

UoR HIGHLIGHTS

UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA - SRI LANKA



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GENERAL CONVOCATION 2023
UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA



ICME 2023
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS
RECESSION TO RECOVERY: ROLE OF MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS



our honoured guests.

只如此...的客人，并对诸位的杰出贡献

guests presented with tokens of appreciation

感谢的...项目



Ruhuna Invention and Innovation Exhibition
(RIIE) - 2023

PHOTOGRAPHY
Ruhuna Focus



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விஞ்ஞான...பயிற்சிகளை...விருதுகளை

President's Awards for Scientific Research

2023



14th SRI LANKA UNIVERSITY GAMES 2023

SWIMMING

ORGANIZED BY UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYAWARDENAPURA

PHOTOGRAPHED BY

SAVINDU LAKSHAN

SLUG 2023

FEATURE ARTICLE

Nurturing Kidney Health in the Face of Climate Change and Pollution: A Call to Action

Senior Professor P. Mangala C.S. De Silva
Faculty of Graduate Studies

The 30th Convocation of the University of Ruhuna

The 30th convocation of the University of Ruhuna was held on 14th and 15th December 2023 at the Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium of the University of Ruhuna.

All degree awardees across the ten faculties of the University of Ruhuna participated in this ceremony at which 287 postgraduate degrees and 2201 first degrees were conferred by His Most Reverend Vennerable Dr. Akuratiye Nanda Thero, Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena conducted the convocation while the Deans of the faculties announced their degree awardees.

Degrees were conferred at six sessions of the two-day convocation, and each session commenced with the processions of the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Deans of the faculties, Librarian, Registrar, and academic staff members.

At the first session, 465 graduands were conferred with postgraduate degrees, Degree of Bachelor of Computer Science (Special), and the Degree of Bachelor of Computer Science (General), Degree of Bachelor of Science (General), Degree of Bachelor of Science (Special), Degree of Bachelor of Science Honours in Medical Laboratory Science, Degree of Bachelor of Science Honours in Nursing, and Degree of Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy Honours,

The second session was conducted in the afternoon of the same day conferring 456 graduands with postgraduate degrees, and the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (Special). Among them, 93 graduands were offered postgraduate degrees while the remaining 363 were offered the Degree of Bachelor of Arts (Special). The last session of the first day of the 30th convocation was held on the evening of 16th December in which 446 graduands were conferred their degrees. In this third session, 87 grandaunts received their postgraduate degrees while 359 grandaunts were offered their first degree. The Degree of Bachelor of Arts (General), Degree of Bachelor of Arts (Special), Degree of Bachelor of Science Honours in Agribuisness Management, Degree of Bachelor of Science



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Honours in Agricultural Management & Technology, Degree of Bachelor of Science Honours in Green Technology, Degree of Bachelor of Science Honours in Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Degree of Bachelor of Science Honours in Marine and Freshwater Sciences, and Degree of Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology Honours degrees were awarded.



The fourth session of the 30th convocation of the UoR was scheduled on 15th December 2023. In this session, Dr. Bandula Wijay was awarded an honorary degree, the Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa), and subsequently postgraduate degrees and the first degrees were awarded for 476 graduands. Six postgraduate degrees were awarded in this fourth session together with 470 first degrees in the Degree of Bachelor of Science and Engineering Honours, Degree of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, and Bachelor of Engineering Technology Honours. Students who completed their postgraduate and undergraduate studies in the Faculty of Management and Finance attended the fifth session of the 30th convocation of the UoR in which 89 postgraduate students received their degrees. In addition, the Degree of Bachelor of Business Administration, Degree of Bachelor of Business Administration Honours in Accounting, Degree of Bachelor of Business Administration Honours in Entrepreneurship, Degree of

Bachelor of Business Administration Honours in Human Resource Management and Degree of Bachelor of Business Administration Honours in Marketing degrees were awarded. Finally, Bachelor of Arts (External) degrees were awarded for 288 graduands at the sixth session of the 30th convocation.

Based on their academic performances, and their achievements in extracurricular activities including sports, the most outstanding undergraduate students are selected annually for the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal. Vice-Chancellor Gold Medal recipients of the 30th Convocation were Mr. T.D.K.S.C. Gunasekara of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Ms. W.D.N.P. Warnakula of the Faculty of Science, Ms. K.P.A.I. Thilakarathna of the Faculty of Science, Ms. W.A.N. Sewwandi of the Faculty of Human-

ities and Social Sciences, Ms. H.T.M. Perera of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Ms. H.K.M.R.N. Thilakarathna of the Faculty of Agriculture, and Ms. H.W. N. Yasara of the Faculty of Medicine. In addition, subject-specific gold medals were offered to the students who exhibited excellent academic performances during their study period. Altogether, 64 gold medals were bestowed by the Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna in this convocation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihaKf-04wEwY>



Nurturing Kidney Health in the Face of Climate Change and Pollution: A Call to Action

Senior Professor P. Mangala C.S. De Silva
Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

In the dynamic realm of global health, two closely intertwined challenges command our immediate attention: the changing environment and its far-reaching health consequences. As we navigate the intricacies of this complex relationship, we shine a spotlight on a facet often overlooked, namely kidney health. The convergence of climate change, global health challenges, and the well-being of our communities emphasizes the pressing need for comprehensive action.

The unrelenting advance of climate change and environmental contaminants presents an existential threat to our planet, bearing profound consequences for human health. Intensifying extreme weather events, driven by rising temperatures, disrupt ecosystems and strain healthcare infrastructure globally. The heightened prevalence of communicable and noncommunicable diseases, mediated by environmental exposures, adds another layer to the challenges, emphasizing that addressing these issues is not merely an environmental concern, but a critical imperative for safeguarding public health.

The escalation of heatwaves and the frequency of extreme weather events serve as indicators of environmental instability and potent threats to human well-being. As temperatures soar, the risk of heat stress and dehydration amplifies, impacting the delicate balance of renal function. This correlation between climate-induced factors and kidney health constitutes a sobering reality demanding urgent attention.

Global Health Challenges and Kidney Health

Turning our gaze to kidney health, we uncover a web of connections intricately woven into the fabric of environmental health challenges. Climate-related factors such as heat stress and dehydration emerge as silent assailants on renal well-being. Moreover, the insidious influence of pollution, particularly in urban landscapes, exacerbates the vulnerability of communities to kidney-related issues. The disparities in healthcare accessibility and the burden on certain populations underscore the need for a nuanced and equitable approach.

As temperatures continue to rise globally, the

threat to kidney health becomes increasingly palpable. Heat stress not only jeopardizes the body's ability to regulate fluid balance but also contributes to the formation of kidney stones. Dehydration, a common consequence of prolonged exposure to high temperatures, strains the kidneys. Moreover, exposure to nephrotoxic contaminants such as heavy metals, metalloids, and agrochemical constituents intensifies these renal health outcomes. In particular, these contributors remain the culprits behind the chronic kidney disease of uncertain aetiology (CKDu) in many global hotspots.

In urban environments, the nexus between pollution and kidney health becomes pronounced. Air pollution, a consequence of industrialization and urbanization, introduces a cocktail of toxins that can directly impact renal function. Fine particulate matter, a component of air pollution, has been linked to an increased risk of kidney disease. The challenge is exacerbated in marginalized communities, where environmental injustices often intersect with existing health disparities.

Understanding the intricate connections between global health challenges and kidney health necessitates a holistic approach. It requires addressing not only the immediate environmental stressors but also the social determinants that contribute to health inequities. As we contemplate the solutions, the importance of education, awareness, and community engagement cannot be overstated.

Innovations in Healthcare

In recent years, significant strides have been made in research and technology aimed at mitigating the health impacts of climate change and environmental pollution. Innovative approaches have emerged to address the intricate interplay between environmental factors and public health. Advanced air quality monitoring systems and predictive models enable early detection of pollution hotspots, allowing for prompt interventions to safeguard respiratory health. Additionally, breakthroughs in sustainable energy sources

and carbon capture technologies contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, thereby mitigating long-term health consequences of climate change. Furthermore, bioengineering solutions and precision medicine applications offer promising avenues for personalized healthcare strategies tailored to individuals' susceptibility to environmental stressors. Wearable technologies and health apps empower researchers for real-time monitoring of physiological responses to varying environmental scenarios, fostering a sense of better interventions. Collaborative efforts between the scientific community, governments, and industry stakeholders continue to drive progress, fostering a holistic approach to protecting human health in the face of a changing climate and evolving environmental challenges.

Pioneering Solutions: The Visionary Approach of the University of Ruhuna

At the forefront of addressing the intricate interplay between climate change, global health challenges, and kidney health, the University of Ruhuna has embarked on a series of groundbreaking initiatives. Through the launch of multiple research projects, the University has committed to generating knowledge and crafting innovative solutions to these pressing issues. Notably, the University spearheaded the first-ever investigation on environmental thermal comfort and kidney health in children and adolescents in Sri Lanka, utilizing more robust renal biomarkers. To amplify the impact of their research, the University of Ruhuna has forged collaborations with the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University, USA. In addition, the University of Ruhuna has established collaborative research ties with esteemed institutions worldwide, further enriching the depth and breadth of their initiatives. These partnerships include Harvard Medical School and Harvard University in the USA, the School of Biological Sciences at Queens University, Belfast, UK, and the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. These diverse collaborations signify the University of Ruhuna's commitment to a global approach in addressing complex challenges at the intersection of climate change, global health, and kidney health. A testament to this commitment is the ongoing collaborative effort with the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University, USA. This joint endeavour seeks to comprehensively explore the nuanced effects of long-term heat and chemical exposures on kidney health, with a specif-

ic focus on diverse occupational groups and communities residing in regions characterized by varying climatic settings.

The commitment to understanding the broader implications of climate change extends to the study of longitudinal variations in ambient and oceanic temperatures. To bolster this research, the University is in the process of establishing fully automated weather stations across different regions in Sri Lanka. These stations will facilitate the collection of comprehensive meteorological data over an extended period of time. Moreover, our researchers have already implemented the first-ever wearable biosensor-based community studies, aiming at in-depth longitudinal explorations of physiological responses to environmental heat through adaptive machine learning approaches. The acquired data will not only contribute to the understanding of environmental thermal comfort but will also provide insights into physiological heat strain in different community and occupational settings. Through these concerted efforts, the University of Ruhuna is laying the foundation for a profound comprehension of the complex web of interactions between climate change and kidney health. This visionary approach exemplifies the University's commitment to pioneering solutions that transcend academic boundaries, offering hope for a healthier and more resilient future.

Community Engagement and Advocacy

However, the journey towards comprehensive health resilience extends beyond the confines of laboratories and hospitals. Community engagement emerges as a linchpin, acting as a catalyst for change. Raising awareness, imparting education, and promoting healthy lifestyles within communities are essential facets of this endeavour. Advocacy for policies that champion environmental sustainability and prioritize public health becomes the clarion call for a healthier future.

As we navigate the intricate interplay between climate change, environmental challenges, and kidney health, the imperative for collective action becomes resoundingly clear. Universities, as crucibles of knowledge and innovation, must lead the charge in fostering a holistic approach to address these challenges. The trajectory we choose today will shape the health landscape for generations to come. Let this be a call to action, a call for collaboration, and a call for a future where our renal health, and by extension, our global health, stand resilient against the storms of change.

TECHNO 2023- Engineering and Technology Exhibition

*Ruhuna Engineering Faculty
Shines at TECHNO 2023,
the Largest Engineering and
Technology Exhibition in Sri
Lanka.*

"TECHNO Sri Lanka", the National Engineering and Technology Exhibition organized by the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) was held on 20th, 21st, and 22nd October 2023 at Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exhibition Centre, BMICH, Colombo 07 for the 35th year.

The Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna was invited to showcase the students' research and project outcomes in front of both national and international audiences consisting of engineers, engineering academics, entrepreneurs, and industries.

In a remarkable display of innovation and expertise, the engineering faculty of the University of Ruhuna made a significant impact at TECHNO 2023. The faculty's representation at the exhibition was marked by a stunning stall that captivated visitors and experts alike. Under the theme of this year "Engineering for Regaining the Economy," the Ruhuna engineering faculty demonstrated its commitment to contributing to the nation's economic growth. The stall showcased a spectrum of innovations in various sectors, from sustainable energy solutions to cutting-edge electronic projects, smart infrastructure projects, and manufacturing marvels.

Visitors were treated to a visual feast of technological advancements and solutions designed to propel Sri Lanka forward. The faculty's engagement at Techno 2023 not only highlighted its dedication to academic excellence but also showcased its role as a key player in driving innovation for the economic well-being of Sri Lanka. Dr. Krishan Wickramasinghe's encouragement and guidance played a pivotal role in ensuring the faculty's seamless participation, turning the exhibition into a resounding success.



The 12th International Conference on Management and Economics (ICME)

The 12th International Conference on Management and Economics (ICME), organized by the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna, under the theme of "Recession to Recovery: Role of Management and Economics", was successfully conducted on 16th August 2023 at the faculty premises. This year's event was conducted as a hybrid international conference with nearly 100 in-person and over 100 virtual participants in the technical sessions.



Associate Prof. Dr. Donella Caspersz of the University of Western Australia Business School and Dr. P.K.G. Harischandra, Director of Economic Research, Central Bank of Sri Lanka graced the occasion as eminent keynote speakers.

The conference conducted 10 technical sessions under diverse tracks, namely Entrepreneurship, Economics, Agri-Business Management and Public Policy, Operations and Supply Chain Management, Marketing Management and Tourism, Human Resource Management and Organizational Behavior, Accounting and Finance, and Education, and two undergraduate research forums.

In parallel to ICME 2023, the Idea Cloud – a business start-up idea competition was also conducted for the 5th consecutive time among university students to provide a platform for them to pitch their innovative ideas for social and economic development in Sri Lanka. Further, Business Forum 2023 under the theme of "Role of Cooperatives in Fostering Equitable Growth and Empowerment to Advance Economic and Social Development" was successfully conducted as an on-site event at the faculty premises during ICME 2023. The Faculty of Management and Finance takes pride in concluding the conference and connected events successfully, leaving a powerful message of its potential for collective knowledge sharing and international collaboration.

Seminar for the G.C.E. Advanced Level Students

A seminar related to Buddhist Civilization was organized by the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Ruhuna on 7th September 2023 for the students who are sitting for the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination in 2023. Senior Lecturer Mr. Darshana Rajapaksa served as the program coordinator, while school coordination was done by the Department of Education of the Southern Province. Senior Lecturer Dr. Dilshan Manoj, Senior Lecturer Ms. Ranajani Malawi Pathirana, Lecturer Mr. Anuda Kanchana, Assistant Lecturer Welampelle Rathanasara Thero and Assistant Lecturer Ms. M. D. Sachini Hanasika were the facilitators of the event. The contributions of Ven. Makola Mangala Thero, Head of the Department, and Mr. G.H.W. Damith, Assistant Director of Education, Matara were also instrumental to the success of the seminar.



The 9th Ruhuna University International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (RUICHSS 2023)

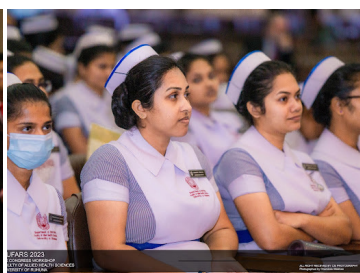
The 9th Ruhuna University International Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences (RUICHSS 2023) was held on 14th September 2023 at the Wellamadama premises of the University of Ruhuna. This year's theme was '*Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Higher Education.*' This conference was organized by the Faculty of HSS in collaboration with the Erasmus+ capacity building project, "Developing Inclusive Education for Students With Disabilities in Sri Lankan Universities (IncEdu)". The Vice-Chancellor, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amaraseena graced this occasion as the Chief Guest while Prof. Lelia Kiš-Glavaš of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb of Croatia. Delegates from the local partner universities, the University of Peradeniya (coordinating university), the University of Ruhuna, the Eastern University of Sri Lanka, and Sri Lanka Technological Campus, and four European Universities, namely, Masaryk University, Czech Republic, Transilvania University of Brasov,



Romania, University of Zagreb, Croatia and Uppsala University, Sweden attended the conference. In the conference, both local and international scholars presented their research findings at the technical sessions under 15 thematic tracks and the full papers were published in the conference proceedings. The Conference Chair, Prof. Upali Pannilage, the Co-Secretaries, Dr. Shyama Ranabahu and Mrs. Indu Gamage, and the Treasurer, Dr. Kokila Ramanayaka in collaboration with all the respective members of the conference team made the above academic venture a remarkable success.

