



page  
02



University of Moratuwa  
**Bimonthly UOM news**

2025

May - June  
Volume: 14  
Issue: 3  
ISSN: 2279-2023



page  
08



page  
08

## Page 03

Research Initiatives, Accomplishments & Disseminations

## Page 04

Academic & Industry Collaboration

## Page 05

Guest Lectures / Talks

## Page 06

Academic Programs

## Page 07

Conferences & Symposia

## Page 08

Student Achievements

## Page 09

Staff Achievements

## Page 10

Exhibitions, Field Trips & Workshops

## Page 13

Clubs & Societies

Cultural Events

## Page 14

Community Outreach

## Page 15

UOM Alumni

Appointments & Promotions

# Opening Ceremony of the New Pre-Clinical Building – Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa

[From Cover page]



The ceremonial opening of the newly constructed Pre-Clinical Building of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa, was held on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at the university premises. The occasion was graced by Senior Professor Kapila Seneviratne, Chairman of the University Grants Commission, as the Chief Guest, and Mr. Takafumi Kadono, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank – Sri Lanka Resident Mission, as the Guest of Honour. Also in attendance were Senior Professor ND Gunawardena (Vice-Chancellor), Professor DP Chandrasekara (Deputy

Vice-Chancellor), Mr. DL Dishan Jayantha (Registrar), Professor Ranil Fernando (Founder Dean of the Faculty of Medicine), and Dr. Senaka Pilapitiya (Dean-Faculty of Medicine). The event brought together a distinguished gathering including Deans of other faculties, Heads of Academic Departments and Administrative Divisions of

the University as well as the academic and non-academic staff and students of the Faculty of Medicine.

In addition, the ceremony was attended by esteemed representatives from the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education, the Asian Development Bank, the Science & Technology Human Resource Development Project (STHRD), International Construction Consortium (Pvt) Ltd (ICC) –

the main contractor, Teaching Hospital Kalutara, and the National Institute of Health Sciences, Kalutara.

The six-storey Pre-Clinical Building was completed within a construction period of one-year, with a total investment of LKR 795 million, fully funded by the Asian Development Bank, including costs for both construction and essential equipment. This state-of-the-art facility is a significant addition to the university's medical infrastructure. It houses the Department of Medical Technology, featuring cutting-





the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Moratuwa. As the newest faculty in the university already recognized for its excellence in engineering and technology, the Faculty of Medicine is uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between medicine and technological innovation. It aims to produce not only competent medical professionals but also forward-thinking problem-solvers capable of addressing the evolving challenges in global healthcare.

Currently, the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Moratuwa supports over 500 medical students across five batches, continuing its mission to shape the next generation of healthcare professionals.

*Photo Credits – Mr Melro Mendis*



edge Medical Technology Laboratories and a modern Anatomy Dissection Laboratory. The building also includes Biochemistry and Physiology Laboratories, Lecture Halls, a Skills Laboratory, and multiple Tutorial Rooms, all designed to provide comprehensive support for pre-clinical medical education. The opening of this building marks the fulfillment of a long-felt need for dedicated infrastructure for

## Research Initiatives, Accomplishments & Disseminations

### Bhumi: Volume 12 Issue 1 Released – Advancing Research in Urban and Rural Planning



was officially published on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Bhumi is a biannual, peer-reviewed academic journal published collaboratively by the Town & Country Planning Research Institute of the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, and La Trobe University, Australia. Dedicated to fostering academic discourse, Bhumi encompasses a broad spectrum of subjects directly and indirectly related to urban and rural planning, including economics, development, governance, urban management, environmental planning, resource management, construction, housing, infrastructure, urban design, politics and technology.

This latest issue features four research articles and one editorial, offering insightful contributions from scholars and professionals in the planning discipline. The editorial provides thematic reflections on contemporary planning challenges and

research directions. Bhumi maintains an open-access policy, ensuring that all published content is freely available to the global research community. This approach reflects the journal's commitment to enhancing the exchange of knowledge and promoting inclusive academic dialogue. The journal is published twice a year and is generously supported by the University of Moratuwa Fund.

Access the latest issue and previous volumes at: <https://bhumi.sjoi.info/>

### Research Lounge #26

The 26<sup>th</sup> Research Lounge, organised by the Faculty of Graduate Studies in collaboration with the Library, University of Moratuwa, was held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 in the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode.

The latest issue of Bhumi: The Planning Research Journal (Volume 12, Issue 1)



The session was conducted by Dr. Ishanka Talagala from the Department of Public Health and Family Medicine, Faculty of

Medicine, University of Moratuwa, and moderated by Dr. Nayani Gunawardena, Senior Assistant Librarian, Library,



University of Moratuwa. The lounge focused on the topic “Ethics Unveiled: Navigating the Human Research Landscape” and was attended by over 30 research students and academic staff members.

