

Two UoM Academics Featured in

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RESEARCH INITIATIVES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS & DISSEMINATIONS

TMLE Conducts Research Dissemination Meetings in July and August 2026



The Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering (TMLE), University of Moratuwa, conducted two sessions of its Research Dissemination Meeting (RDM) series on 30 July and 25 August 2026.

The monthly RDM series provides a platform for postgraduate students and academic staff to share research findings, receive feedback and explore opportunities for academic collaboration. The sixth session, held on 30 July, featured a presentation by Ms. Fathima Nasfa, MSc candidate, titled *"Developing a Risk Management Framework to Improve Resilience in Maritime Supply Chains: For the Apparel Industry in Sri Lanka"*.

The seventh session, held on 25 August, featured two presentations. Mr. Harshana Ranathunga, MSc candidate, presented *"Conducting Systematic Review Through Bibliometric Analysis: Operationalising the Workflow with Bibliometrix in R"*, followed by Mr Francis Maxwel, PhD candidate, who presented *"Sustainable E-Bus Integration and Traffic Optimization on Corridors Leading to Urban Centers Through Agent-Based Modeling"*.

Both sessions provided opportunities for postgraduate researchers and academic staff to discuss research in transport, logistics, supply chain management and sustainability.



ACADEMIC & INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

University of Moratuwa Hosts iPrOTeCT Stakeholder Convention 2026



The University of Moratuwa hosted the iPrOTeCT Stakeholder Convention 2026 from 21 to 23 July 2026 at the Mount Lavinia Hotel. Funded by the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), the convention brought together academics, clinicians and researchers from Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, Rwanda and Lebanon to review progress and discuss future priorities in physical trauma care and rehabilitation.

The NIHR Global Health Research Group on Physical Trauma from Injury and Post-Conflict (iPrOTeCT) focuses on improving trauma care and rehabilitation, particularly in low-resource and post-conflict settings. The consortium is jointly led by Prof. Anthony Bull of Imperial College London, Prof. Ruwan Gopura of the

University of Moratuwa, Prof. Abebe Bekele of the University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda, and Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah of the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

The programme included an overview of the project by Prof. Anthony Bull, an address by Prof. Jagath Manathunga, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, and a panel discussion on Sri Lanka's experiences in trauma care and rehabilitation, moderated by Dr. Melani Amarasooriya. Discussions focused on research, innovation, capacity strengthening and the long-term sustainability of the consortium's activities. Participants also visited the University of Moratuwa's Biomedical Engineering, Bionics and Motion Analysis laboratories, where undergraduate and postgraduate students presented their research. A visit to the Rheumatology and Rehabilitation Hospital in Ragama provided an opportunity to observe rehabilitation services and practices in Sri Lanka. The convention concluded with discussions on future research collaboration and institutional partnerships.



Tianjin University Delegation Visits Department of Chemical and Process Engineering



A delegation from Tianjin University, China, comprising three professors and postgraduate and undergraduate students, visited the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, on 25 August 2026. The visit, hosted at the University of Moratuwa by Waste to Value (Pvt) Ltd., Sri Lanka, provided an opportunity for academics and students from both universities to exchange knowledge and research insights in environmental engineering, sustainable technologies, wastewater treatment and resource recovery. The programme included technical and research sessions conducted by academics from Tianjin University and the Departments of Chemical and Process Engineering and Civil Engineering at the University of Moratuwa. The sessions focused on ongoing research activities, technical expertise and emerging developments in the relevant fields. The visit concluded with a joint discussion on opportunities for future academic and research collaboration, including knowledge exchange and potential cooperative initiatives between the institutions.



IISc Bangalore Delegation Visits University of Moratuwa to Explore Academic and Research Collaboration



A three-member delegation from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India, visited the University of Moratuwa on 27 July 2026 to explore opportunities for academic and research collaboration between the two institutions.

