

# UoR HIGHLIGHTS

UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA - SRI LANKA



July - December 2022

Volume 12 - Issue 2

ISBN 2279-2392



## FEATURE ARTICLE

### Changing organizational culture

Professor E.P.S. Chandana  
Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna

## The 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the University of Ruhuna

The 29<sup>th</sup> convocation of the University of Ruhuna was held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at the Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium of the University.

All degree awardees in the ten faculties of the University of Ruhuna participated in this ceremony. His Most Reverend, Venerable Dr. Akuratiye Nanda Thero, the Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, conferred 257 postgraduate degrees and 1637 first degrees. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor Sujeeva Amarasekera, conducted the convocation while the Deans of the faculties announced their degree awardees.

Degrees were conferred at three sessions of a one-day Convocation. Each session commenced with the processions of the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Deans of the faculties, Librarian, Registrar, and Academic staff members. Mr. Dharmasiri Bandaranayake was awarded an honorary degree, Doctor of Philosophy (Honoris Causa), at the first session. Graduates were conferred with postgraduate degrees, Bachelor of Science Honors in Agricultural Resource Management & Technology, Bachelor of Science Honors in Agribusiness Management, Bachelor of



Arts (Special), Bachelor of Computer Science (General), Bachelor of Science Honors in Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Bachelor of Science Honors in Marine & Freshwater Sciences, and Bachelor of Science (General).



Session two was conducted on the same day afternoon for conferring 690 graduants with Postgraduate degrees, Bachelor of Arts (General), Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Business Administration Honors in Accounting, Bachelor of Business Administration Honors in Entrepreneurship, Bachelor of Business Administration Honors in Human Resource Management, Bachelor of Business Administration Honors in Marketing, Engineering Technology Honors, Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology, Bachelor of Medicine, and Bachelor of Surgery.



The third session of the 29<sup>th</sup> convocation of the University of Ruhuna was held on the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> December, where 647 graduants were conferred their degrees. Among them, 249 graduants were offered Postgraduate degrees, Bachelor of Science Honors in Medical Laboratory Sciences, Bachelor of Science Honors in Nursing, and Bachelor of Pharmacy Honors Degrees. Further, 398 graduants were conferred a Bachelor of Arts (External) degree.

Based on their academic performances and their achievements in extracurricular activities, including sports, the most outstanding undergraduate stu-



dents are selected annually for the Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal. Ms. B.G. Ayesha Harshani Bandarawaththa of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ms. R.M. Kalani Sashanthika Gimhani of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, Mr. P.N. Sanjaya Lakmal Priyadarshana of the Faculty of Medicine, and Mr. Daishika Aishwara Dias of the Faculty of Management and Finance, were awarded the Vice Chancellor's Gold Medals. Ms. A.M.S. Sandaruwani Amarasiri of the faculty of Graduate studies won the Vice Chan-



cellor's Gold Medal awarded to the most outstanding postgraduate student.

Subject-specific gold medals were offered to students who exhibited excellent academic performances during their study period. The Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna bestowed 44 gold medals in this 29<sup>th</sup> convocation.



# Changing Organizational Culture

*Culture act as an entire organizational system where each little change can affect each layer of the system. Hence organization and its culture are inter-reliant and mutual, as organization structure and strategies can influence overall culture and vice versa.*

## Why does it matter?

Organizational culture is immensely important to the success and overall health of your organization, people, and clients. There are reasons why organizational culture is important. Few are listed below.

1. It defines organization's internal and external identity.
2. Organizational culture is about organization's core values.
3. Organizational culture can transform employees into advocates.
4. A strong organizational culture helps to retain best people.
5. A well-functioning culture assists with integrating new employees to the system.
6. Organizational culture transforms organization into a team.
7. Culture impacts performance and employee wellbeing.

Changing organizational culture to meet the requirements of the prevailing circumstances is an essentially important task which is neglected by most leaders citing many reasons and lame justifications. Organization's progress is depended on acquiring necessary changes at the right time in right quality and the quantity.

Changing an organization's culture is one of the toughest challenges for leaders since an organization's culture consists of a set of interlocking goals, roles, processes, values, communication practices, attitudes, and assumptions. Organizational culture consists of practices, values, beliefs and assumption of appropriate behavior that organizational members share. These cultures help to shape and guides or-

ganization members' attitude and behavior in the organization and it builds overtime and is deeply linked to its history and development which helps to provide organization an identity.

Change within an organization moves away from its current state in response to threats from economic and other events, new opportunities, and managerial decisions about the need for change. However, it poses a challenge to many organizations due to differences to the nature of services, work cultures and values, management and leadership style as well as the attitude and behavior of employees.

People are the most important factor in change, but they are also the most difficult factor to manage. To change a person, we need to change attitudes, which consist of perceptions, affections, and behavioral tendencies. It is difficult because most people resist change out of fear of risk, intolerance of uncertainty, and a need to maintain tradition. Because organizational culture describes the internal environment of an organization, including the assumptions, beliefs, and values of its members, resistance to change from within makes it difficult to change organizational culture, and one or more factors affecting the change may appear. Examples: security, psychological threats, loss of power or position.

There are different aspects of the changes which can be adopted.

1. Changes in the tools used: Removing something they are familiar with or introducing a new one might be required at certain points. These tools can be software systems as well. This should be essentially done to move abreast with the advancement of the technology.
2. Changes in work content: The actual tasks and activities can be changed accordingly based on the knowledge, experience and interest. This will give a chance to the members to have different experiences and they can be taken out from boredom.
3. Changes in job profile: This has to be done with perceived/real status changes. Changes in job titles affects people. For many people their job profile forms part of their identity. This can be done in a positive

way where members develop dignity and confidence.

4. Changes in team profile: Which team they belong in? As part of restructuring, departments get formed, merged or dissolved. These affect people. Nevertheless, it should be done for the organization's best of interest.
5. Changes in work place: Relocating a person's work place can be unsettling for them. Stagnating at a one place for a long time doesn't do any good for the members of the organization. At the beginning, they might feel disadvantage, especially if they travel times are longer. However, this might be important to develop their career perspectives and enhance their experiences and confidence. In the long run these changes will benefit both the leadership and the members.
6. Changes in working time: Benefits of this approach should be weighed for the best interest of the members. Introduction of flexible working hours might be a good approach to facilitate the members to manage their job related work and other work depending on the time, money and other factors.
7. Changes in payment: Payment changes will have a good effect to the organization. Yearly review of payments and other benefits will develop the enthusiasm of the workers.

People's perceptions of organizational change are influenced by corporate culture. Since culture may either stimulate or impede innovation for change, some cultures may be better adapted to support change processes than others. A culture that places a strong focus on strategy and performance as well as high levels of unity has a very positive attitude toward change. It may be difficult for cultures with a high degree of sociability and positive relationships among their members to execute the change if it would affect their bonds etc.

## Why organizational culture change is difficult?

Reasons given below are few of the obstacles. An organization's culture is essentially its genetic code. Everything else in the organization happens according to its culture. The organization, its design, and its strategies influence its entire culture, and vice versa. The two are mutually dependent.

An organization's culture reveals its core principles and ideals. The organization's values could be called into doubt by trying to change it, frequently without that intentional aim.

The entire organizational system is pervaded by an organization's culture. Organizational culture changes throughout time, having an impact on every layer of that structure with even the smallest modification. The basis of an organization's identity is its culture, which is intricately intertwined with its evolution and history.

Leadership plays a very important role in changing organizational culture. To change organization culture, we require leaders with vision, strategy and resourcefulness. These qualities are important to take strong decisions for the betterment of the development of a new system. Leaders who expect popularity can do a little change to the organizational culture change in a meaningful way.

Dishonesty, lack of work ethics, lack of awareness, uncertainty and poor attitudes are also major obstacles in changing organizational culture.

In conclusion, organizational culture is deep and stable and is assumed not to change at will. It requires time for culture to change and the leadership team needs to consider a robust Change Management Plan that handles resistance effectively. This will lead them towards Refreshing Constructive Transformation!

**Professor E. P. S. Chandana.**  
Deputy Vice Chancellor.  
University of Ruhuna.

## International Conference of Management & Economics

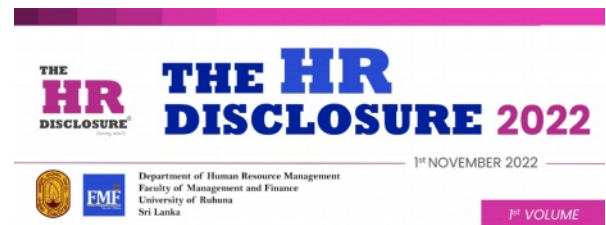
The International Conference of Management and Economics (ICME-2022), organized by the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka, is one of the most prominent research conferences in the field of Management & Economics. ICME-2022, as an annual flagship event of the Faculty, was held on 04<sup>th</sup> August 2022, under the theme of “Re-envisioning the Business Management Landscape for VUCA World.” Late Professor Dayananda Ambalangodage, Professor in Accounting of the Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura participated as the distinguished keynote speaker.



The Faculty of Management and Finance of the University of Presov, Slovakia, joined as a partner of ICME 2022. In parallel to the ICME-2022, the business forum was held under the theme of “Promoting Resilience and Sustainability of Small and Medium Scale Entrepreneurs” (SMEs). It mainly focused on SMEs, which can be referred to as the backbone of an economy that faced numerous challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic over the last two years. The forum also provided a platform for views and voices of entrepreneurs to be better presented and considered. Idea Cloud, an annual efforts of the faculty, is a business start-up idea competition in which students in the tertiary education system allow to pitch their innovative ideas that provides solutions for social and economic development of the country. This year competition was organized in parallel to the ICME 2022 under the theme of “Skillset and mindset transformation for creativity and innovation in new normalcy”.

## HR Disclosure-2022

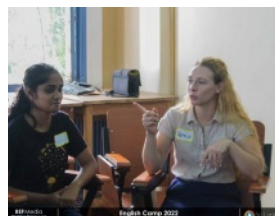
The Department of Human Resource Management, Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna had the honor of launching the first issue of the academic magazine, The HR Disclosure' 2022 on 01<sup>st</sup> November 2022 at the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna. The magazine features the perspectives of well-known academics, industry experts, graduates, and undergraduates from local and international context. The HR Disclosure builds a platform for the stakeholders to pen down their perspectives while also being a useful source for the readers to fill their knowledge gaps in HRM. The editorial board of the magazine expects to publish HR Disclosure as a reputed magazine among HR practitioners by



uplifting its quality and standards. The HR Disclosure magazine is available online at the website of the Faculty of Management and Finance (<http://mgt.ruh.ac.lk/images/ne/hrdcloma.pdf>).

## An English Camp for Undergraduates

An English Camp was held for the first year undergraduates of the Faculty of Engineering from 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 at the Faculty Premises. This camp was conducted by volunteers from PNP Global, USA. The partnership with this American team and the Faculty of Engineering has existed for several years. This team visits Sri Lanka twice a year to conduct the English Camp. The primary objective of the event was to help students speak English boldly. The program was a week-long residential program which consists of small groups, and various activities to improve communication skills of students.



## Inauguration ceremony: Diploma in Psychological Counseling

The inauguration ceremony and the commencement of academic program of the 13<sup>th</sup> batch of Diploma in Psychological Counseling conducted by the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences under Distance and Continuing Education Unit was held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 10.00 a:m at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences auditorium with the presence of the Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena.



## Knowledge Dissemination Workshop by KOICA

A knowledge Dissemination Workshop was held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 for 250 students of the 22<sup>nd</sup> batch of the Faculty of Engineering. This workshop was organized by the Association of KOICA Fellows (AKOFE) and sponsored by the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). Mr. Roshan Serasinghe, president of AKOFE, and Mrs. Myunjin Kim, KOICA Country Director shared information on opportunities available for students. Other resource persons were from the Disaster Management Centre, the Arthur C. Clarke Institute and the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited.



## Guest Lectures: Faculty of Management and Finance

The Department of Human Resource Management (HRM) organized a series of guest lectures for the undergraduates of the Faculty of Management and Finance.

A virtual session on “Data Analysis in Qualitative research” was conducted on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 via Zoom by Dr. Dushan Chaminda, Senior Lecturer, Department of Marketing Management, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

A lecture on “HR Audit in an Organizational Context” was conducted by Mrs. Chryshanthi Lokuhetty, Chief Manager, Human Resources, Sampath Bank PLC on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

Ms. Keshavi Puswewala, Senior HR Business Partner – Corporate Functions and Employer Brand Lead – Unilever Sri Lanka delivered an online lecture on “Decide your next step-The right way to choose your future career” on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022. The first session of this series was conducted on 04<sup>th</sup> July 2022 by Ms. Ayesha Imalika Gamage, CEO of the kawum kokis.com.

The Department of Management and Entrepreneurship organized a special guest lecture on “Creativity and Innovation” on 03<sup>rd</sup> November 2022. Prof. Nalaka Wickramasinghe of the Department of Commerce and Financial Management Studies, University of Kelaniya participated as the resource person for this lecture.



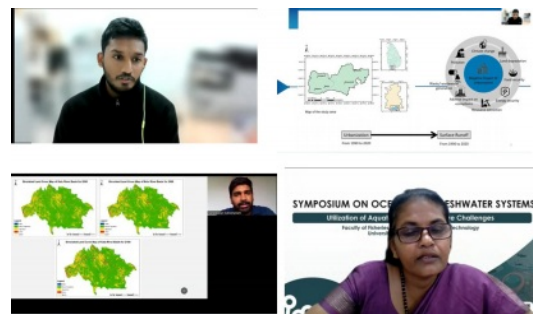
## Symposium on Ocean and Freshwater Systems -2022

The first symposium organized by the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, Symposium on Oceans and Freshwater Systems (SOFS), was held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 under the theme of "Utilization of aquatic resources for future challenges." The symposium's objective was to provide an intellectual platform for undergraduates and fresh faculty graduates to showcase their research findings to the outside world. Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, the Vice Chancellor of the University, graced the Inauguration ceremony of the symposium as the chief guest, and the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor E.P.S. Chandana, was the guest of honor.



Prof. Jagath Manatunge, attached to the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, delivered the keynote speech on "Controlling Pollution of Aquatic Ecosystems for Sustainable Urban Development." Senior Professor T.P.D. Gamage and Dr. Upul Premarathne were the Chairperson and the Secretary of SOFS-2022, respectively.

Twenty-three abstracts were presented online in three sessions, titled "Environmental Sciences and Technology," "Hydrology, Remote Sensing, and Biotechnology," and "Biology, Fisheries, and Aquaculture."



## A Lecture Series for School Children

A lecture series organized by the Department of History and Archeology in order to improve the knowledge of school children in the G.C.E O/L and A/L classes on history subjects was conducted on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at the University premises.

Students of several schools in the Southern province together with their teachers participated in the event. Lectures of various topics related to the school history syllabus were delivered by the academic staff members of the Department from 9.00 am - 12.30 pm. *Sources for studying Sri Lankan history, Prehistoric period of Sri Lanka, Proto*



*historic period of Sri Lanka and Establishment of British power in Sri Lanka* were some of the topics discussed in this event, and the students were able to achieve a broad insight into those topics. At the same time, lecturers also had an opportunity to get a novel experiences by sharing their knowledge & experiences with school children.

## Underwater Archaeological studies

Final year students who specialized in Archaeology participated for a field visit of Underwater Archaeology module on the 05<sup>th</sup> and 06<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 at Gandhara harbor, Thelulla archaeological site, and Magampura Ruhuna Heritage Museum. Especially, they had an opportunity to learn on the Godawaya shipwreck excavation project conducted at Godawaya while meeting with the project members of the Maritime Archaeological unit. During this visit, students were able to learn various types of tangible heritages in Ruhuna region.





## Students in an archaeological Exploration

Third year undergraduate students who specialize in Archaeology at the Department of History and Archaeology participated for a one week archaeological exploration conducted at Yatala Vehera, Akurugoda, and Sandagiri Seya from 21.07.2022 to 28.07.2022.

During this explorations, students were able to aquire knowledge and practical experience essential for an archaeological explorations. Further, students had an opportunity to strengthen their skills in teamwork, and time management, etc. Senior Lecturer Mr. Seevali Manathunga was the coordinator of this event. Mrs. Nirosha of the Museum of Yatalavehera and the officials at the Central Cultural Fund office of Tissamaharama are greatly acknowledged for their immense support extended to make this event a success.



## Product Demonstration, Research and Design Projects



Product demonstration of final year undergraduates of the Department of Engineering Technology was successfully conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at the faculty premises. They exhibited and demonstrated products, findings of their research, and design projects during this event. The purpose of organizing this event was to promote innovations and inventions among undergraduate students and encourage them to engage in research activities. The product evaluation was done by the academic staff members of the other two departments. A team of the Department of Industrial Development, District Office, Matara also visited, and the new products of students were appreciated by the team.



## Communication Skills Development Programme

The Department of Human Resource Management in collaboration with American Corner, Matara, initiated a communication skills development programme for third year students who specialize in the field of Human Resource Management. This is a 10-week programme fully funded by American Corner, Matara. The inauguration ceremony of the programme was held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 at 3.30 pm via zoom. Professor P.A.P. Samantha Kumara, Dean of the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.



## Faculty of Medicine Academic Sessions (FMAS) – 2022

Faculty of Medicine Academic Sessions (FMAS) – 2022 was successfully held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022, at the T.W. Wickramanayake auditorium, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna under the theme of “Facing Health Challenges in Economic Scarcity”. The Chief Guest of the FMAS 2022 was Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, the Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna. Keynote Address was delivered on “Health Challenges in Economic Scarcity” by Professor Amala De Silva, Professor in Economics, Department of Economics, Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo.



