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# UoR Highlights

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### Feature Article

Free Education in Sri Lanka : The Precept and Practice  
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# The 9<sup>th</sup> Faculty of the University of Ruhuna

## FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY

The University of Ruhuna is honored to announce that the Faculty of Technology, proposed as the 9<sup>th</sup> Faculty in its Corporate Plan in 2014, has become a reality with the gazette notification issued on 26th April 2016. The new Faculty provides an opportunity for A/L students in the technology stream to obtain university education.

The Faculty offers three degree programmes; Bachelor of Engineering Technology (BET) and Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology (BICT) from this year and Bachelor of Biosystems Technology (BBST) from 2018.

The mission of the Faculty is to produce professional technologists with accredited degrees to cater to the needs of the world of technology. BET degree programme focuses on Electromechanical Technology and it has been constructed to satisfy accreditation guidelines of Sydney Accord as well as Institute of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL). BICT degree programme, focusing on Application Development, has been designed to satisfy the guidelines of the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL). The Bachelor of Biosystems Technology degree focuses on producing Technologists with the knowledge and technical expertise in Biosystems in Agricultural, Biomedical, Bioprocessing and



development of students and accreditation in all degree programmes.

The Faculty comprises of four academic departments; Engineering Technology (ET), Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Biosystems Technology (BST) and Multidisciplinary Studies (MS).

The 1st batch of 136 students; 86 for BET and 50 for BICT programmes, was admitted on 02nd January, 2017. It is a pleasure to note that this batch comprises of high ranking students from all parts of the country. After two weeks of orientation, the academic programme began on 16th January, 2017. Both programmes started according to the plan with required resources, well qualified staff and state of the art laboratory facilities.

The 1st batch of students are currently following their academic programme at the premises of Faculty of Science, Wellamadama. New buildings of the Faculty are being constructed in KaragodaUyangoda, Kamburupitiya, in the close proximity of the Faculty of Agriculture. When the Faculty of Technology reaches its full-fledged state in about five years, it will cater for total of 800 students at a given time with hostel facilities for all.

The Faculty offers  
 Bachelor of Engineering Technology (BET)  
 Bachelor of Information & Communication  
 Technology (BICT)  
 Bachelor of Biosystems Technology (BBST)

Environmental fields. The Department of Multidisciplinary Studies offers complementary subjects required for career



main story

# Free Education in Sri Lanka

## The Precept and Practice

Senior Professor Sarath Amarasinghe

*Professor in Sociology  
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Education is considered as an important driving force of the society as it known to enhance knowledge, qualities, skills, attitude, and capacities of individuals, enabling them to become conscious subjects of their growth and active responsible participants in a society. According to UNICEF education is a fundamental human right and essential for the exercise of all other human rights. It promotes individual freedom and empowerment and yields important development benefits.

Free primary education is fundamental in assuring that everyone has access to education. Because of this fundamental necessity, children in many countries are granted access to free primary and other compulsory education in order to have the equal access to education. Therefore, there are few important concepts that has been developed such as freedom of education, democratic education, sponsored education and free education.

Freedom of education is the right for parents to have their children educated in accordance with their views, allowing groups to be able to educate children without being impeded by the state or any other authority. However, the concept of free education denotes a particular process in which education is funded through taxation or charity rather than through tuition fee funding. It is also known as sponsored education as it is mainly carried out through state funding. This paper in identifying the precepts and objectives of free education in Sri Lanka attempts to investigate some of the challenges faced by the state universities in Sri Lanka.

Free education was established in Sri Lanka at the dawn of independence as an outcome of a special committee appointed in 1942 to identify the educational needs of the country. Since the access to education was limited to the handful of children in urban based affluent families who followed the instructions in English, this committee recommended the establishment of government sponsored free education in Sri Lanka to ensure expansion of educational opportunities for all.

Accordingly educational reforms introduced on 01 October 1945, by C.W.W. Kannangara, the following elements were included in the free education of Sri Lanka :

- Education should be provided free from the Kindergarten to the University.



- The mother tongue should be used as the medium of instruction in the Primary Schools.
- English should be taught in all schools from standard III.
- A curriculum for the child which would develop it's "head, heart and hands" should be introduced for the development of intellectual and practical ability for the well-being of the student.

