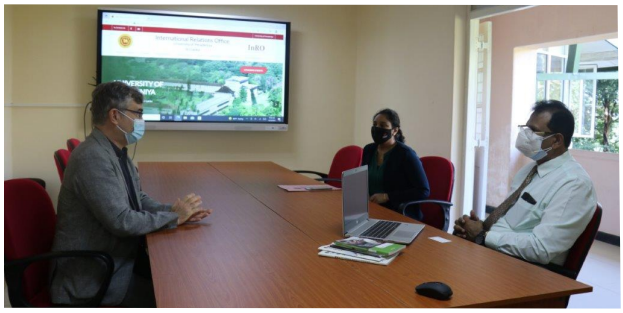
There were four sessions on the 25th, 27th, 28th and 29th of October, 2021, respectively, through Zoom from 6.00 pm onwards. The students were delighted at the end of the workshop series, and they were inspired to commence the internship program with a positive vibe.

Stepping Towards a PhD



An experience sharing session on "Stepping Towards a PhD" was organized by the Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Management, on the 30th of December, 2021 via Zoom with the aim of encouraging and motivating junior academic staff members in preparation for a PhD and completing it on time. The session was successfully conducted with a selection of well-experienced and fitting resource persons from the Faculty, namely, Prof. Ravi Kuruppuge, Head/Department of Operations Management, Dr. Nuresh Eranda, Senior Lecturer/Department of Marketing Management, Mr. N. Agilan, Senior Lecturer/Department of Human Resource Management and Mrs. V. Jayakumar, Senior Lecturer/Department of Business Finance. The session was moderated by Prof. Athula Ekanayake, Dean/Faculty of Management.

The Visit of the Director of Goethe-Institute Sri Lanka, Mr. Stefan Winkler



The Director of the Goethe-Institute Sri Lanka, German Cultural Centre, Mr. Stefan Winkler, and Managing Director, Mr. Sarah Toucas, Alliance Française de Kandy, visited the International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya on the 3rd of December, 2021.

The Director of the Goethe-Institute Sri Lanka was welcomed by Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director/International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya. Mr. Priyantha Fonseka, Senior Lecturer/Department of Fine Arts, and the staff members of the International Relations Office joined the meeting.

The Director/InRO and Mr. Stefan Winkler discussed possible collaborations in the field of German language and cultural studies between the Goethe-Institute and the University.

Meeting with the Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara

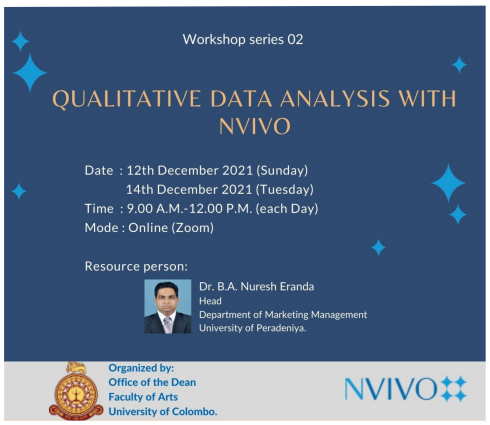
A meeting was conducted on the 19th of November, 2021 with representatives of the Middle East Technical University. Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director/International Relations Office, Mr. Ajith Damunupola, Deputy Registrar of the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, and the International Relations Office staff represented the University of Peradeniya while Dr. Ibrahim Yorgun, Director of International Office at METU, and Ms. Seda Okur, who worked as a European Mobility Coordinator in the International Cooperation Office, participated from the Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss the renewal of the student and staff mobility agreement under the ERASMUS+ programme and to consider entering into a general MoU between the two universities in order to expand current collaborations.

Meeting with Russian Geological Perspective University

A virtual meeting was conducted with the Russian Geological Perspective University on the 23rd of November, 2021. Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director/International Relations Office, Prof. Sanjeewa Malaviarachchi, Head/Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, and Professors L.R.K. Perera, Nanda Balasooriya and Rohana Chandrajith from the Department of Geology, Faculty of Science were present at the meeting along with the staff of the International Relations Office. Prof. Peter Ignatov, Dmitry Petrochenkov, MGRI Marina Karaber, Ms. Daria Shchedrova and Ms. Dilini Bandara (Interpreter) represented the Russian Geological Perspective University. The objective of the meeting was to discuss possible research collaborations between the Department of Geology and the Russian Geological Perspective University.

Workshop on Qualitative Data Analysis with NVIVO



Dr. B.A.N. Eranda (Department of Marketing Management, Faculty of Management) conducted a workshop on "Qualitative Data Analysis with NVIVO" for the academic staff members of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Colombo. This workshop enabled the participants to have a detailed understanding of qualitative research in social science. The content of the workshop included four main areas, including an overview of qualitative research with philosophical assumptions, qualitative research approaches, data analysis using the NVIVO 12 software package, and visualization of qualitative findings. The workshop was held on the 12th, 14th and 26th of December through the Zoom platform with about 60 participants.

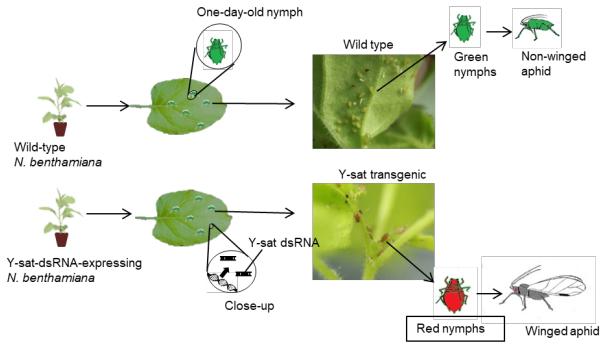
Skills for Work 2021 Programme Organize by the Science Industry Interaction Cell

The Skills for Work programme is a multiple session programme organized by MAS International and offered to University students to improve their soft skills and motivation as well as to hone their focus towards their future careers. This programme was held for students of the Faculty of Science from August to December 2021, through a series of virtual sessions that were kindly sponsored by MAS.



