



NEWSLETTER

A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

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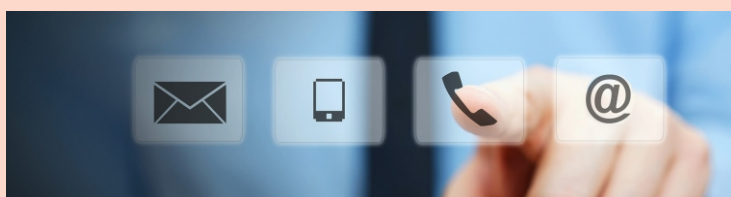
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FOR THE 64TH
CONSECUTIVE
YEAR

74.6

63.2

Message from the Vice-Chancellor



As we approach the end of one year and the dawn of another, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to all of you who have demonstrated resilience and dedication in navigating the challenges we faced in 2023.

Despite the acute shortage of academic staff, I am pleased to announce the recruitment of thirty-four new members, which should help alleviate some of the burdens on our existing staff.

Undoubtedly, economic hardships have touched every aspect of our operations. Despite implementing various measures to reduce expenses and minimize wastage, we have been confronted with increased tariffs and prices, adding to our financial challenges. Nevertheless, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to student welfare, enhancing sports facilities, renovating hostels, improving canteen amenities, and providing studentships.

Our emphasis on research, particularly in multidisciplinary fields, has persisted. We have fostered numerous international collaborations not only for research purposes but also for academic and capacity-building initiatives. Through staff visits to foreign universities and institutes, we have broadened our horizons and strengthened our international partnerships.

We launched our inaugural sustainability website, "Sustainability at Peradeniya," marking the beginning of a new chapter for our institution. Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this website serves as a comprehensive resource for students, faculty, staff, and the wider community. It signifies a significant milestone in our journey towards a sustainable future, reaffirming our commitment to driving positive change and fostering innovation.

Our academic staff, under the guidance of the Strategic Planning and Management Committee, have developed a centenary development plan, which has been approved by the governing council and received acceptance from the government, as articulated in the budget speech. An allocation of Rs 500 Mn has been earmarked to kickstart various activities outlined in the plan, including solar power generation, network infrastructure enhancement, establishment of a multidisciplinary research laboratory, and improvements to student canteens and foreign student accommodations.

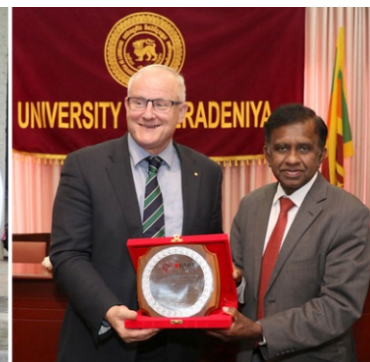
Furthermore, our collaboration with the urban development authority on the Greater Kandy City Development Project has allowed us to contribute to the expansion and development of our city. Some of the expansion projects envisioned by our university have been incorporated into the UDA plans, reflecting our commitment to community engagement and regional development.

As we look ahead to the coming year, it is imperative that we remain vigilant and strive for greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness in all our endeavors.

I wish you a great 2024!

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

Visit of RMIT Delegates to the University of Peradeniya



On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the establishing the Joint PhD Programme between Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Australia and the University of Peradeniya (UoP), an eleven-member delegation headed by Prof. Calum Drummond, Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Research and Innovation of RMIT, visited the UoP on December 1, 2023.

A discussion with the RMIT delegates to further strengthen and broaden the partnership between RMIT and UoP was held from 11.00 a.m to 1.00 p.m in the Senate Room, organized by the Department of Civil Engineering, UoP. Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Deans of Faculties, Heads of Departments of the Faculty of Engineering, Directors of URC, InRO and BLII-TTO, Overall Coordinator and Coordinators of Postgraduate Programmes in Civil Engineering, Coordinator of RMIT-UoP Joint PhD Programme, and supervisors of PhD research under RMIT-UoP Joint PhD Programme participated in the meeting.

A brief overview of the RMIT-UoP Joint PhD programme and ongoing research activities in the Department of Civil Engineering, UoP was presented by the RMIT-UoP Joint PhD Programme Coordinator. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation of the RMIT, the Dean of Faculty of Engineering, and Head of the Department of Civil Engineering addressed the gathering highlighting the importance and success of the RMIT-UoP partnership and the need to further strengthen the collaboration while acknowledging the key personnel for their contributions to the joint PhD programme during the past five years. Finally, there was a fruitful discussion between RMIT delegates and UoP representatives to enhance the collaboration further and the key focal points of the discussion included ongoing research areas at different faculties/departments at both UoP and RMIT, the possibility of extending the joint PhD collaboration to other faculties of UoP, and the possibility of extending the collaboration to joint Master degree programmes between RMIT and UoP.

EEERaPS & Career Fair 2023



The Career Fair 2023 organized by the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering was held at the Faculty of Engineering on November 3, 2023.

This is an annual symposium of the Department, where students showcase their research projects and interact with industry experts and potential employers. The event also featured sessions for school students and pre-engineering students, where they learned about the future of engineering and the opportunities in the field.

Explore the highlights, innovations, and future prospects that electrified young minds.

The Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series - December 2023



The inaugural session of the Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series was successfully conducted on December 13, 2023, at 1.00 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University of Peradeniya. The guest speaker for the event was Professor Wasantha Athukorala from the Department of Economics and Statistics, Faculty of Arts at the University of Peradeniya. Professor Athukorala delivered an insightful speech on "National Budget 2024."



The Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series is an initiative of the Vice-Chancellor, aiming to provide the University community with a distinctive opportunity to engage with and learn from eminent scholars in their respective fields of expertise. It serves as a platform for intellectual enrichment, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas and knowledge within the academic community.

University of Peradeniya Partners with JICA to Launch JICA Chair Programme

The University of Peradeniya and the JICA Sri Lanka Office in Colombo signed an official agreement for the upcoming JICA Chair Programme. Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor, and Mr Yamada Tetsuya, the Chief Representative of the JICA Sri Lanka Office, signed the agreement during the signing ceremony on October 3, 2023.

The ceremony was attended by Dr Panduka Neluwala, Director of SLJSC, Prof. Roshan Yapa, and Dr Shyamantha Subasinghe. The agreement strengthens both parties' commitment to the JICA Chair programme, which seeks to promote knowledge, exchange, and collaboration.



The JICA Chair Programme is organised by the Sri Lanka Japan Study Center (SLJSC) in collaboration with the International Relations Office (InRO) of the University of Peradeniya. Under this programme, participants can anticipate a series of brief, intensive lectures delivered by eminent Japanese lecturers. These sessions will cover a spectrum of topics, including Japan's development experiences in politics, economics, public administration, law, and other relevant disciplines. Over 500 participants have already registered for the programme, which has garnered significant interest.

Session for Commerce Teachers and Students of Giriulla Education Zone



On November 8, 2023, the Management Education Unit of the Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya, organized a seminar for GCE (Advanced Level) students and teachers from the Giriulla Education Zone at the Faculty Auditorium. Mr Uwin Ariyaratna, the Chairman of the Management Education Unit, led the session. The seminar's primary objective was to enlighten students about the various career opportunities available in the commerce stream. It was designed to provide insight and inspiration for students to pursue their career aspirations in the field of commerce.

Japan's Foreign Policy and Japan-Sri Lanka Relationship



A session under the distinguished JICA Chair programme, featuring a valuable keynote address titled "Japan's Foreign Policy and Japan-Sri Lanka Relationship" by His Excellency Mizukoshi Hideaki, the Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka was held on November 8, 2023 in the Senate Room of the University of Peradeniya.