In the feudalist and caste based traditional Sri Lankan society, lower caste groups were deprived of having access to acquire education. Furthermore, rural isolation, poverty and gender were some other factors affected to limit the accessibility to educational opportunities for all in the society. Therefore, it is evident that one of the millennium development goals, "Providing access to education for all" has been a prominent target of the early educational reforms in Sri Lanka. It was not only targeting to improve the literacy among people but also to ensure the way forward to continuity of education up to university level. Establishing vernacular education through the mother tongue as the medium of instruction in schools facilitated

“ Free education was established in Sri Lanka at the dawn of independence as an outcome of a special committee appointed in 1942 to identify the educational needs of the country. Since the access to education was limited to the handful of children in urban based affluent families who followed the instructions in English, this committee recommended the establishment of government sponsored free education in Sri Lanka to ensure expansion of educational opportunities for all. ”

“Those who were interested to find the appropriate mechanisms to enhance employability of graduates recommended English language competency, computer literacy and IT skills, relevance of undergraduate training and application of knowledge, other generic skills such as communication skills, interpersonal skills, positive and motivated attitude, team work and outgoing personality as qualities expected by the employees.”

the most marginalized communities to obtain the benefits of free education. However, teaching English has been considered as an essential component in schools since it enhances the exposure to the outside world and improve the employability.

The target of educational reforms and free education was not limiting the enhancement of accessibility to education, it also expected to develop a competent labour force that can actively participate in the socio-economic development of the country. Therefore, it is recommended to introduce a common curriculum which not only leading to theoretical and intellectual development of the student, but also patriotic mindset which can encourage them to be sensitive to the needs of the society, fellow citizens and the nation. The development of “head, heart and hands” through education was symbolized by this development need.

Therefore it is high time to consider the gradual growth where Sri Lanka has been able to achieve the objectives of free education in order to bring the citizens to the threshold of development. According to the official statistics Sri Lanka had reached an adult literacy rate of 92.63% in 2015 which is relatively higher by regional and world standards. This achievement is basically due to the expansion of welfare policies of respective governments after independence to improve the school education of the country. The educational records of the country show that as a part of free education the Sri Lanka maintains 10,012 government schools with a student population of 4.2 million.

However the limited accessibility to the universities for those who are qualifying for tertiary education has been a crucial problem in the country depriving students of access to free tertiary education in the country, Even though the establishment of university education in Sri Lanka date back to the establishment of the University College of Sri Lanka in 1921 and the University of Ceylon in 1942 the current state universities has been limited to 15 for accommodating those who qualified to accrue free

education. Free access to undergraduate education in state universities has been very competitive and limited to a small segment who deserved. There were about 15% of those who qualified to enter to state universities in 2011. This is further evident by the program objectives of the Ministry of Higher Education (2013) which highlighted increasing of the gross enrolment ratio from 22000 in 2011 to 25000 (20%) in 2015 is one of its basic objectives. Other than the increase of enrolment ratio in state universities, the Ministry has targeted to increase the access to Non-University Higher Education from 4900 in 2011 to 6000 in 2015, increase the Non-Online Distance Education (NODES) from 1500 to 5000 in 2015, increasing the Distance Education System (OUSL) 20,000 level of access in 2015, and to streamlines the external degree program in order to maintain at an appropriate level of intake.

The other crucial objective of free education was to develop a competent labour force equipped with knowledge, skills and appropriate mind set. However it was evident that employability of the graduates has been a challenge faced by the faculties which offer degrees that are not considered as “professional” degrees in the University system of Sri Lanka. It was evident by the statistics of Ministry of Higher Education (2013) which specified as one of its objectives is to enhance overall employability of graduates from 55% in 2011 to above 70% in 2015. It includes the enhancement of employability of Arts graduates from 28% in 2011 to 60% in 2015.

Those who were interested to find the appropriate mechanisms to enhance employability of graduates recommended English language competency, computer literacy and IT skills, relevance of undergraduate training and application of knowledge, other generic skills such as communication skills, interpersonal skills, positive and motivated attitude, team work and outgoing personality as qualities expected by the employees.

Therefore, various steps were taken to overcome this issue such as introduction of university industry partnership, revision of curricular to meet the demand of the world of work, introducing more marketable academic programs, internationalization of universities, enhancing soft skills, IT and English during past several years. Undoubtedly, such effective mechanisms have made considerable impact to the employability of graduates. In case of graduates in the Arts or Humanities and Social Sciences this situation is continuing without any considerable improvement. The Graduate Employment Report (2012) based on the study





of Ruhuna University graduands who had their convocation on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> revealed that overall unemployment of then graduands was 61.2 and among them highest employability of 93.4% has revealed among Engineering graduands and lowest of 29.6 among Humanities and Social Sciences graduands.