An archive of the session is available at: <https://youtu.be/NVQp3il2fmo?si=4enHcDXN580qacGu>

## Academic & Industry Collaboration

### Department of Civil Engineering Hosts 2025 DICB Meeting with Industry Experts



The Department of Civil Engineering (DCE) successfully held its annual Department Industry Consultative Board (DICB) meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at the IESL Lounge. The meeting served as a strategic platform for dialogue between academia and industry, aiming to strengthen the department’s academic programmes and student development through industry feedback and collaboration.

The meeting commenced with a welcome address by Prof. UP Nawagamuwa, Head of the Department, followed by a presentation summarising the department’s actions taken in response to feedback from the 2024 DICB meeting. These included enhancements to the curriculum, employability initiatives, training quality and student exposure to

### Inaugural Lecture Series #36



The inaugural lecture of Prof. DM Mudalige was held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode, with over 20 participants attending. His lecture was on the topic “Promoting International Entrepreneurship: The Key for Recovery of the Sri Lankan Economy”. At the conclusion of the session,

Prof. Mudalige was formally introduced to the public as a professor, highlighting his academic achievements and contributions to the university and the country.

An archive of the lecture is available at: <https://youtu.be/QDR8mpOZEo?si=WQIZWP4RCgHupaTV>



modern tools and sustainability practices. A significant highlight of the meeting was the presentation by Prof. Nalin de Silva on the major curriculum revision set to take effect from the 2026 intake. Key updates include the introduction of new modules on contract administration, conceptual design and geomatics

engineering, as well as an increased emphasis on research, sustainability and soft skills. During the discussion, industry members commended the quality of DCE graduates but also raised key concerns, such as improving the marketing of the Civil Engineering programme, enhancing project management competencies and

## Department of Town & Country Planning Initiates Smart City Ideathon in Partnership with Port City Colombo



The Department of Town and Country Planning at the University of Moratuwa, in collaboration with CHEC Port City Colombo (Pvt) Ltd, has launched Sri Lanka's first Smart City Ideathon. This student-focused competition aims to foster innovative, inclusive and technology-driven solutions to address emerging urban challenges.

The introductory session of the Ideathon was held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at the Port City Colombo premises. The session featured presentations by Port City officials and university staff, introducing students to the Port City master plan, ongoing developments and opportunities for smart interventions. It also outlined the objectives, thematic areas and structure

of the competition. The first stage of the Ideathon, focused on problem identification, was conducted online on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025. During this session, student teams from the Department of Town and Country Planning identified key urban issues and began shaping their project ideas. The event saw active engagement from both undergraduate

increasing student awareness of emerging fields like AI and climate change. The need to curb the growing trend of engineering talent migration was also emphasised.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof HR Pasindu, who appreciated the active engagement of both industry and academic representatives. He extended gratitude to San Piling (Pvt) Ltd and Access Engineering PLC for sponsoring the event and to IESL for providing the venue.



and postgraduate participants. The Ideathon will progress through a series of phases, including mentoring, design development and final evaluations. Final presentations are scheduled for the end of August 2025, where selected proposals will be reviewed by a panel of academic and industry experts. Winning teams will be recognised for their creativity, feasibility

and contribution to sustainable urban development. This initiative reflects the department's commitment to experiential learning, interdisciplinary collaboration and industry engagement. It also provides a platform for students to contribute meaningfully to the evolving vision of Port City Colombo as a model smart city for the region.

## Guest Lectures / Talks

### Guest Lecture Highlights the Future of Quantity Surveying in the Digital Age



The Department of Building Economics organised an insightful guest lecture on "Future-Proofing the Profession: Advanced Technologies and the Evolving Quantity Surveyor" on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025 for Level 2 Quantity Surveying undergraduates. The session was delivered by Sr. Dr. Nazirul Fariq, Product and Growth Strategy Director for Asia International at Glodon Company Limited. Dr. Fariq highlighted the rapid technological transformation within

## Strengthening Smart Facilities Management (FM) Education



The University of Moratuwa has signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Eutech Group to strengthen smart facilities management (FM) education through academic-industry collaboration. As part of this initiative, Eutech's iviva platform will be integrated into the BSc (Hons) in Facilities

Management programme, supported by industrial training opportunities and joint research projects. A product briefing was also conducted for the Department of Facilities Management to introduce iviva's capabilities and explore its applications in the digitalisation of FM functions.

the quantity surveying profession and stressed the importance of adapting to these changes. He discussed emerging digital tools and global trends that are reshaping traditional practices, encouraging students to embrace innovation and digital fluency

as essential competencies for their future careers. The session inspired students to reflect on their role in a technology-driven industry and encouraged them to embrace the challenges of an evolving construction landscape.

## Insightful Guest Lectures on Procurement Practices in the Middle East



The Department of Building Economics organised two insightful guest lectures for Level 4 Quantity Surveying undergraduates, focusing on procurement practices in the Middle East — one of the most popular employment destinations for Sri Lankan QS graduates.

