



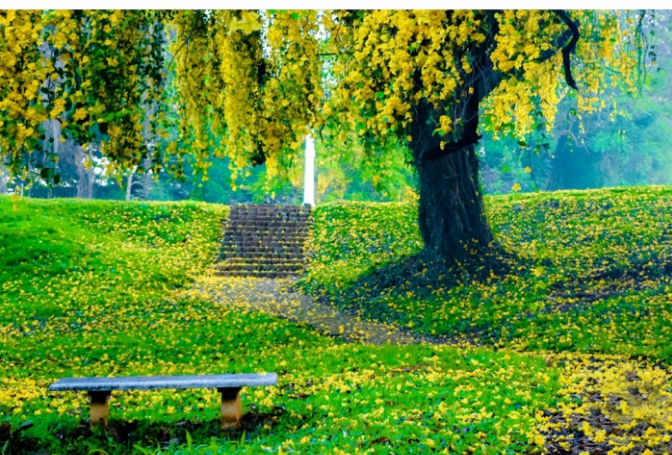
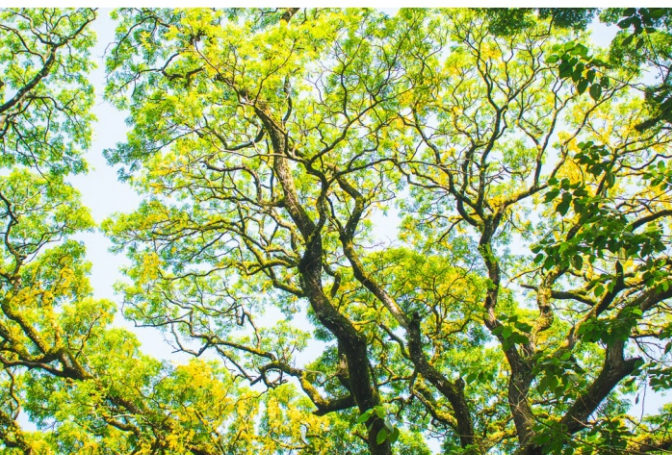
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA NEWS LETTER

A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

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Editorial Board

Advisors : Prof. MD Lamawansa
Prof. Terrence Madhujith

Language Editor: Dr. NPS Kumburegama

News Editor & Coordinator: Ms. Kanchana Atapattu

Graphic & Layout Designer : Mr. Lakshman Gunasekara

Photography by : Mr. Gihan Gambarapitiya



Contacts



Web

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



Tel

+94(0)81 20 85 408



Fax

+94 (0)81 238 8102



Email

statoffice@gs.pdn.ac.lk



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Pirith Chanting



On 2nd January 2023, a Pirith Chanting ceremony was held at the Senate Building to invoke blessings on the University community at the turn of the new year. Further, clergy from all four major religions invoked blessings, followed by taking of oaths by the University staff. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Deans of Faculties, Acting Registrar, Mr. Mahinda Ekanayake, the Chief Marshal, Mr. Werahera, and academic, executive and non-academic staff took part in the event which was streamed through the official YouTube channel as a live event.

Overnight Pirith Chanting and Almsgiving for 80 Buddhist Monks



On the 13th and 14th January 2023, the University Buddhist Association in collaboration with the multicultural University community organized an all-night pirith chanting and almsgiving at the Senate Building of the University to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the University of Peradeniya. Sermons and the all-night chanting of Pirith was performed by the most venerable Sangha from the University temple and Sri Subodharamaya Peradeniya under a *pirith mandapaya* erected for the occasion. The following day an offering of almsgiving and pirikara for 80 venerable monks took place. The event was attended by the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Deans of all faculties, Directors of the postgraduate institutes, Acting Registrar, Bursar, Librarian and other members of the administrative staff, academic and non-academic staff led by their respective Heads of Departments, members of the Dayaka Sabāwa students, alumni, and other well-wishers.

Applications are now open for 2023 intake of the (PGIA)

For anyone who intends to follow an academic/professional path beyond a first degree (or equivalent qualification), the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture (PGIA) offers an opportunity to obtain a higher degree with Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF) standards.

Pera Tech Disrupt 2K22 Competition & Masterclass Series



The Business Linkage, Innovation, Incubation and Technology Transfer Office (BLII-TTO) of the University of Peradeniya in collaboration with the International Finance Cooperation (IFC) organized the "PERA TECH DISRUPT 2K22" competition for student and staff innovators to provide a common platform to pitch their innovations and to expose them to the commercial market. The main objective of this competition is to provide innovators with an opportunity to improve their knowledge in the field of startup entrepreneurship and technology transfer. By the closing date, the competition received over 20 innovation applications.

From 20th January to 02nd February 2023, as the next step of the competition, a Masterclass series was organized consisting of nine two-hour workshops covering five major topics via zoom to bridge the knowledge gap between the inventor and the investor. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. W.M. Terrence Madhujith was present for the commencement of the programme.

Working Student Assistantship Programme Sponsored by AAUP New Zealand Chapter



On 02nd February 2023, the inauguration of the Working Student Assistantship Programme funded by the AAUP New Zealand Chapter was held in the Senate Room. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Terrence Madhujith. Mrs. Chithra Jayawickrama, one of the former Vice-Presidents of the AAUP New Zealand Chapter, the Director of the Career Guidance Unit, Prof. Dileep de Silva, the Assistant Registrar of the Student Services, Mrs. Chandima Ratnayake, and 33 student assistantship recipients attended the event.

Orientation for the Diploma in Laboratory Technology Programme

On 11th February 2023, the Centre for Distance and Continuing Education (CDCE) organized an Orientation Programme for the new registrants of the Diploma in Laboratory Technology at the Statistics and Computer Science Department Theater of the University of Peradeniya. Professor W.M. Terrence Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanath Rajapaksha, the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Prof. Abey Rathnayake, the Director, CDCE, and many other resource persons and Students



Welcome for New Entrants (2020/2021 Batch) - Faculty of Dental Sciences



The welcome ceremony of the new entrants to the Faculty of Dental Sciences was held at the K. Bamberadeniya Auditorium on 3rd January 2023. The event participated by the new entrants and their parents was graced by the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and the Deans of the faculties of the University of Peradeniya. Prof. A.M. Attigalla, Dean, Faculty of Dental Sciences, welcomed the gathering. Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. B.M.H.S.K. Banneheka, Chairman of the Student Welfare Advisory Committee (SWAC) and Mr. Sachithra Wijeratne and President of the Dental Faculty Student Union addressed the gathering.

Felicitation Ceremony for Retired Non-Academic Staff

The Felicitation Ceremony for the retired Executive Officers and Non-Academic staff members of the year 2022 was held on 22nd February 2023 at the Auditorium of the Department of Education, Faculty of Arts. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya presided over the ceremony, which was organized by the Office of the Registrar. During the event, two retired Executive Officers and forty-eight Non-Academic staff members were felicitated for their dedicated service to the University.



MoU between the University of Peradeniya and the Ministry of Agriculture



An Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University of Peradeniya and the Ministry of Agriculture for collaborative research and development activities, knowledge transfer, student training and mutual benefits to the two parties. Intended work under this MoU will be carried under seven training centers operated under the ministry (District Agriculture Training Center in Homagama, District Agriculture

Training Centre in Ambepussa, In-service Training Center in Bombuwala, District Agriculture Training Center in Horana, District Agriculture Training Center in Walpita, Kotadeniyawa Animal Husbandry Training Center, and Pitipana Aquaculture Development Center).

