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On 25th July 2025, the University of Moratuwa (UoM) had the pleasure of hosting Mr. Satya Sha, Director of South Asia and Other Markets at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane, Australia.

During his visit, Mr. Sha engaged in a productive meeting with Prof. GD Samarasinghe (Dean, Faculty of Business), Prof. Udeni Nawagamuwa (Head, Department of Civil Engineering), Dr. HGH Damruwan (Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering), and Ms. Yashodara Karunarathne (Assistant Registrar, External Affairs, Publicity and International Student Promotion Division).

Key Outcomes of the Meeting

- **MoU Progress:** It was noted that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UoM and QUT has already received approval from the UoM Council and is now awaiting external approvals. Mr. Sha agreed to

Academic & Industry Collaboration

Visit of Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Representative to the University of Moratuwa



- review the document and suggest any final amendments before submission for external clearance.
 - **2+3 Pathway Programme:** QUT expressed strong interest in launching a 2+3 pathway programme, enabling UoM undergraduates to transfer to QUT after completing two years of study and continue with a three-year programme leading to a Master's degree.
 - **Collaboration Coordination:** It was recommended that all one-to-one and department-level collaborations be coordinated through the QUT International Office to ensure streamlined communication and effective implementation.
 - **Future Academic Engagements:** QUT informed that a QUT professor is scheduled to visit UoM in October–November 2025 to further explore potential areas for academic collaboration.
 - **Existing Partnerships:** UoM officials highlighted that, even without the formal signing of the MoU, several collaborative activities are already underway, including undergraduate and postgraduate supervision and individual academic partnerships.
- This visit marks another significant step in strengthening the long-standing relationship between UoM and QUT, laying the groundwork for expanded academic cooperation and student mobility opportunities in the future.

Visit of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Malaysia – Delegation to the University of Moratuwa



The University of Moratuwa welcomed a delegation from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Malaysia, on 26th August 2025. The visit, initiated and coordinated by the International Institute of

Knowledge Management (TIKM), marked an important step toward strengthening international academic partnerships.

Representatives from the Faculty of Business and the International Relations



Office of the University of Moratuwa who participated in the discussions included:

Prof. GD Samarasinghe – Dean, Faculty of Business

Dr. GVI Samaradivakara – Director, International Relations

Dr. (Ms.) HL Liyanage – Senior Lecturer, Department of Management of Technology

Dr. (Ms.) K DAM Gunawardana – Senior Lecturer, Department of Decision Science

Mr. WMSNF Rajakarunanayake – Senior Lecturer, Department of Industrial Management

Ms. Yashodara Karunarathne – Assistant Registrar, External Affairs, Publicity, and International Student Promotion Division



During the meeting, both institutions explored opportunities for a wide range of academic and research collaborations, including joint programmes, staff and student exchanges, and collaborative research initiatives. The discussions concluded with an agreement to proceed with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise and further strengthen the partnership between the two universities.

IFS Career Guidance Session: Preparing for the World of Work



The IFS Career Guidance Session was held on 5th August 2025 from 2.00 pm

to 4.00 pm, with the participation of undergraduates from Intakes 2021 and 2022. The programme aimed to equip students with essential career management skills, including CV writing, LinkedIn profile development, and interview preparation. The session was facilitated by two experienced professionals from IFS — Ms. Thinusha Arumugam (Talent Acquisition Specialist) and Ms. Oshadi Kaumada (Employer Branding Specialist). Drawing from their extensive industry

experience, they shared valuable insights on crafting impactful resumes, building professional online profiles, and presenting confidently during interviews. Students described the session as highly practical and impactful, noting that it provided valuable clarity on transitioning from university to the workplace. The Career Guidance Unit highlighted the programme as one of its most successful industry collaborations, significantly contributing to efforts to enhance graduate employability.

Inauguration of the Smart Mobility Laboratory by PickMe



On 27th August 2025, the Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering (TMLE) officially inaugurated its Smart Mobility Laboratory, established in collaboration with Digital Mobility Solutions Lanka PLC (PickMe). Located on

the lower ground floor of the department, the state-of-the-art facility offers students a dynamic space for innovation, collaboration, and hands-on learning in the fields of transport and logistics.

The inauguration ceremony featured insightful addresses by Prof. Niles Perera, Head of TMLE, and Prof. Jagath Manatunge, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. A keynote speech by Mr. Jiffry Zulfer, CEO of PickMe, underscored the transformative

potential of digital mobility solutions. Prof. Amal S. Kumarage, whose vision played a pivotal role in establishing the lab, also spoke on the importance of strengthening industry-academia partnerships to drive innovation and real-world impact.

A panel discussion titled “From Data to Delivery: How Digital Mobility Solutions Are Transforming Transport and Logistics” explored the evolving role of digital technologies in reshaping the industry landscape. The event concluded with a group photograph, marking a significant milestone in the department’s ongoing efforts to empower students and advance the future of transport innovation in Sri Lanka.



Guest Lectures / Talks

Advancing Industry–Academia Partnerships: Highlights from the 91st BEMRU Colloquium



The 91st Colloquium of the Building Economics and Management Research Unit (BEMRU), Department of Building Economics, was successfully held on 20th August 2025 at the Department Board Room. The session featured an engaging presentation by Professor Srinath Perera, Chair Professor of Built Environment and Construction Management and Founding Director of the Centre for Smart Modern Construction (c4SMC) at Western Sydney University, Australia.

Professor Perera delivered a thought-provoking lecture titled “Translating Research into Impact: Strategies for Academia–Industry Collaborations.” His address underscored the critical importance of building strong partnerships

between universities and industry to ensure that academic research translates into meaningful, real-world outcomes. He highlighted the pivotal role of universities in fostering collaboration, particularly by aligning research priorities with industry needs to advance knowledge, innovation, and practical applications in the built environment sector. The discussion that followed provided valuable insights into how academics can position their research to maximise impact while benefiting from deeper industry engagement.

In preparation for the colloquium, BEMRU organised a brainstorming session on 25th July 2025 to develop its annual activity plan. Coordinated by Ch.QS Dr. Chandanie Hadiwattege (BEMRU Coordinator) and

Ms. Saambavi Sivanraj (Assistant BEMRU Coordinator), the session brought together the department’s academic staff for an interactive dialogue on the future direction of the research unit. Participants explored potential initiatives to strengthen BEMRU’s research profile and enhance opportunities for knowledge dissemination, capacity building, and collaborative partnerships.

The exchange of ideas during the session reaffirmed the Department’s commitment to nurturing a dynamic and impactful research culture. By identifying key priority areas and activities for the upcoming year, the brainstorming session laid a strong foundation for sustained growth, innovation, and enhanced industry–academia collaboration within BEMRU.

Guest Lectures Enrich Learning Experience of Level 4 Undergraduates in the Department of Building Economics

The Department of Building Economics organised two insightful guest lectures for Level 4 undergraduates, designed to bridge academic learning with practical industry applications. The first guest lecture, held on 11th July 2025, brought together both Quantity Surveying and Facilities



Management undergraduates. Associate Professor Panos Psimoulis, Associate Professor in Geospatial Engineering at

the University of Nottingham, delivered a lecture on “Advancements of Surveying and Applications in Architecture and Civil Engineering.” The session explored emerging developments in surveying technologies and their applications across related disciplines, offering students a global perspective on technological integration within the built environment.

The second guest lecture, conducted on 19th July 2025, was specifically tailored for Quantity Surveying undergraduates. Ch.QS. Tilanka Wijesinghe, Head of the

Department of Quantity Surveying at the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology, delivered a session on “Preparation of Cash Flow for a Construction Project.” The lecture provided students with practical insights into managing project finances and translating theoretical knowledge into effective cost planning.

Both sessions were well received by students, offering valuable exposure to industry practices and enhancing their academic experience with practical relevance.

Exploring Professionalism in a Global Business World: Insights from Mr. Sakbo Dissanayake



On 26th June 2025, Financial Services Management undergraduates from the Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Business, had the privilege of engaging with Mr. Sakbo Dissanayake, an experienced professional in international development and a parliamentary specialist, during an insightful session on professionalism.

Held as part of the Intercultural Business Etiquette module, the session went beyond theory, offering students a practical understanding of the attitudes, behaviours, and standards that define professionalism in today's globally connected and culturally diverse business environment.