The first session, held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025, was delivered by Ch. QS Prasanna Pushpajith, Commercial Director at ASTAD Project Management LLC, Doha, Qatar. His lecture, titled “Procurement in Construction and Practice in the Middle East Region”, offered a detailed overview

of procurement frameworks and real-world challenges in the region’s construction sector.

The second lecture, conducted on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025, featured Ch. QS Saraka Marasinghe, Quantity Surveyor at Atkins Realis (Faithful+Gould Saudi Arabian Pvt. Ltd). His presentation, titled “The Strategic Significance of Procurement in the Middle East”, highlighted the critical role procurement plays in ensuring project success within the regional context and provided a foundational understanding of the different procurement paths followed in the construction industry.

Both speakers drew from their extensive professional experience, offering practical insights and valuable career advice to students. The sessions proved especially beneficial for final-year students preparing to enter the global job market, reinforcing the department’s commitment to industry-relevant education and professional readiness.

## Guest Lecture Offers Valuable Insights into the Construction Industry

A guest lecture on “The Nature of the Construction Industry” was held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at the Department Auditorium for Level 1 Quantity Surveying undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics. The session was conducted by Ch. QS Hemantha Aponso, an experienced professional in the field of quantity surveying.

The lecture provided students with a comprehensive overview of how the construction industry operates, highlighting key stakeholders, project lifecycles and the interrelated roles within the sector. Particular emphasis was placed on the vital role of the quantity surveyor in ensuring cost efficiency, contract administration and project success. For many first-year students, the session served as an eye-opener, bridging theoretical knowledge with practical industry realities. It marked an important step in their journey towards becoming professional quantity surveyors.

## BEMRU Hosts 90<sup>th</sup> Colloquium on Crafting Impactful Book Chapters

The 90<sup>th</sup> colloquium organised by the Building Economics and Management Research Unit (BEMRU) was held virtually via Zoom on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025. The session featured Associate Professor Samad Sepasgozar from the School of Built Environment, University of New South Wales, as the guest speaker. Titled “Crafting Impactful Book Chapters: Blending Local Expertise with Global Trends and

Evidence-Based Practices”, the session provided a practical guide for writing scholarly book chapters in areas such as sustainability, innovation, construction, facilities management, building and quantity surveying. Associate Professor Sepasgozar highlighted the significance of book authorship in strengthening academic careers, enhancing international visibility and contributing to Sri Lanka’s

leadership in sustainable development and technological advancement. He also outlined key steps in developing book chapters and the process of publishing with leading academic publishers. The session was well attended by academic staff and postgraduate students of the Department of Building Economics, allowing for valuable discussions on research dissemination and international academic engagement.

## Academic Programs

### Inauguration Ceremony of 9<sup>th</sup> MSc in Geotechnical Engineering Intake Held at the University of Moratuwa

The inauguration ceremony of the MSc in Geotechnical Engineering – 2024/25 was successfully held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at the Auditorium of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa. The event marked the official commencement of the ninth intake of the postgraduate programme, which continues to play a vital role in advancing geotechnical expertise in Sri Lanka. Dr. Asiri Karunawardana, Director General of the National Building



## Conferences & Symposia

### Prof. Ruwan Gopura Delivers Inaugural Lecture as IEEE EMBS Distinguished Lecturer



Prof. Ruwan Gopura, Senior Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, delivered his inaugural lecture as a Distinguished Lecturer of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBS) on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The event was held at Laya Leisure, Kukuleganga, as part of IEEE EMBS AXON 2025, organised by the IEEE EMBS Sri Lanka Chapter.

Titled “Uplifting the Quality of Living of Physically Weak Individuals: The Role of Power-Assist Robotic Systems”, the lecture explored the design, development and societal impact of robotic technologies aimed at enhancing mobility and independence for individuals with physical disabilities. Prof. Gopura was appointed to the prestigious IEEE EMBS Distinguished

Research Organisation (NBRO), graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The ceremony was also attended by Dr. Indrajith Nissanka, Director of Postgraduate Studies at the University of Moratuwa, and Prof. Udeni Nawagamuwa, Head of the Department of Civil Engineering, along with several academic and non-academic staff members. This year, 37 students from both industry and academia have enrolled in the programme, underscoring its growing relevance and appeal among professionals and researchers alike. The MSc in Geotechnical Engineering programme remains a strong platform for capacity building and research in soil mechanics, foundations, slope stability and ground improvement. The Department of Civil Engineering extends its best wishes to the incoming cohort as they embark on this important academic journey.

Lecturer position for the term 2025–2026. His selection is a testament to his international recognition and outstanding contributions in the interdisciplinary fields of robotics, biomedical engineering and assistive technology.

