NEWS LETTER

A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

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OPEN DAY 2023
MORE OPEN THAN USUAL!
THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA















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A write-up from the Vice-Chancellor



As we embark on the final leg of our journey, I find great satisfaction in highlighting the dynamism and triumph that defined the third quarter. Throughout this period, our commitment to cultivating a dynamic learning environment, advancing academic pursuits, and strengthening our dedication to research and innovation remained unwavering.

The quarter commenced with our university's inaugural Open Day, a celebration of our 80th anniversary (belated), showcasing our resolute commitment to shaping the future of education in Sri Lanka and maintaining an unwavering focus on academic excellence and innovation. During this event, all nine faculties opened their doors to the public, providing a glimpse into the intellectual heart of our institution. Visitors engaged in interactive sessions with faculty members and students, gaining insights into diverse academic programs and opportunities.

In furtherance of our internationalization efforts, we actively participated in the Global Research Training Event organized by the University of Huddersfield-UK, co-funded by ERASMUS+. This collaborative initiative involved eight prestigious Sri Lankan universities, including the University of Peradeniya. We also explored future research collaborations between CAS and UoP with experts from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) who visited our campus. Additionally, the International Relations Office (InRO) and the Russia House, Colombo, jointly organized Russian Day at the University of Peradeniya.

Throughout the quarter, our commitment to promoting scholarly endeavors, fostering a vibrant learning atmosphere, and supporting research and innovation remained steadfast. Successfully hosting all planned international annual research conferences, such as the Peradeniya International Economics Research Symposium (PIERS)-2023, World Physiotherapy Day 2023, International Conference on Industrial and Information Systems (ICIIS)-2023, Peradeniya University Research Excellence Showcase (PURES)-2023, and International Conference of the Center for Environmental Sustainability (ICCES 2023), demonstrated our dedication to academic excellence.

In July 2023, we welcomed 83 students to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science. Our students' exceptional talents were showcased when our Carom Women's team secured the Champion's trophy at the Sri Lanka University Games (SLUG) 2023 Carom Women's Championship, and the Men's Hockey team achieved a remarkable victory, securing the Prestigious Champions Trophy at the Sri Lanka University Games – Hockey Championships 2023.

To recognize the extended and satisfactory service of our non-academic staff, the Long Service Awards were conferred on July 1, 2023.

Dear All,

Let's persist in taking on challenges, upholding our policies and principles, and striving for excellence. By working together and transcending artificial boundaries, We are actively shaping a comprehensive perspective plan for the centenary of our university.

I express my gratitude to our students, teachers, and all staff members for their dedicated contributions to the progress of our university.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Prof. M.D. Lamawansa
Vice-Chancellor
University of Peradeniya

Welcome ceremony for the new entrants, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science



The welcome ceremony for the new entrants to the Bachelor of Veterinary Science (B.VSc.) degree programme for the 2021/2022 Academic year of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (FVMAS), University of Peradeniya took place on the 11th of July 2023. The welcome ceremony was held at the auditorium of the Department of Farm Animal Production and Health with the participation of 83 new entrants alongside their parents and distinguished guests. Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya graced the occasion as the chief guest. The event was also attended by Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. Anil Pushpakumara, Dean of the FVMAS. The coordinator of the orientation programme, Dr. Thushari Gunawadrdana, delivered the welcome address and Dr. Raj Packianathan addressed the gathering as the invited guest speaker.

Furthermore, students who demonstrated academic excellence in the BVSc. study programme were awarded medals by Prof. Terrence Madhujith during the event. Ms. W.U. Kumudumalee, one of the award recipients, shared her thoughts with the gathering. Mr. Anupama Sandakalum, secretary of the Veterinary Students' Union addressed the audience followed by the vote of thanks by Dr. N.M.T. Anupama, marking the conclusion of the ceremony.

The World Physiotherapy Day 2023 - Health for All Physical Fitness Screening Programme at the University



The Students' Society of Physiotherapy and the Department of Physiotherapy jointly organized the Health for All – Physical Fitness Screening Programme, for academic and nonacademic staff of the University of Peradeniya on 11th of September 2023 to mark the World Physiotherapy Day 2023 – celebrated globally on 08th September.

The programme was conducted at the University gymnasium and the inauguration ceremony took place in the presence of the Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Head of the Department of Physiotherapy, Director of the Physical Education Division, the staff of the Department of Physiotherapy, the staff of the Physical Education Division, as well as physiotherapy students. Prof. Terrence Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University graced the occasion as the chief guest. Dr. Esther Liyanage, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Physiotherapy, conducted an awareness session on the importance of physical activity and nutritional balance. A health screening programme including physical fitness assessment, lung function testing, cardio-respiratory assessment, and nutritional and dietary advice was conducted for academic and non-academic staff of the University. More than 150 staff from all the faculties and centres of the University were screened and benefited from this programme.

New Dean for faculty of Management



Prof. Ravi Kuruppuge, a highly respected scholar and educator with over 20 years of experience in the field of Management, has been appointed the Dean of the Faculty of management, University of Peradeniya, for a period of three (3) years, effective from 18th of August 2023.

Prof. Kuruppuge holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Peradeniya, a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Colombo, a Master of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Kelaniya, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Management from the Tomas Bata University in the Czech Republic.

He has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and conferences, and his research interests include operations management, supply chain management, and sustainable manufacturing, tourism management and family businesses.

Professor M.D. Lamawansa receives honorary FRCS from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow



The University of Peradeniya is pleased to announce that Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya has been honored with an Honorary FRCS by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow for his exceptional contributions to the field of surgery and medical education at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. This prestigious accolade was conferred upon him during the convocation held on 5th September 2023, at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

Each year, the University of Glasgow bestows such honors upon individuals who have demonstrated exceptional achievements and contributions to society, especially in the field of medicine. Prof. Lamawansa's distinguished recognition underscores his significant service to the fields of surgery and medicine in general, his commitment to undergraduate and postgraduate medical education both at national and international levels, and his unwavering dedication towards advancing pediatric renal transplant. Furthermore, it acknowledges his role in fostering strong international collaborations while serving as the president of the college of surgeons of Sri Lanka.