FMAS oration titled “Clinical Utility of Bone Turnover Markers in Sri Lanka: The Way Forward” was delivered by Mrs. Hasanga Rathnayake, Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna.



Research Publication Awards for the year 2021 were received by 28 academics who published research articles in indexed journals. The awardees were selected by the Board of Study in Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna and was commenced for the first time in the faculty to encourage the staff members to conduct high quality research and disseminate their research findings through publishing papers in reputed journals.



The inauguration ceremony was followed by the FMAS symposium, postgraduate research presentations, free paper oral and poster sessions in both open and undergraduate categories. FMAS-2022 was delivered under the subthemes of “Resolving family health issues during economic scarcity” by Dr Chithramalee de Silva, Director Maternal and Child Health, Family Health Bureau, Ministry of Health; “Health promotion in building a resilient health system during economic downturn” by Dr Susie Perera, Deputy Director General Public Health Services, Ministry of Health and “Economic scarcity and mental health” by Dr Vajira Dharmawardene, Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka. There were 35 abstract presentations in the free paper sessions, including both oral and poster presentations. Winners of those presentations were selected separately for the open category and the undergraduate category. Prof Vasantha Devasiri, Dean, Faculty of Medicine awarded the certificates to the winners of best oral and poster presentations. Dr Eric De Zoysa and Dr Udari Egodage were the Chairperson and the Secretary of FMAS-2022 respectively.

## Basic Life Support & First Aid Program



A basic life support and first aid program was conducted by the department of Anesthesiology in collaboration with the Galle Medical Association at the Wellamadama University premises on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2022. The program was organized by the carrier guidance unit of the University of Ruhuna.

Dr. Upul Hapuarachchi and Dr. Chamin Weerasekera participated in both programs representing the Faculty of Medicine. The rest of the resource persons were Dr. Janaka Ranaweera, Consultant Anesthetist, and Medical officers representing Galle Medical Association. Pre-intern doctors who passed out from the faculty of Medicine University of Ruhuna from the 38<sup>th</sup> batch also participated as resource persons. The program was well attended on both days, with 130 participants on each day.

## Workshop for Advanced Level Engineering Technology Students

The Department of Engineering Technology conducted a workshop for Advance Level (A/L) students to demonstrate practical components related to the A/L Technology stream on 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2022. Forty students and two teachers from the Maliduwa Central College, Akuressa participated in this workshop. Mrs. Achini Madushika, Lecturer attached to the department of Engineering Technology welcomed all participants, and she conducted an introductory session to introduce the faculty and the university. Practical demonstrations were conducted successfully on production technology, workshop machinery, automobile technology, electrical and electronics, and materials technology. Eng. Harshana Laknath, Eng. Hasini Ganege, Eng. Akesh Deemantha, Eng. Ayomi Pabasara, Mr. Lahiru Fernando, Ms. D.N. Liyanage, and Ms. K.Y. Gayashini conducted practical sessions with the support of demonstrators and non-academic staff members. Two similar workshops were previously organized for Richmond College, Galle, and Manthinda College, Matara. Students and teachers appreciated the effort and practical experiences provided by the department.



Department of Engineering Technology expects to enhance the awareness of the technology stream among the school community and facilitate school children to improve their practical knowledge by continuing this workshop.



## Presentations at an International Webinars

The International webinar series conducted by the Govt. M.S. Golwalkar College, Rewa, India was held from 05<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> November via Zoom. The theme of the webinar was 'Socio-cultural, Archaeological, Geo-heritage sites, Monuments, and Museums: Identification, conservation and management'.

Academic staff members of the Department of History and Archaeology presented their research findings in this forum. Members of the Department of Archaeology effectively contributed by disseminating their knowledge in this international forum while enhancing their research capacity by presenting the following research papers.

1. The Historical importance of the Maurawathi Temple at Kurunegala by Dr. G.C.L. Gamage.
2. "Kurundapasakan (Vihara) and Kurundimalai: Placing an archaeological complex in its historical context by Dr. W. Bohingamuwa.
3. Katharagama sacred site that reflects the Multicultural Characteristics of Sri Lanka by Dr. J.K.A. Jayasingha.

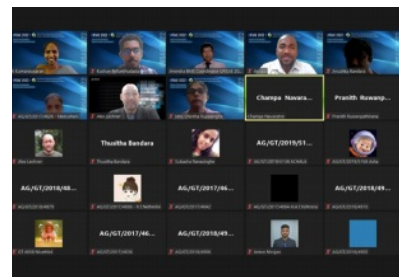


4. Define the Galle Fort as a Colonial living heritage via the public archaeological aspect by Ms. Sonali Dasanayake, Mr. Seevali Manathunga, and Mr. Tharindu Peiris.
5. The concept of Heritage Management in ancient Sri Lanka revealed through literary sources by Dr. G.C.L. Gamage.

## Undergraduate Research Symposium on Agriculture Engineering and Environmental Technology (URSAE)

The Department of Agriculture Engineering and Environmental Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna successfully organized the 3rd Undergraduate Research Symposium on Agriculture Engineering and Environmental Technology (URSAE) from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 as a virtual conference. The theme of this year's URSAE was "Industrial 4.0 and Sustainability Towards Innovation Empowered Nation". The first and second symposia of URSAE provided a good platform for the passed-out two batches of graduates to successfully share their very first research experience in Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technologies.

In this third URSAE 2022, the Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology invited collaborative foreign partner university research teams to share their undergraduate research experience in this virtual platform. The conference had three-day sessions and the themes of the sessions were "Industrial Agricultural Challenges: Automation and Precision control", "Emerging Trends in Environmental Technologies" and "Innovative technologies in Agricultural Engineering". Mrs. C.P Rupasinghe, chaired Session one-1 while Professor Hemanatha Jayasuriya of the University of Sultan Qaboos, Oman delivered the keynote speech. The Chairperson and the Keynote speaker of the Session-2 were Senior Prof. C.M Navarathne and Professor Alex Lechner of the University Monash, Indonesia. Senior Professor G.Y Jayasinghe chaired Session-3 in which the keynote speech was given by Professor Shinichiro KUROKI of the University of Kobe, Japan. Dr. B.M. Jinendra, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology served as the Coordinator of URSAE-2022.



## Workshop on "Food Preservation and Value Addition"

In line with the Joint program between the University of Ruhuna and the State Ministry of Cooperative Service, Marketing, and Consumer Protection for Voluntary Business Consultation, Dr. (Ms) P.A.B.N. Perumpuli and the team of the Department of Food Science & Technology conducted one-day workshop on "Food Preservation and Value addition" for small-scale entrepreneurs in "Siriliya" Cooperative Society of Monaragala District on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna.

Participants were able to get hand on experiences in canning, drying, and dehydration techniques for Manioc, Jack Fruit, Rambutan, and Bread Fruit. This program was coordinated by Prof. G.C. Samaraweera, Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna.



## Eleventh Undergraduate Research Symposium

The Eleventh Undergraduate Research Symposium on "Recent Advances in Civil Engineering" organized by the Civil and Environmental Engineering Society was held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, participated as the Chief Guest of the event. Eng. (Dr.) Nadun Alwis, Senior Structural Engineer, Central Expressway Project delivered the keynote speech.

All final year undergraduates presented their final year research projects in the symposium in five parallel technical sessions. In this symposium, five awards for oral presentations and seven awards for poster presentations were awarded. This event was sponsored by Tokyo Cement Company (Lanka) PLC.



## The First Mini-Symposium

The first Mini-Symposium organized by the Department of Mathematics together with the Ruhuna University Mathematics and Statistics Society (RUMSS) was successfully held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022 in virtual mode. The main objective of this event was to provide a platform for students to disseminate their knowledge and experience gained from their group projects which is a partial fulfillment of the Industrial Mathematics course units offered by the Department. Prof. D.H.N. Munasinghe, Dean, Faculty of Science graced the event by joining as the chief guest, and Senior Prof. L. A. L. W. Jayasekara, Head of the Department of Mathematics, addressed the audience highlighting the importance of the symposium. Moreover, the audience was impressed by the motivational speech delivered by Dr. N. Yapage, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Mathematics.



A large number of students joined this event and they were able to gain a wider knowledge in different areas of Mathematical and Statistical modelling approaches for solving real-world problems. The presented abstracts will be published as a booklet. The organizing committee was chaired by Dr. L. W. Somathilake, and the other members were Mrs. K. C. N. Shanthidevi (Advisor), Dr. N. Yapage, Dr. (Ms) K. D. Prasangika, Ms. K. G. P. Hansani, and Ms. S. D. M. Dilshani.

## Farm Machinery Training Program for Future Agro- Intelligent - 2022



The Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna successfully conducted a "Farm Machinery Training Program for Future Agro-intelligent-2022" for third-year students following "EN3202: Training in Agriculture Machineries" course in collaboration with the Browns & Company PLC from 12<sup>th</sup> September to 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022. This program was designed as a field training course where students were allowed to learn through a problem-based learning approach.

During this program, a comprehensive introduction was provided for students on the usage and maintenance of farm machinery by the Academic Staff Members of the Department of Agricultural Engineering and the members of the Browns & Company PLC. All the students were able to obtain hands-on experience in the identification of fuel system parts and the operation of four-wheel tractors, two-wheel tractors, and transplanters. Further, students were able to enhance their knowledge and skills in regular maintenance of common farm machineries such as four-wheel tractors and two-wheel tractors. After providing the required background knowledge and technical know-how, students were provided with the opportunity to have test driving sessions of both four-wheel tractors and two-wheel tractors under the supervision of skilled instructors. At the same time, sufficient field experience was provided for lowland and upland ploughing using farm machinery. After four consecutive days of training, on the fifth day, each student was evaluated for their knowledge and competencies gained through this program. In addition to these activities, certificates were awarded to the students who successfully completed this training program in the last academic year.

## Field Survey at Gandara Village

Students who follows History for their Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) Degree in English medium at the Department of History and Archeology, visited Gandara village of the Dondra Divisional Secretariat for their field research component of the course unit titled 'Ethnic History and National Cohesion of Sri Lanka' aiming to study the types of relations between different ethnic groups, especially among Muslims and Sinhalese on the 02nd and 08<sup>th</sup> of November 2022. Dr.G.C.L. Gamage (coordinator), Temporary Assistant Lecturers; Ms. Harshani Sakunthala, Ms. Sithani Jayatissa, and Mr. Tharindu Peiris and final year students attended to the survey.



## ProFood ProPack & Agbiz Exhibition 2022



representing the University of Ruhuna. Final-year students who specialized in Food Science and third-year students who are interested in specializing in Food Science, non-academic staff members, and the temporary staff members of the Department of Food Science and Technology gave their fullest cooperation to succeed in this event with the guidance of the academic staff members of the department. Four of the innovative food products developed by the department (Banana vinegar, Green leafy beverage, Instant banana brownie mix, and carbonated cinnamon beverage) were shortlisted for consideration for awards, and the final results will be notified in near future.

The Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture participated in the ProFood ProPack & Agbiz 2022 International exhibition which was held from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at the BMICH, Colombo.

This is an annual event where most of the people engaged in the food industry either locally or internationally are participating to showcase their products, services, and technologies. In addition, the universities either with a Food Science degree or a Department are given an opportunity to present their novel products and technologies related to the food industry. For the fourth time, the Department of Food Science and Technology participated in the event

## A Free Medical Camp

A free medical camp was successfully conducted by the "Career Circle of the Faculty of Science affiliated with the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Ruhuna with the help of the Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine University of Ruhuna, and the office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022. This medical camp provided a service for basic medical checkups not only for the community of the University of Ruhuna but also to a large number of people of the local community living around the University of Ruhuna Wellamadama Premises.



## External Examiner's Visit to Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Professor Rupa Purasinghe from the Department of Civil Engineering, California State University, Los Angeles, USA visited the department on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, 2022. The purpose of his visit was to review the undergraduate program offered by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering as a requirement of IESL accreditation process (According to Washington Accord).

Professor Purasinghe had meetings with the Vice Chancellor, Dean of the faculty, Academic staff of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Academic staff of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Academic support staff, Non-academic staff, students, and industrial experts. Professor Purasinghe was quite proud of the department's work progress. Additionally, he made a few recommendations to enhance the academic program of the department.



## The XPRESS Project

The Ruhuna Management Consultancy Services Unit (RMCSU), which was recently established in the Faculty of Management and Finance, dedicates to helping SMEs and uplifting the standards of entrepreneurs. The RMCSU received a wonderful opportunity to become a partner of USAID project of XPRESS to support export-oriented SMEs as a result of the several discussions made by Dr. A.C. Karunaratne, the Coordinator of the RMCSU with the project team.

The awareness workshop for the selected SMEs was held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 from 08:30 a.m. to 03:30 p.m. at the University Guest House. Many stakeholders, including the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, the Dean of the Faculty of Management and Finance, USAID-XPRESS and PARTNER Project Team, the Regional Manager of the Central Bank, delegates from Chambers of Commerce in the Southern Province, delegates from the National Enterprise Development Authority, Deputy Director of the Rural Development Authority in the Southern Province, Deputy Director of the Small Business Development Division in the District Secretariat Matara, and Entrepreneurs and Companies participated in the event.



## A New Look to Hikkaduwa Marine National Park on World Oceans Day 2022

Hikkaduwa Marine National Park (HMNP) is the first marine national park in Sri Lanka, established to protect the teeming beauty of its coral reef and its biodiversity. The Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology has recognized the dire need to raise community awareness of the code of conduct and relevant regulations to safeguard this degrading reef with the experience gained during the field visit of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) this year.

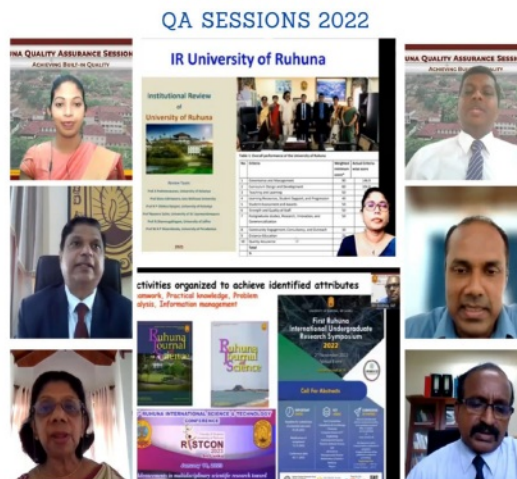
Aligning with the celebrations of World Oceans Day (WOD) 2022, which falls on 08<sup>th</sup> June each year, a name board and information board were successfully installed at Hikkaduwa upon weighing the importance of swift action to conserve this environment.

Furthermore, the department members conducted an awareness program to disseminate knowledge among gathered youth on the importance of coral reefs and their protection, thus, fulfilling the social responsibility as an academic institution and further promoting ocean literacy as a tool to achieve SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) 14—Life Below Water to ensure the protection and sustainable management of marine areas. The sincere efforts of the members of the Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, Ocean Biome, and the Department of Wildlife Conservation, along with the untiring support of the local community, made this a successful event.



## Ruhuna Quality Assurance Sessions -2022

Ruhuna Quality Assurance Sessions was successfully conducted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 under the theme of 'Achieving Built in Quality'. The Chief Guest of the event was Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna. Senior Professor Tilak P.D.Gamage, Director, Quality Assurance Council, University Grants Commission graced this occasion as the Guest of Honor. Professor Deepthi Bandara, Professor Emeritus, University of Peradeniya delivered the key note speech on "Rethinking Built-In Quality in Higher Education – Strategies for Success". Eleven papers covering various areas related to the quality assurance in higher education was presented online. Proceedings of the sessions containing extended abstracts was unveiled during the sessions.



## Ruhuna Management Consultancy Services Unit

The Ruhuna Management Consultancy Services Unit (RMC-SU) of the Faculty of Management and Finance, was recently established to support SMEs, government, and private organizations engaged in conducting training sessions and workshops during the last couple of months for the entrepreneurs, and the private and public organizations. Meanwhile, the Commissioner of the Department of Co-operative Development in the Southern Province made a request to Prof. P.A.P. Samantha Kumara, the Dean of the Faculty of Management and Finance, to extend the collaboration and develop a program to find solutions for the existing issues and challenges faced by the Sri Lankan cooperative sector. Especially, he requested to uplift the standards of the registered cooperatives in the Southern province. Accordingly, several workshops were organized targeting different groups such as members of the Board of Directors, Managers, Accountants, Auditors, and Development Officers. Mr. W.M. Rohan Laksiri and Dr. A.C. Karunaratne participated as the resource persons for the sessions.



## University of Ruhuna New Medical Center

The Medical Center of the University of Ruhuna, located in a congested building area, was shifted to a new place next to the University gymnasium. The new medical center has adequate space and is easily accessible. The Vice Chancellor, of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena declared open the new medical center on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor E.P.S. Chandana, academic staff members, non-academic staff members, and the students attended the opening ceremony.





## Workshop for Student Counselors

A one-day workshop for student counselors of the University of Ruhuna was held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology auditorium.

Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, delivered a lecture on "The Role of student counselors in the current context." The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor E.P.S. Chandana, conducted a brainstorming session with case studies focusing on being an effective counselor. The Senior Student Counselor of the University, Professor Amila Buddhika Sirisena, and the Assistant Registrar of the Student Affairs branch, Mrs. P.N.N. Wickramasinghe discussed the student welfare-related issues in a Q&A session.

Dr. Chandanie Senadeera of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, conducted a session on "Psychological viewpoint of student counseling." A colorful cultural event was held at the end. All participants, including the Vice Chancellor, deputy Vice Chancellor, and all student counselors, partook in various entertaining activities such as dancing, singing, and drama.



## Workshop on "How to maintain a SMART vehicle"

A practical workshop on "How to maintain a SMART vehicle" was successfully held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 with the participation of students of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna. It was held at the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Regiment at Boossa Army camp. The resource team included Major Kalana Wijesinghe and officers of the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Regiment.