The International Research Symposium (iRuFARS) and Pre-Congress Workshop

The International Research Symposium (iRuFARS) and Pre-Congress Workshop of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences were held on 9th and 10th November 2023. The theme of the symposium was "Health Research Beyond 75 Years of Independence." Senior Professor Sujeewa Amaraseena, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, attended the event as the Chief Guest. Professor Martin Pearson, Kristianstad University, Sweden was the keynote speaker of the symposium. The pre-congress workshop was conducted under the theme of "Enjoying Healthy Ageing," with the participation of around 200 health Professionals. Both national and international participants, including the Neurocore team, attended the event.



“Spirit of Sprouting Researchers of Tomorrow”

8th Ruhuna Arts Students’ Annual Sessions (RASAS) - 2023

The 8th Ruhuna Arts Students’ Annual Sessions (RASAS 2023) was organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna on 15th September 2023.

This year's event was hosted by the Department of Sociology under the theme, “Spirit of Sprouting Researchers of Tomorrow.” The symposium aimed to inspire undergraduates to actively engage in research endeavors to foster a research-oriented culture. The primary objective of the event was to disseminate novel knowledge derived from research conducted by undergraduates in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences across Sri Lankan universities and higher education institutions. There were 53 abstracts under 11 thematic tracks.

The inauguration ceremony took place at the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, University of Ruhuna. Professor Anton Priyarathne, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Open University of Sri Lanka delivered the keynote speech under the theme, “Fostering Social Science Imagination: Nurturing the Minds of Emerging Scholars.” Moreover, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor E.P.S. Chandana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Ven. Dr. Makola Mangala, Dean (Acting), Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Dr. Gayathri Wijesundara, Head of the Department of Sociology honored the occasion with their gracious presence.

The chairperson of the symposium was Mr. Upul Sanjeewa Wijepala, Department of Sociology. Ms. Ishara Wanniarachchi attached to the same department served as the secretary. Ms. Anuradha Gamage, Department of Economics contributed as the Treasurer of RASAS 2023.



International Conference on Buddhist Studies (ICBS) 2023

The 2nd International Conference on Buddhist Studies was held virtually on 20th December 2023 under the theme, "Buddhist Mechanisms of Mental Health." Mental health is an essential aspect of human well-being, influencing our thoughts, emotions, and behavior. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in exploring alternative approaches to mental health, beyond traditional Western models. Buddhism, a philosophy and spiritual tradition originating from ancient India, offers profound insights and mechanisms for promoting mental well-being. By emphasizing mindfulness, compassion, and cultivation of wisdom, Buddhism provides a unique perspective on mental health and offers practical tools for individuals seeking greater psychological balance and harmony.



This academic event explored the Buddhist mechanisms of mental health, highlighting key principles and practices that contribute to overall well-being. The objectives of the conference were to explore the key principles and mechanisms of mental health within the context of Buddhist teachings, to examine the scientific evidence supporting the effectiveness of Buddhist mechanisms in mental health promotion, to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration between Buddhist scholars, psychologists, neuroscientists, and mental health professionals, to explore the integration of Buddhist mechanisms into contemporary mental health practices and interventions, to identify potential challenges and opportunities in the application of Buddhist mechanisms for mental health promotion and to inspire future research and initiatives in the field of Buddhist mechanisms of mental health. By addressing these objectives, the research conference on "Buddhist mechanisms of Mental Hhealth." aimed to contribute to the scholar-

ly discourse and promote the practical application of Buddhist principles and practices for the betterment of mental health and well-being. Dr. Ven. Thich Vien Ly, President of the overseas Vietnamese Unified Buddhist Sangha, Abbot, Dieu Ngu & Dieu Phap Vihā Vihāra, California, USA participated in the conference as the keynote speaker. The conference was successfully held in the presence of prominent Buddhist scholars, Heads of the Departments of Pali and Buddhist Studies in local universities, and the academic staff of the University of Ruhuna.

11th Academic Sessions: Faculty of Medicine, UoR

The 11th Annual Academic Sessions of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna (FMAS 2023), was successfully held on 16th August 2023 at the T.W. Wikramanayake Auditorium of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, Galle, under the theme, "Harnessing Digital Technology in Healthcare Delivery." Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasekera, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.



Professor Rifdy Mohidden, Emeritus Professor of the University of Ruhuna, delivered the keynote speech titled "The Intersection of Technology and Medicine: Opportunities and Challenges in Digital Health." Professor Manjula Hettiarachchi, Senior Professor in Nuclear Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, delivered the invited oration of FMAS 2023 titled "The Digital Health Initiative from Regional to National Level: Development of the National Newborn Screening Information System Database (NSISD)".

Ms. S.D. Kumarasinghe (MD/2017/5068) and Dr. L.V.T. Gunaratna (MD/2015/4895) were awarded the Dean's award for the best 3rd MBBS student, and the best final MBBS student respectively. Thirty academic staff members of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, received Research Publication Awards for their research publications in the year 2022. The Scientific Program consisted of the symposium, emerging research from the Faculty of Medicine, in which oral and poster presentations of the open and undergraduate categories, were successfully conducted. Professor Lanka Dasanayake and Professor Amaranath Karunanayake were the co-chairpersons of the event and Dr. Janithra De Silva served as the secretary.



Abstract Writing Workshop for Undergraduates

The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies of the University of Ruhuna conducted a workshop on "Abstract writing" with the objective of enhancing the academic writing skills of the undergraduates. It was conducted on 8th November 2023 by Senior Lecturer Venerable Aparekka Siri Sudhamma from the Department of Sinhala, University of Ruhuna.



Critical Thinking in the Digital Age

The undergraduates of the Department of Public Policy received the opportunity to participate in a three-day capacity development program on "Critical thinking in the digital age" organized by Hashtag Generation in partnership with the Strengthening Social Cohesion and Peace in Sri Lanka (SCOPE) program. The undergraduates who were trained in the program will be involved in various projects in future to share the knowledge and practical experience they gained with diverse communities. This training was designed to sensitize young citizens to the digital landscape, enabling them to identify, respond to, and report harmful content strategically.



Āloko Udapādi: Dhamma Discussion Program

Under the stewardship of Makola Mangala Thero, the Head of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, a distinctive Dhamma colloquium transpired on 31st July 2023, from 6.00 p.m to 7.00 p.m. The programme delved into the intricacies of the Dhammachakka Sutta and was adeptly moderated by Taldena Ariyawimala Thero, attached to the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies. Assistant Lecturers Welampelle Rathanasara Thero, and Ms. Sachini Hansika contributed wholeheartedly to making the program a success.

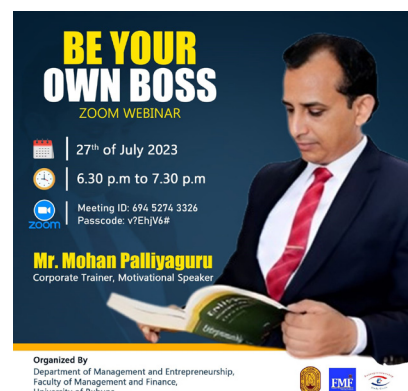
Another special Dhamma discussion on 'Impact of religious views on the occurrence of world crises' was held virtually on 18th October 2023. It was chaired by Professor Beligalle Dhammajothi Thero. Assistant Lecturers Dahamigama Dhammaloka Thero and Mr. Hasitha Senarathne were involved in leading the Dhamma discussion insightfully.

"Āloko Udapādi" – Dhamma discussion program initiated by the Head of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies and organized by its academic staff serves as a unique platform designed to enhance knowledge and formulate innovative ideas in the field of Buddhism. It stands as a testament to the commitment of the Department to fostering intellectual growth within the Buddhist academic community.



Be Your Own Boss : Webinar

The Department of Management and Entrepreneurship hosted a webinar called "Be Your Own Boss" on 27th July 2023 from 6.30 p.m to 7.30 p.m. via zoom platform. The session was targeted at undergraduates attached to the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship. The resource person of the event was Mr. Mohan Palliyaguru, who is a corporate trainer, and a motivational speaker. The expectation of the hosted session was creating the entrepreneurial mindset of the undergraduates to create employment opportunities.



Wings of Brotherhood - Phase 2

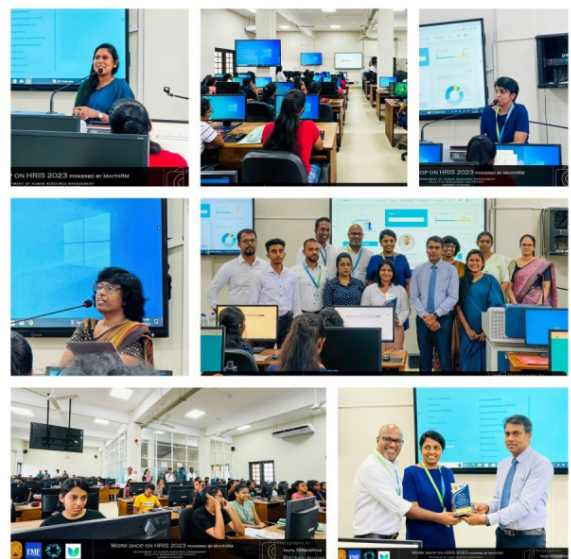
Wings of Brotherhood - Phase 2 was conducted from 29th November to 3rd December 2023 as a student exchange program between the University of Ruhuna and the University of Jaffna. It was organised by the Social Reconciliation Center (SRC), Department of Sociology and Cultural Center of the University of Ruhuna in collaboration with Office for National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR) and Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms.

This program was graced by Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, Senior Professor E.P.S. Chandana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, Mr. Y. Wickramasiri, District Secretary, Matara, Dr. Suranjith Gunasekara, Director, Social Reconciliation Center, University of Ruhuna, Dr. Gayathri Wijesundara, Head, Department of Sociology, University of Ruhuna, Mr. Deepthi Lamahewa, Director General, Office for National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR), Mrs Sanduni Ariyawansa, Mr. Susantha Kumara and Mr. Sandun Lakmal, Deputy Directors, Office for National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR), Ms. Mary Delcia Antony and Ms. Priyanadhi from the University of Jaffna, and Mr. Sudarshana Widanapathirana, National Coordination Officer.



Workshop on Human Resource Information System (HRIS)

The Department of Human Resource Management (HRM) in collaboration with MinTHRM organized a workshop for its undergraduates to familiarize themselves with the Human Resource Information System (HRIS). The session was held on 20th July 2023 at the computer lab in the Faculty of Management and Finance (FMF) as the concluding workshop in a comprehensive series of ten workshops on Human Resource Information System. The workshop was graced by the esteemed presence of Mr. Namal Gunawardena, CEO/Co-Founder, and Mrs. Thanuja Masakorala, Co-Founder of MinTHRM. Participants actively engaged in hands-on experience with HRIS, guided by two resource persons and five instructors from MinTHRM. Prof. Manjula K. Wanniarachchige, Dean of the FMF, Dr. Hemamali Ganewatta, Head of the Department of HRM, and several academic staff attached to the respective department also participated in this event.



Ruhuna International Conference on Innovation and Technology 2023 (RICIT 2023)

The first international conference organized by the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, (RICIT 2023) was successfully conducted on 24th November 2023 at the faculty premises. The theme of this year was "Technological Transformation: Navigating Innovations and Trends." Senior Professor Sujeeva Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna attended this event as the Chief Guest, while the keynote speech was delivered by Prof. Morihiro Maeda of Okayama University's Graduate School of Environmental and Life Science in Japan.



There were four technical sessions, namely, Science and Agriculture, Engineering Technology, Computer Science, and Management and Entrepreneurship. Out of more than 100 submissions of manuscripts, only 57 were accepted for the conference. In parallel to the symposium, the product showcase was hosted at the faculty premises to provide an opportunity for inventors.



Laboratory Session for the G.C.E. Advanced-Level Engineering Technology Students

The Department of Engineering Technology successfully conducted a workshop on A/L Technology stream practical demonstration on 8th August 2023 for 30 students from St. Anthony's (National) College, Baddegama. The workshop aimed to provide practical insights and hands-on experiences in different engineering disciplines. The session covered a diverse range of topics including production technology, workshop machinery, automobile technology, electrical & electronics, and materials technology. During this one-day workshop, students were able to explore laboratories, interact with equipment, and acquire valuable practical knowledge that excelled their prior experiences.



Eng. Hasini Ganegge, Eng. Akesh Deemantha, Eng. Ayomi Pabasara, Ms. D.N. Liyanage, Eng. Harshana Helaruwan and Mr. Chanaka Weeraratne conducted practical sessions with the support of academic-support staff members and non-academic staff members. Students and teachers appreciated the efforts made by the department and the valuable learning experience provided. They further requested the continuation of such workshops in the upcoming year for better practical exposure for A/L students. The Department of Engineering Technology expected to enhance the awareness of the technology stream among the school community and to empower school children to excel in their studies and future careers through this workshop.



'3MIT - 2023' and 'IFN-23' Events: Faculty of Agriculture

In a groundbreaking move, the industrial placement office of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna hosted the inaugural '3M IT - 2023' event on 18th July 2023. This pioneering initiative allowed students to succinctly present their internship experiences in three minutes.



Being more than just a platform to showcase their achievements, this annual event improves effective communication skills of students.

Simultaneously, the faculty organized an industry awareness session for the final-year undergraduates, offering valuable insights into navigating the professional landscape and equipping students with the knowledge essential for a seamless transition from academia to industry.



The culmination of the internship program, the Industry Felicitation Night (IFN'23), marked the conclusion of the industrial training program. During this event, heartfelt appreciation was extended to the industry personnel whose generous support significantly contributed to the program's success via the University-Industry Partnership Platform (UIPP). Serving as a dynamic bridge between students and industry professionals, the UIPP has played a significant role in strengthening collaborations between the University of Ruhuna and the industry.

The Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna is proud to continue fostering excellence through innovative initiatives, setting the stage for future collaborations and ensuring the continued success of its students. '3M IT - 2023' and 'IFN' 23' marked the beginning of a tradition that will undoubtedly contribute to the image of the University of Ruhuna as a hub of excellence and credibility in agricultural education and industry engagement.

Historical and Archaeological Field Exploration in the North Western Region of the Rohana Kingdom

The Department of History and Archaeology conducted a historical and archaeological field exploration in the North Western region of the ancient Rohana Kingdom, located in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka for third-year undergraduates from 20th to 22nd December 2023 as part of the B.A. (Hons) in History degree program. The expedition guided by experienced faculty members aimed to unravel hidden facets of this ancient civilization, contributing to the broader understanding of Sri Lanka's cultural heritage. The initiative not only provided students with practical exposure to archaeological methodologies but also fostered a sense of responsibility for preserving and promoting the historical legacy of Sri Lanka.

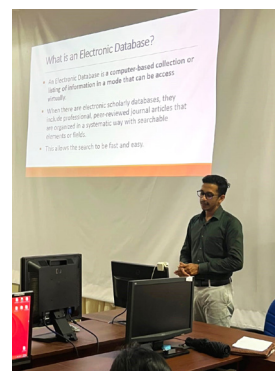


Workshop on e-Databases

With the coordination of the faculty library committee of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST), the Library of the University of Ruhuna conducted a workshop on "How to find resources from e-Databases" for the final-year students of the faculty of FMST on 18th October 2023. This workshop provided a scientific platform for the students on the followings.