The University of Peradeniya extends heartfelt congratulations to Prof. M. D. Lamawansa for his landmark accomplishments, which have received the highest level of international recognition.

Teacher Training Workshop for G.C.E. (A/L) Physics and Mathematics Teachers of the Central Province

The Science Education Unit organized a two-day Teacher Training Workshop for G.C.E. (A/L) Physics and Mathematics Teachers of the Central Province on the 24th and 25th of August 2023, at the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya in collaboration with the Department of Education, Central Province. A total of 54 teachers (22 G.C.E. (A/L) Mathematics and 32 G.C.E. (A/L) Physics teachers) participated in the workshop.



The Inauguration ceremony of this workshop was held at the Auditorium of the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science. Prof. Terrence Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. W.A.I.P. Karunarathne, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Science, Prof. L.R.A.K. Bandara, Director of the Science Education Unit, Dr. W.D. Chandrasena, Coordinator of the workshop, Mr. A.L.M. Zarudeen, Additional Provincial Director of Education (Development) and Provincial Secondary Education Sector Investment Programme (SESIP) Monitoring Officer, Mr. D.M.S.D. Dissanayake, Deputy Director (Planning) and Provincial Coordinator, Mr. S.H.M. Faris, Assistant Director of Education (Mathematics), Ms. C. Dassanayake, Deputy Director of Education (Science) and other distinguished guests graced the ceremony.

The workshop consisted of discussions, demonstrations, and practical sessions on Teaching Methodologies in G.C.E. (A/L) Physics and Mathematics. The resource persons of the workshop were Prof. W.B. Daundasekara, Prof. L.R.A.K. Bandara, Prof. T. M. W. J. Bandara, Dr. J.A.C.P. Jayalath, Dr. J.P. Liyanage, Dr. T.P. Ranawaka, Dr. R. Mendis, Dr. A.K. Amarasinghe, Dr. U.D. Wijesooriya, Dr. M.T.M. Dewasurendra, Dr. K.M.N.M. Chathuranga, Mr. M.D.M.C.P. Weerarathna, and Dr. W.D. Chandrasena.



All participants received a certificate of participation, and the teachers highly valued the experience gained from the workshop.

Dental Students Research Symposium – STURESY 2023

Dental Students Research Symposium, STURESY 2023 themed "Pioneering Innovations by Young Minds Shaping a Brighter Present, Future, and Beyond" was held on 12th of August 2023 at Prof. K. Bambaradeniya Auditorium. Prof. M.D Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya graced the event as the chief guest. Two keynote speeches, "Planning Research for Better Results" by Prof. W.M.T Madhujith, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of University of Peradeniya and "Commercialization of University based Research and Innovations" by Dr. B.R Fernando of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, added color to the event. The technical sessions featured 13 oral presentations and 14 poster presentations. The highlight of the event was the awards ceremony, where the ten best research presentations were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals and commendable certificates.

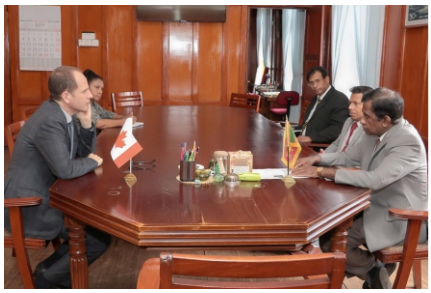


Visit of the High Commissioner of Canada to Sri Lanka and Maldives

His Excellency Eric Walsh, the High Commissioner of Canada to Sri Lanka and the Maldives visited the University of Peradeniya on 25th of September 2023. The visit was meticulously planned and encompassed a series of key engagements, including a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, an interaction with the Canadian Alumni Association, and an exploration of the university's main library.

During the visit, His Excellency Eric Walsh, accompanied by Ms. Indirani Jayawardena, the Political Officer attached to the High Commission, participated in a meeting at the Vice-Chancellor's office. Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of University of Peradeniya, Prof. Terrence Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director of International Relations Office, and the staff members of the International Relations Office of the University of Peradeniya, participated in the meeting. During the meeting, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor mentioned the facilities and support services available to international students at the University of Peradeniya.

This visit served as a significant step in strengthening the ties between the University of Peradeniya and Canada, fostering potential collaborations, and enhancing international connections for both institutions.





Up Your Skills Programme – VET Day 01

We are thrilled to share the wonderful moments captured during the "Up Your Skills" programme, a transformative journey aimed at developing essential soft skills and core values for our talented 1st-year undergraduates at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science.

Organized by the Career Guidance Unit, University of Peradeniya, this interactive outdoor workshop took place on 19th of July 2023, providing students with a unique opportunity to enhance their abilities and establish a solid foundation for their transition from school to university.

From team-building activities to value development initiatives, students were actively involved in the learning process, cultivating effective communication, empathy, and leadership qualities. The picturesque surroundings of our university provided the perfect backdrop for a day filled with fun, learning, and personal growth.



As evident from the photograph, the atmosphere was buzzing with enthusiasm and a passion for continuous improvement. We are immensely proud of our students for embracing this opportunity and taking a step toward becoming well-rounded professionals in the field of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science.

The programme was designed and conducted by Mr. Suchinthana Dasun and Ms. Sumudu Lankathilahe, Career Counsellors of the University.

Stay tuned for more exciting initiatives and events from the Career Guidance Unit.

