



A QUARTERLY UPDATE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

January to March 2025

Volume 17 No. 01

ISSN 2012 - 5356





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Published by
Statistics & Information Division
Senate House
University of Peradeniya

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Inside

- New Year Commencement Ceremony - 2025
- Vice-Chancellor Meets with Spanish Delegation Led by Dr Ethel Allué
- The Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series (January - March)
- Prof. M.D.M.L.D.K. Yatawara Elected as Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
- New Admissions – Faculties of Dental Sciences, AHS and Management
- Training Programme on Sports Sciences for Naval Officers
- Awareness Programme on Sexual and Gender Based Violence
- Long-Service Awards Ceremony
- Staff Excellence Awards Ceremony
- Department of Tamil Students Visit South India for a Workshop
- Student Counselling Workshop for Temporary Lecturers
- New Leadership at PGIS: Prof. B.M.N.W.B. Balasooriya
- 1.2 MW Solar PV System Adding to the National Grid from the University of Peradeniya
- Professional English Course for University Administrative Officers
- Saving Giants: Elephant–Train Collision Prevention System
- Public Seminar: The IMF and The Debt Crisis in the Global South
- Crescenda 2025: A Celebration of Colours, Talents & Splendour
- Condolences on the Passing of Prof. Gananath Obeyesekere



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Message from the Vice-Chancellor



As we conclude the first quarter of 2025, it is with great appreciation that I reflect on the milestones we have collectively achieved. The University of Peradeniya continues to stand as a beacon of academic excellence, innovation, and service to the nation.

Our academic community has achieved remarkable successes, with several of our scholars receiving prestigious national and international awards for their outstanding contributions to research and innovation. Notably, interdisciplinary research initiatives have flourished, enhancing the university's reputation for producing work that addresses critical challenges both locally and globally. Furthermore, seven faculties commenced the academic programme for students sat for GCE (A/L) in 2023.

We have also made significant strides in strengthening our infrastructure. Major developments in digital learning platforms, research facilities, and student welfare services have enhanced the overall environment for learning, teaching, and discovery. In line with our commitment to sustainability and inclusivity, several green initiatives have been introduced. A key achievement is the installation and commissioning of a state-of-the-art Solar PV system, which has been successfully connected to the national grid via the university's 0.4/33kV ring network. This system, with a capacity of 1200 kilowatts (kW) of DC power, marks a significant step toward a greener future.

International collaborations have expanded further, with new agreements signed with leading universities and research institutions worldwide. These partnerships open new avenues for academic exchange, joint research, and global learning experiences for our students and staff.

I am deeply grateful to our dedicated academic and non-academic staff, our talented students, our esteemed alumni, and all our partners and supporters. Your relentless dedication and collective efforts are the driving force behind the university's continued progress.

As we look ahead, let us reaffirm our shared commitment to uphold the values of excellence, integrity, and service that define the University of Peradeniya. Together, let us continue to strive for greater heights, nurturing the next generation of leaders, innovators, and global citizens.

I wish you all continued success in your endeavors.

Professor Terrence Madhujith
Vice-Chancellor
University of Peradeniya

2025 New Year Commencement Ceremony



The 2025 New Year commencement ceremony was held on 1st January at 8:30 a.m. at the Senate Building of the University of Peradeniya, under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Terrence Madhujith.

The event began with the performance of religious rituals, followed by the hoisting of the national and university flags. A two-minute silence was observed in honour of those who sacrificed their lives for the country. Subsequently, the public servant pledge was then administered in line with the Clean Sri Lanka initiative.

The ceremony was attended by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, the Deans of all Faculties, the Acting Registrar, the Bursar, the Librarian, and both academic and non-academic staff members of the University.

MoU Signing Ceremony with Greenstat Hydrogen

The University of Peradeniya and Greenstat Hydrogen Pvt. Ltd., Sri Lanka signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on March 10, 2025. The MoU was signed by Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, and His Excellency Mr. Sturle H. Pedersen, Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka to Bergen, Norway, and Chairman of Greenstat Asia Pvt. Ltd.

The MoU aims to establish a Hydrogen Centre of Excellence at the University, create a Hydrogen Association, and promote capacity development, student programmes, and research collaboration. The ceremony was attended by key figures including Prof. Sanath Rajapakse, Dean of the Faculty of Science, Prof. Roshan D. Yapa, Dr Piyumali K. Perera.

Under the MoU, the university and Greenstat Hydrogen will collaborate on renewable energy projects, with a focus on green hydrogen technologies. Mr Pedersen highlighted Sri Lanka's potential in renewable energy and the significance of the partnership in strengthening the university's role in the renewable energy sector.



Research Seminar Highlights Materials Science in Environmental Engineering

The Research Promotion Subcommittee of the Department of Civil Engineering successfully organized a Department Research Seminar on 27th January 2025, from 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm. The seminar featured a presentation by Prof. (Mrs) KGN Nanayakkara, titled "Role of Materials Science and Engineering in Environmental Engineering Research".

The Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series (January – March 2025)

January

The 10th session of the Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series was successfully held on 15th January 2025, at 12:30 p.m. in the Senate Room.

The guest speaker for the session was Mr Nihal Wijewardana, Senior Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Inland Revenue, Tax Policy and Legislation Unit, Colombo. Mr Wijewardana delivered an insightful and comprehensive lecture titled "Meeting Your Tax Obligations: A Guide to Compliance", highlighting key aspects such as income tax payments, filing tax returns, qualifying payments, tax reliefs, and a detailed explanation of the Advance Personal Income Tax (APIT).



The Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series aims to provide the University community with a valuable platform to engage with and learn from distinguished professionals in various fields. It fosters intellectual enrichment and encourages the vibrant exchange of ideas and knowledge.

The event was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Deans of Faculties, Directors of Postgraduate Institutes and Centers, Heads of Departments, and many members of the academic and non-academic staff.

February

The 11th session of the Vice-Chancellor's Lecture Series took place on February 19, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. in the Senate Room of the University of Peradeniya.



Dr Gamini Dharmasena, Senior Electronics Engineer at BlueHalo VideoRay LLC, USA, and General Secretary of the University of Peradeniya Alumni Association in the United States, was the distinguished speaker for the event. He delivered an engaging lecture titled "A Journey through the Eyes of an Underwater Robot," which focused on remotely operated vehicles, the main challenges in developing underwater robots, unmanned surface vehicles, and their applications in aquaculture, underwater research, and defence. The session included a live demonstration of the underwater robot, followed by an interactive discussion with the audience.

During his visit, Dr. Dharmasena generously donated an underwater robot model to the Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, for educational purposes.

The event was attended by the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Deans of the Faculties, as well as academic and non-academic staff and students.

March

The 12th session of the Vice Chancellor's Lecture Series was successfully conducted on 19th March 2025, in the Senate Room of the University of Peradeniya.