On 28th February 2023, Prof W.M. Terrence Madhujith, the Deputy, and Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. B.C. Jayawardena, Head of the Department of Animals Science, Prof. R.M.C. Deshapriya, the former Head of the Department of Animal Science, Dr. P. Weththasingha of the Department of Animals Science, from the University of Peradeniya and Dr K.K. Sarath, Provincial Director of the Provincial Department of Animal Production and Health participated in the event at the Vice-Chancellors Office, University of Peradeniya. Prof. Sarath Kodithuwakku, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture was acknowledged for the initiation of the work.

University of Peradeniya is ranked 901 among the best global university by the US News and World Report



Project for Implementation of Environmental Awareness Programmes Among Local Schools



Prof. Yoshiyuki Nagata (University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo, Japan), and his team of Japanese resource personnel met Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya on 21st March 2023 to discuss the implementation of environmental awareness programmes among local schools in Dangolla, Kandy through the establishment of a Green Youth model. The above programmes will be implemented by the University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo, Japan through the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) of the University of Peradeniya with funding provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Mobile Clinic for Healthy Life

The Department of Nursing of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya is pleased to announce the initiation of its mobile clinic service named “Mobile Clinic for Healthy Life” as an income-generating activity. It provides a wide variety of health services for working professionals at their workplaces.



The main aims of this clinic are to screen working adults for selected non-communicable diseases and provide necessary tips to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The first clinic was conducted successfully at the DFCC bank premises, Kandy on the 26th of January 2023.

Recognition of the Best Performing Employees



On 2nd January 2023, at a ceremony organized by the University, twenty-seven best-performing University employees were recognized. These twenty-seven employees were selected from among 150 applicants belonging to three categories. This is the first time in recent history

that the best-performing academic & non-executive employees were recognized by the University. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Acting Registrar, Mr. Mahinda Ekanayake, Bursar, Mr. Nissanka Arampath, Deans of Faculties, Directors of University Centers, the Deputy Registrar of the Non-Academic Establishment, Ms. Thushari Amarasena, and a few other University officials, as well as the awardees and Managers of the Peradeniya Branches of Bank of Ceylon and Peoples Bank were present at the event. Furthermore, the non-academics who have successfully completed the ICT programme conducted by the University Information Technology Center also received certificates on this

Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Peradeniya and the Department of Animal Production and Health



The University of Peradeniya and the Department of Animal Production and Health signed a memorandum of understanding to analyze the evolution and spread of poultry-related zoonotic pathogens and antimicrobial resistance along the farm-to-fork continuum in the poultry industry in Sri Lanka to ensure the provision of microbiologically safe chicken meat to consumers both locally and internationally. The two institutes will work collaboratively towards achieving their objectives.

The agreement was signed by Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya and Dr. Hemali Kothalawala, Director General of the Department of Animal Production and Health, at a ceremony held on 9th March 2023 at the University of Peradeniya.

Closing Ceremony of the JICA Chair Programme 2022

On 8th January 2023, the Closing Ceremony of Japan's Modernization Studies, JICA Chair Programme 2022 was held at the Oak Ray Regency to mark the successful completion of the course by over 500 students from all districts of the country.



The ceremony was organized by the Sri Lanka Japan Study Centre (SLJSC) in collaboration with the International Relations Office (InRO), Coordination Unit of Internships Volunteering and Community Outreach (CIVICO) of the University of Peradeniya and Sri Lanka Academics Association in Japan. Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, attended the event as the Chief Guest. Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Ms. Ide Yuri, Senior Representative, JICA Sri Lanka, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, the Director, InRO, University of Peradeniya, Dr. Panduka Neluwala, the Director, SLJSC, and other invited dignitaries were also present at the occasion.

Following the keynote address by Dr. Ogata Kazuo's titled "Agriculture Development in Japan: a Very Brief History of 150 Years", a panel discussion with Prof. Kamala Liyanage, Professor Emeritus, University of Peradeniya and Dr. Ogata Kazuo, University of Japan, and moderated by Prof. Buddhi Marambe was held.

Introductory Training on Part-Time Opportunity for Undergraduates

The introductory training session for undergraduates who applied for the Dialog Connection Installer part-time opportunity was held on 10th February 2023, at the Career Guidance Unit of the University Peradeniya. This is a joint project by the Dialog Axiata PLC and the Career Guidance Unit of the University to support students to gain career skills as undergraduates while being financially benefited.

Prof. W.M. Terrence Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University, a Team of senior managers at Dialog, the Director, and staff of the Career Guidance Unit, and 65 students representing different faculties of the University were present at the opening session of the programme.

RKW. Goonesekere Memorial Programme on Law and Justice 2023



On 22nd February 2023, two events organized by the Department of Law, of the University of Peradeniya under the auspices of the RKW. Goonesekere Memorial Endowment were held at the Seminar Room of the Faculty of Arts. The objective of the programme was to celebrate the legacy of the late Deshamanya R.K.W. Goonesekere, a remarkable legal academic, legal practitioner and a renowned defender of justice and rule of law in Sri Lanka. He was also the Chancellor of the University of

Peradeniya from 2002 to 2007. The RKW Goonesekere Memorial Endowment established at the University of Colombo envisages that the programme rotates each year among public institutions of legal education, and the Department of Law of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Peradeniya was privileged to host the event this year. The distinguished speaker of the events was Mr. Saliya Peiris, President's Counsel and the President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

The first programme was themed 'Struggle for Democracy and Rule of Law in Sri Lanka: Role of the Legal Profession' and was aimed at creating an opportunity for students to interact with eminent members of the bar who uphold the values considered sacred by Mr. Goonesekera and to promote the ideals of justice through law and integrity of the legal profession. The audience joined the session both in-person and online and comprised of undergraduates of the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya, the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, the Department of Law, University of Jaffna and the Department of Legal Studies of the Open University of Sri Lanka. The participants commented that the programme was an eye-opener and an immense inspiration for them to embrace their future potential in the legal profession as social engineers.



The theme of the second programme was 'Democracy, the Right to Dissent and Preventing Sri Lanka from being a Failed State'. This provided the an opportunity for sharing creative thought on matters relating to governance and public law with the academic community and the larger public. Many distinguished invitees attended the session including Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Dr. Maduranga Kalugampitiya, Head of the Department of English, representing the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Prof. Deepika Udagama, Head of the Department of Law, Prof. Savitri Goonesekere, emeritus Professor of Law, University of Colombo, members of late Mr. R.K.W. Goonesekere's family, Mr. Sunanda Udagalama, President of the Kandy Bar Association, legal practitioners, and academics from various departments of studies. The Vice-Chancellor in his speech congratulated the Department of Law for providing an opportunity for strengthening critical understanding of professional ethics and strengthening of the linkages between academia and the legal profession. Dr. Kalugampitiya, speaking on behalf of the Dean of the Faculty, commented that the Programme was a fitting tribute to the great legal scholar and practitioner with an activist's spirit as it provided an opportunity to share cutting edge ideas on a very timely theme with the larger community. The discussion that followed the presentation of Mr. Saliya Peiris, as well the feedback received from attendees of the Programme, made it clear that the session was remarkably insightful, timely, and thought-provoking.