After a very interactive practical focused presentation regarding the factors to be concerned in vehicle maintenance, three workshops were conducted on how to change a tire in a tier



punch correctly, how to connect an external power supply for a battery death vehicle, and parts and practical procedures in vehicle maintenance. Both male and female students participated in these activities with a great interest.

The event was organized by the carrier guidance unit of the Faculty of Medicine and the main organizers were Dr. Lahiru Probodha, Academic Career Advisor, Faculty of Medicine and Mr. Nilantha Kalansuriya, Career Counselor, University of Ruhuna.

## Two New Departments Established at the Faculty of Management & Finance

The Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna marked another significant milestone in its journey with the official establishment of two new departments, i.e Department of Business Management and Department of Finance. The inauguration ceremony was held on the 06<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. The opening ceremony was graced by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor E.P.S Chandana, Dean of the faculty of Management & Finance, Professor P.A.P. Samantha Kumara. The Registrar, the Acting Librarian, the Heads of other departments of the Faculty of Management and Finance, academic staff, and other administrative staff were present at the ceremony. The Head of the Department of Business Management, Dr. T.R. Wijesundara, the Head of the Department of Finance, Dr. Manjula K. Wanniarachchige, and the Organizing Committee extend their warm gratitude to all parties who supported to conclude the inauguration ceremony successfully.



## Scholarships for BCS Students

### VitalHub Innovations Lab Scholarships for BCS Students.

VitalHub Innovations Lab has offered scholarships for two students of the Bachelor of Computer Science (BCS) Degree Programme conducted by the Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna. They offered a brand-new laptop for a first year student who is very keen on his/her education but cannot afford to purchase a laptop, and a monthly cash grant for a final year student who is facing extreme financial difficulties for 12 months.

The Department of Computer Science interviewed the students who applied for the scholarships and selected the most deserving students who would take the maximum benefit of the scholarship offered by the VitalHub Innovations Lab.

### Two Laptop Scholarships for BCS Students from past BCSHons graduates.

The students who followed and successfully completed the Bachelor of Computer Science (Special) degree program and are currently working in the leading software companies collectively offered two brand-new laptops for BCS first year

students (SC/2020 batch) who are very keen on education but cannot afford to purchase a laptop.

Ceremonial handover of the laptop in both occasions was taken place in the Department of Computer Science with the participation of Prof. W. A. Indika, Head of the Department of Computer Science, academic staff members of the department, and recipients of the laptop and scholarship.



## Outbound Training on Leadership and Entrepreneurial Skills Development

An outbound Training on Leadership and Entrepreneurial Skills Development conducted by Rangiri Holdings (Pvt.) Ltd. was successfully held on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2022, at Rangiri Aqua, Dambulla.

Prof. G.C. Samaraweera, Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna mainly coordinated this event with the aim of developing the Entrepreneurial skills and leadership of students who follow Agribusiness Management. Second Year, Third year and Final year students following BSc. Agribusiness Management Degree and several academic and non-academic staff members of the University of Ruhuna participated in the event.



## Opening Ceremony of the Faculty of Graduate Studies New premises



The Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Ruhuna was moved to a new premises located in No. 115, Sri Dharmarama Mawatha, Matara Fort on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The new building was opened at the auspicious time by the Chief Guest, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna. The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor E.P.S. Chandana, the Registrar of the University, Mrs. Senani Kalugama, the acting Dean of the faculty of Postgraduate Studies, Senior Prof. D.A.L. Leelamanie, Deans of the other faculties, the Librarian, council members, academic staff members, and non-academic staff members attended to the opening ceremony.

## Opening of Refurbished Gymnasium

Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna celebrated the grand opening of its fully refurbished gymnasium by Prof Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice Chancellor of University of Ruhuna on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The gymnasium has been a long standing requirement to the faculty, especially with the growing interest of the students in sports and for students who would like to balance their busy academic life with activities that maintain their physical fitness. In his address at the ceremony, the Vice Chancellor praised the students who involve in sports activities and appreciated the recent victories of many sports events achieved by the medical students at both Interfaculty and Inter-university games.

Further, he said that he believes this place would be of great help for them to achieve their targets in the future while extending his appreciation to academic staff who pay special attention to uplifting the sporting talents of the students. The Dean, academic and non-academic staff of the faculty of medicine, and students attended the opening ceremony.



## Accreditation of the MBBS degree programme

The Accreditation Unit and the Sri Lanka Medical Council of Medical Ordinance are responsible for the maintenance of minimum standards of medical education and training in Sri Lanka. The Accreditation Unit's most recent re-accreditation visit to Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna took place in August 2022.

Prof. Chrishantha Abeysena (Professor in Public Health) of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, Prof. P.H. Dissanayake (Professor in Anatomy) of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Prof. K.N. Marambe (Professor in Medical Education) of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Prof. Rasnayaka Mudiyanse (Professor in Pediatrics), Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, and Prof. S. Sivaganesh (Professor in Surgery) of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo were the members of the review team. They conducted site visits for three days. Nine criteria i.e., general information, vision and mission, educational programme, assessment of students, students, academic staff, educational resources, programme evaluation and quality assurance, governance and management were the aspects considered for the accreditation.



As per the report of the review team, the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna fulfilled all the criteria and obtained a satisfactory grade of average score. The Accreditation Unit and Sri Lanka Medical Council recommended re-accreditation of the MBBS degree of Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna. Accordingly, accreditation has been granted for five years from 25.10.2021 to 25.10.2027 by the Accreditation Unit and the Council.

## Student Intake for the B.Sc Honours in Financial Mathematics and Industrial Statistics Degree Program

The second batch of students in Bachelor of Science Honours in Financial Mathematics and Industrial Statistics degree program was physically commenced on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022. A welcome ceremony was organized by the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, to officially welcome new students. Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena was graced this occasion as the Chief Guest. The Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, Professor E. P. S. Chandana, Dean, Faculty of Science, Professor D.H.N. Munasinghe, Deputy Student Counselor of the Faculty of Science, Dr. Manjula De Silva and Deputy Proctor of the Faculty of Science, Dr. H.A.D.S. D Perera were among the distinguished guests.



## MoU between University of Ruhuna and E Gravity Solutions (Pvt) Ltd.

E Gravity Solutions (Pvt) Ltd. is a Sri Lankan company that provides fully customized industrial electronic solutions for their customers. Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna and E Gravity Solutions came to an Memorandum of Understanding on 01<sup>st</sup> of December 2022 to work together on commercialization of a Fully Autonomous All-Sky Camera developed by the AHEAD/ICE research team of the Faculty of Science.



One Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) application was submitted to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for this product and the International Search Report (ISR) is also available. Two national patents and one industrial design were also submitted. E Gravity Solutions plans to work with the research team to upgrade the product to meet both national and international market.

## MoU between Faculty of Technology & SL Mobility (pvt) Ltd

The University of Ruhuna signed an MOU with SL Mobility (Pvt) Ltd on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022. SL Mobility was formed in collaboration with local and foreign experts who have a thorough knowledge of electric vehicles and are currently working closely with European Universities and the Faculty of Technology University of Ruhuna in Sri Lanka to make electric vehicles. The primary purpose of this collaboration is to implement research and development of technology in the field of Electric Vehicles (EV). Further, it is expected to create green & sustainable finance-based elite jobs and career opportunities through this new EV technology for the graduates of the faculty.

At the initial stage, the high-pollutant 2-stroke three-wheelers will be converted to eco-friendly Electric three-wheelers (E3Ws). As the research partner, the faculty of Technology will be able to expand its research and development capacity while adopting EV technology. This is a crucial milestone of the EV technology chapter of Sri Lanka and eventually will help to create a cleaner and healthier environment. On behalf of the University of Ruhuna, and SL Mobility (Pvt) Ltd, the Vice



Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor, Sujeewa Amarasena and Mr. Rifkhan Siddhique signed this MoU respectively. Professor E. P. S. Chandana, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, Dr. Harshadewa Gunawardana, Dean, Faculty of Technology, academic staff members of the Department of Engineering Technology, and representatives from SL Mobility (pvt) Ltd participated in this occasion.

## MoU Between University of Ruhuna and Sri Lanka Unites

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between University of Ruhuna and Sri Lanka Unites (SLU) on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at the auditorium of the Faculty of Engineering. Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice Chancellor signed on behalf of the University of Ruhuna. Mrs. Vishni Vincent, Co-national Director of SLU, signed for SLU. This MoU envisions to promote Education on Reconciliation and Leadership to the students of the University for the next five years.



## Department of Physics Entered into an MoU with Institute of Astronomy

Institute of Astronomy (IOAS) is one of the leading Astronomical institutes in Sri Lanka which functions under S & T group. It is also one of the leading companies who imports telescopes to Sri Lanka. IOAS signed an Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna for collaboratively manufacturing and commercializing telescopes.



The technology and processes are developed by the AHEAD/ICE research team at University of Ruhuna and IOAS will collaborate with University of Ruhuna to test and improve this product to meet both national and international market.

## Business Planning and Entrepreneurship Workshop

Career Guidance Unit of the university of Ruhuna organized a five-day workshop on Business Planning and Entrepreneurship for the undergraduates of the university. The objective of the program was to motivate an individual person to choose the entrepreneurship as a career and to prepare a person to exploit the market opportunities for their own business successfully. Students from the Faculty of Management and Finance, and Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences participated for this event. Mr. D.B. Jayathilake (Master Trainer) & Mr. P.K. Suren (Assistant Trainer) were attended this event as resource persons. Ms. V.G. Swarnakanthi (Group Administration manager - Higurana Group of Company) & Mr. Dammika Liyanapathirana (Managing Director of Dammika Trade Center (PVT) LTD, Middeniya) sponsored for this training program



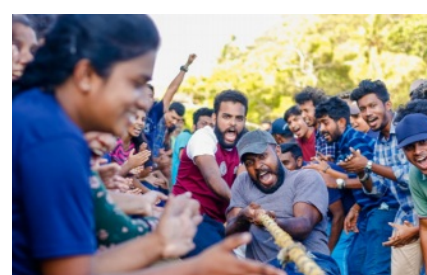
## Science Faculty Day-2022



Faculty Day is an annual event to strengthen unity and mutual understanding among the faculty community. After a long silence caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Faculty Day-2022 was successfully organized at the university premises on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Vice Chancellor Senior Professor Sujeewa Amaraseena attended as the Chief Guest of the inauguration ceremony. Professor E.P.S. Chandana, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor. D.H.N. Munasinghe, the Dean of the Faculty of Science, other Deans in the Wellamadama premises, and Senior Professor P.M.C.S. De Silva, the proctor of the University of Ruhuna, attended the event.

The occasion commenced with the hoisting of flags (National, University, and Faculty), and the chairperson of the organizing committee, Dr. A.W.L. Pubudu Thilan, welcomed all attendees. At the end of the inauguration ceremony, the Vice Chancellor commemorated the occasion by planting a tree near the Science Faculty Canteen.

Events commenced with a Road Race, followed by volleyball, cricket, netball, painting competitions, and water-filling games. Apart from that, the student societies arranged food stalls, filling the venue with a wider range of tastes and flavors, while a DJ entertained students in the evening. Finally, a musical program, "Paduara," was held, which was an excellent stage for participants to showcase their blossoming talents and provided a calming pleasure for all participants.



## Leadership Program for Students of Sooriyawewa, Viharagala 550 Vidyalaya

In response to the request made by the Principle of the Viharagala 550 Vidyalaya as a CSR project, a leadership program for the students of Sooriyawewa, Viharagala 550 Vidyalaya was held on 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, at the playground of the University of Ruhuna. Career Guidance staff planned and conducted this program to develop skills of school children in communication, problem solving, interpersonal skills, and leadership. Seventy five students and seven teachers actively participated to the event. This was the second attempt organized by the Career Guidance Unit for the students outside the University.



## Felicitation to Senior Professor L.M. Abeywickrama



The felicitation ceremony jointly organized by the Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness and the Ruhuna Agriculture Faculty Teachers Association (RAFTA) to honor the retirement of Senior Professor L.M. Abeywickrama of the Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness, Faculty of Agriculture was held on 02<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 at the Main Auditorium of the faculty. The felicitation ceremony was graced by Senior Professor L.M. Abeywickrama along with his family, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor S.D. Wanniarachchi, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, and a number of

academic staff members representing different faculties of the university, administrative and non-academic staff members, contemporaries of Senior Professor LM Abeywickrama, and students.

Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena and Senior Professor S.D. Wanniarachchi highly appreciated the great service rendered by Senior Professor L.M. Abeywickrama on behalf of the faculty and the University as a whole. Further, they extended their sincere gratitude to Prof. Abeywickrama for his three decades of dedicated service in higher education ranging from teaching, research, and administration to community services. They highlighted the strategic, inspirational, and operational leadership provided by Prof. Abeywickrama for the betterment of the higher education sector in Sri Lanka.

Prof. G.C.Samaraweera, Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness highlighted the immense contribution of Prof. Abeywickrama towards the curriculum development and the initiation of B.Sc. Agribusiness management degree and postgraduate degrees offered by the department. Further, she acknowledged his significant contribution rendered for the advancement of the status of the department through conducting collaborative multidisciplinary research & outreach activities locally and internationally. Dr. G.G. Bandula, Director/Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) and one of the contemporaries of Prof. Abeywickrama reminded his golden past he spent in the Faculty as a student. Senior Professor L.M. Abeywickrama also shared his experiences gathered throughout his life journey at the University of Ruhuna and extended his well wishes for the department, faculty, and the university to thrive for excellence in higher education.

## Programme Review – Faculty of Engineering

The programme review of the three degree programmes offered by the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna was completed with all three engineering programmes receiving a high level of accomplishment of quality with high “A” grades. The three degree programmes namely; Bachelor of the Science of Engineering in Civil and Environmental Engineering, Bachelor of the Science of Engineering in Electrical and Information Engineering and Bachelor of the Science of Engineering in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering went through this Programme Review process.

This Programme Review was conducted by the UGC appointed four-member review panel consisted of senior academic staff members including Prof. K.T.M.U. Hemapala (University of Moratuwa), Prof R.A.R.C. Gopura (University of Moratuwa), Prof Nayanthara De Silva (University of Moratuwa) and Dr A.P.R. Wickramarachchi (University of Kelaniya).

The Programme Review process was started with the submission of a Self-Evaluation Report to the UGC. Documentary evidence provided by the three degree programmes, information obtained through stakeholder meetings, observations of teaching/practical sessions and inspection of infrastructure facilities were considered for the evaluation by the panel. After reviewing the documentary evidence submitted by the faculty, the review panel paid a two-day visit to the faculty on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2022.

As it can be seen in the reviewers' report, the reviewers are impressed with how the programme



review was facilitated, how evidence documents were organized, and how they were treated. For this, the review panel has commended the IQAC team especially the staff members assigned to support the review panel. Also, the review panel appreciates the availability of well-experienced academic staff members and, the existence of well- defined and documented process for the management of each academic programme.

The review panel has also commended the strong networking of the faculty with the industry through Industrial Consultative Committees and, the student feedback through Student Consultative Committees in each degree programme. The industry-oriented research and final year projects as well as the Soft Skills development programmes have also been appraised by the panel. As fully accredited degree programmes by the Washington Accord, all these degree programmes deserve to succeed and, the receipt of “A” grades gives lots of encouragement to work on continuous quality improvement in the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna.

## Activities of the Cultural Center of UoR

The cultural event organized by the Cultural Center of the University of Ruhuna, “Jasa Lenchina Mudali Kolama,” was exhibited at the newly established Open Art Theatre on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

In response to the invitation of the Cultural Center of the University of Ruhuna, Mr. Uditha Gunarathna, a famous dramatist, conducted a discussion and practical session on “Interactive Drama Methods” on 05<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The dramatist Mr. Mudu Ranjith De Silva and his team (“Galu Nadaya”) performed their street drama at the Open Art Theatre of the University of Ruhuna on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.



Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amaraseena, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor E.P.S. Chandana, Deans of the faculties, Dr. Deva Michael De Silva, Coordinator of the cultural center, academic staff members, non-academic staff members, and students attended these events.



## Visit of the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka, HE Julie Chung

HE Julie Chung, the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka, paid a courtesy visit to the University of Ruhuna on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022. HE had a fruitful meeting with the Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, on exploring higher education opportunities for UoR graduates in the United States and possible partnerships between the University of Ruhuna and American Universities, followed by a site-seeing tour of the University.



## Visit of the British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, HE Sarah Hulton

British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, HE Sarah Hulton, visited the University of Ruhuna on 03<sup>rd</sup> November 2022, accompanied by the political advisor of the British High Commission, Sri Lanka. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Professor E.P. S. Chandana, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, and Prof. Terney Pradeep Kumara, Director, Center for International Affairs (CINTA), welcomed the High Commissioner. British High Commissioner participated in a meeting with the Deans of Faculties and the Directors of Centers at the new Senate Room of the University.



The Deans, Directors, and Heads of the Departments explained the existing collaborations with the Universities of Great Britain and the close relationship between Britain and the academics of the University of Ruhuna. Possible future collaborations, including research and academic exchange, were discussed at the meeting. The High Commissioner expressed willingness to strengthen the partnership between Britain and the University of Ruhuna.



## Visit of the Indonesian Ambassador, HE Dewi Gustina Tobing

HE Dewi Gustina Tobing, the Indonesian Ambassador to Sri Lanka, visited the University of Ruhuna on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. The Vice Chancellor and the Ambassador discussed the close relationship between Sri Lanka and Indonesia, and possible future collaborations, including research and academic exchanges. HE Ambassador Dewi Gustina Tobing planted a "Kumbuk" tree at the University premises, commemorating her visit, followed by a sightseeing tour of the University of Ruhuna.