The programme was a tremendous success with overwhelmingly positive feedback and high participation. More than 450 students had registered for the programme, while most individual sessions had over 100 participants. Each session was recorded, and students who could not follow the sessions live were allowed to view the recordings through Ed-Puzzle. Students who had participated in at least five sessions were made eligible to receive a certificate of completion for the programme.

Small RNA Mediated Evolution of an Unprecedented Survival Strategy of Small Non-Coding Satellite RNA



Satellite RNAs are subviral agents that rely on a helper virus to complete their life cycle; however, they can reduce viral titres and thus incur a fitness cost. A research group led by Dr. Wikum Hashana Jayasinghe, Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, UoP, and Professor C. Masuta, Graduate School of Agriculture, Hokkaido University, Japan, found that the Y-satellite RNA (Y-sat) carried by the cucumber mosaic virus (CMV) has the ability to make aphids grow wings.

While they studied the quadripartite interactions among CMV, Y-sat, tobacco, and aphids, they found that the aphid behaviour and the host plant were modulated by Y-sat. When tobacco was infected with CMV+Y-sat, the leaves turned yellow from green. Furthermore, the aphids take up Y-sat-derived small RNAs, which induce the development of wings, enabling them to reach new plants. This is an unprecedented survival strategy that enables outward spread via the transformed insect vector.

The results of this research demonstrated that RNA silencing is a major determinant of the origin and evolution of viruses and satRNA. The research results were published in Nature Communications magazine on the 06th of December, 2021.

A Workshop on "How Companies become Learning Organizations"

The Department of Human Resource Management of the Faculty of Managementorganized a workshop on how 'Companies become Learning Organizations' for 1000 level undergraduates on the 7th of December, 2021 via Zoom. The aim of this session was to share knowledge on how different organizations acquire knowledge and innovate fast enough to survive and thrive in a rapidly changing environment. The resource person was Ms. Dinshika Madubashini, Talent Development Manager at Dipped Products PLC, Hayleys Group of Company.

Peradeniya University International Management Research Sessions (iPUMSE) – 2021



The second Peradeniya University International Management Research Sessions (iPUMSE) – 2021, organized by the Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, was held on the 26th of November, 2021 via a hybrid format following all health guidelines. Considering the impact of the pandemic on businesses, the theme of the conference was set as "Value Co-Creation in Crisis". The ultimate aim was to build an awareness amongst the academia and the industry on how businesses could survive and thrive during crisis situations.

The inauguration ceremony of the conference was held at the auditorium of the Faculty of Management. Senior Professor Sampath Amarathunge, Chairman of the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka, was the Chief Guest, while Professor M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, attended the conference as the Guest of Honour. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor W.M.T. Madhujith, Professor E.M.A.S.B. Ekanayake, the Dean of the Faculty of Management and the Deans of other Faculties, Directors of Postgraduate Institutes and administrative officers also took part in the event.

The keynote speech of the conference was delivered online by Professor Andrei Yu Panibratov, Department of Strategic and International Management, Graduate School of Management, St. Petersburg University, Russia, on 'Russian Multinationals in the Era of Economic Sanctions'. Technical sessions were also conducted virtually under four tracks in eight parallel sessions, where 50 research papers were presented. In addition to this, a business forum was held during the afternoon session on 'Value Co-creation During Crisis: Crafting and Executing Strategies to Build Organizational Resilience Towards Sustainable Growth' via Zoom. Five panelists, representing the academia and the industry, participated in this session to explore the appropriate strategies that could be used by businesses during times of crisis. Mr. N. Agilan, Senior Lecturer/Department of Human Resources Management, Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya, moderated this session.

The organizing committee of the conference consisted of Prof. R.H. Kuruppuge (Chairperson), Ms. S. Yamuna (Secretary), and various other subcommittee chairs and members, representing both academic and non-academic staff members of the Faculty of Management.

PGIHS Research Congress 2020-21



The Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS) Research Congress 2020-21 was held on the 27th of November, 2021 at the PGIHS. The Chief Guest at the event was the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, H.E. Gopal Baglay. He was accompanied by the Assistant Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka in Kandy, Dr. Athira S., and First Secretary, Dr. Sushil Kumar. The keynote speaker was the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh and Emeritus Professor, H.E. Prof. Sudharshan Seneviratne of the University of Peradeniya, who spoke on "Contesting and Redefining Knowledge-based Education in Sri Lanka: A Paradigm Shift".

The event was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Deans of Faculties, Directors of PG Institutes, Board of Management and Boards of Study members. The teaching panel, presenters and postgraduate students participated online. (More information available at pgihs.ac.lk.)



The 5th International Tamilology Research Conference [ITRC] organized by the Department of Tamil was successfully held on the 15th of December, 2021. The International Tamilology Research Conference [ITRC] is a prestigious international research platform for Tamilology & related studies. This is the main research activity (and an annual event) conducted by the Department of Tamil.

Initially, the 5th International Tamilology Research conference was planned to be held in February 2021. Due to the current Covid – 19 global crisis, it was postponed to December 2021. "Sri Lankan Tamil Dramatic Literature" was selected as the main theme of this conference. The Department of Tamil has contributed tremendously to the field of Sri Lankan Tamil Dramatic Literature. The department's contribution to this field has been consistent from the period of Professors Swami Vipulananda, K. Kanapathipillai and S. Vithyananthan. It was therefore decided upon the title "Sri Lankan Tamil Dramatic Literature" as a suitable main theme for the conference.