The delegation comprised Prof. Baladiya Suri, Chair of the Office of International Relations (OIR) and Associate Professor in the Department of Instrumentation and Applied Physics; Prof. Aloke Kumar, Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and OIR Committee Member; and Prof. Arindam Khan, Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Automation and OIR Committee Member. The delegation was welcomed by





Prof. SAD Dias, Deputy Vice-Chancellor; Prof. JMA Manatunge, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering; Prof. SD Pilapitiya, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine; Prof. MSD Fernando, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering; Prof. Dinesh Attygalle, Department of Materials Science and Engineering; Dr. IU Attanayake, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering; and Ms. YS Karunarathne, Assistant Registrar, External Affairs, Publicity and International Student Promotion Division. During the meeting, representatives of both institutions exchanged information on their academic and research strengths and discussed potential areas of collaboration. The IISc delegation presented an overview of the Institute's research capabilities and opportunities for international engagement. Discussions focused on joint research, academic activities, student and researcher exchanges, faculty interactions, collaborative postgraduate education and other forms of institutional cooperation. Potential research linkages were also explored in instrumentation and applied physics, quantum technologies, mechanical engineering, materials science, computer science and automation, and related interdisciplinary fields. The visit built on previous interactions between IISc and the University of Moratuwa and provided an opportunity to explore further academic and research partnerships.

GUEST LECTURES / TALKS

Prof. HR Pasindu Presents Research on Low-Volume Road Network Prioritisation at NUS



Prof. HR Pasindu of the Transportation Engineering Division, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, presented his research at the Pavement Engineering Research Seminar 2026, held on 20 August 2026 at the National University of Singapore (NUS). His presentation, titled "Prioritization of Low-Volume Road Networks under Data Scarcity: Economic, Social and Hazard Criteria in Resource Allocation", examined approaches to prioritising maintenance interventions for low-volume road networks based on road conditions, socio-economic importance and hazard-related factors.The research addressed the challenges faced by road agencies operating with limited technical and financial resources, particularly where comprehensive road asset data are unavailable. It highlighted the importance of systematic prioritisation in allocating maintenance budgets and improving the effectiveness of road rehabilitation programmes.

Professor HR Pasindu - Department of Civil Engineering Delivers Keynote Speech at the 3rd Undergraduate Research Symposium at the University of Jaffna

Prof. HR Pasindu of the Transportation Engineering Division, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, delivered a keynote speech at the 3rd Undergraduate Research Symposium, organized by the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Jaffna. In his keynote address, Prof. Pasindu highlighted the important role of transportation engineering within the broader field of civil engineering, while drawing attention to the diverse opportunities available in the discipline. The session introduced undergraduate students to potential research areas in transportation engineering and explored both local and global career opportunities available to transportation engineering professionals.

Prof. HR Pasindu Delivers Invited Talk at Singapore Symposium on Pavement Technology



TMLE Hosts 'Business on the Move' Workshop



The Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering (TMLE), University of Moratuwa, organised an interactive workshop titled "Business on the Move" on 16 July 2026 at the Department's Learning Studio. The workshop was conducted by Prof. Nishal Samarasekera of WMG, University of Warwick, UK, and former Senior Lecturer at the University of Moratuwa. It provided academic staff with an opportunity to examine contemporary developments in business, transport and logistics, including the changing nature of business environments.

The programme included an interactive discussion, a question-and-answer session and a simulation game, enabling participants to explore practical scenarios and exchange perspectives on transport, logistics and supply chain management. The workshop also provided an opportunity for academic staff to engage with international academic expertise and strengthen professional connections in these fields.

Prof. HR Pasindu of the Transportation Engineering Division, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, delivered an invited talk at the 31st Singapore Symposium on Pavement Technology, organised by the Pavement Engineering Society, Singapore, on 21 August 2026. The talk focused on road asset management, particularly the development of frameworks to optimise funding allocation for the rehabilitation of low-volume roads and prioritise road rehabilitation following disasters.

Visitor Talk Series – August 2026: Dr. Sanjaya Bandara





The first guest lecture in the August 2026 Visitor Talk Series was delivered by Dr. Sanjaya Bandara on 11 August 2026 at the Boardroom of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Moratuwa. The lecture was conducted in hybrid mode, with more than 17 participants, including research students, visitors and academic staff. Titled "Intelligent Human Understanding: From Sensing to Interaction", the lecture explored approaches to understanding human behaviour through sensing technologies and interactive systems.