- In-depth study of scholarly databases crucial for dissertation construction
- Hands-on experience with techniques for effectively retrieving information from scholarly databases
- Insights into alternative avenues for accessing commercially available publications
- Comprehensive understanding of plagiarism and familiarity with the University of Ruhuna's robust Plagiarism Prevention Policy
- Study of proven techniques for efficient reading and extraction of findings from research articles
- Process involved in constructing the literature review chapter

Dr. K.R. Gamage, the chairperson, Faculty Library committee of FMST moderated the workshop while Senior Assistant Librarian Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna and Assistant Librarian Mr. Thilina Madushanka were the resource persons of the event.



LKI-EU Conference on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement

The conference on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement was organized by the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute in collaboration with the Max Plank Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, and the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Four undergraduates and four academic staff members of the Department of Public Policy participated in this conference on 24th November 2023. They gained invaluable insights on global marine biodiversity and received the opportunity to involve in discussions with the experts.



Workshop on Bamboo Cultivation

The University of Ruhuna and the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS) jointly organized a one-day practical workshop and an awareness programme on Bamboo on 13th October 2023 at the Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture. More than 35 professionals/ students representing the plantation industry and nearby schools, undergraduates, and villagers participated in the event. Senior Professor E.P.S. Chandana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, Professor Deepthi Wathugala, Head of the Department of Crop Science, and Chairmen SLAAS-Ruhuna Chapter graced the inaugural session of this workshop.

Dr. I.R. Palihakkara, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Crop Science served as the resource person for the workshop. The practical session was conducted at the Bamboo Research Field of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna.



Fostering Entrepreneurial Culture Among University Academic Staff and Students

A workshop was organized by the Faculty of Technology for both students and staff on entrepreneurship as part of the workshop series organized by the Technology Transfer Office (TTO). This workshop was held on 15th November 2023, and it was intended to educate faculty members and students on how to secure intellectual property rights. There were 154 students and about 15 staff members of the Faculty of Technology attending the workshop.



Launching the Policy Report on Multi-Dimensional Vulnerabilities

The policy report on 'Understanding Multidimensional Vulnerabilities: Impact on People of Sri Lanka' was launched on 1st September 2023 by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) together with Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). The report comprises the overlapping challenges faced by the population through a set of indicators that capture vulnerabilities beyond traditional income-based measures in line with three dimensions: education, health and disasters, and living standards. The academic staff members and undergraduates of the Departments of Public Policy and Department of Sociology received the opportunity to participate in this launch which marked Sri Lanka's first ever Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), derived using the National Citizen Survey (NCS) 2022-23.



Leadership Development of School Children

The Department of Management and Entrepreneurship organized a leadership development program at H/Kahandamodara Secondary School as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts on 20th December 2023. Dr. E.K. Jayampathi, Senior Lecturer, Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, Faculty of Management and Finance led this initiative as the resource person.



The session received support from several staff members and undergraduate students of the department for the successful execution of this event aimed to instill essential leadership qualities, encourage collaboration, and cultivate a sense of unity among the participants.

Let's Enter the World of Work With Happiness

The Department of Sociology and the Sociological Society of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna in collaboration with the Human Resource Development Division of the Labor Department organized a one-day workshop on "Let's enter the world of work with happiness"

on 22nd November 2023 at the faculty auditorium. The workshop was conducted by Mr. W.P. Nimal Weerasinghe, Labor officer, Labor Department. Dr. M.A.C.G. Wijesundara, Head, Department of Sociology, Dr. A.M.A.S. Gunasekara, Senior Treasurer, Sociological Society and academic staff members of the Department of Sociology graced the occasion. More than 100 students participated in this workshop and gained insights into pursuing their professional context with happiness



Guest Lectures: Department of Public Policy

Two guest lectures were organized by the Department of Public Policy of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna on 31st September 2023 and 6th November 2023. The first lecture was conducted by Dr. Palitha Kohona on "Sri Lanka, China and the Region" and the second guest lecture was delivered by the Education State Minister, Dr. Suren Raghavan on "Education, State, and Citizen". The second lecture was jointly organized by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's office and the Department of Public Policy of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.



Commemorating the 82nd Death Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore



Commemorating the 82nd Death Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Consulate General of India, Hambantota along with Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Colombo unveiled the bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore at the iconic Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium at the University of Ruhuna, Matara on 7th August 2023.



Start Your Company/Startup with Your Innovative Product While Protecting the Patent/IP Rights

A one-day workshop titled "How to start your company/startup with your Innovative product while protecting patent/IP Rights?" was held on 22nd November 2023 at the Faculty of Medicine. Concepts related to technology transfer were introduced to academics, non-academics, and students of the faculty.

Technology Transfer Cell of the Faculty of Medicine organized this event as two sessions, in which the morning session of the workshop was conducted by Prof. M.N. Kaumal, Director of University Business Linkage, University of Colombo, and Dr. L.B.L. Probodha, Director of Technology Transfer Office, University of Ruhuna, for academic staff.

The afternoon session was dedicated to students and non-academics. Dr. K.D. Shanika Karunanayaka, Chairperson of the Technology Transfer Cell, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, and Mr. Kanishka Samararatna from UBL, University of Ruhuna, were the resource persons of the afternoon session.



Coconut Research Trial Establishment

Commencing with the new curriculum in the third year, semester one, the Department of Crop Science established a dedicated field site for coconut-based research in collaboration with the faculty farm. With this new initiative, students were able to obtain hands-on experience in all the activities relevant to coconut planting including land clearing, designing, holing, soil conservation, planting, and establishing special protective approaches against vertebrate pests.



The Department of Crop Science of the Faculty of Agriculture contributed to the planting materials for this project and hybrid plants were received from the Sri Lanka Coconut Research Institute –Lunuwila.

Dr. I.R. Palihakkara (course coordinator- plantation crops) initiated the program as an income generation project for the faculty farm and field research plot for the undergraduate and postgraduate students of the University.

Sarasavi Mithuro - Youth Forum '23



In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, and the National Youth Service Council (NYSC), Sri Lanka, the Career Guidance Unit (CGU) of the University of Ruhuna organized "Sarasavi Mithuro" - Youth Forum'23 on 3rd and 4th of August 2023 at the Faculty of Technology. This is a dynamic platform that brings young individuals from various backgrounds and cultures to engage in discussions, share ideas, and collaborate on issues that affect the global youth community. Further, this forum provides opportunities for young people to voice their opinions, express their concerns, and contribute to shaping the future by improving their skills in networking and developing abilities to face modern world challenges. Senior Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor participated as the Chief Guest at the event while Prof. Subash Jayasinghe, Dean, Faculty of Technology, Mr. Y. Wickramasiri, District Secretary Matara, Prof. Thusitha Gunawardana, Director, CGU, Mr. Pasidu Gunarathne, Chairman/Director General, NYSC, Director General, National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR), heads of the departments, career academic advisors, and career counselors participated in this event. National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR) sponsored this event for 125 University undergraduates and 25 community leaders of the National Youth Service Council.

Soft Skills Development of Non-Academic Staff Members

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna, organized a workshop on "Soft Skills development" for all non-academic staff members of the Faculty. The workshop was held on 22nd of November 2023 at the faculty new board room. Prof. A.C. Karunaratne, Head, Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management and Finance was the resource person who has expertise in delivering public sessions on improving soft skills.

The workshop aimed to enhance the essential soft skills of the participants, equipping them with knowledge not only in their administrative roles but also in their Professional and personal development. The sessions were conducted using practical video-based scenarios to assert the importance of communication skills, teamwork and collaboration, time management and produc-



tivity, and adaptability which are essential attributes in working at the Faculty of Management and Finance. Further, the workshop incorporated hands-on activities, group discussions, and real-life case studies to provide practical experiences that reinforced the learning objectives.

Annual Certificate Award Ceremony of CGU - 2023

The Career Guidance Unit (CGU), University of Ruhuna organized its annual certificate awarding ceremony for undergraduates who completed the certificate programs of Soft Skills Development, Event Management, Photography, Perfect Presenter, and Rover Scouts on 09th October 2023. The event was graced by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Senior Prof. E.P.S Chandana, Prof. Imendra Kotapola, Dean, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Dr. Chithral Abawaththa, Dean Faculty of Engineering, Mr. Shanka Rajapaksha, Chairman/CEO, Apps Technologies (Pvt) Ltd., career academic counsellors, academic staff members, and professionals of the University of Ruhuna and distinguished invitees.

During the event, Prof. Thusitha Gunawardana, Director, CGU accorded a ceremonial welcome, while the Chief Guest, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, addressed the gathering. Mr. Shanka Rajapaksha, Chairman/CEO of Apps Technologies (Pvt) Ltd., delivered his speech focusing on the importance of soft skills in the industry. This year, CGU was able to award more than 925 certificates to undergraduates, and the awardees celebrated the moment with guest speeches and addresses delivered by eminent professionals. The awarding ceremony was concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Mrs. Pubudu Mallawarchch.



Asia Foundation Fellowship Program

The Asia Foundation is conducting a project to improve the economic well-being of vulnerable and marginalized women in the Northern and Southern provinces of Sri Lanka who are both emerging and established Micro and Small Business (MsB) owners, at a household level. This project aims to strengthen the participation of vulnerable and marginalized Sri Lankan women in the micro and small business sector, by enhancing their skills, supporting them to adapt to emerging market conditions, and providing mentoring and networking opportunities that enable an inclusive small business ecosystem. The Asia Foundation works together with the Career Guidance Unit (CGU) of the University of Ruhuna to conduct the program in the Southern Province.



Sixty students representing different faculties were selected for the fellowship program and two training sessions were conducted by the Asia Foundation for those students and it selected women entrepreneurs in the vulnerable and marginalized communities of Hambantota and Galle who need better awareness and support to access finance, business training, and mentorship, as well as increased women-led networking opportunities, to adequately adapt to changing market demands. Moreover, this project aims to attain a viable knowledge transfer mechanism by providing beneficiaries with training programs that are most suited for them to acquire skills and expertise to strengthen their business. Based on the need assessment conducted in both provinces, the training program focused on entrepreneurship training, financial literacy training, and digital marketing training. The fellowship program provided a platform for undergraduates to explore entrepreneurial culture in the region.

Career Development Workshop Series

The Career Guidance Unit (CGU) organized a "Personal Development Workshop Series" in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM) on 25th October, and 01st, 08th and 15th November 2023 for the first-year undergraduates of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Around 360 undergraduates participated in this workshop series. The resource persons shared their personal industrial experiences to improve the personal development of the students.



This program comprised the sessions, "Professional Education Guidance & Professional Grooming" by Mr. Tharaka Dias, Managing Director, Ambrum Marketing, "Nurturing Attitudes, Amplifying Emotional Intelligence" by Ms. Maneesha Koddituwakku, Co-founder & Director of Institute of Career Management, "The Role of Branding and Marketing Research in Today's Business Era" by Mr. Chandana Fonseka, Founder, Senses Research Institute and "Introduction to Digital Marketing & How to Create a Career in Digital Marketing" by Mr. Adheesha Dharmakeerthi, Growth marketer. Mr. Sadeepa Abeynayake, Manager, Southern Operations participated in the workshop series, and the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing, Matara Branch sponsored the event.



Newly Furnished Chemistry Laboratory of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology



The opening ceremony of the newly furnished chemistry laboratory of the Department of Limnology and Water Technology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST) was held on 2nd June 2023, with the presence of the Vice-Chancellor, Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Senior Professor E.P.S. Chandana of the University of Ruhuna. This significant development is assured to enhance the academic landscape, providing a dedicated space for 60 students to conduct practical sessions and research within the faculty. This newly furnished laboratory will undoubtedly contribute to a conducive environment for academic and scientific pursuits, elevating the standards of education and research within the University. The Dean of the Faculty, Prof. K.H.M.A. Deepananda, heads of the departments, academic staff members, non-academic staff members, and students attended this opening ceremony.

Book Donation of Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing

The Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM), the national body of Marketing in Sri Lanka, donated 314 text books covering a number of areas in Marketing to the library of the University of Ruhuna as a CSR project under the guidance of Professor Jayantha N. Dewasiri, Vice President, Education of SLIM and Mr. Sanath Senanayake, CEO/Executive Director of SLIM.

The book donation ceremony took place on 20th November 2023 at the new Senate Room of the University of Ruhuna. Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna and Senior Professor E.P.S. Chandana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor graced the occasion. Mr. Sanath Senanayake, CEO/ Executive Director of Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing, Mr. Sadeepa Abeynayake, Manager, Southern Operation and Mr. Lahiru Rasantha, Assistant Manager, SLIM Matara participated in the event, representing SLIM. The book donation project was guided by Professor Manjula K. Wanniarachchige,



Dean, Faculty of Management and Finance and Professor A.C. Karunaratne, the Head of the Department of Marketing. Mr. Nimal Hettiarachchi, Librarian, academic staff and students at the Department of Marketing also participated in the event.

Handling Financial Matters: Workshop for Senior Treasurers and Junior Treasurers of the student's Unions and Societies

A workshop on "Handling financial matters of student unions and other associations" was held at the auditorium of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology on 22nd November 2023 to make aware of proper methods and techniques for preparing and presenting financial statements accurately and methodically. The resource person of the event was Mr. Deepal A. Guruge, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Accountancy at the Faculty of Management and Finance of the University of Ruhuna. All the senior treasurers, junior treasurers of student societies, and deputy senior student counsellors attended this event.



Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, and Senior Professor E.P.S. Chandana, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, addressed the gathering. At the end of the workshop, a productive discussion took place with the participants, effectively resolving most of the attendees' unique financial matters related to their student associations.

Pirith Chanting and Almsgiving at the Department of Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry organized a profoundly meaningful religious event called "Pirith and Dana Pinkama" on 22nd and 23rd December 2023 at the Department of Chemistry premises offering blessings and merits ("Pin Anumodhana") to the departed souls of late academic and non-academic staff members attached to the department, including the Late Prof. R.H. Wijayanayake who was the founder of the Department of Chemistry and Dr. K.R. Fernando, Dr. R. Gunasekera and Mr. W.S. Ajith. The event commenced on the evening of 22nd December with the sacred "Pirith chanting". After the Pirith chanting, a dinner was arranged for nearly 130 participants.



The event continued its noble endeavors by organizing an alms.-giving ceremony on 23rd December 2023. To further nurture the sense of community and fellowship, a delightful breakfast was served for the participants. This event not only served as a platform for spiritual reflection but also fostered a sense of unity and care among the members of the department. The event was greatly supported by the alumni of the same department who are currently reading for their postgraduate studies in the USA.



Ruhuna University Education and Career Fair-2023

RuEdCa '23 is one of the most prominent programs organized by the Career Circle of the Faculty of Science in collaboration with the Career Guidance Unit (CGU), intending to provide students with the opportunity to interact with state and private sector organizations, to develop the required skills and competencies desired by the 21st century corporate world. The event was held on 21st November 2023.

It was designed to be held in a series of physical events and workshops at the Wellamadama premises and certain events were planned to be held via Zoom. The main objectives of RuEdCa '23 were to provide a forum for undergraduates and employers to interact with each other, establish professional relationships, and discuss potential job or internship opportunities.

Senior Professor Sujeewa Amaraseena, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna participated as the Chief Guest. Senior Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, participated as the guest of honor, while Prof. D.H.N. Munasinghe, Dean, Faculty of Science, Prof. Thusitha Gunawardana, Director of the Career Guidance



Unit, heads of the departments, career academic advisors, and career counselors attended the event. Twenty-one companies and more than 400 students participated in the event. Dr. J.A.P. Bodhika, Career Academic Advisor, and Mrs Pubudu Mallawaarachchi, career advisor to the Faculty of Science coordinated the event together with the Career Circle of the Faculty of Science and the Career Guidance Unit (CGU) of the University.

Workshop on “Value-Added Fish Products”

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (FAQ) of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology organized a one-day workshop on “Value-added fish products” for entrepreneurs in fish processing in the Madampagama Secretariat division, Galle. The objective of the workshop was to make people aware of new processing techniques and quality control of fish products. The resource person of the workshop was Mrs. R.D.N. Wijesinghe, and she shed some light on the application of new techniques to produce value-added fish products under hygienic conditions.