Chief Guest
Professor M.D. Lamawansa
Vice Chancellor
University of Peradeniya



Chairperson
Prof. S. Pirashanthan
Head
Department of Tamil



Guest of Honour
Dr. E.M.P.C.S. Ekanayake
Dean
Faculty of Arts

The organizing committee of the 5th International Tamilology Research Conference received more than 100 research papers and 29 were selected after the peer review process. Due to the current Covid-19 crisis, it was conducted online.

The inauguration ceremony was chaired by the Head of Department, Prof. S. Pirashanthan. Mrs. Anne Yalini Satheeswaran, Co-Coordinator of the Conference, delivered the welcome speech. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor M.D. Lamawansa, delivered an inspiring speech as the Chief Guest of the event. Dr. E.M.P.C.S. Ekanayake, Dean/Faculty of Arts, addressed the international Tamilology research community as the guest of honour at the event. The proceedings of the conference was released at the inauguration ceremony.

Six sessions followed the inauguration ceremony. Well-known senior international academics & artists from the fields of drama & theatre chaired these sessions and former heads of the Department of Tamil (and Sri Lankan academics) participated in the discussion and gave their comments on the presentations. International research scholars representing various fields of Social Sciences & Humanities presented their research papers in these sessions. The ceremony concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. S. Sutharsan, Co-Coordinator of the Conference.



The Secretary Meets the Members of the Department of Fine Arts



On the invitation of the Vice-Chancellor, the Secretary of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, Prof. Kapila Gunawardana, visited the Department of Fine Arts on the 08th of October, 2021. The meeting was attended by Prof. M.D. Lamawansa (Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya), Prof. Kapila Gunawardana (Secretary of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs), Dr. Prabhath Ekanayake (Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya), Mr. Thilak Nandana Hettiarachchi (Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs), Dr. Sudesh Mantillake (Head, Department of Fine Arts), and the staff of the Department of Fine Arts.

The purpose of the meeting was to identify possible opportunities for future collaborations between the Ministry and the Department of Fine Arts. Research in the fields of art and culture has been identified as one of the areas that two institutes can collaborate on. It was also decided to involve the academics in the Department when the Ministry seeks advice/consultancy in art and culture-related policy making.

Workshops Organized by the Department of Philosophy

- The workshop on 'How to Improve Your Basic Counselling Skills' organized by CIVCO in collaboration with the Department of Philosophy, University of Peradeniya, was successfully held on the 14th of December, 2021, at the Department premises with the expertise provided by Dr. Kanthi Hettigoda.

- The workshop on 'Teaching Logic in School Curriculum: Challenges and Strategies' organized by CIVCO in collaboration with the Department of Philosophy, University of Peradeniya, was held on the 16th of December, 2021, at the Department premises with the expertise provided by Mr. P.R. M. S. B. Rathnayake.

- The Department of Philosophy, University of Peradeniya had the privilege to launch a commemorative volume of essays in memory of the great scholar and the founding member of the Department of Philosophy, Prof. K.N. Jayatillake, in the presence of many distinguished scholars. The event was held on the 1st of November, 2021 and Emeritus Professor, Asanga Thillakaratne, presented the keynote speech.

- In memory of all the great philosophers who dedicated their labour and intellectual prowess for the advancement of the field, the Department of Philosophy, celebrated the World Philosophy Day on the 22nd of November, 2021 at the Department premises. The event was graced with the presence of Dr. Prabath Ekanayake, the Dean/Faculty of Arts, and the guest speech was delivered by Dr. Desmond Mallikarachchi.







- The official blog site of the Department of Philosophy, University of Peradeniya, the Hanthana Philosophy Circle, was launched on the 22nd of November, 2021. The aim of this blog site is to encourage the work of a generation of academically driven undergraduates and to popularize philosophy amongst the general populace.

12th International Conference on Structural Engineering and Construction Management (ICSECM) (The Kandy Conference) 2021



The 12th International Conference on Structural Engineering and Construction Management (ICSECM) 2021 was successfully held on the 17th, 18th and 19th of December, 2021 at Earls Regency Hotel, Kandy, Sri Lanka. It is the 12th international conference - following eleven consecutive and successful conferences since December 2010 - with the collaboration of many local and global professionals and institutions (especially the universities of Peradeniya, Moratuwa, Ruhuna, Sri Jayawardenepura and OUSL) This year, a major highlight was having the conference in a hybrid form allowing more local and international participation and ensuring higher visibility for the conference.

The opening ceremony held on the 17th of December attracted a great deal of attention from researchers and professionals. It was graced by Prof. Ranjith Senaratne, the Chairman of National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka, as the chief guest for the event and Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya and Mr. Kanaka Herath, MP/State Minister of Plantation. The Deans of all faculties of the University of Peradeniya, and the academic staff as well as researchers of many local and international universities attended the inaugural ceremony bringing professionals around the world to one platform. Mr. W A D D Wijesuriya, Chief Environmental Consultant at Port City Colombo, enlightened the audience on the current status (and proposed advancements) at the Colombo Port City Project and how it adds value to the Sri Lankan construction industry and on moving forward with resolving the environment crisis.

