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University of Moratuwa

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The University of Moratuwa (UoM), Sri Lanka's premier technological university, continues to be a top choice for students aspiring to excel in fields such as Engineering, Architecture, Information Technology, Business, and Medicine. Renowned for producing leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs, UoM has solidified its reputation as a beacon of academic and research excellence.

Since 2015, the University has witnessed significant growth in its research output, placing it among the top three institutions in Sri Lanka in terms of scholarly output and citation impact. A 2023 tracer survey on graduate employment patterns revealed that 85.7% of UoM graduates were employed at the time of their convocation, highlighting the strong demand for UoM graduates in the job market.

The University of Moratuwa Awards Ceremony, held on 8th October 2024 at the Faculty of Engineering Multi-purpose Building Complex, marked a celebration of the University's commitment to excellence in education, research, and innovation. The event was graced by Senior Professor ND Gunawardena, Vice-Chancellor of the University, and attended by university officers, academic and administrative staff, students, parents, and distinguished

invitees, including donors who sponsored numerous student awards.

In his welcome speech, Vice-Chancellor Senior Professor ND Gunawardena emphasized the importance of recognizing academic excellence and innovative research, noting that these achievements reflect the core values of the University. He reiterated UoM's mission to provide transformative education, conduct impactful research, and contribute to advancements in science, technology, and socio-economic development for sustainable progress.

Professor Gunawardena highlighted the critical role of research in the University's educational framework, enriching the curriculum with the latest discoveries and equipping students with relevant skills for today's dynamic job market. He also emphasized how research addresses societal challenges, generating evidence-based solutions and shaping policies in key areas such as healthcare, infrastructure, and economic development. The Vice-Chancellor expressed his pride in the outstanding achievements of UoM students and staff, acknowledging their exceptional academic performance and contributions to extracurricular activities.

He also expressed gratitude to industry sponsors for their invaluable support and commended the researchers whose innovative projects have significantly contributed to the advancement of science and society.

During the ceremony, the prestigious title of Professor Emeritus was conferred upon 12 distinguished professors in recognition of their immense contributions to the University and their respective fields.

Awards presented at the ceremony also included:

- Outstanding Research Performance for 2022. Recognition of exemplary contributions by 126 academic staff members.
- Student Awards. 144 certificates and cash awards were presented to 120 students from the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 intakes of the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Architecture, in recognition of their remarkable academic and extracurricular achievements.

The ceremony underscored the University's dedication to fostering excellence, innovation, and continuous progress in higher education.

For a full list of awardees, please visit: (Link)

To watch the event recording, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/yg-ZCevLx6Q?si=OsOjnZCNI4hHZIBk>

Felicitation of the Emeritus Professors

Prof. ML De Silva	Prof. PKS Mahanama	Prof. RA Attalage
Prof. AS Kumarage	Prof. SAS Perera	Prof. SAS Kulathilake
Prof. PGR Dharmaratne	Prof. SMA Nanayakkara	Prof. WPS Dias
Prof. IRA Weerasekara	Prof. UGA Puswewala	Prof. KAMK Ranasinghe

Felicitation of Outstanding Research Performances by Academic Staff

Dr. (Ms.) CC Abenayake	Prof. MSD Fernando	Prof. GIUS Perera
Dr. (Ms.) SK Abeygunawardane	Dr. MFM Firdhous	Prof. HN Perera
Mr. MDTE Abeynayake	Prof. CD Gamage	Prof. HMR Premasiri
Prof. AMKB Abeysinghe	Dr. JR Gamage	Dr. (Ms.) T Ramachandra
Dr. VV Adikariwattage	Prof. RARC Gopura	Dr. (Ms.) KATO Ranadewa
Dr. (Ms.) S Ahangama	Dr. (Mrs.) RMDS Gunarathne	Prof. (Mrs.) GM Ranathunga
Dr. DAS Amarasinghe	Prof. (Ms.) MY Gunasekera	Dr.(Mrs.) HRAT Ranaweera
Prof. YWR Amarasinghe	Dr. (Ms.) PKSVS Gunatilake	Dr. RKPS Ranaweera
Prof. (Ms.) LNW Arachchige	Prof. (Mrs.) SHP Gunawardena	Prof. PG Rathnasiri
Dr. (Mrs.) HLTU Ariyadasa	Prof. RU Halwathura	Dr. RMSR Rathnayake
Dr. D Attygalle	Prof. KTMU Hemapala	Prof. NP Ratnayake
Dr. (Ms.) H Chandanie	Dr. HMST Herath	Dr. HHMP Rathnayake
Dr. TSN Charles	Dr. IMPK Illankoon	Ms RMVS Ratnayake
Dr. HGH Damruwan	Prof. AGBP Jayasekara	Dr. BKRP Rodrigo
Prof. SWSB Dasanayaka	Dr. PG Jayasekara	Dr. LPS Rohitha
Dr. (Mrs.) ABN Dassanayake	Prof. VSD Jayasena	Mr. AMPB Samarasekera
Dr. DMSM Dassanayake	Dr. AB Jayasinghe	Dr. TN Samarasinghe
Prof. NWN Dayananda	Prof. TSS Jayawardena	Prof. GD Samarasinghe
Prof. AAP De Alwis	Prof. ND Jayaweera	Prof. (Ms.) YG Sandanayake
Mr. MML De Silva	Prof. AS Karunananda	Dr. (Ms.) ATP Silva
Dr. NHND De Silva	Prof. (Mrs.) PVM Karunaratne	Dr. T Sivakumar
Dr. (Ms.) TS De Silva	Prof. (Ms.) U Kulatunga	Dr. (Ms.) P Sridarran
Dr. KDP Dharmawansa	Prof. CS Lewangamage	Dr. KASN Sumathipala
Mr. PAPVDS Disaratna	Dr. V Logeeshan	Dr. (Ms.) M Thayaparan
Prof. DMDOK Dissanayake	Prof. HMYC Mallikarachchi	Prof. (Ms.) KGAS Waidyasekara
Ms. DMPP Dissanayake	Prof. (Ms.) DA Meedeniya	Dr. UGD Weerasinghe
Dr. CUS Edussooriya	Dr. (Mrs.) HMAGK Nandasiri	Mr. VSC Weragoda
Prof. (Mrs.) SM Egodage	Prof. M Narayana	Prof. (Mrs.) UGS Wijayapala

Dr. (Ms.) HHKRN Elizabeth	Mr. SN Niles	Dr. MPAP Wijayasiri
Prof. EASK Fernando	Mr. PHV Nimarshana	Dr. (Ms.) MA Wijewardane
Dr. (Mrs.) KSD Fernando	Prof. BAKS Perera	

Outstanding Research Performance Award

Dr. AAGA Abeygunawardane	Dr. (Ms.) AA Hettiarachchi	Prof. HKG Punchihewa
Dr. ALATD Ambegoda	Dr. (Mrs.) VPT Jayawardane	Dr. RACP Ranasinghe
Prof. JMSJ Bandara	Dr. CL Jayawardena	Prof. WDAS Rodrigo
Dr. K Baskaran	Dr. (Ms.) BH Mallawarachchi	Dr. (Ms.) R Samarasinghe
Dr. SP Chaminda	Dr. (Ms.) MMID Manthilake	Dr. CSA Siriwardana
Prof. DP Chandima	Dr. NAID Nissanka	Dr. (Ms.) SJ Sooriyaarachchi
Dr. (Ms.) SBA Coorey	Prof. HR Pasindu	Dr. T Uthayasanker
Prof. LIN De Silva	Dr. HLK Perera	Dr. (Ms.) EJ Warusavitharana
Prof. GIP De Silva	Prof. NGR Perera	Dr. TGPL Weerasinghe
Dr. (Ms.) GU Ganegoda	Dr. (Ms.) SD Perera	Dr. CP Wijesiriwardana
Dr. KT Hemachandra	Dr. (Ms.) ITS Piyatilake	Prof. S Witharana

Certificate of Recognition

Dr. RKJ De Silva		
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Student Awards

Award	Student	Academic Year
Faculty of Architecture		
Department of Building Economics		
Prof. HPS Caldera Memorial Award	A Parameswaran	2020/2021
	IWMAD Ilangakoon	2021/2022
Prof. Gamunu Fernando Memorial Award	PG Thisakya	2020/2021
	HNY Senarathne	2021/2022
Department of Town & Country Planning		
Best Individually Supervised Research Project Award	RJ Nilantha	2020/2021
	MAF Hasan	2021/2022
Department of Integrated Design		
Best Designer Award	PASR Perera	2020/2021
	EDT Uresha	2021/2022
Best Overall Performance Award	HA Devduni	2020/2021
	MDA Chamodya	2021/2022
Albert Thenuwara Memorial Gold Medal	RPIT Rajapaksha	2020/2021
Department of Architecture		
Herbert Gonsal Award	SMTH Senadhipathi	2020/2021
	T Pavithran SI Vithanage SMCS Siriwardana	2021/2022
	MF Hazoora	2020/2021
Sumathipala Ranasinghe Award	MD Thalawatta	2021/2022
	SR Lenadora R Sangeerthan	2020/2021
Geoffrey Bawa Design Award	YPHS Karunarathne	2021/2022
	Deshamanya Archt. Plnr. Dr. Surath Wickramasinghe Design Excellence Award	MAS Muthukelum