## MoU between University of Ruhuna and Youngstown State University, USA

University of Ruhuna (UoR) recently entered into an MoU with the Youngstown State University (YSU), Ohio, USA, to collaborate in many areas related to higher education: graduate transfer scheme for higher studies, faculty exchanges, research collaborations, and development of curricula for new degree programs with credit transfer schemes commencing from January 2023. On behalf of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, signed this MoU, and Dr. Brien Smith signed for Youngstown State University. The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor E.P.S. Chandana, CINTA Director, Professor Terney Pradeep Kumara, Deans, and Heads of the Departments of respective faculties were present at the signing of this MoU on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022.



## Peoples Friendship University Delegates at the University of Ruhuna



Ms. Larisa Efremova, Vice Rector of Friendship University, Russia, accompanied by several other delegates, visited the University of Ruhuna on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The objective of this visit was to discuss potential areas to establish a collaboration in Pali and Buddhist Studies between the two Universities. Vice Chancellor Senior professor Sujeewa Amarasena graced the event, and Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor. E.P. S. Chandana, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science Professor Upali Pannilage, and the academic staff of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies participated in the meeting.

## MoU with the Japan Hospitality Learning Center Association

The University of Ruhuna entered into an MoU with the Japan Hospitality Learning Center Association on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in the Senate room of the University of Ruhuna. This MoU will enable BSc. Nursing undergraduates of UoR to pursue an internship in Japan with full financial assistance from the Japan Hospitality Learning Centre.

Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor E.P.S. Chandana, Director, CINTA, Professor P.B.T.P Kumara, Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences Prof. K.G. Imendra Kotapola, Head of the Department of Nursing Dr. B.I. Wickramarachchi, the Deans of other faculties, and Dr. Thamudi Sundarapperuma, CINTA BoM Representative, participated in the event.



## Visit of Australian High Commissioner

The Australian High Commissioner, HE Paul Stephens, and his wife, Mrs. Christina Stephens, accompanied by several other delegates from the Australian High Commission, Colombo, visited the University of Ruhuna on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The High Commissioner initially visited the new Faculty building of the Faculty of Graduates situated at Matara Fort, which was opened on the same day, witnessing to be the first international visitor to the new premises. Snr. Prof. D.A.L. Leelamanie, the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, welcomed his Excellency Paul Stephens and the team. After a small courtesy meeting and a site visit of the premises, HE Paul Stephens visited the main complex of the University of Ruhuna at Wellamadama. The Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Director CINTA, Deans of the faculties, and a few academic staff members participated in the discussion. The close relationship between Australia and Sri Lanka in various fields was emphasized during the discussions, and the High commissioner expressed his willingness to strengthen the inter University collaborations between Australian Universities and the University of Ruhuna.



## MoU with Universitas Muhammadiyah Semarang, Indonesia

The signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the University of Ruhuna and Universitas Muhammadiyah Semarang (UNIMUS), Indonesia, initiated by Dr. Sumali N. Fernando of the Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 at the Faculty of Agriculture. The MoU entails various mutual benefits to the University of Ruhuna and UNIMUS, Indonesia, such as student and staff exchange programs, collaborative research, and the exchange of academic materials.



The Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Senior Professor Sudas D. Wanniarachchi, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Senior Professor Vijith S. Jayamanne, Department of Food Science and Technology, Council Member Mr. M. G. Punchihewa, and Senior Lecturer Dr. Sumali N. Fernando joined the MoU signing event.

## Webinar on Fireflies, Ecology and Environment

The International Webinar on `Fireflies, Ecology and Environment` was conducted by the Institute of Environmental Management & Policy Research, Bengaluru, India on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 with the collaboration of four international and two local speakers.

Mr. W. M. C. D. Wijekoon, Lecturer, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna had been invited to the aforementioned International Webinar as one of the international speakers. The organizing committee had selected Mr. W. M. C. D. Wijekoon for this international webinar as he is one of the experts of firefly beetles in South Asia and he is the only the South-Asian member that represents the "World IUCN firefly Specialist Group". Mr. Wijekoon delivered

his speech in this international webinar on `Fireflies; the significances, and their status in Sri Lanka` highlighting his recent research findings and sharing his twelve year research experience in this field.



## SAKURA SCIENCE PLAN 2022, Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science and Technology



A selected group of eight students together with the program coordinator Dr. Jinendra S. Balasuriya, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture have successfully completed the overseas training program on Sakura Science Plan (SSP) 2022. This annual program was held from 27<sup>th</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022 for this year at the faculty of the Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Kobe University Japan.

SSP is a Japan-Asia Youth Exchange Program in Science and Technology to encourage higher-caliber undergraduates in Asian universities to pursue their postgraduate studies in Japan. The participants are provided with hands-on experience in up-to-date advanced technologies and research in Japanese universities. SSP is fully funded by the Japanese Science and Technology Agency (JST) including round trip airfare and all the living expenses for foreign students during their program in Japan. The training opportunity was received as a result of a competi-

itive grant proposal prepared and submitted to the JST with reference to the MOU signed between the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, and the Kobe University Japan.

The program was initiated by Dr. Jinendra, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture in 2016 and facilitates selected final-year Undergraduates who specialized in Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology discipline to participate in the program every year. It was the 5<sup>th</sup> batch of students who participated in the program this year. Altogether there were 32 students have already been supported by this program for their science and technology training in Japan since the year 2016.

## NorLanka Blue-Student and Staff mobility 2022



NorLanka Blue partnership project among the UiT-The Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø and University of Ruhuna (Faculties of Science, Agriculture and Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology), University of Jaffna and NARA is in its fourth year,

with University of Ruhuna as the focal point aiming to enhance the higher education through educational workshops and student exchanges. The mobility program 2022 was successfully completed with 07 master students (05 months) and one PhD student (03 months) together with 04 staff members traveling from Sri Lanka to UiT between August and December 2022. In this round of student mobility to UiT, 05 M.Phil students registered at the University of Ruhuna, and 02 Master students and one Ph.D. candidate from University of Jaffna were enrolled as exchange students to enhance knowledge and skills relevant to their postgraduate research. The project also completed the staff mobility from Sri Lanka to Tromsø during October-November 2022 (09 days) which was withheld for two years due to Covid19 pandemic.

## FOUNTAIN

### Fostering sustainable University-industry Techno-entrepreneurial Collaborations and innovations in Asian Universities (FOUNTAIN)

FOUNTAIN is a European Union-funded project under Erasmus+ EDU-2022-CBHE-STRAND-2 that was secured by the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna. This project addresses the lack of strategic university-industry partnerships in Asian universities in terms of student employability, blended learning, curriculum development, techno-entrepreneurial skills, and invention and innovation. University of Ruhuna is the leading University of the FOUNTAIN project. Prof. G.Y. Jayasinghe is the Coordinator of the project and Snr. Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice Chancellor, is the legal representative of the University of Ruhuna.

The proposal for the FOUNTAIN project was developed by five Sri Lankan universities, three European Union (EU) universities, and two Thailand partner universities. The project duration is three years (2023 – 2025). The Sri Lankan partner universities are the University of Ruhuna (UOR) (leading university), University of Peradeniya (UOP), Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL), Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL), and Horizon College of Business and Technology whereas European partner universities include Mid Sweden University (MIUN), Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia (TUT), and Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania (VGTU); also, Thailand partners are Naresuan University and Chiang Mai University.

The objectives of FOUNTAIN project are to; (a) trace and map the gaps in university industry collaborations (UIC) through the needs assessment, and survey analysis conducted in collaboration with partners in Thailand and Sri Lanka. (b) promote greater alignment between the interests of businesses and the national public interest, particularly in the areas of climate change, sustainability, digital transformation, green business and entrepreneurship, and disaster resilience in the agricultural sector, (c) develop UIC frameworks and a global agro-industry forum and university-industry engagement camps to improve student mobility through enhanced degree program recognition, (d) develop innovative and entrepreneurial curricula model and internship modules on UIC (e) establish a center of excellence in entrepreneurship, invention, innovation and to integrate with the UIC platform, and (f) promote effective, systematic, and inclusive solutions for gender equity, women empowerment, social inclusion, and diversity while exploring the nexus of technology and society. In successful completion,

FOUNTAIN will be able to overcome the University education's minimal research and innovation outcomes, limited industry and community influence, and unripe University-Industry Collaborations.



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

## Certificate Awarding Ceramoney

The certificate awarding ceremony of the Master's Degree students from the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology (SCSIO), Chinese Academy of Science, was held at the China-Sri Lanka Center for Education and Research (CSL-CER) on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022. Graduated students could not attend their regular programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, they completed their thesis submission and final defense online after a negotiation discussion made by the Director CSL-CER with the SCSIO.

The Vice Chancellor, Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor E.P.S. Chandana, Director CSL-CER Prof. Disna Rathnasekara, Director CINTA, Prof. P.B.T.P. Kumara, Prof. K.H.M.A. Deepananda, Dean of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, and several academic staff members attended this event.



## International Workshops of "Building Resilience in Tropical Agroecosystem (BRITAE) Project"

*International workshops on building agroecosystem resilience in Asia were conducted as part of the capacity-building activity of the project BRITAE.*

This project aims to develop a joint curricular module on building resilience in tropical agroecosystems in Sri Lankan Universities to increase their capacity to continually modernize, enhance the quality and relevance of education of students to the global market needs, and to ensure international cooperation. There were three international workshops in United Kingdom, Lithuania, and Estonia.

### The 5<sup>th</sup> International Workshop: 6<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in United Kingdom

A seven-day training program was organized by the University of Huddersfield (HUD) and the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) in the UK. The event was consisting of several guest lectures, dissemination activities, and technical visits to some identified agricultural sites in the UK. During the visit to the UK, the Sri Lankan scientists and educators were able to understand the state-of-the-art approaches in agriculture with a view to observing good practices and opportunities for knowledge transfer.



The project meeting and workshops were conducted in different locations in the UK. The University of Central Lancashire in Preston hosted the events on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of September while the University of Huddersfield hosted the event on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of September. The site visits around Edinburgh were arranged by the University of Huddersfield from 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of September.



### The 6<sup>th</sup> International Workshop, 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in Lithuania.



The 6<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Building Agroecosystems Resilience in Asia was organized by the Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania as a 5-day training program with seminars, dissemination activities, and technical visits to some identified agricultural sites in Lithuania.

### The 7<sup>th</sup> International Workshop 17<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> October 2022, Tallinn, Estonia

The 7<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Building Resilience in Tropical Agro-Ecosystems was conducted as a 5-day training event and it was organized by Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech).



The event included topical presentations, workshops, discussions and technical visits to agricultural enterprises and research facilities in Estonia. Representatives from the BRITAE partner universities of Sri Lanka, UK,

Lithuania and, Estonia had the opportunity to visit state-of-the-art approaches in agriculture in this workshop. Further, the participants were able to discuss and network with practitioners regarding the educational and sustainability aspects relevant to the BRITAE project. In addition, a number of cultural excursions were included to acquaint delegates with Estonia's cultural heritage and context.

## Illuminate-Marketing Day

The Department of Marketing of the Faculty of Management and Finance at the University of Ruhuna organized "Illuminate-Marketing Day" for Marketing undergraduates on 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2022. After a few years of online lectures and the pandemic, the department wanted to provide an opportunity for students to interact as a family and enhance their leadership and teamwork skills through interactive activities. Thus, the main objective of the program was to enhance the engagement and networking skills of the students in the Marketing Department.

The event featured a variety of enjoyable games and music. The students showed a lot of enthusiasm while playing the activities, and they participated actively in them. Further, two stalls, a mehndi and face painting stall as well as a photo booth, were set up so that students could participate in novel and entertaining activities.



## Inter-Faculty Netball Championship – 2022

The Faculty of Agriculture was able to secure the Netball Championship – 2022 in the Inter Faculty Sports Competition held at the Wellamadama Indoor Sports Complex on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022. The faculty team was led by Ms. D.A.D.M. Gunarathna, a third-year BSc. Agri-business Management student. Ms. W.D.S.A. Amaradisi, Ms. K.C. Gamage, Ms. K.G.S. Nimasha, Ms. P.B.S.N.M.M.H.C. Kumarihami, Ms. N.J. Dissanayake, Ms. W.M.S.K. Wijekoon, Ms. S.R.W.M.C.H. Wanninayake, Ms. T.D.G.T.D. Wijepala, Ms. M.N. Madhushani, Ms. G.G.I.S. Wijesundara, and Ms. G.K.H. Madhushani represented the netball team of the



Faculty of Agriculture in the Inter-Faculty Netball Tournament 2022. The whole team dedicatedly practiced for this tournament amidst their tight academic schedules and participated in the tournament with good practice and spirit. The team has to face the Faculty of Technology and Faculty of Engineering in the preliminary rounds and the final match was against the Faculty of Medicine. In the awards ceremony, Ms. P.B.S.N.M.M.H.C. Kumarihami, a first-year student from the Faculty of Agriculture was awarded as the best player of the Inter-Faculty Netball Tournament 2022.

## Blood Donation Campaign at Faculty of Medicine

The Spiritual and Religious Practices Sub committee of the Faculty Cultural Centre, Faculty of Medicine successfully organized a blood donation campaign on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022, at the Lobby of the faculty Auditorium. The crisis situation has negatively affected many aspects of healthcare and most of the blood banks are facing difficulties due to the shortage of blood collecting bags and reagents. Therefore, most of the blood donation campaigns had to be cancelled during the last few months. Hence the purpose of organizing this blood donation campaign at the faculty was to help at least in a minor way to reduce the burden of the crisis affecting the nation.



It was a momentous day for the faculty as this event was able to exceed the targeted pints of blood by collecting 75 pints of blood. Although there were more than 101 participants, the blood collection had to be restricted to a limited number due to the shortage of storages and other necessary reagents. The organizing committee thanked the students, academics, non-academics, and Karapitiya blood bank for their sincere contribution to the event's success.

## Leadership Training: Faculty of Engineering

Two Leadership Training camps were held at the Faculty of Engineering premises in August and November 2022 for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year undergraduates of the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Allied Health Sciences. Resource persons and trainers were from Sri Lanka Unites. The camps focused on personality development, youth leadership, trust building and understanding the role of leadership in Sri Lanka. The leadership training also included social service projects planned and implemented by the students themselves. The students presented these projects at the awards ceremony on 30<sup>th</sup> October and were evaluated. Certificates were awarded for those who completed all aspects of the leadership training, including the social service project evaluation. This was facilitated through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between University of Ruhuna and Sri Lanka Unites. Any faculty interested in the leadership training can contact the Career Guidance Cell, Faculty of Engineering. For sustainability of the program, Sri Lanka Unites trains mentors from each faculty on delivering the training.



## Musical program Meyasi Thotupola

Meyasi Thotupola is a musical program organized by the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology students. This was the first event organized by students after the COVID-19 pandemic. The Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Deans of the faculties, academic staff, nonacademic staff, and students participated in this event. In this cultural event, students and the faculty staff presented singing, dancing, and drama events in several languages for entertainment and also to enhance unity. A live band comprising faculty students performed at the event for the first time in the faculty history.



## UN International Volunteer Day

Five students representing the Faculty of Engineering and five students representing the Career Guidance Unit participated for the United Nations (UN) International Volunteer Day on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022. Dr. N. W. Prins of the Faculty of Engineering represented the Academic staff. The theme of the event was "solidarity through volunteering" and it is organized annually to recognize and promote the tireless work, not just of UN Volunteers, but of volunteers across the globe.





## Inauguration and Oath Taking Ceremony- 2022

The Inauguration and Oath taking ceremony of the 2020/2021 batch of undergraduates of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences and the Capping ceremony of the 2019/2020 batch of nursing undergraduates were held at the Auditorium, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, Galle on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 with the participation of Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna. Mrs. AMA Abeynayake, Director Nursing (Education), Ministry of Health addressed the Nursing undergraduates as the Guest of Honor. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Venerable Professor Midigama Soratha Thero.



## Pirith Chanting Ceremony:2022

The Students' Union and the Art Society of the Faculty of Engineering organized the annual “පිරිඨ” Ceremony at the faculty premises in Hapugala on 18<sup>th</sup> November with the participation of academic staff, non-academic staff, and students. In parallel to this event, an almsgiving event was also held on the 19<sup>th</sup> morning. The designing and preparation of all the decorations were done by the students, which made the event more charming and marked another milestone in the faculty's history.



## Entrepreneurial Dialogue – Panel Discussion

“Entrepreneurial Dialogue 2022” organized by the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship for 2000 level and 3000 level entrepreneurship specialized students was successfully conducted on 01<sup>st</sup> November, 2022 at the faculty premises.

Mr. Dulanjana Withanage, CEO of Jack Fruit Ceylon Pvt Ltd and Mrs. Anusha Warnakula, CEO of Susinidu baby care products were the resource persons of the session and, they were able to make the environment more conducive. The objective of this session was to share the hand on experience of entrepreneurs with undergraduates and stimulate undergraduates towards entrepreneurship as their career.



## IMAGINES 2022

“IMAGINES 2022,” the interfaculty mobile photography competition was organized by the Department of Marketing of the Faculty of Management and Finance. The competition was primarily divided into three categories, namely Nature, Colour of Life, and the University of Ruhuna. The evaluation of the mobile photographs was conducted in a few rounds. Dr. A.C. Karunarathna, Senior Lecturer, Department of Marketing, Mr. Sanju Rangodage, Professional Photographer, and Mr. Pumu-diitha Jayasinghe, Professional Photographer served as the panel of judges in the IMAGINES 2022.