The second and the third days of the conference were dedicated to technical sessions that featured the following themes: Innovations in Building Materials, Construction Management, Tall Buildings, Concrete Technology and High Performance Concrete, Geotechnical Engineering, Water and Waste Water Treatment and the CKDu problem in Sri Lanka, Structural Health Monitoring & Design of Resistive Structures, Disaster Risk Reduction, Fibre Reinforced Polymer, Life Cycle Assessment of Buildings and Fire Safety Engineering. Moreover, sessions like RMIT-Sri Lanka Joint Research Degree program benefitted potential Sri Lankan graduates by opening up new avenues to pursue higher studies and the current research output from the programme were showcased. Technical sessions were chaired by local and international experts in each fraternity and researchers from all around the world presented their research producing over 150 research publications. The conference was enriched with 4 keynote speeches by globally reputed professional speakers - Prof. Hemanthi Ranasinghe of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof Colin Duffield of the University of Melbourne, Australia, Dr. Issam Harik of the University of Kentucky, USA and Prof. Priyan Dias of the University of Melbourne, Australia. These provided insight into timely concerns and advances in structural engineering and construction management. By partnering with the globally recognized journal publisher, Springer Nature, the conference will eventually yield high-quality research publications to the research world.

Melwire rolling (Pvt) Ltd and Siam City Cement (Lanka) Ltd were the main industrial collaborators of the event.

Selection Trials for the 53rd Senior Nationals Basketball Championship 2021





The first selection trial to select players to represent the Sri Lanka National Universities Team at the 53rd Senior National Basketball Championship - 2021 was held at the Gymnasium of the University of Peradeniya on the 31st of December, 2021. For the selections, players participated from the Universities of Peradeniya, Colombo, Jaffna, Ruhuna, Moratuwa, Kelaniya and Sri Jayawardenapura, as well as the Eastern and Wayamba Universities. The selections were conducted by the Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association. Mr. KWLN Indika, Instructor in Physical Education, University of Peradeniya, as the sub-committee Chairman carried out the trials with the help of the sub-committee members from other universities. Mr. S.M.P. Weerawardhana of the Faculty of Science was selected for the Sri Lanka Universities Men's team while Ms. M.G.K.S. Aberathne of the Faculty of Dental Sciences, Ms. H.M.W.G.P.T. Wedagedara of the Faculty of Arts, and Ms. E.M.M.R.P.V. Nugapitiya of the Faculty of Science, were also selected to represent the National University Basketball Women's Team to be held in the near future.

Peradeniya Shines at the 01st Virtual Inter University Karate Kata Championships



The 01st Virtual Inter University Karate Kata Championships - 2021 kicked off on an online platform from the 10th to the 26th of November, 2021 with the eager participation of 16 state universities. This novel sporting event was organized by Mr. Prasad Chamara, Instructor in Physical Education, in collaboration with The Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association (SLUSA).

The competition was carried out by uploading karate Kata video clips to the judges by individual players for the first round, and then the shortlisted players, who would compete in the final round, were announced. All the evaluators were from the Sri Lanka Karate Federation.

Our Men's team was victorious at the finals and grabbed the prestigious first ever Virtual Inter University Karate Kata Challenge Trophy at the closing ceremony. The University of Moratuwa and the University of Kelaniya emerged second and third, respectively in this category.

K.L. Kumarathunga of the Faculty of Medicine, B.A.G.N.D. Gunarathne of the Faculty of Science, and M.R.P.R.P. Rathnaweera of the Faculty of Agriculture, secured gold medals for their respective ranking categories. W.S.A.R. Kanchana and W.M.R. Wijenayake of the Faculty of Agriculture obtained silver medals for their categories. K.K. De Silva of the Faculty of Medicine and Mr. K.G.G.M. Wickramasinghe of the Faculty of Agriculture secured the bronze medals. The first ever online Karate tourney successfully drew to a close after a charming closing ceremony on the 26th of November, 2021.



The Department of Geography, University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Association of Geographers (SLAG), organized the 7th National Geography Conference (NGC2021) on the 29th of October, 2021 at the Department of Geography as a virtual event. Thus, the conference theme of the year was suitably titled as "[Re] negotiating Space, Environment and Society". Ms. Malin Herwig, Deputy Resident Representative/UNDP Sri Lanka, was the chief guest. Mr. Asoka Gunewardena, Chairman and Executive Governor of Marga Institute, delivered the keynote speech on 'Governing (Re) negotiation of Space, Environment, and Society: Reflections on the Working of Sri Lanka's System of Sub-national Governance in Navigating the Process of Renegotiation'. The scope of the discipline was emphasized by Chair Professor Nalani Hennayake, in her insightful talk on "Geography as the Science of Synthesis" at the inaugural session. The technical sessions of the conference were initiated with a guest speech by Prof. C. M. Maduduma Bandara, Emeritus Professor/Department of Geography, University of Peradeniya. In his speech, he shared his views on "From Nine - to Three Provinces Evolution of a Spatial Concept". The proceedings of NGC2021 presented the findings of 35 researches in the form of extended abstracts. They were organized under three themes: Socio-spatial Transformations in Rural and Urban Spaces; Geographies of Soil, Water, and Biota; Human-environmental Dynamics and GIS Applications.

The conference opening was addressed by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Dr. E.M.P.C.S. Ekanayake, the Head of the Department of Geography, Prof. Rekha Nilanthi, the Chairperson of the conference, Prof. Tilak Bandara, and the President of the Sri Lanka Association of Geographers, Dr. E.M.S. Ranasinghe. The vote of thanks was given by the Secretary of the conference, Dr. Kumuduni Kumarihamy.

Finding the Right Fit - Organized by the Science Industry Interaction Cell

Finding the Right Fit' was a one-day online programme organized by MAS Intimates and offered to University students to improve their career planning, and help them choose the right organization for their careers. Investment planning and other opportunities were also discussed. The programme was conducted by a team from MAS intimates and facilitated by Mr. Niroshan Peiris.