The speaker for the event was Mrs Lakshani Weerasekara, a Lecturer (Prob.) at the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya. With research expertise in primatology and wildlife conservation, Mrs Weerasekara delivered an insightful and timely speech on "Human Monkey Conflict in Sri Lanka and Strategies to Overcome the Challenge," highlighting the human-monkey conflict in Sri Lanka due to population overlaps, habitat loss, habitat degradation and improper garbage disposal. She also went on to explain the current practices in other countries to mitigate human-monkey conflict as well as recommended long-term solutions in detail.

The audience included the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Deans of Faculties, Directors of Postgraduate Institutes and Centres, Heads of Departments, as well as many academic and non-academic staff.

Prof. M.D.M.L.D.K. Yatawara Re-elected as Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences



Prof. M.D.M.L.D.K. Yatawara has been re-elected as the Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya, effective from March 3, 2025.

Prof. Yatawara's re-election reflects her steadfast commitment to academic excellence, professional development, impactful research, and community service. Under her leadership, the Faculty has made significant strides, further strengthening its role in the healthcare sector through its service units.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for her continued success in this esteemed role.

Department of Tamil Students Visit South India for a Workshop



A collaborative workshop titled "Multifaceted Dimensions of Tamilology" was jointly organized by the Department of Tamil Studies in Foreign Countries, Tamil University (India), and the Department of Tamil, University of Peradeniya. Held during the last semester of 2024 at the Tamil University, Thanjavur, the workshop brought together students from both institutions. A team of assistant lecturers and third-year students from the University of Peradeniya, led by Prof. S Pirashanthan, actively participated.

Ahead of the workshop, the group toured historic sites from Chennai to Thanjavur, including Mamallapuram Kattazhi Temple, Pancharatha Malaiththazhir Temple, and the open-air temple of Arjuna's Penance. In Pondicherry, they visited the Sri Manakula Vinayagar Temple, Bharatiyar's House, Puducherry Museum, and other cultural landmarks, concluding with a visit to the Chidambaram Natarajar Temple. Professors Pirashanthan and MM Jayaseelan provided insightful explanations throughout the journey.

The workshop commenced with addresses by Prof. T. Kuriinjivethan and S Pirashanthan, followed by lectures from eminent scholars such as Dr Ko. Kovaimani, Dr M Muthuravelu, and Prof. Dr M Thiagarajan. Students also visited major cultural landmarks in Thanjavur, including the Brihadeeswarar Temple, Saraswati Mahal Library, and the Tamil University Sculpture Gallery. The closing ceremony, held at the University Library Hall, was presided over by Vice-Chancellor Prof. V Thiruvalluvan, with reflections shared by Professor Pirashanthan. Vice-Chancellor Thiruvalluvan awarded certificates to the participants, and the event concluded with a Tamil music workshop conducted by artist Kalaivalarmani N Manikandan.

During the visit, the students also participated in a special Tamil teaching seminar at Poondi Pudupam College, where Professor Pirashanthan delivered the keynote speech. Students from Peradeniya and Pudupam College also performed traditional Tamil folk songs. The programme concluded with a visit to the Kambaramayanam. The participants returned to Peradeniya enriched with academic insights and cultural experiences.

New Admissions

Faculty of Dental Sciences (2023/2024 Batch)



The Faculty of Dental Sciences held its inauguration ceremony for the 2023/2024 intake on 6th January 2025, at the Prof. SB Dissanayake Auditorium. The event was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Terrence Madhujith as the Chief Guest, along with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Deans of Faculties, academic staff, new students, and their parents.

The Dean, Prof. B.M.H.S.K. Banneheka welcomed the gathering and highlighted the Faculty's role in healthcare education. Prof. B.G.T.L. Nandasena emphasized student well-being and personal growth in her address. A traditional cultural performance by senior students added vibrancy to the occasion.

The ceremony concluded with a motivational talk by Dr Ashwini Amarasinghe and a parent-focused session by Prof. Dileep de Silva, marking a meaningful start to the academic journey of the new dental undergraduates.

Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (2023/24 Batch)



The Faculty of Allied Health Sciences at the University of Peradeniya held the inauguration ceremony for the 2023/24 batch on 21st February 2025, at the Diamond Jubilee Hall. The event was graced by Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya.

The ceremony began with a welcome speech by Prof. M.D.M.L.D.K. Yatawara, Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, who highlighted the faculty's academic programmes and its crucial role in shaping future healthcare professionals. Prof. Ranjith Pallegama delivered the keynote address, stressing the significance of higher education in shaping students' futures and their contributions to society.

The event also featured vibrant traditional dance performances by senior students, adding a cultural touch to the proceedings. This inauguration ceremony marked a significant milestone for the new students, officially welcoming them to the University of Peradeniya and setting the stage for their academic and professional journey.

Welcome Ceremony for New Entrants (Continued)

Faculty of Management (2023/2024 Batch)

The Faculty of Management at the University of Peradeniya held a successful inauguration ceremony on 10th February 2025, to welcome the 2024/2025 student intake. The event, held at the Faculty Auditorium, was graced by Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, Acting Vice-Chancellor, who served as the Chief Guest. The ceremony was attended by newly enrolled students and their parents, marking the beginning of their academic journey.

Prof. Ravi Kuruppuge, Dean of the Faculty, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the Faculty's commitment to nurturing future leaders and entrepreneurs. He also introduced the DreamSeed preparatory programme, aimed at enhancing students' ICT and English skills while promoting overall well-being. The event featured a traditional Pooja dance performed by senior students and an introductory video showcasing the Faculty's rich history.



Vice-Chancellor Prof. Terrence Madhujith, who joined virtually from the USA, delivered an inspiring message encouraging students to balance academic excellence with the development of practical skills. The ceremony concluded with a motivating address by Prof. Pallegama, who urged students to pursue excellence and uphold integrity.

The event reflected the Faculty's values and commitment to holistic development, setting a positive and encouraging tone for the students' academic journey at the University of Peradeniya.

CGU Awards 2025 – A Celebration of Excellence!

The Career Guidance Unit, University of Peradeniya, successfully hosted the CGU Awards 2025, on 5th March 2025 at the Diamond Jubilee Hall, to recognize the outstanding achievements of our undergraduates. The event honoured students who excelled in career-enhancing certification programmes and entrepreneurial initiatives, empowering them for future success.

The event was graced by the Vice-Chancellor as the Chief Guest, alongside distinguished faculty members, industry partners, and well-wishers. The CGU extends its sincere appreciation to its valued partners-the National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA), Information Technology Centre (ITC), and American Corner-for their continued collaboration in delivering impactful programs.

The success of the event was made possible by the dedicated efforts of the organizing committee, CGU staff, WSAP trainees, and student societies including WeLead and Wellness Circle.



Long-Service Awards Ceremony



The Long Service Awards Ceremony was held on 1st January 2025 at the Senate Room, under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Terrence Madhujith. This year, 37 non-academic staff members who had completed 25, 30, 35, or 40 years of service were honoured with certificates and tokens of appreciation in recognition of their dedicated service to the University.