Mr. Dissanayake's real-world experiences provided invaluable guidance, equipping students with the knowledge and confidence to navigate their future professional journeys. We extend our sincere gratitude to Mr. Dissanayake for sharing his expertise and inspiration with our students.

Empowering Professional Presence: A Session on Dressing Etiquette by Emerald International



On 9th July 2025, undergraduates of the Financial Services Management programme (Intake 2021), Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Business, University of Moratuwa, had the opportunity to enhance their professional skills through an insightful session on dressing etiquette, conducted by Mr. Tilosh Karunanayake, Brand Manager, and Ms. Christina Mahendran, Assistant Manager, from Emerald International. Held as part of the Intercultural Business

Etiquette module, the session emphasised the importance of professional appearance and appropriate attire in various business contexts. The speakers shared practical tips and real-world examples, illustrating how dressing appropriately can shape first impressions and strengthen professional credibility. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Karunanayake and Ms. Mahendran for delivering such an engaging session and for sharing their valuable expertise with our future professionals.

Enhancing Employability: Guest Lecture on Interview Skills and CV Writing



Industry Expert Session on Corporate Etiquette



On 7th August 2025, undergraduates of the Financial Services Management programme (Intake 2021), Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Business, University of Moratuwa, had the valuable opportunity to learn from industry expert Mr. Nipun Fernando, Manager – Sales Planning & Administration at Hutch, during an insightful session on corporate etiquette. Held as part of the Intercultural Business Etiquette module, the session

went beyond theory, offering students a meaningful exploration of professional behaviour, workplace norms, and corporate culture. Mr. Fernando's expert insights on navigating business environments will undoubtedly help students thrive with confidence and professionalism in their future careers. We extend our sincere gratitude to Mr. Fernando for sharing his knowledge and inspiring our future business leaders.

On 24th July 2025, undergraduates of the Financial Services Management programme (Intake 2021), Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Business, University of Moratuwa, had the privilege of attending a guest lecture on interview skills and CV writing, delivered by Ms. Dinusha Wijayagunaratna, Deputy Manager – HR & Talent Development and Talent Acquisition Specialist at Hutchison Telecommunications. The session offered invaluable insights into effective interview techniques and the art of crafting impactful CVs, equipping students with essential skills to boost their employability and succeed in an increasingly competitive job market. We extend our sincere gratitude to Ms. Wijayagunaratna for her expert guidance and for dedicating her time to support the professional development of our students.

Leadership Insights with Mr. Akshaya Kumarajeewa



On 13th August 2025, undergraduates of the Financial Services Management programme (Intake 2021), Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Business, University of Moratuwa,

participated in an inspiring session on leadership conducted by Mr. Akshaya Kumarajeewa, Regional Marketing Operations Manager – Emerging Markets (AMEA & LATAM) at Flora Food Group.

Held as part of the Intercultural Business Etiquette module, the session equipped students with the mindset, skills, and qualities essential for effective leadership in today's dynamic and multicultural business landscape. Mr. Kumarajeewa's insights and practical guidance will undoubtedly empower students to lead with confidence, integrity, and vision as they embark on their professional journeys. We extend our sincere gratitude to Mr. Kumarajeewa for generously sharing his time, expertise, and inspiration with our future business leaders.

LinkedIn Etiquette: Guidance from HR Specialists for FSM Undergraduates



On 15th August 2025, undergraduates of the Financial Services Management programme (Intake 2021), Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Business, University of Moratuwa, participated in an insightful session on LinkedIn etiquette conducted by Ms. Nipuni Lamahewa, Senior Executive – Human Resources & Talent Development,

and Ms. Dinusha Wijayagunaratna, Deputy Manager – HR & Talent Development and Talent Acquisition Specialist, both from Hutchison Telecommunications. Held as part of the Intercultural Business Etiquette module, the session offered practical guidance on creating and maintaining a professional LinkedIn profile, while emphasising the importance of building a strong personal brand in today's competitive job market.

The speakers shared valuable insights on networking strategies and profile optimisation, empowering students to present themselves effectively and enhance their career prospects. We extend our sincere gratitude to Ms. Lamahewa and Ms. Wijayagunaratna for sharing their expertise and inspiring our students to strengthen their professional presence in the digital space.



Strengthening Email Etiquette with HR Expert from CAL



On 21st August 2025, undergraduates of the Financial Services Management programme (Intake 2021) from the Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Business, University of Moratuwa, gained valuable insights into email etiquette during an interactive session conducted by Mr. Kanishka Munasinghe, Vice President – Human Resources at CAL. Held as part of the

Intercultural Business Etiquette module, the session focused on the principles of professional communication, equipping students with the skills to craft clear, precise, and impactful emails while adhering to corporate standards and expectations. Through real-world examples and practical tips, Mr. Munasinghe guided students in developing essential email communication

skills, helping them build stronger workplace relationships, communicate with confidence and professionalism, and make lasting positive impressions in their future careers. The Department extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Munasinghe for his insightful session and for inspiring our students to elevate their professional communication capabilities.



Guest Lecture Session: Insights on Business Process Management



The Department of Management of Technology, Faculty of Business, hosted a guest lecture on 3rd July 2025 featuring Dr. Rehan Syed, Senior Lecturer at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane, Australia. The session, held at Auditorium 02, offered students valuable insights into Business Process Management (BPM) and Information Systems. Drawing from his extensive



academic and industry experience, Dr. Syed explored the evolving role of BPM in modern organizations and discussed the essential skills students need to succeed in this dynamic field. He emphasized the importance of adaptability, critical thinking, and innovation as key competencies for future business leaders.

The session provided undergraduates with an opportunity to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical industry applications, broadening their understanding of global business environments and the transformative impact of BPM on organizational success.

Guest Lecture Session: Enterprise Business Process Management

The Department of Management of Technology, Faculty of Business, successfully hosted a guest lecture on “Enterprise Business Process Management” on 5th July 2025 at Auditorium 02. The session was conducted by Dr. Rehan Syed, Senior Lecturer at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane. Drawing on his extensive academic background and industry experience, Dr. Syed explored how Business Process Management (BPM) can be leveraged as a strategic tool to enhance efficiency, innovation, and competitive advantage within organizations. He

discussed practical applications of BPM in contemporary business environments, illustrating how theoretical principles translate into real-world practice. Students described the lecture as both engaging and insightful, highlighting how it deepened their understanding of BPM’s pivotal role in digital transformation and organizational success. This session was part of the department’s ongoing initiative to provide undergraduates with global perspectives and industry-relevant knowledge in management education.

Guest Lecture on Shipping, Port Management, and Sri Lanka



On 14 August 2025, the Department of Transport Management & Logistics

Visitor Talk – July



The Guest Lecture for the month of July was conducted by Prof. Yuansong Wei on 23rd July 2025 at the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, held in hybrid mode with the participation of over 35 research students, visitors, and academic staff

members. Prof. Wei delivered an insightful lecture on the topic “China’s Role in Supporting Sri Lanka’s CKDu Management – From the Study of Causative Factors to Solutions on the Ground.” The session explored China’s collaborative efforts in addressing Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology (CKDu) in Sri Lanka, highlighting research on its causes and practical interventions implemented to support affected communities.

Archive of the session is available at: <https://youtu.be/s3fHUt3EtRo?si=WvZ4eP9gYvajNUo>



Engineering hosted a special guest lecture by Mr. Bindu Ranasinghe, Deputy General Manager – Commercial and Marketing, Hambantota International Port Group (Pvt) Ltd. This highly interactive session marked a significant milestone for the department, as it was the first maritime-focused lecture attended by second-year undergraduates. Mr. Ranasinghe shared valuable industry insights on shipping and port management, covering a range of topics including port operations, global shipping alliances, bunkering processes, and the latest technologies shaping the sector. The session provided students with a deeper understanding of real-world maritime practices, industry trends, and operational challenges. It also broadened their perspectives on potential career opportunities in the maritime and port management sectors. By connecting classroom learning with practical applications, the lecture served as an important step in preparing students for future roles in the logistics and shipping industry.