The programme was a tremendous success with over a hundred students participating. An interesting online quiz was held based on general and corporate knowledge, and the following participants achieved the top three scores: Pabasara Jayaratne, Fiyaza Jumadin, Piumi Nissanka. Winners were awarded cash prizes and granted a factory visit on the 10th of December, 2021 to the MAS Intimates factory premises located in Pallekele. On the factory visit day, the students were warmly welcomed and they were made part of an outstanding award ceremony with the participation of factory executives including the alumni of the University of Peradeniya. The event was a great inspiration and a memorable experience for participants.

University of Peradeniya - Partner in EU Funded Project for Disaster Resilience in Asia - SECRA

The University of Peradeniya (UOP) is a member of the team of the Strengthening University-Enterprise Collaboration for Resilient Communities in Asia (SECRA) project. The goal of the SECRA project is to accelerate university-enterprise collaboration in order to build more resilient nations. The project is being carried out by a consortium of 13 leading European and Asian universities which will attempt to address ways and means of overcoming such disasters through university-enterprise collaboration. The consortium is led by Mid Sweden University in Sweden while the University of Central Lancashire in the UK is the co-lead. Asian partners include universities in Sri Lanka (University of Ruhuna, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, University of Peradeniya); Thailand (Chiang Mai University, Naresuan University, Mahasarakham University), and the Philippines (Ateneo de Manila University, Philippine Normal University, and Malayan Colleges Laguna)

This three-year project began in January 2021. In February of the same year , an online kick-off meeting was held with the participation of all members. Following this, the literature review study, questioner surveys, interviews and preparation of national and regional reports on UEC were carried out. It is expected that the project's Asian partner countries map the structure of collaborative activities in the broad field of disaster risk reduction in the first year. Even though the activities of SECRA is taking place at a critical juncture, with many countries around the world shut down or in emergency mode due to the Covid-19 crisis, the progress made so far is appreciable.





UOP representation in the project is spearheaded by Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake (Senior Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering) and Dr. Chaminda Bandara (Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering).

University enterprise collaboration is also one of the foundations for knowledge and technology exchange. University collaborations are seen as one of the platforms for innovation through knowledge exchange. The collaborative body of knowledge within the university enterprise can still be described as fragmented and lacking in a comprehensive perspective. To address this, SECRA will work to build more resilient communities in Asia by implementing innovative and inclusive actions to strengthen university-business collaborations on climate change adaptation and disaster resilience.

The SECRA team in Sri Lanka organized a special session on Strengthening University-Enterprise Collaboration for Resilient Communities in Asia at the 12th International Conference on Structural Engineering and Construction Management, Kandy, Sri Lanka. The event was successfully held on the 18th of December 2021, from 4.00 pm to 6.30 pm IST. A brief introduction of the project was disseminated along with a market analysis on UEC, the performance of UEC in the Asian Region, the role of academics, the industry and private sector on UEC on climate change action and disaster resilience. Dr. Asiri Karunawardena, Director General of the National Building Research Organization, Mr. Rohan Cooray, Climate Risk Information Management Specialist at the United Nations Development Programme and Mr. Asith De Silva, Senior Manager - Social Innovation at Dialog Axiata PLC, were among the invited speakers from the industry.



Publications

- ★ The Chair tabled the following publications for the information of the members:
- ★ විද්‍යාව ඉගැන්වීම by Dr Pushpa Adhikaram Vitharana
- ★ විද්‍යාව ඉගැනුම් ඉගැන්වීම් ක්‍රියාවලිය : සාවද්‍ය සංකල්පනා by Dr Pushpa Adhikaram Vitharana
- ★ Basic Concepts in Immunology by Dr. Anoja Ariyasinghe
- ★ Making of Peradeniya Management Faculty by Professor Milton Rajaratne
- ★ ශාක රාජධානියේ විවිධත්වය සහ පරිණාමය by Professor Sumudu Rubasinghe
- ★ Ceylon Journal of Science Vol 50 – March 2021 issue
- ★ Ceylon Journal of Science Vol 50 – June 2021 issue

Library News

Awareness Programme on the Institutional Review of Quality Assurance

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the Library (IQAC-Library) conducted an awareness workshop on the internal quality assurance reviewing process for the Library staff on the 14th and 15th of December, 2021 from 9 a.m to 12 noon, at the Seminar Room, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya. This workshop was aimed at Library Information Assistants, Library Attendants and Library work aides. Several presentations were done by the academic staff members of the Library.

Awards/ Achievements/ Promotions etc.

Mr. M. N. Ravikumar and Dr. (Ms.) Champa N. K. Alahakoon won the Ms. Vijita de Silva Research Award for the year 2021. This research award was granted by the Council of the Sri Lanka Library Association (SLLA) 2020/2021 for the academic project carried out for releasing exam results of the Diploma in Library and Information Science HDIPLIS (DLIS), and the Higher Diploma in Library and Information Science (HDIPLIS) results through the online web portal. They received certificates and cash awards from the Sri Lanka Library Association.