Dr. Justin Samarasekara Award	SDGM Satharasinha	2020/2021
	P Assalarachchi	2021/2022
Prof. KRS Peiris Award	SMKU Samarakoon	2020/2021
	HKK Somarathna	2021/2022
Faculty of Engineering		
Prof. Harlen Cleveland Award	MK Gunathunga	2020/2021
	KS Gunaratne	2021/2022
Wimalasurendra Award	LTN Wickremasinghe	2020/2021
	HTJ Wijesekera	2021/2022
Prof. C Patuwathavithane Memorial Award	UAK Premakumara	2020/2021
	S Nirhoshan TDRV Perera LTN Wickremasinghe	2021/2022
IBM Engineering Scholarship	N Sritharan	2020/2021
	UJR Leelananda AC Pasqual	2021/2022
Department of Chemical & Process Engineering		
Thusitha Senevirathne Memorial Award	NH Rajamantri	2020/2021
	ULL Manujitha	2021/2022
Thusitha Senevirathne Memorial Scholarship	WULR Dissanayake	2020/2021
	NVDT Somarathna	2021/2022
Unilevers Award	BVCM Benaragama	2020/2021
	DSA Senadeera	2021/2022
Best Final Year Undergraduate Research Project in the Department of Chemical & Process Engineering	MNP Liyanage RATD Ranawaka	2020/2021
	ULL Manujitha UPR Madhuhansi	2021/2022
Department of Civil Engineering		
Hydraulic Engineering Award	HPJ Vimukthi	2020/2021
	BAPU Bamunusinghe	2021/2022
Geotechnical Engineering Award	T Prathapan	2020/2021
	GM Jayasundara	2021/2022
Building and Structural Engineering Award	WUD Weerasinghe	2020/2021
	OM Hasaranga	2021/2022
Environmental Engineering Award	UAK Premakumara	2020/2021
	IHN Chathuranga	2021/2022
Transportation Engineering Award	AKA Randula	2020/2021
	SP Gamage	2021/2022
Construction Engineering and Management Award	UAK Premakumara	2020/2021
	GMD Denuwanthi	2021/2022
Special Award for Academic Excellence in Civil Engineering	S Kohulan	2020/2021
	IHN Chathuranga	2021/2022
Special Award for Academic Excellence in Civil Engineering	T Prathapan	2020/2021
	OM Hasaranga	2021/2022
Comprehensive Design Project Award in Civil Engineering	IT Amarasinghe RN De Zoysa HPB Dharmasooriya GKUS Gunarathne M Mathusan VR Panagoda T Prathapan UAK Premakumara S Thirukkethesewaranathan HPJ Vimukthi	2020/2021

	JRC Madhuwantha GNC Ariyasinghe M Mayooraan RKS Maleesha GGTD Wickramathilake WAW Wijesingha LRWMIM Lankadhikara PN Wijayaweera MPPCD Wijesinghe GKH Wijesooriya	2021/2022
Department of Computer Science & Engineering		
CINTEC Award	APPS Pathirana TS Senarath	2020/2021
	TWI Nimalsiri RMKC Rathnayake HMMP Dilshan	2021/2022
Virtusa Award	SNY Fernando KAPH Gunathilaka	2020/2021
	WAM Dilshan	2021/2022
Department of Electrical Engineering		
EESoc Award	B Gowrieanthan KDIS Rathnayake N Kiruthihan	2020/2021
	JL Dantanarayana PSL Fernando UGS Kashmir	2021/2022
Power Engineering Award	PLYLB Guneratne	2020/2021
	VSY Hewa WMN Witharama	2021/2022
Electrical Machines & Power Electronics Award	KDSA Wijerathne	2020/2021
	WMN Witharama	2021/2022
Control System and Automation Award	WRNW Jayasinghe	2020/2021
	VSY Hewa WMN Witharama	2021/2022
Prof. HYR Perera Memorial Award	PH Samarakkody	2020/2021
	WMN Witharama	2021/2022
Department of Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering		
Prof. OP Kulshethra Award	DB Ishtaweera	2020/2021
	LTN Wickremasinghe	2021/2022
Sri Lanka Telecom Scholarship	LTN Wickremasinghe	2020/2021
	S Sanjith	2021/2022
	LTN Wickremasinghe	2020/2021
	EMDA Bandara OKD Tharindu	2021/2022
Prof. KKYW Perera Award	DB Ishtaweera	2020/2021
	S Nirhoshan TDRV Perera LTN Wickremasinghe	2021/2022
Department of Materials Science & Engineering		
Lanka Ceramics Limited Award	PSS Panawala	2020/2021
	MAT Devindi	2021/2022
Dr. PY Gunapala Memorial Award	GI Janith	2020/2021
	PSS Panawala	2021/2022
Department of Mechanical Engineering		
National Development Bank Award	DMSP Dhanasekara	2020/2021
	RP Herath	2021/2022
MR Prelis Award	KH Kandearachchi	2020/2021
	RP Herath	2021/2022

Prof. GK Watugala Memorial Award	RP Herath	2020/2021
	PADI Chanuka	2021/2022
Mobil Award	RTA Niyunuwan PM Ranasinghe ASD Satharasinghe	2020/2021
	MDWH Basnayake DMAP Dunuwila WMLN Gunawardhana	2021/2022
Department of Textile & Apparel Engineering		
MAS Award	WAM Fonseka	2021/2022
A & E Award	KPMA Pathirana	2020/2021
	HKAS Wanigasundara	2021/2022
Department of Transport Management & Logistics Engineering		
SLPA Award	PR Nanayakkara	2020/2021
	JABM Jayakody	2021/2022
The Logiwiz Award	MMKV Gunarathne	2020/2021
	WAYP Somaweera	2021/2022
The Aitken Spence Maritime Award	DMGV Pamuditha	2020/2021
	SL Sanjula	2021/2022
The Road Development Authority Award	KPDN Manoli	2020/2021
	LSM Silva	2021/2022

Research Initiatives, Accomplishments & Disseminations

Inaugural Lecture Series #29



The inaugural lecture of Prof. HR Pasindu was held on 24th September 2024 at the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode, with over 41 participants in attendance.

Prof. Pasindu's lecture, titled "Paving the Way Forward. Balancing Economic Constraints with Sustainable Road Asset Management," explored the challenges and strategies involved in managing road assets sustainably while balancing economic factors. At the conclusion of the lecture, Prof. Pasindu also introduced himself to the public as a newly appointed professor, showcasing his academic achievements and expertise to both the university and the broader community.

The archive of the lecture is available at

<https://youtu.be/Nzr5F5NbW08?si=Nsn4lIeksRDpBd4>

Inaugural Lecture Series #30



The inaugural lecture of Prof. Niles Perera was held on 29th October 2024 at the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode, with over 35 participants in attendance.

Prof. Perera's lecture, titled "Optimized Supply Chains for a Better Tomorrow," explored innovative approaches to supply chain management aimed at creating more sustainable and efficient systems. At the conclusion of the lecture, Prof. Perera also introduced himself to the public as a newly appointed professor, sharing his academic achievements and capabilities with the country and the university community.

The archive of the lecture is available at

<https://youtu.be/Kzx8rWBL3G8?si=rY8Ct5-NDgy2LFaq>

Research Lounge #23



The 23rd Research Lounge, organised by the Faculty of Graduate Studies in collaboration with the Library, University of Moratuwa, was held on 3rd October 2024 in the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in hybrid mode. The session was conducted by Prof. Ajith Pasqual, Director/Enterprise, University of Moratuwa, and Ms. Amali Hettige, Manager/Enterprise, University of Moratuwa. Dr. Nayani Gunawardhana, Senior Assistant Librarian at the University of Moratuwa Library, moderated the session.

The topic of the session, "The Path to Research Commercialization. Exploring Technology Licensing and Startups," was successfully presented, with over 25 research students and academic staff members in attendance.

The archive of the session is available at

https://youtu.be/qjuf-N_661A?si=XcljSJB0bp1Eyocy

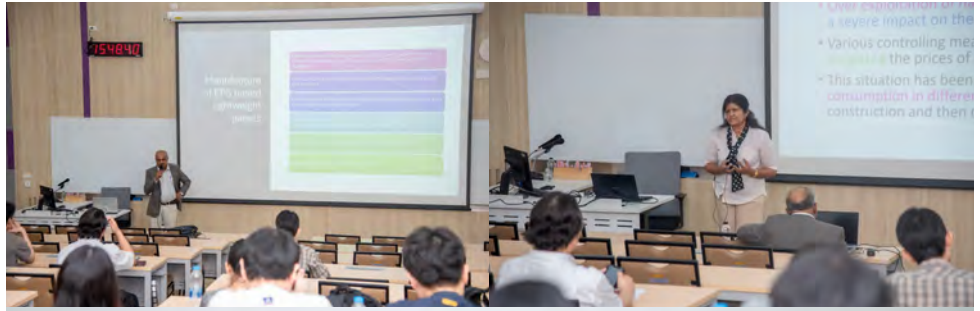
Academic & Industry Collaboration

Prof. M.T.R Jayasinghe and Prof. (Mrs.) Chinth Jayasinghe from the Department of Civil Engineering Visit Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology (SIIT), Thailand



Prof. MTR Jayasinghe and Prof. (Mrs.) Chinth Jayasinghe from the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, visited the Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology (SIIT), Thailand, from 1st October to 1st November 2024. The visit was conducted under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the University of Moratuwa (UoM) and SIIT in 2019.