Mr. T.T. Isuru Lakmal Fernando and Mr.W.G.I.S. Senarathne of the Faculty of Management and Finance earned first place in the Nature Category, while Ms. Hashini Tharuka of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences placed second. Ms. A.Y.N.H. Tharushika and Ms. K.D. Dileesha Nayomi from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences won the first and second places, respectively, in the Color of Life category. Mr. T.T. Isuru Lakmal Fernando from the Faculty of Management and Finance won the University of Ruhuna category. The award ceremony was held on 01<sup>st</sup> November 2022, and the event was graced by the presence of Prof. P.A. P. Samantha Kumara, Dean of the Faculty of Management and Finance, and Prof. Amila B. Sirisena, Head of the Department of Marketing

## Haxtreme 1.0



Haxtreme 1.0 is a combination of a workshop series on object-oriented programming (OOP). Nevertheless, there was a Hackathon at the end of the workshop series to test the knowledge of the participants. The workshop series gave the participants, the knowledge of Object Oriented Programming concepts starting from the basics which empowered them to face the IEEEExtreme which is a global competition. IEEE Student branch of University of Ruhuna conducted the workshop series named HaXtreme 1.0v. It was a combination of

a workshop series which was conducted by using Python from basic programming concepts to advanced programming concepts such as data structures, algorithms & OOP (Object Oriented Programming) concepts, etc and a Hackathon at the end of the workshop series targeting the undergraduates of the University of Ruhuna. The below teams won the first, second & third places and were able to win the

cash prizes of 40,000LKR, 30,000 LKR and 20,000 LKR respectively and was able to implement their conventional problem solving skills and propose innovative applications for contemporary digital technologies.

### 1. Team aqua

Chiara vanderlan  
Dineth jayakody  
Koshila isuranda  
Eshanga Fernando

### 2. Codezilla

Marasinghe M.A.E.M  
Pavith L.P.T  
Malkith A.V.A  
Manimendra M.A.N

### 3. Aromatic

Pathum mallawarachchi  
Mabheesha fernando  
Chandula jayathilaka  
Dishan sanjuka

## A Basic Life Support Training for Non-Academic Staff

A basic life support programme was conducted for the non-academic staff of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2022 by the resuscitation club of Faculty of Medicine at the skills lab, Faculty of medicine.

The resource persons were Dr Upul Hapuarachchi, Dr Chamin Weeraskera and students from the 40th and 42nd batches of the Medical Faculty. The programme was well attended with 45 participants and was appreciated by the attendees.



## Youth Space

*"A little spark is sufficient to steer the way into the dark."*

All it needs is a little spark of light to find the track in the darkest forest or vast ocean. That light should be enough to determine the right direction to move forward. One of the primary purposes of AIESEC is to guide the youth into the right path that brings peace and fulfillment to the world. To attain this goal, as a first step AIESEC in UOR organized a guidance workshop named "Youth Space 2.0" for school children to provide insight and guidance about the opportunities and choices in their future careers.



Youth Space 2.0 is one of the most notable projects of AIESEC at the University of Ruhuna that was conducted and concluded as a series of virtual sessions with a final physical event in September with the participation of 300+ participants. The project mainly focused on personality development with employment and the mental & physical well-being of youth. Well-experienced local and international personalities participated this event as resource persons. The delegates were allowed to mingle with their peers and enjoy themselves while learning more about life skills.

## Bhawa 2022 - The Talent Show

Bhawa 2022, the Talent Show of the 6<sup>th</sup> batch of the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna was held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at the Faculty Auditorium. This was a multicultural and multiethnic event in which all student communities showcased their talents on the day. From solo singing to Taekwondo performances, the agenda displayed a fine variety that indicated the talents of the newcomers. The event was graced by the Vice Chancellor of the University and other dignitaries.



## "Creating Hopes Through Action": An awareness Programme on Suicide Prevention

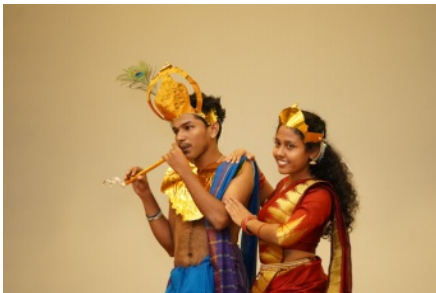
World Suicide Prevention Day is an awareness day observed on 10<sup>th</sup> of September every year, in order to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides. The aim is to raise the awareness about mental health and deliver the message that "suicide is preventable". In line with the word suicide prevention Day, an awareness program under the theme of "Creating hopes through action" was organized by the Book Club of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, on 12<sup>th</sup> of September at the Faculty premises.

The Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Vasantha Devasiri attended as the Chief Guest while many academic and non-academic staff members along with students participated in this event. This programme was enriched with discussions, songs, dancing and drama items of medical students. Parallel to the event, students presented their creative work in the form of art, poems, slam poems, short essays and short videos aiming to deliver the message, 'Suicide is preventable'.



## Diwali Celebration: Faculty of Technology

The annual Diwali Celebration of the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna was celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at the Faculty Auditorium. This was a team effort initiated by the Hindu students of the faculty and it was supported by all the students. Diwali celebration was an entertaining event which comprised of cultural dances, songs and short dramas. Delicious traditional Pongal Rice was served at the end of the function adding a variety and colour to the occasion.



## Christmas Carol 2022



It's the most wonderful time of the year when the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, organizes the annual Christmas carol service. This time bearing the title, 'Swirls & Jingles', organized by the students of the 44<sup>th</sup> batch of the faculty of medicine in collaboration with the Cultural Centre and Catholic Society, this event of red and green was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2022 at the entrance premises of Prof. T. W. Wickramanayake auditorium from 6.00 pm onwards. Honoured with the presence of the Dean of the faculty, Professor Vasantha Devasiri and several academic staff members, the evening was adorned by the melodious voices of the students and the academic staff, while the vivid decorations embodied the creativity this merry season could arouse.

**Venite in Bethlehem:** The annual Christmas carol service of the Faculty of Engineering was held on 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 at the Faculty Indoor Gymnasium with the participation of University Chaplain Rev.Fr. Michael Colin and The Vice Chancellor Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena.

## Poson Bathi Gī Saraniya

In parallel to the the celebration of the Poson full moon Poya day of 2022, a 'Poson bathi gī saraniya' program was organized by the Archaeology Student Society in the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Humanities and Social sciences. Simultaneously, a Dansala was also organized by the second-year students to treat the audience. Many of the guests, including the Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor, and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences together with the undergraduates from all the years participated in this event. The students of the Department of History and Archaeology and some students from other departments too performed during this occasion.



## "SIYATH SARA", Paduru Party

The Padura event was organized by the Art Circle of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Ruhuna on 09<sup>th</sup> of November 2022. It was held at the Court Square, Galle Fort from 6.30 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. This event included different aesthetic items performed by the students, and staff. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, the Dean, academic staff members, and students of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences participated in this event.



## Inter-University Chemistry Quiz, Poster and Research Competitions -2022

B.Sc. Chemistry Special degree students of the University of Ruhuna participated at the inter-university chemistry quiz, poster, and research competitions in 2022 organized by SLAAS Section E2 and made remarkable achievements. Our quiz team became third at the inter-university Quiz Competition competing with nine other universities.

In Interuniversity Poster Competition, Ruhuna team won third place under the topic "Role of Chemistry in Alternative Energy". Also, Ms. Bhagya Samarakoon who is currently working as a demonstrator was selected for the final round of the Interuniversity Research Competition. This year's competitions (preliminary and final rounds) were held during the months of August and September at the Sri Lanka Open University, Nawala. Most of the leading state and non-state universities participated in these competitions.

Members of the quiz team were Kanishka Madushan (Captain), Ishan Deeraka, Chathu-

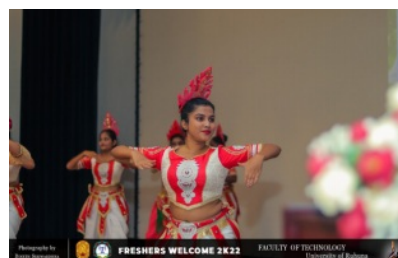


ra Samarasinghe, Nimshi Rathnayake, and Sujeewa Dlamini. Students represented the poster team were Malka Kariyawasam (Captain), Imalsha Perera, Vishwaka Thilakarathne, Methmini Dilhani, and Shiwanthi Anuradha. Dr. C. Nadun Ratnaweera, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Chemistry coordinated the poster and quiz competitions.

We are delighted with this remarkable achievement of our students and will encourage student participation in such competitions which will bring glory to the university.

## The Freshers Welcome: Faculty of Technology

The Freshers Welcome of the 6<sup>th</sup> Batch of Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna was held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at the Faculty Auditorium. The event was graced by the Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, and he gave valuable insights for the new students. The event comprised of entertainment acts performed by the senior students. The Freshers received a comprehensive experience on the University life and culture through the event.



## The HR Week

In line with the third-anniversary celebration of the Department of Human Resource, HR Week-2022 was conducted from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to improve the attitudes and skills of HR-specialized undergraduates. The HR Week started with a Beach cleaning at Wellamadama Beach on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022, and they also performed the “Sahurdhayamaya” talent show on the same day at the Open art theatre. After launching the HR Disclosure magazine, the movie ‘The Nun’ was screened to celebrate Halloween week and to give an exciting experience for the faculty undergraduates on 01<sup>st</sup> November 2022.

The inauguration of the English club which is a sub-unit of the Circle of Human Resource Development was held on 03<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 for improving the English language skills of students specialized in HR. A guest Lecture ‘Critical Success Factors to secure employment as a fresher’ was delivered by Mr. Janath Prasanka , Chief Manager of Bank of Ceylon to make aware undergraduates on the elements that needed to be improved prior to stepping into the working culture.

The Voice of HR Panel discussion was held on 04<sup>th</sup> November 2022 with the presence of three expert personalities Mr. Aruna Gunasekara, Head of HR & Administration, Nippon Paint Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, Ms. Nimali Senevirathne, Deputy General Manager - Legal & HR, Abans Environmental Services (Pvt) Ltd and Ms. Vindya Jayasinghe, Manager - HR, Hemas Holdings PLC. They shared their knowledge and experience with respect to the Emerging KSA factors. To mark the closing of HR Week, Dr. Bandula Galhena addressed the students who specialized in the field of Human Resources. He appreciated their efforts and hard work while encouraging them to balance both academics and skills development activities.



## Musical Evening: “Madura Yamaya”

The Padura event - “ Madhura Yaamaya 2022” was organized by the students of the 42<sup>nd</sup> batch on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July at faculty premises with the participation of honorable guests and a charismatic audience filled with colleagues. This was organized as an outdoor event which added a setback chilled-out urban vibe for the audience. The stage was decorated exceptionally well. The evening was filled with great talents of music, singing and drama. Each and every item was organized, planned and delivered by the students themselves. Dancing and music items performed by the lecturers added an extra ray of light to the event. The drama was everyone's favorite item. That was the basic scenario which built the platform for the event to flow smoothly.



All the students were practicing and contributing to the event and that made the evening an unforgettable day in their university life. It was certain that “Madhura Yamaya” glamorous evening was able to relieve the stress of hard-working students and bring joy and relaxation to everyone involved.

## WeGVer – Global Volunteer Day of AIESEC in Ruhuna

Global volunteering is one of the key functions in AIESEC. Incoming Global Volunteer as well as Outgoing Global Volunteer present young skillful volunteers for a better future through global volunteering.

With the intention of spotlight, the functions in Global Volunteering, AIESEC in Ruhuna decided to take a brave step to initiate the very first Global Volunteer (GV) day in AIESEC in Ruhuna history. It was held on 19<sup>th</sup> of November, at the main university premises, Wellamadama since in the morning. All the GVer including the members in iGV and oGV functions were invited to take part in this event. That event was organized not only to gather those members, but also to improve their GV knowledge on relevant functions. The day was full of fun activities, roll calls and valuable sessions. More than 80 enthusiastic AIESECers were witnessed the glory of this precious event.

Early morning on Saturday, the delegates were energized by the ice-breaker team. Kavindu Bogahawaththe, the Official Expansion President of AIESEC in Ruhuna for the term 22-23 and Dineth Amarasinghe, Official Expansion President elected for the term 23-24 started the event with a leadership event. Imesha Thabrew, the Former Official Expansion Vice President for iGV in term 21- 22 and Wishmi Dilprabha, the Former Official Expansion Vice President for oGV in term 21- 22 were the guest speakers of the event. Those two talented alumni conducted a very informative session by sharing their GV knowledge and experience with the



delegates. Then the delegates were divided into their relevant functions; iGV CXP, iGV B2B, iGV M&IR, oGV , oGX. Then the FACs got the baton of the event and delivered an amazing explanatory session for the delegates of each and every function. After the sessions, they were guided to the main session of the day which was a simulation session which gave the knowledge of the process in GV functions in practical.

The President of the Organizing Committee, Jayani Aluthge and the hear team including their Vice Presidents in marketing - Siwmini Kulanika & Himashi, Events & logistics - Thushitha, Dulanji & Yamodya, Delegates - Sandani, Pasindu & Ravindu, Public Relations - Ayesha & Muthumi tried their best to organize this event within a very short period of time. Within 10 days, these AIESECers proved that AIESECers in Ruhuna are capable of facing challenges and achieving goals successfully. The executive board including the OEVPS of each GV functions were always behind the organizing committee, pushing them forward to make this summit a success. The invited FAC Is also did a incredible job by fulfilling their duties flawlessly. WeGVer was not created just for a day. It is not just an event but a journey, with several milestones. We have reached the first milestone already and getting ready to arrive to the second milestone: WeGVer 2.0.

## Piyapath 2022: Annual Charity program

The Catholic Students' Society of the University of Ruhuna organized the "Piyapath 2022", the annual charity program with the theme "Fly to Dreams" on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at "Supem Uyana" in Gonapinu-wala, Galle. The members of the Catholic Students' Society participated in this program and they donated baby products for children with special needs. This event consisted of a few interactive programs to interact with the children.



## All Souls Rosary Session

In the month of November, an All Souls Rosary Session was organized to commemorate the death. The session was conducted by the Vice Rector, Daham Sewana Seminary Kalutara Rev. Fr. Jude Ousman through the zoom platform.



## Battle of the Ocean 2022

The "Battle of the ocean" was successfully held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at the university grounds in union with the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology sports club with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences were all out for 19.1 overs with 128 runs, while the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology team scored 124 runs for nine wickets in 20 overs. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences became the champions by winning the battle by four runs. Kavishka Jayawardana of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was the man-of-the-match, while Tharindu Navanjith and Vishwa Dananjaya, from the same faculty, were awarded as the best bowler and the best fielder, respectively. Gihan Madushanka of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology was the best batsman in the Battle of the Ocean 2022.



## ELECTROVANZA - Basic Electronic Components Workshop

The Electronics Circle of the EIES organized a workshop on "Basic Electronic Components" on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 at the President Girls College, Galle. It was conducted by the undergraduate students of the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna, aiming to widen the basic electronics knowledge of the advanced level students by providing hands-on experience.

Some of the topics covered at the workshop were Resistors and their color coding, Light Dependent Resistors, Capacitors and reading their capacitor values, Polarized capacitors, Diodes, Light Emitting Diodes (LED), How to identify the Leads of a LED, Transistors, Transistor pin-outs, Integrated Circuits (IC), Identifying IC pin-outs, Batteries as DC Power Supplies, Wire s(Conductor), and Prototyping Boards (Breadboards). The workshop was successfully concluded and the EIEs will continue to assist the advanced level students of the region.



## UoR Dancing Team & Music Band

The dancing team and the music band of the Cultural Center of the University of Ruhuna were introduced on 01<sup>st</sup> December 2022 at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences auditorium.

The Vice Chancellor, Senior Professor Sujewa Amarasena, Deans of the Faculties, Dr. Deva Michael De Silva, Coordinator of the Cultural Center, academic staff, and students attended the event. The Director of Tea & Foods Exports Pvt Ltd, Mr. Saman Kankanange, an alumnus of the University of Ruhuna, donated four dancing kits for the traditional dancing team of the University. For the first time in its history, the University's traditional dancing team performed and colored the procession of the 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the University of Ruhuna on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022.





## Interfaculty Literature & Oratory Competition 2022

Interfaculty Literature and Oratory competition is an annual event of the university calendar. In the Oratory competition-2022, W.M.P.S. Weerasinghe of the Faculty of Medicine, H.H.K. Anjana of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (AHS), and H.H.K. Wanigasinghe of the Faculty of Agriculture won the championship, first runner-up, and second runner-up, respectively, for the Sinhala medium category. S.B. Simithraarachchi of the faculty of Technology was the champion in the English medium contest, while the second and third places were received by U.M. Arshad of the faculty of Medicine and A.M.K.N.B. Aluthdunne of the Faculty of AHS, respectively. The Tamil medium championship of the orator-2022 was won by M.N. Fathima Amnah of the Faculty of Medicine, while R. Archchaka of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technolo-



gy and M.N.A. Shahana of the Faculty of Management & Finance were the first and second runners-ups of the Tamil medium. Winners of the literature competitions are presented in below table. The awarding ceremony of the event was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Scienc-

Event	Place		Faculty
Short Stories (sinhala)	1	W.G.N. Rajapaksha	Medical
	2	P.B.A.S.M.P. Kumara	Medical
	3	T.M.T.G.M.C. Tennakoon	HSS
Short Stories (Tamil)	1	M.H.M.R.S. Dilhani	Engineering
	2	R. Sharuni	Science
Short Film	1	W.A.H.N. Wijesooriya	Science
Prosody	1	K.C.S. Bandara	Science
	2	K.D.S. Udayangani	Science
	3	P.B.A.S.M. Kumara	Medical
Poetry (non - rhyming )	1	T.M.T.G.M.C. Tennakoon	HSS
	2	S. M. Wijerathna	Science
	3	W.T.R.M. Wiskramanayaka	Medical
Lyrics	1	P.M.D. Hemachandra	Science
	2	G.A. B. Y. Perera	MF
	3	H.H. Hashini Sewwandi	Science
<b>HSS: Humanities and Social Sciences, MF: Management &amp; Finance</b>			

es Auditorium with the participation of the Vice Chancellor, Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, as the Chief Guest. The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, Coordinator of the Cultural Center, Dr. Deva Michael De Silva, Faculty Coordinators, academic staff, nonacademic staff members, and students attended the event.