A recording of the session is available at: https://youtu.be/LCpYVEjjQWg

Visitor Talk Series – August 2026: Dr. Ramana Kumar Vinjamuri





The second guest lecture in the August 2026 Visitor Talk Series was delivered by Dr. Ramana Kumar Vinjamuri on 20 August 2026 at the Boardroom of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Moratuwa. The lecture was conducted in hybrid mode, with more than 19 participants, including research students, visitors and academic staff. Titled "Synergy-Based Brain-Machine Interfaces for Human-Robot Collaboration and Neuroadaptive Technologies", the lecture explored the application of brain-machine interfaces in human-robot collaboration and neuroadaptive technologies.

A recording of the session is available at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbISG_W5DiM2fUJM_nZyXXpV_DVZ3KvS3

Visitor Talk Series – July 2026: Dr. Inam Ul Ahad





The first guest lecture in the July 2026 Visitor Talk Series was delivered by Dr. Inam Ul Ahad on 6 July 2026 at the Boardroom of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Moratuwa. The lecture was conducted in hybrid mode, with more than 13 participants, including research students, visitors and academic staff. Titled "DeepTech and the Future of Cognitive Manufacturing", the lecture explored the role of emerging technologies in the development of cognitive manufacturing systems.

A recording of the session is available at: *https://youtu.be/0OzoLoDTo8w*

Visitor Talk Series – July 2026: Dr. Randika Kosala Vithanage





The second guest lecture in the July 2026 Visitor Talk Series was delivered by Dr. Randika Kosala Vithanage on 9 July 2026 at the Boardroom of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Moratuwa. The lecture was conducted in hybrid mode, with more than 19 participants, including research students, visitors and academic staff. Titled "Robotic Non-Destructive Testing of Safety-Critical Assets", the lecture addressed the application of robotic technologies in the non-destructive testing of safety-critical assets.

A recording of the session is available at: *https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbISG_W5DiM2fUJM_nZyXXpV_DVZ3KvS3*

98th BEMRU Colloquium Explores Circular Economy Practices in the Built Environment



The 98th Building Economics and Management Research Unit (BEMRU) Colloquium was held on 16 July 2026 at the Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa. The session, titled "Advancing Circular Economy Practices in the Built Environment: Perspectives from Australia and India", was delivered by Dr. Akvan Gajanayake, Lecturer at RMIT University, Australia.

The colloquium examined the role of circular economy principles in addressing resource consumption and waste generation in the built environment. Drawing on examples from Australia and India, Dr. Gajanayake discussed differences in policy approaches, institutional frameworks and professional practices related to the implementation of circular economy principles. A particular focus was the application of systems thinking to extend circular economy practices beyond conventional recycling

Guest Lecture Explores Disaster Risk Reduction, Flood Management and Urban Planning in Sri Lanka



The Department of Town and Country Planning, University of Moratuwa, organised a guest lecture on disaster risk reduction, flood management and urban planning on 11 August 2026 for third-year students of the BSc (Hons) in Urban Informatics and Planning degree programme.

Conducted as part of the Eco-Sensitive Planning Concepts module, the lecture examined natural hazards and disaster response planning from the perspectives of different stakeholders. Mr. Pradeep Kodippili, Director (Awareness), and Dr. Saranga Vithanage, Assistant Director of the Education and Public Awareness Division of the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), served as resource persons. The session addressed the legal framework for disaster risk reduction in Sri Lanka, lessons and practices in multi-stakeholder disaster management, and flood management strategies, with particular reference to the Kelani River Basin. Potential research opportunities in disaster risk identification and response planning were also discussed.

The lecture highlighted the relationship between disaster risk reduction and environmentally sensitive regional planning, including the challenges posed by land-use conflicts and urban development in Colombo and its surrounding areas. Discussions also emphasised the importance of collaboration among academic institutions, government agencies and communities affected by disasters in integrating risk reduction, mitigation and adaptation strategies into urban and regional planning.



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Entrepreneurship Programme Conducted in Collaboration with NEDA





The Career Guidance Unit (CGU), University of Moratuwa, in collaboration with the National Entrepreneurship Development Authority (NEDA) under the Ministry of Industry, conducted a three-day entrepreneurship programme for undergraduates from all faculties on 7–9 August 2026 at the Library Auditorium.