The event was graced by Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, and Mr. Yamada Tetsuya, Chief Representative of the JICA Sri Lanka office, Deans of Faculties and Directors of Centres. Following Ambassador Mizukoshi's keynote speech, the event reached another milestone with the launch of a remarkable book titled "Journey of Ten Years, Sri Lanka – Japan Study Centre," authored by Prof. Susiji Wickramasinghe. This publication delves into the centre's decade-long journey, offering a comprehensive overview of its activities and achievements.

In addition to the special session, a meeting was held between the Vice-Chancellor, Deans, Directors of Postgraduate Institutes, the distinguished HE Ambassador, and JICA, fostering dialogue on how the University can further fortify its ties with Japan and explore potential collaborations. This insightful discussion aimed to pave the way for fruitful partnerships and academic exchanges between the University of Peradeniya and Japan. This event was impeccably organized by the Sri Lanka Japan Study Centre's, in collaboration with the International Relations Office and the Business Linkage, Innovation, Incubation, and Technology Transfer Office. It stands as a testament to the enduring commitment to fostering international relations and academic

Awareness Programme on Green Procurement for Staff of the University



On November 20, 2023, the University of Peradeniya organized an awareness programme on green procurement from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Senate Room. The programme was organized by the Committee on Sustainability through the Staff Development Centre (SDC) of the university.

Professor Terrence Madhujith, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Chairman of the Committee on Sustainability, Dr Priyanga Wijesinghe, the Acting Director of the SDC, Dr. G.A.N. Suranjith, the Deputy Director of the Centre for Environmental Sustainability, and Mr Thisil Weerasekera, the Acting Bursar, graced the inaugural session.

The programme drew active participation from sixty-two attendees, comprising administrative officers, members of Technical Evaluation Committees, and management assistants directly involved in the University procurement procedures. Mr Anura Lokugamage, Proprietor of Learning and Development Consultants and former Senior Consultant at Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA), served as the resource person. The programme was sponsored by Metropolitan Technologies (PVT) Ltd.

This enlightening initiative provided a platform to delve into the intricacies of green procurement, highlighting sustainable practices and their integration into the University's procurement processes. It emphasized the institution's unwavering commitment to sustainability and echoed its proactive stance toward environmental responsibility. The success of this programme reflects the University's dedication to fostering a culture of environmental consciousness and responsible procurement within its community.

Opening of Inhalation Sedation Unit, Faculty of Dental Sciences “Dawn of new hope”



On the October 7, 2023, a beacon of hope illuminated the Paedodontic Clinic at the Faculty of Dental Sciences of the University of Peradeniya. The ceremonial opening and handover of the Inhalation Sedation Unit to the Faculty took place on this significant day.

This was a long-cherished dream of the Head of the Division of Paedodontics, Prof. Chandra Herath and a group of dedicated clinicians. The newly established facility is poised to provide more comfortable treatment for anxious patients, symbolizing a remarkable milestone in paediatric dental care in Sri Lanka. The Dental Hospital (Teaching) Peradeniya now proudly houses a dedicated Inhalation Sedation Unit. The funding for this initiative came from the generous sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Kandy in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Pudukottai, further supported by the Rotary Foundation in the USA. The equipment and the infrastructure were valued at 8.0 million Sri Lankan Rupees.

The Chairperson of the project was the former Senior lecturer of the faculty, Dr V Vijaykumaran. His efforts were praised and applauded by both the academic community and his fellow Rotarians. Many officials from the Rotary Club attended this occasion, including the Chief Guest of the ceremony, the District Governor (RI 3220) Rtn. Jerome Rajendram and the District Rotary Foundation Chair, Past District Governor Ajith Weerasinghe. The Guest of Honor, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya graced the occasion and motivated the academicians to further pursue their dreams. A number of distinguished invitees were present at the ceremony to celebrate this achievement including the Dean of the Faculty of Dental Sciences, Prof. A.M. Attygalla, and the President of the Association for Specialists in Restorative Dentistry, Dr Nilmini Abeygunawardane.

This joyous occasion was followed by a hands-on workshop for Registrars of Restorative Dentistry, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Anesthesiology. The workshop and lectures were conducted by Paedodontic specialists well-versed in the practice of inhalation sedation, especially for children. The resource personnel were Dr. Srinivas Namineni, Dr. Sunil Mohammed, and Dr. Sreekanth Mallineni, from India. The day concluded as a success for all the participants and trainees.

Thus, there with is hope for the future of dental care for children in our country as the Division of Paedodontics leads the way as the sole provider of comprehensive care for children amidst numerous hardships and challenges, under the guidance of the only Paedodontic specialists in Sri Lanka.



Regreen Hantana - Second Phase Takes Root with Commercial Bank Partnership



The second phase of "Hanthana Reforestation," a collaborative initiative between the University of Peradeniya's Regreen Hantana and Thurupiri projects, kicked off today at the university's Upper Hantana Environmental Restoration Site. The project, led by Vice-Chancellor Prof. M.D. Lamawansa and in partnership with the Bank of Commerce and the Sri Lanka Forest Department, marks a significant step towards safeguarding Sri Lanka's precious biodiversity.

Commercial Bank Invests in Conservation: In a pivotal commitment, the Commercial Bank has pledged a 3 million-rupee investment over two years to support the Regreen Hantana project. This pioneering programme plays a critical role in protecting native flora and fauna within the Hantana mountain range.

Planting the Seeds of Change: The tree planting ceremony showcased a united front for environmental stewardship. Joining Prof. Lamawansa were officials from the University of Peradeniya, including Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ravi Kuruppuge, Prof. Sanath Rajapaksa Dean of the Faculty of Science and Environmental Sustainability Centre Director Prof. Tilak Hewawasam. Representatives from the Regreen Hantana team, led by the Head of the project, Prof. Thilanka Gunaratne, also extended their support.

Engaging the Community: Adding to the celebratory atmosphere were Commercial Bank's Senior Regional Manager, Mr Thine Jayasundara and News Officer Mr Sanith Jayasundara, eager to witness the project's progress. A large contingent of enthusiastic students and local residents further solidified the programme's commitment to community engagement.

Huddle Rise 2023 – Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya



The Huddle Programme is an initiative by the Student Academic Advisory Committee (SAAC) of the Faculty of Science. The latest installment of the Huddle Programme was held for the S20 batch from October 3-6, 2023. This programme was tailored exclusively for university undergraduates and focused on self-development and interpersonal skills. This comprehensive initiative included a range of events, games, and programs designed to bolster crucial skills like teamwork and leadership. The programme culminated in a lively variety show, showcasing the diverse talents of the participating undergraduates, and providing an opportunity to celebrate their talents and diversity. The programme was sponsored by EvonSys and partnered with Brandix Lanka Ltd.

University of Peradeniya Takes Giant Leap Toward Sustainability with a Dedicated Website

The University of Peradeniya proudly launched its first-ever sustainability website, aptly titled "Sustainability at Peradeniya," on October 20, 2023. The event was graced by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith (joining online), the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Vasanthi Pinto representing all Deans, and Dr. Nalin Suranjith, Deputy Director of Research & Environmental Management at the Centre for Environmental Sustainability.

[Click here](#) to visit Sustainability at Peradeniya website.



The website developed by the Committee on Sustainability chaired by Prof. Terrence Madhujith serves as an invaluable hub for disseminating information on various aspects of sustainability. It aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), demonstrating the University's commitment to contributing to the global sustainability agenda. By incorporating data, activities, and initiatives related to sustainability, "Sustainability at Peradeniya" aims to provide a comprehensive resource for students, faculty, staff, and the wider community.

Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, shared his views on the new platform, emphasizing the University's aspiration to be a leader in sustainability education and practice. He stated, "The launch of 'Sustainability at Peradeniya' marks a significant milestone in our journey towards a sustainable future. It embodies our vision to educate, engage, and empower our community with knowledge on sustainability."

Prof. Terrance Madhujith, Chair of the Committee on Sustainability, echoed these sentiments, saying, "Our goal is to create a dynamic platform for sharing knowledge. This website represents our collective efforts to demonstrate our commitment to sustainability and our dedication to supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals."

The launch of "Sustainability at Peradeniya" marks an exciting new chapter in the University of Peradeniya's ongoing sustainability efforts. As the University continues to foster innovation and inspire change in sustainability, this new website stands as evidence of its commitment and determination to build a more sustainable and responsible future. The University community and the wider world now have a valuable resource to access information and collaborate on sustainability endeavours.

Field visit to Hotel Kandalama and Maia Cheese (Pvt.) Ltd



The Department of Management Studies arranged a field visit to Hotel Kandalama and Maia Cheese (Pvt.) Ltd. on December 6, 2023 for students specializing in Organizational Management. Enthusiastic 2000 and 3000 level students, accompanied by academic staff from the department, participated in the visit. The primary objective of the field visit was to enhance students' understanding of knowledge management, cross-cultural management, entrepreneurship, and sustainability within a real-world context. During the visit, students had the opportunity to interact with organizational members and receive expert advice aimed at shaping their mindset and aiding in career planning. Additionally, this visit offered an opportunity for the department to cultivate further diverse industrial relations.

Presidential Awards – 2019/20 Awarded on November 2023



The National Research Council of Sri Lanka (NRC) confers the Presidential Awards annually to recognize the top 100 research papers published in journals with the highest SCImago Journal Ranking (SJR), where at least 20% of the authors are Sri Lankan scientists affiliated with a Sri Lankan institution. The Presidential Awards ceremony for 2019 and 2020 took place on November 21, 2023 at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exposition Centre of the BMICH in Colombo 07. Several researchers from the University of Peradeniya were

honoured with Presidential Awards. The awardees are listed alphabetically, with the number of awards received by each individual indicated in parentheses. It is important to note that some awards were received jointly by two or more faculty members.

No	Name	Number of Awards	No	Name	Number of Awards
1	NM Adassooriya	(1)	24	KBSN Jinadasa	(1)
2	A Amarasinghe	(1)	25	CS Kalpage	(1)
3	PPAW Athukorala	(2)	26	NS Kalupahana	(1)
4	TMWJ Bandara	(1)	27	DGGP Karunaratne	(1)
5	WMGMB Bowatte	(1)	28	HMTK Karunaratna	(1)
6	M Danthurebandara	(1)	29	KMR Karunaratna	(1)
7	SJS de Mel	(2)	30	RK Leelananda	(1)
8	PL Dharmapriya	(1)	31	LVL Liyanapathirana	(1)
9	AMSDM Dissanayake	(1)	32	RB Mapa	(1)
10	MB Dissanayake	(1)	33	MPB Meegaskumbura	(1)
11	JB Ekanayake	(4)	34	F Noordeen	(1)
12	MPB Ekanayake	(4)	35	RG Ragel	(1)
13	CD Gamage	(3)	36	RMG Rajapakse	(1)
14	IB Gawarammana	(2)	37	TN Rajapakse	(1)
15	SDGSP Gunawardane	(2)	38	NVI ERatnatunga	(1)
16	GMRI Godaliyadda	(4)	39	R Sivakanesan	(1)
17	HMSG Herath	(1)	40	SAHA Suraweera	(1)
18	HMSR Herath	(1)	41	LDB Suriyagoda	(1)
19	D Iddawela	(1)	42	R Visvanathan	(1)
20	N Jayasena	(1)	43	UWAVitharana	(1)
21	ACA Jayasundera	(1)	44	WDSJ Wickramasinghe	(1)
22	NSS Jayasuriya	(1)	45	S Wijetunge	(1)
23	PR Jayasooriya	(1)			

Eduflare 2023



On 11th December 2023, the 1000 level undergraduate students of the academic year 2021/2022, in collaboration with the Department of Management Studies, organized "Eduflare – 2023" in the Art Theater from 3pm to 5pm. The event served as a partial fulfillment of MGS 1201 - Fundamentals of Social Sciences course. Dr. Sardha Hemapriya, Obstetrician

and Gynecologist at Kandy National Hospital was invited as the resource person to facilitate the program regarding sex education, unwanted pregnancies and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD). Students and academic staff attended the event, which featured a drama performance by students centered around sex education. Following the drama, a Questions and Answers session took place, allowing participants to seek clarifications from the resource person. This program served as an enlightening initiative on comprehensive education, where knowledge becomes the key to healthy choices and empowered lives.

Eminent Women Scientist Award - 2023



Prof. G.A.D. Perera from the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science at the University of Peradeniya, has been honored with the "Eminent Women Scientist Award - 2023". This prestigious award was bestowed upon her on the recommendation of the Academic Council of the CSER (Center for Social and Environmental Research, India). Notably, she is the first Sri Lankan scientist honored by the CSER, India. The ceremonial awarding ceremony was held on November 28, 2023 during the conference on Ethnobotany, Environmental Sustainability, and Multidisciplinary Research held at K.O. College, Gumla, India. Prof. Perera also delivered an invited speech at the conference.

The Nursing Pledge Ceremony Batch 2020/2021 Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences



The Nursing Pledge Ceremony organized by the Department of Nursing for Batch 2020/2021 undergraduate students was successfully held on December 08, 2023, at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya.

This year, the ceremony was organized, symbolizing the landmark of undergraduate nursing students of the Batch 2020/2021 completing their first academic year and stepping towards advanced nursing practice. Thus, they were offered nursing caps and customary three wick lamps that imply knowledge and the skillful hands inspired by a loving heart. In expressing the intention of the ceremony, the students pledged, reciting the "Florence Nightingale Pledge" with pride and confidence, committing themselves to uphold the ethical and moral standards expected of professional nurses.

A gathering of distinguished invitees and the parents of the students participated in witnessing this ceremonial event. Accordingly, the Department of Nursing was truly pleased to welcome Mrs M.B.C. Samanmali, Director Nursing (Medical Services), Ministry of Health, as the Chief Guest of the ceremony. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Terrence Madhujith, the Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences Prof. Lalani Yatawara, Deans from other fellow faculties of the University of Peradeniya, Directors of affiliated institutes and Teaching Hospitals, Heads and academic staff members of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences and extended staff from clinical training setup were also among the invited dignitaries.

The Chief Guest, Mrs M.B.C. Samanmali, delivered a remarkable speech that served to motivate the nursing students, encouraging them to acquire knowledge, skills, and a caring attitude. She emphasized the importance of compassion while performing their duties while embracing the sense of responsibility for human lives. The occasion also paid tribute to Lady Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern organized nursing practice. The Chief Guest along with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, symbolically ignited the traditional Nightingale Lamp and garlanded the gleaming statue of Lady Florence Nightingale, expressing gratitude on behalf of all the participants at the event.

The Department of Nursing expressed its utmost privilege in acknowledging every individual who contributed their tireless efforts to make this accomplishment a great success. We wish the undergraduate nursing students of the Batch 2020/2021 of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya, all the best and success in their future endeavors.