During their visit, Prof. MTR Jayasinghe delivered lectures on “Design of Tall Buildings,” while Prof. (Mrs.) Chinth Jayasinghe presented on “Energy Efficient Construction Materials and Green Material Rating System.” These sessions were aimed at both undergraduate and postgraduate students, offering valuable insights into advanced topics in Civil Engineering. The professors also engaged in discussions to explore opportunities for collaborative research degree programmes between SIIT



and UoM. Additionally, they investigated the potential for joint research grant applications in various areas of Civil Engineering, fostering academic and

research partnerships. This visit reinforced the collaborative ties between UoM and SIIT, paving the way for future academic and research initiatives.

Department of Town & Country Planning Undergraduates Collaborate with Colombo Municipal Council on Urban Development Initiatives



On 11th October 2024, a team of 70 final-year students from the Department of Town & Country Planning, University of Moratuwa, led by Senior Professor PKS Mahanama and Senior Lecturer Amila Jayasinghe, attended a collaborative meeting at the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC). The session aimed to align with the CMC’s development vision and identify strategic sites for future urban development. Key officials



in attendance included Commissioner JM Bhadrani Jayawardena, Urban Secretary SMR Nadika Damayanthi, and Director of Urban Planning Engineer Anuja Mendis. During the meeting, the CMC highlighted the urgent need for innovative and practical solutions to transform underutilised lands into valuable urban assets. They expressed

their commitment to supporting the students’ study and promoting selected proposals at future investment forums. This collaboration, part of the students’ Site Planning and Design Studio, underscores the synergy between academic research and municipal goals, paving the way for impactful urban development initiatives.

Department of Industrial Management Hosts DICB 2024



The Annual Department Industry Consultative Board (DICB) 2024 was successfully held on 21st October at the FGS Boardroom. The event featured a distinguished panel of industry experts, including Mr. Kanishka Munasinghe (VP/HR, CAL), Mr. Udeeshan Jonas (Chief Strategist, CAL), Ms. Chalini Guneratne (AGM - HR, AIA), Mr. Nuwan Gamage (Group Head of Marketing, Corporate Communications, and Sustainability, Arinma Holdings), Mr. Denzil Indrajith Perera (Brand, Growth, and Strategy Consultant), and Mr. Yadhavan Jayaram (Senior VP/Sales, Bartleet Religare Securities). The insights and recommendations shared during the session will play a pivotal role in aligning the undergraduate programme with evolving industry needs, ensuring that

Sri Lankan Embassy in Vienna Welcomes UoM Academics



On 10th September 2024, His Excellency MRK Lenagala, the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Austria, warmly welcomed a delegation from the University of Moratuwa at the Sri Lankan Embassy in Vienna. The delegation included Dr. Amila Jayasinghe, Prof. HR Pasindu, Dr. VV Adikariwattage, and Mr. Niroshan Sanjaya. Ambassador Lenagala commended the delegation for their dedication to advancing Sri Lanka's academic presence on the international

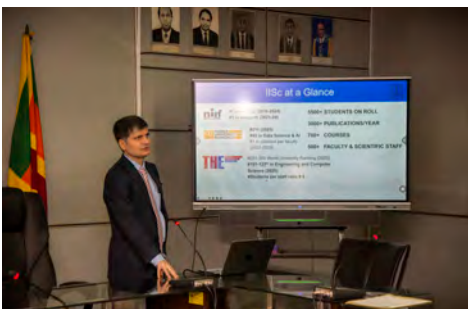
stage and fostering meaningful global partnerships. Discussions during the visit centred on the transformative potential of cross-border collaboration to enhance higher education standards and drive innovation. This meeting underscored Sri Lanka's commitment to academic diplomacy as a means of strengthening global ties and creating opportunities for sustained progress in education and research.



graduates are well-equipped to meet the demands of the modern workplace. The Department extends its sincere gratitude

to these professionals for their valuable time and expertise, which contributed significantly to the success of DICB 2024.

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Explores Collaboration with the University of Moratuwa



On 29th October 2024, the University of Moratuwa had the honour of hosting a delegation from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India. The delegation, led by Prof. Abhishek Kumar

Singh, Chair of the Office of International Relations and Professor at the Materials Research Centre, along with Dr. Amita Sneh, Chief International Officer of IISc, engaged in fruitful discussions with senior academic members of the University of Moratuwa. The discussions included notable participants such as Prof. FR Fernando, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine; Prof. YWR Amarasinghe, Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering; Prof. WDAS Wijayapala, Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering; Dr. SP Chaminda, Head of the Department

of Mechanical Engineering; Mr. V Sivahar, Head of the Department of Materials Science; and Dr. GVI Samaradivakara, Director of International Relations. Key areas of collaboration were explored during the discussions, including the establishment of summer internship programs and student exchange initiatives to provide global exposure and hands-on experience for students. Opportunities for joint supervision of PhD candidates were also highlighted, fostering enhanced research capabilities through shared expertise. Additionally, the delegation

discussed pathways for higher studies, collaborative research projects, visiting faculty exchanges, and hosting joint workshops to strengthen academic ties and facilitate knowledge sharing. These proposed initiatives promise to create new opportunities for students, researchers, and faculty members, paving the way for innovative collaborations and mutual growth between the two institutions in the coming years.



Guest Lectures / Talks

Guest Lecture on “Professional and Personal Development for Careers” for Final-Year QS Undergraduates



On 3rd October 2024, Level 4 undergraduates from the Department of Building Economics attended a guest lecture titled “Required Professional and Personal Development in QS Career.” The session was delivered by Mr. Gayal Kuruppu, CEO of Halford Group, who brings a wealth of experience and qualifications, including M.Sc. (CPM), B.Sc. QS (Hons), MRICS, and MAIQS.

The lecture offered valuable insights into the essential skills and strategies required to excel in the quantity surveying profession. Mr. Kuruppu emphasized the importance of balancing technical expertise with personal development to achieve long-term career success, inspiring students to align their professional growth with personal aspirations.

Level 4 Undergraduates Gain Insights into “Building Simulation Techniques Using BIM”

On 13th September 2024, the Department of Building Economics organised a guest lecture for Level 4 undergraduates on “Building Simulation Techniques Using BIM.” The session was conducted by Mr. Ashen Rahubadda, representing the Building Economics and Management Research Unit (BEMRU) at the University of Moratuwa. This insightful lecture delved

into advanced applications of Building Information Modeling (BIM) for simulating various aspects of building performance. The session provided students with cutting-edge knowledge and practical insights to enhance their professional competencies and preparedness for the evolving demands of the construction and building management industry.

84th BEMRU Research Colloquium on “Optimal Visuals” Held at the Department of Building Economics



The 84th BEMRU Research Colloquium, titled “Sharing Highlights through Optimal Visuals,” was successfully held on 6th October 2024 at the Department of Building Economics Boardroom. The session was conducted by Dr. Sandun Dassanayake from the Department of Decision Sciences, University of Moratuwa. The colloquium focused on enhancing the effectiveness of visual communication in research presentations. Dr. Dassanayake shared

valuable insights into optimising visual content to convey key research findings with clarity and impact. Participants gained practical strategies to improve the quality of research communication through well-designed visual aids. The session was well-received by the academic staff and research students, providing them with actionable tools to elevate their presentation skills and effectively highlight their research contributions.

Guest Lecture on “Who is a Quantity Surveyor?” for Level 1 QS Undergraduates

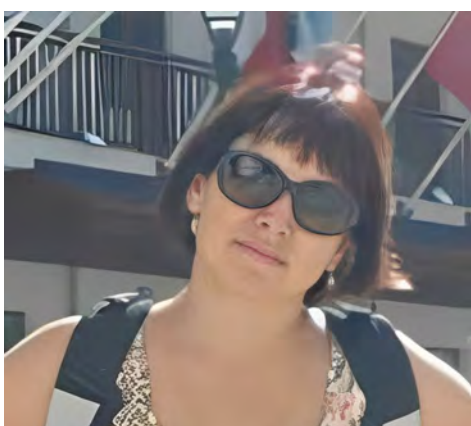


On 10th October 2024, the Department of Building Economics hosted a guest lecture for Level 1 undergraduates titled “Who is a Quantity Surveyor?” The session was delivered by Ch. QS. Tissa Edirisinghe, a distinguished graduate from the department’s inaugural cohort with over 30 years of professional experience.