Presentations at National and International Conferences/Publications

1. Weerasekera, W.B.M.C.R.D., C. Gunasekara C., Premarathne, S. & Bandara, B.E.S. (2021), The Use of E-learning Resources by the Dental Undergraduates of the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, Peradeniya International Research Session (iPURSE).
2. Premarathne, S. & Senevirathne, W. (2021) Factors and challenges affecting the information-seeking behavior of postgraduate diploma students of the Department of Education, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, The Virtual International Conference on Library and Information Science (VICLIS-2021), Sri Lanka Technology University.
3. Abeyrathne, W.H.D.K. & Premarathne, S. (2021). The Familiarity and Usage of Reference Management Software (RMS) by Undergraduate Students in the Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, Peradeniya International Research Session (iPURSE - 2021).
4. Hindagolla, B.M.M.C.B. & Weerasinghe, S. (2021). A Study of Undergraduates' Intention to Use Online Library Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Quantitative Study, 4th International Conference on Library and Information Management (ICLIM), University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

Greenmetric Ranking – 2021

The University of Peradeniya has been ranked the No 1 university in Sri Lanka according to the GreenMetric Ranking 2021.



New Appointments - Academic Staff

Name	Designation	Place of Work	Effective Date
Dr. A A A. Kwimalaratne	Lecturer (Unconfirmed)	Faculty of Dental Sciences	07.10.2021
Dr. D.M.I.S. Dasanayake	Snr. Lecturer Gr. I	Faculty of Engineering	25.11.2021
Dr. S.U.D. Samarasinghe	Lecturer	Faculty of Medicine	09.11.2021
Dr. B.H.W.M.G.T. Wijethilake	Lecturer (Probationary)	Faculty of Medicine	25.11.2021
Dr. H.K.D. Vidusha	Lecturer (Probationary)	Faculty of Medicine	02.11.2021
Dr. D.M.S.S. Daundasekara	Snr. Lecturer Gr. II	Faculty of Agriculture	10.12.2021
Dr. C.D. Senanayake	Snr. Lecturer Gr. I	Faculty of Engineering	13.12.2021
Dr. U.S.S. Dharmapriya	Snr. Lecturer Gr. II	Faculty of Engineering	13.12.2021
Mr. S. Kamalakkannan	Lecturer (Probationary)	Faculty of Engineering	13.12.2021
Mr. J.J.L. Jayawardana	Lecturer (Probationary)	Faculty of Engineering	13.12.2021
Dr. K.C. Chandrasiri	Snr. Lecturer Gr. II	Faculty of Engineering	28.12.2021
Mr. N.M.S.H. Bandara	Lecturer (Probationary)	Faculty of Engineering	24.12.2021
Dr. N. SBalasooriya	Lecturer	Faculty of Medicine	01.12.2021
Dr. D.S. Thilakarathna	Snr. Lecturer Gr. II	Faculty of VET	08.12.2021
Dr. T.M.S.K. Piyadasa	Lecturer (Probationary)	Faculty of VET	10.12.2021

Retirements - Academic Staff

Name	Designation	Place of Work	No. of Service Years
Prof. D.G.N.G. Wijesinghe	As. Professor	Faculty of Agriculture	40 Years
Dr. S.D. Dewasurendra	Snr. Lecturer Gr. I	Faculty of Engineering	28 Years

New Appointments - Non-Academic Staff

Name	Designation	Place of Work	Effective Date
WMSTS Kotandeniya	Pharmacist - Lower Grade	Heath Centre	01.12.2021
LN Piyasundara	Pharmacist - Lower Grade	Faculty of Vet. Med. and Animal Sciences	01.12.2021
NDL de Silva	Supervisor (Civil) Grade III	Maintenance Division	01.12.2021
KGSL Chandra	Marshal - Grade II	Marshalls' office	01.12.2021
RMJJB Ranasinghe	Marshal - Grade II	Marshalls' office	01.12.2021
KVKG Dissanayaka	Supervisor (Civil) Grade III	Maintenance Division	08.11.2021
IMT Bandara	Health Services Attendant	Health Centre	01.11.2021
KWIPGCP Leelananda	Health Services Attendant	Faculty of Vet. Med. and Animal Sciences	01.12.2021
SJS Sumanadasa	Work Superintendant (Electrical)	Maintenance Division	01.11.2021

Resignations - Non-Academic Staff

Name	Designation	Place of Work	Effective Date
VPP Jayapani	Staff Technical Officer - Grade I	Faculty of Vet. Med. and Animal Sciences	15.11.2021
GN Hirimuthugoda	Technical Officer - Grade II seg "A"	Department of Zoology	29.10.2021
ARSGRAB Siyambalagoda	Library Attendant - Grade II	Main Library	20.12.2021

Retirements - Non-Academic Staff

Name	Designation	Place of Work	Effective Date
Ms. CMN Ranawana	Senior Assistant Registrar	Internal Quality Assurance Unit	18.10.2021
Mr. VN Gunarathne	Carpenter - Special Grade	Faculty of Engineering	19.12.2021
Mr. VS Nicholas	Slaughteman - Higher Grade	Faculty of Agriculture	02.11.2021
Mr. RHAK Samarasena	Caretaker - Lower Grade	General Administration Division	28.12.2021
Mr. NLS Wijesundara	Chief Technical Officer	Faculty of Medicine	24.12.2021
Mr. DP Handunge	Audio Visual Technical Officer - Grade I	Faculty of Agriculture	02.10.2021
Mr. IG Thilakarathne	Carpenter - Grade I	Faculty of Agriculture	12.11.2021
Mr. PGK Palagama	Electrician - Special Grade	Faculty of Agriculture	07.12.2021