Visitor Talks – August



The Guest Lecture for the month of August was conducted by Dr. Bandula Wijay on 6th August 2025 at the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, held in hybrid mode with the participation of over 46

research students, visitors, and academic staff members. Dr. Wijay delivered an inspiring lecture titled “Pursue Impact – Needs are There: My Stent Came the Same Way,” in which he shared his journey of innovation and impact in the field of biomedical engineering. Drawing from his personal experiences, Dr. Wijay emphasized the importance of identifying real-world needs as the driving force behind impactful inventions, highlighting how his groundbreaking work on stent development was born from this philosophy.

Archive of the session is available at: <https://youtu.be/cvonctmDgFA?si=xTTtSUx4p45lcfv9>



Academic Programs

External Reviewer Visit Strengthens Quantity Surveying and Facilities Management Degree Programmes

The Department of Building Economics successfully hosted the External Reviewer Visit for the BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying and BSc (Hons) in Facilities Management degree programmes on 12 and 13 August 2025.

The review panel comprised Professor David Proverbs from De Montfort University, UK, Ch.QS. AN Jayadeva, and Ch.QS/FM. Elmo Fernando. Over the two-day visit, the panel engaged in comprehensive discussions with academic staff and students, reviewed a range of student work including examination papers, continuous assessments, and dissertations, and toured university facilities. They also evaluated the department’s progress in implementing recommendations from the previous external review.

At the conclusion of the visit, the panel presented a detailed report with



constructive recommendations aimed at further enhancing the quality and relevance of both degree programmes. The overall outcome was highly positive, reaffirming the department's strong commitment to academic excellence, continuous improvement, and its readiness to meet the evolving demands of the higher education landscape.

Soft Skills Development Session 01: Personal Growth and Overcoming Barriers



The Career Guidance Unit successfully conducted the first Soft Skills Development Session for the 2024 intake on 8 July 2025. The programme focused on two key areas: the importance of personal development

and creating a personal development plan, as well as strategies for overcoming barriers commonly faced by university students. The session was enriched by the expertise of Dr. Chathura de Silva (Director – Career

Guidance Unit) and Prof. Kanchana Perera (Former Student Counsellor). Both resource persons highlighted the significance of self-awareness, time management, and resilience in navigating academic life and preparing for future challenges. Students actively participated in discussions and interactive activities designed to help them reflect on their strengths and areas for growth. The session concluded with an emphasis on building a sustainable personal development journey that would support their success both academically and personally.

Soft Skills Development Session 02: Building Communication and Presentation Skills



The second Soft Skills Development Session for the 2023 intake was successfully conducted on 14 July 2025., focusing on enhancing students' communication

and presentation skills — essential competencies for success in both academic and professional environments. The session was led by Dr. Chathura de Silva

(Director – Career Guidance Unit), who guided participants through practical strategies for effective verbal and non-verbal communication, structuring impactful presentations, and building confidence when addressing audiences. Through a series of interactive exercises, students had the opportunity to practice and refine their skills in real time. Many participants acknowledged the session's relevance in preparing them for group projects, research presentations, and future career opportunities, underscoring the value of soft skills in their personal and professional development.

Certificate Awarding Ceremony Marks Successful Completion of Urban Informatics Short Course



The Department of Town & Country Planning at the University of Moratuwa

launched a certificate short course titled "Urban Informatics and Planning Techniques" on 5 December 2024, in response to a request from the National Physical Planning Department (NPPD) of Sri Lanka. Designed with the support of the Erasmus+ LBS2ITS project, the course aimed to build capacity in data-driven urban planning approaches. Over a four-month period, 24 professionals from the NPPD were trained in the

fundamentals of urban informatics, spatial data analysis, smart planning tools, and emerging planning technologies. The course represents a significant milestone in bridging academic expertise with the evolving needs of national urban development. A certificate awarding ceremony was held on 25 August 2025 at the Auditorium of the National Physical Planning Department to honour the participants who successfully completed



the programme. The event celebrated not only their academic achievement but also the strong partnership between the University of Moratuwa and the

NPPD in strengthening the country's urban planning capabilities. Certificates were formally awarded by Prof. Jagath Munasinghe, Head of the Department of Town & Country Planning, who attended the ceremony as Chief Guest. In his address, Prof. Munasinghe commended the participants for their dedication and highlighted the course as a model for effective collaboration between academia and national agencies. The event also marked the official launch of the second batch of the short course. Applications are now open for interested professionals seeking hands-on experience in urban informatics and innovative planning techniques.

Graduation Fashion Week 2025(GFW'25)

[From Cover page]



The Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering, established in 1985, celebrated its 40th anniversary through Graduation Fashion Week 2025 (GFW'25) a landmark event that embodied the spirit of innovation, creativity, and academic-industry synergy.

Held from 11–12 August at the University of Moratuwa and 14–15 August at Cinnamon Life, Colombo, GFW'25 showcased the journey of Sri Lanka's emerging designers from concept to creation while bridging academia and the global fashion industry. The week featured flatwork exhibitions, poster presentations, interactive workshops, entrepreneurial displays, and the highly anticipated Graduation Fashion Show, which attracted over 700 participants, including prominent industry leaders, university representatives, and government officials. The event was proudly sponsored by leading organizations in the apparel industry.

Graduation Fashion Show 2025



The 14th Graduation Fashion Show, held on August 15th at Cinnamon Life, marked the grand finale of GFW'25 and celebrated the 20th batch of graduating designers.

Twenty two finalists presented their collections, each inspired by deep market research and customer profiling, transforming their findings into cutting edge designs that merged innovation with functionality. The collections demonstrated mastery in creative pattern making, garment construction and strategic brand positioning reflecting the department's strong industry-oriented training.

The event, attended by professionals and fashion enthusiasts alike, provided a platform for the next generation of Sri Lankan designers to step confidently into the industry. Models, lights, and artistry combined to create an unforgettable

evening that underscored the global potential of local talent.



The Exhibition & Poster Presentation

The Graduate Exhibition highlighted the creative and technical milestones of students in the Fashion Design and Product Development degree programme. Held both at the Department premises and at Cinnamon Life, Colombo, the event allowed visitors to witness the journey from initial concept sketches to final collections, grounded in research. This year's exhibition expanded beyond final year projects to include work from all student batches, illustrating the evolution of design education from foundational exploration to refined, research-led creativity. The displays included fashion collections, textile innovations, and conceptual experiments, with a special focus on process documentation and craftsmanship. The highlights featured poster presentations by the top-performing students of the 21st batch, presenting their Fashion Industry Investigative Research



projects and valuable industry insights. Foundation Year Projects by the 23rd batch, inspired by Sri Lankan temple murals, featured batik, handloom weaving, crochet,

patchwork, embroidery, and experimental weaving with the Department of Textiles, Ministry of Industries and Batik process with Buddhi Batik.

Mora Market

Amid a world racing through fast fashion, Mora Market reimagines consumption and creativity. Launched by students of the University of Moratuwa, this initiative transforms discarded fabrics and rejected materials into fashionable clothing, accessories, and handmade products.

The 2025 edition featured 12 student-run brands, each merging sustainability with storytelling. Supported by Kalathri Guruge Design Studio and industry partners like MAS Holdings and NorLanka and HirdaramaniGroup, students embodied the philosophy of 'waste not, create more.'



Mini Walks at Graduation Fashion Week

The Mini Walks were vibrant showcases of creativity and collaboration, featuring Semester 3 and 4 students of the 2022/23 intake. With four capsule collections, these shows celebrated both experimentation and professionalism.

Highlights included a 'White Shirt' collection, innovative knitwear, an activewear collaboration with MAS Bodyline, and a footwear project with DSI footwear. Beyond the runway, students managed every production aspect from modelling to lighting and makeup showcasing teamwork, leadership, and resourcefulness.