University of Peradeniya Joins Global Research Effort to Tackle Climate Change



The Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCA-DRR) Project coordinated by the Global Disaster Resilience Centre (GRDC) at the University of Huddersfield (UK), recently organized a training programme on "Tackling Climate Change as an Underlying Disaster Risk Driver", from 26th of June to 7th of July 2023 in the United Kingdom. This collaborative initiative involved eight prestigious Sri Lankan universities including the University of Peradeniya. The project was cofounded by the Erasmus+ project on International Credit Mobility (ICM) of the European Union. Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake, Dr. Chaminda S. Bandara, and Mr. Lahiru Dissanayake from the Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering represented the University of Peradeniya in this training programme.

The training programme encompassed a research symposium, informative guest lectures, a captivating site visit, and several research training events. The most significant outcome of this event was the development of a comprehensive research roadmap on "Building Resilience to the Impact of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction" aimed at achieving climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Sri Lanka. The road map focuses on crucial sectors such as the built environment, human health, transportation, energy, tourism, environment and ecosystems, water resources, food security, agriculture, and livestock. The approach adopted for this endeavour emphasizes multidisciplinary collaboration, acknowledging the multifaceted nature of the challenges posed by climate change.

This transformative event was coordinated by Dr. Chamindi Malalgoda from the University of Huddersfield with the auspices of Prof. Dilanthi Amaratunga and Prof. Richard Haigh.

This collaborative event marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to tackle climate change and reduce disaster risk. It not only facilitates knowledge sharing but also establishes a platform for long-term partnerships and collaborations between academic institutions, ultimately leading to a more resilient and sustainable future for the country and beyond.

Research Methodology Workshop by Prof. Ananda P. Dasanayake, New York University College of Dentistry, USA

Thirty academics, mainly from the Faculty of Dental Sciences, and the remainder from the faculties of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences at the University of Peradeniya successfully completed the Research Methodology Workshop held on 11th, 13th, 18th, and 20th of July 2023. Participants also had the unique opportunity to initiate project proposals and systematic reviews under the guidance of Prof. Dasanayake.



ICCES 2023

The 3rd International Conference of the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES) on "The Quest for Environmental Management for Sustainability Under a Changing Climate" was successfully held on 25th of August 2023 in a hybrid conference format. With funding from the AHEAD project of the Ministry of Higher Education, this conference was conducted in collaboration with the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) of the University of Peradeniya.



The Conference comprised of a grand ceremonial inauguration and eight technical sessions covering six thematic areas of Biodiversity and Conservation, Wetland Ecosystems, Water Quality Management, Pollution Detection and Control, Green Industry towards Environmental Sustainability and Landuse Planning and Environmental Monitoring.

The conference chair and Director of the Centre for Environmental Sustainability, Prof. Tilak Hewawasam, delivered the opening remarks, highlighting the Center's initiatives. Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, emphasized the value of research and knowledge dissemination in environmental sciences. Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, delivered a notable speech, expressing gratitude to the organizers for conducting this conference.

The Chief Guest for the Inaugural Session of the Conference was Prof. Chandana Udawatta, the Vice Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), Sri Lanka, and Director of the AHEAD project of the Ministry of Higher Education, who participated online. Eng. Samantha Kumarasena, the Chief Executive Officer of the National Cleaner Production Center of Sri Lanka, delivered the Keynote Address on "Creating the Pathways for the Low Carbon, Circular Economy by Enriching Organizational Level Environmental Sustainability Roadmap". The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Nalin Suranjith Gama-Arachchige, the Conference Coordinator and the Deputy Director (Research and Environmental Management) of the Center for Environmental Sustainability.

The Inauguration Ceremony of the conference, held at the Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, was broadcast live. The technical sessions were successfully conducted via an online platform, also broadcast to the participants.

Up Your Skills Programme – VET Day 03

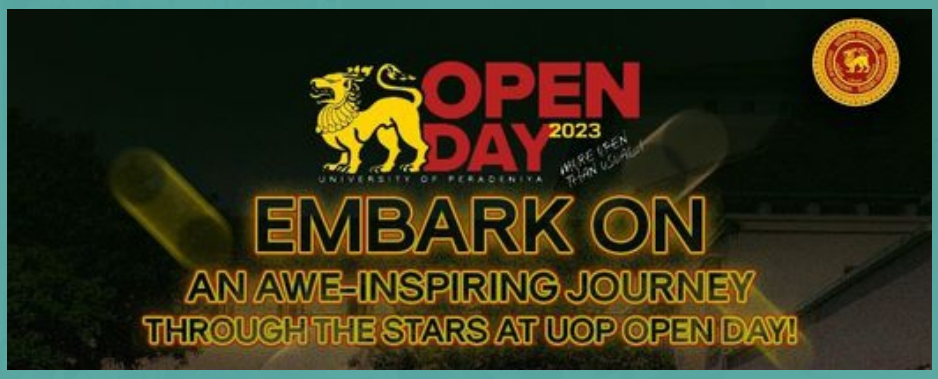
The University of Peradeniya is delighted to announce the successful completion of the third session of the Up Your Skills programme. The topic of this session was "The Meaning of University Education – A Holistic Approach," and it was conducted by Prof. Liyanage Amarakeerthi, a distinguished academic and expert in the field of education.

The Career Guidance Unit of the University of Peradeniya took the initiative to organize this thought-provoking session, exclusively tailored for the bright minds of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science. The participants, all first-year undergraduates, were eager to delve into the depths of university education and explore its true essence in today's dynamic world.



Prof. Liyanage Amarakeerthi captivated the audience with his wealth of knowledge and engaging presentation style. He shed light on the importance of adopting a holistic approach to university education, emphasizing the need to nurture not just academic excellence but also personal growth and skills development through experiencing the diversity of the University.