Know-Flix

A short film screening "Know-Flix", was organized by the 3000 level undergraduates from the B.Com Degree Programme in partial fulfillment of the course, MGS 3019: Knowledge Management. The event took place on November 3, 2023 from 2 p.m. onwards at the Smart Room. Mr T.S.S. Fernando, Head of the Department of Management Studies and lecturers attached to the department graced the event. The event also saw the enthusiastic participation of 3000 level students from the BBA Programme specializing in Organizational Management.

Third Transnational Training Programme under the ENACT Project on Soft Skills and Diversity



The third international training of trainers (TOT) programme of the Capacity Building in Higher Education project on "Enhancing Governance, Management and Reforms in Sri Lankan Universities through Non-Academic Staff Training (ENACT)" was held at the Instituto Superior Tecnico in Lisbon, Portugal from November 13-17, 2023.

The ENACT project focuses on Non-Academic staff members. It aims at developing their

knowledge, skills, and expertise in order to support organizational performance and contribute to achieving the objectives of higher education, while also improving their job satisfaction, motivation and career prospects.

The TOT training hosted by the University of Lisbon, Portugal, was conducted by resource persons from the European partner Universities of the project. The programme was attended by 30 staff members from six Sri Lankan

partner Universities of the project and members from four European Universities/Institutes. The topics covered during the programme included Training Assessment tools, Communication Skills, Diversity and Inclusion, Time Management Skills, Leadership, and Change Management. The trainees are planning to conduct a series of training workshops for other staff members on these topics in the next few months. The participants from the University of Peradeniya were Prof. Anoma Abhayaratne (Coordinator), Mr A.M.N.B. Arampath/Bursar, Ms M.S. Ranasinghe/Deputy Registrar, Faculty of Arts, Ms H.A.T.N. Amarasena/Deputy Registrar, Ms W.M.S.N. Wijerathne/Assistant Registrar, academic Establishments.

Exceptional Achievements of Prof. Rohana Chandrajith, Dr. Jagath Gunatilake and the Engineering Geology Research Group

Prof. Rohana Chandrajith's achievement in the TWAS Fellowship: Prof. Rohana Chandrajith has reached a remarkable milestone by being elected as a Fellow to The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in the field of Earth Climate and Environmental Science, a prestigious recognition. This accomplishment is part of the induction of 47 new Fellows into TWAS, contributing to a total membership exceeding 1,400. The official commencement of their membership is scheduled for January 1, 2024.

Exceptional Achievements of Dr. Jagath Gunatilake and the Engineering Geology Research Group: Dr. Jagath Gunatilake and the Engineering Geology Research Group from the Department of Geology have garnered exceptional recognition at the 16th World Landslide Forum in Florence, Italy, held from November 14-17, 2023. Their outstanding contributions have led to the well-deserved acknowledgment of the group by the World Centre of Excellence in Landslide Disaster Reduction. The International Consortium of Landslides (ICL) has further honored the Engineering Geology Research Group by appointing it as a Board member of the ICL, signifying a significant recognition of the group and the Department of Geology's substantial contributions to Landslide Research.

Meeting between the Vice-Chancellor and the Regional Officer of DAAD



A meeting between the Vice-Chancellor and the Regional Officer of DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service was held on October 6, 2023 at the Vice-Chancellor's Office of the University of Peradeniya.

During the meeting, Ms Nimaya Manudewa, the Regional Officer of DAAD provided a comprehensive overview of the services and opportunities offered by the organisation.

Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director, International Relations Office, and Ms Diyathi Jayaweera, Project Manager of the International Relations Office participated in the meeting from the University of Peradeniya.

On the same day, a hybrid information session titled "Study and Research in Germany" was conducted at the auditorium of the Postgraduate Institute of Science with the participation of a large number of attendees. The session was led by Ms Nimaya Manudewa, in collaboration with the International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya.

Training Workshop for School Children on "Empowering Global Citizens: Shaping a Sustainable Future Amidst Climate Crisis"



The Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES), jointly with the International Relations Office (InRO) of the University of Peradeniya, conducted a training workshop to commemorate the International Week 2023 of the University of Peradeniya.

Nearly 130 schoolchildren and 10 schoolteachers from

Mulgama Maha Vidyalaya, Gampola Bauddha Vidyalaya, and Gampola Naranwita Kanishta Vidyalaya attended the programme held on December 1, 2023. Prof. (Ms) K.G.N. Nanayakkara from the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Peradeniya, Dr Chaminda Wijesundara from the Department of Zoology, University of Peradeniya; and Dr (Mrs) Anushka Elangasinghe from the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Peradeniya, respectively, conducted lectures on the themes of "Flowing Forward: Navigating Climate Change's Impact on Water Resources," "Sri Lanka's Natural Treasures: A Journey through Biodiversity," and "Clearing the Air: Understanding the Nexus of Climate Change and Air Pollution."

The sessions were held at the Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (PGIHS) and the EOE Pereira Theatre of the Faculty of Engineering. Dr S.K. Weragoda and his staff led a guided tour of the Joint Research and Demonstration Center's (JRDC) laboratories to conduct practical demonstrations of water quality testing and research.

The three schools received donations of tree seedlings to plant on their school lands. The CES, as one of the country's premier environmental organizations, is hosting these kinds of events to inspire students to adopt an environmentally conscious perspective and advance environmental sustainability.

University of Peradeniya Congratulates Professor Ranjith Dissanayake, the Elected President of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka [IESL]



The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) has announced the appointment of Professor Ranjith Dissanayake, Senior Professor in the Department of the Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering of University of Peradeniya as its new President, effective October 2023.

The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL), stands as an apex national body, ensuring internationally recognized and locally relevant standards in professional engineering practice and education.

It has been actively supporting national development and diligently serving its members and society at large. The IESL envisions itself as one of the leading professional institutions in engineering and technology globally.

Notably, with this new appointment, Prof. Dissanayake brings a great deal of reputation to our university. Currently, he also serves as the Chairman of the Green Building Council of Sri Lanka (GBCSL), and the Vice President of the Chamber of Construction Industry (CCI). Furthermore, Prof. Dissanayake has founded gapHQ, the base of operations for several companies, including Lego International (Pvt.) Ltd., ICB (Pvt.) Ltd., Lanka AAC (Pvt.) Ltd., GAP (Pvt.) Ltd., and Wrangler Solutions (Pvt.) Ltd.

His dedication to public service is also evident in his past roles as the Secretary to the State Ministry of Rural Roads and the State Ministry of Urban Development. In light of his extensive experience, remarkable achievements, and unwavering dedication to the field of engineering, the University believes that Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake's leadership will bring new energy and vision to the IESL. The University of Peradeniya congratulates Prof. Dissanayake on his new appointment, which certainly brings fame to the Faculty of Engineering and the University.

DENTS NIGHT 2023



The spectacular awarding ceremony of Dents Games; "DENTS NIGHT 2023" was held on November 16, 2023 at the CPC Hall of the Faculty of Dental Sciences. Students, and academic and non-academic members of the Faculty attended the event.

In a highly competitive category, Mr Lahiru Weerasinghe (Men's category) and Ms Kavindi Abeyrathne (Women's category) emerged as the athletes of the Year, displaying unparalleled dedication and skill in sports. Their remarkable journey and commitment to excellence inspired everyone present. The 2016/17 batch claimed the Champions title after a season marked by teamwork, strategic brilliance, and unforgettable victories. Their collective effort showcased the true spirit of sportsmanship.

This annual event celebrated outstanding achievements and showcased the pinnacle of athletic prowess of students and Faculty members.