Hands-On Interactive Design and Creativity Workshops

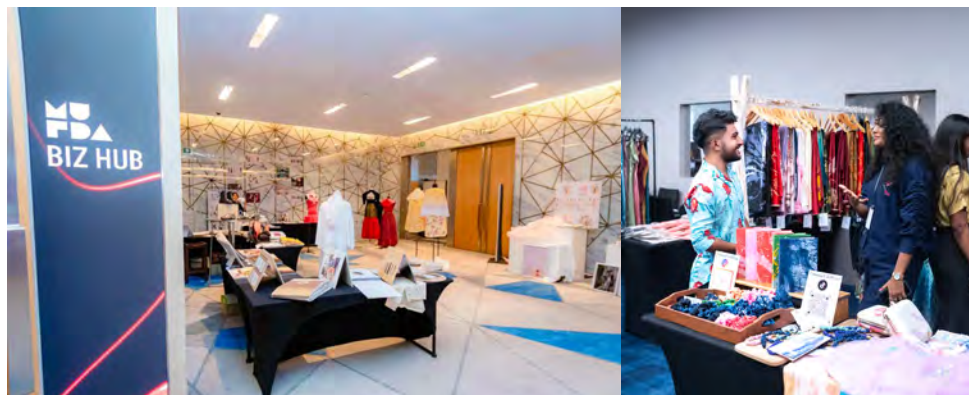
Alongside showcases, GFW'25 introduced a series of hands on workshops for the fashion enthusiasts, led by Semester 7 students.

1. Weaving Workshop: Explored traditional handloom artistry
2. Fashion Draping Workshop: Taught the manipulation of fabric on dress forms
3. Mood Board Development: Guided participants in translating inspiration into visual storytelling

All workshops were fully booked within hours, highlighting student leadership, public engagement, and peer-to-peer teaching in action.



Moratuwa University Fashion Design Association (MUFDA)'s Biz Hub Ignites Futures



At GFW'25, MUFDA introduced a new platform, the Biz Hub celebrating entrepreneurship and alumni success.

Six visionary founders presented their brands: Jeththu, Aryana, Sena Eco, Love Stitches, Peries Leather Studio, and Glammy Boutique. The Biz Hub connected alumni with buyers, investors, and mentors, reinforcing the university's commitment to fostering real world success stories.

Fashion in Conversation: Forums GFW 2025

A series of industry-academia forums enriched GFW'25 with critical discussion and insight.

Industry Forum – Fashioning the Future 2025

Sponsored by Hirdaramani Apparel, the forum brought together leaders from business, design, and academia to discuss the theme “Resilient Style: How the Fashion Industry Adapts and Thrives Through Adversity.” The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Rakil Hirdaramani of Hirdaramani Apparel. The panel of resource personnel included Mr. Jehan Jayasooriya and Mr. Arosh Fernando from MAS Holdings, Ms. Mariam Omar from Brandix Lanka, Ms. Leonie Vaas from Hirdaramani Apparel, and Prof. Dharmasri Wickramasinghe from the University of Moratuwa. The session was moderated by Ms. Shehani Gomes of MAS Holdings.



Conclusion

Graduation Fashion Week 2025 celebrated not only a milestone year but also the vibrant intersection of education, industry, and creativity. From sustainability and entrepreneurship to tradition and

innovation, GFW'25 reaffirmed the University of Moratuwa's position as a driving force in shaping Sri Lanka's fashion future.

Conferences & Symposia

13th World Construction Symposium Explores Sustainable Futures



The 13th World Construction Symposium, jointly organised by the Building Economics and Management Research Unit (BEMRU) of the Department of Building Economics and the Ceylon Institute of Builders (CIOB), was held on 15–16 August 2025 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. The theme of this year's symposium — “Sustainable Futures: Shaping a Regenerative Built Environment for Future Generations” — underscored the global imperative for transformative approaches to sustainability in the built environment.

The event was graced by the presence of Professor Malik Ranasinghe, Emeritus Professor of the University of Moratuwa, as Chief Guest, and Professor DP Chandrasekara, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Moratuwa, as Guest of Honour. A major highlight was the delivery of two thought-provoking keynote addresses by internationally renowned academics.

- Professor David Proverbs, Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor for Enterprise and



Business Innovation at De Montfort University, UK, shared insights on “Building Resilient Communities: Lessons from the UK Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme (FCRIP),” emphasizing the critical role of resilience planning in addressing escalating climate risks.

- Professor Srinath Perera, Chair Professor of Built Environment and Construction Management and Founding Director of the Centre for Smart Modern Construction (c4SMC) at Western Sydney University, Australia, followed with a keynote on “Sustainability and Circularity through Digitalisation,” exploring how digital technologies can accelerate the transition towards circular construction practices and a regenerative built environment.

The symposium's academic programme demonstrated a strong commitment to research excellence. Of over 120

submissions, 108 papers — both local and international — were accepted following a rigorous peer-review process. Since 2019, all full papers presented at the symposium have been indexed in Scopus, further enhancing its global academic standing.

Outstanding research contributions were recognised through five prestigious awards. The CIOB presented the CIOB Best Paper Award and the CIOB Highly Commended Paper Award, while the Built Environment Project and Asset Management (BEPAM) Journal, published by Emerald Group Publishing, conferred three awards: the BEPAM Best Paper Award and two BEPAM Highly Commended Paper Awards.

A special panel discussion titled “2030 Step Ahead: Strategic Foresight for the Sri Lankan Construction Industry” brought together five representatives from academia and industry to discuss the sector's future trajectory. The panel underscored the importance of academia–industry collaboration in building a sustainable and competitive industry and concluded with the identification of ten strategic future directions for Sri Lanka's construction sector.

The symposium concluded with an awards ceremony and conference dinner at Hilton Colombo, providing a fitting conclusion to two days of insightful dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge sharing. The event reaffirmed the World Construction Symposium's role as a leading global platform for advancing research, innovation, and partnerships in shaping a sustainable and resilient built environment for future generations.



18th Transport Research Forum & Transport Leaders Forum 2025



The 18th Transport Research Forum and Transport Leaders Forum 2025, organized by the Transport Engineering Group of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, was held on 3 July 2025 at Water's Edge, Colombo, bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, and researchers to explore the future of Sri Lanka's transport sector.

The forum was graced by Prof. Kapila Perera, Secretary of the Ministry of Transport, Highways, Ports, and Civil Aviation, who delivered the keynote address. Prof. Perera emphasized the urgent need for sustainable and resilient transport systems, while highlighting the government's commitment to integrating advanced technologies and strengthening infrastructure to address future challenges. The event featured expert-led discussions on key thematic areas, including road safety and traffic management, sustainable mobility, digital innovation, healthcare integration, insurance, and the role of private sector partnerships. These sessions underscored the importance of collaboration between government, academia, and industry in designing smarter, future-ready transport solutions. Adding further depth and diversity, the Transport Leaders Forum brought together

an eminent lineup of professionals who shared their insights on the evolving transport landscape.

In addition to the Leaders Forum, the event hosted both a Research Presentation Session and a Poster Presentation Session, where researchers from universities and industry shared their latest findings. The presentations spanned a wide range of topics — including transport safety, intelligent transport systems, infrastructure resilience, sustainable mobility, and highway construction and materials — showcasing how research can shape evidence-based policy and practical solutions for Sri Lanka's transportation future.

The success of this year's conference was made possible through the dedicated leadership of Conference Chair, Prof. HR Pasindu, and Conference Secretary, Dr. Varuna Adikariwattage. Special thanks are extended to Dr. Chamod Hettiarachchi and Dr. Nalaka Jayantha from the Transportation Engineering Division for their invaluable support. The Department also expresses its sincere appreciation to all speakers, participants, and partners whose contributions were instrumental in the success of the 2025

Transport Research Forum and Leaders Forum. Together, these collective efforts continue to drive forward the vision of a resilient, sustainable, and future-ready transport sector for Sri Lanka.

MERCon 2025

[From Cover page]



Moratuwa Engineering Research Conference (MERCon) 2025 was held from 14th to 15th August 2025 at the Civil Engineering Department Building Complex of the University of Moratuwa, concluding with its awards ceremony at The Kingsbury, Colombo. Celebrating its continued role as a premier international forum for engineering research, MERCon 2025 brought together scholars, practitioners, and industry representatives to share and exchange knowledge. This year's conference featured over 152 peer-reviewed papers, presented across parallel sessions spanning 19 technical tracks.