Retirements - Non-Academic Staff

Name	Designation	Place of Work	Effective Date
Mr. RMS Somathilaka	Full Time Sub Warden - Special Grade	Sangamiththa Hall	24.11.2021
Mr. KGH Bandara	Lab Attendant - Special Grade	Faculty of Dental Sciences	31.10.2021
Mr. TMN Tennakoon	Karyala Karrya Sahayaka	Faculty of Arts	20.10.2021
Mr. JMN Karunarathne	Works Aide - Special Grade	Sangaramaya Bhikku Hall	02.10.2021
Ms. PG Yasawathi	Senior Staff Management	Academic and Council Division	05.12.2021
Mr. JTP Gunawardena	Assistant Senior Staff Technical Officer	Faculty of Agriculture	26.10.2021
Mr. W Jayathilaka	Staff Technical Officer - Grade I	Faculty of Dental Sciences	29.11.2021
Mr. Ms. DR Weerakoon	Senior Staff Management Assistant	Office of the Registrar	28.12.2021

The Courtesy Visit of the Korean Ambassador to the University



The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Professor M.D. Lamawansa, received His Excellency Ambassador Santhush Woonjin Jeong, the Korean Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, at his official residence, the Lodge, on the morning of the 10th of December, 2021. This courtesy visit of the Ambassador was also graced by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor W. M. T. Madhujith, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Dr. E. M. P. C. S. Ekanayaka, the Head of the Department of Classical Languages, Faculty of Arts, Ms. K. M. R. N. Kulatunga and Dr. Panduka Neluwala representing the Management Committee of the International Relations Office of the University of Peradeniya, Professor Rohana Senevirathna, and Dr. Aksha Jiuen Kang, Lecturer in Korean Language at the Department of Classical Languages. This visit was a testament to the bilateral relations established between the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka on the 14th of November, 1977.



Guest Lecture – 'Media Planning and Buying'



The Department of Marketing Management of the Faculty of Management successfully conducted a guest lecture on 'Media Planning and Buying' in line with Marketing Communications - II course targeting second year and third year students specializing in Marketing Management. The aim of this guest lecture was to give the students a sense of media planning and buying with practical orientation, and providing them with an understanding of the real world applications of these concepts in broader terms. The resource person for the guest lecture was Mr. Siva Sivaharan, Director - Client Leadership at Mindshare, and an experienced professional with a history of developing media plans and effectively managing media investments for many reputed companies in Sri Lanka. The guest lecture was held on the 08th of November, 2021, from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm via Zoom. The students were delighted at the end of the guest lecture and were motivated to explore further the application of media planning and buying in the corporate world.

The Visit of the German Ambassador His Excellency Holger Seubert



The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Sri Lanka, His Excellency Holger Seubert, visited the University of Peradeniya on the 29th of October, 2021. The ambassador was welcomed by Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya. Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Deans of Faculties, Directors of the Postgraduate Institutes, Director/International Relations Office and Prof. Anoma Abhayarathna. An overview of the University was presented by Prof. Terrence Madhujith at the very outset. The Vice-Chancellor discussed possible collaborations between Germany and the University. The progress of ongoing collaborations and possible future collaborations including, research and academic exchange, were discussed at the brief meeting. Mr. Holger Seubert conveyed his greetings to the University of Peradeniya and expressed his interest in consolidating strong collaborations with the University.

Shaping of Lives (SOL) - Faculty of Dental Sciences

The Covid-19 pandemic was not merely limited to the spread of the virus. It disrupted the professional, personal, and academic lives of students and staff. Travel restrictions and lockdowns distanced people from one another and caused emotional stress. However, the members of the staff at FDS determined to prevent students from being affected by isolation and loneliness. The Faculty of Dental Sciences initiated the "Shaping Our Lives (SOL)" program to cater to this purpose. The SOL team was formed after obtaining the formal approval of the Faculty Board meeting of FDS. The members were recruited on a voluntary basis from all categories (students from each batch, academic and non-academic staff).

The SOL team - established to provide virtue and wisdom to future generations of intelligent and sensitive dental surgeons - had its inaugural session on 25.06.2021 on a virtual platform. Prof. N.A.D.S. Amaratunga (Emeritus), the first speaker, delivered an inspiring speech on "Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong, but there will always be a silver lining". This was followed by two more constructive speeches by D.T.M Moditha Sendanayaka ("Unleash, you are more than you think") and Mr. Dilan Rathnayake ("Time Management - From Myths to Practicalities") in subsequent months. The recent event "Esperanza; A Little Hope Amidst the Pandemic" was held on the 03rd of October, 2021. It was a talent show where students showcased their skills in music, dancing, singing, painting, photography, baking, and making handicrafts. Participants were greatly impressed by the skills and talents of these students. Although the SOL activities initially started during the lockdown period, the Faculty of Dental Sciences has decided to continue SOL activities monthly, either virtually or in an hybrid mode. A short video clip on SOL activities in 2021 is available on the FDS YouTube Channel. (https://youtu.be/f9yA-wd3BGE).

Inauguration Programme of the Diploma in Management Studies - 2021

The orientation programme for new students for the Bachelor of Business Administration (Online) Programme of the Academic Year 2021 was held on the 14th of November, 2021 via Zoom. Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Athula Ekanayake, Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies, Prof. Rathnayake M. Abeyrathne, Director of the CDCE, Ms. S. Yamuna, Academic Coordinator of the BBA Online Degree programme, Ms. Irani Pathirana, Senior Assistant Registrar/CDCE, academic staff, students and staff of the CDCE participated via Zoom.

A write-up from the Vice-Chancellor

I am pleased to submit this write-up for the Newsletter for the last quarter of 2021 of our University.

I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have worked tirelessly to achieve our goals in the face of the unpredictable global pandemic in the year 2021. I am happy to announce that we accomplished significant academic, research, and welfare activities during the last quarter of the year despite the pandemic. Staff were called to spend considerable time creating a safe environment for the students and staff to attend to their work and manage those affected by COVID or exposure.

The University administration's efforts to streamline the functions and expedite them have been well accepted by the University community. A backlog of work remained to be completed, but we step into the next year with much of that already being completed.