The programme aimed to support students interested in establishing their own businesses by introducing them to entrepreneurship and business development. Following the workshop, participants were encouraged to submit business proposals to NEDA, with selected proposals eligible for seed capital grants to support the establishment of their ventures.



External Reviewers Evaluate Quantity Surveying and Facilities Management Degree Programmes



The Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, hosted an external reviewer visit for the BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying and BSc (Hons) in Facilities Management degree programmes on 12–13 August 2026. The review panel comprised Prof. David Proverbs of De Montfort University, UK, Ch. QS DG Jayarathna and Mr. Remaz Ghouse. During the two-day visit, the panel held discussions with academic staff, students and industry professionals, examined student work, including examination papers, continuous assessments and dissertations, and inspected university facilities.

The reviewers also assessed the progress made in implementing recommendations from the previous external review. Following the visit, the panel prepared a report containing observations and recommendations for the further development of the two degree programmes. The visit concluded with a dinner in recognition of Prof. Proverbs' contribution upon completing his three-year appointment as an external reviewer for the two programmes. The review formed part of the Department's continuing efforts to maintain and improve academic standards and the quality of its degree programmes.



Career Guidance Sessions for Landscape Architecture Undergraduates



The Career Guidance Unit (CGU), University of Moratuwa, conducted a series of career guidance sessions for Bachelor of Landscape Architecture undergraduates of the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, in August 2026.

The interactive sessions were tailored to students at different levels of the degree programme, addressing their career development needs as they progressed through their studies.

CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIA

World Construction Symposium 2026 Focuses on Regenerative Built Environments



The 14th World Construction Symposium, jointly organised by the Building Economics and Management Research Unit (BEMRU) of the Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, and the Ceylon Institute of Builders (CIOB), was held in hybrid mode on 10–11 July 2026 at the Hilton Colombo. The symposium attracted more than 250 local and international delegates. Held under the theme *"Towards a Regenerative Built Environment: From Foresight to Action"*, the symposium brought together academics, researchers and industry professionals to discuss sustainability, resilience and emerging approaches in the construction industry. The Chief Guest was Hon. Anton Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Environment, Sri Lanka, while Prof. Dileeka Dias, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa, attended as the Guest of Honour. Dr. Josephine Vaughan of the University of Newcastle, Australia, delivered the keynote address, *"From Extraction to Circulation: Rethinking Cities as Sources of Building Materials"*, examining opportunities to adopt circular approaches to resource use in the built environment. The academic programme was coordinated by the Department of Building Economics, with Prof. Anuradha Waidyasekara, Dr. Suranga Jayasena, Dr. Chandanie Hediwattage and Dr. Gihan Tennakoon serving as Co-Chairs of the Scientific Committee. Of more than 150 submissions received, 136 papers by local and international researchers were selected following peer review. Full papers presented at the symposium have been indexed in Scopus

since 2019. Five research awards were presented during the symposium. These comprised the CIOB Best Paper Award, the CIOB Highly Commended Paper Award, the Built Environment Project and Asset Management (BEPAM) Best Paper Award and two BEPAM Highly Commended Paper Awards. The BEPAM awards were presented in association with the journal published by Emerald Publishing. The symposium also featured the launch of CIB Task Group TG129 – Urban-Rural Built and Natural Environment Synergies (URBANES), led by Ch. QS Dr. Suranga Jayasena, Lead Coordinator of the Task Group. Guest lectures were organised by the CIB Student Chapters of Massey University, New Zealand, and the University of Moratuwa. Dr. Eziaku Rasheed of Massey University delivered a lecture titled *"Connect, Learn, Lead: What the CIB Student Chapter Can Do for You"*, while Associate Prof. Mostafa Babaeian Jelodar of Massey University spoke on *"Advancing Sustainability in the Built Environment through Modern Methods of Construction and Automation"*.



A roundtable discussion titled *"Sustainable Supply Chains for Resilient Construction Industries in Developing Countries"* brought together five representatives from academia and industry to examine opportunities for strengthening collaboration and improving sustainability in the construction sector. The symposium concluded with the Sri Lankan Sustainability Awards 2026, marking the end of two days of research presentations, discussions and professional engagement.