Welcome For New Entrants (2020/2021 Batch) – Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science

The welcome ceremony for the new entrants to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science was held at the Department of Farm Animal Production and Health Auditorium on the 10th of January 2023. The new entrants and their parents were present at the occasion. The event was graced by the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and the Deans of faculties of University of Peradeniya. Dr. N.M.T. Anupama, coordinator of the orientation programme welcomed the gathering. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, Prof. P.G.A. Pushpakumara, and Mr. Anupama Sandakelum, Secretary, Veterinary Students Union addressed the gathering. Also during the event, medals and certificates were awarded to the best academic and research scholars. An incoming student of the 2020/2021 batch shared the experience of the "Prevett Exposure Programme", where students for the first time got the opportunity to participate in short training programmes in veterinary offices, hospitals, clinics, zoos and wildlife rehabilitation centers around the country.



Meeting of the Vice-Chancellor and Staff of the Department of Computer Engineering



Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, met with a group of academics from the Faculty of Engineering to discuss strengthening international collaborations. The group included Dr. Udaya Dissanayake, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Prof. Roshan Ragel, Dr. Kamalanath Samarakoon, the Head of the Department of Computer Engineering, Director/ETIC, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director, of the International Research Office, Dr. Panduka Neluwala, Coordinator, of

International Relations of the Faculty of Engineering, and Dr. Damayanthi Herath, Coordinator of International Relations of the Department of Computer Engineering. During the meeting, Dr. Samarakoon shared insights on expanding University teaching and learning activities, incubation, and collaborations between the faculties of the University with industry, and foreign universities with regard to product development, drawing on his recent visits to international universities. The Vice-Chancellor signed three Memorandums of Understanding to foster further collaborations between the University of Peradeniya and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD), Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR), and Lovely Professional University (LPU) of India.

MoU between the University of Peradeniya and Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine



A Memorandum of Understanding facilitating collaborative research activities between the University of Peradeniya and the Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine was signed by the Vice-Chancellors, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa of University of Peradeniya and Prof. Janitha A. Liyanage of Gampaha Wickramarachchi University on the 31st of December 2022. The MoU is the first of its kind and marks a milestone in the history of research culture in Sri Lanka, where collaboration between

Western and Indigenous medical practices is not only facilitated but encouraged and celebrated.

The goal is to offer a unique opportunity to scholars of both universities to engage in innovative, productive research activities while supporting each other in expanding their knowledge bases. The ultimate benefit would be to the general public of Sri Lanka, who would experience the best of both worlds in time to come.

Welcome for New Entrants (2021/2022 Batch) – Faculty of Medicine

The welcome ceremony of the new entrants (2021/22 Batch) to the Faculty of Medicine, was held at the Physiology Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Medicine, on the 30th of January 2023, under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. M.D. Lamawansa. New undergraduate students of the 2021/22 batch and their parents were present at the occasion.



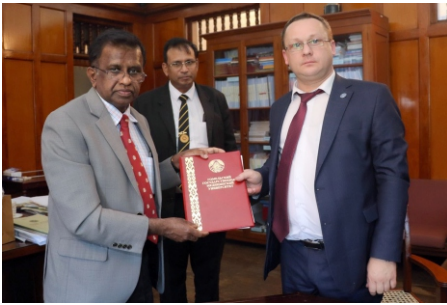
Special guest of the event, Professor Emeritus Malini Udupuhille, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. W.M. Terrence Madhujith, and the Deans of the faculties of the University of Peradeniya were in attendance. Prof. Vasanthi Pinto, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, welcomed the gathering. Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor and Prof. Udaya Ralapanawa, the Chairman of the Student Affairs Committee (SAC), addressed the gathering. Prof. Malini Udupilhille delivered the inaugural lecture. Two hundred and thirty-five new entrants registered on the day.

Planting Trees to Celebrate the 75th Independence Day



Eighty saplings were planted along the Gampola and Galaha roads within the university lands to mark the 75th Independence Day and to celebrates its 80th anniversary of the University. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Terrence Madhujith, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Udaya Dissanayake, Curators, Dr. Nalin Suranjith and Mr. Asantha Bandara, the Chief Security Officer, Public Relations Officer, Prof. Chalinda Bneneragama and staff of the Landscape Division took part in the event held at the Faculty of Engineering.

The Meeting with Vice-Rector for Academic Work, Gomel State Medical University, Belarus



Prof. Melnik Viktor Alexandrovich, Vice-Rector for academic work, Gomel State Medical University, Belarus visited the University of Peradeniya on the 17th of February 2023. Prof. Alexandrovich was accompanied by Dr. Lasantha Amarakoon, Chairman of the REC Campus. Prof. Alexandrovich was welcomed by Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya. Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director of the International Relations Office, and Prof. Vasanthi Pinto, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine also participated in the meeting.

After a brief introduction to the Gomel State Medical University, Belarus by Prof. Alexandrovich, possible academic collaborations including student and staff exchange programmes between the two universities and the possibility of clinical training at the Gomel State Medical University were discussed during the meeting. Possible disciplines for academic collaborations including psychiatric and clinical training were highlighted during the short discussion. The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine expressed her interest in starting elective courses at the University of Peradeniya which the students from Gomel State Medical University could visit and study during the summer vacation periods. An MoU between the two universities was signed during the meeting to strengthen future academic collaborations. A short visit to the Faculty of Medicine was conducted following the meeting.

Course on Career Development - 2022

On 30th January 2023, the students who successfully completed the course on Career Development conducted by the Career Guidance Unit (CGU) of the University of Peradeniya were awarded certificates at the CGU premises.

The course was a three-month program offered for the first and second-year university students. The syllabus and course modules have been developed by the University Grants Commission in accordance with the Commission Circular No 934. The course was offered from 1st September to 23rd November 2022 and covered 60 hours with four practical sessions. Introduction to career development, an 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

The Launch of the SGBVC Handbook: Preventing Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence

On 27th February 2023, the ceremonial launch of the handbook for University students and staff on "Preventing Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence in the University of Peradeniya" took place at the Senate Room of the University of Peradeniya. The Vice-Chancellor and other distinguished invitees graced the occasion at the Senate room. The handbook is the product of a group effort by the members of the Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Sexual Violence Prevention Committee (SGBVC) of the University of Peradeniya. It comes in all three languages and the hard copies will be distributed among the first-year students at the University while soft copies will be uploaded to the University website.



Prof. Carmen Wickramagamage, Chairperson, SGBVC of the University of Peradeniya gave a brief introduction to the booklet. The Vice-Chancellor emphasized the importance of making the University community aware of issues related to (SGBV). The event concluded with acknowledgements by Prof. Charmalie Abeysekara, former Secretary of SGBVC. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Deans of Faculties, the Acting Registrar, the Proctor, and members of the SGBVC were among the distinguished guests that graced the occasion.

University stepped forward to conserve Mahaweli Riverbank

University of Peradeniya in collaboration with Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority launched a Bamboo Tree Planting Program intending to conserve the riverbanks of the Mahaweli and its ecosystem.