The development of appropriate skills and positive mindset among those who benefited from free education has been a long felt need of the country. The youth revolt took place in 1971 against the government was considered largely as an outcome of the unemployed and frustrated youth produced by the free education of Sri Lanka. The ILO mission led by Prof. Dudley Seers, Director of the Institute of Development Studies of the University of Sussex, England who visited the country with the invitation of Sri Lankan government disclosed the fact that the existing mismatch between the job expectations of educated youth and the existing job opportunities of the country was the main reason for their unemployment and unrest. As he further pointed out, other than existing job opportunities the interest of the educated youth to find white collar job opportunities such as teaching and clerical positions in the government sector contributed to develop this mismatch. This situation seems to be prevailing without much difference even today and it is further evident by 84% of graduands belonged to the faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences expressed that they seek employment opportunities in the public sector. (Graduate Employment Report,

University of Ruhuna 2012). This attitude seems to be prevalent more or less among other faculties too being 91.6% in Agriculture, 78% in Medicine, 54% in Science and 53% in Management and Finance. However, limited employment opportunities available in both public and private sectors for Arts graduates must have highly affected by such attitudes to become unemployed.

In developed and industrialized countries, universities are becoming a driving force through the enhancement of technology and producing necessary manpower to link technology with the socio-economic development. This was the main reason for David Sampson, UN Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development to introduce University as

an anchor institution for innovation, economic competitiveness and prosperity of a region. It is evident that universities can shoulder such dynamic role to the extent it can remain as an independent body to engage in teaching and research. However, some critics are sharing the view that deterioration of academic freedom and university autonomy, and politicization are contributory factors to bring universities to crisis. According to them, such external factors have a tremendous negative impact to bring the universities to the threshold of development. Meanwhile, some are of the view that internal factors within universities such as pedagogical challenges in teaching and learning as major reasons for this crisis. Pointing out the dramatic and revolutionary changes that have been taken place in western countries particularly in teaching and learning methods, they strongly recommend Sri Lankan universities to adopt with such newer methods. Other than teacher centered traditional teaching methods where students learn as inactive recipients under the authority of teacher, student centered teaching methods in which the teacher serves as a facilitator in the learning process has been recommended. The qualification framework introduced by the University Grants commission in 2015 aims at enhancing knowledge, skills, attitudes and mindset of university students through this student centered teaching and learning process.

## Fourth Faculty of Medicine Academic Sessions - 2016



The Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna conducted the 4<sup>th</sup> Faculty of Medicine Academic Sessions (FMAS) on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Opportunities were given to the academic staff of the Faculty of Medicine to showcase their original research conducted for their postgraduate degrees.

Professor Rohan Jayasekara, Emeritus Professor of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo made the keynote address. The symposium of

Toxicology consisted with three presentations given by Prof. Andrew Dawson - Director National Poisons Register & Clinical Toxicology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney. Prof. Nicholas Buckley, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology, School of Medical Sciences, the University of Sydney and Prof. Indika Gawarammana, Professor in Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya. In conjunction with this, the 4<sup>th</sup> volume of Ruhuna Medical Journal (RMJ) 2016 containing four review articles was published.



## The International Conference on Management and Economics - ICME-2016

The International Conference on Management and Economics (ICME-2016) was held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at the University of Ruhuna. It was the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Management and Economics organized by the Faculty of Management and Finance.

The conference provided a platform for academics and practitioners across the world to engage in an intellectual debate on "Exploring the Global Market Potentials through Knowledge Management". The

inauguration ceremony of the conference was enlightened with the presence of the Chief Guest, Senior Professor Gamini Senanayake, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna, Keynote Speaker, Professor Ramanie Samarasinghe, Department of Management, Monash University, Australia. Guest of Honor, Mr. Ariyaseela Wickramanayaka, Chairman Master Divers (Pvt) Ltd, Dr. T.S.L.W Gunawardana, Dean Faculty of Management and Finance, Dr. T.M.A Tennakoon, Coordinator ICME-2016, Deans of other faculties, presenters, sponsors, academic staff, students and other invited guests.