There were 25 participants and they received hands-on experience in value-added fish production during the practical sessions which were conducted by the academic support staff members of the Department of FAQ.



Award Ceremony of the Ruhuna Invention and Innovation Exhibition 2023 (RIIE-2023)

The award ceremony of the Ruhuna Invention & Innovation Exhibition (RIIE) 2023 was held at the Rabin-dranath Tagore Auditorium on 07th December 2023. The Governor of the Southern Province was the Chief Guest of the event while the Vice-Chancellor of the University was the Guest of Honour. Deputy Vice Chancellor, representatives from the state ministry, Southern Province council, Sri Lanka Inventors Commission, and Southern Province Education Department were also present, making it an esteemed event with over a thousand participants. This event was organized by the Southern Technology Incubation Centre (STIC), located in the Department of Physics, University of Ruhuna with generous financial support from the Southern Province Industrial Development Authority and UBL of the University of Ruhuna. Inventors of the Southern Province, categorized under School, University, Institutional, Commercialized, and Open, were recognized with awards and certificates, including Gold, Silver, Bronze, Merit, and Best Emerging accolades, acknowledging their noteworthy contributions in 2023. The pinnacle of achievement was the Award of Excellence, bestowed upon the highest-performing inventors in each category for their outstanding innovations. In the Southern Province of 2023, Ruhuna University inventors clinched the Award of Excellence in the University, Institutional, and Open categories, showcasing the region's excellence in inventive contributions. Deberawewa National School has earned the prestigious recognition as the top inventive school, and concurrently, Hambantota Educational Zone has been honored as the best-performing zone in the realm of inventions for the year 2023.



Unlocking Library Excellence: Exploring Cataloguing, Koha Database, and Institutional Repository

A two-day workshop was conducted for library information assistants on 30th November 2023 and 01st December 2023 at the main library of the University of Ruhuna, and resource persons discussed several important topics. Librarian Mr. Nimal Hettiarachchi focused on working with Koha database: new trends



and practices explored, while Deputy Librarian Mr. Lal Pannila discussed library ethics, accountability, and responsibility. Dr. Theja Kuruppu Arachchi, Senior Assistant Librarian gave valuable insights on quality assurance for enhancing library services. Participants were able to extend their knowledge in advanced cataloguing techniques for an efficient library during the session of Senior Assistant Librarian Ms. Sakunthala Senevirathna.

Program Review: Bachelor of Arts External Degree Program Received Grade "A"

The Quality Assurance Council (QAC) of the University Grant Commission, Sri Lanka conducted a program review for the Bachelor of Arts (External) General Degree program offered by the Distance and Continuing Education Unit (DCEU) of the University of Ruhuna. The external review team consisted of three external reviewers, and the committee was chaired by Prof. H. M. A. Herath,



The team conducted a rigorous evaluation process, and their evaluation consisted of desk evaluation of the self-evaluation report submitted by the DCEU, stakeholder meetings, and site visits, etc. According to the conclusion of the evaluation process, the Distance and Continuing Education Center of Ruhuna offers a high-quality Bachelor of Arts External Degree Program, and consequently, the Bachelor of Arts External Degree Program scored 90 marks, and the program was awarded a grade "A".



Inauguration Ceremony: 3rd Batch of the Diploma in Human Resource Management

The Distance and continuing Education Unit (DCEU) of the University of Ruhuna offers a diploma in Human Resource Management with the collaboration of the Department of Human Resource Management (HRM), Faculty of Management and Finance (FMF), University of Ruhuna. The inaugural ceremony of the 3rd batch of this program was held on 17th July 2023 with the presence of the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dean of the FMF, Director-DCEU, Head of the Department of HRM, and other dignitaries. The prime objective of this program is to prepare candidates with the broad knowledge in theory, practice, and methodology in HRM required enable them to work/ deal effectively and efficiently with people.



Research Collaboration Between the University of Ruhuna and the University of Amsterdam

In a remarkable collaboration, the University of Amsterdam and the Department of Agriculture Economics & Agribusiness hosted a transformative 12-day program spanning the years 2022 and 2023. This initiative united undergraduates from the agribusiness management degree program at the University of Ruhuna with undergraduates from the future planet studies program of the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

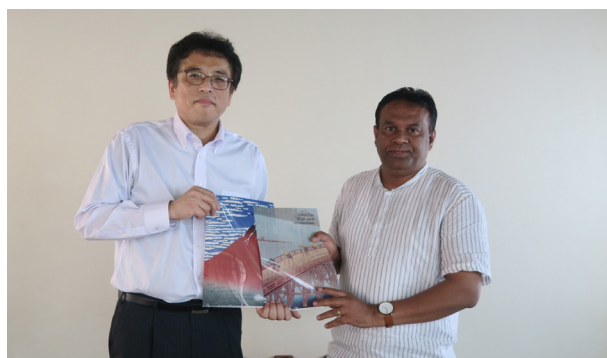
This program was initiated in 2022, and it was held for the second consecutive year in 2023. This initiative encouraged active participation from both sets of students, encompassing activities such as case studies, field trips, and collaborative research endeavors. The interaction between the students of both parties enables them to explore diverse ideas and viewpoints, to strengthen their academic careers.

A significant highlight of this program was the engagement of the University of Amsterdam students who leveraged their interactions with Sri Lankan peers to refine and expand their research concepts. After the culmination of the 12-day program, this collaboration extended as they pursued their research initiatives in Sri Lanka. This extended engagement not only solidified the bonds of collaboration, but also laid the groundwork for enduring partnerships between the two esteemed universities.

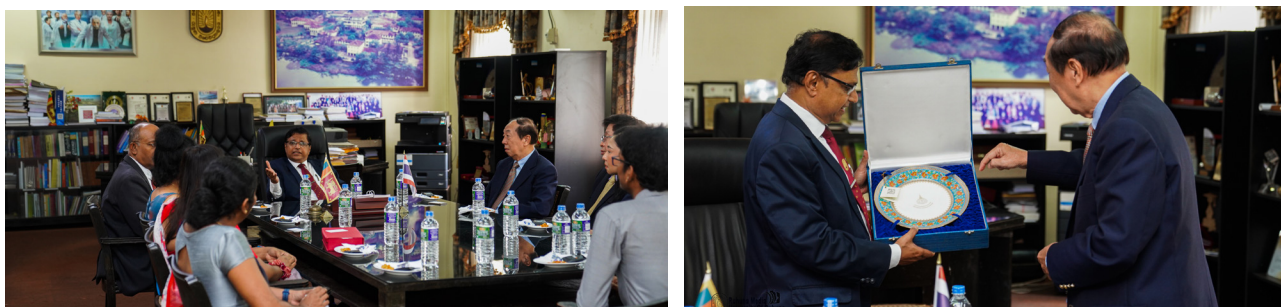


Prof. Takashi Fujino Visited the University of Ruhuna

Saitama University, Japan, and the University of Ruhuna have been jointly working for a long period of time and the existing MoU between these two universities was renewed in June 2023. Under this MoU, the Coordinator of the MoU of Saitama University, Prof. Takeshi Fujino, visited the University of Ruhuna on 03rd and 4th November 2023. Prof. Fujino met the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Senior Prof. E.P.S. Chandana on 03rd November and there was a fruitful discussion with the academic staff members of the Faculty of FMST on 4th November 2023. This discussion enabled to explore the possibilities for student and staff exchanges, research collaborations, and postgraduate opportunities. After the discussion, Prof. Fujino delivered a guest lecture at the FMST auditorium on "Localizing SDGs for a Hopeful Future and Vitality." The Dean of the Faculty, Prof. K.H.M.A. Deepananda, academic staff members of the faculty, and students attended the guest lecture.



Visit of Delegates From the Chulabhorn Graduate Institute, Bangkok, Thailand



Delegates from the Chulabhorn Graduate Institute, Bangkok, Thailand visited the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka on 22nd November 2023, to foster collaborations between the two institutions. A decision was reached during the meeting to formalize this collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Chulabhorn Graduate Institute and the University of Ruhuna. As part of their visit, the Chulabhorn delegates convened with Senior Prof. Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna. During their visit, the delegates of the Chulabhorn Graduate Institute visited the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Pharmacy of the University of Ruhuna.

English Language Fellow (EL Fellow) Program

The English Language Fellow (EL Fellow) program organized by the Department of English Language Teaching (DELT), Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna in collaboration with the United States Embassy in Sri Lanka commenced on 7th October 2023. The program is conducted for 10 months by Ms. Miriam Vasquez who is a highly qualified U.S. educator in the field of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

At present, Ms. Vasquez conducts speaking clubs for 1000 and 3000-level undergraduates of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, facilitates the Encafé program initiated by the department to enhance the productive skills of 2000-level undergrad-



uates and conducts lectures for undergraduates of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies in addition to conducting lectures for the course units offered by the Department of English Language Teaching. A preponderance of undergraduates are enthusiastically participating in her classes and the clubs to gain exposure to the target language in a fun-learning, non-defensive, and innovative atmosphere. The EL Fellow program has enabled the undergraduates to sharpen their understanding of cultural diversity and build long-lasting relationships with the Fellow whilst honing their English language skills.

BRITAE Secondment Program, Training Workshop and Inauguration of BRITAE Msc



The BRITAE Project Secondment from 4th to 15th September 2023

The secondment meeting was conducted as part of the capacity-building activity of the BRITAE project. The activities were designed to help Sri Lankan university partners implement and deliver the newly approved Masters degree program in Building Resilience in Tropical Agroecosystems, and increase their capacity to continually modernise, enhance the quality and relevance of education of students to the global market needs. A program of events was organised by the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) based in Preston, in the UK, including guest lectures, refinement of BRITAE Msc resource book, training and capacity building on student support and engagement, academic misconduct and a research day in which academics from Sri Lanka and the UK presented 15 abstracts.

Training Workshop on Development of Intelligent Computer Learning Systems.

The partners of the Work Package 3, University of Ruhuna (UoR) and Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU) conducted a training workshop on "Development of intelligent computer learning systems" along with the testing and finetuning of the SAR center, BRITAE LMS to deliver the post-graduate program via SAR center to local and foreign students on 03rd to 05th October 2023. The workshop was conducted in hybrid mode, where UoR and VGTU BRITAE Project team members participate physically in the SAR Center and members from other BRITAE partner universities joined the workshop online. Further, the workshop was opened to a controlled number of academic staff from all seven departments of the Faculty of Agriculture and members from RUCIT due to accommodation limitations in the SAR center.



Inauguration of BRITAE Msc Program

The main objective of the BRITAE Project, the BRITAE Msc Program, was achieved with the Inauguration of the BRITAE Msc Degree Program on 10th November 2023, along with the enrolment of the students for the program at gapHQ, Colombo 07. The event was conducted in hybrid mode, with the participation of BRITAE Project Sri Lankan partners, selected students and stakeholders who engage in the development of the degree program physically while the UK and EU partners of the BRITAE partners joined online.

Visit of Dr. Uta Ulrich From the University of Kiel, Germany

Dr. Uta Ulrich, scientist from the University of Kiel, Germany visited the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology from 13th to 17th March 2023 with the invitation of Dr. Asanka Jayasinghe and Dr. Lishani Wijewardene of the Department of Limnology and Water Technology. The objective of her visit was to initiate research collaborations with the Department of Limnology and Water Technology, and she supervised field experiments done by the postgraduate students of Dr. Asanka Jayasinghe. During the visit, she shared her expertise and research experience in a guest lecture on "Environmental fate of pesticides – transport, transformation and ecotoxicological effects" on 13th March at 3:00 p.m. at the faculty auditorium.



Delegates From the Hokkaido Bunkyo University (HBU), Japan Visited the University of Ruhuna

The President of Hokkaido Bunkyo University (HBU), Japan, Senior Prof. Toshihiro Watanabe, and the Dean of the Faculty of International Studies at Hokkaido Bunkyo University, Prof. Harumi Ao, accompanied by the Consul General of Sri Lanka in Japan, visited the University of Ruhuna on 27th September 2023,

as part of their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) program signed with the University of Ruhuna. The Japanese team engaged in a productive discussion with the Vice-Chancellor regarding potential collaboration programs with UoR. The president of the HBU, Japan, expressed their interest in launching a new Global Relationship study program in the near future with the University of Ruhuna.

The Vice-Chancellor requested their support for UoR to initiate a new educational program focusing on Asian Studies, which includes culture, language, and the tourism sector, to which the Japanese counterparts agreed in principle. Additionally, they pledged to assist UoR in developing the baseball skills of our students in the fu-



ture. Prof. Tushara Chaminda coordinated this meeting as the program coordinator of this MoU. The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Chitral Ambawatte, Director of CINTA, Prof. P.B.Terney Pradeep Kumara, and Deputy Registrar, CINTA, Mrs. Nilanthi Devika, also participated in the discussion with the delegates from HBU, Japan.

FOUNTAIN Kick-Off Meeting



The steering committee of FOUNTAIN, composed of representatives from 10 European and Asian universities, officially inaugurated the project during a two-day meeting at gapHQ in Colombo 07, Sri Lanka, on 19th and 20th July 2023. The event featured key milestones, including an introduction to the project's central theme, the launch of the FOUNTAIN website, and detailed discussions covering the project's description, goals, aims, objectives, scope, organizational structure, stakeholders, and target groups. Roles and responsibilities were defined, and an overall work plan was formulated. Dr. Ravi Liyanage, Co-founder and current Chairman/CEO, Raigam Group delivered the keynote lecture, adding significant insights. Additionally, an introductory session for all seven work packages facilitated a comprehensive understanding of their specific goals. The event marked a collaborative and informed beginning for FOUNTAIN, emphasizing strategic planning and fostering meaningful engagement among the diverse groups of stakeholders.

Guest Lecture on "Connectivity of Coral Reef and Mangrove Fauna in the Indo-Pacific "

Prof. Marc Kochzius, Professor in Marine Biology at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in Brussels, Belgium, led a scientific expedition to Sri Lanka from 10th to 30th July 2023, accompanied by his esteemed scientific diving team, including Dr. Filip Huyghe and Mr. Stephen Bergacker. Prof. Kochzius, recognized as an expert in coral reef fauna within the Belgian CITES scientific committee and a member of the SCOR-Be committee at the scientific committee on oceanic research, conducted this visit to fulfill field sampling obligations for the project "Threatened Coral Reef Megafauna: Conservation of Giant Clams," where he serves as the administrative promoter. This initiative was coordinated by Ms. Kushlani Dissanayake of the Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST). As part of efforts to foster collaborative research between VUB and the University of Ruhuna, a joint discussion took place with the academic staff of the Faculty of FMST at the board room of the faculty on 28th July 2023. Subsequently, Prof. Kochzius delivered a lecture detailing his field experience on "Connectivity of coral reef and mangrove fauna in the Indo-Pacific" at the FMST auditorium. This guest lecture was jointly organized by Professor Sunanda Kodikara from the Department of Botany and Ms. Kushlani Dissanayake from the Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology.



Seventeen Years of Partnership Between Duke Global Health Institute and the Faculty of Medicine, UoR



Duke-Ruhuna Collaborative Research Centre was established in 2006 with an effort to facilitate bi-directional collaboration on health-related research and student/clinician exchange programs in partnership with the Hubert-Yeargan Center (HYC), the Duke Global Health Institute (DGHI), Duke University, North Carolina, USA and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka.

To strengthen the 17th year of partnership between the two institutes, the Director of DGHI, Prof. Christopher Beyrer, Deputy Director Prof. Wendy O'Meara, and Executive Director of Hubert-Yeargan Center for Global Health Prof. Chris Woods visited the Faculty of Medicine, Karapitiya on 1st and 2nd November 2023. A special event was organized to welcome the directors at the faculty premises with the participation of the Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Prof. Thilak Weeraratne, and the current heads of the collaboration Prof. C.K. Bodinayake and Prof. G.L. Tillekeratne along with academic staff members of the Fac-

ulty of Medicine. Several important discussions on current progress, ongoing research activities, and future plans were made under the leadership of Prof. C.K. Bodinayake, Prof. Ajith Nagahawatte, Prof. Chris Woods, Prof. Gayani Tillekeratne, Prof. Vijitha de Silva and Prof. Bilesha Perera.