Open Day to mark the 80 th Anniversary of UoP



The University of Peradeniya (UoP), one of Sri Lanka's leading educational institutions, celebrated its 80th anniversary with a successful Open Day on 1st of July 2023. The event attracted thousands of visitors from across the country

All nine faculties of the University were open to the public, allowing visitors the opportunity to explore the campus, interact with faculty members and students, participate in interactive sessions, and gain valuable insights into the diverse academic programs and opportunities offered by UoP.

Guided campus tours, interactive science exhibitions, art exhibitions, cultural performances, food stalls, club and student society booths, as well as music and singing performances were organized by undergraduate students. Current undergraduate students were also available to address any queries or concerns.

Visitors also had the chance to explore UOP's state-of-the-art facilities, laboratories, libraries, and other academic resources that contribute to a stimulating learning environment. They also had the opportunity to observe the 'Mahavansa,' the Great Chronicle of Sri Lanka, recently listed amongst the 64 new items of documentary heritage inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World (MoW) International Register in 2023.

In conjunction with the Open Day, certificates of achievement were awarded to academic and non-academic staff who completed a significant period of service with the University. The ceremony included distinguished Chief Guests, namely, University Chancellor, Prof. G.H. Peiris, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith. Former Vice-Chancellors, academic and non-academic staff members, and clergy also graced the prestigious occasion.

The Open Day effectively showcased the University of Peradeniya's rich legacy of academic excellence, its commitment to innovation, and its vibrant student life. It served as an ideal opportunity for prospective students, parents, and the public to learn more about this world-class institution and the myriad opportunities it offers.

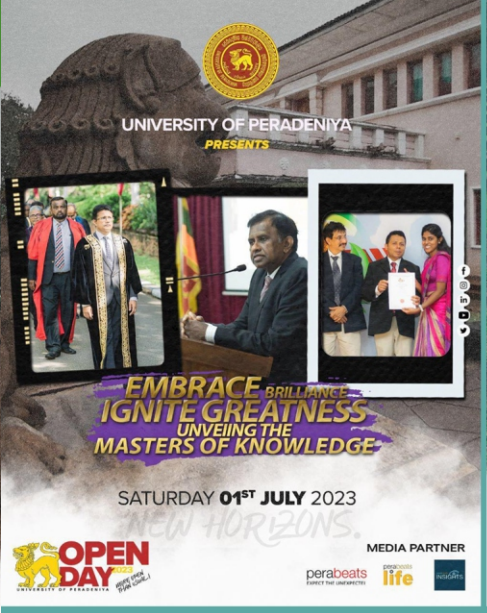
Overall, the Open Day was a memorable event celebrating the University of Peradeniya's past, present, and future. It was a testament to the University's commitment to providing its students with a world-class education and to its role as a leading center for innovation and research.










UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
PRESENTS
EMBRACE BRILLIANCE
IGNITE GREATNESS
UNVEIING THE
MASTERS OF KNOWLEDGE
SATURDAY 01ST JULY 2023
OPEN DAY 2023
MEDIA PARTNER
perabeats
life


UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
PRESENTS
EXPERIENCE LIFE'S
VIBRANT SYMPHONY
UNCOVER YOUR
PASSION
SATURDAY 01ST JULY 2023
OPEN DAY 2023
MEDIA PARTNER
perabeats
life


OPEN DAY 2023
MUSIC SOCIETY
BE A PART OF THE
MUSICAL MAGIC AT
පේරාදෙණියේ
කලා ගම
1ST OF JULY
10 AM - 11 AM
AT THE SENATE PREMISES
OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC






COME And EXPLORE
OPEN DAY 2023
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA
MORE OPEN THAN USUAL!
1st of July , 9.00 AM Onwards
University Premises
Muslim Majlis-University of Peradeniya




UNIVERSITY
EXPLORERS'
CLUB
HIMALAYA



Certificate Awarding Ceremony – CDCE



On 6th of August 2023, the Centre for Distance and Continuing Education (CDCE) of the University of Peradeniya organized a certificate awarding ceremony for the candidates who completed two academic programmes, the Advanced Certificate Course in Laboratory Handling and the Diploma in Management and Development. The ceremony was held at the Statistical and Computer Science's Auditorium of the Faculty of Science.This event was graced by the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Deans of the Faculty of Management and the Faculty of Science, the Director of the CDCE, the Chairpersons, resources persons of the two academic programmes and the Staff Members of the CDCE.

Faculty of Allied Health Sciences Introduces Training Programme to Enhance Mentoring Skills among Academics

The Faculty of Allied Health Sciences is proud to announce the successful launch of a new training programme aimed at developing mentoring skills of its academics. In collaboration with the Staff Development Centre, the Faculty has conducted a one-day workshop that has received overwhelmingly positive feedback.

The comprehensive programme commenced with a two-hour lecture on educational principles and the intricacies of the mentoring process. This theoretical foundation was then reinforced through a hands-on experiential learning session, utilizing simulated actors to simulate real-life mentoring scenarios. The participants were introduced to the CN ePortfolio, an innovative platform, and were guided on assessing ePortfolios using the SOLO taxonomy. The workshop continued with a second round of experiential learning, this time with actual students, allowing participants to engage in mentor relationships under the expert supervision of the facilitators.

Throughout the workshop, the Staff Development Centre developed a comprehensive handbook that offers valuable guidance to both participants and facilitators. This handbook could be improved and serves as a reference for effective mentoring practices and ensures consistency and quality in the mentorship process.

The level of engagement exhibited by the participants and the members of the Staff Development Centre was truly commendable. The entire experience was incredibly encouraging, and we strongly encourage other faculties to embrace this training programme and replicate its success.

By empowering our academics with strong mentoring skills, the Faculty of Allied Health Science is committed to fostering a nurturing environment for the professional growth and development of its students and faculty members alike.