## Civil and Environmental Engineering Degree Programme of UoR Accredited



The degree programme in Civil and Environmental Engineering conducted by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (DCEE) of the Faculty of Engineering has been granted unconditional "Full Accreditation" for the intake years from 2015 to 2020 by the Council of the Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) under the "Washington Accord" which is an International Accreditation Agreement for professional engineering academic degrees. This ensures that the accreditation for BSc Engineering Degree Program conducted by DCEE which was

already available up to 2015 will continue for the next five intakes without a break.

Accordingly, graduates of DCEE are well recognized by the other signatory countries (Australia, Canada, Taiwan, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States) and equivalent to those international degrees as having met the academic requirements for entry to the practice of Civil Engineering.

## Beach Cleaning Programme by Faculty of FMST

In conjunction with the National Coastal and Marine Resources Conservation Week and Celebration of International Coastal Cleanup Day, beach cleaning programme was conducted by the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016. Officers of the Department of Coast Conservation and the Marine Environment Protection Authority in Sri Lanka also contributed to the programme.



university in progress

## Academic Visit of the Delegation from Guizhou University - China

A delegation from Guizhou Educational Department and Guizhou University of China had a discussion with the Faculty of Agriculture. The aim of this discussion was to establish a collaborative research and academic link between Guizhou University and University of Ruhuna.

The meeting was held at the Dean's Conference Hall of the Faculty of Agriculture, on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Professor KL Wasantha Kumara and Mr. Xu Houqiang, Assistant to the President and the Dean of Academy of Science and Technology, Guizhou University signed an Memorandum of Understanding with Faculty of Agriculture on behalf of the two parties to ensure the academic link. This event was coordinated by Professor Mangala De Zoysa, Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension.



## Guest Lecture by Morten Øien



Senior Legal Advisor to the Norwegian University of Science and Technology delivered a lecture on 'Enhanced exploitation of research results- some reflections of Knowledge Transfer (KT)' on 14<sup>th</sup> October at the Auditorium of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology. This event was coordinated by Senior Professor Ranjith Senarathna and organized by the Center for International Affairs (CINTA) of the University of Ruhuna.



## Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka visited UoR



The Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka Mr. Kenichi Suganuma paid a visit to the University of Ruhuna on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016. During his visit he had a discussion with the Vice Chancellor and alumni of Japanese postgraduates on academic development of the university and cooperation with the Japanese academia.

## A Delegation from MFC, CAS, SCSIO and RCEES visit UoR

A delegation from the Ministry of Finance of China (MFC), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and South China Sea Institute of Oceanology (SCSIO) and Research Center for Eco-environmental Sciences (RCEES) visited the University of Ruhuna on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

The objective of their visit was to identify the progress of China Sri Lanka Joint Center for Education and Research (CSL-CER) which has been established at the University of Ruhuna under the MoU signed with Sri Lankan Government in 2014 for academic cooperation.

The delegation was led by Ms. Yong Zheng from the Ministry of Finance, China. The other members of the group were Ms. Changhong Nie, Mr. Yiqi Jiang and Ms. Hong Xu from CAS, Prof Dongxiao Wang, Dr. Jinglong Yao and Dr. Yao Luo from SCSIO and Prof. Min Yang from RCEES.

The Vice Chancellor of the University and Deans of the Faculties, Director of the Center for International Affairs (CINTA) and Assistant Registrar of CINTA had discussions with the delegation.



international collaborations

## Swaranga 2016 Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science, for the second consecutive year staged "Swaranga - 2016" on 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 at the HSS Auditorium. A group of nearly 200 students representing all batches of students of the Faculty of Science participated. It was an evening filled with great music and dancing, choreographed by students themselves. Swaranga - 2016 was staged at 1.30 and 6.30 p.m. and both shows were well attended. The Vice-Chancellor graced the evening show. This event was coordinated by the Prof. Kanthi Yapa and Prof. Dammini Premachandra.



## Annual Pirith Chanting Ceremony and Alms Giving

The annual Pirith Chanting Ceremony and Alms Giving organized by the Buddhist Society of the Faculty of Science were held on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of October, 2016 at the Alawaththagoda Pemadasa Auditorium under the patronage of Prof. Kanthi K.A.S. Yapa and the Senior Treasurer Dr. J.A.P. Bodhika. The event was well attended by staff and students of the Faculty as well as other well-wishers. The Alms were offered to about 20 Maha Sanga and both events were patronized by the Vice Chancellor, and the Dean of the Faculty.