Capacity Building Programme on Biodiversity



On 9th February 2025, the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES) at the University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with Amaya Resorts & Spas, hosted a biodiversity excursion and capacity-building session at Amaya Hills, Kandy. The event aimed to enhance understanding of biodiversity conservation and ecotourism among undergraduates and staff.

The programme began with a briefing by Dr Nalin Suranjith, Acting Director of CES, followed by a guided biodiversity tour along a trail in Hantana Mountain. The participants, including 30 students from the Faculties of Science and Agriculture and 10 staff members from Amaya Hills, observed various species of birds, plants, and animals. Dr Chaminda Wijesundara, a bird expert, led the birdwatching session, helping students identify birds and learn about their ecological significance.

After the tour, informative lectures were presented by Dr Wijesundara on Sri Lankan birds, Dr Gajaba Ellepola on amphibians, and Mr Kumudu Wijesooriya on venomous reptiles. The event provided valuable insights into Sri Lanka's wildlife and emphasized the importance of conservation.

CES thanked the staff of Amaya Resorts & Spas for their support in making the event a success.

Training Programme on Sports Sciences for Naval Officers

A training programme on Sports Sciences was conducted at the Faculty of Medicine on 20th January 2025, for Naval officers from the Trincomalee Naval Base. The programme aimed to enhance participants' knowledge of sports science and its practical applications in military training and performance.



Leadership Training for Visakha Vidyalaya Prefects



As part of its University to Community initiative, the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Peradeniya conducted a two-day leadership training programme for the Prefects' Guild of Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo. The programme was held on the 20th-21st February from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM at the Career Guidance Unit.

The training was facilitated by Career Counsellors, Ms Sumudu Lankathilake and Mr Suchinthana Dasun, and focused on fostering key values,

enhancing personal vision-building, and developing leadership and soft skills. Through a series of interactive and engaging activities, participants gained valuable insights and hands-on experience to strengthen their leadership potential.

Awareness Programme on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

The University of Peradeniya's Sexual and Gender-based Harassment and Sexual Violence Prevention Committee (SGBVC) successfully conducted an Awareness Programme on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) on 3rd March 2025, at the Senate Room, University of Peradeniya. Targeting members of the SGBVC, the programme aimed to enhance understanding of SGBV, discuss institutional policies, and explore effective strategies for prevention and intervention. The event commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Eresha Mendis, Chairperson of SGBVC.

The programme featured insightful sessions by leading academics and experts in the field:

- Prof. Kamala Liyanage on "Addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Violence in Higher Educational Institutions."
- Prof. Vasanthi Thevanesam on "Newly Drafted SGBV Policy and Future Directions for Committee Actions."
- Dr Kalana Senaratne on "Preventing Sexual Harassment: The Legal Dimension."
- Dr Wijaya Jayatilaka on "Engaging Men in Eradicating SGBV."
- DrAsanka Bulathwatta on "The Psychological Underpinnings of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence: Understanding Causes, Consequences, and Interventions."

The programme concluded with an engaging Q&A session. This initiative reinforces the university's commitment to fostering a safer and more inclusive academic environment by strengthening SGBV prevention mechanisms and policy implementation.



PSSL Donates Computer to the Department of Pharmacy, University of Peradeniya

The Department of Pharmacy was the proud recipient of a generous donation from the Pharmaceutical Society of Sri Lanka (PSSL) on January 17, 2025. The PSSL presented a brand-new computer, reinforcing their commitment to supporting pharmacy education.

The formal handover took place at the boardroom of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences with key representatives from both PSSL and the University in attendance. Prof. Lalani Yatawara, Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, expressed her gratitude for the valuable contribution and emphasized how the new desktop will support ongoing academic activities and student learning.

Representatives from the PSSL, including Mr Priyantha Sahabandu, President/PSSL, and his team, highlighted the importance of collaboration between professional bodies and academic institutions, stressing that investments in technology and education are crucial for advancing the pharmacy profession in Sri Lanka.



The Department of Pharmacy extends its heartfelt thanks to PSSL for their generous support and looks forward to further collaborations that will benefit the students, staff, and the broader community.

Professor HA de S Gunasekera Memorial Oration 2025



The Professor HA de S Gunasekera Memorial Oration 2025 was held on 10th January 2025, at 3:00 P.M. in the Senate Room of the University of Peradeniya. The oration was delivered by Sumanasiri Liyanage, Former Associate Professor in the Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Peradeniya, on the topic "Contingence, Conjuncture and Structure: The Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka – A Political Economy Critique."

Professor HA de S Gunasekera served as Prof. of Economics and Head of the Department of Economics and Political Science at the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya. He succeeded Prof. Das Gupta in 1961, becoming the second holder—and the first Sri Lankan—to occupy the Chair. He later served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts (1963–1969) and as Secretary to the Ministry of Planning (1970–1977) under Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike. A respected academic and public servant, Prof. Gunasekera influenced generations of students, many of whom went on to make significant contributions in academia and public life, both in Sri Lanka and abroad.

Sumanasiri Liyanage is a senior scholar and researcher with expertise in political economy, macroeconomics, monetary economics, and development economics. He retired from the University in 2013 and subsequently served as Dean of the Sanasa Campus in Kegalle. He is also a well-known writer, newspaper columnist, public speaker, and commentator on economic and political issues.

The oration critically examined the relevance and validity of Prof. HA de S Gunasekera's vision for political and economic development in Sri Lanka.

The event was jointly organized by the Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Peradeniya, and the Prof. HA de S Gunasekera Memorial Trust Fund.

Student Counselling Workshop for Temporary Lecturers



This programme was conducted under the guidance of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Dr Prabhath Ekanayake, as an initial step in preparing temporary lecturers for their future roles as Volunteer Student Counsellors. The workshop received the full support and contribution of the Senior Student Counselors of the Faculty of Arts, led by Chairperson Mr Saminda Gnanaratne.

The inauguration session was graced by

- Dr Prabhath Ekanayake – Dean, Faculty of Arts
- Dr Kanthi Hettigoda – Chairperson, University SSCs
- Mr Saminda Gnanaratne – Chairperson, SSCs, Faculty of Arts
- Dr Asanka Bulathwaththa – Head, Department of Psychology
- Dr Susantha Rasnayake and Dr P Sarawanakumar, SSC Representatives

The programme included several insightful sessions conducted by esteemed resource persons who are specialists in the field

- Dr Sapumal Jayasinghe – Consultant Psychiatrist
- Dr Asanka Bulathwaththa – Head, Department of Psychology
- Prof Danesh Karunanayake – Professor in Psychology, Department of Psychology
- Dr Sayuri Perera – Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine
- Dr Dulmini Perera – Head of Counselling, Arts Alumni Association

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, joined at the conclusion of the workshop, offering valuable insights that will greatly benefit our young academics in their careers.

This workshop marks the beginning of a series of similar initiatives planned for this year.