The lecture provided an engaging overview of the evolving role of quantity surveyors, offering first-year students valuable insights into the profession. Ch. QS. Edirisinghe highlighted the diverse opportunities and responsibilities in the field, inspiring the undergraduates to explore the potential of a career in quantity surveying.

This session served as an excellent introduction to the profession, helping students develop a clear understanding of the significance and impact of quantity surveyors in the construction and infrastructure sectors.

International Lecture Series on Wastewater Treatment: Collaboration between the University of Moratuwa and Industrial University of Tyumen, Russia



The Department of Chemical and Process Engineering at the University of Moratuwa, in collaboration with the

85th BEMRU Colloquium on “Handling the Revising Process of Publications and Ethical Use of AI”



The Department of Building Economics hosted the 85th BEMRU Colloquium on 24th October 2024 at the department auditorium. The session, titled “Handling the Revise and Resubmit Process and Using AI Ethically,” was conducted by Prof. Chanaka Jayawardhena, Head of the Department of Marketing at Surrey Business School, United Kingdom.

Guest Lecture on “Personal and Professional Growth” for Level 4 Building Economics Undergraduates

On 24th October 2024, Level 4 undergraduates from the Department of Building Economics attended a compelling guest lecture titled “Empowering Your Future Life: Principles for Personal and Professional Growth.” The session was delivered by Prof. Chanaka Jayawardhena, Head of the Department of Marketing at Surrey Business School, UK. Prof. Jayawardhena provided invaluable insights into principles of personal development, sharing practical strategies

Prof. Jayawardhena provided valuable guidance on effectively navigating the revise-and-resubmit process in academic publishing, helping participants understand strategies for addressing reviewer feedback and improving the quality of their submissions. Additionally, the session highlighted the ethical use of AI tools in research and professional practices, promoting responsible innovation and academic integrity.

The colloquium served as an excellent platform for fostering ethical awareness and equipping participants with practical knowledge to enhance their academic and professional pursuits.

to navigate and balance personal and professional growth. The lecture highlighted the importance of adopting a growth mindset as a foundation for achieving success in all aspects of life, equipping students with tools to face future challenges confidently. This inspiring session served as a valuable guide for students as they prepare to transition into their professional careers and strive for excellence in both their personal and professional lives.

Industrial University of Tyumen (IUT), has launched an online lecture series titled “Wastewater Treatment and Related Technologies.” Running from 14th September to 7th December 2024, the weekly sessions cover topics such as “Microwave Radiation in Wastewater Treatment,” “Sludge Treatment Technologies,” and “Phytosorbents in Water Purification.” Led by Professor Elena Vialkova from IUT, the lecture series has attracted enthusiastic participation from students of the 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 batches. The sessions provide valuable insights into cutting-edge wastewater management techniques, fostering international collaboration

and sustainable engineering solutions. The initiative has been facilitated by the Head of the Department and Professor PG Rathnasiri, who serves as the program coordinator from Sri Lanka. This partnership between the University of Moratuwa and the Industrial University of Tyumen exemplifies the power of global collaboration in addressing pressing environmental challenges. The lecture series paves the way for continued cooperation and knowledge exchange in sustainable environmental engineering, showcasing the potential of academia to drive impactful solutions.

Academic Programs

Town & Country Planning Undergraduates Engage in Elephant Conservation Awareness Session



Level 3 undergraduates and staff from the Department of Town & Country Planning, University of Moratuwa, participated in a thought-provoking elephant conservation awareness session at the Uda Walawe Information Centre on 5th October 2024. The session, organised by the Dilmah team, brought together renowned experts, including Dr. Malaka, Dr. Sumith Pilapitiya, Dr. Wijemohan, Prof. Enoka

Kudavidanage, Mr. Anil Vithanage, Mr. Sameera Wijethunga, and Mr. Srilal Mithrapala, who shared valuable insights on national policies, human-elephant coexistence, and conservation initiatives.

As part of the session, students presented their analyses using the Land Use Conflict Identification Strategy (LUCIS) model, showcasing their understanding of the intricate dynamics between human settlements and elephant habitats. The event served as a pivotal learning experience for the students, supporting their ongoing Eco-Sensitive Regional Planning Studio and paving the way for developing policies and practices for eco-sensitive human settlement planning.

This initiative underscored the importance of integrating ecological awareness into planning education, fostering a holistic approach to sustainable development.

Level 1 Guest Lecture on “Road Construction” for QS Undergraduates

The Department of Building Economics organised a guest lecture on “Introduction to Road Construction” for Level 1 undergraduates on 26th October 2024. The session was conducted by Ch. QS. Pamal Nirosha Dilshan, a Senior Quantity Surveyor at CEYLEX Engineering (Pvt.) Ltd, Colombo.

Ch. QS. Dilshan shared his extensive industry expertise, focusing on the fundamental aspects of road construction and the critical role of quantity surveyors in such projects. His practical insights offered students a comprehensive understanding of the construction process, highlighting its significance in infrastructure development.

This session served as an invaluable opportunity for students to connect theoretical knowledge with real-world applications, enhancing their preparedness for future careers in quantity surveying.



Conferences & Symposia

Civil Engineering Research Symposium (CERS) 2024



The Civil Engineering Research Symposium (CERS) 2024, organised by the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Moratuwa, was successfully held on 26th



September 2024 at the Civil Engineering Auditorium. The event showcased cutting-edge research by undergraduate and postgraduate students, highlighting the

department's ongoing contributions to the field of civil engineering. This year's symposium was dedicated to two esteemed retiring academics, Prof. Saman Bandara and Dr. (Mrs.) Premini Hettiarachchi, in recognition of their invaluable contributions to the Department of Civil Engineering. A Book of Abstracts comprising the latest undergraduate research findings was published, covering advancements in various disciplines such as Structural Engineering, Geotechnical

Engineering, Hydraulic Engineering, Construction Management, Environmental Engineering, and Transportation Engineering. A selected set of abstracts were presented by students during the symposium, providing an engaging platform for knowledge sharing.

<https://uom.lk/civil/cers2024>

A 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) Challenge for postgraduate students was also held in parallel, where participants creatively presented their latest research achievements. Winners of the competition were announced during the symposium and were awarded certificates in recognition of their exceptional presentations. CERS 2024 successfully celebrated the innovative spirit of the department while paying tribute to the remarkable careers of Prof. Bandara and Dr. Hettiarachchi. The symposium underscored the Department of Civil Engineering's commitment to advancing research and fostering a culture of academic excellence.



07th Materials Engineering Symposium on Innovations for Industry (MESII) 2024 Successfully Bridges Industry and Academia



The Department of Materials Engineering at the University of Moratuwa hosted the 7th Materials Engineering Symposium on Innovations for Industry (MESII) on 10th October 2024, under the theme “Sustainable Materials Innovations for Industrial Transformations.” The event highlighted the department’s commitment to fostering collaboration between academia and industry. Mr. Mahendra Jayasekara, Managing Director of Lanka Tiles PLC, graced the symposium as Chief Guest, offering insightful remarks on strengthening industry-education partnerships. The event was officially inaugurated by Mr. V Sivahar, Head of the Department, and chaired by Dr. HS Sitinamaluwa. MESII 2024 showcased groundbreaking student research through ten oral presentations and fifteen poster displays, addressing critical challenges in materials engineering. A key feature of the symposium was the industry-academia



networking session, during which Dr. Ajith Pasquel, Director-Enterprise, delivered an invited talk on the university’s revised Intellectual Property (IP) policy. Industry professionals provided valuable feedback on the updated IP framework, encouraging open dialogue and reinforcing collaborative efforts. This year’s symposium introduced an innovative mechanism for industry partners to submit proposals for final-year projects, providing students with enhanced opportunities to engage

with real-world challenges. Discussions also focused on the department’s industrial training requirements, emphasising the importance of integrating technical and managerial skills to prepare students for dynamic industry roles. MESII 2024 received widespread acclaim, with industry professionals actively participating as evaluators for both oral and poster presentations. The symposium concluded with an awards ceremony recognising the most innovative student contributions in oral and poster sessions, further inspiring students to excel in their work. With its successful blend of research presentations, networking opportunities, and collaborative discussions, MESII 2024 reaffirmed the Department of Materials Engineering’s position as a vital contributor to industry-driven innovation and sustainable development.



Textile Engineering Research Symposium 2024 (TERS2024)



The Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering at the University of Moratuwa hosted the second annual Textile Engineering Research Symposium (TERS2024) on 24th October 2024. Held at the department's New Auditorium, the symposium showcased innovative research by final-year undergraduate students from the 2019 intake, reinforcing the department's commitment to advancing knowledge and innovation in textile engineering. The event was generously sponsored by MAS Capital (Pvt) Ltd, underscoring its dedication to supporting research and education in the field.