## Blood Donation Campaign 2016 by Buddhist Society, Faculty of Science

A Blood Donation Campaign organized by the Buddhist Society of the Faculty of Science was held on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 at the Alawaththagoda Pemadasa Auditorium. Students from all faculties in the Wellamadama premises participated in this meritorious event by donating blood. Members of the Buddhist Society of the Faculty of Science worked very hard to provide maximum comfort for blood donors as well as the medical team from the Blood Bank who carried out the blood drawing task throughout the day.



## Arts, Crafts & Sculptures Exhibition, “AURORA”

“Aurora” - Arts, Crafts & Sculptures exhibition was held between 07<sup>th</sup> – 09<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 at the Alawaththagoda Pemadasa Auditorium of the Faculty of Science. About 150 creative work in arts, crafts and sculptures were exhibited as a collective effort of about fifty undergraduate students of the faculty. Certificates of Excellence were awarded to selected exhibits under several categories.



## “Active Citizenship” and “Active Citizen Community Project” at the Faculty of Science

With the support of the British Council Active Citizen Programme, the Faculty of Science has started a new course module on “Active Citizenship” for the Level I students. Also second course unit on “Active Citizen Community Project” will be introduced to the students who have completed the Active Citizenship module successfully. Students who complete both the course modules successfully will receive “Active Citizen” certificate jointly issued by the British Council and the University of Ruhuna. Objectives of the two course modules are to promote role of active citizenships in their communities by learning to work with others peacefully and effectively. These two course modules were introduced by Prof. Kanthi K.A.S. Yapa, Prof. E.P.S. Chandana and Dr. Harshi Manawadu under the guidance of the British Council Active Citizen Programme.



students in action



## Magazine of Soft Skill Society & Photographic Exhibition

“Sankalpa Yathra” the Magazine of the SoftSkill Society of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology was launched on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at its Faculty auditorium. This is the 4th consecutive year of this annual event organized by the Soft Skill Society. Prof. Gamini Senanayake, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ruhuna was the Chief Guest of the event. In parallel to this event, “Seya Lochana”, photographic exhibition was also held at the Faculty premises.



## Inter Faculty Dancing and Literacy Competition 2016

Inter Faculty Dancing and Literature Competition of University of Ruhuna (IFDLC) was successfully held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 at the Auditorium of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. This event was graced by Mr. Raj Kumar, Consul General of India, Hambanthota and Vice Chancellor of University of Ruhuna. Prof.E.P.S.Chandana Senior Student Counselor of University of Ruhuna coordinated the event. Students were also awarded for their literature work in writing poems, novels, short stories, free verses and lyrics. Results of the dancing competition is given below.

### Traditional Group Dancing

- 1<sup>st</sup> Faculty of Engineering
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Faculty of Science
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology

### Free Form Group Dancing

- 1<sup>st</sup> Faculty of Science
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Faculty of Medicine
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Faculty of Agriculture



## Presidential Awards For Scientific Publications

Six academics of the University of Ruhuna were awarded with the Presidential and NRC Merit Awards for scientific publications this year. These awards coordinated by the National Research Council (NRC) of Sri Lanka are considered as the most prestigious awards for research publication in Sri Lanka. The event which took place at Water's Edge, Battaramulla on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2016, was graced by His Excellency Maithreepala Sirisena, the President of Sri Lanka, and the Hon Susil Premajayanthsa, Minister for Science, Technology & Research.

The awardees from the University of Ruhuna were Professor Sudash Wanniarachchi (Agriculture) Professor PMCS De Silva (Zoology), Professor Leelamanie Jayasinghe (Agriculture), Dr. K. Masakorala (Botany), Dr. Nadeesha Wickramage (Physics) and Dr. H C P Karunasena (Mechanical Engineering).



## Excellent International Student Award to Dr. B. G. Sampath Aruna Pradeep

Dr. B. G. Sampath Aruna Pradeep attached to the Department of Mathematics of the Faculty of Science, has won the following awards for his outstanding performances. Dr. B. G. Sampath Aruna Pradeep completed his doctoral degree at the School of Applied Mathematics and Physics, University of Science and Technology Beijing, People's Republic of China.

- The Second Prize of the "Excellent International Student Award in 2014" awarded by the University of Science and Technology Beijing, Beijing, China.
- The First Prize of the "Excellent International Student Award in 2015" awarded by the University of Science and Technology Beijing, Beijing, China.
- The "Excellent International Student Award in 2015" awarded by the Ministry of Education, China.