### International Conference on Facilities Management Futures (FMF) 2025



The International Conference on Facilities Management Futures (FMF) 2025, themed “Safety Enabled and Sustainable Facilities”, was held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Hotel Marino Beach, Colombo. The event drew over 120 in-person attendees, with more than 50 additional participants joining virtually, including professionals, academics and policymakers from across the globe. The day featured the presentation of 28 peer-reviewed research papers under five main

themes related to Facilities Management and Health and Safety. Several contributions were recognised with awards for research excellence. Organised by the Department of Facilities Management at the University of Moratuwa, the conference focused on advancing technology and safety in infrastructure. Special emphasis was placed on resilience, smart operations and sustainable practices to address the growing complexity of global challenges.

Keynote speakers Professor Joseph Lai of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Mr. Lord Mangarajah of Ericsson, Kuala Lumpur, offered insights into smart retrofitting and tech-enabled safety, setting the tone for a day of forward-looking dialogue and innovation.

### FACILITIES MANAGEMENT FUTURES



# Student Achievements

## CSE Teams from UoM Win First and Second Place at IntelliHack 5.0 Competition Organised by IEEE CS UCSC

[From Cover page]



The Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa, proudly announces that two of its third-year undergraduate teams emerged victorious at *IntelliHack 5.0*, securing both First Place and First Runners-Up positions. *IntelliHack 5.0* is organised by the IEEE Computer Society Student Branch Chapter of the University of Colombo School of

Computing and was held for the fifth consecutive time in 2025. With the primary goal of introducing contestants to machine learning — the use of artificial intelligence to create self-learning systems — the hackathon includes several phases and sub-events. *IntelliHack 5.0* is aimed at providing participants with a strong understanding of machine learning so they can create solutions that enable better decision-making. As machine learning continues to evolve globally, the skills gained through this event will be invaluable. The event featured a 48-hour initial round involving four dataset-driven ML problems, followed by a final round on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025, where selected finalists participated in a live technical demonstration and a final pitch before a panel of judges. The challenge, titled “AI-Powered Disaster Response Coordination Web App”, tasked participants with developing an AI-driven platform to enhance emergency response operations using multimodal data, real-time coordination and an intelligent task assignment system. Team MinionZ from

CSE, University of Moratuwa, emerged as champions. The team comprised Mr. Savinu Aththanayaka, Mr. Sajeew Kugarajah, Ms. Chemini Mallikarachchi and Ms. Janeesha Wickramasinghe. Team Semi-Colon, also representing CSE, University of Moratuwa, secured the First Runners-Up title. Team members included Mr. Isara Vimandika Liyanage, Mr. Irash Madhuwantha Perera, Mr. Kankanige Yasiru Laksara and Mr. Ganeshan Niroshan. The Department of Computer Science and Engineering congratulates both teams on



this outstanding achievement and extends best wishes for their future endeavours.

## Official World Record Reveal of Rusin Thathsara

[From Cover page]



Rusin Thathsara, a Level 4 undergraduate of the Department of Building Economics, pursuing a BSc (Hons) in Facilities Management, officially set a world record for being the “Youngest to Write

a Paragraph in the Maximum Number of Languages about ‘Principal’”. The record was revealed at South Asia’s tallest tower, the Colombo Lotus Tower, in collaboration with the Russian House in Colombo, on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The event was graced by prominent delegates, including Mr. Buddhapriya Ramanayaka, CEO of the Russian House; Ms. Popova Maria, Counsellor of the Russian Embassy and Director of the Russian House; Ms. Shalaginova Alexandra, Head of Finance; Ms. Pankova Olga, Deputy Head of Finance; Ms. Pandita Tatyana, Russian Language Lecturer; and renowned astronomer Mr. Anura C. Perera. The official reveal was conducted by Prof. Chamru De Alwis, CEO of the Lotus Tower, marking a proud moment of international recognition for Sri Lankan youth in literature and cultural innovation.

## Hasareli Sirimewan Shines at the Freshers’ Women’s Chess Tournament 2025



Hasareli Sirimewan, a Level 1 Quantity Surveying undergraduate from the Department of Building Economics, proudly brought home the championship title in the Freshers’ Women’s Chess

# Staff Achievements

## Academic Staff Recognised as Chartered Quantity Surveyors



The Department of Building Economics is proud to announce that Dr. (Mrs) Chandanie Hadiwattage, Dr. (Mrs) Tharusha Ranadewa, and Dr. (Mrs) PLI Wimalaratne have successfully completed the APC Final Assessment, earning Associate (Corporate) Membership of the Institute of Quantity Surveyors Sri Lanka (IQSSL) and attaining recognition as Chartered Quantity Surveyors. The official oaths ceremony was held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025, during which

the staff members formally received their Associate (Corporate) Memberships from the Institute. This significant professional milestone reflects their dedication to excellence and ongoing commitment to advancing both academic and industry standards. These achievements further strengthen the department's portfolio of professionally qualified academic staff, reinforcing its reputation for delivering high-quality, industry-aligned education. The recognition also serves as an inspiration

Tournament 2025, held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at the University of Moratuwa. Organised by the Department of Physical Education, the tournament aimed to foster strategic thinking, concentration and friendly competition among the new entrants to the university. Hasareli showcased exceptional skill and composure throughout the event, outplaying a strong field of fellow freshers from across faculties. Her victory reflects not only her personal dedication to the game but also the growing interest in intellectual sports within the University of Moratuwa community. Representing the Faculty of Architecture and a seasoned player with a FIDE rating of 1650, Hasareli's success highlights the diverse talents of the university's undergraduates beyond the classroom. Her achievement sets a strong example for fellow undergraduates to explore both academic and extracurricular excellence.

to students and peers alike, showcasing the value of continuous professional development in shaping competent and future-ready quantity surveyors.