The DGHI directors made remarks on the excellent partnership and the progress of the research and student exchange program. An enthusiastic discussion of the novel research ideas was shared among the academic staff members who showed interest in working with the collaboration. Over the past 17 years, more than 50 academics partnered nationally and internationally with the Duke-Ruhuna collaboration excelling in high quality research work contributing to the national data of Sri Lanka on infectious disease, mental health, and community health generating high quality



scientific data for the global policymakers. The research has won many prestigious awards, including the most recent presidential award for research in November 2023. This long term partnership has been indeed a great asset to the University of Ruhuna.

Keynote Speech at the International Conference on Agriculture in Hilly and Mountain Landscape



Prof. Ganganee Chandima Samaraweera of the Department of Agriculture Economics and Agribusiness was invited to deliver a keynote speech on "Farming in hilly and mountains ecosystems evidence from Sri Lanka" at the International Conference on "Agriculture in Hilly and Mountain Landscape: An Interdisciplinary Perspective" held at the College of Postgraduate Studies in Agricultural Sciences, Central Agricultural University, Umiam, Meghalaya, India.

The event was held from 22nd to 24th November 2023 with the presence of eminent scholars including 14 keynote speakers from mountain-dominated countries, i.e., India, Nepal, Bhutan, Philippines, and Bangladesh. At the end of the invited keynote, Professor Ganganee Chandima Samaraweera was invited to conduct an interactive session with postgraduate students of agricultural sciences at Central Agricultural University, India.

Medical Equipment Donation by the Guangzhou Grand Buddha Temple, China



To help Sri Lanka improve the level of healthcare services, and to strengthen the traditional friendship and people-to-people exchanges between China and Sri Lanka, the Guangzhou Grand Buddha (Dafo) Temple, China and its followers donated medical equipment worth more than SLR 100 millions to Sri Lanka.

The official donation ceremony was held on 2nd September 2023 at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna. A prominent delegation of 61 philanthropists, including priests and high-ranking officials from the Guangzhou Grand Buddha Temple, participated in the event. The initiative was set into motion by Dr. Sarath Kularathna from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Faculty of Medicine, in collaboration with the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Guangzhou. This generous donation would be used to equip the professorial ward complex at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna which is near completion.

Today Youngsters-Future Leaders: Leadership Skills Development Training Program

The Career Guidance Unit, University of Ruhuna conducted a two days Leadership Skill Development Training Program for 70 undergraduates of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology on 13th and 14th October 2023 respectively. This program was aimed at developing leadership qualities, teamwork, and positive thinking through theoretical and practical training. By conducting a leadership program for university undergraduates, the CGU aims at making undergraduate leaders become real-world change makers by driving awareness, action, and change, supporting them in their academic and personal goals. Mrs. Anushika Iroshinie and Mr. Nilanka Srinath coordinated the event.



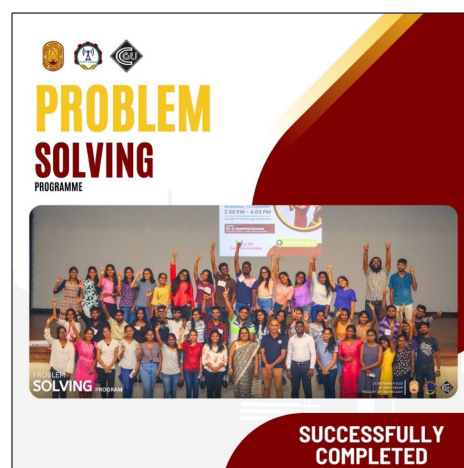
Sports Awarding Ceremony at the Faculty of FMST

An awarding ceremony was organized by the Sports Club of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST) to appreciate students of the faculty who participated in/ won events at the Sri Lanka University Games (SLUG) 2023 on 25th October 2023 at the FMST auditorium. Apart from the awarding, there were dances, and karate, and taekwondo display events. Such an event was organized for the first time in the faculty and university history.



Nurturing Minds: Dynamic Problem-Solving Workshop

In a pursuit to cultivate intellectual prowess, the Career Circle of the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, proudly hosted the Problem-Solving Workshop on 13th September 2023. The esteemed auditorium of the faculty resonated with the energy of 100 engaged undergraduates, all eager to delve into the intricacies of critical thinking and analytical skills. Facilitated by the seasoned Mr. G. Susantha Kumara, programming officer from the Quality Management Unit at Base Hospital, Kamburupitiya, this workshop emerged as a cornerstone in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application in problem solving.



Annual Business Launch - 2023

The students of the BSc in Agribusiness Management degree program conducted their Annual Business Launch on 18th August 2023 at the Department of Agriculture Economics and Agribusiness in collaboration with the public and private sector.

Five student groups showcased their entrepreneurial spirit and creativity by introducing novel business concepts. The array of captivating business offerings showcased the students' proper understanding of market dynamics. Noteworthy examples included Pumpkin Pancake and Pumpkin Fries, which provided substitutes to the wheat flour. Additionally, Coconut Biscuits and Coconut Mojito tapped into the tropical charm of this cherished ingredient. The lineup continued to impress with Anoda Ice Cream and Nelli Mojito, adding a refreshing twist while Aloe Vera Gel and Banana Cupcakes highlighted the wonders of natural agribusiness.

The collaborative spirit between academia, industry partners, and resource persons in-



fused the event with an air of innovation. As the 42nd batch embarked on their journey of business launch, they did so not just as individuals, but also as leaders of excellence in agribusiness. Their ventures, conceived through a blend of knowledge, creativity, and determination, offered a look into a future where they continue their business throughout the semester.

Musical Event: Sunil Santha Gee Miyasiya at the Faculty of Medicine

We are delighted to announce the success of the recent event, "Sunil Santha Gee Miyasiya," organized by the Galle Medical Association (GMA) in collaboration with the Medical Faculty Student Union. The event took place on 16th November 2023 at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna.



The distinguished Senior Professor Thilak Weeraratne, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The collaboration brought together the talents of Visharadh Praneeth Saranga and the Radioceylon orchestra to pay tribute to the legendary Gurudev Sunil Santha. GMA executive committee members who also worked in academia, Prof. Aruna De Silva, President of GMA, Dr. Achala Liyanage, Prof. Channa Yahathugoda, Prof. Eisha Waidyarathne, Prof. Gayani Liyanage, and Dr. Dhammika Palangasinghe joined the performance of the commemorative event. The evening highlighted performances by students representing all six current batches, showcasing the vibrant talent of medical students.



Rover Scout Training

Rover Scouts are the Young Adult Learners of the Scout Movement who typically fall into the age class of 18 and 26. The Rover Scout program is designed to provide older youth with opportunities for personal development, leadership, and service while emphasizing the values and principles of scouting. Rover Scouts bridge the youth and adult phases of scouting, preparing young adults for leadership roles in both scouting and their broader communities. The university of Ruhuna became the first university among the state universities in Sri Lanka that established the first Rover Scout Crew.



The Career Guidance Unit of the University of Ruhuna organized a Personal Leadership & Transferable Skills Development Outbound Training Program for the Rover Scout Crew in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Scout Association and the Sri Lanka Army from 03rd to 06th October 2023.

Senior Professor Sujeewa Amarasena, Vice-Chancellor, Senior Professor E.P.S. Chandana Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Thusitha Gunawardana, Director, Career Guidance Unit, Assistant Commissioner Mr. Srilath De Silva, Assistant Chief Commissioner of Sri Lanka Scouts attended as the guests



of the inauguration ceremony, while Mr. Indika Prasanna, Former Commissioner of Matara District Scout Association, and Mr. Nilantha Kalansooriya, Career Counsellor of the CGU coordinated the training program.



This program aimed to foster a sense of responsibility, service, and lifelong commitment to the principles of scouting. Rover Scouts engaged in various community service projects and leadership roles within their crew. Further, it was aimed to encourage them to use their skills and experiences to make a positive impact on their communities. Seventy Rover Scout members of the University of Ruhuna participated in the training program, and they were able to acquire the basic requirements to get the membership badge in Rover Scouts upon the completion of the training.



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Open to undergraduates of the University of Ruhuna

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Deadline:
30th May 2024**

**Winning pictures will be
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**Please contact the faculty coordinator of
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Budhdhabhiwandana 2023

For the first time in the history of Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science & Technology, the 'Buddhabhiwandana' Vesak program was successfully held on 8th May 2023, to mark the Vesak festival. Devotional song programs, Belimal Dhansala, and a profusion of Vesak lanterns and decorations adorned the faculty premises. The program achieved success through the collaboration of students from all academic years—first, second, third, and fourth—and the support of both academic and non-academic staff. Centered around the Vesak theme, this program aimed to foster unity, support, and harmony in the FMST community. It is the collective hope of everyone within the faculty that such programs will continue in the coming years, maintaining this level of participation and success.



Empowering Futures: LinkedIn Workshops at the Faculty of Technology

The Career Circle at the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, hosted comprehensive LinkedIn Workshops on 23rd August and 24th October 2023 for the undergraduates of the faculty. The bustling auditorium at the faculty provided the backdrop for an enlightening session attended by a large number of participants. Facilitated by the dynamic duo, Mr. Dineth Siriwardana, a second-year undergraduate and Co-Editor of the Career Circle, and Mr. Asela Priyadarshana, a first-year undergraduate and Microsoft Learn Student Ambassador, the workshop promised to be a transformative experience for the freshers.



The facilitators ensured a holistic approach to imparting LinkedIn skills. The workshop aimed not only to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of LinkedIn but also to offer practical insights on optimizing their profiles. The interactive session facilitated valuable interactions between students and experienced professionals who have successfully leveraged LinkedIn for their career growth. The event, with its clear objectives, showcased the faculty's commitment to equipping students with the skills crucial for success in today's competitive job market.

Study Circles

The Department of Public Policy initiated four 'Study Circles', viz. Cinescholars, Littalk, Lensonpolitics and Realpolitik on 01st November 2023 with the objective of enhancing critical thinking of undergraduates. A study circle takes place every Wednesday from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. under the guidance of the Head of the Department and the assistant lecturers.



LIMSO at the National Science Day Exhibition 2023

LIMSO, the Society for the Limnology and Water Technology of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, represented the University of Ruhuna at the National Science Day Exhibition 2023 which was held from 8th to 10th November at the National Museum premises, Colombo. It was organized by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with government departments, institutes, universities, and schools.

LIMSO members shared their knowledge on traditional cascade systems in reservoirs, water treatment technologies, and potential freshwater algal products (e.g., fertilizers, fish feed, cosmetics, and paper products) during this exhibition. Students have received an acknowledgment certificate for their contribution to the success of this national event.



Leadership Development Seminar (ODYSSEY 3.0) Organized by the AIESEC in the University of Ruhuna



Ruhuna AIESEC hosted a two-day Leadership Development program (ODYSSEY 3.0) on 28th and 29th October 2023 to improve the leadership skills of its members. The project aimed to provide a high-quality developmental experience, aligning with AIESEC's overarching goal of nurturing resilient, solution-oriented, and innovative young leaders.

The objectives of the event were strategically crafted to foster a diverse and united community. By bringing together individuals with varied backgrounds, the project aimed to improve leadership qualities collectively. This event addressed the critical need to enhance decision-making and team spirit among future leaders. Through engaging activities and targeted sessions, participants were equipped with valuable soft skills essential for adapting to the new normal challenges, promoting resilience within the membership.

Capturing Moments: Mobile Photography and Videography Workshop



In a visionary collaboration with U-report Sri Lanka, the Career Circle of the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, organized the Mobile Photography and Videography Workshop on 8th November 2023. This event was facilitated by the talented Mr. W.M.Yohan Fernando, a distinguished undergraduate of the University of Peradeniya, while the workshop proved to be an immersive journey into the world of mobile photography and videography.

This workshop aimed to equip students with practical skills in mobile photography and videography, utilizing easily accessible tools and resources. The students enthusiastically embraced the opportunity, with many gaining valuable insights that will undoubtedly enhance their creative endeavors.

The Mobile Photography and Videography Workshop was not just a tutorial; it was a canvas for our students to paint their narratives and capture the essence of their world.

Luminary – MKT 2023

The staff members of the Department of Marketing in collaboration with the instructors of the Physical Education Unit of the University of Ruhuna, conducted an orientation program for 2000-Level and 3000-Level students who were selected for the specialization in the field of Marketing. The event was held at the gymnasium and the program consisted of physical fitness activities and team-building activities aimed at developing their soft skills such as communication, leadership, and teamwork crucial for their overall development. Physical fitness activities contribute to strengthening their physical well-being and help instill a sense of discipline and teamwork. Meanwhile, team-building activities provided practical experience that reinforced these soft skills in a practical context.



Outward-Bound Training Program for Students of Rohana Maha Vidyalaya, Matara



In response to the request of the principal, an Outward-Bound Training (OBT) program was conducted for the students of Rohana Maha Vidyalaya, Matara on 22nd November 2023 at the school playground. This training was organized as a CSR project by the students who follow the Certificate Course of Soft Skills Development (CCSSD) at the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Ruhuna. The main objective of the training program was to introduce vital roles of leadership and teamwork, group dynamics, emotional intelligence, behavioral patterns, conflict resolution, communication skills, and time management. Further, it was planned to build respect, confidence and spiritual development in school children. Seventy-five prefects and seven teachers participated in the event. The staff of the CGU together with the CCSSD students conducted this OBT program. This project was completed successfully, and it was highly acknowledged by the principal and the staff members of the Rohana College. Career Counsellor Mr. Nilanka Srinath coordinated the program with the CCSSD students.

LUMOS 2023



The 'LUMOS 2023', the annual concert of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology was held on 7th June 2023 at the faculty auditorium. The Dean, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences and Technology, Prof. K.H.M.A. Deepananda was invited as the Chief Guest for the event. This event was an amalgamation of musical performances, dramas, and dance events presented by members of the 14th batch of the Faculty of FMST, and it was an evening adorned with melodies reflecting the diverse passions and aspirations of the student body. From classical renditions to modern interpretations, the auditorium was transformed into a melting pot of musical prowess and innovative expression, encapsulating the essence of artistic exploration.



First Aid Training for Undergraduates

A first aid workshop was conducted for students of the Faculty of Science by the Sri Lanka Saukyadana Movement in collaboration with the Career Guidance Unit (CGU) of the University of Ruhuna (UOR) on 14th October 2023 at the CGU auditorium. About 45 students from the Faculty of Science participated in this practical workshop.



Dr. Chinthaka Nadun Ratnaweera, Senior Lecturer of the University of Ruhuna and Board Member of the Sri Lanka Saukyadana movement organized the workshop and Mr. Newton Peris and Mr. Dinesh were the resource persons. During the workshop, resource persons introduced and demonstrated the basic first-aid techniques for cardiac arrest (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, CPR), bleeding, burns, choking, fractures (broken bones), snake bites, etc.



This session was very interactive and students were actively engaged in discussions. Practical training was given after the lunch break. Students were very enthusiastic about forming a first-aid unit for the University and they thanked the organizers for conducting such a valuable workshop.

Nurturing Leaders: Responsible Leadership Program

The Career Circle at the Faculty of Technology, University of Ruhuna, conducted the Responsible Leadership Program on 27th October 2023 at the Faculty of Technology premises for the newly enrolled 7th batch. At the helm of this transformative program was Mr. Aruna Sampath, the esteemed president of the Career Circle, whose leadership prowess set the stage for an impactful exploration of responsible leadership.

The workshop delved into the core principles of responsible leadership, emphasizing ethical decision-making, effective communication, teamwork, and the ability to navigate complex challenges with accountability at the forefront.



Theertha 2023: Faculty of Science

The Student Union of the Faculty of Science organized a mesmerizing talent show on 20th September 2023, namely "Theertha," where over 800 students showcased their diverse talents through a plethora of performances. The event, held at the gymnasium of the University, brought together the students and the staff of the Faculty of Science for a night filled with creativity, enthusiasm, and entertainment.