Distinguished keynote addresses were delivered by Prof. Jason Mars, Entrepreneur and Professor of Computer Science at the University of Michigan, and Prof. Sarath Perera, Honorary Professor at the Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences, University of Wollongong, and a member of the Australian Power Quality Research Centre (APQRC), during the main conference. The closing and awards ceremony was marked by a keynote speech from Prof. Lingjia Tang, faculty member of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan. Their insights provided a valuable perspective on emerging trends in engineering research and practice. At MERCon 2025, the University of Moratuwa hosted a series of impactful workshops that bridged theory with practice. Participants explored next-generation wireless networks in the Hands-on 5G session, practical tools for biomedical and audio signal analysis with Signal Processing for Audio and Biomedical



Applications, and Integrated Circuit (IC) Design Flow: Digital and Analog Perspectives, covering digital and analog domains. Sessions also covered TinyML: A Compact Revolution in Engineering AI and Tracking the Invisible: Remote Sensing for Greenhouse Gas Monitoring. These workshops reflected MERCon’s mission to foster innovation and strengthen technical expertise within the engineering community. The awards ceremony was graced by the Chair of the IEEE Sri Lanka Section, Prof. S. Wasanthapriyan, Prof. Jason Mars, Prof. Lingjia Tang,

Dean of the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Moratuwa, Prof. Jagath Manathunga, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Moratuwa, Senior Prof. Ruwan Gopura, Conference Chair of MERCon 2025, Prof. Dileeka Dias, Director of Research of University of Moratuwa, Prof. Buddhika Jayasekara and the Director of Engineering Research Unit of University of Moratuwa, Dr. Sulochana Sooriyarachchi along with heads of departments, senior academics and other distinguished guests. MERCon 2025 was organized by the Engineering

Research Unit with the organizing support of the IEEE student Branch of University of Moratuwa, with the technical co-sponsorship of IEEE Sri Lanka Section, IEEE Computer Society, IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (IEEE EMBS), IEEE Signal Processing Society (IEEE SPS), IEEE Industry Applications Society (IEEE IAS), IEEE Industrial Electronics Society (IEEE IES), IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (IEEE GRSS), IEEE Circuits and Systems Society (IEEE CAS), IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (IEEE RAS), and IEEE Power & Energy Society (IEEE PES). The conference also received the generous support of partners and sponsors, with IEEE GRSS (Merchandise Partner), Dialog Axiata PLC (Gold Sponsor), Vidullanka PLC (Silver Sponsor), and Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC (Bronze Sponsor).



Student Achievements

CSE Team “XAI_HAR” Wins First Place in Vinoj Jayasundara Memorial Prize for Research Excellence 2025

[From Cover page]



Ms. Meenambika Chandirakumar, Mr. Thanushanth Kanagarajah, and Ms. Nithursika Kalanantharasan — a

final-year undergraduate research team from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa — were awarded First Place in the Vinoj Jayasundara Memorial Prize for Research Excellence 2025 for their outstanding final-year project. The Vinoj Jayasundara Memorial Prize for Research Excellence recognises exceptional student contributions in the fields of machine learning and computer vision, honouring the legacy of Mr. Vinoj Jayasundara. Finalists were shortlisted based on the quality of their research and publications, and the top three teams were further

evaluated through presentations held on 30 August 2025, with a focus on novelty and research impact. The winning project, titled “Self-Explainable IMU-Based Human Activity Recognition,” aimed to develop a model that not only achieves state-of-the-art performance but also provides explainability in human activity recognition. The team proposed a novel spatio-temporal architecture with cross-sensor attention, achieving results that push the boundaries of current research in the field. Their work was published at the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN) 2025, a

CSE Team from UoM Wins First Place at INNOVA – TechX Sri Lanka 2025

[From Cover page]



The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at the University of Moratuwa proudly announces that one of its undergraduate teams emerged as champions at INNOVA, the premier national-level tech-based idea hackathon held under TechX Sri Lanka 2025 on 27 July 2025 at the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. Organised by the IEEE Computer Society Student Branch of Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

and powered by the IEEE CS SYP TechX Initiative, INNOVA challenges university students across the country to design innovative, scalable solutions aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Team MinionZ from CSE, University of Moratuwa, won First Place with their project “ResQConnect – AI-Powered Disaster Response Coordination Web App,” based on their final-year project. The solution is designed to enhance emergency response operations through multimodal data integration, real-time coordination, and an intelligent task assignment system. With scalability and social impact at its core, the platform demonstrated how AI can be harnessed to address critical humanitarian challenges,

CORE Rank B conference, under the title “Human Activity Recognition Using Spatio-Temporal Dual Attention With Cross-Sensor Attention.” The project was carried out under the supervision of Dr. Sandareka Wickramanayake. The Department of Computer Science and Engineering congratulates Team XAI_HAR on this remarkable achievement and wishes them continued success in their future endeavours.

earning top honours at this prestigious competition. The winning team comprised Mr. Savinu Aththanayaka, Mr. Sajeev Kuragajah, Ms. Chemini Mallikarachchi, and Ms. Janeesha Wickramasinghe. The Department of Computer Science and Engineering congratulates Team MinionZ on this outstanding achievement and looks forward to their continued success in future endeavours.

Honika Jayaranga Receives University Colours at XV SLUG 2025

[From Cover page]



Honika Jayaranga was awarded University Colours at the XV Sri Lanka University Games (SLUG) 2025, marking a remarkable milestone in her athletic career while proudly representing the University of Moratuwa. Honika brought honour to the University by recording the best timings in both the women’s 400m and 800m events, setting new standards and breaking university records that had remained unbeaten since 2015. Her 400m performance also marked a personal best, underscoring her dedication, discipline, and exceptional sporting talent. In recognition of these outstanding achievements, Honika received University Colours for the 400m and 800m events,

Sachini Nimesha Wins IQSSL Logo Design Competition 2025 Ahead of PAQS Annual Congress 2026

[From Cover page]



Sachini Nimesha, a Level 4 Quantity Surveying undergraduate of the Department of Building Economics, University of Moratuwa, has won the Institute of Quantity Surveyors Sri Lanka (IQSSL) Logo Design Competition 2025, paving the way for the upcoming Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors (PAQS)

Annual Congress 2026. Her winning design will serve as the official logo for the prestigious international event, which will be hosted by the IQSSL. The competition offered a unique platform for Sri Lankan Quantity Surveying students to showcase their creativity on a global stage. Participants were challenged to design a logo that encapsulated the congress theme: “Constructing the Evolution: Unleashing Human Intelligence in the Digital World.” In addition to her success in the competition, Sachini has been appointed as a member of the Publication Committee for organizing the PAQS 2026 Congress and Conference. Bringing together over 500 professionals from across the Asia and Western Pacific regions, the PAQS Annual Congress 2026 will provide students and young quantity surveying professionals with an unparalleled opportunity for international exposure and to demonstrate their skills on a globally recognized platform.

as well as for her valuable contribution to the 400m relay team. Her success is a testament to her perseverance and her ability to balance academic commitments with the demands of competitive sport. Honika credits her family, coaches, and the university community for their unwavering

support, which she considers instrumental in her journey. Her accomplishments serve as an inspiration to her peers and future athletes, demonstrating that with dedication, resilience, and the right support, excellence in both academics and sport is truly possible.

Vinoj Jayasundara Memorial Prize Recognises Outstanding Civil Engineering Research



Ms. Chamika Wanasinghe, from the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, has been awarded Second Place in the Vinoj Jayasundara Memorial Prize 2025 for Research Excellence.

Her publication, titled “Multiscale Modelling and Explainable AI for Predicting Mechanical Properties of Carbon Fibre Woven Composites with Parametric Microscale and Mesoscale Configurations,” published in the journal Composite Structures, was recognised for its outstanding contribution to the fields of machine learning and lightweight composite materials. The study highlights the innovative application of artificial intelligence in advancing materials engineering, particularly in the analysis and design of carbon fibre composites. This research was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Sumudu Herath and Prof. Chinthaka Mallikarachchi.

Voices of Victory at Allusion '25



We are proud to celebrate the achievement of Vinusha Dalas and Thileksan Mahenthirarasa, undergraduates from the Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Business, University of Moratuwa, who emerged as winners in the Inter-University – Tamil Category at Allusion '25, the All-Island Inter-University Announcing Competition organized by JAPURA VOICE in collaboration with Sirasa TV.

Their exceptional vocal talent, confidence, and stage presence have brought great pride to the Department and the University. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our brilliant winners and wish them continued success and many more achievements in the future.