The program's first phase was initiated by planting a few bamboo saplings on the right bank of River Mahaweli near Sarasavi Medura Hall premises on the 20th January 2023. Prof. Terrence Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ruwan Jayasingha, the Proctor, Prof. Tilak Hewawasam, the Director of the Centre for Environmental Sustainability, Mr. Asantha Bandara, Curator, Ms. Nilmini Ekanayake, Assistant Director of Forest and Environment Conservation Division of Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority, and the residents of the Sarasavi Medura hall participated in the event.



nEUROcare Workshop

The fourth workshop of the nEUROcare Project was successfully held at the Grand Kandyan hotel on the 13th and 14th of February 2023 from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm. "nEUROcare – a European initiative for capacity building to meet the challenges of caring for people with neurodegenerative disorders in Sri



Lanka" is a project aimed for capacity building in the field of Higher Education (CBHE). The main coordinator of this joint project is Kristianstad University (Sweden). The partner Universities of this project are Triskelion (Norway), University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), University of Tartu (Estonia), Neapolis University Pafos (Cyprus), University of Colombo, University of Ruhuna, University of Peradeniya and Kotelawala Defense University. About 45 European and Sri Lankan project members participated in the event.

Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Major General Milinda Peiris, the Vice-Chancellor of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University and Prof. Håkan Pihl, the Vice-Chancellor of Kristianstad University graced the inauguration session. The event was coordinated by Dr. Damayanthi Dassanayake, the Project Manager of nEUROcare, and Director (Acting), University Research Council, University of Peradeniya.

Exclusive Technology License Agreement Signing Ceremony with Sarasavi Industries (Pvt) Ltd. and the University of Peradeniya



On 16th March 2023, the University of Peradeniya signed the second technology license agreement with Sarasavi Industries (Pvt) Ltd. for the product commercialization of RESPIRONE NANO AV 99 face mask, which was invented by Prof. R.M. Gamini Rajapakshe, Dr. Chaminda Herath, Mr. Gayan Thilakarathna and the research team from the Faculty of Science. The agreement was signed on behalf of the University of Peradeniya by Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, and Ms. M.G.J. Dharmasiri,

Acting Registrar of the University of Peradeniya while Mr. Chamath Kumara, Head of Marketing and Administration signed the agreement on behalf of Sarasavi Industries (Pvt) Ltd.

During the signing ceremony, Sarasavi Industries (Pvt) Ltd. handed over the license fee and royalty payment cheques to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya. Additionally, Prof. R.M. Gamini Rajapakshe handed over the 1st patent document, which was granted under University of Peradeniya, to the Vice-Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Deputy Vice-chancellor, Prof. W.M. Terrence Madhujith, Acting Registrar, Ms. M.G.J. Dharmasiri, Prof. R.G.S.C. Rajapakse, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Prof. R.M.G. Rajapakse, Prof. Y.P.R.D. Yapa, Director of BLII-TTO, Prof. B.D.R. Prasantha, of the IP Advisory Sub Committee, Prof. Ruwan Jayasinghe, Director of OTS, Dr. P.M.T.B. Sandirigama, of the IP Advisory Sub Committee, Ms. K.R.T. Amani Kahandawa, Technology Manager of BLII-TTO, and Miss. Sankapali Mallawarachchi, Project Assistant of BLII-TTO from the University of Peradeniya and Mr. D.K.D. Chamath Kumara, Head of Marketing and Administration, Mr. A.P.A. Prasanna, Finance Manager, Mr. P.R.J. Fernando, Operations Manager, and Mrs. V.L. Kularathne from Sarasavi Industries (Pvt) Ltd. participated in the event held at the Senate Conference Room of the University of Peradeniya.

This technology license agreement made a significant milestone for both the University of Peradeniya and Sarasavi Industries (Pvt) Ltd. in their efforts to promote innovation and advance technology in Sri Lanka.

In Service Training Workshop for Dental Surgeons in the Kandy District



On 20th March 2023, an in-service training workshop for dental surgeons was successfully conducted at the Bambaradeniya Memorial Auditorium, organized by the Center for Research in Oral Cancer, Faculty of Dental Sciences. The resource persons for the workshop were Prof Ruwan D. Jayasinghe, Prof. Dileep De Silva, Prof. Mudiyanse Rasnayake and Dr. Kalani Hettiarachchi. Important and timely topics such as the use of technology in the early detection of oral cancer and potentially malignant oral disorders, coping with challenges, and how to obtain research allowance for ministry of health employees were covered during the workshop.

Signing a memorandum of understanding with GSL institutions, India



University of Peradeniya signed a memorandum of understanding with GSL institutions, India at the First International Head and Neck Oncology & Esthetic conference held from 16th to 18th March 2023 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor of the University signed the MoU on behalf of the University of Peradeniya.

A team of staff and students from the GSL institutions visited the Faculty of Dental Sciences of the University of Peradeniya on 19th March 2023 to discuss future collaborations in research, development and technical exchange. Prof. A.M. Attygalla, Dean of the Faculty of Dental Sciences and Prof. R.D. Jayasinghe, Chair Professor of Department of Oral Medicine and Periodontology of the Faculty of Dental Sciences took part in the discussions.

One Health Poultry - Sri Lanka is in Nikaweratiya



On 24th March 2023, One Health Poultry Hub - Sri Lanka in collaboration with Sri Lanka Veterinary Association successfully completed a training workshop on "Training on Poultry Nutrition, Health and Bio-Security" at the Wannigama Training Center, to the large scale commercial farmers in the North Western Province.

Dr. Dilan Satharasinghe, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science, University of Peradeniya and President of Sri Lanka Veterinary Association, Dr. Nimal Priyankarage, Registrar, Animal Feed, Department of Animal Production and Health and Dr. Thushari Gunawardana, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science, University of Peradeniya participated as resource persons in the workshop.

Visit of Dr. Laura Tedesco, Programme Manager for Cultural Heritage in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs



On 23rd February 2023, a meeting with Dr. Laura Tedesco, the Programme Manager for Cultural Heritage for the Bureau of South and Central Asia of the Department of State, was held in the Conference Room of the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya. The preservation of cultural heritage in Sri Lanka and the challenges associated with it was discussed during the meeting. Dr. Tedesco further explained that their main objective was to support U.S. Embassies in South and Central Asia in identifying and guiding cultural preservation projects supported by the Department of State. Dr. Tedesco was accompanied by Ms. Kelly McCarthy, First Secretary of the U.S. Embassy and Chamalie Weerasekera, Cultural Affairs Specialist.

Short Course in Tropical Biodiversity and Conservation, 2023



The Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya conducted a Short Course in Tropical Biodiversity and Conservation for ten students of Federation University, Australia, in January 2023. The programme Leader, Dr. Kushan Tennakoon, an alumnus of the Faculty of Science and currently a Lecturer in Environmental Science at Federation University, obtained funding from the New Colombo Plan for this course. Ms. Sharon Reid, an ecologist at the Federation University, also accompanied the students.