With a large number of captivating items on display, it featured a wide range of performances, including soulful songs, creative dramas, cap-



tivating traditional dances, and many more engaging activities. From classical melodies to contemporary beats, the event offered something for every taste and preference, reflecting the rich diversity and talent within the community of the faculty. This event served as an attestation to the vibrant and dynamic community within the faculty, inspiring and uplifting all those who were fortunate enough to be part of this unforgettable event.

'Yamayaka Arumesiya': Faculty of Engineering

The Art Society together with the Engineering Faculty Students' Union of the University of Ruhuna organized "Yamayaka Arumesiya" 2023. The event was held on 18th October 2023 at the faculty auditorium. The students of the 23rd and 24th batches showcased different and unique singing, dancing, instrumental, and drama skills through many items. that enraptured the audience. Many academic and non-academic staff attended the event, and Dr. Nanditha Hettiarachchi, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, delivered a speech. Many students attended this event to enjoy this evening of relaxation and enjoyment.



Miyasi Thotupola: Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

As an annual entertainment event hosted by the Student Union of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, the 'Miyasi Thotupala' was held on 2nd Sep 2023 at the faculty premises with the presence of Vice-Chancellor Senior Professor Sujewa Amarasekera as the Chief Guest.

This event combined singing, dancing, and drama from all batches of the faculty, narrating the story of Loveena and Thomas Metland. The event featured a live band, 'Uncommon,' comprising students from all three batches of the Faculty of FMST, the first in the history of such events. Notably, apart from the students, even the Vice-Chancellor and the academic and non-academic staff of the faculty participated and performed in the event. Ultimately, this event symbolized the collective love, care, and support of all batches within the Faculty of FMST.



A Dhamma Sermon at the Faculty of Science



The Buddhist Society of the Faculty of Science organized a "Maha Pattana Pooja" ceremony and it was preached by Ven. Middeniye Midigama Nandasara Panditha Thero.

This event was held in the presence of Ven. Dr. Makola Mangala Thero, Head, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Ven Prof. Belligalle Dhammajothi Thero, Ven Thaladena Ariyavimala Thero, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Ruhuna, Prof. E.P.S. Chandana, Dean of the Faculty of Science Prof. Hemali Munasinghe, academic staff members, non-academic staff members, students of the Faculty of Science and certain members of the "Sasanaka Sansadaya" Buddhist Organization, Galle.



World Mental Health Day-2023

World Mental Health Day is celebrated on 10th October annually, and the theme of World Mental Health Day 2023 is "Mental Health is a Universal Human Right." The Department of Psychiatry together with students of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna organized a public awareness campaign to make aware of mental illnesses among the public. Students of the 40th batch compiled leaflets to promote public awareness of mental illnesses and treatment services. They distributed the leaflet among the public in the Teaching Hospital premises at Karapitiya. The street drama "මනෝ යකා ඔබ අමතයි" was staged by students of the 45th batch at the hospital premises on the same day. The commitment and dedication of the medical students to make this day a success was appreciated by the staff and the public.



Winter Whispers 2023

The annual Christmas carol service, organized by the Art Circle of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, titled 'Winter Whispers,' took place on 20th December 2023. The event unfolded at the entrance of the Prof. T. W. Wickramanayake auditorium.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of the Dean of the faculty, Prof. Thilak Weeraratna, alongside several academic staff members, and the evening exuded grandeur. The melodious voices of the medical students filled the air with enchanting music, creating a delightful atmosphere.



The meticulous decorations, resonating with the creative spirit of the festive season, added to the overall ambiance. Despite the event being organized in a short timeframe, it served as a remarkable platform for students to showcase talents beyond their academic pursuits.

Dhamma Sermon in Remembrance of Mr. Roy Fernando

The Department of Human Resource Management (HRM) together with the Circle of Human Resources Development (HRD) organized a Dhamma sermon on 21st November 2023, marking the one-year anniversary of the unexpected passing of our lecturer, Mr. A.P. Roy Fernando. The ceremony, held at the faculty premises, served as a sincere tribute to honor the memory of the late lecturer and express gratitude for his remarkable 25 years of dedicated service to the University of Ruhuna. The program featured a meaningful Dhamma sermon, providing a reflective space for both academic and non-academic staff, as well as students.



The students of the circle, in particular, demonstrated exceptional organizational skills by adorning the faculty premises to harmonize with the solemnity of the religious ceremony. This event was a heartfelt tribute to honor Mr. A.P. Roy Fernando's memory and acknowledge the positive influence he had on our academic community.

Sports Highlights at the Faculty of Medicine - 2023

The Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna witnessed a series of spirited sports events throughout the year. Ruhuna vs. Sri Jayawardenepura medical faculty annual cricket encounter took place on 3rd July 2023 where Jayawardenepura emerged victorious in a hard-fought battle. Meanwhile, the Galle Medical Association cricket encounter, doctors vs. students, held on the same day, saw the students' team clinch the championship. Not limiting the competition to cricket, the medical community engaged in the Annual Table Tennis and Badminton encounters between Galle Medical Association and Doctors on 8th and 9th July 2023.



The Sports Club of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, took center stage on 13th August 2023 organizing the Annual Cricket Encounter, bringing together students in a display of cricketing talent and sportsmanship.

Shifting to the volleyball court, the Tri Series Volleyball Championship on 12th August 2023, witnessed the engineering faculty team securing victory at the medical faculty playground. As the spirit of competition continued to flourish, the 17th September marked the successful conclusion of the Inter Batch Football Encounter 2023, with the 40th batch emerging as the triumphant winners at the medical faculty playground.

Closing the year on a powerful note, the Inter Batch Powerlifting Tournament on 9th December 2023 at the medical faculty common room showcased raw strength and determination, highlighting the diverse sporting talents within the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna.



Mindfulness Program for Undergraduates

The Career Guidance Unit of the University of Ruhuna organized a program called Mindfulness for the undergraduate students of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology (FMST) and Faculty of Agriculture in collaboration with the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies on 23rd August 2023 and 15th November 2023 at the auditorium of the Faculty of FMST. Mindfulness is the basic human ability to be fully present, aware of where we are and what we are doing, without being overly reactive or overwhelmed by what is going on around us. Therefore, mindfulness will enable students to reduce stress, improve their mental and physical health, and even increase overall happiness in life. Venerable Professor Beligalle Dhammajoti, Dr. Venerable Makola Mangala and Mr. Anuda Kanchana attended this event as resource persons. Mr. Anuda Kanchana, Mr. Nilanka Srinath, and Mr. Nilantha Kalansuriya coordinated the event with the guidance of Dr. Aruni Wickramarathne, and Mrs Anushika Iroshinie, Career Academic Advisors to the Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of FMST.



Life Saving and Water Safety Workshop

A Life Saving and Water Safety Workshop is an educational program designed to provide essential practical skills and knowledge related to water safety, drowning prevention, and life-saving techniques. The Career Guidance Cell of the Faculty of Medicine organized a workshop on "Life saving and water safety" for the undergraduates of the faculty in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Life Saving Association on 12th October 2023 at Kamburugamuwa swimming pool. Mr. Sumith Somikelum, Senior Instructor and Exam Supervisor of Sri Lanka Life Saving Association, and Mr. Samith Thilina, Branding and Marketing Manager of Sri Lanka Life Saving Association were the resource persons of the event which was coordinated by Dr. Subodha Wickraminghe and Mr. Nilantha Kalansuriya.



Drug Prevention: An Awareness Session for School Children

Identification of issues faced by the youth at risk of using drugs and alcohol is timely important at present, and thus, a career development workshop was organized by the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Ruhuna under the theme of "Drug Prevention and Attitude Changing, "මතට තින - හෙටට සමිය" on 24th November 2023 for ordinary level and advanced level students of Gandara Maha Vidyalaya, Matara at the school premises. This program was organized as a CSR project by the students who followed the Certificate Course of Soft Skills Development (CCSSD) at the Career Guidance Unit (CGU) of the University of Ruhuna. There were lectures, leadership programs, aesthetics activities, and practical sessions in the workshop. Mr. Nilanka Srinath, Career Counselor, coordinated the program with the CCSSD students.



Carol Event 2023: Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

The Art Circle of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences organized a heartwarming “Carol Event” at the pediatric wards of the Teaching Hospital, Karapitiya on 20th December, 2023. This event was a beacon of joy, reaching every corner of the hospital's pediatric units, and bringing a spark of happiness to the children amidst their challenging circumstances. One of the highlights was the visit by Santa Claus, a simple yet a delightful treat that brought smiles to the faces of children. It was all about making their day a bit brighter and more cheerful, creating a festive atmosphere for the young patients undergoing treatment.



Musical Program “පැදුර” at the Faculty of Medicine

Upon the idea and proposal from the staff of the Nuclear Medicine Unit, a musical program, namely “පැදුර” was held on 6th September 2023 at the lobby area of the auditorium, combining all three key human resources (academic staff members, non-academic staff members, and students) of the faculty. The event was graced by the presence of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. This musical program was honored by the presence of around 400 audience members, including foreign students.



The musical band for the program was arranged by the medical students of the Faculty of Medicine. All the decorations and artwork including funding were arranged by the Nuclear Medicine Unit.

Community Project: Alms Giving Ceremony at the Karapitiya Cancer Hospital

Under the course unit BBA 12053, Marketing Management conducted by the Department of Marketing, Faculty of Management and Finance, University of Ruhuna, a series of events were conducted as group assignments to develop the attitudes and softskills of undergraduates. Accordingly, the first event was conducted by a group of students of the 1000-level as a community project. Students raised funds through sponsorships and by selling bookmarks. Accordingly, breakfast was provided for the patients in the Karapitiya Cancer Hospital on 30th December 2023, and the balance was donated to the Ruhunu Lama Niwasaya in Galle to purchase the essential food and consumption items. The project was directed and supervised by Prof. A.C. Karunaratne, Head, Department of Marketing, and Mr. M.N.M. Nismi, Senior Lecturer of the same Department.



TRIGON- Brand Building Competition

On 27th July 2023, the Department of Marketing successfully concluded the "TRIGON" brand-building competition at the Grand Rockland Hotel in Matara. The competition served as a valuable platform for the undergraduates of the University of Ruhuna to improve their branding knowledge while showcasing their creative skills. To kick off the event, the Circle of Marketing students conducted an awareness session, providing participants with an overall idea and understanding of the TRIGON competition.



Following this, Dr. Tharaka Dias, Founder Director of Ambrum Healthcare Solutions and Lecturer at Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM), conducted a workshop focusing on both theoretical and practical aspects of branding.

The TRIGON competition consisted of two rounds. Although 28 groups submitted their reports in the first round, only the top five teams were selected for the second round after the evaluation. This evaluation was based on novelty, creativity, and overall performance. The evaluation panel, consisted of skilled and experienced experts from the Department of Marketing and SLIM, carefully assessed the shortlisted teams. Finally, the Team TREVO was the champion of the TRIGON competition, demonstrating excellence according to the evaluation.

Ancient Painting Conservation Project at Weherahena Temple, Matara

In a display of dedication and commitment to the preservation of cultural heritage, undergraduates from the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Ruhuna joined forces with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's office in a collaborative effort known as the Ancient Painting Conservation Project.

This significant initiative took place at the historical temple, Weherahena Poorwarama Rajamaha Viharaya, Matara from 24th November 2023 to 2nd January 2023. The project witnessed the enthusiastic participation of these students who demonstrated their passion for history and archaeology by actively engaging in the meticulous conservation of ancient paintings.

This Ancient Painting Conservation Project stands as an apt example of the commitment of the University of Ruhuna on conservation of historical treasures. Through such initiatives, the University continues to solidify its reputation



as a center of excellence, where academic knowledge goes hand in hand with practical, hands-on experiences that positively impact society.

Patent for Optimizing a Laboratory Method

A patent (No: 21902) was granted to the University of Ruhuna for the innovation and optimization of a new laboratory technique to quantitate proteinuria in the lower range using sulfosalicylic acid. This research work was conducted by Ms. Ambulugala Gamage Rajika Greshamali Jinadasa and Mr. Lanka Acharige Shalka Madushan Srimantha as their undergraduate research projects under the supervision of Dr. Indika Deepani Siriwardhana, Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Anoja Priyadarshani Attanayake, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine and Dr. Kalani Buddika Gunawardana, Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Faculty of Allied Health Sci-



ences. The optimized 25% SSA test with its ability to detect low-grade proteinuria, at a cut-off 166 mg/g, merits further evaluation as a screening test due to its cost-effectiveness and high sensitivity.

Varsity Battle Quiz Competition 2023



The Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC) and the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) commenced conducting Stage-1 inter-faculty quiz competitions 2023 with 13 state universities, aiming to educate undergraduates of state universities on the capital markets. The competition comprised seven rounds, including questions from global markets, general knowledge, Sri Lankan economy and business, current affairs, sports, entertainment, and rapid fire. Stage-1 quiz of the University of Ruhuna was held on 3rd August 2023 at the Prof. Ranaweera Banda Memorial Auditorium at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Career Guidance Unit of the University of Ruhuna organized the Varsity Battle Quiz Competition 2023 in collaboration with SEC and CSE. Senior Prof. E.P.S Chandana, Deputy Vice-Chancellor attended as the Chief Guest while Prof. D.H.N. Munasinghe, Dean, Faculty of Sci-



ence, Prof. M.K. Wanniarachchige, Dean, Faculty of Management and Finance, Prof. Thusitha Gunawardana, Director, CGU, heads of the departments, career academic advisors, and career counsellors participated in the event. At the end of all rounds, the students' team of the Faculty of Medicine won the title with Rs. 75, 000 cash prize, while equal marks were recorded by the teams of the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Science at the tie-breakup quiz, and consequently they were the First runners-up. Moreover, they have been selected for the inter-university competition.

Sports Achievements of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

The SLUG Swimming Championship – 2023 was held on 29th August 2023, at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Mr. T. Abeywickrama of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology was able to win the 3rd place in the 100 m Men's Freestyle, and 2nd place in the Men's Freestyle Relay (4 x 100 m). Furthermore, Mr. K. S. M. A. K. B. Andagala was able to win the 3rd place at the Basketball Championship – 2023 which was held on 5th September 2023 at Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

Mr. K. S. L. Dias and Miss M. T. Ureshani of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology have been nominated for Sri Lanka University Colours Insignia by the Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association (SLUSA) for Kabaddi and Basketball respectively for their exceptional performance in the Sri Lanka University Games (SLUG) 2023.



Glamourfemme '23: The Inter-University English Debating Contest

An English Debating team, comprising undergraduates from the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Ruhuna, won the championship in the Glamourfemme '23 Inter-University English Debating competition organized by the IEEE student chapter of SLIIT. Team members from the Faculty of Engineering were P.S.L. De Silva (EG/2020/3885), K.R.C.S. Kekulawala (EG/2021/4609), and R.R. Hapuarachchi (EG/2020/3954), and M.A.J. Induruwa (MD/2018/5377) and W.A.A.V.R. Dayanadee (MD/2018/5388) represented the Faculty of Medicine.

The Preliminary round of this event was held on 25th May 2023, in which the team debated the team-A of the University of Moratuwa on the topic "Artificial intelligence is an emerging threat for employees". The quarterfinals were held on 13th June, in which our team debated against the team-B of the University of Moratuwa on "This house prefers a tech industry characterized by multiple smaller firms rather than one dominated by a few large players."



After qualifying for the semifinals, the team participated in the semifinals and the final rounds held on 16th June at the SLIIT campus in Malabe. The team opposed the topic "This house believes that a stable dictatorship is better than an unstable democracy" against Team-A of the University of Jaffna in the semifinals. In the finals, the team debated against Team-A of SLIIT, proposing the topic "This house believes that individual liberty and economic efficiency are irreconcilable with social justice and environmental sustainability." The team emerged victorious in both debates. The championship achieved is not one which could have been achieved without the assistance and guidance given by the lecturers and staff of the University. The team wishes to give their heartfelt gratitude to the University of Ruhuna for the continuous guidance and assistance.