## Professor. HR Pasindu – Department of Civil Engineering Appointed to Key National Transport Committees



Prof. HR Pasindu, an esteemed professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Moratuwa, has been appointed to two key national transport committees by the Secretary of the Ministry of Transport, Highways, Ports and Aviation.

The appointments include:

Road Development Consultative Council

Advisory Committee on the Implementation of the Metro Bus System

These appointments recognise Prof. Pasindu's expertise in transportation engineering and his significant contributions to infrastructure development in Sri Lanka.

## Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku Appointed as a Council Member of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka (RASSL)



Senior Assistant Librarian Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku has been appointed as a Council Member of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka (RASSL) for the year 2025/2026. She serves as a member of the Library Committee and the Conference Committee of this renowned institution for the year.

## Research Tour to Rwanda: Advancing Innovation through International Collaboration

From 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025, the University of Moratuwa proudly participated in a collaborative research symposium organised jointly by Imperial College London and the University of Global Health Equity, Kigali, Rwanda, under the iProTeCT research project. The event served as a vibrant forum for sharing progress, exchanging ideas, and strategising future directions among all stakeholders.

The iProTeCT research project, funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (UK), is conducted in collaboration with Imperial College London and encompasses three innovative projects:

- **Prosthetics Research**, led by Prof. Ruwan Gopura, Senior Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, under the Prosthetics and Rehabilitation Technologies focus area.
- **Biomaterials Research**, overseen by Dr. Pubudu Ranaweera, Senior Lecturer, Department of Mechanical



project supervisors and four postgraduate students — Kulunu Weerasoory, Neesha Nuwarapaksha, Dhananjaya Samarasekara, and HA Viraji — along with Research Assistant Manura De Silva. The Imperial College team, led by Prof. Anthony Bull, included six members, while the American University of Beirut and the University of Global Health Equity, Rwanda, contributed additional participants.

This gathering fostered dynamic discussions, innovative brainstorming, and strategic planning, reinforcing our commitment to advancing research in biomedical engineering and related fields. It provided our staff and students with invaluable exposure to a global research environment, enriching their academic journey and professional development.

Engineering, under the Orthopaedic and Reconstructive Technologies focus area.

Engineering, under the Materials and Regenerative Medicine focus area.

- **Hybrid Bone Scaffold Research**, headed by Dr. Aravinda Abeygunawardane, Senior Lecturer, Department of Materials Science and

A dedicated team of four postgraduate students and a research assistant are actively engaged across these projects to further the knowledge base. Our delegation comprised eight members, including

## Exhibitions, Field Trips & Workshops

### Cubicost Workshop Provides Hands-on Experience for QS Undergraduates



Level 2 Quantity Surveying undergraduates of the Department of Building Economics participated in an engaging hands-on workshop focused on Cubicost — a cutting-edge digital tool for measurement and cost management. The session was held

on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and was conducted by Mr. Bruce Chang, Regional Customer Success Manager at Glodon Company Limited. The workshop offered students a practical introduction to the software, which is increasingly being adopted

in the industry for its efficiency and precision. Mr. Chang guided students through the software's core functions, helping them understand how it can streamline complex quantity surveying tasks. Students actively participated in the session, raising questions and exploring real-world applications of the tool. The workshop provided valuable exposure to industry-relevant technology and reflected the department's proactive approach in integrating digital skills into academic learning, ensuring students are future-ready and equipped to meet industry demands.

### Successful Completion of the 21-Batch Survey Camp in the Department of Civil Engineering



The Survey Camp for the 21-Batch, organised by the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Moratuwa, was successfully conducted in two informative

and engaging phases with the support of both academic and non-academic staff of the department. This camp was designed to strengthen students' theoretical knowledge and develop practical skills in surveying through structured academic sessions and real-world applications.