Asia's First Lunar City Model Command Interface Launched by Rusin Thathsara in Collaboration with Thurstan College



Rusin Thathsara, a Level 4 undergraduate of the Department of Building Economics and an alumnus of Sivali Central College, Ratnapura, has achieved a remarkable milestone in space innovation. Building on his pioneering VIMANA Space City concept — first introduced in 2022 in collaboration with his colleague Sahan Dimuth — he has now unveiled Sri Lanka's first conceptual Lunar Space City Model, developed in collaboration with students of Thurstan College, Colombo, as part of the KNIGHT-RO Astronomy Exhibition. A key highlight of the exhibition was the introduction of Asia's first Conceptual Lunar Space Control System, also designed by Thathsara. The model was ceremonially launched under the patronage of Defence Secretary, Former Air Vice Marshal Sampath Thuyiyakontha, and remained on public display for three consecutive days.

The exhibition attracted significant attention, with the participation of distinguished guests including renowned Sri Lankan astronomer Anura C Perera and Thurstan College Principal Pramuditha Wickramasinghe, along with thousands of students and astronomy enthusiasts from across the country.

Staff Achievements

Prof. Menaha Thayaparan Honoured with SUSRED-2024 Award for Excellence in Postgraduate Research Supervision

[From Cover page]



Prof. Menaha Thayaparan, of the Department of Building Economics, has been honoured with a SUSRED-2024 Award at the annual awards ceremony of

the National Science Foundation (NSF), held on 16 July 2025 at Lotus Hall, BMICH. The NSF Awards Ceremony 2024 celebrated Excellence in Science and Innovation, recognising the outstanding contributions of Sri Lanka's scientific community.

SUSRED (Support Scheme for Supervision of Research Degrees) is an NSF initiative that recognises supervisors of full-time postgraduate research degrees (MPhil and PhDs) across all fields of science and technology, in appreciation of their dedicated service to the nation.

Building Economics Staff Recognized for Research Excellence at the World Construction Symposium 2025



The Department of Building Economics proudly celebrates the outstanding achievements of its academic staff at the World Construction Symposium (WCS) 2025, where their pioneering research received prestigious recognition on the international stage.

Professor Udayangani Kulatunga was honoured with the Ceylon Institute of Builders (CIOB) Best Paper Award for her research titled “Serious Games for Disaster Risk Reduction: Enhancing Community

Preparedness for Sustainable Futures,” co-authored with H Tariq. The study showcases the innovative application of serious games in strengthening disaster preparedness, paving the way for more resilient and sustainable communities. In addition, Dr. Himal Suranga Jayasena and Dr. DNLS Uduwage, Senior Lecturers in the Department, together with S Piranavan, Temporary Lecturer, received the Highly Commended Paper Award from the Built Environment Project and

Prof. Thayaparan received this prestigious award in recognition of her successful supervision of Dr. Kalindu Mendis’s full-time PhD research titled “Inclusivity of Marginalised Communities During the Post-Disaster Phase in Sri Lanka.” The research was co-supervised by Prof. Yamuna Kaluarachchi from the Manchester School of Architecture, University of Manchester.

Asset Management (BEPAM) Journal, published by Emerald Group Publishing. Their paper, “Exploring Perceptual Mapping Technique as an Innovative Method of Representing Construction Cost Information,” was recognized for its originality and its potential to transform how construction cost data is visualized and communicated. These accolades underscore the Department’s strong commitment to advancing research in the built environment and reflect the dedication and expertise of its staff in addressing contemporary challenges in construction management and beyond.

Professor HR Pasindu Presents at the 14th Asia Pacific Conference on Transport and the Environment



Professor HR Pasindu, a distinguished academic in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Moratuwa, presented two research papers — “Evaluating High-Risk Road Segments Using the Sri Lanka Accident Data Management System” and “Headway Distribution Analysis for Expressways in Sri Lanka” — at the 14th Asia Pacific Conference on Transport and the Environment (APTE), held in Hangzhou, China. This

year’s conference was hosted by Tsinghua University. In addition to his conference presentations, Professor Pasindu also spoke at the Transportation Chairs Forum, where he highlighted the postgraduate degree programmes and ongoing research in Transportation Engineering conducted by the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Moratuwa. As a council member, he participated in the Asian Society for Emerging Transport Council Meeting, held alongside the conference. The APTE Conference is a premier event in the region for transportation researchers and professionals. Notably, the 2014 edition of the conference was hosted by the Transportation Engineering Group of the University of Moratuwa, underscoring the university’s longstanding engagement and leadership in the field.

Professor HR Pasindu Appointed President of the Asian Pavement Engineering Society

Professor HR Pasindu, a distinguished academic in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Moratuwa, was appointed President of the Asian Pavement Engineering Society (Asian-PES) during its Annual General Meeting held on 15 August 2025.

The Asian Pavement Engineering Society (Asian-PES) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the exchange of ideas, information, and collaboration among pavement engineering professionals across the Asia-Pacific region. The society plays a pivotal role in fostering international cooperation, advancing research, and sharing best practices in pavement technology and infrastructure development.

Professor Pasindu’s appointment to this prestigious leadership position underscores his significant contributions to the field and further elevates the University of Moratuwa’s reputation as a centre of excellence in civil engineering and transportation research.



Prof. Chinthaka Mallikarachchi Participates in Emerging Spacecraft Structures Technology Workshop at the University of Colorado Boulder, USA



Prof. Chinthaka Mallikarachchi, a distinguished academic in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Moratuwa, participated in the Emerging Spacecraft Structures Technology Summer Workshop held at the University of Colorado Boulder, USA. This prestigious annual forum brings

together leading international experts to explore breakthrough technologies and shape the future of spacecraft structures. Prof. Mallikarachchi's continued service on the Spacecraft Structures Technical Committee of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) highlights his significant contributions

to advancing global space research. His participation further enhances the University of Moratuwa's visibility in the international aerospace community and strengthens its reputation as a hub for cutting-edge research and innovation.

Professor HR Pasindu Appointed to the Fuel Economy Standard Labeling Committee



Professor HR Pasindu, a distinguished academic in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Moratuwa, has been appointed as a member of the Fuel Economy Standard Labeling Committee by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Sri Lanka.

This prestigious appointment reflects Professor Pasindu's expertise and continued contributions to advancing sustainable transportation and energy efficiency initiatives in Sri Lanka.

Congratulations on Winning the Best Article Award – 2024

We are delighted to announce that Prof. G Dinesh Samarasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Professor in the Department of Industrial Management, University of Moratuwa, together with his colleague, has been awarded the Best Article of 2024 by the European Journal of Management Studies.

Their award-winning research, titled "Impact of Embedded AI Mobile Smart Speech Recognition on Consumer Attitudes

Towards AI and Purchase Intention Across Generations X and Y," was published in European Journal of Management Studies, Vol. 29, No. 1, pp. 3–29.

This prestigious award underscores the quality, relevance, and global impact of their research. We extend our warmest congratulations to both authors on this remarkable achievement and for bringing international recognition to the Faculty of Business and the University of Moratuwa.

CVCD Excellence Award 2024

[From Cover page]



Professor Niles Perera, Head of the Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering (TMLE), was

awarded the CVCD Excellence Award for the Most Outstanding Young Researcher – 2024 in the category of Engineering,

Inaugural Lecture Series #37



The inaugural lecture of Prof. DP Chandrasekara was held on 22nd July 2025 at the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, conducted in hybrid mode with the participation of over 50 attendees. Prof. Chandrasekara's lecture, titled "Tale of Two Cities – Fort and

Port City of Colombo: Architecture and Political Economy," offered an insightful exploration of the interplay between urban form, architectural evolution, and socio-economic dynamics in Colombo's historic and contemporary cityscapes. The session concluded with Prof. Chandrasekara's

Architecture, and Technology. The Council of Vice-Chancellors and Directors (CVCD) presents these prestigious awards biennially to recognize the most outstanding young and senior researchers across the 24 state universities in Sri Lanka. This year's award ceremony was held on 2 August 2025 at the College House of the University of Colombo, where Professor Perera was honoured for his exceptional research contributions, academic leadership, and significant impact in advancing the field of transport management and logistics engineering.

formal introduction to the public as a professor, highlighting his academic achievements and future contributions to the university and the nation.