This two-week residential course emphasized field experience which enabled participants to appreciate the high biodiversity and endemism of Sri Lanka's flora and fauna. Thus, students visited the Knuckles Conservation Forest, Wasgomuwa, Udawalawe, and Madu Ganga National Parks, and Kanneliya Forest Reserve to obtain first-hand experience of the unique biodiversity of Sri Lanka in different bioclimatic zones. They visited forest restoration sites at Hantana and the Knuckles Conservation Forest and participated in tree-planting activities in Knuckles. Further, the students observed the success of the orphaned elephant rehabilitation programme at Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home. The students were also given an overview of cultural practices related to the biodiversity of Sri Lanka. Participants were able to appreciate the uses of plants in traditional medicine at a home garden at Mahala Kotuwa in the Illukkumbura area and met a practitioner of traditional medicine in Ambalangoda. Students visited eco-tourism initiatives such as a turtle hatchery in Ambalangoda and a cinnamon-processing plant in Madu Ganga and were able to observe firsthand some of the socio-economic constraints that affect conservation measures.

The teaching panel of the course comprised of several academic staff members from the Departments of Botany and Zoology of the Faculty of Science, and the Basic Veterinary Sciences of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Peradeniya.

We Lead Career Fiesta 23 at University of Peradeniya



On 23rd February 2023, the Career Guidance Unit, in collaboration with the We Lead Career Skills Society, organized one of the largest events of the University, "We Lead Career Fiesta '23" at the JRDC premises in Peradeniya. The programme aimed

to provide undergraduates with the opportunity to meet professionals from corporates, discuss potential job and/or internship opportunities and to learn about higher education opportunities and other professional qualifications.

The event was a success with the participation of over 30 companies and 1500+ undergraduates and 500+ school leavers. The opening ceremony of the Career Fiesta was graced by Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. W.M. Terrence Madhujith, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University, Deans of the faculties and representatives from top-end companies.

Staff Badminton Championship 2022

The Invitational Universities Staff Badminton Championship 2022, organized by the University of Colombo, was held on the 13th and 14th of January 2023 at the Indoor Gymnasium of the University of Colombo. The championship was held with the participation of all Government Universities under the UGC and UGC-recognized higher Educational Institutes. The Tournament was organized around the following seven championship categories: Men's Open Team Championship; Women's Open Team Championship; Men's Over 40 Team Championship; Open Men's Single; Open Women's Single; Over 40 Men's Single; Over 40 Women's Single.

The University of Peradeniya won the Men's Open Team Championship, and the Men's Over 40 Team Championship. Players from the University of Peradeniya were also recognized for their outstanding individual performances.

Men's Open Team Championship

Champions – Team Members

- I. U. Lokusooriya (Shroff – Accounts Division, Faculty of Engineering)
- Roshana De Silva (Technical Officer, Department of Sociology Faculty of Arts)
- R. M. A. P. Rathnayaka (Book Binder, Main Library)
- K. A. Ravindra (Book Binder, Main Library)
- Y. M. K. Indika (Electrician, Electrical Division)
- K. W. L. N. Indika (Instructor, Department of Physical Education)

Men's Over 40 Team Championship

Champions – Team Members

- R. M. A. P. Rathnayaka (Book Binder, Main Library)
- K. A. Ravindra (Book Binder, Main Library)
- Y. M. K. Indika (Electrician, Electrical Division)
- K. W. L. N. Indika (Instructor, Department of Physical Education)

Open Men's Single

- 2nd Runner-up – Mr. I. U. Lokusooriya (Shroff – Accounts Division, Faculty of Engineering)
- 2nd Runner-up – Mr. Roshana De Silva (Technical Officer, Department of Sociology Faculty of Arts)

Over 40 Men's Single

- Runner-up – Mr. Y. M. K. Indika (Electrician, Electrical Division)
- 2nd Runner-up – Mr. K. A. Ravindra (Book Binder, Main Library)
- 2nd Runner-up – Mr. K. W. L. N. Indika (Instructor, Department of Physical Education)



Recommencement of the Medical Imaging Center



The reopening ceremony of the Medical Imaging Center, University of Peradeniya, was held on 5th January 2023. The Department of Radiography/ Radiotherapy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences proudly unveiled the Medical Imaging Center to the general public. The center offers state of the art X-ray facility with a focus on providing optimum patient care. Prof. M.D.M.L.D.K. Yatawara, Dean, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Prof. P.B. Hewavithana, Chair Professor, Department of Radiology, Faculty of Medicine, Prof. R.D. Jayasinghe, Chair Professor, Department of Oral Medicine and Periodontology, Faculty of

Dental Sciences, academic and non-academic staff members of the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Dental Sciences, and Faculty of Allied Health Sciences representatives from hospitals and students graced the occasion.

Workshop on the Importance of Ethical Considerations in Research



The University Research Council (URC) concluded a workshop on the importance of ethical considerations in research on 30th March 2023 at Hotel Tourmaline. The workshop was attended by 45 permanent staff members of the University and four Research Assistants (RAs) from the AI4COVID project. The morning session was in a lecture format

with three interactive sessions. Ms. Purnima Perera from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Open University of Sri Lanka delivered an inspiring lecture on the basics of research ethics, the importance of ethical scrutiny in research, and the significance of ethical clearance for sociological research. Dr. Samidi Navaratna, from the Department of Community Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, followed with a lecture on ethical considerations in biomedical research. Dr. Chathurika Dandeniya, from the Department of Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya who also represented the Ethical Clearance Committee of the Faculty of Medicine discussed the ethical clearance process.

In the evening session, the participants had an interactive session facilitated by three experienced researchers: Prof. R.M. Mudiyanse from the Department of Paediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Niroshani Zoysa from the Department of Oral Medicine and Periodontology at the Faculty of Dental Sciences, and Prof. Sakunthala Yatigammana Ekanayake from the Department of Education, Faculty of Arts. The session engaged all the participants, providing insights into ethical flaws in research. The funding for this workshop was provided by the AI4COVID project, funded by IDRC, Canada.

Overall, the workshop provided valuable insights into the importance of ethical considerations in research and highlighted how to ensure that research is conducted with integrity and accountability.

Annual Faculty Research Symposium and Awards 2022 - AFReSA

The Annual Faculty Research Symposium and Awards Ceremony 2022 organized by the Faculty Research Committee of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences of the University of Peradeniya was held on 28th February 2023. The occasion was graced by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith, who delivered an informative and encouraging speech.

The keynote speech titled, "Reinvigorating Health Research Post-Pandemic" was delivered by Prof. Don Eliseo Lucero Priso III, the Chief Editor for Public Health Challenges. The event allowed undergraduates, postgraduates, and grantees of University Research Grant of the Faculty to present their research work. The event also included a 3-minute thesis presentation competition. There were 09 Oral presentations and 12 Poster presentations in the event. The Faculty Research Awards, an annual award for research publications of academics, were bestowed upon the academics of the Faculty during the awarding Ceremony.

Developing Inclusive Education for Students With Disabilities (SWDs) in Sri Lankan Universities (IncEdu)



The Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania is a partner university of the Erasmus+ CBHE project "Developing Inclusive Education for Students With Disabilities (SWDs) in Sri Lankan Universities (IncEdu)". On 14th March 2023, a three member team consisting of, Prof.

Carmen Buzea, Prof. Arabela Briciu, and Prof. Victor Briciu from the Transilvania University, who are responsible for the project quality planning and assurance, visited the University of Peradeniya to obtain an assessment of the progress of the activities of IncEdu. The three Professors visited the newly renovated Special Needs Resource Centre of the Faculty of Arts and had discussions with academic and non-academic staff members involved in teaching the SWDs.