The event began with a welcome address by Eng. SN Niles, Head of the Department, followed by insightful speeches from Dr. DP Chandrasekara, Deputy Vice Chancellor, and Prof. Ashoka Perera, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. Symposium Co-Chair Prof. TSS Jayawardena, speaking on behalf of Symposium Chair Dr. Gayani K Nandasiri, expressed gratitude to the organizing committee and officially



opened the proceedings. The morning keynote address, delivered by Dr. Sameera Maheepala, Director of Sourcing & Supply Chain at MAS Capital (Pvt) Ltd, focused on "The Role of Textiles in Shaping the Future of the Garment Industry and the Importance of Research & Innovation." It highlighted the transformative impact of research on the industry. The afternoon session featured a keynote speech by Prof. Apurba Das from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. His presentation, "The Science Behind Clothing Comfort," offered invaluable insights into the principles of textile engineering and comfort, inspiring all attendees. The symposium also included a TERS2024 Journey Video, reflecting on



the symposium's purpose and evolution, along with testimonies from winners of TERS2023. TERS2024 featured two parallel technical sessions and a poster presentation session. The technical sessions focused on the highest-rated manuscripts, fostering dialogue between researchers and industry practitioners. The poster presentation session showcased 18 posters, providing an interactive platform for presenters to engage in in-depth discussions about their research. The event concluded with an awards ceremony recognising excellence in various categories. Best Paper, Best Paper 1st Runner-Up, Best Paper 2nd Runner-Up, Best Poster, and Best Poster Popular Choice. Winners received certificates and cash prizes, celebrating their dedication and accomplishments.

TERS2024 successfully highlighted the University of Moratuwa's pivotal role in fostering innovation and excellence in textile engineering research, paving the way for future advancements in the field.

8th International Symposium on Earth Resources Management and Environment (ISERME 2024)



The 8th International Symposium on Earth Resources Management and Environment (ISERME 2024) was held on 2nd–3rd September at Hokkaido University, Japan. This event brought together academics, researchers, and industry professionals

to discuss the latest advancements and challenges in Earth Resources and Mineral Engineering. Jointly organised by Hokkaido University, Japan, and the Department of Earth Resources Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, the symposium featured technical sessions, keynote addresses, and collaborative discussions, all aimed at fostering innovation and sustainable development in the mining and minerals sector. Chaired by Professor Tsubasa Otake, Head of the Division of

Sustainable Resources Engineering at Hokkaido University, the symposium provided a valuable platform for exchanging ideas and building partnerships to shape the future of sustainable mining and resource management.

The event opened with two compelling keynote speeches. Professor Youhei Kawamura from Hokkaido University presented "Environmentally Harmonious Mining System Utilizing Knowledge from Inactive and Abandoned Mine Management – SATREPS Project for Kazakhstan," emphasizing sustainable mining practices. Dr. SP Chaminda, Head of the Department of Earth Resources Engineering, University of Moratuwa, delivered a talk on "Geospatial Technology for Better Decision-Making and Planning," highlighting the role of

geospatial tools in enhancing resource management and decision-making. Technical sessions on the first day included presentations on sustainable mining practices, mineral processing, resource optimization technologies, and advanced methods in Resources Engineering. These sessions served as an excellent platform for knowledge sharing and exploring solutions to industry challenges. On the second day, participants engaged in Technical Visits to gain practical insights into the discussed research applications. The tours included the Japan CCS Co., Ltd. Tomakomai CCS Demonstration Project Center and Nippon Steel Muroran Works, where attendees



observed advanced carbon capture and storage technologies and sustainable steel production practices. The symposium also facilitated productive discussions between academics from Hokkaido University and the University of Moratuwa on potential collaborative research projects. Topics ranged from environmentally friendly

mining technologies and geotechnical applications to advanced geospatial techniques. These discussions underscored the commitment of both universities to fostering international cooperation and addressing global challenges in Earth Resources Engineering.

Student Achievements

Malintha Fernando Wins “Robin Jones Award 2024,” the International Honour by CICES

[From Cover page]



Malintha Fernando, a final-year student in the Quantity Surveying Degree Programme at the Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, has been awarded the prestigious Robin Jones Award for 2024. Presented by the Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (CICES), the award recognises Malintha’s exceptional commitment to promoting Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) within civil engineering surveying.

Malintha received the award in the category of Outstanding Student/Trainee/Apprentice Who Has Demonstrated a Commitment to Improving EDI. This

recognition highlights his dedication to strengthening EDI principles on a global scale. The honour was conferred at the esteemed CICES Institution Dinner held on 20th September 2024 at King’s College, Cambridge. Malintha’s achievements during his undergraduate internship, his insightful work, and a published conference proceeding under the supervision of Prof. (Mrs) Udayangani Kulatunge were pivotal in securing his nomination. After an interview with the CICES president and other distinguished representatives, Malintha emerged as the winner, affirming his impactful contributions to the industry. The Robin Jones Awards, named after the esteemed former president of CICES, honour early-career professionals who embody the institution’s core themes: equity, diversity, and inclusion; sustainability and climate change; and digital transformation. Malintha’s win continues the legacy of recognising individuals who exemplify these values, reinforcing the importance of fostering a more inclusive and innovative industry.

The Department of Building Economics proudly congratulates Malintha Fernando on this remarkable international achievement and wishes him success in his future endeavours.

Rusin Thathsara Awarded the “Youth Astronomical Authorship Honorable Award”

[From Cover page]

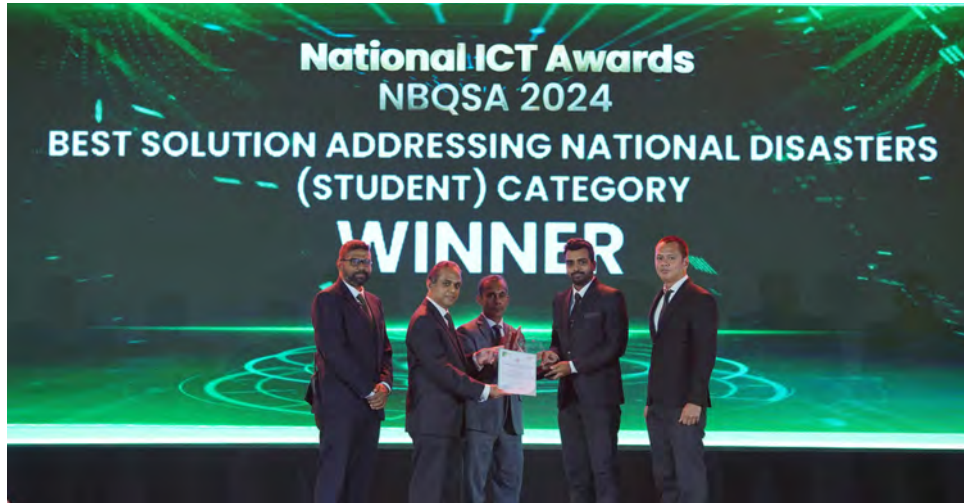


Rusin Thathsara, a third-year student in the Facilities Management degree programme at the Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, has been honoured with the prestigious “Youth Astronomical Authorship Honorable Award.” This recognition, conferred by the Royal Foundation and gazetted by the Government of Sri Lanka, celebrates his remarkable contributions as a youth to Sri Lanka’s astronomical and scientific community.

Rusin’s achievements include authoring the first book on space construction in South Asia, writing over 100 articles in astronomical and scientific journals (including initiating Sri Lanka’s first newspaper article series on Facilities

CSE Postgraduate Student Wins Best Solution Addressing National Disasters at NBQSA 2024

[From Cover page]



Mr. Imantha Ahangama, a postgraduate student from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa, was awarded the Best Solution Addressing National Disasters category at the National Best Quality ICT Awards (NBQSA) 2024 for his MSc thesis project, "Precipitation Nowcasting with Explainable Artificial Intelligence."

NBQSA recognises outstanding achievements in Sri Lanka's ICT sector, celebrating innovative products and offering a platform for international recognition. Organised by the Sri Lankan section of BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, the competition evaluates projects on novelty, creativity, and quality. The award ceremony was held on 23rd October 2024. Precipitation nowcasting refers to

short-term rainfall prediction for periods of 0–6 hours, offering high-resolution forecasts in time and space. Unlike general weather forecasts, this project employs AI technologies to provide precise, short-term rainfall predictions, enhancing decision-making in critical sectors. Mr. Ahangama's project utilised a deep learning model trained on multivariate spatio-temporal datasets, including rain radar, satellite, and wind speed data, to predict rainfall 30 minutes in advance with exceptional spatial resolution.

A standout feature of the solution is its integration of the Integrated Gradients method for explainable artificial intelligence (XAI). This approach breaks down the model's decision-making process, identifying the contribution of each data

Management), creating the concept for Sri Lanka's first virtual space city, "VIMANA," and authoring Sri Lanka's first Hindu astronomy book, "Brahmaand Nirmatha." Under the mentorship of renowned astronomer Mr. Anura C. Perera, Rusin has authored 14 books, 12 of which focus on astronomy. He began his journey as an author with his world record-breaking book, "Oxygen from Kamal Sir."