Faculty of Engineering – Prof. RH Paul Memorial Oration 2025

The Eng. (Prof.) RH Paul Memorial Oration 2025 was held on 7th February at 5.15 p.m. in the IESL Wimalasurendra Auditorium. The oration was delivered by Prof. BGLT Samaranayake, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering (DEEE), on the topic "Advancing Solar PV Integration: Addressing Challenges for a Resilient and Sustainable Energy Future."

A Short Biography: Prof. Lilantha Samaranayake

Prof. Samaranayake (BSc, PhD, SMIEEE) is a Prof. in Electrical, Electronics Engineering at the University of Peradeniya and currently serves as the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. He is the former Head of the Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering. His PhD. specialization is in Distributed Control Systems and his research spans a range of applications including robotics and automation, smart nanoscale systems, electric vehicle powertrains, resource optimization and the control of smart energy systems. More recently, he has also contributed to the advancement in smart and precision agriculture.

Prof. Samaranayake is actively involved in the electric power sector projects at both academic and national levels. He is a Senior Member of the Institution of Electrical and Electronic Engineers USA, a member of the Engineering Council of Sri Lanka, and serves as a consultant to the Asian Development Bank in the Energy sector.

New Leadership at PGIS: Prof. Balasooriya



Prof. B.M.N.W.B. Balasooriya has been appointed the Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS), University of Peradeniya, effective 15th February 2025. A distinguished academic and administrator, Prof. Balasooriya has made significant contributions to higher education, research, and national development. An expert in geology, he has led numerous research initiatives, fostering both national and international collaborations.

His extensive administrative experience includes serving as Acting Head of the Department of Geology, Acting Director of the Department of Physical Education, Proctor of the University of Peradeniya, and Chairman of the Board of Study in Earth Sciences, PGIS.

Prof. Balasooriya has also played a pivotal role in policy development and quality assurance at the University of Peradeniya. Additionally, he currently serves as a Member of the Board of Directors of Kahatagaha Graphite Lanka Ltd. and the Geological Survey & Mines Bureau (GSMB) under the Ministry of Environment.

Under his leadership, PGIS is set to achieve new heights in academic excellence, research innovation, and postgraduate education, further strengthening its reputation as a premier institution in science and technology.

China's NEAC Minister Visits Peradeniya



On 21st February 2025, Hon. Minister Pan Yue of China's National Ethnic Affairs Commission visited the University of Peradeniya to promote enhanced educational exchange and cooperation. Minister Pan Yue met with Acting Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ranjith Pallegama and other University leaders to explore avenues for deepening academic and cultural collaboration.



Minister Pan Yue led a distinguished delegation, including Mr Wei Guoxiong, Director General of the International Department; Mr Xu Fubang, Deputy Director General of the Department for National Solidarity; Ms Qiu Peng, Director of the International Department; Mr Chen Xicong, Deputy Director of the General Office of NEAC; and Mr Qu Qiang, Deputy Dean of the School of Journalism and Communication at Minzu University of China.

University representatives—Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Professor Lilantha Samaranayake, Director of the International Relations Office Prof. Sanjeewa Malaviarachchi, and Prof. Leena Seneheweera from the Department of Fine Arts—joined the discussions, emphasising a shared commitment to fostering mutual understanding and building sustainable educational partnerships.



In addition to formal meetings, the delegation enjoyed a guided tour of the university's expansive gardens, admiring the picturesque campus surroundings that reflected the welcoming spirit of the institution.

Both parties left the meeting with a strong resolve to further strengthen bilateral ties, paving the way for future joint projects, student exchanges, and cultural initiatives that promise to benefit both nations.

Staff Excellence Awards Ceremony – 2024



The Human Resource Development Unit (HRDU) successfully conducted the Staff Excellence Awards Ceremony on February 18th, 2025, at the SCS Auditorium, with over 450 attendees. The event recognised the dedication and contributions of non-academic non-executive employees, celebrating their achievements in a glamorous ceremony that featured a talent show of staff performances.



The ceremony was a moment of gratitude and pride for all involved, with the Acting Vice-Chancellor, awardees, and the University community praising this signature initiative of HRDU. It was also commended as a timely programme among Sri Lankan universities. The HRDU has been instrumental in designing inclusive programmes aimed at enhancing the growth and job engagement of staff, fulfilling its mandate with dedication.



Inauguration of the Psychological Well-being and Assessment Centre – March 2025

The Psychological Well-being and Assessment Centre was officially inaugurated on 4th March 2025, in the presence of Prof. Terrence Madhujith, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Prabath Ekanayake, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Dr Asanka Bulathwatta, Head of the Department of Psychology, and other distinguished guests.

The Centre aims to advance research and awareness in mental health and provide essential psychological support to students. The Centre strengthens the Department of Psychology's ongoing efforts maintaining psychological well-being of student. It will serve as a space for student well-being, promote mental health awareness, and function as a training facility for psychology undergraduates.



The refurbishment of the Centre, including furniture donations from the Peradeniya University Alumni Association of New South Wales (PUAAN), was coordinated by Dr Neil Horadagoda. The Centre is located at the Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts, near the Vithanage Theatre (VT).

1.2 MW Solar PV System Adding to the National Grid from the University of Peradeniya



As part of the Centenary Development Plan (CDP), the University of Peradeniya has embraced the Green University concept, which began in late 2023. The first phase of this initiative saw the installation, commissioning, and connection of a 1.2 MW rooftop Solar PV system to the national grid. This system, with a capacity of 1200 kW of DC power, is integrated into the University's 0.4/33kV ring network.

The system is spread across three locations: two in the Faculty of Engineering, generating 820 kW, and one in the Department of Education, Faculty of Arts, generating 380 kW. Under ideal weather conditions, the system generates over 6,000 kWh of electricity per day. With the University's monthly electricity consumption at approximately 500,000 units, the Solar PV system now covers 36% of the total consumption.

An additional 300 kWp will be added at the Faculty of Medicine, increasing the overall coverage to 45%. The system consists of 590 W JA Solar Panels and SOLAXTM grid-tied inverters ranging from 50 kW to 125 kW. The installation was completed within 90 days by Hayleys Solar of Hayleys Fentons (Pvt.) Ltd.

This solar initiative is expected to reduce the university's annual electricity costs by at least one third and improve its standing in global sustainability rankings.

The International Water Conference on Climate Change and Environmental Pollution



The International Water Conference on Climate Change and Environmental Pollution: Challenges and Solutions for Food Security and Public Health was successfully held from 24th to 25th March 2025 at the Joint Research and Demonstration Centre (JRDC). The event was graced by the presence of His Excellency Mr Qi Zhenhong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Sri Lanka, Mr Ranjith Ariyaratne, Secretary of the Ministry of Urban Development, Construction, and Housing, Prof.

Terrence Madhujith, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, and Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya.