University of Peradeniya Men's Hockey team clinch the Prestigious Championship Trophy

The University of Peradeniya's Men's Hockey team achieved a remarkable victory by securing the Prestigious Champions Trophy at the recently concluded Sri Lanka University Games – Hockey Championships 2023, held at the University Hockey field of the University of Peradeniya. The tournament hosted by the University of Peradeniya was held from 25th to 28th of August 2023, with the participation of eleven state universities.



Industry Day 2023 – Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya



The Science-Industry Interaction Cell (SIIC), the main industry outreach arm of the Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya together with the Career Guidance Unit (CGU), Faculty of Science, the Society of Industrial Relations and Entrepreneurship Development (SIRED), and the Applied Sciences Society co-organized "Industry Day 2023", the annual career fair for the 11th consecutive time on 22nd of September 2023, at the Faculty of Science premises. The event provided a common platform for representatives from private sector industries to meet with Science Faculty students and recent graduates seeking internship and employment opportunities in various fields. The event was sponsored by 14 companies, including the main sponsors Kelun Lifesciences (Pvt) Ltd, Celogen Lanka, and Diyatha Pharmaceuticals.

Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya graced the inauguration ceremony as the chief guest. The event was also attended by the Deputy-Vice Chancellor, the Dean, Faculty of Science, the Director of the Career Guidance Unit, the Director of Business Linkage, Innovation, Incubation and Technology Transfer Office, and the Director of Science-Industry Interaction Cell (SIIC) of the University of Peradeniya, and the Director of the National Institute of Fundamental Studies. Additionally, academic staff members of the Faculty of Science, invitees from 14 companies including the Managing Director, Kelun Lifesciences (Pvt) Ltd, Celogen Lanka and Diyatha Pharmaceuticals, Managers of Talent Acquisition & Development, Ceylon Biscuits Limited and MAS Holdings, as well as students, were present at the ceremony.

The interview sessions provided a platform for the representatives (approximately 65) from 11 companies (Kelun Life Sciences, Ceylon Biscuits Limited (CBL), MAS Holdings, Hemas Consumer Brands, Octave – John Keels Holdings PLC, Sumathi IT Holdings, SimCentric Technologies, Unilever Sri Lanka, Eyepax IT, H One Dialog, Haycarb, Emjay International) to interview more than 370 students and recent graduates and shortlist potential candidates for a second round of interviews for internships and permanent positions. The interview sessions also allowed students to learn more about specific career paths and gain experience in facing interviews.

In addition, SIIC and CGU organized Pre-Industry Day Workshops before the interviews to facilitate students in sharpening their skills and gaining insights from industry experts on CV writing, interview facing and personal branding.

The Long Service Award Ceremony for Non-Academic Staff



The Long Service Award Ceremony was held on 01st of July 2023 at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Management with the participation of the Vice-Chancellor and other higher administrative officers to express appreciation for the dedicated service rendered by Non-Academic employees to the betterment of the University. A total of 35 employees completing 25 years, 23 employees completing 30 years, 36 employees completing 35 years and 05 employees completing 40 years of satisfactory service as of 31st of December 2022, were honored at the ceremony.

Fostering Collaborations University of Peradeniya at the FOUNTAIN Project Kick-off Meeting



The University of Peradeniya, a key partner in the FOUNTAIN (Fostering sustainable university-industry techno-entrepreneurial collaborations and innovations in Asian universities) project led by the University of Ruhuna and co-founded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union, is proud to announce its commencement on 1st of July 2023. The kick-off meeting was held at the gap HQ in Colombo 07 (hybrid) on 19th – 20th of July 2023. The University of Peradeniya team comprising Senior Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake, Dr. Chaminda S. Bandara and Mr. Lahiru Dissanayake from the Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, played a pivotal role in contributing to the FOUNTAIN Project.

The FOUNTAIN Project aims to address the lack of strategic university-industry partnerships in Asian universities concerning student employability, blended learning, invention and innovation, techno-entrepreneurial skills, curriculum development, multidisciplinary joint research, and various other aspects. Through need assessments conducted with partners in Thailand and Sri Lanka, FOUNTAIN identifies gaps in university-industry collaboration, aiming to align industrial interests with public interests, particularly in agro-industries. Its objectives include enhancing university curricula with robust industrial training programmes, strengthening university-business links, and establishing a community of practice involving university and industry actors in the field of agro-industries. Additionally, the project seeks to facilitate the transition of ideas into practice, promote business start-ups, and establish a centre of excellence invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship to meet the needs of graduates, academics, farmers, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and other industries in the country and the region.

The Project boasts an impressive list of partnering organizations, including the University of Ruhuna, University of Peradeniya, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Horizon College of Business & Technology, Naresuan University (Thailand), Chiang Mai University (Thailand), Tallinna Tehnikaülikool (Estonia), Vilniaus Gedimino Technikos Universitetas (Lithuania) and Mid Sweden University (Sweden).

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Terrence Madhujith addressing the gathering on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, emphasized the importance of these projects and the institution's commitment to fostering collaborations and advancing sustainable development. The event's keynote speakers, Dr. Ravi Liyanage, Co-founder, and present Chairman/CEO of the Raigam group, and Senior Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake of University of Peradeniya and Chairman of the Green Building Council of Sri Lanka (GBCSL), shared valuable insights on sustainable business practices and green infrastructure, inspiring the audience to work towards a greener future.

The highlight of the event was the official launch of the FOUNTAIN Project's website, serving as a digital gateway to access information about the project's activities, achievements, and research opportunities. This platform is set to facilitate communication and collaboration among project stakeholders and partners worldwide, furthering the FOUNTAIN Project's mission towards a sustainable and prosperous future.

As the meeting concluded, the University of Peradeniya reaffirmed its commitment by taking on leadership roles in two vital work packages, WP3 – Development of University Industry Digital Transformation Platforms (Nationally and Internationally) and University Industry model development and WP7 – Dissemination and Exploitation.