This marks the first time a university student has received this distinguished honorary award, a recognition that has garnered significant attention through TV programmes and newspaper features. The University of Moratuwa proudly congratulates Rusin Thathsara on this historic achievement and wishes him continued success in his contributions to science and society.

source and highlighting the specific regions and features influencing predictions. By offering a visual representation of these contributions, the solution enhances transparency and trust in AI-generated forecasts, especially in sectors like aviation and maritime industries, where accurate and interpretable weather predictions are essential.

The project was supervised by Prof. D Meedeniya. The Department of Computer Science and Engineering congratulates Mr. Imantha Ahangama on this remarkable achievement and wishes him continued success in his future endeavours.

CSE Team "InAirSignature" from UoM Wins Merit Award at NBQSA 2024

[From Cover page]



Team InAirSignature, comprising Mr. T Abinesh, Mr. M Jathavan, and Mr. G Vinojith from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa, received a Merit Award at the National Best Quality ICT

Awards (NBQSA) 2024 for their innovative final-year project.

The NBQSA recognises exceptional achievements in Sri Lanka's ICT sector, showcasing high-quality ICT products and providing a gateway

to international recognition. Organised by the Sri Lankan section of BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, the competition evaluates projects based on novelty, creativity, and quality. The awards

ceremony was held on 23rd October 2024. The InAirSignature project focuses on developing a writing, identification, and verification system for in-air signatures. It offers 2D and 3D solutions to accurately capture a user's signature performed in the air using a webcam and depth sensor, addressing challenges such as detecting discontinuities in the signature. The system employs both 2D and 3D approaches for verification, paving the way for advanced signature authentication methods. The project was supervised by Dr. Thanuja Ambegoda.

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering congratulates Team InAirSignature on this outstanding achievement and wishes them success in their future endeavours.

CSE Team “WildSight360” from UoM Wins Merit Award at NBQSA 2024

[From Cover page]



Team WildSight360, comprising Mr. Dinuka Thatthasara Jinadasa, Mr. Nuwan Jayasanka Mohotti, and Mr. Sumeela Madusankha from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa, received a Merit Award at the National Best Quality ICT Awards (NBQSA) 2024 for their final-year

project. NBQSA recognises outstanding achievements in Sri Lanka’s ICT sector, highlighting high-quality ICT products and providing a platform for international recognition. Organised by the Sri Lankan section of BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, the competition evaluates projects based on innovation, creativity, and

adherence to international standards. The awards ceremony was held on 23rd October 2024. WildSight360 is a pioneering research project aimed at transforming wildlife conservation through cutting-edge remote monitoring technology. The initiative addresses challenges in resource-constrained environments by deploying tiny cameras and microcontroller devices to detect and classify animals in their natural habitats. The project optimises deep learning models to balance accuracy, energy consumption, and processing power, ensuring efficient and sustainable remote wildlife monitoring. This innovative work was based on their final-year project, supervised by Prof. D Meedeniya.

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering congratulates Team WildSight360 on this remarkable achievement and wishes them continued success in their future endeavours.

Bogala Graphite Lanka PLC Recognizes Mr. LKCS Lankabharana for Innovative Idea



Bogala Graphite Lanka PLC has honoured Mr. LKCS Lankabharana, an undergraduate training engineer from the Department of Earth Resources Engineering, for his innovative idea proposed during his training programme. In recognition of the idea’s significant impact on the industry, he was awarded a cash prize.

A subsidiary of the globally renowned AMG Graphite, Bogala Graphite Lanka PLC has been a leader in the graphite mining industry for over 150 years. The company’s commitment to innovation and excellence is reflected in its cutting-edge processes and focus on developing new materials for diverse applications.



Mr. Lankabharana’s proposal resonates with this vision, highlighting his potential to contribute to groundbreaking advancements in the graphite industry.

Staff Achievements

Prof. KTMU Hemapala Appointed as Secretary to the Ministry of Energy



The Department of Electrical Engineering proudly announces that Prof. KTMU Hemapala, a distinguished professor in the department, has been appointed as the new Secretary to the Ministry of Energy in Sri Lanka. Before this prestigious appointment, Prof. Hemapala served as the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Moratuwa. The Department of Electrical Engineering extends its heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Hemapala and expresses confidence in his leadership to advance energy innovation and sustainability. In his new role, he is expected to oversee national energy policies, promote clean energy solutions, and drive efforts to ensure energy security and sustainability for Sri Lanka.

Department of Electrical Engineering Announces New Appointments to the Sustainable Energy Authority



The Department of Electrical Engineering proudly announces the appointment of Prof. Lidula Widanagama Arachchige

and Dr. Thushara D Rathnayaka as Directors of the Sustainable Energy Authority. In these esteemed roles, they will spearhead efforts to advance sustainable energy policies and initiatives, contributing significantly to the global transition towards cleaner and more efficient energy solutions. Prof. Lidula, a distinguished expert in energy research, has made pioneering advancements in microgrid

technologies, while Dr. Thushara, a senior lecturer in the department, has made remarkable contributions to renewable energy technologies and energy policy. Their combined expertise and unwavering commitment to sustainability position them as ideal leaders for these critical roles. The Department extends its warmest congratulations to Prof. Lidula and Dr. Thushara and wishes them great success as they embark on these exciting new chapters in their careers.

Mock Interviews: Shaping Future Fashion Leaders



The Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering successfully conducted mock interviews on 4th October 2024 for Semester 5 undergraduates of the Fashion Design and Product Development Degree Programme. With the invaluable support of 20 senior-level professionals in design, students gained hands-on experience in refining their portfolios, enhancing interview presentation skills, and receiving constructive feedback to help them excel in the competitive fashion industry.



This immersive session not only boosted students' confidence but also honed their professional communication and self-presentation—essential skills for their future careers. A heartfelt thank you to the

Moratuwa University Fashion Designer Association (MUFDA) for making this event possible and bridging the gap between industry expertise and our talented students.

Dr. Dinithi Herath from the University of Moratuwa Receives Prestigious Paediatric Interventional Radiology Scholarship



Dr. Dinithi Herath, a lecturer in the Department of Anatomy at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Moratuwa, has been awarded the Paediatric Interventional Radiology Scholarship for Member-in-Training 2024. This prestigious honour, presented by the Society for Paediatric Interventional Radiology (SPIR), recognises exceptional potential in the field of paediatric interventional radiology. As a scholarship recipient, Dr. Herath participated in the annual SPIR meeting, a globally acclaimed event bringing together

leaders and innovators in paediatric healthcare. The 2024 meeting took place at the renowned Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning, situated at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada.

This award highlights Dr. Herath's dedication to advancing paediatric radiology and underscores the University of Moratuwa's commitment to fostering medical expertise and research that contribute to global healthcare excellence.

Professor Nalin Prasanna Ratnayake Receives Ananda Coomaraswamy Medal 2023

[From Cover page]



Professor Nalin Prasanna Ratnayake, Senior Professor in the Department of Earth Resources Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, has been awarded the prestigious Ananda

Coomaraswamy Medal for 2023. This recognition by the Geological Society of Sri Lanka honours his significant contributions to the field of Sri Lankan geology. The Ananda Coomaraswamy

Memorial Oration was held on 26th August 2024 at the University of Peradeniya, where Professor Ratnayake delivered the keynote address titled “Exploring the Depths. My Contribution to Sri Lankan Geology.” His oration highlighted his extensive research and remarkable achievements in the field. This esteemed award not only acknowledges Professor Ratnayake’s dedication and impact on advancing geological studies in Sri Lanka but also aligns with the legacy of Ananda Coomaraswamy, one of the nation’s most renowned geologists and cultural historians.

Dr. Sureka Thiruchittampalam Awarded Michael Karmis SOMP PhD Fellowship Award 2024



Dr. Sureka Thiruchittampalam has been honoured with the prestigious Michael Karmis Society of Mining Professors (SOMP) PhD Fellowship Award for 2024. This award recognises junior members of SOMP who demonstrate a strong desire to pursue an academic career through the acquisition of a PhD in the field of Mining

Engineering. The SOMP is a globally renowned organisation with approximately 300 members from 47 countries and 132 institutions. It is dedicated to advancing the education and professional development of mining engineering professionals worldwide.

Exhibitions, Field Trips & Workshops

Technical Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Electrical Engineering



On 5th September 2024, a highly successful Technical Knowledge Sharing Workshop was held in collaboration with Rotax Limited for final-year Electrical Engineering students at the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Moratuwa. The workshop provided a unique opportunity for students to gain valuable insights into industry practices and advanced technologies, bridging the gap between academia and the professional world.

Key topics covered during the session included Switchgear Applications, Automation Technologies, and Energy Management Systems. The workshop fostered active engagement, with students enthusiastically participating in discussions and learning directly from

Dr. Sureka Thiruchittampalam Wins Best Paper Award at International Future Mining Conference 2024



Dr. Sureka Thiruchittampalam, a lecturer from the Department of Earth Resources Engineering, won the Best Paper Award for her research on “Automated

Characterisation of Dump Materials” at the International Future Mining Conference 2024. The conference, co-hosted by the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) and the University of New South Wales (UNSW), was held in Sydney from 2nd to 4th September 2024. The event featured 140 presentations, showcasing innovative research and advancements from experts worldwide, with participants representing 20 different countries.