Watch the lecture archive here: <https://youtu.be/V5DBDd3furM?si=e6DOi1Wr9qGZtOyD>

Keynote Address at IEEE Region 10 Young Professionals UpSkill – Bangladesh 2025



Professor Ruwan Gopura delivered a keynote address at UpSkill – Bangladesh 2025, an event organized by IEEE Region 10 Young Professionals, held on 26th July 2025

at Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST), Dhaka, Bangladesh. His keynote, titled "Role of Power-Assist Robots in Enhancing the Independence of Physically Weak Individuals," explored the transformative potential of robotic technologies in empowering individuals with physical limitations. Professor Gopura highlighted cutting-edge advancements in assistive robotics and emphasized the critical role of interdisciplinary collaboration in designing user-centered solutions that improve quality of life and foster social inclusion. UpSkill – Bangladesh 2025 brought together a dynamic audience of young professionals, researchers, students, and industry leaders

under the theme "Bridging Futures with Emerging Technologies." The event featured workshops, mentoring sessions, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, creating a vibrant platform for knowledge exchange and innovation. The event was jointly organized by the IEEE Bangladesh Section and IEEE Young Professionals Bangladesh, in collaboration with the IEEE AUST Student Branch and technically co-sponsored by the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) Bangladesh Chapter. Professor Gopura's keynote served as an inspiring call to action for the next generation of engineers and innovators, encouraging them to develop technologies that truly serve humanity.

Inaugural Lecture Series #38



The inaugural lecture of Prof. Tharaka Samarasinghe was held on 26th August 2025 at the Board Room of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, conducted in hybrid mode with the participation of over 24

attendees. Prof. Samarasinghe delivered an engaging lecture titled "How Cars Talk to Each Other: The Future of Safer Roads," exploring the cutting-edge technologies that enable vehicle-to-vehicle communication and their transformative potential for road safety and intelligent transport systems. The event concluded with Prof. Samarasinghe's formal introduction to the public as a professor, showcasing his academic accomplishments and his continued commitment to contributing to the university and the nation.

Watch the lecture archive here: <https://youtu.be/Fs4giY1X7wQ?si=ETdN4cB1oeXcwJN>

Mrs. Upeksha Nishanthi Kodithuwakku Appointed to the honorary librarian of the Royal Asiatic Society



Mrs. Upeksha Nishanthi Kodithuwakku, Senior Assistant Librarian of the Library

Exhibitions, Field Trips & Workshops

Bridging the Global Market and Local Artisans with Fashion Trendscape



A transformative series of workshops, spearheaded over several years by Dr. Sumith Gopura and Dr. Ayesha Wickramasinghe of the Fashion Design and Product Development programme, Department of Textile and Apparel Engineering, University of Moratuwa, recently made a significant impact across three key provinces of Sri Lanka — Sabaragamuwa, Southern, and Western — reaching and empowering more than 300 local artisans from handloom and batik backgrounds.



This collaborative initiative, conducted in partnership with Cardiff Metropolitan University and the University of Reading, UK, as well as the Ministry of Textiles, Sri Lanka, brought together multidisciplinary expertise in areas such as computer science and digital accessibility. The workshops aimed to bridge the gap between traditional craftsmanship and global markets by equipping artisans with contemporary knowledge, innovative design thinking, and an understanding of emerging fashion trends.

As a department with a long-standing commitment to supporting the indigenous craft sector, the Fashion Design and Product Development programme has consistently generated novel research and

insights into local fashion systems. This series of workshops served as a platform to disseminate that knowledge in a practical, interactive format.

The workshops were designed to create a collaborative space where traditional skills could intersect with modern fashion demands. Artisans from the Sabaragamuwa Province (over 80 participants), Southern Province (over 120 participants), and Western Province (over 100 participants) took part in dynamic sessions focused on design innovation, sustainable practices, market trends, digital tools, and branding strategies tailored for international markets. Through these engagements, participants were introduced to global fashion standards while being encouraged to reinterpret their rich craft heritage for broader audiences.

It was evident throughout the sessions that the artisans possessed a deep reservoir of talent and tradition — potential that, with the right guidance and exposure, could evolve into globally competitive design identities. Feedback from participants reflected immense appreciation for the hands-on approach and the relevance of the content delivered. Many expressed renewed confidence in their ability to compete beyond domestic boundaries and enthusiasm for experimenting with new



has been appointed as the honorary librarian of the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka with effect from August 2025. She is a council member of the society and the library committee. The Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka was founded in 1845 and holds rare collections of books, journals and many masterpieces. The Librarian is responsible for advising the Council regarding the maintenance, expansion and improvement of the library, overseeing the work connected with the Librarian and Assistant Librarian and advising the library staff regarding the maintenance and necessary improvements to the library. Mrs. Kodithuwakku holds a special degree in Archaeology, Master of Public Administration and Master of Social Sciences in Library and Information Science. Currently she is the head of Reader Services & Outreach Services and acting head of Periodicals division.

methods while preserving their cultural identity. The success of this initiative not only fostered a deeper connection between local crafts and global design thinking but also sparked a vision for long-term capacity building in the artisanal sector. Dr. Wickramasinghe and Dr. Gopura, in collaboration with both national and international stakeholders, are now planning to extend this impactful programme to the remaining provinces of Sri Lanka. The ultimate goal is to cultivate a nationwide network of empowered artisans who can actively participate in the global fashion economy while safeguarding Sri Lanka's rich craft heritage.

Level 2 Planning Students Conduct Intensive Field Studio in Matale



The Department of Town and Country Planning conducted an intensive studio project for Level 2 students under the PL2302 – Planning and Design module, held from 29 July to 2 August 2025 in Matale town and its surroundings. The week-long programme was dedicated to immersive fieldwork, during which students stayed

in the study location to closely observe and engage with its urban environment. Using sketches, photographs, videos, maps, and personal narratives, they documented the spatial characteristics, lived experiences, rhythms, and identities of the place. Through direct interactions with Matale residents and users, students uncovered stories, meanings, and sensory dimensions that shape the town's urban fabric. This hands-on approach helped them deepen their understanding of spatial dynamics, urban processes, and human experiences within their real-world context. Students explored the potentials, challenges, and key hotspots of Matale and its surroundings, addressing diverse planning issues and proposing innovative planning and design solutions. The project provided valuable exposure to the complexities of urban planning practice while enabling them to apply theoretical knowledge in a



practical setting. Academic staff members Dr. Chathura de Silva, Archt. Kokila Sooriyagoda, Plnr. Samith Madusanka, and Ms. Nipuni Jayakody guided and mentored the students throughout the

field visit. Late-night discussions aimed at resolving emerging challenges became a memorable highlight of the week, fostering collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking.

Field Visit to INSEE Lanka – Puttalam Plant and Limestone Quarry



On 18 July 2025, third-year undergraduates of the Department of Transport Management and Logistics Engineering undertook an insightful industry visit to INSEE Lanka (Siam City Cement Public Company Limited) at its Puttalam Plant and limestone quarry.

The visit offered students a valuable opportunity to observe the complete cement manufacturing process, including raw material extraction, transportation, production, and quality control operations. They also explored the logistics planning

and fleet management systems employed to optimize the movement of materials and finished products. As part of the programme, the INSEE team conducted a dedicated session on the company's supply chain and logistics operations, providing students with practical insights into real-world practices in procurement, inventory management, and distribution.

A key highlight of the visit was learning about INSEE's sustainability initiatives, including the use of alternative fuels, circular economy practices, and environmental conservation measures implemented to minimize the ecological impact of quarrying and production. This visit served as an important bridge between classroom learning and industry practice, enabling students to gain hands-on knowledge of supply chain integration, industrial safety protocols, and environmentally responsible operations within the cement sector.



Clubs & Societies

Planning Students Showcase Creativity and Collaboration at “Purawara Rangamadala” Drama Performance



The Department of Town and Country Planning of the University of Moratuwa successfully held the annual final drama performance of the PL2309 – Drama module, titled “Purawara Rangamadala”, on 24 July 2025 at the Rubert Peiris Auditorium, University of Moratuwa. This module is a unique and long-standing component of the BSc (Hons) in Town and Country Planning curriculum, conducted in the third semester of Level 2, and has been nurturing the creative and interpersonal skills of planning students for over 14 years. The Drama module is designed to equip students with essential soft skills that are critical for their future roles as town planners. It aims to develop confident and effective communication, public



speaking, teamwork, group participation, and event management abilities. Students are assessed on a range of aspects, including acting, choreography, stage setting, discipline, and costume design. Teaching and assessment are entirely drama-based, enabling students to express themselves creatively while applying their planning knowledge and insights. This year's "Purawara Rangamadala" was a

vibrant showcase of talent, teamwork, and dedication. Students worked collaboratively over two weeks to prepare for the final performance, managing all aspects of production such as rehearsals, venue arrangements, props, stage design, and scheduling. These processes closely reflect the skills required in professional planning practice, including collaboration, negotiation, adaptability, and creativity.