- The "Outstanding International Graduate of University of Science and Technology Beijing-2016" awarded by the University of Science and Technology Beijing, Beijing, China



**Dr Ruwani Hewawasam**

delivered “Prof N D W Lionel Memorial Oration”

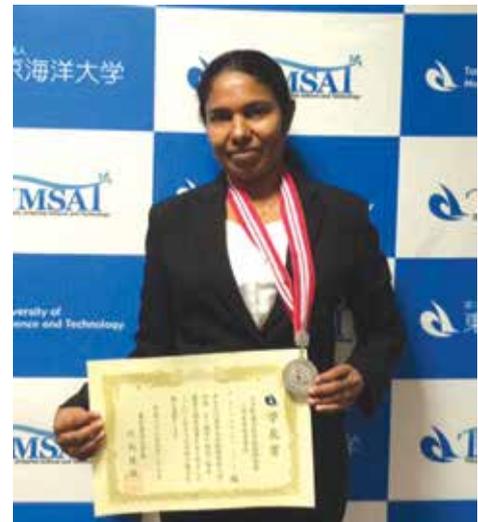


Dr Ruwani Hewawasam, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine,

University of Ruhuna delivered her second oration, “Professor N. D. W. Lionel Memorial Oration” at the 129<sup>th</sup> Anniversary International Medical Congress of the Sri Lanka Medical Association on “Hepatoprotective effect of medicinal plants against chemically induced hepatotoxicity” on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016. She has also delivered “Sir Nicholas Attygalle memorial oration” on “Glutathione transferase derived compounds as potential therapeutics for the treatment of cardiac arrhythmias and heart failure” at the Sri Lanka Medical Association in 2014. Dr Hewawasam has won the “Sri Lanka Heart Association Research Award for 2016” awarded by the Sri Lanka Heart Association at the Inauguration ceremony of their Annual Academic Sessions on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

**Presidential Award from Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology to Dr. Sandamali Sakunthala**

Dr. Sandamali Sakunthala Herath of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology completed her PhD in Applied Marine Bio Sciences recently from Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology. As of her outstanding performances she received the Presidential Award for the Academic Excellence - 2016 from Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016.



**Greatest Distention from Ghent to Ms. R. D. N Wijesinghe**

Ms R. D. N. Wijesinghe of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology completed her Master Degree in Aquaculture at the Department of Animal Production, Laboratory of Aquaculture and Artesia Reference Center, Faculty of Bio Science Engineering, Ghent University, Belgium. For securing the first place among the 2015 batch of students, she received a Greatest Distinction from the Ghent University.



## Snr. Prof. Ruchira Cumararatunga was appointed as a Member of the NASTEC and Working Committee of NSF



Snr. Prof. P.R.T. Cumararatunga, Professor of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology has been appointed as a member of the National Science & Technology Commission (NASTEC) and National Science Foundation (NSF) Working Committee on Oceanography and Marine Resources for a period of three years.

Also, she has contributed to the preparation of the National Research and Development Framework (NRDF). She has extended her contribution in the area of Food, Agriculture and Nutrition including Fish Products, which has been presented to the His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka recently.

## Scarborough Maud Frazer Award to Ms. H. M. E. J. Heenkenda



Ms. H. M. E. J. Heenkenda of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology who is reading for her Master's Degree at the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, University of Florida received the Scarborough Maud Frazer Award at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Outstanding Students Awards Ceremony by International Center, on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. She was nominated for this award by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences out of 450 students. Mrs. H.M.E.J. Heenkendawas recognized as the Outstanding International Student in the University for her academic achievements, extracurricular activities and community service.

## International Research Project on New Water Supply Strategy to Dr. Tushara Chaminda

The Asia Pacific Network (APN) for Global Change Research has given a research project to study the current urban water supply system and propose a new supply system as an adaption to future climate change, rapid urbanization and population growth. Collaborators of this international research project are University of Ruhuna, Tezpur University, India and Kanazawa University, Japan. Dr. Tushara Chaminda of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is the University of Ruhuna collaborator.



## Best Paper award in the Geotechnical Society Project Day 2016 to Ms. B. L. A. Isaka

Ms. B.L.A. Isaka of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering won the Best Paper award in the Geotechnical Society Project Day 2016 among the undergraduate research projects from all the State Engineering Faculties in country. The undergraduate research projects conducted in the field of Geotechnical Engineering were presented at this conference, which was held October-2016.