Phase 1 was conducted at the department premises from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025. During this phase, students revisited core surveying concepts and developed hands-on proficiency with conventional surveying instruments and methods. The focus was on reinforcing fundamental techniques

such as levelling, traversing, contouring, and setting out, allowing students to build confidence in using equipment like total stations and theodolites in a controlled academic environment. Phase 2 was conducted at the Kothmale International Training Institute of Irrigation and Water Management from 24<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025. Students were divided into twelve groups and assigned six different projects that simulated real-world engineering applications, including road alignment, community resettlement, township development, reservoir capacity



enhancement, university development, and the cabana resort project. These projects required students to apply their classroom knowledge in the field, encouraging teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving in a practical setting. A key component of Phase 2 was the inclusion of two field visits to major infrastructure sites: the Moragolla Hydropower Project and the Kothmale Dam. These visits provided valuable exposure to real-world

applications of civil engineering and surveying practices in large-scale projects. Students gained insights into hydropower generation, dam operations, and the role of survey data in planning, monitoring, and maintaining such infrastructure. These experiences added depth to their learning and emphasised the importance of precision and planning in the engineering profession. The successful completion of the 21-Batch Survey Camp reflects the

department's commitment to experiential learning. By blending classroom instruction with practical fieldwork and exposure to national infrastructure, the camp effectively prepared students for the dynamic challenges of the civil engineering field. The skills and experiences gained during this camp will serve as a strong foundation for their future academic and professional pursuits.

## First-Year Town and Country Planning Students Explore Lunuganga Estate in Bentota through Field Visit

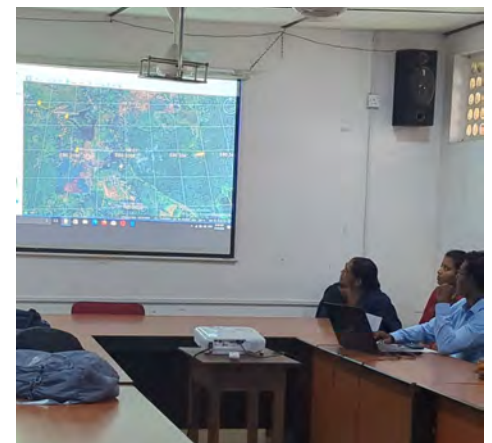


As part of the Planning and Design Studio I module, first-year students of the BSc (Hons) in Town and Country Planning at the University of Moratuwa embarked on a one-day field visit to the iconic Lunuganga Estate in Bentota on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025. This marked their second field excursion since entering the university, offering an immersive experience into the realms of architectural elegance and designed landscapes.

The visit commenced with a sketching session at the entrance of the Lunuganga Estate, encouraging students to engage with space and form through observational drawing. This was followed by a guided tour of the estate, during which students explored the meticulously crafted gardens, courtyards, and structures designed by the legendary Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa. Throughout the tour,

knowledgeable guides provided detailed insights into the architectural philosophy behind each element of the estate. Students learned about the interplay of built and natural environments, the use of spatial transitions, and the cultural inspirations that influenced Bawa's timeless designs. This field visit enriched the students' understanding of landscape appreciation, spatial composition, and the aesthetic dimensions of planning and design. It served as a vital opportunity for them to connect theoretical concepts with real-world examples, sharpening their observational and design-thinking skills. The Department of Town and Country Planning expresses its sincere appreciation to the Lunuganga Trust and the estate staff for facilitating this educational experience and for their generous guidance throughout the visit.

## First-Year Town and Country Planning Students Explore Cascade Systems in Galgamuwa through Field Visit



As part of the module Ecology for Spatial Planning I, first-year students of the BSc (Hons) in Town and Country Planning at the University of Moratuwa undertook a one-day field visit to Galgamuwa on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025. This was their first field visit since entering the university, offering valuable exposure to traditional water management systems and their ecological relevance.

The visit began at the Agrarian Services Centre, Galgamuwa, where students engaged in an insightful session with agrarian officers. The officers introduced the Ellanga System, also known as the Tank

Cascade System, explaining its structure, function, and the technologies behind this centuries-old irrigation method. They also discussed how these systems are managed today and the challenges they face in a changing climate and socio-economic context.

Following this, students visited several tanks connected within the local cascade, observing their spatial arrangement, ecological characteristics, and how they function collectively to manage water resources, support agriculture, and sustain rural communities.

Students also had the opportunity to speak with local leaders and community members associated with each tank. These discussions provided a deeper understanding of the socio-cultural significance of the Ellanga System and how community-based knowledge continues to play a key role in its maintenance. This



field visit was a meaningful step in the students' academic journey, encouraging them to connect ecological theory with on-ground realities. It highlighted the value of integrating traditional knowledge into modern planning and reinforced the importance of community engagement in

sustainable development. The Department of Town and Country Planning extends its sincere appreciation to the Agrarian Services Centre, Galgamuwa, local community members, and all those who contributed to this enriching experience.

## Department of Earth Resources Engineering Students Gain Hands-on Experience in Tunnel Engineering at Upper Elahera Canal Project



In an exciting step towards practical learning, final-year students from the Department of Earth Resources Engineering (Intake 2020) at the University of Moratuwa embarked on a field visit to the Upper Elahera Canal Project on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for students to explore tunnel engineering principles in a real-world setting. Guided by industry experts and project engineers, the students engaged in discussions on engineering challenges and safety protocols essential to tunnel design and implementation. This experience

bridged the gap between academic learning and field application, reinforcing their understanding of tunnel engineering concepts.