## Shramadana campaigns at Faculty of Technology

The Biosystems Technology Research Circle (BiTReC) of Faculty of Technology, together with the academic staff and other students, organized two "Shramadana" campaigns at the faculty premises on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September and the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. These campaigns were organized by the BiTReC in line with their project of "Lassana FOT" aiming to clean up the environment surrounding the abandoned lake at the Faculty of Technology.



## Workshop on Network Automation

The Electrical and Information Engineering Society (EIES) organized a workshop on "Network Automation" with the aim of broadening the knowledge of budding engineers on Network Automation software. It was conducted by a group of industry experts led by Eng. Chathuranga Deshabandu, the Manager at Network Firewalls, London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG). The workshop consisted of an online theory session held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and a physical hands-on session on 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 at the Faculty of Engineering premises. Further discussions are continuing to conduct this event as an annual event opened to the entire community of the university.



## Training for Rover Scout

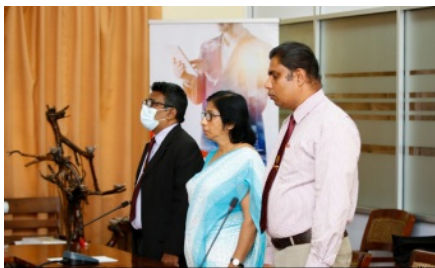
"Rover Scout", the first practical training camp organized by the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Ruhuna, was held on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, at the university play ground.



The chief scout commissioner, Mr. Srilath de Silva, the scout commissioner of Matara district, Mr. Indika Prasanna, and the district commissioner, Mr. Mangala, graced the occasion. About 250 students from the Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Management and Finance, and Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology participated in this training camp.

## Career InFix'22 – Ruhuna Education and Career Fair 2022

Ruhuna Education and Career Fair 2022 was held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at the Science Faculty premises of University of Ruhuna. The Career Infix'22 was organized by the AIESEC Student's Club and Career Circle of the faculty of Science in collaboration with the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Ruhuna. Professor E.P.S. Chandana, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Professor D.H.N.Munasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Science graced the inauguration ceremony as the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honor respectively. Around fifty private sector organizations, and over 300 students participated for the Career Infix'22. The event was organized in two phases, where the first phase was a series of workshops to prepare students for the subsequent carrier fair which was the second phase of the event.



## Pop Up Sales: Products of Paper Quilling and Origami

The Career Guidance Unit (CGU) of the University of Ruhuna organized Pop Up Sale to sell the student's products of Paper Quilling and Origami on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2022. The aim of this event was to improve the entrepreneurial skills of the undergraduates. The undergraduates of the university of Ruhuna actively participated for this Pop-up sale, and the CGU expects to continue this event once in every month.



The pop-up sale was a platform for start-up entrepreneurs to sell their products, such as birthday cards, new year cards, ornaments, foot wears, bags, toys, paper flowers, dream catchers, and food items. Professor E.P.S. Chandana, the Deputy Vice Chancellor participated as the Chief Guest for this colorful event.



## Gavel Conference 2022

Gavel conference is an annually organized event where delegates from every Gavel Club across the country are provided the opportunity to convene, celebrate their legacy as Gaveliers and take part in a series of sessions and activities that enrich them and add value to their lives. This year, the conference was held eminently at the Seven Say Reception Hall, Veyangoda. Many gaveliers of the University of Ruhuna Gavel Club represented the organizing committee of 2022. The event was graced by the presence of Captain Elmo Jayawardena and Mr. Chevaan Daniel, who delivered inspiring keynote speeches. On the second day of the conference, the final round of the All-Island Best Gavel Speaker (AIBGS) contest was held. Three gaveliers from Ruhuna became finalists in the competition, bringing glory to the University of Ruhuna.



- **Gv. Malka Kariyawasam (Faculty of Science)** - Champion (Imper-sonation) and Second runner up (Announcing) of Viva Voce 2022.
- **Gv.ChinthaniWijeratne(FacultyofAgriculture)**-Finalist of AIBGS2022.
- **Gv. Tharushie Karunatileke (Faculty of Medicine)**- Finalist of Viva Voce 2022
- **Gv. Ravisha Hapuarachchi (Faculty of Engineering)**- Semifinalist of Best Speaker 2022, Finalist of AIBGS 2022
- **Gv. Madushi Jayawickrama (Faculty of Medicine)**- Semifinalist of Best Speaker 2022, Finalist of AIBGS 2022.

Gavel Club of University of Ruhuna has provided golden opportunities to many individuals to emerge as influencing public speakers and future leaders. Ruhuna Gaveliers continue to mark their legacy with numerous achievements in the inter university speech contests to the date.

## Holy Mass and Interactive Session

Catholic Students' Society of the University of Ruhuna provides an opportunity for all Catholic and Christian students to meet each other. After the new executive committee was appointed for the term 22-23, the Catholic students' society organized a holy mass and an interactive session at The Shrine of Our Lady of Matara on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, with the participation of University Chaplain Rev.Fr. Michael Colin and the members of the Catholic Students' Society.



## Runner up: Inter-University Women's Table Tennis

The University of Ruhuna Women's Table Tennis team emerged as Runner-up at the Inter-University Table Tennis Championship, held at the University of Moratuwa on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Ruhuna got defeated by the team of the University of Jayawardenapura in the group matches in a nail-biting match by 2-3, and Ruhuna paddlers came back stronger with a quarter-final win over the Sabaragamuwa team. Ruhuna Team easily beat the University of Peradeniya team by 3-1 in the semifinal match but lost in the finals against the University of Colombo.

Mr. G. W. Jayantha, a former nationally ranked player, and the Team Leader of the Sri Lanka University team at the World University Table Tennis Championship 2004, is the coach of the University of Ruhuna and the Master-in-Charge for Table Tennis. Mr. Jayantha dedicated this win to all TT lovers in the University.



## Inter-University Taekwondo Championship-2022

Inter-University Taekwondo Championship was held at the University of Moratuwa on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2022. The Women's Taekwondo team of the University of Ruhuna achieved Overall 2<sup>nd</sup> Runners-up while the Men's team achieved overall 5<sup>th</sup> place with three gold medals, two Silver Medals, and six Bronze medals at this Taekwondo Championship.



### Women Medal Winners

1. Individual Poomsae Women 1st Category 1<sup>st</sup> Place - M.G.G.S.D.Mahanama (Faculty of Science).
2. Individual Poomsae Women 2nd Category 1<sup>st</sup> Place – H.M.C.J.Gunawardhena (Faculty of Agriculture).
3. Team Poomsae Women 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - M.G.G.S.D.Mahanama (Faculty of Science), H.M.C.J.Gunawardhena (Faculty of Agriculture) ,S.H.T.S.Nishshanka (Faculty of Allied Health Sciences).
4. Sparring Women (Over 73kg) 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – L.L.T.D.Gunarathna ( Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences).
5. Sparring Women (Below 46kg) 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – H.M.C.J.Gunawardhena (Faculty of Agriculture).
6. Sparring Women (46kg-49kg) 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – L.P.T.D.Hemachandra (Faculty of Agriculture).
7. Sparring Women (62kg-67kg) 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – B.I.S.Sewwandi (Faculty of Management & Finance).

### Men Medal Winners

1. Sparring Men (54kg -58kg) 1<sup>st</sup> Place – K.G.S.Dissanayake (Faculty of Technology).
2. Sparring Men (68kg -74kg) 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – U.A.S.L.Dhanawardhana (Faculty of Technology).
3. Sparring Men (80kg-87kg) 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – W.M.D.M.B.Jayarathna (Faculty of Management & Finance).
4. Team Poomsae Men 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – P.H.B.S.Sandaruwan (Faculty of Science), D.M.C.P.U.Bandara (Faculty of Science), K.G.S.Dissanayake (Faculty of Technology).

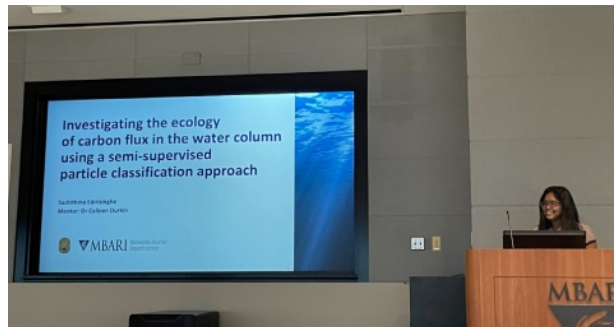
Mr. K.G.S. Divanjana, former national player and a team member of the Sri Lanka University Taekwondo team of the 29<sup>th</sup> World University Games 2017 at Taipei, Taiwan, is the coach of the University of Ruhuna Taekwondo Team, and also the Master-in-Charge for Taekwondo. Mr. K.G.S. Divanjana dedicated these achievements to all Taekwondo players at the University of Ruhuna.

## Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) Summer Internship Program 2022

Ms. Sachithma Edirisinghe of the Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, was selected for the Summer Internship Program of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) in California, USA, held from 06<sup>th</sup> June to 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022. MBARI's state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, including research vessels, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), and autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), offer students unique opportunities to collaborate on advanced research and development projects.



Ms. Sachithma was a final-year undergraduate when she participated in this highly competitive program and was the only international student in her cohort of 18 interns. During the program, Ms. Sachithma worked in the Carbon Flux Ecology lab on a research project titled "Investigating the Ecology of Carbon Flux in the Water Column using a Semi-Supervised Particle Classification Approach." Her research findings were presented as an intern paper published online and also at the Intern Symposium held at the end of the program.



During her internship, Ms. Sachithma participated in two research cruises aboard; the research vessel R/V Rachel Carson, where she had the opportunity to be involved with the deployment of EyeRIS, a novel imaging system attached to the ROV Ventana of MBARI. She believes this experience was a career-changing opportunity and is thankful to the University for supporting her to get this experience.

## Best Presentation Award at ICIET-2022.

Two final year undergraduate students Mr. Dilan Lasantha and Ms. Nadisha Madhushanie who are following special degree in the field of Computer Science, at the faculty of Science have received the best presentation awards in the International Conference on Innovation and Emerging Technologies (ICIET)-2022. They received these awards under two tracks "Artificial Intelligence and Data Science" and "Communication and Networking Technologies" respectively.

Mr. Dilan did his presentation on "CirceCNN: circRNA-RBP Binding Site Prediction Using an Ensemble Convolution Neural Network and Advance Feature Extraction Methods" while Ms. Nadisha's presentation was on

"Block Acceptance Flag: Prevention of Selfish Mining Attacks in Blockchain". The conference was held virtually on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November in University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Sri Lanka.



## Inter-Faculty Carom Championship -2022.

For the first time in history, a carom championship was won by the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST) in the interfaculty tournament. In finals, the final opponent for FMST was the Faculty of Technology, and FMST won by 3-0 matches. S. Dhakshajiny of the FMST was awarded as the best player in the tournament.



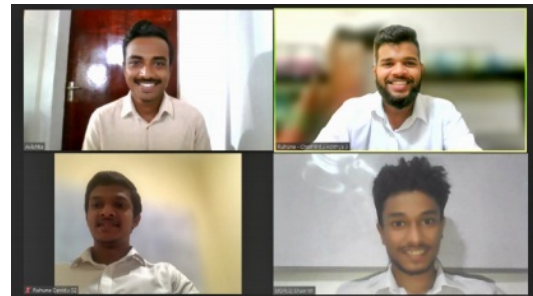
## Inter-Faculty Paediatric Quiz -2022

The team of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna won the third place in this competition which was organized by the Sri Lanka College of Pediatricians. There were nine teams representing all medical faculties in Srilanka. There was an extra round to select the champions because the three teams selected for the final round had equal marks. The team of pre-interns (38<sup>th</sup> batch) were Hettigamage Geenila Imandi Manthika, Warnakula Prabasha Miniru Mendis, Chamara Nuwan Kumara Gardiye Punchihewa, Thavidha Thisari Pathirage and Madushani Kavindi Rathnayake (Reserve).



## Debate Tournament Champions

"Ruhuna Debaters", the University of Ruhuna Sinhala Debate team was able to bring home the championship this December when they beat the University of Jaffna C team at the debate "A new Dawn" inter-university debating competition. The debate was organized by the Department of Sociology & Cultural Center of University of Ruhuna. The preliminary rounds were won against Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology, University of Jaffna and University of Kelaniya. Topic for the final debate was



පාර්ලිමේන්තුව විසුරුවා හැර මහාමැතිවරණයකට යාමෙන් මෙරට දේශපාලන හා ආර්ථික ස්ථාවරතාවය ඇති කළ හැකිය / දේශපාලන හා ආර්ථික අස්ථාවරත්වය තවදුරටත් වැඩිවේ.

The team was captained by H. H.Avishka Udara from the Faculty of Management and the other team members were: Chamidu Adithya (Faculty of Engineering), Shamith Jayawardhana (Faculty of Humanities and Social Science) and Danidu Demantha (Faculty of Engineering).

## Sri Lanka National Novices Weightlifting Championship 2022

The Sri Lankan National Novices Weightlifting competition, which is organized annually by the Sri Lanka Weightlifting federation was held in Galle this year. It was graced by athletes from all parts of the island, representing schools, universities and the tri-forces.



Mr. Anjana Jayekody, a 4<sup>th</sup> year medical student of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, secured a Bronze medal in the Mens 67kg category, with a total of 178kg (Snatch 83kg, Clean and Jerk 95kg). This is his second time participating in this competition, and he is currently training with Coach Navindra Dayan, who is the assistant- national coach of the Sri Lankan team. He was awarded University colors for this achievement and he wishes to continue to represent the university in the upcoming Inter-university games and the SLUG which will be held in 2023, and to bring back the championship to his alma mater..

## Inter-Medical Faculty Physiology Quiz 2022

The team that represented the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna for the virtually held Prof. Carlo Fonseka Memorial 7<sup>th</sup> Inter-Medical Faculty Physiology Quiz 2022 became the first runner up showing the best ever performance by a team from the University of Ruhuna in the history of the quiz.

The team comprised of Ms. Sithari Prathibha, Mr. Mevan Induruwa, Ms. Siluni Samaranyake, Ms. Sinali Kumarasinghe and Mr. Kalindu Wickramasinghe. Out of the initial team, three members were selected to participate in the Prof. A. Raman Challenge Trophy - 18<sup>th</sup> Inter-Medical School Physiology Quiz 2022, Malaysia held virtually, hosted by Malaysia. Led by Mr. Kalindu Wickramasinghe, and comprising of Ms. Sinali Kumarasinghe and Ms. Siluni Samaranyake, the team secured third place among the 76 participant universities and they were the only team from Sri Lanka to have a podium finish.



## The University of Tokyo Summer Internship Program

The University of Tokyo Summer Internship Program (UTSIP) is one of the most compatible internship programs in the science world. UTSIP is a seven-week undergraduate research scholarship program offered by Asia's number-one university for the most successful and skilled environmental science undergraduates worldwide. This year, 15 undergraduates (program A-8 and program B-7) across the globe were selected for the UTSIP-2022.



Mr. Tishan Thambipillai (FM/FW/2017/055) of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST) was selected for the UTSIP-2022; and he was the only Sri Lankan chosen for this year's program. Tishan graduated this year, specializing in Oceanography and Marine Geology in the Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, Faculty of FMST, University of Ruhuna. He has been selected for the study on 'Waves and Sea Ice in Arctic ocean' under the supervision of Prof. Waseda Takuji, a famous Physical Oceanographer and Ocean Engineer at the Applied Physical Oceanography Laboratory, Department of Ocean Technology, Policy, and Environment, Graduate school of Frontier Sciences, the University of Tokyo.

After in-situ and satellite data analyses and interpretations, Tishan successfully completed his final dissertation on the topic of 'Long-term Autumn Sea Ice Variability over the Western Arctic Ocean.' Pre- and Post-Laboratory experiments, Field visits, Real-time and Climatological model-based observations, a collaborative study with experienced scientists from the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), and advanced technical equipment and instruments-based analyses provided excellent findings for his study. Currently, Tishan continues his study in collaboration with Prof. Waseda Takuji and the scientists from JAMSTEC, Japan.



## VIVA VOCE'22



VIVA VOCE'22 is an all-island public speaking competition opened for both university undergraduates and school students which was collaboratively organized by Gavel Club of Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM) & the Interact Club of St. Peter's College, Colombo.

The competition comprised of four categories as, Prepared speeches, Announcing, Commentary and Impersonation, and the finals of VIVA VOCE'22 was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2022 at the auditorium of Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM).

Mr. Malka Induwara Kariyawasam (SC/2017/10170), a final year undergraduate currently following the special degree program in Chemistry at the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna got the opportunity to participate at VIVA VOCE'22 via the Gavel Club of Univer-

sity of Ruhuna and fought his way up to the finals.

It is with great pleasure that we convey you, Malka emerged as the champion from the impersonation category as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> runner up from the announcing category competing with more than 200 participants from state and private universities and schools of Sri Lanka.

For the impersonation category he impersonated the great actor Mr. Charlie Chaplin's role on 1940's movie "The Great Dictator" while for the announcing category he announced the opening of Oscars. With his remarkable victory at VIVA VOCE'22, he stands as the first Gavelier from Gavel Club of University of Ruhuna to secure a place at an all-island public speaking competition for the Gavel Club of University of Ruhuna.