## Engineering Students of Ruhuna at TECHNO 2016

TECHNO is the largest Engineering and Technology Exhibition in the country organized annually by the Institute of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL). Students from the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Ruhuna were able to compete and win from the following competitions which were held at the BMICH in conjunction with TECHNO 2016 Exhibition.

### Champions at the Inter University Concrete Mix Design Competition



Undergraduate students of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering became the Champions at the Inter University Concrete Mix Design Competition organized by Siam City Cement (Lanka) Limited. The objective of the competition was to impart practical and theoretical knowledge in the specialized area of concrete mix design, providing students with valuable exposure. Students of the champion team got a chance to participate a factory visit in Singapore, sponsored by Siam City Cement (Lanka) Ltd.

### 1st and 2nd Places at the Inter-University Spaghetti Bridge Competition - 2016

Civil Engineering Undergraduate Students, defending champions and national record holders of Spaghetti Bridge Competition, were able to bag both 1st and 2nd Places this year too at the Inter-University Spaghetti Bridge Competition-2016. DCEE students were able to achieve 47.5 kg load and 102 load/mass ratio.



### First Place Winner – “Sahasak Nimavum – 2016”

A student from the Faculty of Science, L. W. C. Parakrama, has won the 1st Place at the National Exhibition for Inventions & Innovations “Sahasak Nimavum” (සහසක් නිමැවුම් 2016) under the university category in the field of Physics, for his invention on “Supplementary External Vacuum Unit for Vehicle Brake System”.

He was selected to participate at the STANBUL International Inventions Fair 2016 in Seoul, Korea held from 01<sup>st</sup> to 04<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, representing Sri Lanka and received a Certificate of Excellence at the fair.



## IESL - Migara Ratnatunga Trust Award to Mr. J. M. M. U Jayapadma

A final year undergraduate student, Mr. J. M. M. U Jayapadma of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, won the IESL - Migara Ranatunge Trust Award, awarded to the best industrial trainee. Also, certificates were awarded to Ms. B.M.J.K Balasooriya and Mr. H.B.P. Raveendra of the same Department.



## Best Paper at the ICIET 2016, Bangkok

Ms. R. G. N. Yasanthi of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering was awarded the Best Paper award for an undergraduate research project on Transportation Engineering at the International Conference on Innovative Engineering Technologies (ICIET) 2016 held in Bangkok.



## Ruhuna at the Inter University Poster Competition 2016 Organized by SLAAS -E2

Level I Students from the Chemistry Special Degree Programme of the University won the second and third places of the Inter University Poster Competition - 2016 organized by the Section E2 on Chemical Sciences of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS).

The winning poster themes were "Chemical Technology", "Environmental Chemistry" and "Chemical Safety and Health". The award ceremony was held in BMICH on 5th December, 2016 with the participation of His Excellency the President and Hon Minister of Science and Technology.

## Best Presentation Award to Mrs Dinushka Jayasundara



Mrs Dinushka Jayasundara in the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology won the best presentation award of the "Nutrition Physiology and Biochemistry" at the 3rd International Conference on Fisheries and Aquaculture (ICFA 2016) on her presentation titled "Effect of Brewer's Wastes as a partial substitute for dietary fishmeal on growth performance of Guppy (*Poecilia reticulata*)". This Undergraduate research project was supervised by Dr. K. R. Gamage of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science & Technology. This year ICFA conference was held on 24-25 August at Negombo, Sri Lanka.

## New appointments of UoR

Mrs Abeysekara WCSM has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Department of Agric. Economics.

Dr. Annasiwatta AWBI has been recruited as a Senior Lecturer Gr. II in the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering.

Mr. Bandara WBMAC has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Agricultural Engineering

Dr. Dassanayake KMM has been recruited as a Senior Lecturer Gr I of the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering

Ms. Deshani AL has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Management and Finance

Dr. Galappaththi UIK has been recruited as a Senior Lecturer Gr II in the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering

Mr. Gamage TD has been recruited to a post of Probationary Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering

Mr. Gunawardena SD has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering

Ms. Hewage UHWA has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Department of Information & Communication Technology

Ms. Jayasekara AJ has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Department of Economics

Dr. Jayasinghe PKSC has been recruited as a Senior Lecturer Gr II in the Department of Information & Communication Technology

Mr. Konara KMS has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering

Dr Kumrara KJC has been recruited as a Senior Lecturer Gr. II in the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering

Ms. Liyanage TDP has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Department of Soil Science