Visit by a Delegation of Leading Research Professors from Sweden, India, and Nigeria



As part of an international collaborative research project on “Novel Nano-structures for performance enhancement of low-cost solar cells”, a delegation of leading research professors from Sweden, India, and Nigeria visited the University of Peradeniya on October 04, 2023. The visit was arranged as part of a research collaboration with Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake at NIFS and Prof. Wijendra Bandara at the Department of Physics. A meeting with the Vice-chancellor was held in the Vice-Chancellor's Office at the University of Peradeniya, to discuss the work related to the research collaboration.

Prof. Bengt-Erik Mellander, Department of Physics, Chalmers, University of Technology, Sweden, Prof. Ingvar Albinsson, Department of Physics, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, Dr Maurizio Furlani, Department of Physics, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, Prof. Nandu B. Chaure, Department of Physics, Pune University, India, were among the foreign delegates of the collaborative team.

Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. U.I. Dissanayake, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Sarath S. Kodithuwakku, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, Dr D.M.S. Munasinghe, Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake, National Institute of Fundamental Studies, Prof. T.M.W.J. Bandara, Swedish Research collaboration team at Peradeniya University, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director, International Relations Office, Prof. G.A.D. Perera, Faculty of Science, Prof. R.M.G. Rajapakse Faculty of Science, Dr S.S.S. de S. Jagoda, Secretary Swedish Research collaboration team, Peradeniya University, and the staff of the International Relations Office participated from the University of Peradeniya.

This meeting served as a crucial platform for strengthening international research collaborations and fostering academic partnerships among the participating institutions.

Aberdeen Inspirations – Leadership Camp 2023



The Department of Human Resource Management of the Faculty of Management in collaboration with Aberdeen Holdings (Pvt) Ltd organized the “Aberdeen Inspirations – Leadership Camp 2023” on November 21, 2023 from 9.30 a.m. onwards at the Faculty Auditorium. The event was organized parallel to the course HRM 3201: Organizational Leadership offered for the 3000 level undergraduates of the faculty with the aim of developing leadership skills of the undergraduates. The event consisted of many interactive sessions with the participation of industry experts from Aberdeen Holdings and an Outbound Training session at the University Gymnasium.

The session introduction was done by Mr. Aaqil Munavver, Executive, Marketing & Corporate Communications, followed by a sessions on “Being Change Ready” conducted by Ms. Najiha Carim, Assistant Manager, Corporate Secretarial & Compliance, “Corporate Communications” by Ms. Asheera Samsudeen, Manager, Marketing & Corporate Communications, “Personal Grooming and Branding” by Ms. Dilshani Wadigamangawa, Assistant Manager, Human Resources & Administration, “People Management” by Mr. Kisal Ekanayake, Financial Analyst and Mr. Yashon Visvanathan, Executive, Finance and a special session on “A C-Suite Executive's Lifestyle” was by Mr. Anushaka De Silva, Group Chief Financial Officer of Aberdeen Holdings. The students received gifts and certificates, courtesy of Aberdeen Holdings for their enthusiastic participation at the event.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between University of Peradeniya and Emjay International (Pvt) Ltd.

The ceremonial signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Peradeniya and Emjay International (Pvt) Ltd. took place on 09th November 2023, in the Vice-Chancellor's office of the University of Peradeniya. The MoU was signed by Professor M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya and Mr. Roshan Dharmaratne, Director, HR, Admin & Compliance of Emjay International (Pvt) Ltd. Mr. M. Ekanayake, Acting Registrar of the University of Peradeniya attested the MoU.

Prof. R.H. Kuruppuge, Dean of the Faculty of Management, Dr. S. Maheswaran, Head of the Department of Operations Management and its staff members, Ms. Aparna Mahawithana and Mr. Tharaka Narendra from Emjay International (Pvt) Ltd graced the occasion.

University of Peradeniya Empowers Green Leaders: Waste Management Training and Community Outreach



The Center for Environmental Sustainability (CES), the International Relations Office (InRO), and the Department of Botany at the University of Peradeniya, along with the Kandy Municipal Council (KMC), jointly organized a community awareness programme in Kandy city on waste management to commemorate the International Week 2023 of the University of Peradeniya. The primary objective of the programme was to empower global citizens on environmental sustainability.

Dr. Anuruddha Karunaratne, from the Department of Agriculture Engineering, and Dr. Nalin Suranjith, from the Department of Botany of the University of Peradeniya conducted a trainer training programme for 30 GreenTerns, undergraduate interns affiliated with the CES. This training equipped the interns with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective waste management practices, setting the stage for their role in a subsequent community outreach activity.

The culmination of these efforts took place on December 2, 2023 with a successful community outreach activity in Kandy city. Targeting local businesses, the initiative aimed to strengthen the waste management plan implemented by the KMC. Trained GreenTerns, alongside waste management supervisors from KMC, engaged business owners in awareness sessions focused on proper waste segregation and sustainable practices.



The success of the Waste Management Trainer Training Programme and Community Outreach Activity highlights the University of Peradeniya's commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement. This collaborative effort between academia and local governance sets a promising precedent for future endeavors in environmental conservation and community welfare, showcasing the potential for transformative change when various stakeholders unite with a shared vision for a greener and more sustainable future.

Web Session on Japanese Government Scholarships - International Week 2023



A Web session on Japanese Government Scholarships was successfully conducted by the International Relations Office on November 28, 2023 in collaboration with the JICA Sri Lanka Office in Sri Lanka, the Japanese Embassy in Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lanka

Japan Study Centre, in parallel to the International Week 2023 of the University of Peradeniya.

Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director of the International Relations Office, welcomed the resource persons and the participants on behalf of the University of Peradeniya. Mr. Kenji Inoue, the First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan and Ms. Yuri Ide, the Senior Representative of the JICA Sri Lanka Office, participated as the resource persons of the Web sessions. During the Information Session, the funding programme for Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS), the Japanese Government (MEXT) Scholarship, and other Japanese Scholarships were discussed followed by a Q & A session.

International Week 2023 – Inauguration Ceremony



The International Relations Office at the University of Peradeniya organized International Week 2023 with the aim of expanding international collaborations, exposing university students and staff to international educational opportunities, strengthening its international presence in higher education, and enhancing its global visibility to emerge as a key hub for knowledge and learning.

The event was held from November 27, to December 01, 2023 in collaboration with the Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy, the Japan Embassy in Sri Lanka, Japan International Cooperation Agency Sri Lanka Office, Postgraduate Institute of Science, Sri Lanka Japan Study Centre, and the Centre for Environmental Sustainability.

The Inauguration ceremony of the international week was successfully held on November 27, 2023 with the participation of Her Excellency Bonnie Horbach, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Sri Lanka, H.E. Dr. Athira S., the Assistant High Commissioner for India to Sri Lanka, Mr. Stefan Winkler, Director of the Goethe Institute, Prof. Yuansong Wei, From the Chinese Academy of Science, China, the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, the Deans of Faculties, Directors of Postgraduate Institutes, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, the Director of the International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya, the Heads of departments and the management committee members of the International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya.

Additionally, H.E. Prof. Janitha Liyanage, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation, H.E. Andres Marcelo Gonzalez Garrido, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to Sri Lanka, Madam Maria L. Popova, First Secretary of the Russian Embassy in Sri Lanka, Rectors and Vice-rectors of the partner universities participated in the inauguration ceremony via Zoom.

International Week 2023 – International Cultural Day Programme



The International Relations Office of the University of Peradeniya organized the International Cultural Day programme in collaboration with the Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy with the aim of promoting cross-cultural understanding and fostering a sense of unity and appreciation among different cultures. The event was held on November 30, 2023 at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.