The conference was jointly organized to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the JRDC, marking a decade of collaboration and scientific advancements in water resource management and environmental sustainability. The event featured an esteemed Chinese delegation of 40 members, including Prof. Jiuhui Qu, a distinguished recipient of the Nobel Sustainability Trust's Sustainability Award. In addition, international speakers from Australia and Germany, along with renowned Sri Lankan academics, shared their expertise, fostering a vibrant exchange of knowledge and innovative solutions to address pressing global environmental challenges.

The programme was funded by the Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO), underscoring the commitment to international scientific collaboration and sustainable development.

University Explores Collaboration with Thai Delegation



The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya recently welcomed a delegation from the Thai Embassy to discuss potential areas of collaboration between the two institutions. The meeting covered a broad range of topics aimed at strengthening academic and research partnerships.

In the field of agriculture and food science, discussions focused on expanding organic farming initiatives, leveraging Sri Lanka's expertise in sustainable agriculture, and aligning agricultural certifications with EU and UK standards. In health and medical research, proposals were made for collaborative work in anaesthesiology, critical care, tropical medicine, and pain management, with an emphasis on facilitating joint research through the issuance of a research licence.

The Faculty of Dental Sciences proposed joint research on oral cancer and the use of herbal medicine in oral health. The delegation also explored opportunities for student and Faculty exchange programmes in medical sciences. Representatives from the Department of Environmental Sciences proposed highlighted potential collaborations in climate-smart agriculture, carbon neutrality, and biodiversity conservation, with a focus on GIS and remote sensing technologies.

In engineering, discussions included joint research in AI and data science as well as collaborations on water research and chronic kidney disease. The Faculty of Arts proposed strengthening exchange programmes in Buddhist studies, Pali, and Sanskrit, while the Faculty of Management proposed research collaborations in entrepreneurship and student exchange programmes.

The discussions underscored the importance of enhancing cultural exchange and academic collaboration, paving the way for future partnerships in various fields of study.

Pera Rovers: Strength in Adversity

The Pera Rovers, the official Rover Scout team of the University of Peradeniya, recently undertook a challenging camping expedition to Bellwood, organized by the Career Guidance Unit in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Scouts Association.

Despite facing harsh weather conditions, the team displayed exceptional resilience, adaptability, and teamwork, successfully overcoming numerous obstacles. Through a series of demanding outdoor activities, the participants exemplified the true spirit of scouting.

This expedition marks a significant milestone as one of the prerequisites towards the formal establishment of Rover Scouting at the University of Peradeniya.



Professional English Course for Administrative Officers

The Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Arts, in collaboration with the Human Resource Development Unit, University of Peradeniya, successfully conducted a structured English language programme titled A Programme for Verbal and Written Communication in English for administrative officers. This initiative aimed to enhance participants' proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking in English, equipping them with essential communication skills for professional settings.

Designed as a 15-week course, the programme comprised 30 hours of instruction.

The primary objectives of the programme were to

- Strengthen participants' ability to communicate effectively in professional contexts.
- Enhance written communication skills, particularly in formal correspondence and report writing.
- Improve verbal communication skills through structured speaking activities, including impromptu speeches and presentations.
- Develop essential workplace communication etiquette, including telephone conversations and email writing.



A total of 68 participants were enrolled and divided into two groups based on the results of a Placement Test conducted at the beginning of the course. The test assessed participants' existing English proficiency to ensure appropriate group allocation for effective learning. A total of 60 teaching hours were allocated for the course, with each instructor assigned a maximum of four hours per week.

The curriculum focused on key professional English skills essential for administrative officers. Sessions included letter and email writing, minutes and memos, interview skills, and professional communication.

University of Peradeniya Team Leads Sri Lanka in Global Coding Challenge – IEEEExtreme 18.0

A team from the University of Peradeniya emerged as the top-performing Sri Lankan team in the prestigious global coding competition, IEEEExtreme 18.0. The team comprised Praveen Sumanasekara, Athulya Rathnayake, and Buddhi Wijenayake from the E19 batch of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE).

Competing under the team name "Insomniac," they represented the University with distinction, securing 66th place out of approximately 8,700 teams from 75 countries worldwide. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their dedication and talent, and it reflects the DEEE's strong commitment to academic and technical excellence.

Notably, the team also secured first place in IEEEExtreme 17.0, making this a back-to-back victory, further highlighting their consistency and prowess in competitive programming.

IEEEExtreme is a globally recognised, 24-hour programming competition organised annually by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). The contest challenges teams of student members to solve a series of complex algorithmic and programming problems within a tight timeframe, testing their critical thinking, coding abilities, and teamwork under pressure.

Undergraduate Environmental Sustainability Leaders (UESL) – 2025



Stage III of UESL-2025, jointly organized by the Centre for Environmental Sustainability (CES), University of Peradeniya (UoP), the Research Centre for Eco-Environmental Sciences (RCEES) at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China, the Joint Research and Demonstration Center (JRDC), Peradeniya, and the Hand Institute of Environmental Observation, China, was held at JRDC on 25th March 2025. The event coincided with the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of China-Sri Lanka Water Technology Cooperation.

Eleven undergraduate students, selected from a group of 260 applicants across sixteen Sri Lankan state universities during Stage I (online) and Stage II (on-site) of the training programme, participated in Stage III of the programme. In Stage III, participants were tasked with proposing innovative and scientific solutions to critical water-related environmental challenges in Sri Lanka.

Proposed solutions included phytoremediation techniques, IoT-based solutions, and hybrid bio-physical filtration systems. The proposals were assessed by a panel of esteemed scientists from both China and Sri Lanka. The panel was co-chaired by Prof. Qu Jiuhui, Academician and Professor at RCEES, and Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UoP. Other panel members included Prof. Yang Min, RCEES; Prof. Xingcan Zheng, North China Municipal Engineering Design and Research Institute Co., Ltd; Ms Xie Chengcheng, Hand Institute of Environmental Observation; Prof. Namal Priyantha, Department of Chemistry, UoP; Prof. Rohan Chandrajith, Department of Geology, UoP; and Dr. Madhubashini Makehelwela, JRDC. The session was moderated by Prof. Wei Yuansong, RCEES, and Dr Nalin Suranjith, CES, UoP.

Ms Nadeesha Priyanjalee (UoP), Ms Sanduni Smarakoon (UoP), Ms Mandara Silva (University of Colombo), Ms Sewmini Laksiri (Ocean University of Sri Lanka), and Ms Samanmalee Dassanayake (Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka) were named winners by the panel. They were awarded a fully sponsored two-week fellowship at RCEES and a cash prize of USD 200, sponsored by the Hand Institute of Environmental Observation, China.

The runners-up included Ms Thilini Madushanika (University of Jaffna), Mr Praveen Sebastian (University of Jaffna), Mr Sanjula Panagoda (University of Sri Jayewardenepura), Mr Isuru Kodithuwakku (Rajarata University of Sri Lanka), Ms Pradeepa Wijesinghe (Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka), and Ms Rashmi Perera (University of Peradeniya). They received a cash prize of USD 100, also sponsored by the Hand Institute of Environmental Observation, China.