Prof. Carmen Buzea, who is also the Vice-Rector for Research & IT at the Transilvania University of Brasov and the rest of the team met and discussed future collaborations with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, the Dean and members of the Faculty of Arts, the Head and members of the Department of Sociology, and the Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Ceremonial Signing of the MoU on the Double Degree Programme



A ceremony to sign a new MoU on the double degree programme between the University of Peradeniya and the Graduate School of Science and Technology of Niigata University, Japan, was held on 10th January 2023, at the Vice-Chancellor's office, University of Peradeniya. The double degree programme aims at fostering the exchange of students between the two universities on mutually agreed fields of studies in science. It will provide the exchange students with valuable educational opportunities, and jointly supervised field and research training up to a maximum duration of one year.

The coordinator of this programme from the University of Peradeniya, Prof. Sanjeewa Malaviaarachchi welcomed the participants and introduced the objectives of the MoU. The coordinator from Niigata University Prof. Satish Kumar briefed on the background and the content of the MoU. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa highlighted the significance of the new MoU and the history of the existing university-level MoUs with Niigata University which have immensely benefitted the two universities since 2010. The Vice-Chancellor and the Acting Registrar, Ms. Jayantha Dharmasiri were the signatories for the MoU from the University of Peradeniya while Prof. Ogura Kazuo, Dean of the Graduate School of Science was the signatory from the Niigata University. Prof. Neil Alles, the Director, International Relations Office (InRO) delivered the vote of thanks and concluded the event. The Dean (actg.) of the Faculty of Science, Dr. Buddhika Dassanayake, the Head of the Department of Geology, Dr. Udeni Amarasinghe, the present and immediate past representatives to the InRO from the Faculty of Science, Dr. Dimanthi Uduwela and Prof. Amalaka Pinidiyaarachchi respectively were also present at the ceremony.

Workshop on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy

The workshop on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) was held at the Centre for Research in Oral Cancer of the Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya on the 15th of February from 8.30 am to 1.30 pm. ACT offers a psychological model well suited to the needs of patients with a disfiguring condition. Nearly 30 nurses and physiotherapists who work in government hospitals in Kandy participated in the workshop. This was jointly organized by nEUROcare project, the University of Peradeniya and the Kandy Society of Medicine.

The resource persons of the workshop were Prof. Martin Persson and Ms. Emma Edberg Matei from the Faculty of Health Sciences, Kristianstad University, Sweden. Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Deans of the Faculty of Dental Sciences and Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Dr. Kanchana Edirisinghe, the President of Kandy Society of Medicine (KSM) and Dr. Chaturanga Keppetiyagama, the Secretary of KSM, and Dr. Surangika Wadugodapitiya, Head, Department of Physiotherapy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences participated as guests.



AI Workshop for Health Professionals under the AI4COVID project

A full-day workshop titled "Artificial Intelligence Framework for Threat Assessment and Containment for COVID-19 and Future Epidemics" was held on 23rd March 2023, at the Pegasus Reef hotel as part of the IDRC-funded research project. The aim was to raise awareness among health sector employees about the application of AI in the health sector and to gather feedback on the system developed by the AI4COVID team of the University of Peradeniya. The system would transform the AI-informed policy into a set of recommendations that policymakers and medical practitioners can access without any barriers.

The IDRC-funded project research team, with the participation of three researchers from Universiti Tenaga Nasional, Malaysia, conducted the workshop. A total of 35 participants attended the workshop from the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, the Ministry of Health, the University of Kelaniya, the University of Colombo, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, and Sri Lanka Air Force.

The workshop started with Prof. J.B. Ekanayake, the Principal Investigator of the project. Delivering the welcome address outlining the workshop's objective and providing an overview of the project. Prof. Roshan Godaliyadda and Prof. Parakrama Ekanayake from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering then gave a session on "AI applications in the health sector with examples from research carried out at the University of Peradeniya." Following that, the two research assistants from the project, Mr. Lakshitha Ramanayake and Mr. Neranjan Senarath introduced the Simulation Engine developed by the AI4COVID group. Prof. Tiong Sieh Kiong from Universiti Tenaga Nasional concluded the session with an interactive presentation on "AI application for health sector research activities in Malaysia." Finally, a group discussion took place on feedback for the simulation engine to transform its outputs into a set of recommendations that policymakers and medical practitioners could access without any barriers.



The workshop was a success, with the research team receiving positive feedback and expression of interest in working collaboratively to improve the work being carried out by the AI4COVID research team.

Students Join Hands with the Kandy Municipal Council to Clean the Sacred City of Kandy

On 11th March 2023, the students of the Geographical Society and the Botanical Society of the University of Peradeniya participated in the Kandy City Cleaning Day programme organized by the Municipal Council of Kandy. The students showed their commitment to social responsibility by lending a helping hand to the Kandy Municipal Council to clean the "Walakulu Bemma" and pedestrian path along Dalada Veediya and Sangaraja Mawatha next to the Kandy City Center (KCC).

The Urban Commissioner of Kandy Municipal Council (KMC), Mr. Ishan Wijethilaka, extended an invitation to the students to participate in the event, which was supported by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. M.D. Lamawansa and Deputy-Vice Chancellor Prof. W.M.Terrence Madhujith. The Center for Environmental Sustainability (CES) and the Business Linkage, Innovation, Incubation and Technology Transfer Office (BLII-TTO) of the University of Peradeniya coordinated the event.

The students at the University actively contributed towards maintaining the cleanliness of the city and took a step forward in promoting environmental sustainability. This event also served as a great opportunity for the students to interact with the local community and understand their civic responsibilities. The CES awarded participation certificates to all the students committed to this social responsibility.



Coffee Chat for Student and Academic Innovators and Entrepreneurs at BLII-TTO

On 26th January 2023, Coffee Chat, an initiative organized by the Business Linkage, Innovation, Incubation and Technology Transfer Office (BLII-TTO) of the University of Peradeniya in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) was held at the BLII-TTO Building, Uda Peradeniya. The first session of the event was open to all the students and academic staff of the University with priority given to the Faculty of Science.

The primary goals of this effort are to spread the commercialization culture within the University and to inform the staff and students about the resources provided by the BLII-TTO. The program included a tour of the BLII-TTO to introduce the participants to the facilities provided by the office, and two presentations on "The Role and Process of BLII-TTO" and "Intellectual Property (IP) Assets and Commercializing of IP". As the main item of the event, Mr. Ranjan Kulathunga, the founder of Innovator Park International (Pvt) Ltd shared his experiences, challenges, successes, and failures on his entrepreneurial journey. The participants were also able to share their stories, current issues, and the kind of assistance they require to become successful entrepreneurs. This initiative provided the participant insight as to how to meet the challenges. Further, the event provided the participants the opportunity to connect and network. Prof. Roshan Dharshana Yapa, Director of BLII-TTO, members of the IP Advisory Committee, Prof. Rohitha Prasantha, and Dr. P.M.T.B. Sandirigama and Dr. Dimanthi Uduwela, Director of the SIIC joined the event.