## IEEE INSL Southern Province Competition

IEEE Innovation Nation Sri Lanka is a competition organized by the IEEE Sri Lanka Chapter. All nine provincial competitions held at the regional level. The Southern provincial competition was conducted by the IEEE Student Branch of University of Ruhuna, and the final competition was held on online Platform. INSL 2022 worked on this competition for about 3 months and went through over 100 projects, and the Winner of the competition are listed below.

- **Champions:** Jayathilake H.A.C.P (Team leader), Jayawardhana M.V.T.I., Jayathilaka S. N. D., and Jayasumana M.A.D.U.P.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Runner up:** Theekshana T.M.N (Team leader), Menike M.A.P., Silva H.T.U.C., Shanilka A.W.K., and Nishadya T.K.H.K.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Runner up:** Weerasingha W.A.S.S.(Team leader),



# ACHIEVEMENTS OF POST GRADUATE STUDENTS

## Vice Chancellor's Gold medal for the Best Postgraduate Student at 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation, UoR

Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal for the best Postgraduate Student at the 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation of UoR was awarded to the postgraduate scholar, who has shown Excellent performance in generating knowledge that has accepted internationally, during the study of Doctor of Philosophy Degree on 16<sup>th</sup>December 2022. The Gold medal was awarded to Ms. A.M.S. Sandaruwani Amarasiri.





## Development of a Herbal Capsule of *Coccinia grandis* L. for type 2 diabetes mellitus



A patent titled "A herbal capsule for diabetes mellitus" has been awarded to Dr K.G. Piyumi Wasana, Prof Anoja Attanayake, Snr Prof Thilak Weeraratna, and Prof Kamani Jayatilaka, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna.

Type 2 diabetes mellitus is a major global health pandemic in this century, which has increased its incidence rapidly over the past ten years. *Coccinia grandis* (Linn.) Voigt (Cucurbitaceae), Kowakka or Kemvel (in Sinhala), Ivy gourd/ scarlet gourd/tindora, and kowai fruit (in English) is an edible perennial climber commonly found in Sri Lanka and in tropical Asia. Based on the findings of extensive preclinical studies, this project was designed to investigate the antidiabetic efficacy and safety of the herbal capsule of *C. grandis* through a randomized double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial (SLCTR/ 2018/012) targeting the effective management of early-stage diabetes in newly diagnosed patients with type 2 diabetes. The project was financially supported by the National Research Council, Sri Lanka (NRC 17-29).

## Dean's Scientific Award 2022: Okayama University, Japan



Dr. (Mrs) T.D.P. Liyanage of the Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, was awarded the Dean's Scientific Award-2022 on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 by the Graduate School of Environmental and Life Science, Okayama University, Japan for completing an excellent research during her Ph.D study.

She did her Ph.D research on "Evaluation of nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide emissions from manure compost-amended soil" under the supervision of Prof.

Morihiro Maeda of the Soil Management Laboratory, Okayama University. The key findings of the research have been published in the journal of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition Journal (Vol. 68 (4) of 2022).

Her Doctoral study was supported by a scholarship offered by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, Japan (MEXT).

## Fellowship of the College of Forensic Pathologists of Sri Lanka

Prof U.C.P. Perera, Professor of Forensic Medicine, Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, was awarded the Fellowship of the College of Forensic Pathologists of Sri Lanka. This was awarded at the 19<sup>th</sup> Presidential induction of the College of Forensic Pathologists of Sri Lanka, which was held at Araliya Beach Resort & Spa, Unawatuna, Galle on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022,.



## Oration: Galle Medical Association Annual Academic sessions -2022

Dr. Pushpika Jayawardana, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine delivered the oration at Galle Medical Association Annual Academic Sessions held on 12-14<sup>th</sup> October 2022. This was based on three clinical trials she conducted on a drug called Montelukast in the field of asthma and allergic rhinitis in children. Her topic was Montelukast: A future hope to kick allergy. Breath Easy; Sleep easy.



## SLAAS Postgraduate Research Award-2022

Dr. A.M.S.S. Amarasiri, of the Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, was awarded the postgraduate research merit award (Section E2), awarded by the general research committee, Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science- 2022, in recognition of her contribution towards postgraduate research carried out in Sri Lanka, at the 78<sup>th</sup> annual sessions of SLAAS, held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. She also received the Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal offered for the best Postgraduate Student at the 29<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the University of Ruhuna.



## International Training Course on New Energy Vehicle Technologies

Trainees from different counties were selected for the "Training Course on New Energy Vehicle Technologies" sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and organized by the Academy for International Business Officials and the Professional Qualification Authority of the Ministry of Transport, China from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Dinuwanthi Welmilla, Lecturer attached to the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering at the University of Ruhuna selected and successfully completed the training by representing Sri Lanka.

No. 22B1699022



**Weimillage Don Chamanie Dinuwanthi Welmilla** 女士

来自斯里兰卡民主社会主义共和国 2022 年 7 月 25 日至 2022 年 7 月 29 日参加了由中华人民共和国商务部主办、商务部国际商务官员研修学院和交通运输部职业资格中心承办的“新能源汽车技术培训班”，特此证明。



中国援助 CHINA AID FOR SHARED FUTURE



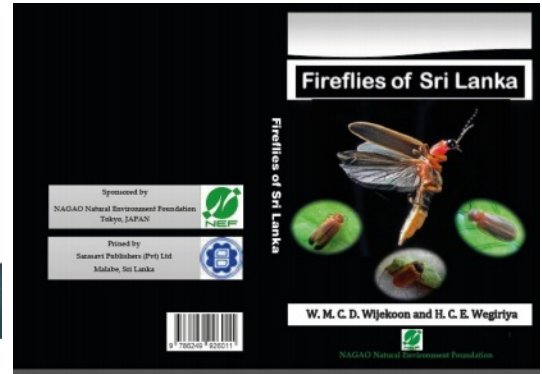
二〇二二年七月二十九日

This is to certify that Ms. Weimillage Don Chamanie Dinuwanthi Welmilla from The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has completed the "Training Course on New Energy Vehicle Technologies" sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) and organized by the Academy for International Business Officials (AIBO), MOFCOM and the Professional Qualification Authority of the Ministry of Transport (PQAMT), from 25 July to 29 July, 2022.

Ministry of Commerce  
People's Republic of China  
29 July, 2022

## Book on Fireflies of Sri Lanka: W.M.C.D. Wijekoon

Lecturer, Mr. W. M. C. D. Wijekoon, and Associate Professor. H. C. E. Wegiriya, of the Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna published the first-ever comprehensive book on `Fireflies of Sri Lanka` in August 2022.



Considering the importance of this book to the biodiversity of Sri Lanka, the NAGAO Natural Environmental

Foundation, Tokyo, Japan sponsored 157,000 Japanese yen to cover the expenses of printing and publishing the book. The Sarasavi Publishers (Pvt) Ltd, Sri Lanka published and printed 500 copies of this book with the ISBN-9-786249-926011 in August 2022. The free copies of this book will be distributed to the University academics and professionals in the field, to University libraries and to researchers and naturalist who are interested in this field.

## Certificate of Excellence

Mr. TUW Abeygunasekara, from the Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, was awarded a certificate of excellence by Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna for good performance in generating knowledge that has been accepted internationally during the post-graduate study of MPhil on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022.



## Young Woman Engineer of the Year award Ceremony



IET Young Professionals (YP) Sri Lanka Network organizes the prestigious "Young Woman Engineer (YWE) of the Year" award ceremony in Sri Lanka to celebrate the remarkable achievements of young women in the Engineering profession. The best applicants were shortlisted from the applications received from young women engineers who were working in the engineering industry and academia in Sri Lanka for the second stage.

Dinuwanthi Welmillia, Lecturer attached to the Department of Electrical and Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering in the university of Ruhuna awarded as the contestant of the event.

## Completion of a Postgraduate Study



Ms. D.A.M. Nimal Shanthi, Senior Staff Technical Officer of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Ruhuna has completed a Master of Science (MSc) in Environmental Management degree offered by the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa.

She has presented her research titled on "Drinking water quality of community managed water supply schemes in Hambanthota district" in the International Water Conference at cevas NWS&DB 2022, the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Symposium of NWS&DB in Sri Lanka.

## Academic Staff

### New Recruitments

#### Lecturer (Probationary)

Mr. K.G.V.K. De Silva, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering.

Ms. A.D.H.T. Wijerathna, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering.

Ms. M.K.U. Sandarenu, Department of Electrical & Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering.

Mr. T.B. Edirisooriya, Department of Electrical & Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering.

Ms. M.S.H. Peiris, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science.

### Promotions

#### Senior Professors

Prof. P.M.C.S. De Silva, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science.

Prof. G.Y. Jayasinghe, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture.

Prof. W.A.D.P.R. Rathnasekara, Department of Agricultural biology, Faculty of Agriculture.

#### Professors

Prof. G.G.T. Chaminda, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering.

Prof. K.S. Wanniarachchi, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering.

Prof. N.V.G.A.H. Kumara, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences.

Prof. A.P. Attanayake, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine.

Prof. R.H.A.I. Rathnaweera, Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine.

Prof. Janaki Warshahennadi, Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine.

Prof. D.L.W. Dasanayake, Department of Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Faculty of Medicine.

Prof. I.H. Rajapaksha, Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine.

Prof. T.T. Ponnampereuma, Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine.

Prof. W.A. Indika, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science.

Prof. G.B.C. Sanath, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science.

Prof. K.A.S. Kodikara, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science.

Prof. W.G.S.M. Kumari, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science.

Prof. K.N. Kumara, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science.

Prof. B.G.S.A. Sampath, Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science.

Prof. M.K.D.K. Piyarathna, Computer Unit, Faculty of Agriculture.

Prof. D.L.C. Kumari, Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture.

Prof. P.N. Ranasinghe, Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology.

#### Senior Lecturer (Grade-I)

Dr. B.M.L.A. Basnayake, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering.

Dr. W.M.K.R.T. Bandara, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering.

Dr. K.G.P. Nirmani, Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences.

Dr. W.M.T.R. Wijesundara, Department of Business Management, Faculty of Management and Finance.

Dr. L.K.T. Simal, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering.

Dr. T.M. Rengarasu, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Dr. K.N.N De Silva, Department of Agric. Economics, Faculty of Agriculture.

Ms. L.S. Karunaratna, Department of Sinhala, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr. U.A.D Jayasinghe, Department of Limnology & Water Technology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology.

Dr. S.S. Herath, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology.

Dr. Sunethra Gunasena, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. A.S. Ranaweera, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science.

Dr. Y.M.A.L.W. Yapa, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science.

#### Senior Lecturer (Grade-II)

Dr. E.H. Silva, Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences.

Dr. Prabhavi Wijesiriwardhana, Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences.

Dr. J.A.N. Sandamali, Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences.

# RECRUITMENTS, PROMOTIONS & RETIREMENTS

Dr. M.T.T. Ranjan, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering.

Dr. M.R.P. Hasanga, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Chamin Weerasekara, Department of Anesthesiology, Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. T.N. Weerasinghe, Department of Electrical & Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Dr. H.H.P.M.J. Thabrew, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. G. S. N. Fernando, Department of Food Science & Technology, Faculty of Agriculture

Dr. A.M.S.S. Amarasiri, Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Dr. R.D.A.Gunasekara, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science.

Dr. K.A.S. Udayanga, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Ms. I.G.S. Kumari, Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Dr. U.K. Egodage, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine.

Ms. T.D.P. Liyanage, Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture.

## Deputy Librarian

Mr. U.A.L. Pannila UAL, Main Library.

Mr. Nimal Hettiarachchi, Main Library.

## Retirements



**Senior Professor  
L. M. Abeywickrama  
Faculty of Agriculture.**

After more than three decades of dedicated and outstanding service, Senior Prof. L.M. Abeywickrama of the Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness retired from his service on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna.

Senior Prof. L.M. Abeywickrama obtained his B.Sc. in Agriculture in 1987 from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, and his M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics in 1997 from the Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya

and Master of Arts in Economics in the year 2000. Prof. Abeywickrama pursued his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Agricultural Economics during 2000-2003 at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, India.

Prof. Abeywickrama first served as a Temporary Assistant Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Ruhuna during 1989-1990 and then as an Assistant Lecturer, in the same department from 1990 to 1991. After that, he served as a Probationary Lecturer during 1991-1996 and was then promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer in Agricultural Economics in the year 2003. Prof. L.M. Abeywickrama has served as a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics for more than 12 years since 2009 and served the Department as a Senior Professor from 2018 to 2022.

Prof. Abeywickrama has won many competitive research grants as the principal investigator of several thematic research and of them, Urban household solid waste management and Intuition waste management planning projects are considered noteworthy accomplishments. With his research expertise, Prof. Abeywickrama has published more than 50 publications in refereed journals and conference proceedings. Further, he supervised more than 20 postgraduate students (MSc, MPhil, and Ph.D.), and a large number of undergraduate dissertations during his career.

During his career, Prof. Abeywickrama has served in many administrative positions. Prof. Abeywickrama served as the Head, Department of Agricultural Economics from 2006 to 2014 and from 2018 to 2019. Prof. Abeywickrama chaired many forums and committees including the Board of Study of Agriculture, Distance and Continuing Education Unit of the University of Ruhuna (since 2017), Board of Study of Agriculture, Faculty of Graduate Studies (2012-2015) and Curriculum Development Committee, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna (2006-2014 and 2019-2022). Moreover, he served as the acting Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture on several occasions. Prof. Abeywickrama has rendered his service as a student Counsellor and Deputy Senior Student Counsellor of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna for about six years, Deputy Proctor of the faculty of Agriculture (2011-2016), Chairman of the Board of Survey of the Affiliated University of Southern Province, President of the Ruhuna University Agriculture Faculty Alumni Association, President of the Staff Welfare Association of the Faculty of Agriculture for several years.

Prof. Abeywickrama immensely contributed to designing, developing, and commencing the three Master's degree programs of the Department of Agricultural Economics; namely MSc in Agricultural Economics and Resource Management (MSc AgERM), Master of Agribusiness Management

(MABM) and MSc in Agricultural Economics and Development (MAED) and dedicatedly served as the coordinator of the of these programs for several years. In addition, Prof. Abeywickrama was a pioneering member in developing the new degree program, BSc. in Agribusiness Management and BSc in Green Technology in 2011. In addition, he is the founder of the Diploma in Scientific Tea Manufacturing and Quality Management in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Tea Board (SLTB) and Tea Smallholding Development Authority (TSHDA) in 2012. Further, Prof. Abeywickrama provided his service as a Visiting Lecturer and a resource person for many training programs outside the university. He has served as a Lecturer at the National Institute of Education (NIE), Sri Lanka in the training programs for Education Instructors and Principals, the Agriculture Diploma Program at NIE, and in the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) program. Further, Prof. Abeywickrama served as a resource person for the outreach programs organized by Divisional Secretaries in collaboration with VIDATHA centers in the field of business accountancy and entrepreneurship and the environmental programs organized by Save the Children, Arthachrya Foundation, and other non-government organizations.

Prof. Abeywickrama has served as a member of a multitude of professional bodies and national committees in an advisory capacity. Among his contribution to National and Community Development, his service as a member of the Committee of the Centre for Agricultural Research Policy (CARP, Sri Lanka), member of the Research and Training Council of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), team leader of the several baseline surveys and development of Results and Impact Management System projects for agricultural development in Sri Lanka in collaboration with private sector implemented under National Agribusiness Development Programme (NADeP) of Presidential Secretariat were among the key contributions. Further, Prof. Abeywickrama served as a consultant to the Agricultural Modernization Project of the Ministry of Agriculture since 2017, team leader of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the pilot projects of the Agriculture Modernization Projects funded by World Bank in seven districts in Sri Lanka under the Ministry of Agriculture.

In all, Senior Prof. L.M. Abeywickrama has made a remarkable contribution with a dedicated service towards the teaching, research, and outreach activities in the field of agricultural economics and agribusiness management to ensure the sustainable development of the Sri Lankan Agriculture Sector.



**Senior Professor  
Champa Madhumathi  
Navaratne  
Faculty of Agriculture**

Senior Professor Champa Madhumathi Navaratne who served for the Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, retired after more than 30 years of successful and dedicated service at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna.

Senior Prof. C.M. Navaratne commenced her academic journey at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, where she completed her B.Sc. in Agriculture in 1984 with excellent academic credentials. Based on her outstanding performance, Prof. Navaratne was first appointed as a Teaching Assistant at the Department of Agricultural Engineering and later she was appointed as a Lecturer (Probationary) in 1992. Prof. Navaratne obtained her M.Sc. degree in Computing from the University of Wales, College of Cardiff, United Kingdom in 1989. In 2003, Prof. Navaratne completed her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka. Based on her excellent academic and professional qualifications and experiences, she was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2003 and Associate Professor in 2007. Reaching another milestone in her academic career in 2009, she was awarded a professorship in Agricultural Engineering.

At the time of retirement, Prof. Navaratne was serving as an outstanding Senior Professor at the Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology.

Prof. Navaratne is a renowned scientist popular for her numerous international and national publications. Her research expertise includes groundwater, rainwater harvesting, water resource management, hydrological modeling, climatology, water resources engineering, watershed management, rainfall and runoff modeling, irrigation engineering, flood modeling, and irrigation. Prof. Navaratne has a wide international audience because of her intellectual and innovative research findings. So far, she has published around 80 research publications including articles in top-ranking journals, book chapters, and abstracts in conference proceedings.