Final-Year Facilities Management Undergraduates Explore Kothmale Power Plant and Araliya Hotel During Field Visit to Nuwara Eliya



On 13th and 14th October 2024, final-year undergraduates of the Facilities Management programme participated in a field visit to Kothmale and Nuwara Eliya, gaining valuable insights into energy and facility management practices in real-world settings. The visit commenced with a tour of the Kothmale Power Plant, where students observed first-hand the intricacies of energy

management, operational efficiency, and sustainable power generation. The experience offered practical exposure to the technical and managerial aspects of large-scale energy facilities. The students then visited Araliya Hotel in Nuwara Eliya, where they explored the hotel's facility operations and maintenance practices. The session highlighted sustainable

industry experts. Special appreciation goes to Prof. WDAS Rodrigo for facilitating this impactful collaboration, as well as to EESoc and Rotax Limited for their vital roles in making the event a reality. Their collective efforts ensured a seamless and enriching experience for all participants.

This workshop not only enhanced the technical knowledge of the students but also equipped them with practical insights, preparing them to excel in their future careers in electrical engineering. The event stands as a testament to the value of industry-academic partnerships in shaping well-rounded engineering graduates.

management techniques and provided an in-depth understanding of how hospitality facilities function efficiently while prioritising environmental and operational sustainability.

This two-day visit bridged the gap between classroom learning and practical application, enriching the students' understanding of diverse facilities and their management. The experience will undoubtedly contribute to their readiness to address real-world challenges as future professionals in facilities management.

Department of Civil Engineering Successfully Concludes Training Programme on “Testing of Engineering Properties of Soil”



In October 2024, the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Moratuwa hosted a highly successful training programme on “Testing of Engineering Properties of Soil”. The four-day initiative was designed to enhance the geotechnical skills of technical officers from the Road Development Authority in the Wayamba region, bridging academic knowledge with field applications. The programme featured a blend of informative lectures

and practical laboratory sessions, offering participants an in-depth understanding of soil and rock testing techniques. Hands-on activities enabled attendees to refine their skills in soil mechanics, data interpretation, and geotechnical analysis, fostering both theoretical and practical expertise. This comprehensive training aimed to equip participants with the essential knowledge required for their professional roles in civil engineering,



ensuring they are well-prepared to address real-world challenges in infrastructure development. The Department of Civil Engineering extends its appreciation to all who contributed to the programme's success and looks forward to continuing its commitment to advancing professional development and knowledge sharing in the field of geotechnical engineering.

UoM Showcases Achievements at ERASMUS+ LBS2ITS Dissemination Conference in TU Wien, Austria



On 9th September 2024, academic staff members from the University of Moratuwa (UoM), including Dr. Amila Jayasinghe, Prof. HR Pasindu, Dr. VV Adikariwattage, and Mr. Niroshan Sanjaya, actively participated in the Dissemination Workshop of the ERASMUS+ LBS2ITS Project held at Technische Universität Wien (TU Wien), Austria. The workshop celebrated the project's impactful contributions to modernizing higher education and fostering international collaboration. The LBS2ITS project, involving seven partner universities from Sri Lanka and Europe, has been instrumental in advancing curricula and strengthening academic networks. Representatives from Sri Lankan institutions—University of Moratuwa (UoM), University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJ), General Sir John



Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), and Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (SUSL)—joined their European counterparts from Technische Universität Dresden (Germany) and the National Technical University of Athens (Greece) to share insights and achievements.

The workshop underscored the project's transformative role in reshaping academic programmes and fostering innovation in higher education. Participants highlighted the importance of integrating Location-Based Services into Intelligent Transport Systems (LBS2ITS) and its potential to

address real-world challenges through cutting-edge education and research. The event not only showcased the project's progress but also strengthened global academic ties and reinforced the commitment to collaboration and knowledge sharing. UoM's contributions were particularly noted for their excellence and dedication to advancing international education standards. The Dissemination Workshop was a testament to the success of the LBS2ITS initiative and its ability to pave the way for sustained academic and professional development on a global scale.

FSM Undergraduates Visit the Central Bank of Sri Lanka



On 4th October 2024, undergraduates from the 2023 intake of the Faculty of Science and Management (FSM) embarked on an enriching visit to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the Economic History Museum. The visit included an engaging session conducted by the Central Bank's Communications Department on "Monetary Policy in Sri Lanka and its Impact on the Economy." This insightful session provided students with a deeper understanding of the Central Bank's critical role in maintaining economic stability and



shaping the nation's financial landscape.

The experience served as a valuable bridge between academic learning and practical application, enabling students to connect theoretical concepts with real-world economic practices. The exposure to the workings of a central financial institution and the historical context provided by the museum offered a well-rounded learning opportunity, equipping students with knowledge essential for their future

careers in finance and economics. The FSM extends its gratitude to the Central Bank of

Sri Lanka for facilitating this visit, which left a lasting impact on the students, inspiring them to pursue excellence in their respective fields.



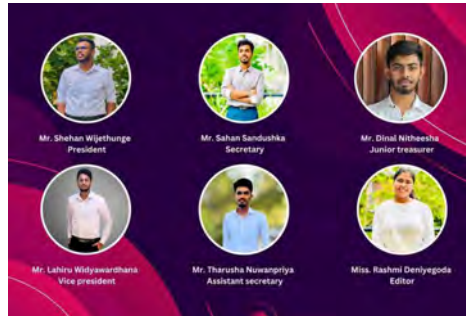
“Prathihari” 2024: A Musical Journey of Love



On 7th October 2024, the Engineering Faculty Steel Building Auditorium was transformed into a symphony of emotions as “Prathihari”, a mesmerising orchestral musical performance, captivated its audience. Organised by the Classical Music Society (CMS) of the University of Moratuwa, the concert celebrated the profound beauty and complexity of love through music.

Inspired by ancient Greek philosophy, which defines love in eight distinct forms, CMS masterfully brought these facets to life. The audience was treated to a cinematic experience that seamlessly combined visual storytelling with rich musical expression, evoking the essence of love in all its diversity. The concert highlighted the depth of vocal talent and the exceptional musical expertise of CMS members. Through innovative arrangements and a blend of musical styles

Earth Resources Engineering Society Successfully Concludes AGM for the 2024/25 Term



The Earth Resources Engineering Society (ERES) held its Annual General Meeting for the 2024/25 term on 20th October 2024 via Zoom. The virtual event brought together members of the society to reflect on a successful year, honour the outgoing committee, and warmly welcome the newly elected leadership team. A highlight of the AGM was the appointment of Eng. Maheshwari Wickrama, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Earth Resources

and cultures, they created an immersive journey where every note resonated with emotion, allowing the audience not just to hear, but to feel the music. The performers' dedication was evident in their flawless execution, achieved while balancing rigorous academic schedules. Their passion and hard work culminated in a breathtaking performance that concluded with a resounding standing ovation—a true testament to the event's success and the

Engineering, as the new Senior Treasurer. Her expertise and guidance are expected to further strengthen the society's initiatives in the upcoming term.

The meeting celebrated the dedication and achievements of the outgoing committee, whose tireless efforts contributed to a year of significant success and growth for ERES. The society extended its heartfelt gratitude for their exceptional leadership and commitment.

With the new committee taking the helm, ERES is poised for another dynamic year, embracing fresh ideas and fostering collaboration to build on its achievements. The society looks forward to continuing its mission of excellence and innovation in Earth Resources Engineering.

deep connection between the performers and their audience. Beyond celebrating the triumph of “Prathihari” 2024, the evening also marked the inception of an exciting dream—“Yathra”, a future performance that the CMS aspires to bring to life. With “Prathihari”, CMS not only delivered an unforgettable concert but also set the stage for the Society's continued journey in creating musical masterpieces that transcend boundaries and touch hearts.



Sports

“Civil Cric Fiesta – 2024” by the Civil Engineering Society



The annual cricket tournament of the Department of Civil Engineering, Civil Cric Fiesta – 2024, took place on 12th September 2024 at the university playground. Organised by the Civil Engineering Society (CES) of the University of Moratuwa, the event offered an excellent opportunity for academic and non-academic staff, along with students, to take a break from their daily routines, recharge, and enjoy a day of camaraderie and fun.

The fiesta was inaugurated with the enthusiastic participation of students and academic staff, including Prof. Jagath Manatunge, Head of the Department, Dr. Pasindu Weerasinghe, Senior Treasurer of CES, and Dr. Sampath Hewage, Staff Advisor of CES. Their presence added to the spirit and significance of the event. The tournament featured spirited competition, with the teams from the 20th batch emerging as champions and winners of the day. The event concluded with a memorable award ceremony, where the victorious teams

Appointments & Promotions

Department of Civil Engineering Congratulates Professor Jagath Manatunge, the New Dean of the Faculty of Engineering

[From Cover page]



The Department of Civil Engineering proudly announces the appointment of Senior Professor Jagath Manatunge as the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Moratuwa, effective 29th October 2024. A distinguished academic and researcher, Professor Manatunge is

renowned for his exceptional contributions to civil engineering and his unwavering dedication to advancing knowledge and innovation.