The Peradeniya International Economics Research Symposium (PIERS) - 2023

The Peradeniya International Economics Research Symposium (PIERS) - 2023 convened for its ninth edition on 01st of September 2023, at the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Peradeniya. This year's symposium was a collaborative effort between the Department of Economics and Statistics of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Peradeniya, and the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration at Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania, with valued support from the World Bank. Operating under the overarching theme of "Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka: Causes, Consequences, and the Way Forward," PIERS provided a platform for scholars in the fields of economics, development, and related disciplines to disseminate their research findings to a broader audience and engage in intellectual discourse with peers, academics, and fellow researchers. A total of 31 research presentations, contributed by both local and international authors, were featured across nine technical sessions. Beyond its formal proceedings, the Symposium fostered valuable networking opportunities for participants, facilitating connections with economists, both local and international.





The inaugural session of PIERS-2023 was graced by the presence of Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, serving as the Chief Guest. Dr. W.A. Wijewardena, Former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and Adjunct Professor at the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand, delivered the keynote address. The symposium also had the distinct privilege of hosting esteemed guests, including Prof. Tiberiu Foris from the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration at Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania, along with Prof. Codruta Adina Baltescu, also from Romania, and Mr. Asela Dissanayake representing the World Bank, who delivered two insightful guest speeches during the event.

Regional workshop on building capacity to improve air quality in South Asia

On 7th and 8th of August 2023, the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences of the University of Peradeniya collaborated with Duke University in North Carolina, USA, to host a two-day workshop themed "Regional Workshop on Building Capacity to Improve Air Quality in South Asia" aimed to increase the region's ability to enhance air quality. United States Department of State provided funding for this event, which brought together delegates from Unites States, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Maldives and Sri Lanka. During the workshop, the regional partners presented their research projects that were specifically aimed at monitoring and modelling air pollution caused by Particulate Matter (PM) through the use of low-cost sensor networks in the area. The attendees engaged in discussions about their progress in calibrating, visualizing, and analyzing the data collected from their PM sensor networks that had been installed throughout the subcontinent.







Workshop on "Enhancing Teaching & Learning through Technology"

The workshop organized by the Dental E-Learning Unit (DELU) at the Faculty of Dental Sciences on "Enhancing Teaching & Learning through Technology" was successfully conducted at the E-Lab on 5th September 2023. DELU expresses sincere appreciation for the valuable contributions made by Dr. Isuru Nawinne, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computer Engineering at the University of Peradeniya, who served as the resource person for the event.





Russian Day of the University of Peradeniya





The Russian Day at the University of Peradeniya organized by the International Relation Office (InRO) in collaboration with the Russia House, Colombo was held on 27th of July 2023 at the University premises.

The Chief Guest of the event, Madam Maria Popova, the First Secretary of the Embassy of Russia in Colombo, and Director of the Russian House in Colombo was received by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa. The Russian Day celebration was organized as an open ceremony where a large number of students witnessed many activities pertaining to Russian culture and the language. Madam Maria Popova, Mr. Buddhapriya Ramanayake, the Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Venurika Jayasinghe, the Educational and Public Relations Officer, Ms. Alexandra Shalaginova, the Accountant, Ms. Tatyana Panditha, teacher of Russian Language were the distinguished participants of the event from the Russian Embassy.

Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Deans of facilities, Directors of the Postgraduate Institutes, Directors of the Centers, academic and administrative staff, and students participated in the event.

One of the key events of the Russian Day was the visit of Madam Maria Popova to the Department of Classical Languages of the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya to declare open the Coordination Unit of the Study of Modern Languages (CSML) in its new premises of the Kannangara Building in the Faculty of Arts. The introduction to the Russian Language, as the initiation of the Russian Language course, was delivered by Ms. Tatyana Panditha at the seminar room of the Faculty of Arts.



Additionally, an award-winning Russian movie “Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears” was screened at the Physiology Lecture Hall at the Faculty of Medicine in parallel to the Russian Day.

International Conference on Industrial and Information Systems (ICIIS)- 2023

The International Conference on Industrial and Information Systems (ICIIS) is an International Conference organized by the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, in Collaboration with the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (IEEE), USA, and IEEE Sri Lanka. Originating as the first IEEE conference pioneered by a Sri Lankan institution, it has been organized as an annual conference since 2006, with the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Indian Institutes of Technology sharing hosting duties biennially.

The Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering of the University of Peradeniya hosted ICIIS 2023 for the 17th time from 25th to 26th of August 2023, under the guidance of its chairperson, Prof. Maheshi Dissanayake. The inaugural session of ICIIS 2023 was held on 26th of August 2023 at the EOE Pereira Theater at Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya. The Vice-Chancellor of University of Peradeniya, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa was the Chief Guest, and Eng. Thanuja Samaranayake, Head of Global EHS & Risk Management, Ansell, was the Guest of Honour.

Innovation, Regeneration and Transformation are integral components of sustainable and thriving economies, industries, and communities, especially in fields of engineering such as future energy, transport, communications, consumer electronics, computing, healthcare, and manufacturing. With this perspective, ICIIS 2023 chose the theme "INNOVATE, REGENERATE and TRANSFORM: *Advances in Engineering for Sustainable Growth*".

The conference received over 160 technical paper submissions from 14 countries, highlighting its international recognition. It serves as a platform that brings together local and international academics, postgraduates, undergraduates, and industry representatives under one roof, fostering knowledge sharing, research collaborations, and innovations. The diversification of local research paper submissions validates the local recognition achieved by ICIIS 2023. Among local paper submissions, University of Peradeniya authored 30%, the University of Moratuwa 20%, the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology 20%, the University of Jaffna 5%, while the remaining 5% represented other local universities. Additionally, in line with the current buzz word "Artificial Intelligence (AI)" and learning technologies, more than 60% of the submitted papers focused on AI, Machine Learning, and Intelligent systems.