Prof. Terrence Madhujith, who attended the award ceremony as the chief guest, highlighted the significance of programmes like UESL in empowering the youth of Sri Lanka. He also elaborated on the University of Peradeniya's commitment to environmental sustainability. Finally, he congratulated all winners and commended RCEES, CAS, the Hand Institute of Environmental Observation, CES, and JRDC for organizing a successful programme.

Prof. Roshan Ragel Receives 2025 Mary Kenneth Keller Award

Prof. Roshan Ragel from the Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya, has achieved a historic milestone as the first academic from the Global South to receive the 2025 IEEE Computer Society Mary Kenneth Keller Computer Science & Engineering Undergraduate Teaching Award.



This prestigious award honours his exceptional contributions to undergraduate education through innovative teaching, impactful research, and dedicated service. His work has fostered an inclusive and experiential learning environment for undergraduates in Sri Lanka.

Since its inception, this award has been given 25 times, predominantly to faculty from leading U.S. institutions. Notable recent recipients include Margaret Ellis (2024, Virginia Tech) for fostering inclusive experiential learning, Carla B Zoltowski (2023, Purdue) for leadership in multidisciplinary engineering education, Nanette Veilleux (2022, Simmons University) for supporting young women in STEM, Harry Lewis (2021, Harvard) for over 40 years of impact on computer science education, and Andre DeHon (2020, Penn) for transforming computer engineering curricula.

Prof. Ragel's recognition not only highlights his individual excellence but also marks a major step towards global inclusivity in academic recognition. His contributions extend beyond the classroom, shaping AI, IoT, and embedded systems curricula and expanding technology education in Sri Lanka.

He has mentored over 300 undergraduate researchers and co-authored over 200 papers, receiving accolades such as the Best Computer Scientist in Sri Lanka (2023-2025) and the National Educator Gold Award for Computing (2024). His leadership in LEARN and the Asi@Connect Project has transformed Sri Lanka's research and education networks, while his role in the Presidential AI Strategy Committee, National AI Advisory Committee and AI Forum for Academics (AIFA) shapes the country's AI landscape.

This award reaffirms his pioneering role in advancing engineering education in Sri Lanka and beyond.

Visit of the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences

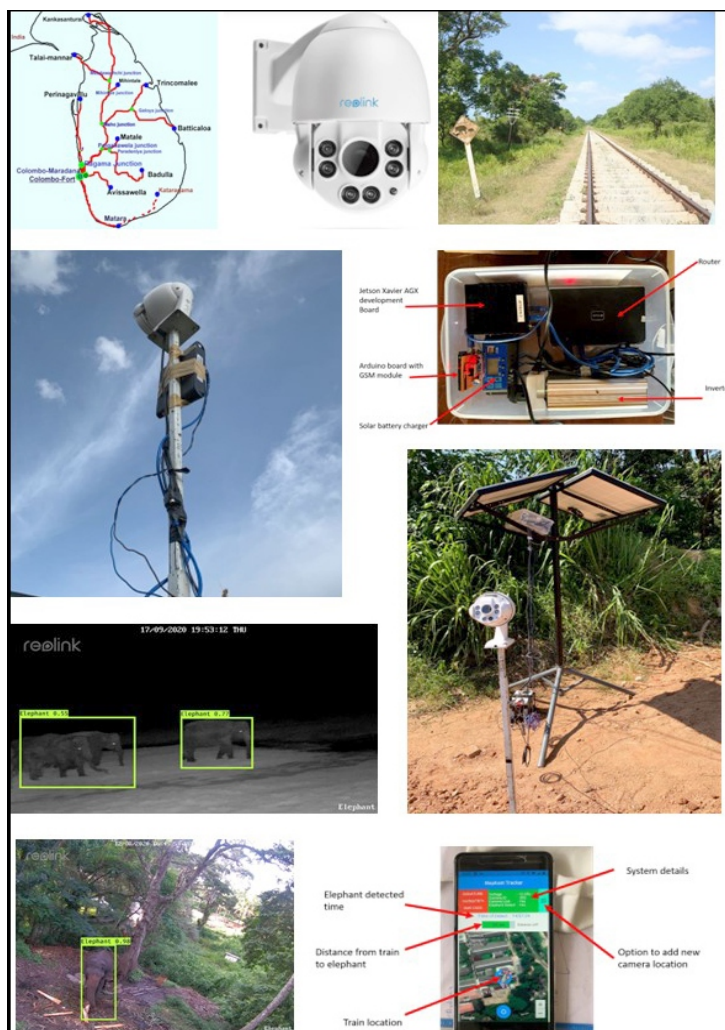
A delegation from the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGGCAS), led by Academician Prof. Mingguo Zhai, visited the University of Peradeniya on January 15, 2025. The delegation met with the Vice-Chancellor and academic staff from the Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, at the Vice-Chancellor's Office.

The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss recent developments and future prospects for collaboration between IGGCAS and the University of Peradeniya, including the donation of GNSS-enabled ionospheric measuring systems for scientific research. Both parties also expressed interest in expanding geological collaboration and academic exchange, exploring how the expertise and facilities of the Chinese Academy of Sciences could be utilized to develop new partnerships for Sri Lanka's mineral sector and geological exploration and research.

These activities are expected to enhance the international visibility and ranking of the University of Peradeniya. The meeting and visit of the IGGCAS delegation were coordinated by Prof. Sanjeewa PK Malaviarachchi from the Department of Geology.



Saving Giants: The Elephant-Train Collision Prevention System



The prototype of the Elephant-Train Collision Prevention System, developed through a collaborative project by members of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (DEEE), gained renewed media attention following a recent tragic elephant-train collision at the Galoya-Habarana railway track.

The initiative, aimed at protecting both wildlife and railway transport system, introduces an advanced AI-powered sensor system designed to prevent such collisions. Initially funded by the IEEE RAS-SIGHT (Robotics and Automation Society Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology) under its 2019 Call for Humanitarian Projects, the system represents a major step forward in railway safety in elephant-prone regions.

In its first phase, the concept was to strategically deploy sensor units designed to monitor key "hot spots" where elephants frequently cross train tracks. These units use cutting-edge AI and sensor technologies to monitor surroundings and transmit real-time alerts to an onboard computing unit, allowing train drivers to respond swiftly and prevent accidents.

Building on this foundation, the second phase introduced an in-cabin detection system specifically for train operators. Developed with support from the prestigious NVIDIA Applied Research Hardware Accelerator Programme, this system can detect elephants up to 500 meters ahead, operating reliably in both day and night conditions using advanced machine learning techniques.

This project not only showcases engineering excellence but also underscores the impact of collaborative, research-driven innovation. Several final-year undergraduate projects have further strengthened the initiative, exploring alternative sensor technologies and refining detection capabilities.

By merging artificial intelligence with real-world conservation, this pioneering system sets a new benchmark for responsible and sustainable transportation—safeguarding wildlife while enhancing railway safety.