Department of Building Economics Contributes to PAQS Congress 2026



The Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, played an active role in organising the Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors (PAQS) Congress 2026, held from 21 to 25 August 2026 at Cinnamon Life City of Dreams, Colombo.

Held under the theme "Constructing the Evolution: Unleashing Human Intelligence", the Congress brought together approximately 500 delegates, including more than 200 international participants from across the Asia-Pacific region. Discussions addressed emerging technologies, innovation and sustainability in the construction industry, alongside the role of human intelligence and professional judgement. Ch. QS Senior Prof. Kanchana Perera served as Chair of the Scientific Committee, while Prof. Udayangani Kulatunga, Ch. QS Prof. Menaha Thayaparan and Ch. QS Dr. Tharusha Ranadewa served as Co-Chairs. The scientific programme featured the highest number of conference papers in the history of PAQS Congresses. Ch. QS Indunil Seneviratne and Ch. QS Dr. Dilani Abeynayake served on the Main Organising Committee, while Ch. QS Dr. Suranga Jayasena was the Rapporteur for the panel discussion. The Department also contributed to the Young Quantity Surveyors (YQS) Forum, coordinated by Ch. QS Dilshan Akalanka, Mr. Maneesha Ranasinghe, Mr. Kawshalya Sepalage, Mr. Heshan Bandara and Ms. Himasha Subasinghe. Research Assistants Ms. Lakshika Madhushani, Mr. Sanju Dharshana, Mr. Suthira Wijayawardena and Mr. Yasith Sandaruwan also supported the planning and organisation of the Congress. The involvement of academic staff and researchers across the scientific programme, organising committee and YQS Forum reflected the Department's engagement with the international quantity surveying community.



FOREIGN VISITS

Dr. Nalaka Jayantha Undertakes Academic Visit to Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology, Thailand



Dr. Nalaka Jayantha of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, undertook an academic visit to the Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology (SIIT), Thailand, from 3 August to 4 September 2026, as a follow-up activity under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions. During the visit, Dr. Jayantha conducted a lecture series and taught the module CES391: Special Topics in Civil Engineering to undergraduate and postgraduate students. The module focused on developments in transportation infrastructure and sustainable pavement systems. He also delivered a university-wide lecture titled "From Demolition Waste to Durable Roads: Roller Compacted Concrete Pavements with Recycled Aggregates and Internal Curing" at the SIIT Main Building. The lecture examined the use of recycled construction materials in pavement engineering, addressing challenges associated with construction and demolition waste management and the increasing demand for natural aggregates.

The visit also provided opportunities to explore further academic and research collaboration between SIIT and the University of Moratuwa. Discussions covered joint research projects and grant applications, postgraduate research supervision and co-supervision, external evaluation of postgraduate degrees, split postgraduate programmes and undergraduate student exchanges.

These activities formed part of the continuing collaboration between the two institutions under their existing MoU.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Civil Engineering Undergraduates Receive Migara Ratnatunga Trust Award



Two undergraduates of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, U Thulajah and GRR Sandeepa, received the Migara Ratnatunga Trust Award for Best Presentation in Industrial Training (Civil Engineering) at the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) Induction and Graduation Ceremony, held on 4 August 2026 at the BMICH, Colombo. The students were nominated by the Department to represent the University of Moratuwa in the competition. Their presentations demonstrated their technical knowledge, communication skills and understanding of professional engineering practice gained through industrial training. The Department of Civil Engineering congratulated the two students on their achievement, which highlights the importance of industrial training in developing practical engineering and professional communication skills.

University of Moratuwa Undergraduates Secure Second Runner-Up Position at National Financial Literacy Quiz



Undergraduates from the Bachelor of Business Science Honours in Financial Services Management (FSM) degree programme (Intake 2023) of the Faculty of Business, together with students from the Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, secured the second runner-up position at the Inter-University Financial Literacy Quiz Competition 2026, held on 7 July 2026 at the University of Peradeniya.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Two University of Moratuwa Academics Featured in Asian Publication on Women in STEM Advancing SDGs

[From Cover page]



Two academics from the University of Moratuwa, Prof. Dileeka Dias and Ms. Vishaka Nanayakkara, were among four Sri Lankan women recognised in Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM): Advancing SDGs in Asia, a publication by the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA), through its Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Committee. The recognition was announced in Sri Lanka in July 2026.