Over the past eighteen years, ICIIS has gained recognition as the most versatile forum in South Asia, attracting experts from all over the world to disseminate new knowledge and share expertise among researchers and engineers in academia and industry. At present, the conference and its proceedings hold an h-index of 32 with more than 7500 citations, according to the Google scholar metrics. It is envisaged that ICIIS will continue to expand its reach and be a pillar in the process of human evolution by being a major platform for disseminating knowledge.





The University of Peradeniya Women's Carrom Team emerges as Champions at SLUG 2023



The University of Peradeniya clinched the Champion's trophy in the Carrom women's category at the recently held Sri Lanka University Games (SLUG) 2023 Carrom Women's Championship. The Championship took place on 5th and 6th of August 2023, at the University of Colombo premises.

In the first round, the University of Peradeniya beat The University of Visual and Performing Arts 5:0, South Eastern University 5:0, and the University of Jaffna 5:0. Advancing to the quarterfinals, our girls faced Gampaha Wickramaarachchi University, winning the match comprehensively by 4:1, while in the semifinals, they beat the University of Colombo by 5:0.

In the finals, the Peradeniya team fought victoriously and emerged victorious against the University of Sri Jayewardenepura girls' team with a score of 4:1, securing the prestigious Champions trophy.

In the meantime, our men's team secured third place in the men's category at the SLUG Carrom Men's Championship for the year 2023. Despite losing in the semi-finals to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura after a tough battle, they bounced back in the consolation finals against Rajarata University, winning comprehensively across all five boards.

Second Peradeniya University Research Excellence Showcase (PURES) – 2023

The 2nd Peradeniya University Research Excellence Showcase was held on 29th of August 2023, at the Joint Research and Demonstration Centre for Water Technology. The main purpose of this event was to showcase novel and cutting-edge research and locally developed solutions for national needs. Additionally, the top-tier researchers of the university were recognized during the event. Recipients of the Prof. Lakshman Samaranayake Award and the Tier 4* researchers, based on the transparent research performance scheme stipulated in UGC Circular 05/2018 were honored during the award ceremony. Prof. Lakshman Samaranayake personally presented certificates and cash prizes to the Prof. Lakshman Samaranayake Award recipients. The Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor awarded plaques and certificates to Tier 4* researchers. The event also marked the official launch of the University Research Council website.



Leading researchers of the University of Peradeniya, key members of government organizations, CEOs of companies, and university research administrators participated in the event. In parallel to the award ceremony, an exhibition was held to showcase the research outputs of over 50 research projects spanning the fields of agriculture and biological sciences, biomedical and health sciences, engineering and physical sciences, and intelligent systems and algorithms. A large audience was present to witness these research showcases.

Visit by Team of Researchers from Chinese Academy of Sciences

A Chinese delegation including experts from the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Aerospace Information Research Institute, and Institute of Hydrobiology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) visited the University of Peradeniya (UoP) and the Joint Research & Demonstration Centre for Water Technology (JRDC), on the 21st of July 2023. The delegation and a team of university academics, which included representatives from the faculties of Engineering and Agriculture, and members from the UOP-JRDC Research Committee met the Vice-Chancellor at the Vice-Chancelor's office. The Vice-Chancellor had a short discussion regarding future collaborations and developing research links between CAS and UoP.

Then, the delegates from the Institute of Hydrobiology visited the Faculty of Agriculture (FOA) and engaged in a fruitful discussion with the Dean of the faculty and the relevant staff members to share their experiences and discussed possible collaborations, especially related to developing Prawn and Crab aquaculture projects in Sri Lanka.

In the meantime, the delegates from the Aerospace Information Research Institute (AIRI) visited the Faculty of Engineering (FOE) and participated in a highly productive discussion. The team explored potential collaborations between FOE and AIRI, focusing on establishing early warning systems for natural disasters such as floods and water quality predictions in Lakes, utilizing GIS and starlight data.

Finally, the delegation visited the JRDC and joined a meeting primarily focused to summarize the outcomes of the meetings held in the FOE and FOA and to discuss the avenues for collaboration with the Chinese institutes. The meeting briefly touched upon the phase 2 Chinese Aid project proposal, currently in preparation, with a primary focus on ensuring the sustainable use of the JRDC facility and its long-term operational sustainability.





Meeting with the Gomel State Medical University Russia

A round of discussions initiated by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. W.M.T. Madhujith with Prof. S.A. Anahkina, Vice-Rector for International Affairs at Gomel State Medical University, took place on 1st of September 2023, at the Vice-Chancellor's Office.

The primary focus of the discussion was on student exchange programmes between the two institutions. During the meeting, Prof. S.A. Anahkina elaborated on the contributions made by Gomel University to Sri Lankan universities. Following the meeting, arrangements were made for a visit to the Faculty of Medicine as a means to continue and strengthen the collaboration.



A team from Gomel University, including Prof. S.A. Anahkina, participated in the meeting. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Vasanthi Pinto, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, the Director of the International Relations Office, Dr. D.C.K.C Dissanayake from the Faculty of Medicine, and staff members of the International Relations Office, participated in the event.