With his vast experience and visionary leadership, Professor Manatunge is poised to steer the Faculty of Engineering towards new heights in engineering education, research, and community engagement. His appointment reflects a commitment to excellence and progress, qualities that will undoubtedly inspire impactful advancements within the university and beyond.

The Department of Civil Engineering extends its warmest congratulations to Professor Manatunge and expresses its unwavering support as he embarks on this significant leadership journey. We look forward to the transformative initiatives and achievements that will mark this new chapter under his guidance.



were celebrated, leaving participants and spectators with hearts full of cherished memories. Civil Cric Fiesta – 2024 was not only a celebration of cricket but also a testament to the strong bonds within the Department of Civil Engineering. The day exemplified teamwork, friendly competition, and shared joy, making it a truly unforgettable event.



Earth Resources Engineering Challenge Trophy 2024: A Celebration of Teamwork and Sportsmanship

The Earth Resources Engineering Challenge Trophy 2024, organised by the Earth Resources Engineering Society, took place on 29th October 2024 at the university premises. This vibrant student-led cricket tournament brought together enthusiastic participants and spirited spectators, creating a day to remember for the entire Earth Resources Engineering community. The tournament featured both men's and women's cricket series, beginning with

a friendly and engaging match between staff and students that set the tone for the day. The competition was intense yet friendly, showcasing exceptional sportsmanship and teamwork. After a series of thrilling matches, students from Intake '20 emerged as the champions in both the men's and women's series, with Intake '21 securing the runners-up position. The day ended on a high note with a lively DJ music session, celebrating the

successes and camaraderie that defined the event. The Earth Resources Engineering Challenge Trophy 2024 exemplified the values of unity, collaboration, and a shared competitive spirit. It not only strengthened the bonds among students but also provided a fun and refreshing break from their academic routines. Cheers to all the participants, organisers, and supporters who contributed to making this event a grand success!

Electrical Engineering Cricket Fiesta 2024: A Day of Energy and Team Spirit



The University of Moratuwa grounds came alive with excitement on 26th September 2024, as the Electrical Engineering Cricket Fiesta 2024 unfolded. Organised by the Electrical Engineering Society (EESoc), the event celebrated camaraderie, teamwork, and a shared love for cricket, bringing together the entire Electrical Engineering family for a day filled with energy and memorable moments.

The fiesta featured thrilling cricket matches between staff and students, showcasing friendly competition and mutual respect. Adding to the excitement were intense matches between different student batches, each vying for victory with passion and determination. The event created a vibrant atmosphere where every participant, whether on or off the field, played a part in fostering team spirit and unity.

The Electrical Engineering Cricket Fiesta 2024 was not just about cricket—it was a celebration of the bonds that tie the Electrical Engineering community together. From spirited cheers to remarkable plays, the day was a testament to the values of collaboration and sportsmanship. Thanks to the meticulous organisation by EESoc, the fiesta was a resounding success, leaving participants and spectators alike with cherished memories and a renewed sense of unity.



Society & Community Responsive Activities

Annual General Meeting 2024 of the Electrical Engineering Society, University of Moratuwa



The Electrical Engineering Society (EESoc) of the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Moratuwa, held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024 on 3rd October at the Civil Engineering Auditorium. The event was a vibrant gathering of students from the 2020, 2021, and 2022 batches, alongside esteemed academic staff, marking a memorable evening of unity, collaboration, and forward-looking

aspirations. The AGM celebrated the contributions of both students and staff who have been instrumental in the society's success. Heartfelt gratitude is extended to the academic staff for their unwavering support and to the enthusiastic students whose spirited participation added to the event's lively atmosphere.

The meeting also marked a transition in leadership, welcoming the newly appointed

Extra-Curricular Activities

Purawara Rangamadala 2024: A Celebration of Talent and Teamwork



On 29th October 2024, Purawara Rangamadala 2024, an extraordinary theatrical performance by Level 2 undergraduates from the Department of Town and Country Planning, captivated audiences and concluded on a resounding high note. The production, directed and guided by the renowned theatre artist Kaushalya Fernando, was a testament to the students' remarkable talent, creativity, and dedication.

The event was a showcase of teamwork and collaboration, with the behind-the-scenes efforts of Nilanka Dahanayaka, Mayura Perera, and Rashmi Madhushika playing a pivotal role in ensuring a seamless and memorable production. Their unwavering commitment to excellence was evident in every detail of the performance.

Adding to the event's prestige, the presence of Chief Guest Priyantha Sirikumara highlighted the significance of the

students' hard work and achievements, further celebrating their dedication to the arts and planning disciplines. The success of Purawara Rangamadala 2024 was also attributed to the guidance and support of module coordinators Mr. Niroshan Sanjaya and Dr. Chathura De Silva from the Department of Town and Country Planning. Their mentorship was instrumental in bringing this creative vision to life, providing students with an invaluable learning experience. The event was not only a celebration of theatrical

Executive Committee for the 2024/25 term. The society is excited to embrace the fresh perspectives and dynamic leadership of Dr. V Logeeshan as President and Dr. RMM Ruwanthika as Senior Treasurer. Their guidance is expected to drive EESoc toward new achievements in the coming year.

Special appreciation was given to the outgoing Executive Committee for their outstanding dedication and leadership over the past year, which have left a lasting impact on the society's initiatives and progress.

The Electrical Engineering Society looks forward to another year of innovation, collaboration, and growth under the new leadership, continuing to strengthen the bonds within the Electrical Engineering community.

talent but also a reflection of the synergy and teamwork that defines the Department of Town and Country Planning. Purawara Rangamadala 2024 will undoubtedly be remembered as a milestone in the students' academic and artistic journeys.



Retirements /Felicitation Ceremony

Farewell Lecture and Felicitation Ceremony Honouring Professor Saman Bandara



On 30th September 2024, the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Moratuwa bid a heartfelt farewell to one of its most distinguished Senior Professors, Prof. Saman Bandara, as he retired after an illustrious career spanning over four decades. Prof. Bandara, a luminary in the fields of civil and transportation engineering, has left a lasting legacy in both academia and Sri Lanka's transportation sector.

An alumnus of the University of Moratuwa, Prof. Bandara earned his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering in 1982. He went on to complete his PhD in Transportation

Engineering at the University of Calgary in 1989, marking the beginning of a career defined by excellence and innovation. His tenure at the University of Moratuwa was marked by numerous impactful roles, including serving as Head of the Department of Civil Engineering (2016–2019). He also became the founding Head of the Department of Transport and Logistics Management (2005–2008) and served as Director of Undergraduate Studies at the Faculty of Engineering (2001–2004). Prof. Bandara's visionary leadership extended beyond the university. In 2017, he was appointed Director of the Centre for Intelligent Transport Systems, a role in which he spearheaded advancements in intelligent transportation solutions. His national service was exemplified during his tenure as Chairman of the Road Development Authority of Sri Lanka in 2015, where he played a pivotal role in shaping the country's road infrastructure. Renowned

for his expertise and commitment to professional development, Prof. Bandara held prestigious positions in several national and international organisations. He served as President of the Highway Engineering Society of Sri Lanka, President of the Sri Lanka Evaluation Association, and as a board member of the Asia-Pacific Evaluation Association. His invaluable contributions to policy development and advisory roles in governmental committees have had a profound impact on transportation and logistics in Sri Lanka. Prof. Bandara's academic and professional journey is a testament to his unwavering dedication and exceptional leadership. His contributions to academia, research, and national development have inspired countless students and professionals in engineering and beyond.

As the University of Moratuwa bids farewell, the Department of Civil Engineering, along with the entire university community, extends its deepest gratitude to Prof. Saman Bandara for his unparalleled service. We wish him a fulfilling and rewarding retirement, confident that his legacy will continue to inspire future generations.

FGS Honours Former Deans with Portrait Unveiling Ceremony



The Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) marked a momentous occasion on 3rd September 2024 with a special ceremony to unveil portraits of two distinguished former Deans, Prof. (Mrs) Dileeka Dias and Prof. Ajith De Alwis. The event, held in the FGS boardroom, celebrated their invaluable contributions to the Faculty's growth and development.

Dean of FGS, Prof. Ruwan Gopura, delivered a heartfelt address, commending the former Deans for their visionary leadership and profound influence on the Faculty. He highlighted their enduring legacies, which continue to inspire the FGS community.



The ceremony honoured the achievements of Prof. (Mrs) Dileeka Dias, who served as Dean from 20th January 2015 to 19th January 2021, and Prof. Ajith De Alwis, who led the Faculty from 20th January 2021 to 19th January 2024. Their pivotal roles in shaping the Faculty's future and advancing its academic excellence were celebrated with deep gratitude.

The unveiled portraits, now prominently displayed, stand as a lasting tribute to their dedication and service. This fitting recognition underscores FGS's commitment to honouring those who have played a vital role in its success. The portraits now hang in a prominent location, serving as a lasting tribute to their legacy.

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