H.E. Dr Athira S., Assistant High Commission of India to Sri Lanka, Kandy, Prof. Sarath S. Kodithuwakku, the Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, the Deans of Faculties, Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director of the International Relations Office, University of Peradeniya, the management committee members of the International Relations Office, Heads of Departments, academic and non-academic staff members of the University of Peradeniya, and the students and staff of Schools in Kandy District participated in the event. The programme included Indian cultural dances performed by the students from Theldeniya National College, Nugawela Central College, Swarnamali Girls' College, Badi-Uddin College, and Hindu Nikethan–Kurunegala.

The International Research Conference on 'Tamil Nadu - Sri Lanka: Art - Literary - Cultural Relations'



The international research conference jointly organized by the Department of Tamil, University of Peradeniya and Tamil University -

Thanjavur was held on October 30, 2023 at PGIHS Seminar Hall based on the theme 'Tamil Nadu - Sri Lanka: Art - Literary - Cultural Relations'. The event was successfully held under the leadership of Prof. S. Pirashanthan, the Head of the Department of Tamil.

Dr. E. M. P. C. S. Ekanayaka, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya, and Prof. C. Thiyagarajan, Registrar of Tamil University, Thanjavur, graced the occasion as the chief guest and special guest, respectively. The welcome speech was delivered by Ms. T. Joisy, Assistant Lecturer of the Department of Tamil. The Dean, during his address, congratulated

the organizers and extended his full support for future events focused on culture and tradition. Prof. Dr. S. Thiyagarajan, in his keynote speech, highlighted the relationship between Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu. The conference was successfully conducted under four sub themes and following the presentations, both Thanjavur Tamil University and Peradeniya University honored the presenters, emphasizing the enduring friendship between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. The international research conference served as a significant platform for academic unity and knowledge exchange, reinforcing the longstanding relationship between Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu.

Celebrating World Radiography Day 2023 – X-PERTS 2023



The X-PERTS 2023 organized by the Department of Radiography/Radiotherapy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences in collaboration with the Society of Medical Radiation Sciences (SMRS) was held on October 25, 2023 to commemorate World Radiography Day 2023.

The event featured a series of informative presentations by experts in the field including Prof. P.B. Hewavithana, the founder Head of the Department of Radiography/Radiotherapy, Dr. Udara kularatne, Consultant Musculoskeletal Radiologist, Stoke-on-Trent, England, United Kingdom, and Mr. Nadeeka Hemachandra, Cath Lab & Interventional Radiology In-charge at Nawaloka Hospitals PLC, Colombo.

Mr. M. G. G. Amarasinghe, a veteran radiographer who has rendered invaluable service to the profession of radiography, graced the occasion as the guest of honor. A quiz competition and an art competition organized by the department displayed the talents of the students and the staff members. The students' aesthetic performances during the event were highly commendable and added a touch of beauty to the event.

Felicitations were awarded to all the guest speakers and the guest of honor while the In-Charge radiographers of leading hospitals were recognized for their contribution to the department. World Radiography Day 2023 provided an occasion to reflect on the significance of medical imaging and it was a day of learning, appreciation, and a chance to look towards the future with optimism and determination.

Empowering Social Sciences Students for Career

From December 20, 21, 2023 the Department of Sociology of the Faculty of Arts in collaboration with the Career Guidance Unit at the University of Peradeniya, conducted a successful two-day Career Guidance workshop for final year undergraduates specializing in Sociology and Social Work. The workshop was held just before the students embarked on their internships. This comprehensive workshop aimed to prepare sociology and social work students for their upcoming internships, providing them with essential skills and knowledge to thrive in their chosen fields. The initiative was spearheaded by Mr Saminda Gnanaratne, Internship Coordinator at the Department of Sociology, under the able supervision of Dr Kumari Thoradeniya, Head of Sociology, and the Director, along with the dedicated staff of the Career Guidance Unit. Furthermore, it reflects the University of Peradeniya's commitment to providing holistic education and preparing students for successful careers in Sociology and Social Work.

Highlights of the Workshop:

Industry-Relevant Insights: Renowned professionals and experts provided valuable insights into the industry, offering students a glimpse into the real-world applications of their academic knowledge.

Practical Skill Development: The workshop facilitated hands-on activities and practical sessions, allowing students to develop crucial skills necessary for their future roles in sociology and Social Work.

Guidance for Internship Success: Students received guidance on navigating the challenges of internships, understanding workplace dynamics, and making the most of their practical experiences.

Senate Publications

- State Literary Award 2023 for the best scholarly book (Diverse Subjects) was won by Professor Liyanage Amarakeerthi for his book විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය යනු කුමක්ද? (What is a university?).
- State Literary Award 2023 for the best translation of scholarly book was won by the Sinhala translation of Ediriveera Sarachchandra's *The art of drama in Sri Lanka* (ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ නාට්‍ය කලාව) by Professor Liyanage Amarakeerthi.
- Rajatha Pusthak Award 2023 for the best short story collection was won by Dr. Mahinda Rathnayake's අනේ මන්දා.

Signing of the MoU between CIPM and the UoP

On November 23, 2023 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between University of Peradeniya and the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM) was signed at the Senate Room of University of Peradeniya. Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya and Mr U.A.C. Obeysekere, Chief Executive Officer, CIPM Sri Lanka on behalf the respective institutions signed the MoU on this occasion.

The event was graced by Prof. R.H. Kuruppuge, Dean of the Faculty of Management, Ms. E.M.W.A. Edirisooriya, Head of the Department of Human Resource Management and the esteemed academic staff members of the Department along with Mr. G. Weerathunga, Director of Professional and Academic Affairs of CIPM, Mr. Sujeewa Perera, Manager - Examinations of CIPM and Mr. Ravindu Rathnayake,

Centre Manager of CIPM Kandy Centre. CIPM Sri Lanka is a leading professional body in the field of Human Resource Management and this collaboration is expected to benefit the undergraduates of Faculty of Management in furthering the standards of HRM profession.



Exploring the Cultural Tapestry of Vakarai: A Field Study by Sociology Students

The Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts at the University of Peradeniya embarked on a fascinating two-day field study in the Vakarai Vedda community situated within the Batticaloa district, as part of the Cultural Anthropology coursework. Led by Mr. Saminda Gnanarathne and supervised by Dr. Kumari Thoradeniya, the students delved into the unique cultural practices, traditions, and challenges faced by the indigenous Vedda community, with a special focus on their relationship with the ecosystem and traditional modes of subsistence.

The two-day field visit starting on October 16, 2023 aimed at a thorough analysis of the coastal Vedda community's lifestyle. Refined research, interviews, and on-site observations were conducted to compile a nuanced understanding of their current situation and propose pragmatic solutions for their future.



The University of Peradeniya's exploration of Vakarai is not only an academic endeavor but a commitment to positive change. By shedding light on the challenges faced by the Vakarai Vedda community, this field study paves the way for future initiatives that foster cultural preservation, environmental sustainability, and improved livelihoods for Indigenous communities.

The G.C.E. A/L Seminar Series 2023 - University Social Responsibility (USR) Programme



The Department of Marketing Management, in collaboration with the Marketing Management Students' Society at the Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya, successfully organized the G.C.E. (A/L) Seminar Series 2023 for the fourth consecutive year. Held on December 11, 2023 at Pilimathalawa Dheerananda College, the seminar targeted A/L students from the Udunuwara Educational Zone. A total of 127 students from seven different schools, representing Advanced Level Commerce stream, participated in the programme. Esteemed guests included Ms. R.G.U.N.S. Chandrasekara, Zonal Director of Education (Planning), the Principal, Vice-Principal, and Teaching staff of Sri Dheerananda College, Pilimathalawa, along with Ms. R.M.U.R.K. Rathnayaka, Head of the Department of Marketing Management, Mr. D.M.D. Bandara, Lecturer (Probationary), and Ms. Y.B. Premachandra and Ms. W.M.H.W. Wijesundara, Temporary Lecturers from the Department of Marketing Management. Additionally, teachers from various schools and third-year undergraduates from the Department of Marketing Management, representing the organizing committee, were in attendance.