## Site Visit – Level 1 Students



A site visit was successfully organised for Level 1 students under the Building Construction Technology module, as part of their academic exposure to real-world construction environments. The visit took place on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at an ongoing star-class hotel project located at No. 594, Galle Road, Colombo 03. The project is being developed by Damro Leisure (Pvt) Ltd, a subsidiary of the well-known Damro Group, while the main contractor is Maga Engineering (Pvt) Ltd, one of Sri Lanka's leading construction firms. Students had the opportunity to observe the roles of different stakeholders, review project documentation, and witness live construction activities including formwork, concrete pouring, reinforcement detailing, and safety management protocols. This hands-on experience provided valuable insights to complement their theoretical learning and allowed students to ask practical questions directly from site engineers and safety officers. The visit also highlighted the importance of sustainable material use, construction sequencing, and adherence to national construction standards.

## Clubs & Societies

### University of Moratuwa Commemorates World Environment Day with Several Programmes



In celebration of World Environment Day 2025, the University of Moratuwa organised a meaningful tree plantation programme on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2025 within the university premises, with the participation of the Nature Team of the University of Moratuwa. This initiative was in alignment with global efforts to foster environmental sustainability.

Various locations across the university premises saw the planting of several native and environmentally significant plant species, including Ambul Pera, Katu Atha, and Weralu. These selections reflect a commitment to both ecological balance and the preservation of local biodiversity. This event was supported and coordinated by Mr. TLC Dilroshan, Deputy Registrar – Institutional Affairs / Acting Deputy Registrar – Welfare, along with his dedicated team and Mr. KA Thushara, Civil Supervisor of the Maintenance Division. The planting activities were symbolically led by Professor. UP Nawagamuwa, Head of the Department of Civil Engineering and Staff Advisor to the Nature Team, Dr. MMID Manthilake, Chief Student Counsellor, Mr. TLC Dilroshan, Deputy Registrar, and the President and Secretary of the Nature Team, all of whom actively participated in the programme and emphasised the university's commitment to environmental responsibility. An awareness programme for Nature Club

members in schools in the Piliyandala Educational Zone was organised by the Outreach Services Division of the Library. This programme was held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon at the Library auditorium. With the aim of minimising the harmful impact caused by polythene and plastic waste on the university environment, the Public Health Inspector of the university, Mr. PGR Ruwan, with the guidance of the Chief Medical Officer,

Dr. NH Salgado, submitted a proposal to the Senior Management Committee of the university. The proposal contained the following main points:

Mandating the use of only environmentally friendly, approved lunch sheets, cardboard boxes, or foil boxes in university canteens.

Encouraging canteen keepers to sell more bottled milk ("Kal Kiri") and milk in cardboard cartons, while limiting the sale of milk in polythene packets.

Encouraging canteen keepers to exclusively use environmentally friendly drinking straws.

Encouraging canteen keepers to sell soft drinks and fruit juices prepared within the canteen while restricting the sale of plastic soft drink bottles/cups with a capacity of less than 210 ml. Promoting the use of lunch boxes among staff members. Engaging cleaning contractors to adopt environmentally friendly brooms/brushes in place of plastic ones. These collective efforts reflect the ongoing dedication of the University of Moratuwa to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices. They also demonstrate the power of community-driven actions in addressing global challenges, beginning right at the University.

## Cultural Events

### Vesak Celebrations at the Department of Civil Engineering



To mark the sacred Vesak Poya Day, the Department of Civil Engineering organised a Bakthi Gee performance followed by an Ice Cream Dansala on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025 from 5.00 p.m. onwards at the department premises. The event was organised by the students of Intake 23, under the guidance of the Head of the Department, Prof. UP

Nawagamuwa. The event was attended by both staff and students of the department. The evening began with the Bakthi Gee programme, featuring heartfelt musical performances by students and staff. This was followed by the Ice Cream Dansala, symbolising the spirit of generosity and sharing that lies at the heart of Vesak.

# Community Outreach

## Academic Collaboration to Outreach Activities



To commemorate World Environment Day, the Outreach Services Division of the Library organised an awareness programme for school students who are members of Nature Clubs in the Piliyandala Educational Zone. The programme was held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at the library auditorium, with a total of 100 school students and teachers participating. Students from Central College, Piliyandala, Thelawala Rahula College, Uyana Primary School, Rawathawatta Roman Catholic College, Puwakpitiya Methodist High College, and Willorawatta Gnanissara Buddhist School were among the participating schools.

Parallel to the awareness programme, a visit to the Pro Green Lab, founded by Senior Professor Rangika Halwatura from the Department of Civil Engineering, was arranged. The students enthusiastically observed algae and its engineering applications, the coral section, ancient technology decoding, waste upcycling, and sustainable education modelling.