Annual General Meeting – Society of Transport and Logistics



The Department of Transport Management & Logistics Engineering successfully held the 17th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society of Transport and Logistics (STL) on 14 July 2025 at the Department premises, University of Moratuwa. The outgoing committee, led by Mr. Geesara

Weerakkody, presented its annual report, highlighting key initiatives and accomplishments during the past year. Mr. Viran Haputhanthiri presented the annual budget, while the minutes of the previous AGM were read by the Secretary, Ms. Buddhima Withanage.

The event was enriched by the continuous guidance of Ms. Kaushalya Fernando and her team from Somalatha Subasinghe Playhouse, whose expertise and mentorship have been instrumental in shaping the module over the years. Academic staff from the Department also supported and encouraged the students throughout the process.

The performance powerfully highlighted the human dimension of urban planning — reminding audiences that planning is not only about spaces, infrastructure, and policies, but also about people, emotions, and stories. Students reflected that the experience helped them step into different perspectives, build empathy, and develop the confidence to communicate and work collaboratively in their future roles as urban planners.

Following the presentations, a new committee was appointed for the STL Year 2025/26, with Mr. Praveen Mihiran assuming office as the newly elected President. Prof. H Niles Perera will continue to serve as Patron and Staff Advisor, while Prof. Amila Thibbotuwawa remains in the role of Treasurer.

The AGM served as a valuable platform to review the society's achievements over the past year and set strategic priorities for the year ahead, further strengthening the department's commitment to academic and extracurricular excellence.

20th Anniversary Celebration



On 27 August 2025, the Department of Transport Management & Logistics Engineering proudly celebrated its 20th Anniversary at the Rubert Peiris Auditorium, University of Moratuwa. This milestone provided a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the department's remarkable journey, honour its achievements, and reconnect with colleagues, alumni, and

friends who have been integral to its success. The celebration was graced by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Deans of Faculties, Heads of Departments, the former Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, former Heads of the Department, staff members, alumni, and current students. The event featured the ceremonial lighting of the oil lamp, welcome addresses by Head of Department Prof. Niles Perera, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Prof. DP Chandrasekara, and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Prof. JMA Manatunge, as well as special video presentations and a symbolic cake-cutting ceremony with past and present Heads of Department. The well-organized celebration highlighted the department's

achievements over the past two decades, showcasing its contributions to academia and industry while setting an ambitious vision for the future.

A highlight of the evening was the Fireside Chat, "Department and the World," featuring distinguished alumni and industry leaders who shared valuable perspectives on the department's impact and future opportunities. Another key segment of the programme was a thought-provoking panel discussion with eminent alumni:

- Prof. H Niles Perera – Head, Department of Transport Management & Logistics Engineering



- Mr. Lasitha Manchanayake – CEO, John Keells Logistics and Vice President, John Keells Holdings PLC
- Mr. Chandima Senevirathne – General Manager – Commercial & Marketing, Colombo International Container Terminals (CICT)

The panelists shared their professional journeys and reflected on how the department and its programmes shaped their careers and personal growth. Their insights inspired students and attendees alike, reinforcing the department's pivotal role in developing future leaders for the

transport and logistics sector. The event concluded with a renewed commitment to innovation, excellence, and industry collaboration — setting the stage for the department's continued growth and impact in the years ahead.

UOM Alumni

Alumni Contributions Strengthen Academic Support at the Department of Building Economics



The Department of Building Economics received two significant contributions on 9 August 2025, reflecting the continued commitment of its alumni to enhancing academic initiatives and student support. The 20th Batch of the BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying programme generously donated a smart board to the

Department to strengthen teaching and learning delivery. The smart board was ceremonially handed over to Professor Anuradha Waidyasekara, Head of the Department, at a special event held at the Department Auditorium. On the same occasion, the Quantity Surveying Alumni Association (QSAA) launched a laptop loan

scheme designed to assist undergraduates facing financial difficulties. Through this initiative, five students will annually be offered an interest-free loan facility to purchase laptops to support their academic activities. To inaugurate the scheme, QSAA committee members officially handed over five laptops to the Department during the launch ceremony.

These initiatives stand as a strong testament to the enduring bond between the Department and its alumni community. The Department extends its sincere gratitude to the alumni for their generosity and continued support in advancing academic programmes and empowering undergraduates throughout their university journey.

Department of Town and Country Planning — Alumni Student Dialogue Series



The Department of Town and Country Planning organized an engaging dialogue between first-year undergraduates in Urban Informatics and Planning and a group of distinguished alumni, held

on 19 August 2025 at the Department. The session provided students with valuable first-hand insights into academic pathways, professional practice, and personal development. Alumni reflections

highlighted the qualities that shape effective planners and analysts:

- “Now I realize how important a planner's role is as a team player who understands others well.”
- “Don't just do this course — bring out the best in you.”
- “Self-exploratory research contributes to lifelong learning.”

Through open conversations and an interactive Q&A session, students gained clear, actionable takeaways: curate a living portfolio of field notes, maps, and code; combine spatial analysis with people-centered engagement; communicate



Sports

Veterans Staff Cricket Team Shines as Semi-Finalists

The Veterans Staff Cricket Team proudly represented the University of Moratuwa at the 2025 Veterans Division II Cricket Tournament, organized by the Sri Lanka State Services Cricket Association and held from 29 July to 26 September. This year's tournament featured 34 matches and included the participation of 12 other teams from various state sectors, including the Dehiwala Municipal Council, Moratuwa Municipal Council, Galle Municipal Council, Northwestern Provincial Council, Government Press, Department of Education (withdrawn later), Department of Immigration, Attorney General's Department, University of Jayewardenepura, University of Peradeniya, University of Kelaniya, and the Open University of Sri Lanka. The University of Moratuwa (Veterans) team

competed fearlessly in Group A during the league stage, achieving victories over the Northwestern Provincial Council, University of Kelaniya, and the Attorney General's Department to advance to the semi-finals and ultimately secure fourth place in this year's Veterans Division II Cricket Tournament.

Importantly, the Veterans Team from the University of Moratuwa comprised members from the administrative, academic, and non-academic staff representing various faculties and divisions. All team members showcased their skills and contributed immensely to bringing glory to the University of Moratuwa. Among them, Captain Mr. Asanka De Mel, Vice-Captain Mr. Bandula Perera, and Dr. Viraj Nimarshana topped

findings effectively to non-expert audiences; and pursue internships that integrate planning judgment with data-driven skills.



the rankings in bowling, batting, and fielding performances, respectively, for the University of Moratuwa (based on statistics published at <https://www.slscorers.com/>). The Veterans Staff Cricket Team wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the tremendous support extended by Vice-Chancellor Prof. ND Gunawardena, Registrar Mr. DLD Jayantha, Bursar Mr. KAD Pushpakeerthi, and all officials of the Staff Welfare and Recreation Club of the University of Moratuwa, whose efforts helped elevate the standing of our beloved institution at the national level.



Front (Left to Right)

Mr. MA Pubudu Gunawardana (President, Staff Welfare and Recreation Club), Dr. P Chameera De Silva, Mr. W Bandula R Perera (Vice-Captain), Mr. DLD Jayantha (Registrar), Prof. ND Gunawardena (Vice-Chancellor), Mr. V Asanka S De Mel (Captain), Mr. KAD Pushpakeerthi, Dr. RK Pubudu S. Ranaweera

Back (Left to Right)

Mr. WG Jayantha, Mr. P Lakmal Samarawickrama, Dr. PH Viraj Nimarshana, Mr. Dihan Peiris, Ar. Suresh Edirisooriya AT, Mr. W Chandika Fernando, Mr. SAD Mahesh P Kumara, Mr. JP Sanjeeva Silva, Mr. PKN Sampath Thilakarathne

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