The Centre for Environmental Studies is renamed as the Centre for Environmental Sustainability



The Center for Environmental Studies (CES) was established in 1992 as a separate entity of the University of Peradeniya, with the intention of disseminating sound environmental knowledge on environmental management. During the time of its founding, the CES acted as the main academic entity of the country that provided training on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for development projects, and thus became an academic entity which primarily offers training programs in environmental management.

After revising its mandate in 2008, the CES focused more on providing consultancies for environmental projects at national level. As a leading university in the country with a large pool of experts in diverse fields, the CES provides consultancies on a wide range of environmental issues. The ultimate goal of providing such expertise is to achieve sustainable development and a healthy environment.

In 2021, with the involvement of the CES, an Environmental Policy for the University was introduced. Consequently, the mandate of the CES was slightly amended by adding more responsibilities to assist in environmental management, and the CES has been assisting the University towards implementing an effective environmental management system to make an eco-friendly Campus.

It is evident that the CES is now being operated not only as an entity for academic activities but also as a Center with a broader scope in promoting environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development. Therefore, the University of Peradeniya decided to change its name to “Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES)” with effect from November 2022.

The meeting with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan Delegation

On 10th March 2023, Dr. Mohd Farhan Hanif Reduan, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK) visited the University of Peradeniya. Dr. Reduan was accompanied by Dr. Intan Noor Aina Kamaruzaman, Coordinator of Student Mobility & Internationalisation and Dr. Thilini Gamage, Lecturer at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, UMK. Dr. Thilini Gamage is a recent graduate of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science (FVMAS), University of Peradeniya. Dr. Reduan and the delegation were welcomed by Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya. Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director of the Internationalisation Relations Office, and Prof. Anil Pushpakumara, Dean of the FVMAS, Dr. Rasika Jinadasa, Coordinator of the Postgraduate Education Unit of FVMAS and Dr. M.N.M. Fouzi, Chairperson of the Higher Degrees Committee of FVMAS.



Following a brief introduction by Dr. Reduan to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the UMK, possible academic collaborations including student and staff exchanges, and joint research projects between the two universities were discussed. It was agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Peradeniya and Universiti Malaysia Kelantan. The delegation then met the staff of the

FVMAS, and discussed potential collaborations in detail. Dr. Reduan who is a member of the Malaysian Veterinary Council (MVC) mentioned that the BVSc degree offered by the University of Ceylon is still recognized by the MVC and invited to make a formal request to extend the recognition of the BVSc degree offered by the University of Peradeniya, which the Dean of the FVMAS accepted. The delegation also visited facilities at FVMAS including teaching and research laboratories, Teaching Farm, and Teaching Hospitals.

News from Faculty of Medicine



Mr. R.D.K. Premasinghe, Technical Officer, and Lab Assistants Mr. H.G.S. Karunathilake and Mr. S.S. Jayasinghe, under the supervision of Mr. L. Gunathilake, Chief Technical Officer, successfully repaired the 60-year-old distilled water apparatus in the Department. By doing so, they saved the University approximately Rs. 500,000 that would have been required to purchase a new apparatus. Only the cost of the heater elements was borne by the University. It is hoped that the repaired apparatus will continue to serve the Department for many more years.

- Observational Visit to High Court, Badulla by medical students (Group –7 AB) of the 2018/19 batch who are undergoing training in Forensic Medicine was conducted on 23rd March 2-23. Prof. Amal Vadysinghe accompanied the students to observe a case proceeding.
- on 1st March 2023, the medical students [Group - 1 (CD) of 2018/19 batch] undergoing training in Forensic Medicine under the guidance of Prof. Sarathchandra Kodikara made an observational visit to the High Court, Gampaha to observe a case proceeding.
- Certificate awarding ceremony of the 8th batch of Diploma in Forensic Medicine (conducted for Lawyers and Judges) was held on 24th February 2023 at the department.



Team Elite is all set to head off to the USA



Four undergraduates, from the Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya have secured one of the top 3 world finalist positions in the 9th Annual IISE-SHS/FlexSim Student Simulation Competition. This Team Elite, led by Dinusha Bandara, a Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering undergraduate, and supported by Isara Tillekeratne (Computer Engineering), Anjula Nayanajith, and Manidu Hewage (both Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering), was guided by Dr. Subodha Dharmapriya, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering.

The top three finalist teams were invited to attend the Healthcare Systems & Process Improvement Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, USA from February 15-17, 2023, to present their final solutions and compete for the grand prize. Team Elite, representing Sri Lanka will be heading to the USA on the 13th of February 2023. We convey our heartiest wishes to them!

Education Expo 2023



On 02nd March 2023, the International Relations Office (InRO) of the University of Peradeniya organized an Education Exhibition at the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) in parallel to the EDEX Expo which was conducted from 24th to 27th February 2023 in Colombo and 04th to 05th March in Kandy. The Education Exhibition was conducted in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and the Postgraduate Institute of Science with the purpose of sharing the opportunities for postgraduate studies in Pakistan and the scholarship opportunities offered by the Pakistan Higher Education Commission.

Mr. Jehanzeb Khan, Project Director of the Pakistan-Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Programme of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan participated in the event. Mr. Jehanzeb Khan was accompanied by Mr. Afzal Marikar, Honorary Consul of Pakistan, Pakistan High Commission in Colombo, Miss. Kalsoom Qaiser, Press Attaché of the Pakistan High Commission in Colombo, Mr. Muhammad Waqar Khan, Project Manager of Pakistan-Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Programme, Dr. Zain ul Abdin, Advisor (Foreign Students Affairs) of the University of Agriculture (UAF), Faisalabad, Prof. Dr. Syed Amir Iqbal, Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, NED University of Engineering & Technology, Karachi, Dr. Tayyaba Amir, Director Admissions of the DOW University of Health Sciences, Karachi, Ms. Sanam Soomro, Director Quality Enhancement Cell of the DOW University of Health Sciences, Karachi, and Dr. Shabana Gul, Assistant Professor of Hospitality & Tourism Management, Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences), Peshawar. The delegates were welcomed by Prof. H.M.T.G.A. Pitawala, Director of the PGIS. Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. Sarath S. Kodithuwakku, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. P.G. Anil Pushpakumara, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, the Director, InRO, the management committee members of the InRO, Academic staff members of the University of Peradeniya and students participated in the event.

Meeting with Mr. Bing Yang, the Director of Tomorrow Technology Education Service Center



On 20th February 2023, Mr. Bing Yang, Director of Tomorrow Technology Education Service Center visited the University of Peradeniya along with Miss Liu, the Head of International Cooperation, and Miss Xiao, an Assistant of the Project Communication - International Division. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, extended a warm welcome to warm welcome to Mr. Bing Yang, and a meeting was held with the participation of M.D. Lamawansa, Prof.C.N.R.A. Alles, Director of the

International Relations Office, Prof. G.D.R.U. Abeyrathne, Head of the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts, Prof. R.H. Kuruppuge from the Faculty of Management, and Mr. T.S.S. Fernando from the Faculty of Management.

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During the meeting, the discussions focused on the possibility of student exchanges for both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes between China and the University of Peradeniya. Potential disciplines for academic collaborations, including dual degree programmes and postgraduate programmes in the fields of Accounting, Finance, Economics, Financial Management, Innovation Management, Human Resource Management, Technology Management, Business Management, Public Administration, Public Health Management, Education, Science, and Electrical and Mechanical Engineering were highlighted. Additionally, concerns regarding the welfare of incoming students, such as common facilities, health and accommodation, and visa issuance, were addressed. The Vice-Chancellor and other academic staff members expressed their keen interest and support in starting collaborations in the near future.