Details of Retired Non Academic Employees from 01.07.2023 to 30.09.2023

Name	Designation	Department / Division	Service Years
Ms HPK Marasinghe	Senior Staff Management Assistant	Student Services / Division	38
Ms YMUKY Silva	Chief Technical Officer	Department of Agricultural Biology	38
Ms KKCA Herath	Senior Staff Management Assistant	Department of Anesthesiology	38
Ms SMHK Samarasinghe	Senior Staff Management Assistant	Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture	37
Mr EWMA Ekanayake	Staff Technical Officer (Grade I)	Department of Micro Biology	37
Mr AAKG Thegis Appuhamy	Health Service Labourer (Special Grade)	Jayathilake Hall	31
Mr KMS Kiridena	Senior Staff Management Assistant	Akbar Nell Hostel	37
Mr WM Dissanayake	Library Attendant (Grade I)	Main Library	30
Mr RM Ranasinghe Bandara	Health Service Labourer (Grade I)	Jayathilake Hostel	37
Mr RMR Amaralal	Mason (Special Grade)	Maintenance Division	23
Mr HG Upali	Carpenter (Special Grade)	Maintenance Division	23
Mr IMSB Illangakoon	Senior Computer Operator	Computer Unit, Faculty of Science	35
Mr RWMK Amunugama	Senior Staff Management Assistant (Library Services)	Main Library	25
Mr KMN Nandasiri	Senior Staff Management Assistant (Library Services)	Main Library	27
Mr UWS Rajapaksha	Works Aide (Grade I)	Maintenance Division	28
Mr KSB Watarake	Library Information Assistant	Main Library	26

Details of Resigned Non Academic Employees from 01.07.2023 to 30.09.2023

Name	Designation	Department / Division	Service Years
Mr EMKS Ekanayake	Staff Management Assistant	Capital Works Division	22
Mr BBRM Paranagama	Laboratory Attendant (Grade II)	Department of Chemical & Processing	10
Ms AWRWMRSLK Girihagama	Audit Assistant (Grade II)	Internal Audit Division	1
Mr BMSK Bandaranayake	Technical Officer (Grade II) Seg B	Dept. of Agri. Econ. & B. Mgt.	10
Ms EMPMK Ekanayake	Technical Officer (Grade II) Seg B	University Experimental Station Dodangolla	5
Mr DICN Piyasiri	Staff Management Assistant	Student Accommodation Division	22
Ms DMDT Samaranayake	Management Assistant (Grade II)	Department of Archeology, Faculty of Arts	12
Mr GN Priyalanka	Audio Visual Technical Officer (Grade I)	Post graduate Institute of Science	21
Ms AGAV Karunarathne	Management Assistant (Grade III)	Non-Academic Establishments Division	9

Clinical Induction Ceremony – 2019/20 Batch

The Clinical Induction Ceremony for the talented 4th- semester batch of dental students (2019/2020) took place on, 18th of September 2023, at the prestigious S. B. Dissanayake Hall of the Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya.



PGIS Partners with Chinese University to Offer Masters Programme

The Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, in line with its vision entered a Memorandum of Understanding with Tomorrow Technology Education Service Centre (TTESC) in Beijing, China. This academic cooperation aims to promote teaching, learning and research for Chinese Students. The collaboration marks a revival of the sustained and built-up cooperation between the two countries through the silk route dating back to a few centuries ago. The selection of the PGIS, by the TTESE, China for this academic endeavor is true evidence of PGIS being accepted as an internationally renowned center of excellence for postgraduate training, innovative research, and development in sciences.

Under this agreement, the first batch of 27 Chinese students were admitted to follow the Master in Science Education (SLQF 9) programme under the Board of Study in Science Education. This programme takes into consideration the nature of the learner, the processes of learning and teaching and the characteristics of the domain-Science, emphasizing the importance of orientation towards the future. Even though the PGIS has hosted many foreign students for various academic and research programmes since its inception, this marks the first time it offers a full Master degree programme to students offshore. Lectures for the programme began online in early June 2023, and students are currently in Sri Lanka for their onsite activities from August 2023 until the end of October 2023, completing the first semester academic activities of the programme.

A formal welcoming ceremony, hosted under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya was held on 29th of August 2023, following an opening ceremony in May 2023 to mark the commencement of the academic programme online. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Director of the PGIS, Chairperson of the Board of Study in Science Education and the Programme Coordinator grace this occasion with the participation of 21 Chinese Students at the PGIS.

Qualified and competent academic staff members, particularly in the field of science education, are currently engaged in teaching these students. The curriculum is enriched with hands-on experience in teaching practice, classroom observation, IT related modules, scientific writing, research methodology, and other prescribed modules in the programme.

TTESC has expressed utmost satisfaction with how the program is conducted. Based on their request, arrangements are being made to enroll the next batch of students by the PGIS for the academic year 2024/2025, in January 2024.

Student Literary Festival – "මාගේ දේශය අවදි කරනු මැන" ශිෂ්‍ය සාහිත්‍ය උළෙල - 2023

The Peradeniya University Student Union Sahitya Sub-Committee organized the 28th "Awaken My Land" Student Literary Festival from 21st of July to 23rd of September 2023, on the university premices. This literary festival aims to showcase the creative abilities of students and provides them with a platform to present their talents.

The inaugural ceremony was held on 21st of July 2023, and the organizing committee conducted the literature camp by organizing workshops covering aspects of art, dance, music, and drama. Additionally, singing, dancing, announcing, and other competitions were held for school children.

Other events included the St. Bandara Memorial Inter-School Debating Tournament, the Inter-Higher Technology Institute Debating Tournament, and the Inter-Faculty Debating Tournament. Additionally, dialogues, cultural festivals, educational art stalls, literature camps, prose essays, photography competitions, and stage plays called "Wala Week" were organized, based on the work of Prof. Ediriweera Sarachchandra. The space for the stage plays was provided in the open-air theatre of the University.

The student literary festival, held successfully for two months, concluded on 23rd of September 2023, with the presentation of certificates to the winners of various competitions held during the festival.

"මාගේ දේශය අවදි කරනු මැන"

எமது தேசத்தை விழிப்படையச் செய்வோம்

Let My Country Awake

ශිෂ්‍ය සාහිත්‍ය උළෙල
மாணவ சாகித்திய விழா
Students' Festival of Literature

2023





