The publication features 49 women scientists, researchers and leaders from 14 Asian countries, highlighting their contributions towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It focuses on five goals: Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3), Quality Education (SDG 4), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9), and Climate Action (SDG 13).

Prof. Dileeka Dias, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Senior Professor in the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, is featured under SDG 9 for her contributions to telecommunications innovation and resilient digital infrastructure. Her research encompasses disaster communication, intelligent networks, smart infrastructure and emerging communication technologies. Among her contributions is research undertaken following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which contributed to the development of the Disaster Early Warning Network (DEWN) through university–industry collaboration. Her work also extends to smart metering, intelligent transport systems, industrial Internet of Things applications and next-generation mobile communications, including an open-source 5G research testbed.

Prof. Dias has also contributed to the University's research and postgraduate education through industry partnerships, research infrastructure development and her leadership as the Founding Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Ms. Vishaka Nanayakkara, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, and Director of the Centre for Open and Distance Learning, is featured under SDG 4 for her contributions to expanding access to digital education.

Her work includes the development of open and distance learning opportunities through open.uom.lk, the University's online learning platform. The initiative received first place at the European Conference on e-Learning Awards in 2022 and the ASOCIO Digital Excellence Gold Award in Education Technology in 2024.

Ms. Nanayakkara has also contributed to the development and modernisation of the University's Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) programme, supporting flexible pathways into computing education through online and blended learning.

The other Sri Lankan scientists featured in the publication are Dr. Nadira Karunaweera of the University of Colombo, recognised under SDG 3 for her contributions to public health and neglected tropical disease research, and Prof. Emerita Ruchira Cumaranatunga of the University of Ruhuna, recognised under SDG 13 for her work in fisheries science and marine environmental protection.

The competition was organised by the Career Guidance Unit of the University of Peradeniya in collaboration with CA Sri Lanka. It aimed to enhance financial literacy among undergraduates while encouraging collaboration and interaction among students from universities across the country. The competition provided participants with an opportunity to apply their financial knowledge, analytical thinking and teamwork skills in a national-level competitive setting.

The Department of Industrial Management congratulated the participating students on their achievement.

The inclusion of two University of Moratuwa academics among the four Sri Lankan women featured in the publication highlights the University's contributions to research, technological innovation and accessible education in support of sustainable development.

Publication: *Women in STEM: Advancing SDGs in Asia*

Further information: *Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA)*

Inaugural Lecture Series No. 45: Prof. WD Prasad



The 45th lecture in the University of Moratuwa's Inaugural Lecture Series was delivered by Prof. WD Prasad on 18 August 2026 at the Boardroom of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The lecture was conducted in hybrid mode, with more than 26 participants. Titled *"From Swing Equations to Artificial Intelligence: The Evolution of Rotor Angle Stability Assessment"*, the lecture provided an opportunity for Prof. Prasad to present his academic work and contributions to the field of rotor angle stability assessment. The event also formally introduced him as a professor to the University community and the wider public.

A recording of the lecture is available at: *https://youtu.be/W2ljnGQLQ4c*

Inaugural Lecture Series No. 44: Prof. Subha Fernando





The 44th lecture in the University of Moratuwa's Inaugural Lecture Series was delivered by Prof. Subha Fernando on 28 July 2026 at the Boardroom of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The lecture was conducted in hybrid mode, with more than 54 participants. Titled "From Algorithms to Impact: Building Human-Centred Artificial Intelligence for Society & Industry", the lecture provided an opportunity for Prof. Fernando to present her academic work and contributions to the field of artificial intelligence. The event also formally introduced her as a professor to the University community and the wider public.

A recording of the lecture is available at: *https://youtu.be/tGlC8fMq8oo*

Prof. Anuradha Waidyasekara Recognised for 25 Years of AIQS Membership



Prof. Anuradha Waidyasekara of the Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, was recognised for completing 25 years of membership with the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (AIQS) at the AIQS Member Engagement Event held in Colombo on 22 August 2026. During her association with AIQS, Prof. Waidyasekara has contributed to the quantity surveying profession through professional engagement, knowledge sharing, continuous professional development and collaboration with fellow practitioners.