DEEE extends its congratulations to the research team

From the University of Peradeniya – Prof. Lilantha Samaranayake (PI), Prof. Kithsiri M Liyanage, Dr Nalin Harischandra, Dr Tharindu Weerakoon, Eng. Shanaka Ramesh Gunasekara, Eng. Tuan Azzam;

From the University of Technology, Sydney – Prof. Gamini Dissanayake (PI), Dr Ravindra Ranasinghe, Dr Maleen Jayasuriya.

We wish them continued success in their future innovations and research.

Public Seminar: The IMF and The Debt Crisis in the Global South



The Economics Society of the Department of Economics and Statistics, Faculty of Arts, conducted a public seminar on the topic "The IMF and The Debt Crisis In The Global South," on 5th February 2025, at the Faculty of Arts Seminar Room.

The resource person for the seminar was Dr Eric Toussaint, a world-renowned academic and social activist specializing in issues of debt and debt justice. He currently serves as the spokesperson for the Committee for the Abolition of Illegitimate Debt (CADTM) in Belgium and has published extensively on topics such as sovereign debt, debt justice and alternative policies to restructure debt in the Global South.

In his presentation, Dr Toussaint explored the history of debt under capitalism, the concept of debt justice and alternatives to IMF austerity measures, drawing on global case studies. He also provided critical insights into the economic and political risks associated with the current IMF agreement signed by the Sri Lankan government in 2024, supported by empirical evidence and his political experience.

The seminar was moderated by Dr Kalpa Rajapaksha, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Statistics, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya.

Braille Workshop: Dots and Beyond

The Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya, successfully conducted a two-day workshop titled Dots and Beyond: Enhancing English Braille Proficiency of Undergraduates on the 7th and 14th of March 2025. The workshop aimed to strengthen students' English Braille skills, with a particular focus on Braille contractions. It was designed for undergraduate students across all four years who required additional support in English Braille literacy.

The sessions, held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on both days, were facilitated by Ms. Bisio Manike Grero, an expert in Braille instruction. The primary objectives of the workshop were to

- Enhance students' proficiency in English Braille writing
- Improve their understanding and application of Braille contractions
- Boost their confidence in using Braille for academic and daily tasks

Ms. Grero provided specialized instruction on English Braille, offering systematic approaches to mastering contractions. The workshop incorporated interactive discussions, allowing participants to actively engage with the material. A total of ten students attended both sessions, demonstrating keen interest and commitment to improving their Braille proficiency.



This initiative proved to be highly beneficial in addressing the challenges faced by visually impaired undergraduates in English Braille literacy. By equipping students with essential skills and confidence, the program contributes to their academic success and overall independence in using Braille effectively. Future workshops and follow-up sessions may be under consideration to provide continued support in their learning journey.

Crescenda 2025: A Celebration of Colours, Talents & Splendour



On 18th March 2025, the 2023/24 batch of the Faculty of Dental Sciences, presented “Crescenda 2025”, an evening filled with vibrant performances, creativity, and cultural brilliance at the Bambaradeniya Auditorium.

The event was graced by the presence of Prof. R.W. Pallegama, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya, as the Chief Guest. Also in attendance were Prof. Shyama Banneheka, Dean of the Faculty; Prof. BGTL Nandasena, Chairperson of the Students' Welfare & Advisory Committee (SWAC); Prof. Sumedha Jayathilaka, the Proctor/UoP; and HNS Soysa, the Deputy Proctor/FDS, along with the academic and non-academic staff members.

Special appreciation is extended to Ms Dulshika Senanayake, Ms Monika Jayasekara, and Ms Yasanya Wickramarachchi of the English Language Teaching Unit, for their invaluable support in guiding and coaching the students. Their dedication played a crucial role in refining the performances.

The event successfully brought together talent, culture, and unity, creating unforgettable memories for all attendees. Congratulations to the 2023/24 batch for organizing such a remarkable evening!

Professional Development Programme for Department of English Language Teaching (DELT) Staff Workshop on the Use of E-Resources in the Library

As part of the ongoing Professional Development Programmes for the staff of the Department of English Language Teaching (DELT), a workshop on Using E-Resources in the Library was held on 21st March 2025. This session aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to make optimal use of the digital resources provided by the Main Library of the University of Peradeniya.

The workshop featured three informative sessions conducted by library staff members. Dr Chamani Gunasekera, Deputy Librarian, delivered a session on Mastering E-Resources for English Language Teaching: Access through the University of Peradeniya Library, offering valuable insights into the digital tools and databases relevant to English language teaching. Mr Eranga Bandara, Assistant Librarian, led a practical session on How to Search Resources in the JSTOR Database, guiding participants through search techniques and resource navigation. Mr S. Jeewan, also an Assistant Librarian, introduced participants to the British Council's digital offerings, highlighting resources that support teaching and learning in English language education.

Each session focused on a specific aspect of e-resource utilization. The interactive nature of the workshop allowed participants to explore various tools, ask questions, and gain hands-on experience in accessing and applying these digital materials effectively.

This initiative underscores the university's commitment to continuous learning and professional growth, ensuring that educators have the best possible resources to enrich their academic and research endeavours.

Department of English Language Teaching Community Project 2025 Ordinary Level English Seminar Series



As part of its ongoing community engagement efforts, the Department of English Language Teaching (DELT), Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya launched the Ordinary Level English Seminar Series in 2024. Now in its second iteration, the initiative aims to support students preparing for the Ordinary Level Examination.

This year, the program specifically targeted students from CP/K/Seewali College, Hindagala, Peradeniya, who sat for the examination on 17th March 2025. A total of 40 students participated in the sessions.

The seminar series was designed to provide focused guidance on key areas of the Ordinary Level English curriculum. The first session took place on 27th February 2025, offering students a structured and interactive learning experience. It addressed common challenges in English language proficiency, with an emphasis on reading comprehension, grammar, essay writing, and effective examination strategies.

The initiative was led by Prof. Pushpa Vitharana, Head of the Department of English Language Teaching, who provided academic and administrative oversight. Faculty members and experienced instructors conducted the sessions, ensuring high-quality instruction aligned with examination requirements.

Objectives of the Seminar Series

- Strengthen students' reading, writing, and comprehension skills.
- Provide targeted support in key areas of the English curriculum.
- Boost students' confidence in tackling the Ordinary Level English examination.
- Offer practical examination strategies and time management techniques.

Through interactive and structured learning activities, the seminar series contributed significantly to students' preparedness for the examination. This initiative reflects the department's commitment to promoting educational equity and supporting local schools through community outreach. Further sessions are planned to ensure continued guidance and skill development in the lead-up to the examination.

Condolences on the Passing of Prof. Gananath Obeyesekere



The University deeply mourns the passing of Professor Gananath Obeyesekere, a distinguished scholar and an intellectual giant in anthropology. His groundbreaking contributions to psychoanalysis and anthropology and how personal symbolism is related to religious experience have left an indelible mark on the academic world.