Sri Lanka University Games 2023

The XIV SLUG Tournament was held at the Eastern University Sri Lanka from 8th July to 8th September and the University of Ruhuna secured four remarkable achievements in the year 2023. All sixteen state universities of Sri Lanka participated in the XIV SLUG, and the University of Ruhuna (UoR) secured 7th place out of 16 participating universities. This position mirrors our performance in the 2019 SLUG. However, the overall points of the University of Ruhuna in XIV SLUG was 263.5, and it was a significant increase compared to the last SLUG held in 2019 in which the UoR score was 201.



We are delighted to share that UoR once could secure the Men's Swimming Championship. Further, UoR athletes demonstrated remarkable commitment and skill in a variety of sports, achieving the second, third, and fourth places. Beach Volleyball, Volleyball (Men's), and Elle (Men's) teams won the second places. Furthermore, teams of Basketball (Men's), Chess (Men's), and Rowing (Men's) secured the third places, and the teams Volleyball (Women's), Hockey (Women's), Baseball (Men's), and Taekwondo (both Men's and Women's), Weightlifting (Women's) and Road race (Men's) won the fourth place.

Winners of the Professor Carlo Fonseka Challenge Trophy in the 8th Inter Medical Faculty Physiology Quiz

In the annals of history, the elusive Prof. Carlo Fonseka Challenge Trophy for the 8th Inter Medical Faculty Physiology Quiz finally graced the Southern shores of Sri Lanka. The University of Ruhuna was represented by a team consisting of Nusaiha Nawzar (team leader), Naveen Abeysinghe, Charushi Abeyasekara, Amna Javahir and Shihabh Aaqil from 42nd and 43rd batches of the Faculty of Medicine and they were trained by the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine.



The quiz was organized by the Physiological Society of Sri Lanka on 5th August 2023 at the University Hospital, Kothalawala Defense University. Twelve teams representing each medical faculty of Sri Lanka competed in the preliminary round. Following intense competition, six teams advanced to the semifinals, from which top three proceeded to the final round. In a highly competitive contest marked by two captivating tiebreakers, Team Ruhuna emerged triumphant, claiming the championship and proudly bringing the trophy home.

The Migara Ratnatunga Trust Awards on Industrial Training for University Undergraduates - 2021/2022

Mr. Naveen Parameswaran and Miss Nekasiny Thayananthan, fresh graduates of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Ruhuna were awarded the Migara Ratnatunga Trust Award (All Island 1st Place – Category A) for the year 2021/2022. This award is given by the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL), to recognize the best Civil and Environmental Engineering trainee who has portrayed excellent performance in their Industrial Training. The award (cash prize and certificate) was presented at the IESL induction and graduation ceremony held on 31st August 2023.

Mr. Naveen completed his 24 weeks of industrial training at the Design Consortium Limited (DCL), Colombo 08, and he mainly engaged in five projects. He developed the building models and designed concrete structural elements including pile foundations, pile caps, slabs, beams, columns, staircases, and water sumps during his training period.

Ms. Nekasiny also completed her 24 weeks of industrial training at the ECO International Engineering Consultants (Pvt.) Ltd. During the training, she was assigned to a project site, namely 'Lee-way 'N' Osaka Heights Condominium Project' and she fulfilled her responsibilities on the technical side as well as on the management side. She engaged in structural works, blockwork, blockwork setting out works, and plastering works. Other than that, she engaged in handling the labor, managing materials, documents, and site safety.

The Migara Ratnatunga Trust Award is awarded to

the highest performance achieved in the level 3 industrial training module at the Annual sessions of IESL. The results of the evaluations done by the university training division is submitted to the IESL, where a few undergraduates would be recognized as high achievers in the compulsory industrial training module in the engineering undergraduate program after a rigorous evaluation among the undergraduates of other state universities.



Champions of the Interfaculty Statistics Quiz Competition

The Interfaculty Statistics Quiz competition was held on 20th December 2023 at the University of Ruhuna. Miss. M.N.A. Nusaiha and Mr. N.V.S.C. Amarasena from the 42nd batch participated in the competition, representing the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna. They were trained by the Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, and they won the first place in the competition.



Winners of the Inaugural Anatomy Quiz

The team of medical students representing the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna were the proud winners of the first-ever Anatomy Quiz organized by the Anatomical Society of Sri Lanka. The event took place in two phases at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura on 07th October 2023 and 04th November 2023 respectively. The members of the team were W.M.T.S. Wickramasinghe (team leader), M.K.D. Chandrasena, C.M. Mudannayake, and T.K. Panditha.

The faculty coordinator of the event was Prof. E.I. Waidyaratne and she acknowledged Dr. S.T. Liyanage, Consultant Radiologist, Teaching Hospital, Karapitiya for providing training on Radiological Anatomy for the students. Demonstrators of the Department of Anatomy, Dr. Chamodi Athukorala, Dr. Ranithri Rathnayake, Dr. Madurangi Alwis and Dr. Kalana Lanarolle are also acknowledged for their assistance provided in preparation of the students for the competition.



First Runner-up: The Interfaculty Neurology Quiz 2023

The Interfaculty Neurology Quiz 2023 organised by the Association of Sri Lankan Neurologists took place on 9th July 2023. The participants from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, Devuni Wijanayake, Kalindu Wickramasinghe, Yuvika Gunathilaka and Supun Madhawa gave a brilliant performance securing the 1st runner-up position. Dr. Lakmal Fonseka, Faculty Coordinator for the quiz, expressed gratitude to mentors Prof. K.D. Pathirana, Dr. Imalke Kankanaarachchi, and Dr. Mohotti from the University of Ruhuna for their guidance.



Champion of the Interfaculty Paediatrics Quiz-2023

The team of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna won the championship of the Interfaculty Paediatrics Quiz Competition organized by the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians. The event was held on 1st October 2023 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. All nine medical faculties participated in this event, and this is the first time in history, the University of Ruhuna became the champion. The winning team, consisted of pre-interns, was led by Yuvika Gunathilake, and it included members, H.W. Nethmi Yasara, D.W. Nayanika Sewwandi, D. Malsha Dhanurdi, Ashani Lakshika, and R.A.C.A. Randeni.



Visiting Scholar to National Sun Yat-Sen University, Taiwan

Professor K. L. Wasantha Kumara of the Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, undertook a sabbatical leave as a "Visiting Scholar" in the Department of Biological Sciences, National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU) in Taiwan from 20th March to 18th September 2023.

This enriching experience was made possible with the assistance of the Higher Education Sprout Project, which is funded by the Ministry of Education in Taiwan.

It was also the outcome of a collaborative effort between the University of Ruhuna and National Sun Yat-sen University, which was formalized via an MOU for research and academic cooperation.



Runner-Up of the Best Presenter and Three Minute Thesis

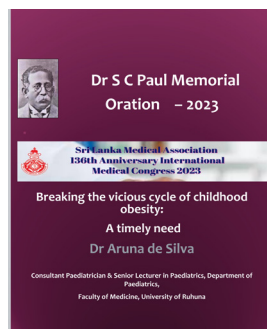
Dr. Anushika Kariyawasam completed her PhD at the University of Otago New Zealand, and officially graduated on 16th December 2023. Her doctoral research titled 'Therapeutic Scaffolding,' represented a transdisciplinary study that integrated psychotherapy into higher education pedagogy. This innovative approach that she introduced as 'Therapeutic Scaffolding' carried the potential to transform educators into classroom therapists, particularly in the realm of student support. This paradigm shift fostered collaborative partnership between teachers and students, fundamentally reshaping their roles in higher education, and concurrently impacting both educational theory and practice.

Dr. Kariyawasam achieved recognition with two awards during her PhD candidature. She was awarded as both the Best Presenter (Runner-up) and Three-minute Thesis (Runner-up) at the Postgraduate Symposium organized by the Higher Education Development Centre, University of Otago, New Zealand.



Dr. S.C. Paul Memorial Oration by Prof. Aruna De Silva

Prof. Aruna De Silva, Professor in Paediatrics at the Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna delivered "Dr. S C. Paul Memorial Oration" on "Breaking the vicious cycle of childhood obesity: a timely need" at the 136th Anniversary International Medical Congress of the Sri Lanka Medical Association on 27th July 2023 at the BMICH.



Oration: Annual Research Symposium of PGIM 2023

Dr. Nirmitha Lalindi De Silva, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, delivered the oration of the Annual Research Symposium of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, which was held on 1st December 2023. The oration was based on five studies conducted by herself and her team on cutaneous leishmaniasis in Sri Lanka. The oration was titled "From diagnostic innovations to risk mapping and novel therapeutics in the battle against cutaneous leishmaniasis."



President's Awards for Scientific Research

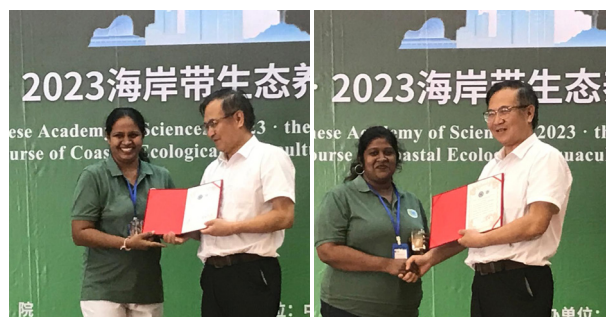
Senior Prof. D. A. L. Leelamanie, Department of Soil Science, Prof. Saman Seneweera, Department of Agricultural Engineering and Environmental Technology, Dr. Anuga Liyanage, Department of Agricultural Biology, Dr. Dushan Kumarathunge, Department of Agricultural Biology, and Mr. H. I. G. S. Piyaruwan, Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture received the "President's Awards for Scientific Research" which was held on 21st November, 2023 at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike Memorial Exposition Centre, Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo. Awards were given for the best 100 papers published in prestigious journals in the year 2019



and 2020 where a significant contribution had been made by scientists working in Sri Lanka.

International Training of Coastal Ecological Aquaculture and Biotechnology

Mrs. R.D.N. Wijesinghe, and Ms. E.G.K.Y.C. Bandara from the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology received grants to participate in Road Belt training on Coastal Ecological Aquaculture and Biotechnology, Yantai, China from 02nd July to 16th July 2023. During this workshop, the current status of technology implementation to satisfy the development needs of the mariculture and coastal bio industry in coastal countries was deliberated. Further, it was important to identify the region-specific appropriate technologies, setting implementation targets, and developing sustainability indices for benchmarking.



State Literary Awards 2023: The Best Translation of Poetry

Ms. Indu Gamage, senior lecturer attached to the Department of English Language Teaching of the University of Ruhuna was awarded the Best Translation of Poetry at the State Literary Awards Ceremony 2023. This award was given for her work, කුලින් පිරි ගිය එක් මොහොතක් – Selected Poems of Jalal al din Muhammad Rumi that she translated and edited with Prof. Sasanka Perera.



Galle Medical Association Oration 2023

Dr. I.L.A.N. Darshana, senior lecturer in Community Medicine, Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna delivered the "Galle Medical Association oration" at the Inauguration ceremony of the 82nd Annual Academic Sessions of the Galle Medical Association which was held on 20th September 2023. This was based on two postgraduate studies he conducted on the field of illicit drug use in Sri Lanka. His topic was "Illicit drug use among Sri Lankan males: understanding the crisis for prevention and harm reduction."



New Recruitments: Academic Staff

Chair Professor

Prof. Senaweera, S. Department of Agriculture Engineering. Faculty of Agriculture

Lecturer (Probationary)

Mr. Jayasekara, T.D. Department of Marine Engineering & Naval Architecture. Faculty of Engineering

Mr. Azaam, A.G.M. Department of Marine Engineering & Naval Architecture. Faculty of Engineering

Ms. Thilakarathne, G.C.W. Department of Electrical & Information Engineering. Faculty of Engineering

Mr. Karunasingha, K.G.N.M. Department of Electrical & Information Engineering. Faculty of Engineering

Ms. Silva, S.M.T.M. Department of Electrical & Information Engineering. Faculty of Engineering

Mr. Karunasena, I.G.N. Department of Electrical & Information Engineering. Faculty of Engineering

Ms. Nimali, M.S.D. Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering. Faculty of Engineering

Ms. Jayarathna, D.D.A. Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. Faculty of Engineering

Ms. Mayuranga, H.G.S. Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering. Faculty of Engineering

Mr. Moramada, M.W.G.C.K. Department of Electrical & Information Engineering. Faculty of Engineering

Ms. Madhushanie, I.N. Department of Computer Science. Faculty of Science

Ms. Upamalika, S.W.A.M. Department of Computer Science. Faculty of Science

Mr. Lakshan, D.P.M. Department of Computer Science. Faculty of Science

Ms. Karunarathne, A.W.S.P. Department of Mathematics. Faculty of Science

Mr. Bandara, S.M.G.S. Department of Mathematics. Faculty of Science

Ms. Liyanage, I.C. Department of Mathematics. Faculty of Science

Ms. Yapa, A.D.W. Department of Mathematics. Faculty of Science

Ms. Kulasekara, S.R.T. Department of Mathematics. Faculty of Science

Mrs. Dheerasinghe, G.W.M.M.K. Department of Mathematics. Faculty of Science

Ms. Lakmini, R.M.V. Department of Mathematics. Faculty of Science

Rev. Sumanatissa, P. Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies. Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Ms. Sugandi, W.B. Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies. Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Ms. Yatawara, U.S.N. Department of Nursing. Faculty of Allied Health Science

Ms. Manodya, N.K.G. Department of Nursing. Faculty of Allied Health Science

Ms. Sandamali, P.B.K.G.E. Department of Nursing. Faculty of Allied Health Science

Ms. Sandamali, P.B.K.G.E. Department of Nursing. Faculty of Allied Health Science

Ms. Ekanayake, W.Y.M.M.N. Department of Finance, Faculty of Management & Finance

Mr. Harshana, K.R.K. Department of Finance. Faculty of Management & Finance

Promotions of Academic Staff

Chair Professors

Senior Prof. Gunawickrama, K.B.S. Department of Zoology. Faculty of Science

Professors

Prof. Karunarathna, A.C. Department of Marketing. Faculty of Management & Finance.

Prof. Wickramage, N.M. Department of Physics. Faculty of Science

Prof. Hettihewa, S.K. Department of Pharmacy. Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Prof. De Silva, M.H.A.D. Department of Paediatrics. Faculty of Medicine.