Field visit to Heritance Kandalama and Hela Clothing



The third-year and second year BBA undergraduates who are specializing in Marketing Management, along with the academic staff of the Department of Marketing Management, Faculty of Management participated on a field visit to Heritance Kandalama and Hela Clothing Palapathwala on November 9, 2023.

The aim of the field visit was to provide practical exposure to marketing setups so that the students will be able to grasp the real-world marketing applications. The hands-on experience allowed the students to witness the practical application of marketing theories in the hotel and apparel industry. The field visit facilitated by Heritance Kandalama and Hela Clothing (Private) Limited, Palapathwala, provided insights into the entire process at Heritance Kandalama and its sustainable practices. The students also gained valuable insights into merchandising aspect of Hela Clothing, with a focus on international marketing and operational processes. The students and staff who participated in this field visit extend their gratitude to Heritance Kandalama and Hela Clothing for this invaluable opportunity.

Field Visit to Acuity Knowledge Partners

On 09th November 2023, the third-year undergraduates of the Department of Business Finance visited Acuity Knowledge Partners-Colombo 01. Through this field visit undergraduates gained practical exposure to Equity Valuation which covers the basics of the two main valuation methodologies: Relative Valuation and Discounted Cash Flow Valuation. The Resource Person for the session was Mr. Rihab Faisal, the Assistant Director of training and knowledge Management of Acuity Knowledge Partners. The session was further enriched by the discussion conducted by Mr. Nuwan Jayawardana, Director of Investment Research, Acuity Knowledge Partners.

Panel Discussion on “My Future Career”



The Centre for Skills for Life, Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya successfully conducted a panel discussion on “My Future Career” on December 15, 2023 in the Faculty Auditorium, specifically tailored for the first-year undergraduates of the Faculty of Management.

The primary focus of the panel discussion was to provide students with a platform for reflecting on their future career goals and to assist them in preparing their career prospects before selecting their specialization in the second year. Thus, the discussion forum aimed to help the first-year undergraduates articulate their career goals, create a career development plan, and encourage them to be more intentional in navigating their career path.

Distinguished panelists, Mr. Daminda Perera, Chief Operating Officer at Swisstek Ceylon PLC, Mr. Indika Ilukkumbura, Chief Financial Officer of Uni Dil Group of Companies, Mr. Ajith Jayasinghe, Human Resource Manager at Ceylon Biscuits LTD and Ms Harshani Randiligama, Group General Manager at Vallibel ONE PLC along with the Moderator, Ms. Rochelle Bartholomeusz, Lecturer (Probationary) from the Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya, brought a wealth of expertise and insight to the discussion. They assisted students in shaping their career paths and pursuing career opportunities based on their strengths, values, interests, personality, and skills.

Detox – 2023

The 1000 level undergraduate students of academic year 2021/22 in collaboration with the Department of Management Studies, at the Faculty of Management, organized “Detox – 2023” on November 20, 2023 in the Faculty Auditorium from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The event also served as the partial fulfilment of MGS 1201- Fundamentals of Social Sciences. Two resource persons from the Police Narcotic Bureau, Mr N.M. Lakshman Edirimanna and Inspector of Police Mr V. Vijayaraj and Police Sergeant, were invited to facilitate the programme. Students and academic staff attended the event, during which students engaged in a signature campaign promoting the theme “say no to drugs.” The occasion has significantly contributed to molding graduates with a strong sense of social responsibility and fostering civic engagement.



Business Fair 2023



Students pursuing the course MGT 1101-Business Environment, offered by the Department of Management Studies at the Faculty of Management organized “Business Fair 2023” as a partial course requirement, focusing on three key elements: passion, customers and profit.

To gain hands-on experience in running a small business, students set up stalls featuring handmade food, sweets, snacks, and handicrafts at the “Business Fair 2023”. In an effort to attract more customers for the various stalls, the event was held at the WUS premises from October 26, 27, and November 02, 03 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. With the assistance of other students and department staff, the students successfully held the “Business Fair 2023” contributing the proceeds to charity.

HRDU News

The Human Resource Development Unit (HRDU), approved at the 525th meeting of the Council held on February 25, 2023 was established to oversee key functions such as periodical review of cadre requirements of the University, liaise with UGC and DMS to secure approval for annual cadre requirements, formulation of the HR development plan, conducting training programs in liaison with SDC, designing and implementing Performance Management System and facilitate other HRM functions.

In July 2023, Dr. Chandana Jayawardena, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Extension, Faculty of Agriculture was appointed as the Director of the HRDU.

Key Activities and Initiatives Undertaken from October to December 2023

- Conducted a survey on training needs and ideas to improve job satisfaction and quality of work life for non-academic staff during the months of October and November 2023. Approximately 750 responses were collected. Further, focus group discussions (FGD) were held with administrative officers on November 29, 2023 and with financial officers on December 01, 2023.
- Training categories were identified based on the evaluation of the responses to the survey.
- Organized the 1st onboarding session on October 24, 2023 in liaison with the Staff Development Centre (SDC) for twenty-three newly recruited academic staff members. Following feedback, a second onboarding session was conducted on November 27, 2023 for the same group of participants addressing topics such as confirmation, promotions, types of leave relevant to Academic Staff with the support from officers and the staff of the Academic Establishment Division.

First Workshop on “How to make Research Rewarding” for Executive Staff



The first workshop on “How to make Research Rewarding” for the executive staff was held on December 15, 2023 at the Staff Development Centre (SDC). This workshop was conducted by Dr. Chandana Jayawardena, Director, HRDU. At this workshop, Dr Chandana Jayawardena discussed strategies and techniques that can make the research process more engaging and enjoyable. It covered various aspects, including effective research methodologies, overcoming challenges, and finding inspiration in the pursuit of knowledge.

Offboarding Session for Non-Academic Staff

An offboarding session was conducted on November 22, 2023 for Non-Academic staff members who are due to retire between November 22, 2023 and December 31, 2024. The session was held in the Senate Room of the University, where participants were informed about pre-retirement benefits, retirement benefits, and related topics. This information is aimed at preventing mistakes and delays in handling staff retirements.

Towards the end of the session, there was a discussion with the participants. They provided valuable suggestions to enhance their job satisfaction and better integrate with university services post-retirement. A programme will be developed to incorporate their suggestions and ensure a smoother transition for retiring staff members.



Meeting with Delegates from the Henan Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

On December 13, 2023 Mr Zhang Zhenyu, Vice Chairman, Henan Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference visited the University of Peradeniya. Mr Zhang Zhenyu was accompanied by Mr Zheng Bangshan, Director General, the committee member liaison Department of Henan Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Mr Li Bingbing, Deputy Director, General, Foreign Affairs Office of Henan Provincial Government, Mr Zhu Zifeng, Deputy Director General, Department of Education of Henan Provincial Government, Mr Yu Wei, Deputy Director General, Henan Geological Bureau, and Mr. Wang Zi, Deputy Director, Foreign Affairs Office of Henan Provincial Government.

Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya warmly welcomed Mr. Zhang Zhenyu and the delegates. The meeting included the participation of Prof. C.N.R.A. Alles, Director, International Relations Office, Dr D.M.D.W Jayampathi, Council Member of the University of Peradeniya, Vice President of the Sri Lanka China Society, R. J. De Silva, President of Sri Lanka China Society, Prof. Sarath S. Kodithuwakku, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr U. I. Dissanayake, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Prof. R. H. Kuruppuge, Dean of the Faculty of Management, Prof. Sanath Rajapakse, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Prof. P.G. Anil Pushpakumara, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, Prof. Leena Seneheweera and Prof. Athula Ekanayake participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, special attention was given to establishing a Confucious Institute (Classroom) with unique characteristics. The proposed cooperation pattern could be "Mandarin + Subjects" including subjects such as new energy, digital economy, modern agriculture, water conservancy and Electronic-Commerce. Additionally, there were discussions about co-establishing the Chinese Kung-Fu and Culture Center at the University of Peradeniya. The delegates also introduced four universities of Henan Province, namely Zhengzhou University, Henan University, Henan Normal University, North China University of Water Resources and Electric Power that are willing to foster further exchange and cooperation, Mr Zhang Zhenyu and the delegates pledged their assistance to expand inter-university collaboration between the two countries.

News- Department of Philosophy

- Hanthana Philosophy Circle e-journal launching ceremony organized by the Editorial Board of the Department of Philosophy of the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya was held on October 30, 2023 at the Faculty Seminar Room.
- On November 16, 2023 the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya celebrated World Philosophy Day by organizing a one-day symposium on the theme of 'Inter-Philosophical Relationship between Eastern Philosophy and German Philosophy, at the Faculty of Art Seminar room.

The programme was held in the presence of the Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts, the Head of the Department of Philosophy, Prof. Namali Kumari Handegama, academic staff members of the Department and with the participation of many distinguished scholars.



First-Year Allied Health Sciences Student Talent Show – EUPHORIA



The first-year student (2021/22) talent show 'EUPHORIA' of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences was held on October 30, 2023 from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. at the Prof. E.O.E. Pereira Theatre of the Faculty of Engineering. The event was organized by the Orientation Committee of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, with the sponsorships of well-wishers. The event was a tremendous success, showcasing the exceptional creativity, talent, and enthusiasm of the first-year students. Their performances in various categories captivated the audience and created a memorable experience for everyone present. EUPHORIA aims to enhance the soft skills of the students, providing them with a platform to showcase their talents and develop crucial abilities for their future careers.

EduHacks 2023 Phase 02



The Operations Management Students' Society of the Department of Operations Management, the Faculty of Management, University of Peradeniya organized EduHacks 2023 – Phase 02 workshop on "Creating a Powerful You" on November 30, 2023. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Sarindu Rajapaksha, Distribution Center Manager, John Keells Holdings PLC. The workshop aimed at developing Operations Management graduates' employability.

Cross-Cultural Reels – 2023

"Cross-Cultural Reels" marked a film screening organized by the Department of Management Studies as part of the course MGS 2202: Cross-Cultural in Management. The event took place on December 20, 2023 in the Smart Room. Ms A.S. Shiromy, Lecturer-in-Charge, and temporary assistant lecturers attended the screening. Enthusiastic participation was observed from 2000 level students pursuing the BBA Programme with a specialization in Organizational Management, alongside interested 1000 level students.

The featured film for the occasion was "Outsourced" (2006), directed by John Jeffcoat. The movie explores the challenges faced by an American manager experiencing cultural shock while working in India and depicts his journey of adaptation. The event served as a platform for fostering a comprehensive understanding of various cross-cultural management elements. The film creatively intertwined theoretical aspects with practical scenarios, enriching the audience's appreciation for the subject matter.



DETAILS OF NEWLY APPOINTED ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES FROM (01.10.2023 TO 31.12.2023)

Name	Designation	Place of work (Department/Division)	Effective Date
Mr DMD Bandara	Lecturer (Probationary)	Department of Marketing Management	10.10.2023

DETAILS OF RETIRED ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES FROM (01.10.2023 TO 31.12.2023)

Name	Designation	Place of work (Department/Division)	Service Year
Prof. A Wickramasinghe	Senior Professor	Department of Chemistry	32
Prof. RPVJ Rajapaksha	Senior Professor	Department of Veterinary Pathobiology	36
Prof. SGP De Silva Gunawardana	Professor	Department of Veterinary Pathobiology	21
Prof. RGD Jayawadhana	Professor	Pali & Buddhist Studies	31
Dr MG Manuratne	Senior Lecturer	Department of Sociology	31
Dr DK Jayaratna	Senior Lecturer	Department of Archaeology	33
Dr KRMU Bandara	Senior Lecturer	Department of Geography	24
Prof. DCK Illeperuma	Professor	Department of Food Science	39
Prof. PHP Fernando	Professor	Department of Biochemistry	39
Prof. SBS Abayakoon	Senior Professor	Department of Civil Engineering	36
Prof. KDW Nandalal	Senior Professor	Department of Civil Engineering	32

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED FROM ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES (01.10.2023 TO 31.12.2023)

Name	Designation	Place of work (Department/Division)	No. of Years
Ms BASK Rathnayake	Lecturer	Agri Extension	4 Yrs
Dr WMASB Wasala	Senior Lecturer	Anaesthesiology	9 Yrs

DETAILS OF RETIRED NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES FROM (01.10.2023 TO 31.12.2023)

Name	Designation	Place of work (Department/Division)	Service Year
Mr MG Chandrasena	Works Aide - Special Grade	Department of Agricultural Biology	33
Mr M Karunaratne	Security Guard - Supra Grade	Mahailluppallama Teaching Unit	39
Mr AM Gunaratna Banda	Farm Manager	Mahailluppallama Teaching Unit	22
Ms HPK Marasinghe	Senior Staff Management Assistant	Department of Sinhala Faculty of Arts	38
Mr PD Kumarasinghe	Works Aide - Grade I	Dep. of Oral Medicine & Periodontology	24
Mr TMKG Thennakoon	Lab Attendant - Special Grade	Computer Center Faculty of Engineering	36
Mr WPNP Perera	Lab Attendant - Supra Grade	Dep. of Electrical & Electronic Engineering	33
Mr RGKT Namaldeniya	Lab Attendant - Special Grade	Department of Physics	31
Mr KA Sumanaweera	Health Services Labourer-Special Grade I	Health Centre	29
Mr EG Ranjith	Works Aide - Grade II	Landscape Division	30
Mr D Jayarathne	Works Aide - Grade II	Landscape Division	26
Mr A Jesudasan	Library Attendant - Grade I	Main Library	32
Ms AS Rathnayake	Senior Staff Assistant (Library Services)	Main Library	35
Mr KV Wijesinghe	Plumber - Special Grade	Maintenance Division	32
Mr AGRV Rathnayake	Mason - Special Grade	Maintenance Division	28
Ms TP Ekanayake	Senior Staff Management Assistant	Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor	25
Mr UDA Wickramasekara	Works Aide - Grade II	Telephone Exchange Unit	21
Mr WI Watarake	Book Binder - Special Grade	Financial Administration	34

RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED FROM NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES (01.10.2023 TO 31.12.2023)

Name	Designation	Place of work (Department/Division)	No. of Years
Ms LMBSK Liyanage	Works Aide - Grade III	Accommodation Division	-
Ms WMYC Warigadehetti	Technical Officer	Department of Pediatrics	-
Mr RKP B Rukmal	Technical Officer	Electron Microscope Unit	-
Mr WGR Gamage	Security Guard - Lower Grade	Security Division	11 Yrs
Ms RMDJ Rathnayaka	Assistant Bursar	Financial Administration	-
Ms MN Rajarathna	Technical officer Grade I	Department of Medicine	-