Francophonie – 2023 at University of Peradeniya

The Embassy of Switzerland to Sri Lanka and the Maldives together with the International Organization of la Francophonie celebrated Francophonie 2023. The event featured "Les Monsieur Monsieur", the famed duo Laurent Brunetti and Mario Pacchioli from Switzerland. The inaugural performance was held at the 'Garden Nuga', Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (SLFI), on Friday 24th March, followed by a performance in Jaffna at the Kailasapathy Auditorium of the University of Jaffna on Sunday, 26th March. The final performance was held on Tuesday, 28th March at the Engineering Faculty Auditorium (EOE. Pereira theatre) of the University of Peradeniya.



On the 28th of March, at the University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with the Department of Fine Arts, the musicians performed a piano masterclass for the students in the morning at the EOE Pereira Theatre and later that same day, an evening "Francophonie" concert was held in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering. Students from the Department of Fine Arts of the University also performed Traditional Sri Lankan Songs at the event.

Delegates from the Swiss Embassy, His Excellency Raoul Imbach, Deputy Head of the Mission/Head of Chancery and representatives from the embassy participated in the event. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. U.I. Dissanayake, the Director of the International Relations Office (InRO), Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, the Head of the Department of Fine Arts, Dr. Sudhesh Manthilake and the staff members of the Department of Fine Arts were also in attendance. Additionally, management committee members of the InRO, staff members of the University of Peradeniya, students and the general public were present at the event.

The Meeting with Minister of Education and Skills Development of the Royal Government of Bhutan, and Bhutan's Ambassador to Sri Lanka

Hon. Mr. Jai Bir Rai, Minister of Education and Skills Development of the Royal Government of Bhutan, H.E. Mr. Rinchen Kuentsyl, Bhutan's Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Mr. Karma Phuntsho, Chief Programme Officer of Scholarship and Student Support visited the University of Peradeniya on the 05th of February 2023. Hon. Mr. Jai Bir Rai and H.E. Mr. Rinchen Kuentsyl were welcomed by Prof. Vasanthi Pinto, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Udaya Ralapanawa, Head of the Department of Medicine, Prof. Kosala Marambe, Head of the Department of Medical Education and Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Head of the Department of Biochemistry. During the short visit to the Faculty of Medicine, the welfare, education, and health concerns of the Bhutanese students who are studying at the Faculty of Medicine were discussed.

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Followed by a short visit to the Faculty of Medicine, Hon. Mr. Jai Bir Rai, H.E. Mr. Rinchen Kuentsyl and Mr. Karma Phuntsho participated in a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, at the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge. Prof. Manjula Attygalla, the Dean of the Faculty of Dental Sciences, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, the Director of the International Relations Office, and Prof. Kosala Marambe, Head of the Department of Medical Education participated in the meeting. During the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor explained the possibility of increasing the number of Bhutanese students accommodated by the Faculty of Medicine and the Dean of the Faculty of Dental Sciences expressed his interest and the possibility to enroll Bhutanese students in the Faculty of Dental Sciences as well. The welfare, accommodation, and education concerns of the Bhutanese students were also discussed at the brief meeting.



BLII-TTO (UBL) Phase 4 evaluation



The University of Peradeniya has achieved a significant milestone by successfully completing the BLII-TTO Phase 4 evaluation on 30th March 2023. The event was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith, and the evaluators representing the OMST, Lead Academic Expert Research and Innovation, Prof. Thusitha Abeytunga, the Director, BLII-TTO, Prof. Dharshana Yapa and members of the research teams representing AHEAD/ICE/RIC and DOR grants.

Commencing the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor welcomed all the participants. The Director of the BLII-TTO then presented the progress of the commercialization of research activities and achievements of the promised key performance indicators (KPIs).

Next, Prof. Thusitha Abeytunga presented the overall performance of the AHEAD Results Area 3 grant scheme. During her speech, Prof. Thusitha highlighted that the University of Peradeniya was able to receive the highest amount of royalty payment across all the Universities for the commercialization of RESPIRONE NANO AV 99 Face Mask invented by Prof. Gamini Rajapaksha of the Department of Chemistry Faculty of Science.

Following this, ICE, RIC and DOR grantees presented their progress to the evaluation panel. Their presentations showcased a diverse range of projects that have the potential to make significant contributions to society and the economy.

Mr. Presanna S. Ekanayake, Attorney-at-Law, E W Associates, and Mr. Sanjeewa Gunawardena, Executive Director, E B Creasy & CO PLC, Darley Butler & Co Ltd, Laxapana Batteries PLC attended as the evaluators representing AHEAD/OMST.

The successful completion of the UBL phase 4 evaluation is a testament to the University of Peradeniya's commitment to promoting innovation and technology transfer. The Director of BLII-TTO expressed his gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, all the Deans of faculties and Directors of PG Institutes, members of the IP Advisory Committee and all the Academic and Non-Academic staff members for their immense support in achieving this success. BLII-TTO will continue its activities to promote and strengthen the research commercialization at the University.

The Inter-Faculty Freshers Meet 2023

The Inter-Faculty Freshers Meet 2023 was successfully conducted from 16th February to 02nd March 2023 at the University of Peradeniya. Nearly 90% of the freshman actively participated in 22 sports throughout the 12 days of the event. The Physical Education Division of the University of Peradeniya organize the Inter-Faculty Freshers Meet to motivate students to actively participate in sports for their fitness, well-being, and happiness and to encourage good sportsmanship.

On the 16th of February 2023, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. W.M. Terrence Madhujith, and the Director of the Physical Education Division, Pro. N.W.B. Balasooriya, graced the Opening ceremony and welcomed the participants from all the faculties. certificates and medals were awarded at the closing ceremony on 02nd March 2023. the chief guest of the event was Pro. M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya. Prof. W.M. Terrence Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor participated as the Guest honor with the Deans of the Faculties and the Director of physical Education Division.

The Faculty of Engineering were the men's category champions of the Inter-Faculty Meet- 2023 while the Faculty of Arts secured the women's championship. The Faculty of Engineering won the overall championship and the Faculty of Medicine, and the Faculty of Agriculture were determined First and Second runner ups respectively.



The Shuttle Champs 2023 Badminton Tournament



The ShuttleChamps 2023 Badminton Tournament was held on 18th and 19th March 2023, at the University Gymnasium. The tournament was organized by the Pera Badminton Association, and it was open to all the undergraduates of the University of Peradeniya.

The champions of the men's and women's singles competitions were Mr. Subash Rathnayake (Faculty of Engineering) and Ms. Naduni Herath (Faculty of Management).

The men's doubles champions were Mr. Dasun Udayanga (Faculty of Engineering) and Mr. Thisara Fernando (Faculty of Engineering), while the women's doubles champions were Ms. Naduni Herath (Faculty of Management) and Ms. Dilmi Jayawardhana (Faculty of Engineering).

The champions of the mixed doubles were Mr. Vishwa Abeywardhana (Faculty of Engineering) and Ms. Naduni Herath (Faculty of Management).