Two Senior Lecturers from the Department of Town and Country Planning, Faculty of Architecture, served as resource persons outside the library staff. Dr. Lakshika Meetiagoda discussed a major environmental issue, “Beating Deadly Plastics”, and Dr. Chathura De

Silva engaged the audience with the timely topic, “Through Harmony and Planning, Let Us Reduce Human-Animal Conflict”. Mrs. Thushari Seneviratne, Senior Assistant Librarian of Technical Services, delivered a talk on “Bolgoda Ecosystem: The Natural Laboratory in Our Neighbourhood”, which

brought new knowledge about Bolgoda Lake. As the Head of the Outreach Services Division, Senior Assistant Librarian Mrs. Upeksha Kodithuwakku organised the programme with the support of academic, administrative, and non-academic staff members.



### A Gift from the BSc Engineering 80/84 Batch- Refurbishment of the Study Area Popularly Known as “Apaaya”



In a remarkable demonstration of alumni commitment, the BSc Engineering 80/84 batch of the University of Moratuwa has completed its 2025 CSR project – the full-scale renovation of the student study space popularly known as “Apaaya”.

Originally a barely usable basement beneath the University’s main library, Apaaya had evolved over the years into an ad hoc study zone.

The idea behind the CSR project was to provide not just brick walls and furniture, but an environment where young minds can thrive – a space that encourages discipline, growth, and the pursuit of excellence. With a budget of Rs. 5.0 million, raised through donations from 77 alumni, the team delivered a comprehensive transformation:

- **Ventilation & Comfort:** New mosquito mesh, additional ceiling fans, and improved airflow systems turned the uncomfortable space into a breathable study area.
- **Lighting & Electricals:** A complete overhaul brought uniform LED lighting and a re-wired electrical layout, including additional sockets and upgraded fittings.
- **Painting:** Comprehensive painting of walls, columns, slab soffits, and spiral staircases.
- **Separate Group Study Room:** Construction of a new half-partitioned room for tutorials and group studies, complete with a 6 ft × 4 ft whiteboard.
- **Aesthetic & Functional Upgrades:** From new partitions and upgraded washrooms to restored rock wall decorations and colourful, creative

anamorphic graphic artwork, the space was redesigned to be both functional and inspiring.

- **Switch and Regulator Identification System:** A colour-coded and numbered labelling system introduced for ease of use and better equipment handling, greatly improving the identification of fan and light switches.
- **Maintenance Alert System:** A QR-based alert system was implemented to ensure long-term upkeep via the University help desk.

This initiative stands as a glowing example of how alumni can tangibly uplift current student experiences. What was once “Apaaya”, a place of discomfort, is now a vibrant, functional, and inviting space for learning and collaboration, thanks to the vision and generosity of the 80/84 batch. New furniture for the study space was provided by the University.

The BSc Engineering 80/84 batch has also been offering an annual scholarship to a first-year student in the Faculty of Engineering since 2020.



## Appointments & Promotions

### First Homegrown Professor in Earth Resources Engineering



Dr. CL Jayawardena has been appointed as a professor, achieving a historic milestone as the first homegrown professor in Earth Resources Engineering in the history of the department. Prof Jayawardena earned his B.Sc. Eng. (Hons) degree in Earth Resources Engineering from the University of Moratuwa, followed by a PhD in Neotectonics from the University of Wollongong, Australia.

Since joining the Department of Earth Resources Engineering at the University of Moratuwa in 2007, he has dedicated his research to neotectonics, mining and earth resources engineering.

The department proudly celebrates this remarkable achievement and extends its heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Jayawardena, wishing him continued success in his fulfilling and rewarding career.

## ADVISORY BOARD

Professor. DP Chandrasekara (Chairman)  
Professor. JMA Manatunge  
Professor. (Mrs) BMWPK Amarasinghe  
Professor. GD Samarasinghe  
Professor. YG Sandanayake  
Dr. SD Pilapitiya  
Mr. BH Sudantha  
Mrs. Ruvini Kodikara  
Arch. Sithumini Rathnamalala

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Mr. Sanath Gunawardena  
Professor. (Mrs) DA Meedeniya  
Dr. (Mrs) GN Kuruppu  
Dr. (Mrs) SSMR Samarawickrama  
Mrs. Thushari M Seneviratne  
Dr. Niroshan Lokunaragoda  
Ms. Chathurangi De Silva

## NEWS TO BE SENT TO

Library  
University of Moratuwa  
Katubedda, Moratuwa, 10400  
Sri Lanka  
E-mail: melromendis@gmail.com  
info@lib.mrt.ac.lk

Editor : Mr. Sanath Gunawardena  
[E-mail: sanathg@uom.lk]  
Published by : Library  
University of Moratuwa  
Page Layout : Mr. BMS Mendis



# University of Moratuwa Bimonthly UOM news

# 2025

May - June  
Volume: 14  
Issue: 3  
ISSN: 2279-2023



ISSN 2279-2023