The recognition marks a quarter-century of membership with the professional body and reflects her longstanding involvement in the quantity surveying profession in Sri Lanka and internationally.

Department of Building Economics Receives Research Awards at World Construction Symposium 2026

[From Cover page]



Researchers from the Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, received two research paper awards at the World Construction Symposium (WCS) 2026, held on 10–11 July 2026 at the Hilton, Colombo.

Mr. Prasad Hemantha, Research Assistant, Dr. Nuwantha Uduwage and Prof. Anuradha Waidyasekara of the Department, together with co-author Prof. Ranju Kumari Shiwakoti from Nepal, received the Ceylon Institute of Builders (CIOB) Best Paper Award for their paper titled "Macroeconomic-Driven Cement Price Forecasting in Sri Lanka Using Econometric and Deep Learning Models". The study explored the application of econometric and deep learning approaches to forecasting cement prices in Sri Lanka, with potential implications for improving material price predictions.

Ms. Gayasri Nawarathna, an undergraduate of the Department, Dr. Himal Suranga Jayasena, Head of the Department, and Mr. Piranavan Sivasothy, Temporary Lecturer, received the CIOB Highly Commended Paper Award for their paper titled "Data Requirements for a Material Passport in the Sri Lankan Construction Industry".

The two awards recognise research contributions addressing material price forecasting and information requirements for sustainable construction practices.



TMLE Undergraduates Visit Mattala Airport and Hambantota International Port



Third-year undergraduates of the Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering (TMLE), University of Moratuwa, participated in an educational field visit to Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport and Hambantota International Port (HIP) on 2 July 2026. At Hambantota International Port, students attended a session on the port's operations, services and role in the maritime and logistics sectors. The session introduced them to practical aspects of port management and operational procedures. At Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport, students were introduced to airport operations and air cargo handling processes, including the procedures involved in facilitating air freight activities.

The field visit provided an opportunity for students to relate their academic studies to industry practices and develop a broader understanding of port operations, airport management and transport logistics.



Adventure-Based Training Programme Develops Leadership, Teamwork and Resilience



Undergraduates from the 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 intakes of the Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Business, University of Moratuwa, participated in an Adventure-Based Training Programme at the National Youth Corps Training Centre, Naula, on 28–29 August 2026. Academic staff from the Department also participated in the programme. The two-day programme aimed to develop leadership, teamwork, communication, problem-solving, decision-making and resilience through a range of physical and team-based activities. These included team-building exercises, high-rope challenges and a campfire, which encouraged participants to build confidence, develop trust and strengthen interpersonal relationships. The programme concluded with a hike to Arangala Mountain, providing participants with a further physical challenge and an opportunity to experience the natural surroundings. The Department expressed its appreciation to the Director, instructors and staff of the National Youth Corps Training Centre, Naula, for their guidance and support in conducting the programme.



Urban Planning Undergraduates Explore Regional Development and Environmental Sensitivity in Gampaha



Level III students of the BSc (Hons) in Urban Informatics and Planning degree programme at the University of Moratuwa selected the Gampaha region as their study area for the Eco-Sensitive Regional Planning Studio, undertaken as part of their Semester 5 group project. Located within the Attanagalu Oya basin and between the Kelani River and Maha Oya watersheds, Gampaha presents a complex planning context in which increasing urbanisation must be balanced with environmental sensitivity. The studio provides students with an opportunity to examine these challenges and develop regional-scale spatial planning interventions. On 22 July 2026, students and academic staff visited the Gampaha offices of the Urban Development Authority (UDA) and Disaster Management Centre (DMC) to discuss urban growth, disaster management and future development priorities. Mr. Ajith Chandrasiri, Deputy Director of the Gampaha District Disaster Management Coordinating Unit, and Mr. Hemal Lakpethum, Deputy Director of the UDA Gampaha Office, shared their perspectives on the region's planning challenges and development prospects. The field visit also covered the Attanagalu Oya basin, Negombo Lagoon and Muthurajawela Wetlands, enabling students to examine the relationship between environmental systems, infrastructure and surrounding development activities. These observations will inform their regional planning proposals for the studio project. Colombo Becomes a Living Planning Laboratory for First-Year Undergraduates



CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Rhythm Divine 2026 Showcases TMLE Students' Artistic Talents



The Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering (TMLE), Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, held its annual aesthetic event, Rhythm Divine 2026, on 20 August 2026 at the Rupert Peiris Auditorium. The event brought together students, academic staff and guests for an evening of music, dance, drama and other performances, providing students with an opportunity to showcase their creativity and artistic talents beyond their academic pursuits. Organised through the collective efforts of students and academic staff, Rhythm Divine 2026 also provided an opportunity to strengthen relationships and foster a sense of community within the Department. The event forms part of TMLE's continuing efforts to encourage creativity, collaboration and broader student development alongside academic learning.

BESS Milk Coffee Dansala Continues a Tradition of Community Service



The Building Economics Students' Society (BESS) of the Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, organised a milk coffee dansala on 30 July 2026 in front of the Department's New Building, in conjunction with the Esala celebrations. This was the third dansala organised by BESS, following a milk coffee dansala and an ice cream dansala held in previous years. Returning to the original format, this year's event offered freshly prepared milk coffee to devotees, students and members of the wider public.

The event was attended by Dr. Suranga Jayasena, Head of the Department of Building Economics, together with academic and non-academic staff. Approximately 2,000 people were served, with the QS 40 batch leading the planning and coordination, supported by other members of BESS. The organisers incorporated environmentally friendly decorations and maintained hygiene and safety practices during the preparation and distribution of milk coffee. The event reflected the spirit of generosity, compassion and community engagement associated with the Esala season.

Drama Module Develops Communication and Teamwork Skills Among Urban Planning Undergraduates



The Department of Town and Country Planning, Faculty of Architecture, University of Moratuwa, completed the Drama Module (PL2309) for Level II students (Batch 2024/2028) of the BSc (Hons) in Urban Informatics and Planning degree programme in August 2026. Conducted as a two-week workshop, the module aimed to develop students' communication, critical thinking, self-confidence and teamwork skills through creative expression. Activities including script analysis, role-play and stage performance provided opportunities for students to develop their ability to present arguments, communicate ideas and collaborate effectively. The module concluded with a final evaluation on 29 August 2026 at the Rupert Peiris Auditorium. Five student groups staged original dramas based on scripts they had developed, drawing on multicultural perspectives and addressing broader social concerns. The performances demonstrated how drama can be used to explore societal issues and raise public awareness. The workshop was guided by visiting staff members Mr. Sampath Perera, Mr. Sanjeeva Gunarathna, Ms. Mihiri Priyangani Yapa and Mr. Tharindu Kavinda, who supported students throughout the module and its final performances.



FUTURE EVENTS

SCaLE 2026 – International Conference on Supply Chain and Logistics Engineering

The Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering (TMLE), University of Moratuwa, will host the inaugural International Conference on Supply Chain and Logistics Engineering (SCaLE 2026) on 26–27 November 2026 at the University.

Held under the theme "Advancing Engineering Solutions for Sustainable, Resilient, and Digital Supply Chains", the conference will bring together researchers, academics, industry practitioners and other stakeholders to exchange knowledge and examine emerging developments in supply chain and logistics engineering.

SCaLE 2026 will focus on engineering-oriented research addressing the structural, operational and technological challenges facing contemporary supply chains and logistics systems, with particular attention to emerging economies and South Asian contexts. The conference will collaborate with Springer Nature, with accepted and presented full research papers scheduled for publication in the Lecture Notes in Logistics (LNL) series. Through this initiative, the Department aims to promote research collaboration, knowledge exchange and academia–industry engagement in developing sustainable, resilient and digitally enabled supply chain and logistics systems.

Japanese Wadaiko Cultural Performance Scheduled at University of Moratuwa

A Japanese Wadaiko drum performance, organised in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka, is scheduled to take place on 7 October 2026 at the Rupert Peiris Auditorium, University of Moratuwa. The cultural networking event is expected to feature a Japanese performance group alongside a joint performance with students from the University's Classical Music Society and Dance Society. Representatives of the Embassy of Japan have also held preliminary discussions with the Career Guidance Unit (CGU) on opportunities to strengthen career guidance activities at the University.

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