As a proud alumnus of our university, Prof. Obeyesekere's work continues to inspire generations of scholars, both in Sri Lanka and globally. His profound insights and scholarly legacy will forever be cherished.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and students during this time of grief. May he rest in peace.

New Appointments of Academic Staff (01 January – 31 March 2025)

Name	Designation	Place of Work (Department/Division)	Years of Service
GS Rathnayake	Lecturer (Probationary)	Physiology	-
N Naranpanawa	Lecturer (Probationary)	Surgery	-

Retirements of Academic Staff (01 January – 31 March 2025)

Name	Designation	Place of Work (Department/Division)	Years of Service
Prof. SAM Kularathne	Senior Professor	Medicine	26
Prof. SHPP Karunarathne	Senior Professor	Zoology	43
Prof. KBN Ranawana	Senior Professor	Zoology	37
Prof. KMS Wimalasiri	Professor	Food Science	26

Resignations of Academic Staff (01 January – 31 March 2025)

Name	Designation	Place of Work (Department/Division)	Years of Service
Dr KBN Rathnayake	Senior Lecturer I	Electrical Engi.	40
Prof. M. Danthure Bandara	Professor	Chemical & Process Engineering	9
SS Manatunga	Lecturer (Probationary)	Pharmacology	1
BHWMGT Wijethilake	Lecturer (Probationary)	Anaesthesiology	3

New Appointments of Non-Academic Staff (01 January – 31 March 2025)

Name	Designation	Place of Work (Department/Division)	Date
Mr PGNN Thilakarathna	Attendant (Health Ser.) Lower Grade	Health Centre	08.01.2025
Mr R Jeyakumar	Slaughterman (Lower Grade)	Livestock Field Station-Uda Pera, Faculty of Agri.,	17.03.2025

Resignations of Non-Academic Staff (01 January – 31 March 2025)

Name	Designation	Place of Work (Department/Division)	Years of Service
Mr SMDS Sethunga	Works Aide - Grade III	English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU), Faculty of Arts	9
Mr DC Siyambalapitige	Lab Attendant - Grade III	Dean's Office, Faculty of Arts	13
Mr DGDJ Jayarathna	Management Assistant Grade II	Deans Office, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences	10
Mrs WMSG Siriwardena	Management Assistant Grade II	Department of English, Faculty of Arts	11

Retirements of Non-Academic Staff (01 January – 31 March 2025)

Name	Designation	Place of Work (Department/Division)	Years of Service
Miss KAM Kadupitiya	Works Aide - Special Grade	Sarasavi Uyana Hall	27
Mr MHMT Bandara	Lab Attendant - Special Grade	Dep. of Food Sci. & Tec., Faculty of Agri	30
Mr KM Karunarathne	Mason - Grade I	Maintenance Division	14
Mr BG Jayathissa	Works Aide - Grade I	Dep. of Civil Eng., Faculty of Engineering	29
Mr TGS Tharukaratna	Health Services Labourer - Special Grade I	Health Centre	36
Mr KUB Silva	Works Aide - Grade I	Livestock Field Station - Uda Pera., Faculty of Agri.	36
Mrs KS Shanthi Kumari	Health Services Labourer - Special Grade	Sarasavi Uyana Hall	24
Ms HWSP Rohini	Lab Attendant - Supra Grade	Dep. of Oral Med. & Perio., Faculty of Dental Sciences	27
Ms KAM Swarnalatha	Health Services Attendant - Special Grade	Health Centre	36
Mr HGS Karunarathne	Lab Attendant - Special Grade	Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine	27
Mr UGS Karunanayake	Carpenter - Grade I	Maintenance Division	29
Mr EUP Wijewardhana	Lab Attendant - Supra Grade	Dep. of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering	37
Mr KMGJS Konara	Staff Technical Officer - Grade II	Dep. of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences	34
Mrs RASP Ranaweera	Senior Staff Management Assistant	Centre for Distance & Continuing Education	38
Mr MGG Gunarathne	Mason - Special Grade	Maintenance Division	35
Mr WMSB Walisundara	Chief Technical Officer	Dep. of Electrical & Electronic Eng., Faculty of Eng.	39
Mr KUMAK Abeykoon	Works Aide - Special Grade	Telephone Exchange Unit	30
Mrs WMC Kotandeniya	Senior Staff Management Assistant	Dodangolla Experimental Station, Faculty of Agri	33
Mr KR Ananda	Works Aide - Grade I	Maintenance Division	25
Mr KSD Wijewardena	Electrician - Special Grade	Maintenance Division	30
Mrs SYK Ekanayake	Senior Staff Assistant (Library Services)	Main Library	35
Mrs DRCK Warakanga	Matron	Health Centre	11
Mr GGM Ariyaratna	Works Aide - Special Grade	Department of Physics, Faculty of Science	35
Mr GGN Jayakodi	Health Services Labourer - Special Grade	Malalasekara Hall	25

Vice-Chancellor Meets with Spanish Delegation Led by Dr Ethel Allué

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Terrence Madhujith, met with a Spanish delegation led by Dr Ethel Allué, a renowned archaeologist and anthracologist. Dr Allué is a researcher at the Institute of Human Paleoecology and Social Evolution (IPHES-CERCA) and a professor at the University Rovira i Virgili in Tarragona, Spain. The delegation also included Professor Llorenç Picornell and Dr Daniel Gallego from the University of the Balearic Islands.

The meeting was also attended by Dr Prabath Ekanayake, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Prof. RMM Chandraratne, and Dr Aruna Rajapakse.

Dr Allué serves as the coordinator of the Archbotanka Project, titled "From the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean through Ethnoarchaeology of Fuel and Archaeobotany". The project is funded by the European Union under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Staff Exchanges scheme.

Project partners include the University of the Balearic Islands (Palma), the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris), the University of Peradeniya (as an associated partner), MUCBO (Fundació Jardí Botànic de Sóller–Museu Balear de Ciències Naturals, Sóller), and the cooperative Els Corremarges (La Sala de Comalats, Tarragona, Spain).



Visit of Mrs Marie-Louise Hannan, Director General, South Asian Global Affairs

The University of Peradeniya had the honour of welcoming Mrs Marie-Louise Hannan, Director General, South Asian Global Affairs, along with Mrs Indirani Jayawardena, Political Officer at the High Commission of Canada, during their recent visit to the University.

The delegation was received by Professor Terrence Madhujith, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ranjith Pallegama, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Prof. Sanjeewa Malaviarachchi, Director of International Relations Office. The discussions focused on potential academic collaborations and development opportunities between the University of Peradeniya and leading Canadian educational institutions.

The visit provided a platform to explore avenues for student and faculty exchanges, joint research initiatives, and other partnerships aimed at strengthening ties between Sri Lanka and Canada in the higher education sector. The University of Peradeniya looks forward to fostering these collaborations and contributing to global academic excellence and innovation.