Senior Prof. C.M. Navaratne is an effective coordinator of the University of Ruhuna for several pioneering projects namely the "Building Resilience in Tropical Agro-Ecosystems funded by the European Commission" (BRITAE, 2020-2023), "Strengthening University-Enterprise Collabora-

tion for Resilience Communities in Asia" (SECRA, 2020-2023), "Advancing Skill Creation to Enhance Transformation" (ASCENT, 2016-2019) funded by the Europe Union Erasmus+ program, "Research Capacity Development for Staff - Training Mobility" (RECADOS-TM, 2018-2019) funded by the Europe Union Erasmus+ program, and the BECK project entitled "Climate change and consumer behavior related to energy efficiency in the built environment (2019-2022)" funded by the European Commission. Further, she has engaged in collaborative programs with a number of globally reputed universities such as Villinus Gediminas University (Lithuania), University of Huddersfield (UK), University of Tallin (Estonia), University of Uclan (UK), Moscow State University, (Russia), Chiang Mai University (Thailand), St. Petersburg Polytechnic University (Russia), and Mid-Sweden University (Sweden). In recognition of her promising international collaborations, recently, Prof. Navaratne was awarded the University of Ruhuna Vice Chancellor's Awards for the "Most Outstanding Promoter of International Relations" and the "Highest Recipient of Grants" in the year 2021.

Moreover, during her professional career, she was an active member of local organizations and clubs, including the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS), a Life member of the Agricultural Engineering Society of Sri Lanka (AESSL), Joint Secretary to the AESSL (2001 - 2003), Assistant Treasurer to the AESSL (2004 - to date). Further, she is a Member of different professional bodies including Women Water Professionals in Sri Lanka, Women for Water Partnership, Gender and Water Alliance, Water Integrity Network. Furthermore, she is a Steering committee Member of Sri Lanka Water Partnership and she is a Life member of Ruhuna Agriculture Faculty Alumni Association, Ruhuna University Alumni Association, and British Alumni in Sri Lanka.

Prof. Navaratne has immense potential and versatile nature in successfully managing academic, administrative, and external responsibilities, and she was never reluctant to take on either academic or administrative responsibilities. During her tenure as the head of the department consecutively twice, she has exhibited excellent management and organizational skills. Prof. Navaratne played a significant role in designing and developing new degree programs and course modules for new and existing degree programs of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna. Prof. Navaratne was the principal designer and a pioneering member of developing BSc. in Green Technology which was implemented during her tenure as the Head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering. Further, Prof. Navaratne was constantly engaged in curricu-

lum revisions relevant to B.Sc. in Green Technology, B.Sc. in Agricultural Resource Management and Technology, and MSc in Green Technology in order to provide the most updated knowledge and competencies to the student community of the University of Ruhuna.

Senior Prof. C.M. Navaratne rendered an irreplaceable service to the Faculty of Agriculture as well as to the University of Ruhuna for more than three decades. The community of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna will be forever grateful for her valuable contribution to the betterment of the faculty.



**Senior Professor  
L.P. Jayatissa  
Faculty of Science**

Senior Professor L.P. Jayatissa who has been serving the University of Ruhuna for about four decades since 1982 retired on 30th of September, 2022. He executed duties as a Temporary Demonstrator, Temporarily Research Assistant, Probationary Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Professor, the Head of the Department of Botany in 2018, and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies for 8 years (2011-2017 & 2019-2022) during his career.

Professor Jayatissa has earned his PhD in Ecotoxicology from the University of Stirling, UK; however, his research works were not restricted to ecotoxicology. Prof. Jayatissa could publish about 45 full paper publications, and many of them have been published in high-impact reputed journals. Further, there were more than 100 abstracts published in both national and international forums. Proving his thirst for research, according to an international ranking system for researchers in universities i.e. AD ranking for scientists, Prof. Jayatissa is ranked as the top researcher of the University of Ruhuna in the field of Biological sciences with nearly 3000 citations. Not only that, Prof. Jayatissa was blessed with ten (10) Presidential awards and three NRC merit awards for his reputed journal publications. In addition, he supervised three Ph.D. degrees (foreign) and more than ten (10) M.Phil. Degrees.

Prof. Jayatissa was good at securing foreign grants and a total of about 100 million Rs worth of grants were brought to the country and were very effectively used to train students and academic staff members during the past three decades. Considering his experience and knowledge, he was absorbed by the council of the University College,

# RECRUITMENTS, PROMOTIONS & RETIREMENTS

Matara in 2022. Further, Prof. Jayathissa was lucky enough to be the first Chairman of the National School of Business Management (NSBM), the degree awarding wing of NIBM, Colombo.

More importantly, although he has not specialized in plant taxonomy, Prof. Jayatissa is an expert with outstanding knowledge and experience in conventional plant taxonomy. With his expert knowledge of plant taxonomy, he established a database for the correct identification of medicinal plants in Sri Lanka, in collaboration with Barberyn Ayurveda Resort. This database supports the identification of nearly 1300 medicinal plants and the database is freely accessible to the general public since 2008 (<http://www.instituteofayurveda.org/plants/project.htm>). Now, this database is linked with the Kew Garden Botanical identification service, UK, to incorporate frequent updates of botanical names of plants. Probably this is the 1st such kind of database available in Sri Lanka which provides correct and updated information on Sri Lankan medicinal plants, particularly for researchers. Prof. Jayatissa is recently credited account of widening the understanding of fake/predatory journal publications in the University system of the country.

This brief & incomplete note is just to show the exemplary work done by Prof Jayatissa as a university academic. On behalf of the Department of Botany, we wish him a happy and healthy long life enabling him to continue his good works.



**Senior Professor Dharma Rajapakshe**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

Prof. Dharma Rajapakshe, who served as a Senior Professor in the Department of Sinhala, University of Ruhuna retired on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. She joined the Department of Sinhala as an Assistant Lecturer in 1986. Prof. Rajapakshe completed her postgraduate studies in France and Japan. She got promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade-II in 1992, and she was promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade-I in 1998, and she received her professorship in 2009 and became the post of senior professor in 2017. Prof. Dharma Rajapaksha held administrative positions including the head of the Department of Sinhala, coordinator of the Cultural Centre, and the chief warden, during her service period at the University of Ruhuna.



**Mr. P.D. Sugathapala**  
**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

Mr P. D. Sugathapala, who served as a Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Sinhala retired on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. He joined the Department of Sinhala as a Lecturer (probationary) in 1990. He got promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade-II in 1998 and to the post of Senior Lecturer Grade-I in 2004.

## Academic Supportive Staff



**Mr. Palitha Weerasinghe**  
**Director,**  
**Physical Education Unit**

Mr. Palitha Weerasinghe, Director of the Physical Education Unit (PEU) of the University of Ruhuna retired on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2022 after completing his service to the University of Ruhuna for approximately 30 years. Mr. Weerasinghe is a renowned old boy of Anuradhapura Central College, while he graduated from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura with a Bachelor of Commerce degree specializing in the field of Commerce. He joined the University of Ruhuna as an Instructor in Physical Education in 1993, and he was promoted to the Director of the PEU in 2013.

During his service period at the University of Ruhuna, he tried his best to uplift university sports by engaging in an array of sports including weightlifting, basketball, table tennis & athletics. He introduced the weightlifting game to the University of Ruhuna, while taking responsibility as the master in charge of weightlifting. Further, Mr. Weerasinghe played his role as a weightlifting coach for both national and international players. Mr. Weerasinghe was the Secretary of Sri Lanka University Sports Association (SLUSA) from 2016 to 2019. In 2019, Sri Lanka University Games (SLUG 2019) was held at University of Ruhuna. It was a challenging year to organize the SLUG 2019, as a country we faced plenty of obstacles such as the Easter attack and bad extreme weather. Mr. Weerasinghe together with his energetic team was able to conduct the SLUG-2019 successfully. Mr. Weerasinghe is known for his accurate decisions mostly when it comes to finance. PEU, and all the athletes of University of Ruhuna were the beneficiaries of his timely decisions



## Non-Academic Staff

### Recruitments

C. M. Widyarathna - Library Information Assistant

### Promotions

#### Lab Attendant (Grade II)

Mr. J.G. Sumith Udugama, Faculty of Medicine.  
Mr. P.K. Sirisena, Faculty of Agriculture.  
Mr. M.P. Kodithuwakku, Faculty of Science.  
Mr. H.G. Kapila, Faculty of Science.  
Mr. K.G.P. Indika, Faculty of Science.  
Mr. S.D. Lakmal, faculty of Allied Health Sciences.

#### Lab Attendant (Supra Grade)

Mr. M.L.D.U. Kumara, Faculty of Medicine.  
Mr. B.M. Prasanna Priyalath, Faculty of Science.

#### Management Assistant (Grade I)

Mrs. H.H. Madhusa, General Administration Branch.  
Mrs. W.D.M.M. Paranavithana, Registrar's Office.  
Mrs. A.S. Pallawela, Non-Academic Establishment Branch.  
Mrs. S.T. Rupa, Dean's Office, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.  
Mrs. M.S. Weerakoon, Examination Branch.  
Mrs. K.G. Chamarie, Dean's Office, Faculty of Graduate Studies.

#### Management Assistant (Grade II)

Mrs. T.N. Nallaperuma, Academic Establishment Branch.  
Mr. K.M. Liyanage, Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.  
Mr. K.A.T.N. Wijenayake, Finance – Accounts Branch.  
Mrs. H.M.N. Sampath Kumari, Dean's Office Faculty of Management and Finance.  
Mr. J.H.A. Manjula Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.  
Mrs. W.S.C. Gunathilaka, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine.  
Mr. H.G.K. Dilshan, Student Affairs Branch.  
Mrs. G.P. Imesha Sriya Dilhari, Academic Establishment Branch.  
Mrs. K.P.Y. Dheeraratne, Dean's Office, Faculty of Graduate Studies.  
Mrs. D.D.N. Kumuduni, Dean's Office, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.  
Mrs R. Lakshika, Finance Branch.  
Mr. M.G. Rasantha, Academic Establishment Branch.  
Mr. P.S. Sudusinghe, P.S. Finance Branch.

Mrs A.V.G.S. Hiroshima Priyanthi, Dean's Office, Faculty of Technology.

Mrs. P.M.K.M. Sithara, General Administration Branch.  
Mr. S.K. Gihan Sampath, S.K. Security Office – Wellamadama.

Mr. L.B.G.S. Asanka Sanjeeva, Department of Geography.

Mrs. H.G. Harshani Wathsala, Examination Branch.

Mrs. A.T. Muditha Sahandani, Examination Branch.

Mrs. N. Jayasinghe, Legal & Documentation Branch.

Mr. C.S. Indigahawala, Nuclear Medicine Unit, Faculty of Medicine.

Mrs. A.R.D.N. Ahangama, Distance & Continuing Education Unit.

Mrs. D.W.S. Damayanthi, Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine.

Mrs. H.R. Nayana Kumari, Dean's Office, Faculty of Science.

#### Senior Staff Assistant

Mrs. D.G. Kanthi, Dean's Office Faculty of Engineering.  
Mrs. A.K.S.N. Munasinghe, Medical Education & Staff Development Unit, Faculty of Medicine.

Mrs. P.K. Mudalige, Dean's Office Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology.

Mr. W.A.K.P. Aruna Shantha, Dean's Office Faculty of Management and Finance.

Mrs. W.P. Jayawardhana, Dean's Office Faculty of Agriculture.

Mrs. L.S. Jayalath, Student Affairs Branch.

Mr. B.K.I.D. Wanigaratne, Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Mr. H.P. Prematunga, Dean's Office Faculty of Management.

Mrs. K.A.L.S. Abeygunawardhana, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine.

Mr. P.H.D.S. Priyantha, Finance & Supply Branch, Faculty of Medicine.

Mrs. K.K. Inoka, Dean's Office, Faculty of Medicine.

Mr. W.L. Wickramasinghe, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences.

Mrs. C.S.F. Abeykoon, Dean's Office, Faculty of Engineering.

Mr. G.P.G. Liyanage, Dean's Office, Faculty of Engineering.

Mrs. A.L.A. Amarajeewani, Finance Branch, Faculty of Engineering.

Mrs. J.A.S. Jayasinghe, Finance Branch, Faculty of Engineering.

Mrs. N.W.E.P. Harshani, Dean's Office, Faculty of Engineering.

Mr. W. Kumaratunga, Finance Branch.

Mrs. A.D. Weerasinghe, Finance & Supply Branch, Faculty of Medicine.

# RECRUITMENTS, PROMOTIONS & RETIREMENTS

Mrs. H.M. Weerasinghe, Finance Branch, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences.

Mrs. W.K.P. Chandrakanthi, Internal Audit Branch.

Mr. C.J.W. Liyanage, Legal & Documentation Branch.

Mr. B.A.D. Wanigaratne, Dean's Office Faculty of Science.

Mrs. S. Palliyaguru, Dean's Office, Faculty of Science.

Mr. L.P. Lakmal Udara, Main Library.

Mrs. K.N. Priyanthi, Library, Faculty of Agriculture.

Mrs. V.S.D. Gamage, Library, Faculty of Allied Health Science

Mr. L.A.G.Y. Abeythunga, Dean's Office, Faculty of Medicine

Mrs. P.K.A. Wijayasiri, Dean's Office, Faculty of Medicine

Mrs. H.V. Nishanthi, Dean's Office, Faculty of Medicine

Mrs. M.H.G. Kamani, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine.

## Staff Technical Officer Grade I

Mr. S.T. Hemantha, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing, Faculty of Engineering.

Mr. A.H. Rohitha, Dean's Office, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Mr. J.P. Gunadasa, Department of Electrical & Information, Faculty of Engineering

## Technical Officer (Grade II Seg 'A')

Mr. N.R. Gunawardena, Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing, Faculty of Engineering.

## Three-Wheel Driver (Grade I)

Mr. E.D. Mudith Kumara, E.D. Dean's Office, Faculty of Engineering

## Works Aide (Grade I)

Mr. D.W. Vidura, Dean's Office Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Mr. L.D.N. Nilupul, Dean's Office, Faculty of Medicine

## Works Aide (Grade II)

Mr. K.M.L. Dharmasiri, Maintenance Unit

Mr. M.D. Prasad, Department of Limnology and Water Technology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

## Works Aide (Special)

Mr. T.P. Hewapathirana, Maintenance Unit, Faculty of Agriculture.

Mrs. D.I. Rathnayaka, Dean's Office, Faculty of Science

## Works Supervisor Civil Grade II

Mr. G.P.G.L. Renuka, Maintenance Unit, Faculty of Engineering

## Office Machine Operator (Special Grade)

Mr. K.G. Sumudulal, K.G. General Administration Branch

## Receptionist (Supra Grade)

Mrs. H.T. Thushari Dilrukshi, Dean's Office, Faculty of Engineering

## Cycle Orderly (Higher Grade)

Mr. H.D. Upali, Dean's Office, Faculty of Agriculture.

## Field Supervisor

Mr. R.M.S.V.B. Rathnayaka, Maintenance Unit, Faculty of Agriculture.

Health Service Labourer (Higher Grade)

Mr. P.L. Hettiarachchi, P.L, Maintenance Unit

## Retirements

Mr. A.P.P. Wattage (Technical Officer), Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine.

Mr. N.L. Chandrasiri (Technical Officer), Department of Engineering Technology, Faculty of Technology.

Mr. K.G. Harischandra (Library Attendant), Main Library

Mr. W.D.K. Perera, (Works Aide), Department of Management & Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Management and Finance

Mr. N.H. Sunimal Piyujith (Works Aide), Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture

Mr. D.D. Upali, Department of Electrical & Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering.

Mr. H.G. Gunathilaka (Technical Officer), Department of Medical Education & Staff Development Unit

## 20<sup>th</sup> Academic Sessions and 19<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor's Awards Ceremony

The Academic Sessions and Vice Chancellor's Awards, the distinctive platform organized by the University of Ruhuna to showcase the research outcome of academics, academic support, administrative and non-academic staff, and postgraduate and undergraduate students at the University of Ruhuna and award scholars for their outstanding performance, is an annual forum.

Faculty of Management and Finance hosts the 20<sup>th</sup> Academic Sessions and 19<sup>th</sup> Vice Chancellor's Awards ceremony, which will take place on 02<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, with the theme of "*Intellectual and Entrepreneurial Thrust for a Resilient and Progressive Society*".

For more details, please visit;

<http://mgt.ruh.ac.lk/academics2023/>



## Acknowledgement:

Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University is greatly acknowledged for his continues guidance & encouragements while Mrs. P.M.S.P. Yapa, H.G. Nilanthi Devika, Mrs C. Senevirathne and Mrs. Imasha Dilhani are acknowledged for their support in providing information for the newsletter. Mr. Samitha Thilkarathna of the Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology is acknowledged for designing the cover page.

## Editorial Board

### Editor in Chief

Dr.U.G.A.M. K.S.S. Atapaththu.  
Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

### Faculty of Agriculture

Dr. Dananjali Gamage.

### Faculty of Allied Health Science

Mr. T. U. W Abeygunasekara.

### Faculty of Engineering

Dr. J. M. R. S. Appuhamy.

### Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

Mrs. R. G. A Iroshanie.

### Faculty of Graduate Studies

Snr.Prof. D.A.L Leelamanie.

### Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr. D. P. P. G. Liyanage.

### Faculty of Management and Finance

Dr. A.C Karunaratna.

### Faculty of Medicine

Dr. U.K. Egodage.

### Faculty of Science

Dr. Y.M.A.L.W. Yapa.

### Faculty of Technology

Mrs. Champika S. Jayaweera.

### Library

Mrs. Theja Kuruppuarachchi.

## Published by:

University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka

Email: [biannualnews@admin.ruh.ac.lk](mailto:biannualnews@admin.ruh.ac.lk)