The Council of the University has taken proactive measures to align the functions of all Divisions of the University and take decisions based on correct information. For these purposes, Council Committees have been established; Strategic Planning and Management Committee (SPMC), Financial Administration Committee (FMC), Human Resources Management and Development Committee (HRMDC), and the Infrastructure Development & Management Committee (IDMC), to streamline the activities of the central administration of the University.

An Office for Student Support Services and Welfare Systems (SSS&WS) was established, and a director was appointed. Similarly, plans are underway to establish an Office for Staff Welfare. Furthermore, the Council has approved the establishment of a unit for Counseling and Psychological Support (CaPSU), which will benefit the University community as a whole.

The transformation back to physical teaching/learning from virtual mode is taking place in a planned manner. Other university functions have come back to near normal. Research activities have been given due priority. Extra funds have been allocated for research, with provisions being made for probationers' and undergraduates' research projects. The total University allocation for research in 2022 exceeds Rs 60 Mn.

The time ahead will not be smooth sailing. I request all staff and students to understand the difficulties and find suitable makeshift arrangements to complete the tasks ahead.

I would like to thank all Faculties, Centres, Units, and Service Divisions for their invaluable support by providing information for this Newsletter and their commitment to achieving our targets in 2021. I also appreciate the dedication of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the team responsible for the Newsletter.

While thanking you for joining hands with me in the quest to make Peradeniya the most sought-after, world-renowned University in Sri Lanka, I always value your critical inputs.

Professor M.D. Lamawansa
Vice-Chancellor

Inauguration Programme of the Diploma in Library and Information Services Programme for New Entrants - 2021



The inauguration ceremony to mark the registration of new students for the Academic Year 2021 was held on the 31st of October, 2021 at the Centre for Distance & Continuing Education (CDCE) Main Hall. Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr. E.M.P.C.S. Ekanayaka, Dean/Faculty of Arts, Mr. R. Maheswaran/Librarian, Prof. Rathnayake M. Abeyrathne, the Director of the Centre, Prof. Chandima Wickramasinghe, Deputy Director/Learning Recourses, Dr. S. Maheswaran, Deputy Director/Training, Dr. Manoj Alawathukotuwa, Deputy Director/Examinations, Dr. Menaka Hindagolla/Academic Coordinator of the programme, Ms. Irani Pathirana/Senior Assistant Registrar, Ms. Lasni Jayasooriya Assistant Registrar/CDCE, academic staff members and the staff of the CDCE attended the ceremony. Students attended the ceremony via Zoom.

University of Peradeniya Achieves Another First!





The University of Peradeniya won the overall gold award for its annual report and accounts – 2019 at the Best Annual Report Award Ceremony organized by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA), in league with the Association of Public Finance Accountants of Sri Lanka (APFASL), held on the 29th of December, 2021 at the BMICH, Colombo. Hundreds of public entities including universities, provincial councils, research institutions and many other public sector organizations were amongst the contenders. The University of Peradeniya also bagged another gold award for its annual report and accounts – 2019 under the university category at the same event. Professor Terrence Madhujith, representing the Vice-Chancellor, and Ms. Kanchana Atapattu, Statistical Officer of the University, received the awards on behalf of the University. The APFASL, which is the public sector wing of the CA, conducts the award competition with the prime objective of helping to improve the quality of annual reports and accounts issued by public sector organizations thereby enhancing transparency, accountability and good governance practices.

Researcher Award – 2020

Congratulations!



Research, fueled by curiosity, is what propels humanity forward. The University of Peradeniya has been recognized as the Sri Lankan university with the highest contribution toward research. This is evidenced by the fact that the University has been ranked between 401 and 500 by the Times Higher Education ranking for the third consecutive time, the highest institutional h index based on Google Scholar, among others.

The University recently embarked on a mission to recognize the most outstanding researchers who have made immense contributions towards uplifting research and as a result, the researchers eligible for Tier 4* were felicitated recently based on the transparent research performance scheme stipulated in the UGC circular 05/2018. The awarding ceremony was held alongside the closing session of iPURSE on the 12th of November, 2021, where 28 of the most outstanding researchers from seven faculties were recognized. The awardees were selected by calling applications for the year 2020.

List of Awardees

Prof.W.M.T. Madhujith	Faculty of Agriculture
Prof.B. Marambe	
Prof.M.I.M. Mowjood	
Prof.S.P. Nissanka	
Prof.B.M.L.D.B. Suriyagoda	
Dr.A.D. Igalavithana	
Dr.B.E.P. Mendis	
Dr.R.P.N.P. Rajapakse	
Dr.K.W.L.K. Weerasinghe	
Dr.W.M.G.M.B. Bowatte	Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
Dr.A.C.M. Fahim	
Dr.M.H.F. Sakeen	
Prof.S.L. Ekanayake	Faculty of Dental Sciences
Prof.W.M. Tilakaratne	
Prof.M.A.R.M. Fernando	Faculty of Engineering
Prof.K.B.S.N. Jinadasa	
Prof.R.G. Ragel	
Prof.S.D. Dharmaratne	Faculty of Medicine
Prof.N.S. Kalupahana	
Prof.M.K. Prasad	
Prof.R.L.R. Chandrajith	Faculty of Science
Prof.D.N. Karunaratne	
Prof.N.L.V.V. Karunaratne	
Prof.S.H.P.P. Karunaratne	
Prof.A.D.L.C. Perera	
Prof.H.M.D.N. Priyantha	
Prof.R.S. Rajakaruna	
Prof.R.P.V.J. Rajapakse	Faculty of Vet. Medicine and Animal Science