Ms. Madusha Dilshani SD has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics

Ms. De Silva MTT has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Management and Finance

Mr. Niroshana KHH has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Department of Oceanography & Marine Geology

Dr. Premarathna DMUAK has been recruited as a Senior Lecturer Gr II in the Department of Oceanography & Marine Geology

Mr. Priyankara WNBAG has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering

Mr. Ranjan MTT has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering

Ms. Sewwandi MAND has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Department of Information & Communication Technology

Ms. Thathsarane WTV has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Department of Food Science & Technology

Mr. Wanninayake WTMAPK has been recruited as a Senior Lecturer Gr II in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

Mr. Wickramasinghe KC has been recruited as a Probationary Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering

Mr. Silva JPANM De has been recruited as an Instructor Physical Education III in the Physical Education Unit

Mrs. Rathnayake RMAS has been recruited as a Career Guidance Counsellor in the Career Guidance Unit

Mr. Somathilake SS has been recruited to a post of ICT II of the Dean's Office of Faculty of Management and Finance

## Promotions of UoR

Associate Prof. (Mrs.) Jayathilake KAPW of the Department of Biochemistry of Faculty of Medicine has been promoted to Professor in Biochemistry

Dr.G.B.Sanath of the Department of Chemistry of Faculty of Science has been promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I

Dr. N.Yapage of the Department of Chemistry of Faculty of Science has been promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I

Mr. H.K.M.S.Kumarasinghe of the Department of Crop Science of the Faculty of Agriculture has been promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II

Dr. M.K.D.K.Piyarathna of the Dean's Office of Faculty of Agriculture has been promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I

Dr. (Mrs.) N. P. Ranathunga of the Department of Agriculture Biology of Faculty of Agriculture has been promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade I

Mr. K.H.M.A. Deepananda of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology has been promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II

Mrs. W.A. Indika of the Department of Computer Science of Faculty of Science has been promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II

Dr. H.J.Sampath of the Department of Chemistry of Faculty of Science has been Senior Lecturer Grade II

Mrs. K.D.Prasangika of the Department of Mathematics of Faculty of Science has been promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II

Dr. P.V.De Silva of the Department of Community Medicine of Faculty of Medicine has been promoted to Professor in Community Medicine

Associate Prof. (Mrs.) M.P.K.S.K. De Silva of the Department of Zoology of Faculty of Science has been promoted to Professor in Zoology

Associate Prof. (Mrs.) D.H.N. Munasinghe of the Department of Zoology of Faculty of Science has been promoted to Professor in Zoology

Dr. (Mrs) Nilanthi Dahanayake of the Department of Agricultural Biology of Faculty of Agriculture has been promoted to Associate Professor

Dr. (Mrs.) D.M.K.N. Senevirathna of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies of Faculty of Engineering has been promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II

Dr. (Mrs.) M.A.P.D.P. Wickramaratne of the Department of Agricultural Economics of Faculty of Agriculture has been promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II

Dr. P.E.D.Zoysa of the Department of Biochemistry of Faculty of Medicine has been promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II

Dr. (Mrs.) N.G.Ranawaka of the Department of Pathology of Faculty of Medicine has been promoted to Senior Lecturer Grade II

Mr. W.M.C.D. Vijekoon of the Department of Physiology of Faculty of Medicine has been promoted to Scientific Assistant Grade I

## RUHUNA INVENTION & INNOVATION EXHIBITION (RIIE) -2017

*"Promoting Southern Province Inventive Skills"*

Exhibition will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of May, 2017 at the Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna

RIIE - 2017 will be the venue for selection of exhibits from southern province for the national contest "SAHASAK NIMAVUM -2017". Exhibition will have over 500 inventions under four categories; University & Tertiary Education Institutes, Schools, Open and Commercial and under 14 fields in each category. An educational exhibition will be held under many themes such as "Physics is Fun", "Spirit of Math", "Chemistry Magic Show", "Ocean is our Neighbour", "Fisheries & Marine Science Exhibition", "Mobile Planetarium" and "Inventions of Armed Forces". Special experiments & demonstrations under all subjects aiming Advanced/Level Science and Technology students will be an additional item in the exhibition.

The event is organized by the University of Ruhuna in collaboration with Sri Lanka Inventors Commission (SLIC) and with partnership of Provincial Council and Ministry of Education of Southern Province.



### UoR Highlights

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Please forward your news articles to the next issue before June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017