Prof. Sunethra C. Perera, H. Department of Man-

agement & Entrepreneurship. Faculty of Management & Finance

Prof. Wickramaratna, K.A.C. Department of Pathology. Faculty of Medicine

Prof. Perera, U.C.P. Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

Associate Professor

Prof. De Soyza, G.E.D. Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine

Senior Lecturer (Grade-I)

Dr. Priyanka A.A.R. Department of Pali & Buddhist Studies, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Dr. Senevirathne D.M.K.N. Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Engineering

Dr. Thilakarathna. R.M.G.N. Department of Oceanography & Marine Geology. Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

Dr. Samaraweera, S.G.S. Department of English Language Teaching, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Dr. Prasangka, K.D. Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science

Dr. Wickramarachchi, B.I. Department of Nursing. Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Ms. Weerathunga, S.M.E.B. Department of Nursing, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Senior Assistant Librarian

Ms. Senevirathna, R.A.P.S. Main Library

Senior Lecturer (Grade-II)

Dr. Jayasekara, K.G. Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Dr. Wasana, P.W.D. Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences

Dr. De Silva, M.T.T. Department of Human Resources Management, Faculty of Management & Finance

Dr. Wijewardena, L.N. Department of Limnology & Water Technology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

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

Dr. Rathnapala J.M.S.N. Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

Dr. Yapa, L.G.D.S. Department of Geography, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Ms. Pathmasiri, T.K.K.S. Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Dr. Priyankara, W.N.B.A.G. Department of Electrical & Information Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

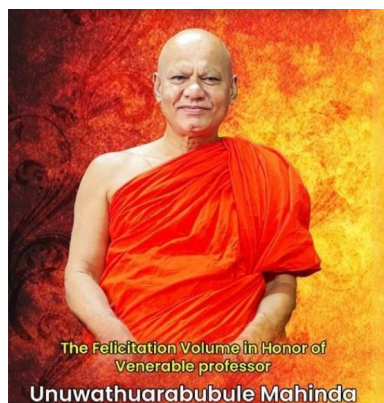
Dr. De Silva, N.L. Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Wijesiri, T.W. Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine

Dr. Fonseka, C.L. Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine

Ven. Professor Unuwathurabubule Mahinda Thero

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



Professor Unuwathurabubule Mahinda Thero, a respected monk renowned for his dignified demeanor, played a pivotal role in advancing the academic field of Buddhism. He imparted knowledge through lectures at the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, University of Ruhuna for almost three decades. In 1994, Professor Unuwathurabubule Mahinda Thero became part of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Ruhuna. His dedication and scholarly achievements led to his appointment as a Professor at the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies in 2019. Throughout his tenure since 1994, he played a crucial role in advancing Pali and Buddhist studies, contributing significantly as a senior lecturer. A decade ago, Professor Unuwathurabubule Mahinda Thero initiated the *Nānagavesi* academic journal, demonstrating his role as its Founder. The establishment of the *Vidumina* journal, initiated by the Bhikkhu Society of Ruhuna University, was also guided by Professor Unuwathurabubule Mahinda Thero. Furthermore, he orchestrated the annual field trip related to the study of Buddhist Art and Antiquities, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to the betterment of the Department. He also compiled several books relating to Sri Lankan Buddhist Culture and Buddhist Philosophy, inspiring a new approach to Buddhist Studies and a new research area. Moreover, he has also contributed immensely to university administration and student affairs. He rendered his service as the Head of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies several times and also served as the Deputy Senior Student Counselor, a Student Counselor and the Warden of monks' hostel.

Retirements

In appreciation of Venerable Professor Unuwathurabubule Mahinda Thero's commendable service to the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies and to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the 9th volume of '*Nānagavesi*' was published as a felicitation volume dedicated to him. Its launching ceremony was held on 19th July 2023 at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Ven. Prof. Beligalle Dhammajoti Thero

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



Ven. Prof. Beligalle Dhammajoti Thero, a distinguished scholar in Buddhist Studies, bid farewell to the University of Ruhuna on 30th September 2023, marking the conclusion of a remarkable career spanning over three decades.

Born on 28th November 1957 in Sri Lanka, Ven. Professor Dhammajoti's academic journey began with a deep passion for Buddhist philosophy. He entered the University of Peradeniya in 1977 and successfully obtained his B.A. Special degree and Master of Arts Degree in Buddhist Studies. Then, he pursued his PhD in Religion and Philosophy at Banaras Hindu University, India, in 1997.

During his tenure at the University of Ruhuna, which commenced in 1988, Ven. Prof. Dhammajoti's dedication and scholarly prowess earned him the positions of Senior Lecturer Grade II and eventually Senior Lecturer Grade I. He also undertook various administrative roles, including the Head of the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Ven. Professor Dhammajoti's contributions extended beyond academia. He chaired the Examination Fraud Investigation Committee and served on the Advisory Board at the Cultural Centre of the University of Ruhuna. Additionally, he played a significant role in curriculum development within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. His impact transcended national borders, as evidenced by his role as a Visiting Lecturer at the Buddhist and Pali College in Singapore and his efforts in facilitating collaborations with international scholars. In conclusion, Ven Prof Beligalle Dhammajoti leaves behind a profound legacy within the University of Ruhuna and the broader academic community. His retirement marks the end of an era characterized by dedication, knowledge, and scholarly excellence. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Ven. Professor Dhammajoti for his invaluable contributions and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

Senior Professor Mangala De Zoysa Faculty of Agriculture



Senior Prof. Mangala De Zoysa has rendered his successful and dedicated service to the higher education sector in Sri Lanka for more than 40 years. He has provided strategic, inspirational, and operational leadership to the higher educational institutions thus fair to consider as a visionary leader and institution builder at the local and international levels.

Senior Prof. Mangala De Zoysa obtained his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, in October 1982. Grabbing international exposure, he completed his M.Sc. degree in Management of Agricultural Knowledge Systems (MAKS) from Wageningen Agricultural University, The Netherlands in August 1988. He completed his Ph.D. degree in the field of Forest Policy at the University of Tokyo, Japan in March 1996. He started his academic career as a temporary assistant lecturer in Agricultural Economics at

the University of Ruhuna in 1982. He became a Professor in Agricultural Economics in the year 2005, and he was promoted to senior professor in 2005. His knowledge, capabilities, and career have been sharpened by attending local and international training/workshops, forums, and short courses in different countries such as the USA, Australia, Japan, China, India, and the UK.

During his academic career, he served as the Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics from March 1999 to October 2006. His tenure as a head of the department glamour the Department of Agricultural Economics by initiating postgraduate degree courses, and establishing links with the School of Business Management, Writtle College, University of Essex, United Kingdom. Rewarding his excellent leadership, he became the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at, University of Ruhuna from March 2010 to March 2013. His untiring effort blossomed by introducing three undergraduate courses and further lifting the Faculty to the international sphere by signing an MoU with the University of Tokyo. Senior Prof. Mangala De Zoysa has published more than 30 journal articles in refereed journals, authored more than 15 books/book chapters, and more than 100 papers and abstracts in research proceedings.

Senior Prof. Mangala De Zoysa served as a visiting professor in several well-reputed international universities including The University of Tokyo, Japan, Deakin University, Australia, and the University of Wales, Bangor, United Kingdom. He has been awarded many international scholarships - Netherlands Fellowship award in 1986, Tokyu Foundation Scholarship, Japan 1993, Commonwealth Science Council award in 2002, Commonwealth Academic Fellowship in 2007, Japanese Society of Promotion of Sciences Invited Fellowship, Japan in 2007, Australian Endeavour Executive Award in 2010 and Tokyo University Visiting Professor Award 2013. Further, he was an office bearer, committee member, and member of various national and international committees, including the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, The Japanese Forest Society, the Sri Lanka Agricultural Economics Association (SAEA), and the International Union for Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) are some of these.

Senior Prof. Mangala De Zoysa has conducted several outreach programs, participated in regional, national, and international meetings, seminars, conferences, and sym-

posia, delivered keynote speeches, and has provided his expertise consultancy services to other universities, research organizations and other non-government and private organizations. As a leading personality and a think tank in agroforestry and agriculture-related policies he extended his service as a member of different scientific committees including the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Tropical Agricultural Research & Extension, Agricultural Advisory Committee of the Asia Productivity Organization, Sri Lanka, Technical / Advisory Working Committee for Extension and Training, Ministry of Agriculture, Sri Lanka, Inter universities and the departmental committee on agricultural policy studies, Advisory Committee, Plantation sector, Southern Development Authority, Matara, Sri Lanka, and many others. Senior Prof. Mangala De Zoysa has rendered an irreplaceable service to the Faculty of Agriculture as well as to the University of Ruhuna for nearly four decades until his retirement on 30th September 2023. We wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

Senior Professor S. Subasinghe Faculty of Agriculture



The Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, is honored to recognize the exceptional career and invaluable contributions of Snr. Prof. S. Subasinghe. With a career spanning over 38 years, Prof. Subasinghe has been a steadfast pillar in academia, administration, and research, leaving an indelible mark on the University of Ruhuna. Prof. Subasinghe's academic journey is characterized by remarkable achievements. He commenced his academic pursuits with a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Ruhuna in 1982, followed by an M.Sc. in Agricultural Systems from the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok in 1989. His determination to learn led him to earn a PhD in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Ruhuna in 1998, showing his strong commitment to doing well in academics. Beginning

his journey at the University of Ruhuna in 1985 as a field teaching assistant, his dedication and hard work led him to the position of Professor in Crop Science in 2005. He has since devoted 18 years of service as a Professor at the University of Ruhuna. Prof. Subasinghe's expertise spans a diverse range of fields, including agronomy, horticulture, tropical farming systems, medicinal herbs, and protected agriculture. His research and national service significantly influenced national agricultural development.

His administrative roles have been pivotal in shaping the academic landscape. Serving as the Head of the Department of Crop Science, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Ruhuna, and Director of the Institute for Agro-Technology and Rural Sciences of the University of Colombo, his leadership has ushered in remarkable developments. These include infrastructure enhancements and the introduction of innovative degree programs, enriching the academic environment. Beyond the confines of academia, Prof. Subasinghe has also excelled in external roles. He served as the President of the International Society of Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and held the esteemed position of Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious Tropical Agricultural Research and Extension (TARE) journal. These roles underscore his dedication to advancing knowledge and fostering global collaboration. Prof. Subasinghe's contributions extend to impactful research and extensive publications. With 21 peer reviewed journal papers, two patents, 18 full papers, 79 abstract publications in conference proceedings, 18 books, and two book sections to his credit, he has significantly contributed to the body of knowledge in his field. Additionally, he has supervised 15 postgraduate research projects, furthering the depth of understanding in agricultural sciences.

In conclusion, Prof. S. Subasinghe's exemplary career, spanning teaching, research, and administrative roles, is a testament to his dedication and passion for agricultural sciences. His legacy at the University of Ruhuna is one of excellence, innovation, and unwavering dedication to the field of agriculture. The Department of Crop Science has flourished under his unparalleled dedication and lifelong commitment. We extend our heartfelt wishes to Prof. Subasinghe for a happy and healthy retirement life, filled with continued success and fulfillment.

Senior Professor P.L.A.G. Alwis Faculty of Agriculture



Over several decades, Senior Professor P.L.A.G. Alwis has made a remarkable impact on the field of agricultural engineering, shaping not only the academic landscape but also contributing to advancing the agricultural sector of the country pragmatically. Senior Professor P.L.A.G. Alwis completed his Bachelor of Science (Honors) degree in Agriculture from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna itself, from 1978 to 1982. He was thereafter recruited to the university as a lecturer. Then onwards, he pursued his postgraduate education at the University of Montpellier from 1985 to 1990, where he earned both his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Agricultural Machinery. During this period, he was also involved in research at the ENSAM institute in Montpellier, France. With a strong desire for knowledge and a passion for agricultural engineering, he continued to navigate his academic and professional journey, winning a commendable success evidenced by several ranks, eventually becoming a Senior Professor in Agricultural Machinery.

During his time at the university, Senior Professor P.L.A.G. Alwis was steady in his commitment to education and research. He has contributed to disseminating his knowledge and experience to students in 40 batches consecutively, shaping the minds of future agricultural professionals. His contributions extended beyond the classroom, encompassing a wide array of subjects ranging from farm power and mechanization to indigenous knowledge systems. Moreover, Senior Professor P.L.A.G. Alwis has supervised numerous postgraduate students, nurturing the next generation of scholars and researchers in agricultural engineering. His dedication to academic development is greatly apparent through his publications which covered both national and international concerns.

A simple, yet commendable acknowledgment note on Senior Professor P.L.A.G. Alwis is incomplete without acknowledging his groundbreaking innovations in agricultural machinery. With a keen eye for invention, he has procured an astounding 54 patent rights, revolutionizing various facets of agricultural practices. From seeders and weeders to harvesters and ploughs, his inventions have redefined efficiency and sustainability in farming. His contributions have not gone unnoticed, as evidenced by the numerous awards and prizes he has received over the years. From prestigious presidential awards to honors from the University of Ruhuna and beyond, his innovative spirit has been acknowledged on both national and international platforms.

Senior Professor P.L.A.G. Alwis has been praised not only for his academic and professional commitments, but tremendously for his role as a mentor and a guide. He has served as a committee member in university promotions, shaping the future of academia and fostering excellence among his peers. His professional memberships in esteemed organizations such as the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science and the Agricultural Engineering Society of Sri Lanka illuminate his commitment to advancing the field of Agriculture, more broadly.

When Senior Professor P. L. A. G. Alwis transits into retirement, his legacy endures as a beacon of inspiration for generations to come. His contributions to education, research, and innovation have not only enriched the academic community but have also had a remarkable impact on agricultural practices nationwide. As we bid farewell to a visionary leader, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for his tremendous contributions, and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

In celebration of his remarkable career, let us honor the legacy of Senior Professor P.L.A.G. Alwis and carry forward the torch of excellence in agricultural engineering.

Dr. T. M. Wijekoon Banda Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



Dr T. M. Wijekoon Banda was a senior lecturer attached to the Department of Sociology, University of Ruhuna, Matara. After 33 years of continuous service, he retired on 25th August 2023. Dr. Banda completed the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology degree in 1986 with a Second Class (Upper Division) and completed the Master of Arts in Sociology degree in 1997 from the University of Peradeniya. Further, he completed the Master of Philosophy degree in Sociology (Sociological Study on Male Child Prostitution in Sri Lanka) in 2005 and his PhD in Sociology (Socio – Economic Mobility of Rodiya Community) in 2015 from the University of Ruhuna.

His specialized research and teaching areas comprised Social Psychology, Criminology and Qualitative Research Methods. Furthermore, Dr. Banda published two books, namely "Suicidal Behavior of Youth" (co-author) in 2006 and "Descriptive Sinhala Glossary of Social Psychology" in 2010. Moreover, he has published many research articles in journals and conferences in national and international levels. Especially, he has done many research studies on Sociology of caste concerning with the Rodiya caste community in Sri Lanka. Furthermore he has participated in national and international level training programs including "Counseling and spiritual development" at Richmond fellowship postgraduate college for psychosocial rehabilitation, Bangalore, India, in 2009. Dr. Banda was also the first coordinator of the Diploma in Psychological Counselling program conducted by the Department of Sociology, University of Ruhuna. We wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

Mr. P.H.M. Dharmasena Faculty of Agriculture



The Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, is delighted to highlight the remarkable career and invaluable contributions of Mr. P.H.M. Dharmasena. With a career that has spanned 37 years of service, Mr. Dharmasena has been a cornerstone counseling, and teaching, leaving an enduring impact on the University of Ruhuna.

Mr. Dharmasena's journey at the University began in 1986 when he joined as a Field Teaching Assistant. Then he was promoted as a Lecturer in 1997. His academic qualifications include a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Ruhuna in 1983, followed by an M.Sc. in Agricultural Systems from the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok in 1988. One of the notable aspects of Mr. Dharmasena's career is his role as a professional counselor. For many years, he provided a dedicated service as a counselor to undergraduate students of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna. His guidance and support have left a lasting impact on students and staff, with many fond memories of his counseling sessions. In addition to his role at the University of Ruhuna, Mr. Dharmasena has also served in various capacities at other institutions. He extended his service as teacher of guidance and counseling for other national institutes such as Pali and Buddhist University and the National Institute of Education. As a permanent staff member of the Diploma in Counseling offered by the Distance and Continuing Education Unit in collaboration with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Ruhuna, he has played a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of counselors.

His commitment to counseling and education extends beyond the classroom. Mr. Dharmasena has been instrumental in nur-

turing a supportive and nurturing environment for students, helping them navigate academic challenges and personal growth. His contributions as a counselor have been invaluable in fostering a sense of community and well-being among students. Therefore, Mr. P.H.M. Dharmasena's dedicated service, both as a counselor and educator, was a cornerstone of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna. His passion for guiding students and his contributions to the field of agriculture and counseling are commendable. The Department of crop science extends their heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Dharmasena for his unwavering commitment and wishes him continued success in all his future endeavors.

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Mrs. Bogahawatta, I.U.L. (Library Assistant). Main Library



International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment (ISAE)

International Symposium on Agriculture and Environment (ISAE) is the annual conference of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna which aims to unite national and international academics, researchers, and professionals in the agriculture, food, and environmental sectors to address contemporary agricultural challenges and explore the capacity to overcome difficulties in those fields. ISAE - 2024 is scheduled to be held on 10th May 2024 at the University of Ruhuna, Wellamadama premises under the theme of "Building Resilient Agri-food Systems for Nutrition Security and Food Sovereignty".

For more details, please visit: <https://isae.agri.ruh.ac.lk/>

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